

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Geology

**Question:** What are some of the key topics I would cover?

**Answer:** Minerals, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, fossils and evolution, plate tectonics, geohazards including volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, geological structures (folds and faults), natural resources and geological maps.

**Question:** What is the learning style like within this subject?

**Answer:** Lessons are discussion based with question and answers being used a lot. Geology is a very visual subject so lots of photos are used to illustrate features and lessons usually involve examining hand specimens of rocks, minerals or fossils. In lessons there are also set tasks and past exam questions, Students can work collaboratively on the large white boards around the classroom where they can explore difficult concepts. Theory lessons are backed up by practicals as the best way to learn geology is by looking at the rocks themselves.

**Question:** How will I be assessed?

**Answer:** There are three papers sat at the end of the second year, one is a practical exam involving 'hand-specimens' of rocks minerals and fossils, drawing a 'cross section' from a map, as well some written answers. The other two papers are theory based on specific parts of the course and require short and longer answer questions. There are no essay questions.

**Question:** What support can I access if I am struggling?

**Answer:** Workshops are held to support students that have specific questions. In addition, peer study groups are used. All resources are available on the subject SharePoint site and the classroom and library are well resourced.

**Question:** Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

**Answer:** Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements

**Question:** Are there normally any trips that I can go on?

**Answer:** The course has a requirement of four days field work in order to undertake five of the specified practicals. In addition to this other enrichment activities are offered, such as the annual

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trip to Iceland. Also, this year, the college has been donated money by the 'Kirsty Brown Memorial Fund' to run extra 'enrichment' activities such as trips, visits and talks, and these are being planned for every half term.

**Question:** What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

**Answer:** In order to support our standard of living, we need to use natural resources. Most items we used in our daily life are made from resources found by geologists. Geologists understand how these natural resources form and how to find them. Geologists are also needed in the construction industry to check that the ground is suitable for building on and also to find the natural resources used in construction. Many geologists work in research and at universities.

**Question:** What subjects go well with Geology?

**Answer:** Geology complements Geography and Environmental Science well, and there is a little overlap with both these subjects. Studying one of the sciences (Biology, Physics and Chemistry) really helps with some of the science aspects of Geology. There is a Maths component to the course, so Maths goes well. If you are interested in Engineering, then Product Design is a good combination. Students have succeeded in Geology taking a wide range of other subjects. If you are thinking of taking Geology at a higher level, it is recommended that you take at least one other science subject.

**Question:** What is the difference between Geology and Geography?

**Answer:** Physical Geography is the study of surface processes and how they affect people. Geology looks at those same surface processes, in the context of Earth History, over 4.5 Billion Years. Geology also examines processes that are happening inside the Earth.

**Question:** What about maths?

**Answer:** Maths questions make up about 20% of the exam questions, and the exam board provides a 60 page booklet on the maths requirements for the course. In order to support students, there is a 20 week planned study programme that takes the students through each of the skills required. In addition, these skills are covered in context during lessons.

**Question:** Is there a practical endorsement?

**Answer:** Each science subject has a 'practical endorsement' aspect. In Geology this is 20 specified practicals during which the students show they are competent in 13 practical skills. The practical



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sessions are integrated into the course and follow the relevant theory aspect as closely as possible. Five of the specified practicals must be carried out during fieldwork.