

GEOGRAPHY

BRIDGING THE GCSE TO A LEVEL GAP



Hoping to study Geography at A level? Or interested in just furthering your knowledge of Geography and what is happening in the world around you.

There are a number of things you can do:

- 1. Developing as a Geographer** – through general reading around/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc. the geography subject to develop your geography knowledge and understanding.
- 2. Become a News Buff**- Watch the news- BBC news between 6am-9am or at 6pm. Or get on the BBC news app? Other websites such as the Guardian, The Independent, The Times. Create a Geography in the News Diary of all things that are relevant to what you are studying? At A Level you need to make links to what is happening across the world throughout all your written work.
- 3. Preparing for the A Level Course**- Starting to explore the topics and their foundations in which they will be studied in the A Level Course.

To be a great geographer, you will need to develop the ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview, and how everything we study in Geography links together. Geography is not just about the studying people and landscapes, it is also the relationships that exists between people and their environment.

How can I develop as a Geographer before September?

Below are some links to podcasts, websites, books and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with Geography:

PODCASTS:

- **BBC World Service** – excellent DAB radio station that covers topical issues across the world.
- **Costing the Earth**- There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player> (many topics including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative powers, plastics (etc)
- **Royal Geographical Society – ‘Ask the Geographer podcasts’**
- <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/> = a fantastic set of podcasts to keep A Level studies up to date with the latest geographical research = pick out some that interest you.
- **Links to general podcasts**
- <https://eternalexploration.wordpress.com/2016/01/04/top-10-podcasts-for-geography-students/> - this has a number of different links to geography podcast, specifically targeted to Geography students. Definitely recommend the **TED talks**.

BOOKS:

If you are into reading both fiction and non fictions, why not try some Geographically themed books/magazines:

Geography Review Magazines: We have a free login for this through the school please visit the following website.
<http://my.dynamic-learning.co.uk/MyDynamicLearning.aspx>

Username: cfinlay@uai.org.uk
Password: magazines

Scroll down on the left hand side until you see the heading Magazines, Click and then choose Geography review. You can either a particular magazine or do a search for a topic.

- **Prisoners of Geography** by Tim Marshall – an insightful book which helps understanding how the physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography- a good introduction to Geopolitics
- **Six Degrees** by Mark Lynas – a scary walkthrough of the impacts of Climate Change as world temperatures increase by 1 degree through to 6 degrees.
- **Divided** by Tim Marshall – his follow-up to Prisoners of Geography – a great book which explains how & why the world is becoming more divided and how countries are putting up barriers. Very relevant to events in Europe (Brexit), the US (Trump) and the Coronavirus situation.



DOCUMENTARIES:

There are some great geographical documentaries that will help develop your general geographical knowledge and understanding, and help you see what an amazing world we live in.

The following are all available on IPLAYER/ Netflix / 4OD/ Youtube/ Online

- **Unreported world** – 25 minute documentaries about situations across the world that don't make it to the mainstream media. Topics include murder rates in Honduras, plastic surgery in Brazil, the illegal trade of animals in the Amazon, slavery in China & the illiteracy rate in the USA etc. → <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world>
- **David Attenborough Box Sets**- there are 9 amazing boxsets available on iplayer from David Attenborough exploring our amazing world. → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>
- **The Americas with Simon Reeve** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve>. The first episode in Alaska/Canada is particularly good for Resource Security looking at energy.
- **Simon Reeve around the World** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm> The Russia series is really interesting.
- **Britain Underwater: Fighting the floods** → <https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157>
- **Joanna Lumley's Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti** → <https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleys-hidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578>
- **Race across the World** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000g6nt/race-across-the-world-series-2-episode-1>
- **Andrew Marrs Megacities** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011qmcl/episodes/guide>
- **Trumps War on the Border** → <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/trumps-war-on-the-border>
- **Dispatches** → <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/67256-001>
- **Earth from Space– episode 4 The Changing Planet (BBC iPlayer)** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p072n8m0/earth-from-space-series-1-4-changing-planet>
- **The Ugly Truth Of Fast Fashion | Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj | Netflix**
- **Can Fashion be sustainable? (BBC Earth)** → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoiU8sprXpQ>
- **Stacey Dooley Investigates Fashions Dirty Secrets** (may be difficult to find now)
- **The True Cost** (was on Netflix)
- **BBC: The Price of Fast Fashion** → <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GprVaAVPEI8>

NETFLIX SHOWS



Tectonics:

- **The Impossible:** True story about the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
- **72 Dangerous Places to Live:** Netflix. Get up close and personal with avalanches, fiery volcanoes and other natural disasters and learn why some people choose to live in their destructive paths.
- **2012:** When a flood of natural disasters threatens to destroy the world, a divorced dad desperately attempts to save his family in this doomsday thriller
- **Into the Inferno:** With stunning views of eruptions and lava flows, it captures the raw power of volcanoes.

Weather Hazards:

- **Before the Flood:** Leonardo DiCaprio investigates the causes and effects of Climate Change

Urban Issues and Challenges:

- **Lion:** An Indian man who was separated from his mother at the age of five, and adopted by an Australian family return home determined to find his birth family.

Resource Management:

- **The Boy who harnessed the wind:** About the water shortage in Malawi and a boy who makes a windmill to pump water.
- **Cowspiracy:** Investigate the food and meat industry
- **Rotten:** Docuseries travels deep into the heart of the food supply chain to reveal unsavoury truths: Age rating **15**

Living World:

- **Africa:** Documentary series about Africa. Narrated by David Attenborough.
- **Our Planet:** Stunning Attenborough series investigating the different biomes
- **Planet Earth and Planet Earth 2:** Series exploring some of the world's different biomes.
- **Blue Planet:** Series exploring our oceans.
- **Wild Caribbean:** Explore the turbulent natural history and rich diversity of the Caribbean islands.

General Geographical Knowledge:

- **Blood Diamond:** looks at the diamond trade in Sierra Leone
- **An Inconvenient Truth:** follows Al Gore on the lecture circuit as he seeks to raise awareness about Climate Change.
- **+ An Inconvenient Sequel**
- **The True Cost:** about the fast fashion industry across the world. Also available online.

What Should I Do With The News That I Am Watching?

You should be regularly watching the news to keep you up to date with what is happening in relations to the inter-relationship between people and the environment. You will be really surprised how many of the news bulletins relate to what you are studying.

- **BBC NEWS:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>- an excellent source of up to date articles- explore the headings such as Science, UK, WORLD and other stores
- **THE GUARDIAN:** <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> - Again many useful articles and logically ordered – keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development Stories in particular.
- **THE CONVERSATION:** <https://theconversation.com/uk> - Really useful to support many of you're a Levels. Up to date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising the key points in a short but insightful articles.
- **AL JAZEERA:** neutral international coverage – excellent source of what is happening elsewhere in the world.
- **THE ECONOMIST:** you can follow them on social media to keep up with the headlines.

Social media pages to follow on Instagram/ Twitter etc.

- **The Economist;**
- **UNWomen;**
- **UNRefugees;**
- **NatGeo;**
- **WWF;**
- **Al Jazeera.**

Buy yourself a [Scrapbook](#) and either cut out the headline from a newspaper/print it off/ or just write it in your book and summarise the following:

- What are the key things that the article is telling you about- can you summarise in to 10 main points
- What part of Geography/what we study does this link to?
- Critical ideas you think up that go against the article.
- Are there any keywords that you need to look into more or you feel would be useful for your studies.

This is really important for aiming for the A/A at A Level*

What Does The A Level Course Look Like?

At A Level, we follow the AQA specification. You will have two exams; one physical exam and one human exam, and one Non-Examined Assessment- essentially a 3000-4000 word piece of coursework worth 20%.

Physical Exam	Human Exam	NEA
<p>This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks</p> <p>Water and Carbon (36 marks)</p> <p>Coastal Environments (36 marks)</p> <p>Hazards (48 marks)</p>	<p>This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks</p> <p>Global Governance (36 marks)</p> <p>Changing Places (36 marks)</p> <p>Population and The Environment (48 marks)</p>	<p>This is an independent enquiry meaning that it is driven by you. You will be given a NEA mentor to support you but we will not be able to mark formally and give this back to you. It will be mentor meeting driven.</p> <p>You will need to formulate a title and hypotheses from a topic that is studied on the AQA specification. You will then need to come up with methods to test your hypotheses; you will collect your own data and then present, analyse, conclude and evaluate your investigation.</p> <p>The deadline for this will be around October in Year 13.</p> <p>You will be taken out on 3 days + of fieldwork work to prep you for this.</p>

Pre Reading – if the links don't work with your browser hover over it to find the website.

If not use the **Geography Review** to search the topics and read short articles on there. You will need to read a vast number of them next year, so get started and make notes ready to make links (which is crucial at A Level). They give you lots of tips on A Level skills, critical evaluation points etc. also to get you really thinking!

Geography Review Magazines: We have a free login for this through the school please visit the following website.
<http://my.dynamic-learning.co.uk/MyDynamicLearning.aspx>

Username: cfinlay@uai.org.uk

Password: [magazines](#)

Scroll down on the left hand side until you see the heading Magazines, Click and then choose Geography review. You can either a particular magazine or do a search for a topic.

Water and Carbon:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Water and Carbon Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/water-and-carbon-cycles/>** - some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **An introduction in to the [Water Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction in to the [Carbon Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction into the [Carbon Cycle](#)** - a good geofile which introduces you to the carbon cycle.
- **Water and Carbon [Overview](#)** – a piece of work from the Royal Geographical Society that summarises the course
- **Documentary on Climate change:**
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009drg/panorama-climate-change-what-can-we-do>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>
- **[News Articles](#) on Climate Change**

Coasts:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Coasts Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/coastal-systems-landscapes/>** - some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **Geofile on [Sediment Cells, Waves Types and Tides](#)** – a good understanding of what the coastal system is made up of.
- **Geofile on different [Coastal processes](#)**- understanding the different processes that create different landforms

- Geofile on [Mass Movement in the UK](#) – a good link to different types of mass movement
- Geofile on [Coastal Management](#) – good comparison between different types of management strategies
- Geofile on [Holderness Coast](#) – A good look at a case study of a shore line management plan.

Hazards:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** [Hazards Revision](#) – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/hazards/> some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **Reading on** [Vulnerability and Hazards](#) – something that is different with the A Level is you need to be more aware of why people are vulnerable to Natural Hazards
- **Geofile on** [Hazard Hotspots and Response](#) – an A Level concept new to you on different ways to respond to Hazards
- **Haiti-** [A multi-hazard Environment](#)
- **Video:** Power of the Planet (Volcanoes) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg> - a great introduction to the work on volcanoes we will be doing
- **Reading: Plate Tectonics (The Geological Society)** – This will be a good set up from your GCSE work to A Level and definitely worth navigating around the site <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>

Global Governance

- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** [Global Governance](#) – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/global-systems-and-governance/> some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **A RGS summary of** [Global Governance](#) – A good overview of the course
- [Antarctica Case Study](#)
- **The Effects of Globalisation on the movement of people**
- Really interesting **Antarctica Websites:** <https://www.coolantarctica.com/index.php> AND <https://discoveringantarctica.org.uk/>
- Tracking the **Coronavirus Pandemic:** <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> and <https://ourworldindata.org/> and <https://www.who.int/>
- **Governing Climate Change – World Agreements:** <https://www.ipcc.ch/> and <https://unfccc.int/>

Changing Places

- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** [Changing Places](#) – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/resource-security/> some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **A RGS summary of** [Changing Places](#) – A good overview of the course
- **Geofile on the** [Occupy Movement](#)
- **Interesting article by** [Doreen Massey](#)- A human geography looking at The Sense of Place
- [Changing Spaces –Making Places](#) = A good PowerPoint going through some of the content of the topic.

Population and the Environment

Below are topics to research. Start with “Geography A Level” and then the topic (to begin with to narrow it down)

- **Agricultural productivity** – how we produce food regardless of soil, water and climate across the world with examples/ case studies.
- **Strategies to ensure food security**
- **Epidemiological transition**
- **How air quality affects health.**
- **Malaria, CHD, TB Ebola and Corona** – causes, effects and responses.
- **Overpopulation and Underpopulation** – Malthus and Boserup’s theories
- **European Migrant Crisis 2015**
- **Health impacts of climate change** – in more detail than you have covered at GCSE.

Make notes of any readings you complete or documentaries that you watch – with the source and date. These will help you to grasp the bigger picture beyond GCSE and allow you to develop your critical thinking as well as make links in your written work. Below are some specific activities that you can complete that will give you a head start for A Level Geography.

Choose and complete three of the tasks from the grid below based on the reading you have done.

<p>Create a personal geography map of your own area- include photographs, personal reflections and places of importance (Changing Places)</p>	<p>Watch one documentary on Climate Change- Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary. (Water and Carbon)</p>	<p>Look at how the World Health Organisation (WHO) are helping to control the spread of Coronavirus and how they are dealing with the prevention and preparation. (Population and the Environment)</p>
<p>Read 'Changing Cities'- produce a case study summary on one of the cities. (Changing Places)</p>	<p>In 300 words, explain what 'geography' means to you. Separately summarise arguments for and against the argument that we all live in a globalised world. (Global Systems)</p>	<p>Produce a mind map of the multi-hazard area of Haiti (Hazards)</p>
<p>Read the Antarctica Case Study. Write a letter to the prime minister explaining three threats faced by Antarctica- which do you think is the most important one? (Global Governance)</p>	<p>Read the Geofile 'Coastal Systems, waves, sediments and cells) and summarise on 1 side of A4 paper. (Coasts)</p>	<p>On a world map, locate the different trading groups across the world with the countries within it (NAFTA, EU CARICOM etc...) Annotate the map with agreements they have within the trading bloc e.g. free movement of people. (Global systems)</p>