

# GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL

## INTRODUCTION AND WIDER READING

Welcome to your GCSE to A-Level Geography bridging work! This document will introduce you to the course and give you some tips and tricks in order to get started!

### Why study Geography?

Geography is a highly valued subject by universities as an A Level course as it opens doors to many other courses. You go into more depth than ever before about the issues facing humanity in the future, and you look at how Geography has played a role in shaping our society.

There are a variety of activities including research and discussion which will help you to become an independent learner and thinker.

Geography is about real world events and application. We look at how the physical and the human combine and interact and we look to make the world a better place.

It is commonly known as a 'facilitator subject' as many universities recognise the role Geography plays in preparing students for the work needed at degree level.

Geographers are highly valued in the workplace for their multidisciplinary approach to solving problems and for the range of skills in which they are adept.

### Introduction to the Course

The Geography A level will follow the **Edexcel A Level course**.

There are 3 papers plus coursework:

#### **Paper 1: Physical Geography 30%**

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change

- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

### **Paper 2: Human Geography 30%**

- Globalisation
- Shaping Places
- Superpowers
- Global Development and Connections

### **Paper 3: Synoptic Themes 20%**

Resource Based Geographical Issue.

Students are given information on a Geographical issue within the assessment and examined on their understanding of the issue by referring back to the knowledge and skills learnt throughout their course.

### **NEA (Non-examination assessment: Independent Investigation 20%**

Student led research project, internally assessed. Approx. 4000 words on a topic of the student's choice. Students will:

- Create an enquiry question to research an issue of their choice
- Devise a methodology and sampling frame work which will allow them to answer their question
- Complete their own primary data collection
- Complete their own secondary data collection
- Present their primary and secondary data
- Analyse their data and interpret their findings
- Come to a conclusion on their project
- Evaluate their project.

## **Fieldwork**

Students will conduct **4 days of compulsory fieldwork** across the 2 year course. These days will be led by the class teacher and will cover both Physical and Human Fieldwork.

Depending on the cohort size, this fieldwork may take place as a residential or over selected weekends. It **will not** take place during the school week.

Students will be expected to complete their own fieldwork **in addition to** the fieldwork undertaken as a class for their NEA.

# Assessment Objectives

A01 - Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales. 34%

A02 - Students must apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse and evaluation geographical information and issues. 40%

A03 - Students must use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to:

- Investigate geographical questions and issues
- Interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence
- Construct arguments and draw conclusions

26%

# Wider reading and understanding

A Geographer should be aware of the world around them, with a clear ability to link the concepts they are studying to the relevance of the wider world.

It is recommended that a Geography student should:

- Regularly read the news, getting information from a wide variety of sources and news programmes including but not limited to: BBC, The Guardian, The Independent, The Times and The Financial Times.
- Remember to fact check any information they do receive from social media including Facebook, Youtube, TikTok and Snapchat
- Expose themselves to a variety of ideas and concepts, and keep an open mind to the world around them.
- Take an interest in the wider world by regularly engaging with Geographical content.

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Recommended wider watching:

- BBC David Attenborough Documentaries
- Simon Reeve Around the World
- Before the Flood
- Our Planet
- Rise of the Continents

- Earth - Ian Stewart
  - The Last King of Scotland
  - The Impossible
  - Dante's Peak
  - Mandela: Long walk to Freedom
  - Slumming it
  - An Inconvenient Truth
  - Earth From Space
  - Kilauea: Hawaii on Fire
  - Britain Underwater: Fighting the floods
  - Race around the world
  - Andrew Marr's Megacities
  - Channel 4 dispatches
  - Youtube - National Geographic
  - Youtube - Crash Course
  - Youtube - Geography Now
  - Youtube - Geowizard
  - Youtube - Atlas Pro
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Recommended wider reading:

- Prisoners of Geography series - Tim Marshall
- Divided - Tim Marshall
- Sapiens series - Yuval Noah Harari
- Factfulness - Hans Rosling
- Population 10 billion - Danny Dorling
- The bottom Billion - Paul Collier
- When the rivers run dry - Fred Pearce
- Beyond the Map - Alistair Bonnett
- No one is too small to make a difference - Greta Thunberg
- Africa is not a country - Dipo Faloyin
- Origins - Lewis Dartnell
- Uninhabitable Earth - David Wallace-Wells
- The Almighty Dollar - Dharshini David
- The New Silk Roads - Peter Frankopan
- The planet remade - Oliver Morton
- National Geographic