

Supporting resources booklet Bridging the GCSE to A Level Geography Gap

Aiming to study Geography at A level? Or interested in just furthering your knowledge of Geography post the GCSEs?
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?
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:

- **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:

- **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
- **Geography Review Magazines**: Subscribe for £40 and you will get 4 up to date magazines with articles that will be really relevant to the topics that you are studying.
- **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.



Geographical Documentaries:

There are some great geographical documentaries which 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:

- **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/b011gmcl/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>
- **Kevin Mcleod rough guide to the Future - Channel 4 - 3 episodes,** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/kevin-mcclouds-rough-guide-to-the-future/episode-guide/>
-

Geography on NETFLIX, DVD or YOUTUBE:

- **Before the Flood**- A film presented by Leonardo DiCaprio- exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption
- **Our Planet Netflix Series**- Explores how climate change impacts all living creatures
- **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**

This is by no means an exhaustive list. There are other programmes, fictional or documentary that link to your studies at A Level.

What does the A Level Course look like at CCHSG?

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.

<p>A-level Physical Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A <p>Water & Carbon Cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section B <p>Coastal Systems & Landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section C <p>Hazards</p> <p>How it's assessed: Written exam: 2.5 hours 120 marks 40% of A-level</p>	<p>A-Level Human Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A <p>Global Systems & Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section B <p>Changing Places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section C <p>Contemporary Urban Environments</p> <p>How it's assessed: Written exam: 2.5 hours 120 marks 40% of A-level</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Geography fieldwork investigation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student • We will attend an FSC centre in Year 12 for 5 days to conduct the investigation. This is a residential trip and is a compulsory component of the A-level Geography course. <p>How it's assessed: 3,000-4,000 words 60 marks 20% of A-Level Marked by teachers, moderated by AQA</p>	

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 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.

Pre Reading:

Water and Carbon Cycle

- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** [Water Revision](#) – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **An introduction in to the** [Water Cycle](#)
- **Water and Carbon** [Overview](#) – a piece of work from the Royal Geographical Society that summarises the course
- **Geofile on** [Drainage Basin](#) – looking into flood hydrographs
- **Good Article** article looking at a river on a local scale
- **Geofile on the** [Three Gorges Dam](#)- look at how China has attempted to solve its water security

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Carbon Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Carbon Sequestration** <https://phys.org/news/2012-03-weathering-impacts-climate.html>- some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **An introduction in to the [Carbon Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction into the [Carbon Cycle](#)** - a good geofile which introduces you to the carbon cycle.
- **Documentary on Climate change:**
 - o <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009drg/panorama-climate-change-what-can-we-do>
 - o <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>
- **[News Articles](#) on Climate Change**
- **Geofile on [Fracking](#)** – Is the use of Shale Gas really the future?
- **Geofile on [The issue of climate change](#)**- find out some of the constraints to energy security around the world.
- **Geofile on the [Management of climate change](#)** – attempts at managing climate change
- **Geofile on [Amazonia](#)** – detailed look at the importance of the Amazon in both water and carbon cycles

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.
- **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.
- **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](#)** – a A Level concept new to you on different ways to respond to Hazards
- **Philippines–MultiHazardEnvironment** <https://coggle.it/diagram/WjEGP0rD2AABaZeC/t/the-philippines-multi-hazard-case-study>
https://geocasestudies.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/8/5/11851155/coregeographyunit1casestudies_1_.pdf
- Reading on a hazard event at a local scale in [Haiti](#)
- **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>

Changing Places

- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year. Read the key notes
[%20AQA%20Geography%20A-level.pdf%20Health,%20Human%20Rights%20and%20Intervention%20-%20Edexcel%20Geography%20A-level.pdf](#)
- Can you rebrand or reimagine a place? Read more [here](#)
- What do places mean to you? How do you create a [sense of place](#)?

Contemporary Urban Environments

Physics and Maths Tutor- – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year. <https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/AQA/Contemporary-Urban-Environments/Essential%20Notes%20-%20Contemporary%20Urban%20Environments%20-%20AQA%20Geography%20A-level%20.pdf>

Social and economic segregation exists in cities – a closer look at [London](#) from the RGS

City top trumps – looking at Mumbai as a [megacity](#)

What impact do cities have?

[http://vle.langton.kent.sch.uk/file.php/546/Impact of Cities on their surrounding area.pdf](http://vle.langton.kent.sch.uk/file.php/546/Impact%20of%20Cities%20on%20their%20surrounding%20area.pdf)

What happens when a city dies? Can a city [regenerate](#)?

Global Systems and 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-Edexcel/global-systems-and-governance/> some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **Topical articles from the BBC on a truly global issues** – [Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- **Reading on [China's role in Africa](#)** – looking at how China is influencing the mineral trade in Africa

Optional tasks – One per week?

<p>Create a personal geography map of your local place (e.g. Colchester, Sudbury, Chelmsford)- include photographs, personal reflections and how it may change in the future or has changed in the past (Changing Places)</p>	<p>Watch one documentary on Climate Change- Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00049b1 (Water and Carbon Cycles)</p>	<p>Read the essential notes on (Global Governance) https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/Edexcel/7-Superpowers/Essential%20Notes%20-%20Superpowers%20-%20Edexcel%20Geography%20A-level.pdf Use a timeline to show explain how superpowers have changed over time</p>
<p>What are the main issues facing cities in the UK and what can be done to “save” the city? (Contemporary Urban Environments)</p>	<p>Give three ways in which the World Health Organisation (WHO) are helping to control the spread of Coronavirus (Global Systems)</p>	<p>Produce a mind map of the multi- hazard area of the Philipines (Hazards)</p>
<p>Chose one place in the UK and one contrasting place from elsewhere in the world (contrasting) and compare how they are represented by the media (Changing Places, Global governance)</p>	<p>Read the Geofile (Coastal Systems, waves, sediments and cells) and summarise on 1 side of A4 paper. (Coasts)</p>	<p>What does interconnected mean? Use examples from all topics to explain this statement to someone in year 11 wanting to move on and study A Level Geography (All Units)</p>

General Resources

Exam Board Student Pages: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level>

BBC Bitesize: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/>

S-Cool Geography Revision: <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/geography>

Coolgeography Revision: <http://coolgeography.co.uk/> - select Advanced menu and topic list will appear.

There are several Student Textbooks available. We will have several of each in school for your use however if you would like your own these are the details you will need to find them:

AQA Geography A level and AS: Physical Geography. Oxford Publishers ISBN 978-0-19-836654-5

AQA Geography A level and AS: Human Geography. Oxford Publishers ISBN 978-0-19-836654-6

Task: Geography in the news journal

The Geography A - Level course is very 'current events' based, so it is important that you watch, listen to, read or search the news at least a few times a week. You can get the news in a variety of ways and should choose a method that suits you the best:

- **TV:** Almost every channel has its own news programme and news is broadcast at a variety of times, morning, lunchtime and evening.
- **Newspapers:** A variety exist – the best for our course are the so-called broadsheets (The Guardian, The Independent, The Times, The Telegraph or the FT). However, a good one to read is The 'i' newspaper as it is a shorter more accessible version of The Independent and only costs 20p.
- **Radio:** Almost every station broadcasts the news at regular intervals, though these are often short overviews rather than full in-depth reports.
- **Internet:** Great for browsing and for searching for particular news stories. You can also compare the reporting of a story from different perspectives very easily. There are also news apps that can be downloaded to computers or Smart phones.

The task:

Pick one relevant news story each week and write a report on the geography of the story.

Instructions:

1. Watch, listen, read or search the news.
2. Pick a RELEVANT news story to our course. It should fit into one (or more) of these categories:
 - ☑ Natural disaster (Flood, drought, forest fire, storm, hurricane, typhoon, volcano, earthquake, mud/land slide, tsunami)
 - ☑ Climate change/global warming
 - ☑ Trade (particularly global)
 - ☑ Urban issues e.g. high street decline, congestion
 - ☑ Coastal Geography – development of landscapes, processes



A great place to start is the BBC News website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>) as it covers news in depth and breadth. Use the search box at the top to search for key terms and narrow down the search.



See below for a modelled example of how to write your report.

Over the eight weeks, try to cover all the categories bullet pointed above.

Create a collage of relevant geographical news stories that you have cut out from a newspaper or printed headlines from the internet.

EXAMPLE!

HEADLINE/NEWS STORY: "Climate Change helps seas discover Japanese war dead"



From BBC News, 7th June 2014.
What is the LOCATION of the event?
The Marshall Islands are in the Pacific Ocean, to the North East of Papua New Guinea. They are a series of islands that are part of the wider region, Micronesia. The islands are found north of the Equator.
The population is approx. 70,000 (2009) and the GDP/capita is \$2,900 making it one of the poorest nations in the world.

What are the key ideas or events that have taken place? (Think about What, Who, When and Why?)

- Rising sea levels have disturbed the skeletons of soldiers killed during WW2.
- Water is also threatening to destroy sea defences and roads.
- Salt from the sea water is also making land infertile.
- Communities are flooded frequently, particularly during high spring tides.

What were the causes of the event?

- Sea levels are rising at a rate of 12mm/year.
- This is much faster than other places in the world.
- Sea levels are rising due to global warming, caused by human activities which put CO₂ into the atmosphere.
- United Nations is yet to agree on a deal to reduce CO₂ emissions at the National level, mainly because emerging economies (China, India) want the developed nations (e.g. USA and UK) to take more of the responsibility.

What were the impacts or effects? (Be specific – where, what, who, how many?)

- 26 bodies have been washed from their graves.
- If roads are washed away, people will struggle to move from place to place. This might affect business and tourism.
- If land is made infertile, people will struggle to grow crops. This might lead to famine.
- If the sea defences are destroyed, communities will be flooded more frequently.

What is your opinion of the event? Why did you choose it? How does it make you feel?

I chose this article because it has a creepy element to it – imagine walking along a beautiful white sandy beach and stumbling across a body! However, there is actually a really serious message in the article about how our overuse of fossil fuels is having a serious and devastating effect on people on the other side of the world.

I think that this is THE biggest challenge for our planet and the UN needs to negotiate a deal on carbon emissions ASAP. Without a slowing of global warming, places like the Marshall Islands will disappear under the waves completely within the next 50-100 years.

While I can understand that China and India have the right to industrial development, more should be done to encourage these massive nations to use green and eco-friendly methods of energy production.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27742957>

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Geography Reading List

Here is a - not exhaustive - list of books, some fact and some fiction, which will help you get a feel for the places, issues and people we are studying. Some of the titles fit into several sections and the divisions made are purely arbitrary. You should use it as part of your extra reading. Wherever possible the most recent paperback version is recommended but you will find that there are various editions of many of the titles. For some titles there are audio versions and some of course have been made into films! Look these titles up on Amazon™ and you will find other related titles to add to your reading. You will not be tested on the material – it's just to give you some background.

GLOBAL ISSUES

- John Berger [2000]: Lilac and Flag – Bloomsbury Publishing [*and the others in the trilogy*]
Tim Butcher [2008]: Blood River - Vintage
Joseph Conrad [2007]: Heart of Darkness – Penguin
Ma Jian [2002]: Red Dust –Vintage
Patrick French [2011]: India. A Portrait - Allen Lane
Ma Jian [2009]: Beijing Coma - Vintage
Eric Schlosser [2002]: Fast Food Nation: What the All American Meal is Doing to the World - Penguin
Duncan Hewitt [2007]: Getting Rich First – Chatto & Windus
Jung Chiang [2004]: Wild Swans – Harper Perennial
Tony Parsons [2008]: My Favourite Wife – Harper
Dave Gorman [2008]: America Unchained – Ebury Press
P D James [2010]: Children of Men – Faber & Faber
Jonathan Watts [2010]: When a Billion Chinese Jump – Faber & Faber
Joe Bennett [2010]: Where Underpants Come From: From Checkout to Cotton Field – Travels Through the New China – Profile Books.
Khaled Hosseini [2008]: A Thousand Splendid Suns - Bloomsbury Press
Khaled Hosseini [2004]: The Kite Runner - Bloomsbury Press
John Le Carre [2006]: The Constant Gardener – Sceptre
Mark Edwards [2009]: Hard Rain – Hardrainproject
Richard Wrangham [2010]: Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human – Profile Books
Fred Pearce [2009]: Confessions of an Eco Sinner: Travels to Where My Stuff Comes From – Eden Project Books
Fred Pearce [2007]: When the Rivers Run Dry: What happens When Our Water Runs Out? – Eden Project Books
Fred Pearce [2010] People Quake: Mass Migration, Ageing nations and the Coming Population Crash – Eden Project
Mike Berners-Lee [2010]: How Bad Are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything – Profile Books
Charles Clover [2005]: The End of the Line. How Overfishing is Changing The World and What We Eat - Ebury Press.
Michael Braungart [2009]: Cradle to Cradle – Vintage
Stewart Lee Allen [2003]: In the Devil's Garden: A Sinful History of Forbidden Food - Ballantine Books.
Richard Girling [2005]: Rubbish! Dirt on Our Hands and Crisis Ahead – Eden Project Books
Mark Kurlansky [2009]: The Last Fish Tale - Jonathan Cape
Nicolas Stern: [2009]: A Blueprint for a Safer Planet - Bodley Head

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS – and human / societal responses

Whitley Strieber [2004]: The Day after Tomorrow – Gollancz
Joe Simpson [1998]: Touching the Void – Vintage
Douglas Brinkley [2007]: The great deluge – Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast – Harper
Sebastian Junger [2006]: The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea - Harper
Erich Krauss [2005]: Wave of Destruction: One Thai Village and its Battle with the Tsunami – VISION paperbacks
Mike Davis [1998]: Ecology of Fear – Vintage
James Lovelock [1979]: Gaia, a new look at life on Earth – OUP; [2006]: The Revenge of Gaia – Penguin
James Lovelock [2010]: The Vanishing Face of Gaia; A final warning - Basic Books
Al Gore [2006]: An Inconvenient Truth – Bloomsbury
David Alexander [1993]: Natural Disasters - CRC Press
Tim Flannery [2007]: The Weather Makers - Penguin
Stanley Williams [2001]: Surviving Galeras - Little, Brown and Company
Richard Girling [2008]: Sea Change: Britain's Coastal Catastrophe - Eden Project Books
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