

Geography A Level Bridging Work

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” Michael Palin, President, Royal Geographical Society

There has never been a better time to study Geography at A Level. It is one of the most relevant subjects that you could choose to study. The material we cover gives you insights into the world around us and the issues that we face.

The course is split into physical and human geography, although the subject is fluid with many issues overlapping.

Below you will find an overview of the course as well as some tasks to complete over the summer to help you to prepare for the course and some recommended reading / listening etc.

We look forward to working with you in September, but there are some things to help you start your journey to becoming an A Level Geographer!

Exam Board Information	
AQA Geography 7037	
Units of study:	
Component 1	Physical Geography • Water and carbon cycles • Coastal systems and Landscapes • Hazards
Component 2	Human Geography • Changing Places • Population and the environment • Global Systems and Global Governance
Component 3	Geographical Investigation
Individual investigation which must include 4 days of data collection in the field	

Bridging Work Tasks

These are designed to give you an overview of the topics we will study at A Level. Some of these will be new topics and some will be a recap of topics and skills that you have studied at GCSE.

You should bring your bridging work with you to your 1st lesson of Year 12.

Organising Your Work

This is an important skill for A Level. For each task, complete a glossary as you go on a separate piece of paper so you have it to refer to in the future.

Each task should be completed on lined paper and filed neatly. If you use websites you need to reference them. We will look at this in more detail at the beginning of Y12, but copy the url into a clearly named document that you can access later.

Wider enrichment

At the end of this document we have included some websites that are useful for you to bookmark, some competitions you might want to enter, and some pro-active reading and listening tasks to broaden your wider understanding. Geography is a very current subject and your knowledge will need to go beyond the classroom.

Task 1 Human Geography Changing Places - Local Place Study

The specification says 'as part of this unit we must undertake a local place study exploring the developing character of a place local to the home'.

We study Derby as our local place. Find out the following:

1. Location of Derby - Find maps of different types and scales to illustrate the location and characteristics of Derby.
2. The History of Derby - Research the history of Derby. Create a time line of key events.
3. Representation of Derby – collect examples of Derby as it has been portrayed in visual media, paintings, photographs, maps etc.
4. Has Derby ever been represented in song, film, or poetry... ?(see what you can find!) **Hint** Check out the work of Jamie Thrasivoulou as a starting point.

All this information will be a part of our local place study of Derby.



Task 2 Human Geography Population and the Environment – Environment, Health & Wellbeing

The specification says 'Global patterns of health, mortality and morbidity. Economic and social development and the epidemiological transition. The global prevalence, distribution, seasonal incidence of a specified biologically transmitted disease.'

Research Task

1. What is the current global population?
2. What are the three most populous countries in the world?
3. Read this article about what different children around the world eat over the course of one week: <https://www.boredpanda.com/kids-surrounded-weekly-diet-photos-daily-bread-gregg-segal/> Choose two contrasting images and try to think of reasons why they are so different.
4. Read this article from February 2020: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-51348517> How can unforeseen factors threaten agricultural productivity?
5. Read this article: <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/aug/13/food-growing-underwater-sea-pods-nemos-garden-italy> Is this method of food production sustainable?
6. Epidemiological transition refers to the changes in the pattern of mortality and morbidity as a country experiences social and economic development. It states that:
 - a. LICs experience more communicable diseases (infectious diseases)
 - b. HICs experience more non-communicable diseases (non-infectious diseases)Give examples of diseases that are communicable and non-communicable.
7. Read the article 'What do the people of the world die from?': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47371078> Does it support the idea of epidemiological transition?

8. Listen to this of Life Expectancy':



podcast called 'the Long and Short

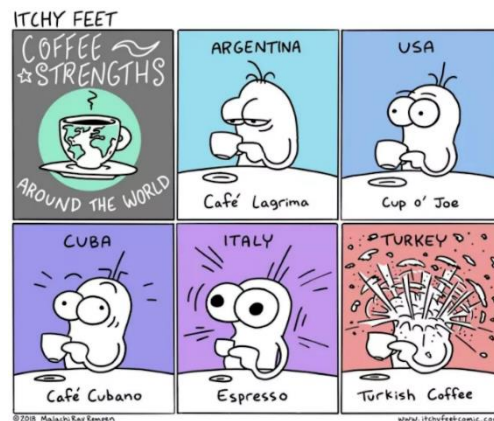
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00088mh> Make notes.

9. You will study two diseases as part of this course: Malaria and Lung Cancer. Create two fact files about these diseases. Include things like a prevalence map (shows where the disease is most common), causes and consequences.
10. Research the aims of the following three organisations:
 - a. DfID
 - b. WHO
 - c. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Who funds these causes and what specific things have they managed to achieve?

Task 3 Human Geography Global Systems and Global Governance

1. What is globalisation?
2. Globalisation aims at a worldwide market. In contrast, glocalisation aims to produce a good that is adapted to a local market. How does the cartoon image below illustrate glocalisation?



3. We study both companies. Find company (e.g. of sales, retail

Walmart and Tata as global out some facts about each location of Head Office, value locations globally).

4. How do these that is 'flows' that connect examples that you

two web pages show a world connected? What are the place both here and in other can think of?

- a. https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/b88cyg/all_the_underwater_fiber_optic_cables_that/?utm_content=buffer84b2c&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer
- b. <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/home/centerx:-1.5/centery:50.8/zoom:9>

5. What is the The Yamal megaproject and how is it threatening the Nenets (indigenous nomadic reindeer herders)?
6. What is China's 'belt and road' initiative? Read this article and make some notes: <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/ng-interactive/2018/jul/30/what-china-belt-road-initiative-silk-road-explainer>
7. What is the trade war between the USA and China all about? Read this article and make some notes: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-45899310>
8. We look at the coffee trade later in this module. Use images to show how coffee is grown and produced (I've asked for images as coffee that is growing does not look like coffee that you'd buy!) Try to include some specific locations.
9. What is palm oil and why do some people see it as a problem?
10. The global commons are places that are outside of the political reach of any country. What do you think the four global commons are?
11. We study Antarctica later in the module. How is Antarctica governed?

Task 3 Physical Geography – Natural Hazards

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/natural-disasters-weather/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcdrbk7>

1. Investigation: Distribution of Geographical Hazards:

What major geographical hazards have occurred globally within the last 5 years?

Consider carefully how you can represent the different types of hazards and their concentrations on a map(s).

Your map should be A4 or A3 in size with a clear key, title etc.

Comment on your map findings.

2. Factfile creation: Choose one specific type of hazard from each of the categories below:

- Geophysical Hazard
- Hydrological Hazard
- Atmospheric Hazard
- Geomorphic Hazard
- Biohazard

3. Write up a brief factfile on one named hazard event in each category anywhere in the world. Be as current as possible.

Headings for your factfile are:

- Location of the event
- Nature of the event
- Impacts (How could you categorise?)
- Human responses to the hazard (risk management through preparedness, mitigation, and adaption)

Task 4 Physical Geography – Coasts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs3ptyc>

http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/gcsen/PL_Holderness_Coastline.php

<https://www.internetgeography.net/topics/coasts/dorset-coast/>

1. Create a description of the UK coast. You can either do this as an annotated map of the whole of the UK, or as a piece of written work, with paragraphs for different parts of the UK.

The regions you could focus on:

- South Dorset coast (Jurassic)
- Cornwall
- South East of England (Kent/ Essex)
- Norfolk
- Holderness coast (East Yorkshire)
- East and West coasts of Scotland
- Wales Coast

For each one, see if you can find what features of erosion and deposition the coast is famous for, which make it a unique landscape. See if there are any issues in the area to do with coastal management, for example erosion/ deposition/ controversy over what is being done. It would be good to find some images to add to your map/ written work.



Further Enrichment

Things you can read

Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics by Tim Marshall
Geography: Ideas in Profile by Danny Dorling & Carl Lee
What is Radical About Geography? by Danny Dorling
Walking the Amazon by Ed Stafford (DVD & book)
Tropic of Capricorn by Simon Reeve (DVD & book)/ Tropic of Cancer by Simon Reeve (DVD & book)
Factfulness by Hans Rosling et al.

Things you can watch

Horizon with Chris Packham – will be on BBCiplayer
Hans Rosling - Don't Panic available on youtube and the Gapminder website
Race around the World – also currently on BBC
Raging Planet/ Planet Earth I and II/ Earth: Power of the Planet
Any Simon Reeve documentary, e.g. The Americas
Around the World in 80 days/ Sahara/ Full Circle etc – Michael Palin.
Andrew Marr's Megacities/ Britain from Above.
The Impossible (2017)
State of the Planet – a series made in 2001 and presented by David Attenborough.
Human Planet – 8 part BBC documentary series (2011)
Slumdog Millionaire
Erin Brockovich - a good film that presents the negative impacts of the natural gas industry and the extent to which large companies are prepared to go to, to cover this up.

Websites you can visit

Geographical Association <https://www.geography.org.uk/teaching-resources/Secondary-and-post-16-resources#>
The British Geographers - <http://thebritishgeographer.weebly.com/>
Royal Geographical Society - <http://www.rgs.org>
Gap minder (Statistics and Human Geography) - <https://www.gapminder.org/>
Google Earth - https://www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth/
Time for geography - <https://timeforgeography.co.uk/>
Watch anything by Hans Rosling on TED talks
https://www.ted.com/playlists/474/the_best_hans_rosling_talks_yo
Maps that show us who we are (not just where we are) |
Danny Dorling: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWaZEXBbQL0>
Worldmapper – www.worldmapper.org
Emergency Events Database – <http://www.emdat.be/>
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – www.ipcc.ch
The Guardian Climate change- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-change>
The BBC Coast series - www.bbc.co.uk/coast/

Places to Bookmark

Routes Journal A journal aimed at 6th form students and those studying Geography at undergraduate level. Often a really informative read and if you are thinking about submitting an article, speak to Ms Woodward as she is one of the peer review team. <https://routesjournal.org/>

The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/uk> This website has lots of articles written by university academics or research institute experts. The articles under the Cities, Environment and Energy, and Politics and Society are particularly relevant for geographers. Have a browse you can find articles on a huge range of issues. Here are some recommendations relating to climate change:

<https://theconversation.com/not-convinced-on-the-need-for-urgent-climate-action-heres-what-happens-to-our-planet-between-1-5-c-and-2-c-of-global-warming-123817>

<https://theconversation.com/climate-breakdown-is-actually-increasing-the-economic-value-of-polar-seas-beware-the-business-opportunists-124464>

Ask The Geographer Podcast Series

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-podcasts/>

Award-winning podcasts interviewing experts in lots of of geography from giant icebergs and Australian wildfires to aid.



[expert-](#)

different areas
globalisation

Competitions you can enter

Competitions are a great way to read around the subject and can make your CV or UCAS form really stand out, and there are some fantastic prizes on offer as well. We will update you throughout the sixth form if we see any competitions that you can enter

Royal Geographical Society Essay Competition – 2026 title ***What factors drive migration, how are patterns shifting and what are the consequences?*** ***Closing date Mon 9th November***

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/school-essay-competition>

Previous winning entries can be viewed here <https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/school-essay-competition>

Royal Geographical Society Young Geographer Of The Year Competition 2026 title – **From source to sea**. The category you are in is as of the day of submission. ***Closing date Fri 2nd October***

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year>

Geographical Association Physical geography student photo competition. The 2026 theme hasn't yet been published, so keep a look out on the GA website and socials. Closing date is usually the end of September. <https://geography.org.uk/get-connected/get-involved-1-student-activities/physical-geography-student-photo-competition/>