**Preparing for A Level Geography or want to just develop your Geography further?**

Whether you are wanting to study Geography at A Level or if you are just interested in furthering your understanding of the geography you have studied at GCSE, here’s some things you can do:

1. **Developing as a geographer** – through general reading around / watching videos / listening to podcasts etc. to develop your geographical knowledge and understanding

2. **Preparing for the A Level Course** Starting to explore the topics and their foundations which will be studied in the A Level course.

To be a great geographer you need to develop your ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview and how everything begins to link together. Geography is not just about studying people and landscapes; it is also the relationships that exist between people and their environment.

At GCSE you have covered a lot of the foundations of the underpinning concepts; physical processes and how they have shaped the landscape and the key human processes that shape our society. GCSE has provided a breadth of study, whereas A Level will now enable you to gain greater depth by exploring topics in greater detail but also encouraging you to see and explore the links between topics.

The best geographers at A Level keep reading the news and generally seek to improve their geographical understanding by engaging with geographical discussions regarding key issues.

This guide has been designed for you to be able to dip in and out of, from looking at general geographical issues and developing your ability to think like a geographer, through to starting to explore some of the topics we will be looking at in Year 12 and 13 so you can do some valuable background reading.

**DEVELOPING AS A GEOGRAPHER**

Below includes, websites, books, podcasts, documentaries and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with geography.

**ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES**

**THE CONVERSATION.COM** <http://theconversation.com/uk>

It provides up-to-date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising key points in short but insightful articles.

**BBC NEWS** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

An excellent source of up-to-date articles – explore the key headings such as Science, as well as the UK, World and other stories.

**NEWSPAPER WEBSITES SUCH AS The Guardian** <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> **and iNews** <https://inews.co.uk/>

Many useful articles and logically ordered – keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development stories in particular

**PODCASTS**

Now is the time to broaden your geographical understanding! Stick your headphones in and listen to some of the following…

**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 amongst others.. climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative power, 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 and give them a go!

**BOOKS**

**Prisoners of Geography** (Marshall, T) – an insightful book which helps understand how physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography – a great introduction to geopolitics.

**Factfulness: Ten reasons we’re wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think** (Rosling, H 2019) **–** this is a must-read book from a geography perspective – this takes a more realistic view of the world, presenting issues in fact-based context. It is a rational look at actually how far the world has measurably improved and what’s left to be done.

**Adventures in the Anthropocene** (Vince, G) (2016) – this looks at the effects that humans are having on the surface and structure of the planet with a balanced view on recognising threats and dangers whilst also look for practical answers and solutions.

**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.***

• **Race Across the World** – interesting to watch how they travel without phones/debit cards or using planes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0002tvs>

• **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>

• **Simon Reeve around the world** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm>

 • **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0bnb6tt/mediterranean-with-simon-reeve>

*The following are all available on* ***ITV Hub***

• **Britain Underwater:** Fighting the Floods <https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157>

• **Joanna Lumley’s Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Hait** <https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleys-hidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578>

*The following are all available on* ***Channel 4 – On Demand***

• **When the Immigrants Leave** (Dispatches) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>

 • **China’s Lonely Hearts** (Unreported World) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/56011-011>

• **The world’s dirtiest river** (Unreported world) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/58399-001>

• **Forests of Fear** (Unreported World) - <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-006>

• Hurricane Hell (Unreported World) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-007>

• **The World’s Dirtiest Air (Unreported World)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/67193-002>

• **The week Britain Froze (Dispatches)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/66548-007>

**GEOGRAPHICAL FILMS**

(some are available online free – others may be available on providers such as Amazon Prime / Netflix etc.)

• **Touching the Void (15)** (great for visualising glacial landscapes) – a powerful true story docudrama (strong language in parts)

• **Before the Flood (2016) (PG)** – National Geographic <https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/before-the-flood-2016/> (presented by Leonardo DiCaprio – exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.

• **The Impossible (2012) (12)** – Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.

• **Slumdog Millionaire (15)** – based on life in the slums of Mumbai

• **Our Planet** (Netflix series) – explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.

• **Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (12)** – an epic which celebrates the journey of Nelson Mandela from childhood in a rural village through to his election as President of South Africa. This explores what happened in South Africa with regards to apartheid and Black opposition through the eyes of Nelson Mandela.

• **Hotel Rwanda (12)** - the true story of hotel manager who houses and protects Tutsi refugees – this is a hard-hitting film based on the Rwandan Conflict of the 1990s.

• **The Last King of Scotland (15)** – another hard-hitting story, based on struggles faced by Uganda under the dictatorship of Idi Amin.

• **Into the Wild (2007) (15)** – based on the story of a university graduate who gives up all of his material possessions and journeys alone into the Alaskan Wilderness

• **Blood Diamond (2006) (15) –** dramatic story of how mining diamonds brings conflict to Sierra Leone

**PREPARING FOR A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY AT WASELEY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL**

At Waseley we follow the Eduqas A Level. You will have three examined units and one NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) i.e. an independent geographical investigation. Here’s some reading/videos if you want to get exploring.

***Mrs Harris starts with Tectonic Hazards and then Ecosystems.***

***Mr Baker starts with Changing Places and then Glaciation.***

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| **Component** | **Theme** |  |
| **1.****Changing landscapes and Changing Places** | Section A:Glacial landscapes | **Video: Power of the Planet (Ice)** <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5aj54i>**Reading:** All about Glaciers <https://nsidc.org/cryosphere/glaciers>  |
| Section B: Changing Places | **Interactive: Changing Spaces, Making Places** <https://focusschoolwilto.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f10c512164d0498d8f3bcfad8ae61d39>**Reading:**  |
| **2.****Global Systems and Global Governance** | Section A: Global Systems 1. water cycle
2. carbon cycle
 | **Reading: Water and Carbon Cycling (Royal Geographical Society)** <https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=6dc9f1c1-f92d-4c04-9f85-9985844a6a79&lang=en-GB> **Reading: Introduction to the Carbon Cycle** <https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/ecology/biogeochemical-cycles/a/the-carbon-cycle> **Reading: Introduction to the Water Cycle** <https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/ecology/biogeochemical-cycles/a/the-water-cycle>  |
| Section B: Global governance: change and challenges (migration and oceans) | **Video:** Escape to Europe: The migrant’s story – BBC Newsnight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZqdUBpHmhM>**Video:** The truth about immigration in the UK 2014 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHplEJgevqM>**Video**: Immigration: Is Britain Getting Full? <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/jon-snow-explains/on-demand/61877-004>**Video:** Between Borders – America’s migrant crisis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxF0t-SMEXA>**Video:** Fleeing Climate Change – The real environmental disaster (forced migration due to climate change) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl4Uv9_7KJE>**Video**: The Tragedy of the Global Commons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxC161GvMPc>**Ted Ed talks**: You can search for anything. This link takes you to the results of a search on oceans: <https://ed.ted.com/search?qs=oceans> |
| Section C: Challenges in 21st Century | *This is a synoptic unit that uses all the geography knowledge and understanding you have gained over your school years. Here are some interesting videos about climate change. We don’t study climate change as a topic but knowledge is always powerful.***Video:** Climate Change the Facts – David Attenborough <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>**Video:** Panorama – Climate Change: What can we do? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009drg/panorama-climate-change-what-can-we-do>**Video:** The Disarming case to act right now climate change – Greta Thunberg (TED TALK) <https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_disarming_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate_change>**Reading: Climate Change – The Guardian** have an excellent section on Climate Change which is frequently updated with articles and is well worth dipping into <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-change>**Reading: Climate Change – The Conversation** – a wealth of articles which are frequently updated <https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/climate-change-27> |
| **3.****Contemporary themes in Geography** | Section A:Tectonic hazards | **Video:** Power of the Planet (Volcanoes) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg>**Reading:** Plate Tectonics (The Geological Society) <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>**USGS Natural Hazards – FAQ** <https://www.usgs.gov/faq/natural-hazards> |
| Section B: EcosystemsEnergy Challenges and Dilemmas | **Reading:** Arctic Tundra biome is our main case study:<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/tundra-biome/>**Video:** Addicted toe enemy - BBC Documentary 2017 - Future Earth And Power Consumption - Full Documentary HD <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_BVoWlWtK8>**Video:** MASDAR Green Sustainable City - Building Green - Masdar City, exploring the future - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfOVIhGuI4A>**Video:** MG Rover collapse (deindustrialisation) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MTw2nREZRM&t=4s>**Video:** How Detroit Went From A Booming Metropolis To A Shrinking City | NBC Nightly News <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CBwI3heojM&t=802s> |
| **4.****Independent investigation.** | Independent investigation titles based on the collection of both field data and secondary information. Focus must be derived from AS/A2 content. | We’ll be doing a three day residential in Year 12 where you will decide what you want to investigate. |