

Welcome to A-Level Geography – Paper 1 Focus

Congratulations on choosing A-level Geography – a subject that explores some of the most pressing physical challenges facing our world today. Paper 1 focuses on the physical environment and includes three key topics:

- **The Water and Carbon Cycles**
- **Coastal Systems and Landscapes**
- **Tectonic Hazards**

Each topic delves deeper than GCSE, requiring you to think critically, analyse data, evaluate complex ideas, and draw connections between physical processes and human responses.

This is a demanding course that will challenge your thinking and stretch your understanding. To succeed, you'll need to be:

- **Proactive** in your learning
- **Curious** about how the world works
- **Organised** in managing your notes, deadlines, and case study knowledge
- **Resilient**, especially when tackling new skills like extended writing, synoptic thinking, and fieldwork preparation

Geography at A-level is as much about **problem-solving and communication** as it is about understanding the planet. We'll explore current issues, use real-world case studies, and develop skills valued by universities and employers alike.

It is absolutely essential that you stay up to date with your learning and keep pace with the course. The content is taught quickly and builds on earlier material, so falling behind can make it harder to progress. Consistency and good time management will be key to your success.

To help you make a confident and successful start, you'll be completing some **transition work** over the summer. This is designed to bridge the gap between GCSE and A-level, introduce key ideas from Paper 1, and begin developing the independent learning skills that are essential at this level. The work will give you a head start on the course content, help you build confidence with geographical terminology and data, and encourage you to think critically about the world around you. Taking this seriously will set a strong foundation for your first term.

We're excited to begin this journey with you — it starts with commitment, and it leads to insight.

Here's a set of **transition work suggestions** for students moving from **GCSE to AQA A-level Geography (Paper 1 focus)**. The goal is to bridge the gap in skills and content expectations, build enthusiasm, and set academic tone early on.

Objectives of Transition Work

- Develop independent learning and research skills
- Reinforce and extend GCSE concepts
- Introduce key A-level terminology and case study depth
- Improve geographical literacy and extended writing
- Promote curiosity about global and local geography

Instructions:

1. Match each command word in Column A with its definition in Column B.
2. Then match it to a relevant example question in Column C. (*write your answers in the box with the command word (see example)*)
3. Bonus: Choose 2 command words and write your own exam-style questions using them.

 Command Words	 Definitions	 Example Questions
Analyse C iv	A. Give reasons for something, showing causes and effects.	i. “Evaluate the effectiveness of coastal management strategies along the Holderness Coast.”
Assess	B. Make a judgement after considering strengths and weaknesses.	ii. “Compare the impacts of tropical storms in an LIC and a HIC.”
Evaluate	C. Identify patterns or relationships and interpret what they mean.	iii. “Explain how tectonic hazards are influenced by plate margin type.”
Explain	D. Explore both sides of an issue before reaching a conclusion.	iv. “Analyse the link between global atmospheric circulation and tropical storm formation.”
Compare	E. Break an idea into parts and explore their significance.	v. “Assess the view that wildfires are primarily caused by human activity.”
Justify	F. Give a detailed account of something’s characteristics.	vi. “Describe the distribution of earthquakes globally.”
Discuss	G. Consider arguments or evidence to reach a supported judgement.	vii. “Suggest reasons why rainfall patterns vary across the UK.”
Examine	H. Offer a possible reason or solution based on knowledge.	viii. “Justify the choice of location for your NEA fieldwork investigation.”
Describe	I. Look at an idea, topic, or issue in detail.	ix. “Discuss the potential impacts of climate change on the carbon cycle.”
Suggest	J. Identify similarities and/or differences between two or more things.	x. “Examine how coastal processes shape different landforms.”

[illegible]

2. Key terminology definitions

KEY TERM	DEFINITION
  Water and Carbon Cycles	
Closed system	
Store (or reservoir)	
Flux (or flow)	
Precipitation	
Interception	
Infiltration	
Runoff (overland flow)	
Carbon sequestration	
Photosynthesis / respiration (carbon cycle processes)	
Soil moisture budget	
 Coastal Systems and Landscapes	
Dynamic equilibrium	
Sediment cell	
Longshore drift	
Sub-aerial processes	
Weathering (mechanical, chemical, biological)	
Mass movement	
Erosion (abrasion, hydraulic action, attrition, corrosion)	
Deposition	

Wave refraction	
Hard engineering	
Soft engineering	
Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	
Managed retreat	
Constructive vs Destructive waves	
Sea level change (isostatic/eustatic)	
 Tectonic Hazards	
Plate tectonics	
Lithosphere	
Asthenosphere	
Convection currents	
Subduction zone	
Destructive plate boundary	
Constructive plate boundary	
Transform fault	
Benioff zone	
Liquefaction	
Magnitude	
Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw)	

Disaster risk equation	
Hazard mitigation	
Resilience	

3. Geography Documentary Reflection

Task: Watch the following (or similar) and write a 1-page summary:

- *Netflix: Explained – The World's Water Crisis*

Include:

- Key points
- Geography links
- One question you'd like to explore further

4. Independent Case Study Research

Task: Choose one recent hazard event (within the last 2 years) (e.g., earthquake, tsunami, cyclone, wildfire) and create a case study fact file. (this can be done as a powerpoint)

Include:

- Location map and key facts
- Causes (physical and human)
- Social, economic, environmental impacts
- Short-term and long-term responses
- Evaluation: what made it more or less severe?

Outcome: Builds case study depth and evaluation skills.

All the above tasks should take between 7-12 hours to complete

"Great journeys start with a single step — this summer work is yours. Build the knowledge now that will shape the geographer you're becoming."

Mrs Wolpert 