

# 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/b011qmcl/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/>
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## 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**

## What does the A Level Course look like at SA / SJFCHS?

At A Level, we follow the EDEXCEL specification. You will have three exams; one physical exam and one human exam, one Synoptic and one Non-Examined Assessment- essentially a 3000-4000 word piece of coursework.

Physical Exam	Human Exam	Synoptic Exam	NEA
<p><b>Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tectonic Processes and Hazards</li> <li>• Coastal Landscapes and Change</li> <li>• The Water Cycle and Water</li> <li>• The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</li> </ul> <p>The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions</p>	<p><b>Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globalisation</li> <li>• Regenerating Places</li> <li>• Superpowers</li> <li>• Health, Human Rights and Intervention</li> </ul> <p>The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions</p>	<p><b>Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 20% of the qualification 70 marks</b></p> <p>The specification contains three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas:</p> <p>Players</p> <p>Attitudes and actions</p> <p>Futures and uncertainties.</p> <p>The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context</p> <p>. A resource booklet will contain information about the geographical issue.</p>	<p><b>Non-examined assessment 20% of the qualification 70 marks</b></p> <p>This is an independent enquiry meaning that it is driven by you.</p> <p>You will need to formulate a title and hypotheses from a topic that is studied on the EDEXCEL specification. You will then need to come up with methods to test your hypotheses, you will collect your own data and then present, analyse, conclude and evaluate your investigation.</p> <p>The deadline for this will be in November of Year 13.</p> <p>You will be taken out on several days fieldwork work to prep you for this.</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 cycle and water security

- **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.
- **Global water security** - <https://www.globalcommunities.org/node/37493>- some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **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 [Water Conflict in USA](#)**- look how conflicting demands for water can cause conflict on the Colorado
- **Good [Website](#)** looking at different competing demands for water – variety of videos and resources to use.
- **Geofile on the [Three Gorges Dam](#)**- look at how China has attempted to solve its water security.
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### Carbon and energy 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 [Global Patterns of Energy Security](#)**- find out some of the constraints to energy security around the world.
- **Geofile on the [Growth of Energy in NEEs](#)** – look to see how NEEs are influencing the energy demand
- **Geofile on [Wind Power](#)** – Looking at the role of renewables in Germany

### 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.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-Edexcel/coastal-systems-landscapes/>**- some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **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.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-Edexcel/hazards/>** some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **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/WjEGP0rD2AABaZcC/t/the-philippines-multi-hazard-case-study>  
[https://geocasestudies.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/8/5/11851155/coregeographyunit1casestudies\\_1\\_.pdf](https://geocasestudies.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/8/5/11851155/coregeographyunit1casestudies_1_.pdf)
- **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.geol Soc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>

### Health, Human Rights and Intervention

- **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 <https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/Edexcel/8A-Health-Human-Rights-and-Intervention/Essential%20Notes%20-%20Health,%20Human%20Rights%20and%20Intervention%20-%20Edexcel%20Geography%20A-level.pdf>
- How good is the UK for Human rights? Read the Amnesty international report and summarise the main points.  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/europe-and-central-asia/united-kingdom/report-united-kingdom/>
- Tracking the **Coronavirus Pandemic:** <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> and <https://ourworldindata.org/> and <https://www.who.int/>

### Regenerating 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. <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-edexcel/regenerating-places/>

Look at how Leeds has changed over time and how it will change more in the future.

**What and where is CITU** – how will this help in the future? <https://citu.co.uk/>

**What is Southbank** and how will it change Leeds? <https://southbankleeds.co.uk/>

**How is Harrogate trying to regenerate?** <https://www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk/news/exciting-regeneration-station-parade-area-harrogate-1350375>

**What is the Harrogate City centre masterplan?**

[https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/730/harrogate\\_final\\_masterplan\\_may\\_2016\\_part\\_1](https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/file/730/harrogate_final_masterplan_may_2016_part_1)

[file:///C:/Users/dell/Desktop/Harrogate Final Masterplan May 2016 Part1.pdf](file:///C:/Users/dell/Desktop/Harrogate%20Final%20Masterplan%20May%202016%20Part1.pdf)

### Superpowers

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- Resource Security** – 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.
- **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 own area (Harrogate or Leeds)- include photographs, personal reflections and how it may change in the future (Regenerating Places)</p>	<p>Watch one documentary on Climate Change- Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00049b1">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00049b1</a>  (Carbon and energy)</p>	<p>Read the essential notes on (Superpowers) <a href="https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/Edexcel/7-Superpowers/Essential%20Notes%20-%20Superpowers%20-%20Edexcel%20Geography%20A-level.pdf">https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/Edexcel/7-Superpowers/Essential%20Notes%20-%20Superpowers%20-%20Edexcel%20Geography%20A-level.pdf</a> Use a timeline to show explain how superpowers have changed over time</p>
<p>Read 'Changing Cities'- produce a case study summary on one of the cities. (Regenerating Places)</p>	<p>(Health, Human Rights and Intervention)  Give three ways in which the World Health Organisation (WHO) are helping to control the spread of Coronavirus</p>	<p>Produce a mind map of the multi- hazard area of the Philippines (Hazards)</p>
<p>In one typed side of A4, explain what 'geography' means to you.</p>	<p>Read the Geofile (Coastal Systems, waves, sediments and cells) and summarise on 1 side of A4 paper. (Coasts)</p>	<p>Water as a resource is the most fought over commodity. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Read some reading on the Water Cycle and Water Conflicts from resource security to help your answer. (Water Security)</p>