

Beyond GCSE geography - Preparing you for A level studies

With the start of your A levels many months away, it is important that we do not let slip all the skills and understanding that you have worked so hard for over the last few years. Whether or not you are continuing geography to A level, the skills of researching, analysing and evaluating material are important across all subjects and so the aim for the following weeks is to build on what you have already learnt during your GCSE course.



If you are (very wisely!) intending to continue geography at A level, this work will also provide some excellent resources to use throughout your course, as well as helping to develop further some of the most important skills and enable you to more readily “Think like a geographer.”

A level Overview

The course is split into two core papers. Paper 1 (Physical geography) and Paper 2 (Human geography). For A level geography however, there is a lot of overlap and links between the topics you will learn. You will develop the skills to look for and understand these synoptic links.

(If you are considering A level geography, a summary of the content can be found at <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-7037-SP-2016.PDF> under Specification at a Glance). Use the link above to see the specific content that you will be studying.

The topics that you will study are summarised below

Paper 1	Paper 2
Year 12 Topics	
Topic 1: Water and Carbon cycles The availability and quantity of water is vital to life on earth and helps to tie together the Earth's lands, oceans and atmosphere into an integrated physical system. Carbon is everywhere. Without carbon, life would not exist as we know it. The carbon cycle plays a key role in regulating the Earth's global temperature and climate. Both the study of the water and carbon cycles is essential in understanding the threats that face our planet.	Topic 1: Resource Security One of the major challenges resulting from continued population growth in the 21 st century is the large-scale exploitation of natural resources. This topic looks at the increasing demand for energy, water and minerals as they are all critical for human survival and development. The increasing scarcity of all three resources means that ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of each has become a major objective for most governments.
Topic 2: Coasts Coastal zones are dynamic environments with distinctive landscapes formed by the interaction of a range of wind, marine and terrestrial processes. Coastal environments are important to the human race. About half of the world's population live on coastal plains with over 50% of the population living within 150km of the sea. In this topic you will study: The systems and processes leading to coastal landscapes, how these landscapes are threatened and managed and sustainable approaches to managing these areas in the future.	Topic 2: Changing Place Place is an everyday word and a key term within the study of geography. As geographers we traditionally focus on the description of place but a more accurate study of place must include experience of place, whether through direct interaction or indirect representation. In this topic you will explore how places can change over time, through regeneration and rebranding and how our experiences of place change overtime.

Year 13 Topics

Topic 3: Hazards

In this topic you will focus on the atmosphere and the lithosphere which intermittently but regularly present hazards to human populations, often in a dramatic and sometimes catastrophic fashion. By exploring the origin and nature of these hazards and the various ways in which people respond to them, you will be able to engage with many dimensions of the relationships between people and the environment in which they live. You will study: Volcanic hazards, Seismic hazards, Storm hazards and wildfires.

Topic 3: Global systems and Global governance

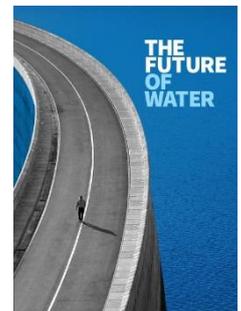
Our world is more connected now than it has ever been. The global economy and society have been altered as a result of globalisation. Whilst this has been positive for economic development, this has caused numerous consequences in terms of socio-political conflicts and environmental sustainability. There are few topics either as controversial or in need of better awareness than attempts to manage and govern human affairs on a global scale.

How can you prepare?

The links below are an extensive list of books, videos, documentaries and pod casts that will help you gain a deeper understanding into some of the core concepts you will study at A level geography. Pick ones that you find interesting. At the end of this pack, is a wider reading and watching tracker. Over the next three weeks select 2 of any of the books, podcasts, documentaries, videos, or articles from the links below and complete a tracker for each one.

Videos/Documentaries

- TED Talk: [Why climate change is a threat to human rights](#)
- TED Talk: [Greta Tunburg](#). The disarming case to act right now on climate change
- The Economist films <https://www.youtube.com/user/EconomistMagazine/videos>
- NETFLIX: The future of water
- NETFLIX: Islands of the future
- Youtube: National Geographic- Before the flood.
- BBC iplayer: Climate change: The facts



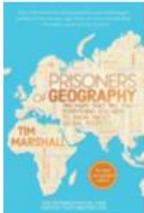
Podcasts

- BBC '[Costing the Earth](#)'
- Beyond today: [Can we be green and rich?](#)
- Beyond today: [Did Huawei just win a tech war?](#)
- Beyond today: [What's wrong with ayahuasca tourism?](#)
- Geography Alltheway [podcasts](#).
- [The Geographical Association](#)
- [The Royal Geographical Society](#):
- [The Royal Geographical Society: Ask a geographer](#)
- [The Economist podcasts](#)



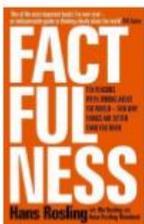
Geography Reading List

- 1



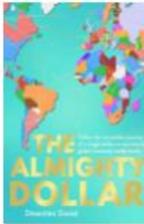
Prisoners of Geography
Tim Marshall

Splitting the world into 10 distinct regions suggests our key political driver continues to be our physical geography. It includes why China and India will never fall into conflict. One of the best books about geopolitics you could imagine!
- 2



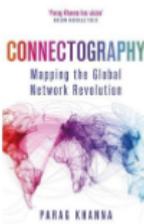
Factfulness
Hans Rosling

A radical new explanation of why we systematically get the answers to questions about development, revealing ten instincts that distort our perspective. Sweeps aside our worst instincts and makes the world a sunnier place.
- 3



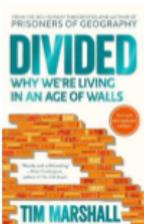
The Almighty Dollar
Dharshini David

Follows \$1 from a shopping trip in Texas, via China's central bank, Nigerian railroads, the oilfields of Iraq and beyond to reveal the complex relationships of our new globalised world.
- 4



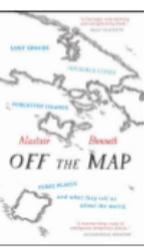
Connectography
Parag Khanna

A guide through the emerging global network civilisation in which megacities complete over connectivity and borders are increasingly irrelevant. Shows how a new foundation of connectivity is pulling together a world that appears to be falling apart.
- 5



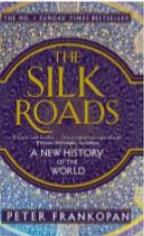
Divided
Tim Marshall

There are many reasons why we erect walls, because we are divided in many ways: wealth, race, religion, politics. Understanding what has divided us, past and present, is essential to understanding much of what's going on in the world today.
- 6



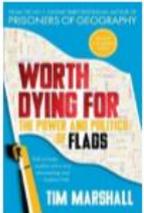
Off the Map
Alastair Bonnett

From forgotten enclaves to floating islands, from hidden villages to New York gutter spaces, this book charts the hidden corners of our planet. Topophilia, the love of place, is a fundamental part of what it is to be human.
- 7



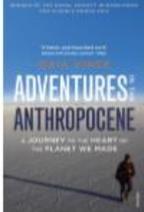
The Silk Roads
Peter Frankopan

Our understanding of the world is shaped by the narrow focus on western Europe and the US. An antidote to Eurocentric accounts of the world, examining several continents and centuries and the factors that influenced the flow of goods and ideas.
- 8



Worth Dying For
Tim Marshall

The histories, the power and the politics of the symbols that unite and divide us. We wave them and burn them and still, in the 21st century, we die for them. We need to understand the symbols that people are rallying around.
- 9



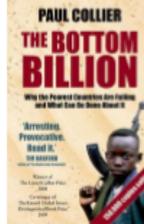
Adventures in the Anthropocene
Gaia Vince

Our planet is said to be crossing into the Age of Humans. This book sees what life is really like for people on the frontline of the planet we've made, from artificial glaciers to electrified reefs.
- 10



10 Billion
Stephen Emmott

It's about our failure: failure as individuals, the failure of business and the failure of our politicians. It is about an unprecedented planetary emergency. It's about the future of us.
- 11



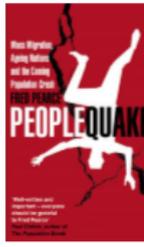
The Bottom Billion
Paul Collier

Explains four traps that prevent the homelands of the world's billion poorest people from growing and receiving the benefits of globalisation - civil war, natural resources, being landlocks and ineffective governance.
- 12



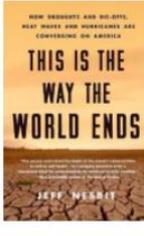
10 Billion
Danny Dorling

Explores how we got to 10 billion and the key issues that we face in the coming decades including how to deal with scarcity of resources and how our cities will grow and how we should prepare for population decline.
- 13



Peoplequake
Fred Pearce

The population bomb is being defused. Half the world's women are having two children or fewer and within a generation, the world's population will be falling, and we will all be getting very old. This book confronts our demographic demons.
- 14



This is the Way the World Ends
Jeff Nesbit

Our world is in trouble - right now. This book tells the real stories of the substantial impacts to Earth's systems unfolding across each continent from longer droughts in the Middle East to the monsoon season shrinking in India. A blueprint for real-time, workable solutions we can tackle together.

The Open University

The Open University has some brilliant free courses that can get you ready for starting your A level studies and broaden your knowledge. See the links below:

Physical Geography:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/geology/volcanic-hazards/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab> - Volcanic Hazards

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/geology/earthquakes/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab> - Earthquakes

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/science/geology/plate-tectonics/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab> - Plate tectonics

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/introduction-geology/content-section-overview?active-tab=content-tab> - Geology introduction



Wider Reading/Watching - Geography A Level

Book Chapter / News Article / Journal Article / Video Clip / Blog Post / Podcast / Infographic / Talk / Documentary/
Other

Title:	Date of Publication:
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Author:	Organisation / Publisher:
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Key Ideas / Arguments:	Key Facts:
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Connection with syllabus:

Would you recommend to a friend? Why?

Wider Reading/Watching - Geography A Level

Book Chapter / News Article / Journal Article / Video Clip / Blog Post / Podcast / Infographic / Talk / Documentary/
Other

Title:

Date of Publication:

Author:

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Key Ideas / Arguments:

Key Facts:

Connection with syllabus:

Would you recommend to a friend? Why?

Task 1: An introduction to Global systems and global governance

Globalisation is the word used to describe the growing interdependence of the world's economies, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade in goods and services, technology, and flows of investment, people, and information. Countries have built economic partnerships to facilitate these movements over many centuries, but the term gained popularity after the Cold War in the early 1990s.

Globalisation defines your everyday lives, it is as relatable, current and topical an issue as any you will find in today's world. Consider this quote from the great Martin Luther King Jnr:

*“Did you ever stop to think that you can't leave for your job in the morning without being dependent upon most of the world? You get up in the morning and go to the bathroom and reach over for the sponge, and that's handed you by a Pacific Islander. You reach for a bar of soap, and that's given to you at the hands of a Frenchman. And then you go into the kitchen to drink your coffee for the morning and that is poured into your cup by a South American. And maybe you want tea: that's poured into your cup by a Chinese. Or maybe you desire to have cocoa for breakfast, and that's poured into your cup by a West African. And then you reach over for your toast, and that's given you at the hands of an English-speaking farmer, not to mention the baker. **And before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world.** This is the way our universe is structured. It is its interrelated quality. We aren't going to have peace on earth until we recognize this basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality.”*

He wrote this back in 1967, the world is far more interconnected and interdependent 53 years on!



Complete the activities below

Before you begin, you must first realise how globalisation affects YOU and those around you:

- 1) Making globalisation personal 1 (your house): Take a 5 minute stroll around your house and your mission is to find items of all shapes/sizes/kinds/uses which originate outside of the UK. **Make this into a table** like this - I've begun it with the items around me:

Item	Country/city of origin	Importance to me
ACER Laptop	Shenzhen, China	I need it to work from home!
STABILO Boss highlighter	Made in Germany	I need it to tick of the work I have done.
NIKE Water bottle	Shenzhen, China	I need it to keep hydrated

- 2) Making globalisation personal 2 (your devices): **Read this** <https://www.wired.com/2016/04/iphones-500000-mile-journey-pocket/> and **make a flowchart** which follows the IPHones' journey right into your pocket in the UK! This still applies even if you do not own an Apple device!
- 3) Making globalisation personal 3 (your local area): **Read** the extract below and **write a diary entry** similar to this, but detailing your (**virtual**) walk down your local high street. Use Google Maps' StreetView feature and take a walk!

An extract from Doreen Massey's 1994: A Global sense of place:

Take, for instance, a walk down Kilburn High Road, my local shopping centre. It is a pretty ordinary place, north-west of the centre of London. Under the railway bridge the newspaper stand sells papers from every county of what my neighbours, many of whom come from there, still often call the Irish Free State. The postboxes down the High Road, and many an empty space on a wall, are adorned with the letters IRA. Other available spaces are plastered this week with posters for a special meeting in remembrance: Ten Years after the Hunger Strike. At the local theatre Eamon Morrissey has a one-man show; the National Club has the Wolfe Tones on, and at the Black Lion there's Finnegans Wake. In two shops I notice this week's lottery ticket winners: in one the name is Teresa Gleeson, in the other, Chouman Hassan. Thread your way through the often almost stationary traffic diagonally across the road from the newsstand and there's a shop which as long as I can remember has displayed saris in the window. Four life-sized models of Indian women, and reams of cloth. On the door a notice announces a forthcoming concert at Wembley Arena: Anand Miland presents Rekha, life, with Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Jai Chawla and Raveena Tandon. On another ad, for the end of the month, is written, 'All Hindus are cordially invited'. In another newsagents I chat with the man who keeps it, a Muslim unutterably depressed by events in the Gulf, silently chafing at having to sell the Sun. Overhead there is always at least one aeroplane - we seem to have on a flight-path to Heathrow and by the time they're over Kilburn you can see them clearly enough to tell the airline and wonder as you struggle with your shopping where they're coming from. Below, the reason the traffic is snarled up (another odd effect of timespace compression!) is in part because this is one of the main entrances to and escape routes from London, the road to Staples Corner and the beginning of the M1 to 'the North'. This is just the beginnings of a sketch from immediate impressions but a proper analysis could be done of the links between Kilburn and the world. And so it could for almost any place. Kilburn is a place for which I have a great affection; I have lived there many years. It certainly has 'a character of its own'.