

Bishop Walsh Catholic School

A-Level Geography

An Introduction

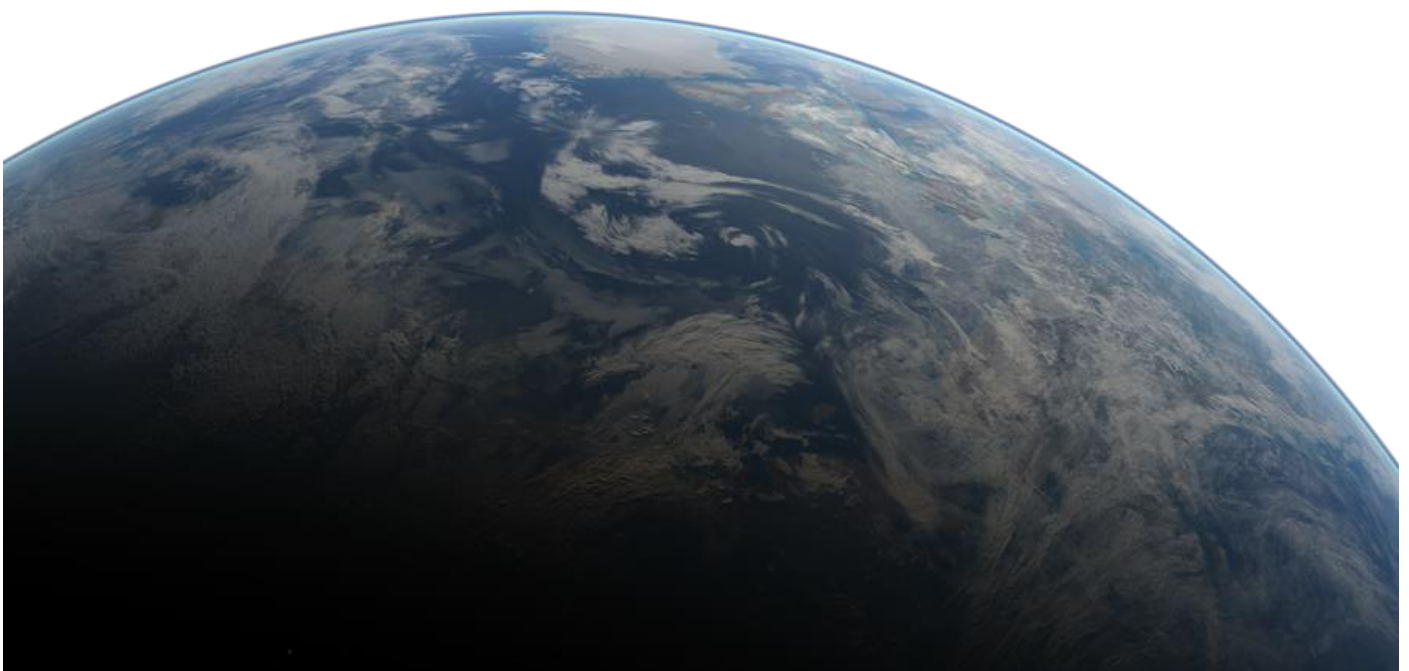
Geography is an outstanding subject with amazing breadth. It covers all sorts of topics which are relevant to how we live our lives every day. Geography is important for the air we breathe, the environments we live in and the landscapes around us. It is a fascinating combination of human endeavours and physical processes. Geography brings together studies from science, from humanities and other disciplines.

An A-level in Geography will provide an excellent basis to be a global citizen. The route to a successful course of study begins with this document.

The pages which follow provide an explanation of the course, useful texts and literature associated and further methods to engage with geographical concepts. The latter half of the booklet explains the bridging work which is necessary to complete ahead of September.

We look forward to commencing the A-level programme with you.

The Geography Department



Course of Study

We study the AQA A-level Geography specification. The course concludes with two examination papers, as well as a personal fieldwork project. The table below details the programme of study.

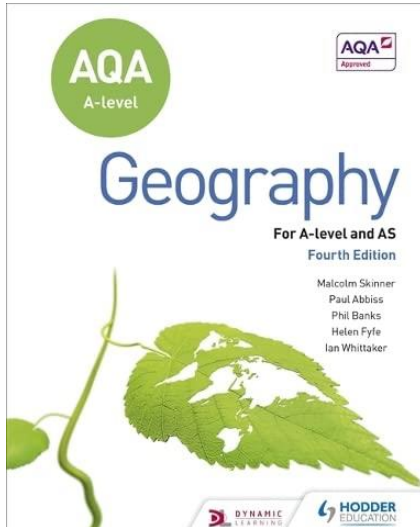
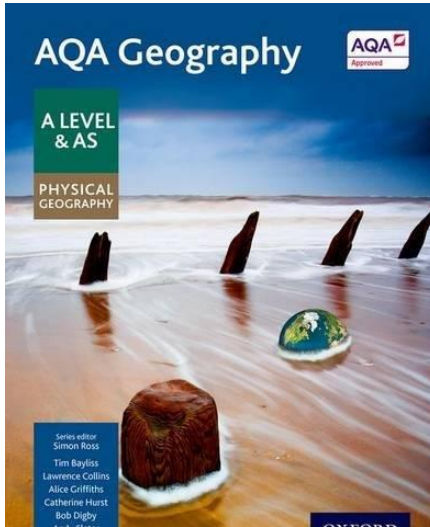
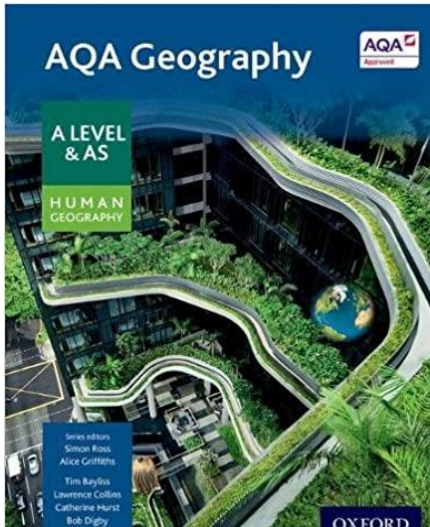
Physical Geography (Paper 1)	Term	Human Geography (Paper 2)
Water & Carbon Cycles	Y12 Autumn	Changing Places
Coastal Systems & Landscapes	Y12 Spring	Global Systems & Global Governance
NEA Fieldwork	Y12 Summer	NEA Fieldwork
Hazards	Y13 Autumn	Contemporary Urban Environments
	Y13 Spring	
Review & Exam Technique	Y13 Summer	Review & Exam Technique

The units of work in Paper 1 are taught by Mr T Greenwood (Head of Geography). The units in Paper 2 are taught by Miss E Doyle (Vice Principal) and Mrs E Condron (Teacher of Geography).

Click here for a link to the full [AQA specification](#).

Course Materials

It is advisable to take learnings from a variety of literature in the study of Geography, but the A-level is predominantly taught using the three textbooks depicted below. The School owns copies of the first book shown. It is recommended that you consider purchasing the second textbook, while the third will be used less often.

<p>AQA A Level Geography Fourth Edition</p> <p>Ian Whittaker ISBN-13: 978-1471858697</p> 	<p>AQA Geography A Level & AS Physical Geography Student Book</p> <p>Ross et al ISBN-13: 978-0198366515</p> 	<p>AQA Geography A Level & AS Human Geography Student Book</p> <p>Ross et al ISBN-13: 978-0198366546</p> 
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Advanced Reading Material

The nature of A-level Geography is that it is very wide-ranging. Thus, a diverse array of literature is relevant to the course. A reading list of suggested books is provided below. Reading around the subject using these texts or others will provide an excellent way to extend your understanding of concepts and how they apply across the world.

This list is a guide and the texts can be read at any point of the course. It is not an expectation that specific reading is conducted in advance of September.

Additional Academic Material

David Lambert – Thinking Like A Geographer (2007)

David Waugh – Geography: An Integrated Approach (2009)

Ken Addison *et al* – Fundamentals of the Physical Environment (2008)

CGP – AS and A-Level Geography: AQA Complete Revision & Practice (2020)

Alisdair Rogers *et al* – A Dictionary of Human Geography (2013)

Neil Coe *et al* – Economic Geography: A Contemporary Introduction (2007)

Geofiles (PDF articles)

Geo Factsheets (PDF articles)

Non-fiction Geographical Publications

Tim Marshall – Prisoners of Geography (2016)

James Lovelock – Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth Paperback (2000)

Joel Cohen – How many people can Earth support? (1996)

Jared Diamond – Guns, Gems and Steel (1999)

Bjorn Lomborg – The Skeptical Environmentalist (2001)

Iain Stewart – Earth: The Power of the Planet (2007)

John A. Matthews – Geography: A Very Short Introduction

Subscribe to the National Geographic magazine for current topics in geography

The Guardian newspaper tends to be the best for geography

Familiarise yourself with the work of social geographer Doreen Massey

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.

Beyond Literature

Podcasts & Further Listening

Ask the Geographer by the Royal Geographical Society

For example: 'Hazards and volcanic gas emissions' with Dr Tom Pering, 'Forests and the Carbon Cycle' with Professor Rob MacKenzie and Professor Jerry Pritchard, Extreme weather in the UK; past, present and future' with Professor Georgina Endfield

The GeogPod by the Geographical Association

BBC Business Daily podcast

Living on Earth podcast

The Economist podast

Follow 'Mr Lee Geography' on YouTube

University of Oxford School of Geography and the Environment podcast

From Our Own Correspondent on BBC Radio 4

'The Rest Is Politics' podcast (current affairs, useful for Global Governance)



TV & Film

David Attenborough: The Green Planet (2022), Climate Change: The Facts (2019), Seven Worlds, One Planet (2019), Dynasty (2018), Blue Planet II (2017), Planet Earth (2015)

Simon Reeve: Countries (2013 onwards)

Hans Rosling: Don't Panic – The Truth about Population (2013)

An Inconvenient Truth (2006) & An Inconvenient Sequel (2017) by Al Gore which focuses on climate change

Erin Brockovich (2000) is about geopolitics of gas

Small Island (2009) focuses on international migration

Blood Diamond (2006) about war and conflict

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) about Indian shanty towns

City of God (2002) about life in Brazilian favelas

The Big Short (2015) about the financial crash

Food Inc (2008) by Robert Kenner about agribusiness and commercial farming.

Crash (2004) has themes to do with social inequalities and in urban areas

Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret (2014) about human causes of climate change

The Day After Tomorrow (2004) about dramatic climate change

Countryfile on BBC

Coast on BBC

TED Talks are largely available through YouTube. These cover a range of scientific and geographical content. The delivery by high level academics is superb.



Twitter & Websites

Utilise websites to help your development such as:

s-cool.co.uk

coolgeography.co.uk

geographyinthenews.org.uk

nationalgeographic.co.uk

@twmcltd (Tim White – correspondent covering pertinent world affairs)

@LewisPugh (environmental pollution of oceans and climate change)

@RGS_IBGschools (Royal Geographical Society)

@LDN_Environment (London's Environmental Team)

@GeogBham (University of Birmingham School of Geography)

@Tweet_Geography (Geography in the News)



Careers in Geography

There are an enormous range of careers which an A-level or a degree in Geography can lead to. The teachers in the Geography department are graduates and even masters of the subject. They have a range of peers who have occupations in all manner of industries, from research to banking, wine to accountancy, and climate change to catering.

This link is one of many which demonstrate the variety of careers you could enter with the help of a qualification in Geography.

<https://www.rgs.org/iamageographer/>

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/going-places-with-geography-brochure/>



Geographical Challenges Online

Knowledge of the names, locations and populations of the world's nations is very useful to provide a foundation from which to learn. To improve your baseline knowledge of environmental trivia such as capital cities, oceans, deserts and much more, you may wish to challenge yourself via these websites.

GeoGuessr

www.geoguessr.com/



Sporcle

www.sporcle.com/



Worldle

<https://worldle.teuteuf.fr>

WORLDLE



There are many other activity websites online too.

For a more advanced student challenge, you may wish to enter the Royal Geographical Society's **Young Geographer of the Year** competition. The topic for the competition changes every year and operates nationwide.

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/2022-competition/>

Entering this competition is particularly advised for students interested in University study.



Summer Bridging Work

In Year 12, four units will be studied. For each one, you have been set a task. This should be completed to your best ability and you should be prepared to discuss your findings and ideas on commencement of the course in September.

Each task will take approximately 90-120 minutes to complete so allow sufficient time to do each one.

Your work should be completed and emailed before term starts in September. Tasks completed for Physical Geography should be sent to t.greenwood@bishopwalsh.net and tasks completed for Human Geography should be sent to e.condron@bishopwalsh.net.

Water & Carbon Cycles (Physical Geography)

Watch David Attenborough's 2019 documentary 'Climate Change: The Facts' which is available on BBC iPlayer. The first time you watch it, simply allow yourself to understand the impacts of change on our world. Watch it then a second time, and complete answers to these questions.

Questions

1. Currently, what is the greatest threat to the world?
2. The increase in weather is associated with climate change?
3. What is driving this rapid climate change?
4. How much carbon was in the atmosphere before burning coal? How much is there now?
5. Are animals able to adapt to the changing temperatures?
6. What area of the world could become uninhabitable?
7. What percentage of species are at risk of extinction due to climate change?
8. How much damage was caused by wildfires in California in 2018?
9. How much ice is being lost from the Greenland ice sheet?
10. How much more ice is Antarctica losing today than 25 years ago?
11. What does this word "displacing" mean in relation to people?

12. Where are people being displaced from?
13. Which US state is losing land at a faster rate than anywhere else on the planet? At what rate?
14. Why are policies slow to be changed?
15. Why are trees important in regulation carbon dioxide?
16. What are the causes of deforestation?
17. What are being used to predict the future of climate change?
18. What do scientists mean by a tipping point?
19. What could release lots of methane into the atmosphere?
20. What was the agreement made in Paris in 2015?
21. What did they agree?
22. Give an example of one country and its renewable resource.
23. What is the UK producing on a large scale?
24. What percentage of the UK's electricity comes from renewable sources?
25. Which company is developing electric planes in the UK?
26. What is the carbon footprint of the average UK person per year?
27. Greta Thunberg is a young pioneer for climate change, what did she do?

Coastal Systems & Landscapes (Physical Geography)

Key terminology for this unit is listed below. The emboldened words are higher level terms introduced at A-level for which you are expected to create a glossary. The other words can be included in your glossary but are assumed to be known from GCSE.

Make sure your definitions are relevant to coasts. Previously students have found definitions which are linked to other areas of geography which is not helpful at all.

Key Terms

Introductory

Coast
Coastal System
Impermeable Rock
Permeable Rock
Dynamic Equilibrium
Positive Feedback
Negative Feedback
Sediment Cell
Sediment Budget

Waves & Tides

Constructive Waves
Destructive Waves
Fetch
Wavelength
Wave Crest
Wave Trough
Swash
Backwash
Neap Tide
Spring Tide
Funneled Coast
Tidal Bore
Littoral Zone

Weathering

Weathering
Exfoliation (Onion-skin)
Freeze-thaw Action
Hydrolysis
Hydration
Salt Crystallisation

Mass Movement

Mass Movement
Creep
Solifluction
Mudflow
Earthflow
Rotational Slip
Landslide
Scree Slope
Rockfall

Transportation

Load
Longshore Drift
Traction
Saltation
Suspension
Solution

Erosion
Erosion
Abrasion (Corrasion)

Attrition

Cavitation
Hydraulic Action
Corrosion
Wave Quarrying
Differential Erosion

Deposition

Deposition
Refraction

Erosional Features

Concordant Coastline
Geo
Cove
Discordant Coastline
Bay
Headland
Fault
Cave
Arch
Stack
Stump
Wave-cut Notch
Wave-cut Platform

Beach Features

Beach
Storm Beach
Berms
Cusps
Runnels
Offshore Zone
Breaker Zone
Swash Zone
Inshore Zone
Onshore Zone
Backshore Zone
Nearshore Zone

Depositional Features

Spit
Cuspate Spit
Baymouth Bar
Offshore Bar
Barrier Beach
Barrier Island
Lagoon
Tomolo
Salt Marsh

Sand Dunes

Sand Dunes
Embryo Dune
Fore Dune
Grey Dune
Mature Dune
Dune Heath
Blowout
Dune Slack

Sea Level Change

Eustatic
Isostatic
Tectonic
Thermal Expansion
IPCC
Emergent Coastline
Raised Beach
Marine Terrace
Submergent Coastline
Submerged Forest
Ria
Fjord
Dalination Coastline
Coral Reef Bleaching

Management

Beach Nourishment
Cost-Benefit Analysis
Gabions
Groyne
Hard Engineering
Managed Retreat
Polders
Revetments
Rip-rap
Sea Walls
Soft Engineering
Dune Regeneration

Changing Places (Human Geography)

This section focuses on people's engagement with places and the qualities they ascribe to them. People's engagement and experiences with places is of fundamental importance to their lives. We will acknowledge this importance and consider how places are experienced, how their character is appreciated, the factors and processes which impact upon places and how they change over time.

Below is a list of key words for this topic. Research each key term and give an example of it.

For example: *Glocalisation – adapting a large business so that it is tailored to a particular region or country – for example McDonalds have customised their global burger product so it will succeed in local markets. In the Philippines it sells a McRice Burger, rather than bread the chicken or beef patty is between sticky rice.*

Key Terms & Definitions

Location – where a place is (the GPS or co-ordinates)

Locale – The place where something happens, is set or has events associated (e.g. a park)

Place – Location with meaning

Perception of place – the way a place is regarded by people (due to the media or experience)

Placemaking – deliberate shaping of an environment to improve a community's quality of life

Sense of place – subjective emotional attachment to a place (developed with experience)

Localism – love for a particular place

Regionalism – loyalty to a distinct region

Nationalism – loyalty to a nation

Clone Town – a town is not significantly different from another (has same shops)

Homogenised – to make uniform or similar

Glocalisation – adapting a business to make it do well in a country e.g. McRice

Belonging – to be part of the community

Transition Town movement – initiative that puts emphasis on community involvement

NIMBY – not in my back yard

Insider – to belong and identify with a place

Positionality – refers to factors such as gender, race, age, religion and socio-economic status

Experienced places – places that a person has spent time in

Character – physical and human features that help make it different from another place

Agents of change – the factors that impact a place through working, living or improving it

Endogenous factors – characteristics of the place itself (internal)

Exogenous factors – relationship of one place with other places (external)

Infrastructure – services considered essential to enable or improve living conditions

Global Systems and Global Governance (Human Geography)

Our second human topic will be Global Governance, a section which focuses on globalisation. It looks at economic, political, social and technological changes around the world, and how these changes have driven society to develop in different ways. Increased interdependence and transformed relationships between people, states and environments have prompted new attempts at governing human affairs on a global level. There are a number of key places, commodities and organisations we look at during this unit.

In preparation, create a fact file on the following four areas:

Fact File One – Antarctica (The Continent)

- a. Where is it?
- b. What is its climate?
- c. It is a global common – what does this mean?
- d. What threats does it face?
- e. How is it governed? What agreements are in place?
- f. Is it governed successfully?

Fact File Two – Apple (The Company)

- a. What is its brief history?
- b. What does it trade?
- c. How much trade does it do? Where?
- d. How is it spatially organised?
- e. What are its trading and marketing patterns?
- f. What impact does it have on the countries it operates in?

Fact File Three – Bananas (The Commodity)

- a. Where are these produced?
- b. Where are they exported to?
- c. Why are they an important product?
- d. What were the banana wars? What was the outcome?
- e. What are some advantages and disadvantages of banana trade?
- f. What is fair trade?

Fact File Four - The United Nations (The Conglomerate)

- a. What is the UN? When was it created?
- b. Some examples of organisations that are part of it.
- c. What are the aims of the UN?
- d. Successes of the UN.
- e. Failures of the UN.

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