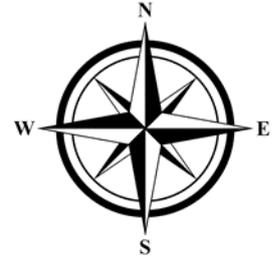


# Preparing for A Level Geography or just want to develop your Geography further?



## ON THE FINAL PAGE OF THIS GUIDE, YOU WILL FIND THE TWO TASKS TO COMPLETE BEFORE YOU ARRIVE IN YEAR 12

Hoping to study Geography at A Level? **Or** maybe you are simply interested in taking some time to further your understanding of the geography you have studied at GCSE?

**There are number of 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 that will be studied in the A Level course.

To be a great geographer you need to develop the 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

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

### i. ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES

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**THE CONVERSATION.COM** <http://theconversation.com/uk> *We can highly recommend you use this!* This you will find is really useful to support many of your A Levels. It provides upto 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 upto date articles – explore the key headings such as Science, as well as the UK, World and other stories.

**THE GUARDIAN** <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> - again many useful articles and logically ordered – keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development stories in particular!

## ii. PODCASTS

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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!

## iii. BOOKS

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Remember you can make use of the local libraries digital library service for books – you don't have to access hard copies, although most can be bought fairly cheaply on Amazon. **IF YOU ASK NICELY, WE MAY LEND YOU OUR OWN COPIES!!**

**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.

## iv. GEOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARIES

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*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/theamericas-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>
- **Race Across the World** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0002tvs>

*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/unreportedworld/on-demand/69224-006>
- **Hurricane Hell (Unreported World)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreportedworld/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>

## v. GEOGRAPHICAL FILMS

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(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

# PREPARING FOR A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY AT BILLERICAY SCHOOL

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At The Billericay School we follow the Edexcel A Level. You will have three examined units and one NEA (Non Examined Assessment) i.e. an independent geographical investigation.

We have put the following together for you for you to start doing some reading round the topics we will be covering across the two years. For each topic, we have given a brief overview and then some starting points, with examples of reading and video links for you to follow up.

If you want to know where to begin, in the September of Year 12 we start with Tectonics Processes & Hazards and Globalisation.

If you have any questions whilst exploring the following please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **PAPER 1 - PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

At Billericay, we cover the following topics for Paper 1.

### **Topic 1 – Tectonic Processes & Hazards**

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*In this unit you will explore how earth's surface and internal processes can create hazards including earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms and wildfires. This topic explores how our understanding has evolved with regards to the seismic and volcanic activity that we experience through the movement of the earth's tectonic plates. We look at how these tectonic processes have shaped our world and created new landforms, helping to support life on earth. We also explore the potential impact of the hazards associated with earthquakes and volcanoes and how as technology has developed we have improved our ability to predict and mitigate, whilst considering reasons for the variation in risks associated with hazards both spatially and over time. We will be looking at the concepts of risk and resilience and how these can be managed at various levels and to various degrees of success.*

#### **Starting points...**

**Video:** Power of the Planet (Volcano) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg> - a GREAT introduction to the work we will be doing on plate tectonics at the start of Year 12

**Reading:** Plate Tectonics (The Geological Society) – this will be a good step up from your GCSE work to A Level and is definitely worth reading / working through <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/PlateTectonics>

**Reading:** USGS Natural Hazards – FAQ <https://www.usgs.gov/faq/natural-hazards> – some excellent reading here in bitesize chunks – well worth exploring

### **Topic 2A – Coastal Landscapes & Change**

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*In this optional unit, Coastal Landscapes & change focuses on coastal zones, which are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments. The operation and outcomes of fundamental geomorphological processes and their association with distinctive landscapes are readily observable. This topic explores the relationship between coastal processes and the impacts that this can have upon human activity. It also offers lots of opportunities to develop fieldwork skills; many students go on to base their NEA on a coastal environment.*

**Video:** Power of the Planet (Oceans) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5amshu>

**Reading:** Landscape Systems (Royal Geographical Society) – this is an excellent starting point / content overview for the ‘systems approach’ work that we will be looking at <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/landscape-systems/>

## Topics 5&6 – The Water and Carbon Cycles (Security & Insecurity)

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*Water and carbon are fundamental to supporting life on earth and are hence regarded as ‘earth’s life support systems. Water and carbon are cycled in both open and closed systems between the land, oceans and the atmosphere. The processes in the water and carbon cycles are inter-related. Human activity is increasingly threatening and altering water and carbon cycles for example through deforestation, ocean acidification, desertification etc. It is important that we look at global and national solutions to protect these.*

**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](https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_disarming_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate_change)

**Reading:** Water and Carbon Cycling (Royal Geographical Society) – this is an excellent starting point / content overview for the water and carbon work that we will be looking at  
<https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=6dc9f1c1-f92d-4c04-9f859985844a6a79&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>

## Paper 2 – HUMAN INTERACTIONS

### Topics 3&7 Globalisation and Superpowers

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*This section of our specification focuses on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades.*

**Starting points...**

**Video – good overview of some key parts of the unit** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBntOrLfnAs>

**Interactive – An excellent quiz to get you thinking about global issues**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/ng-interactive/2020/jan/15/environmentinequality-hunger-which-global-problems-would-you-fix-first>

**Reading – An interesting article about the world regions driving the global economy**

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/09/ranked-megaregions-driving-global-economy>

**Reading - [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.

## Topic 4A – Shaping Places: Regenerating places

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*This optional section of our specification focuses on people's engagement with places, their experience of them, the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in their lives and the causes, impacts and consequences of regenerating them – in particular the potential for environmental sustainability and social cohesion.. Study of the content must be embedded in two contrasting places, one to be local. The local place may be a locality, neighbourhood or small community either urban or rural.*

**Starting points...**

**Interactive: Changing Places** – a good story map introduction – work your way through

[https://focusschoolwiltomaps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f10c512164d0498d8f3b\\_cfad8ae61d39](https://focusschoolwiltomaps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f10c512164d0498d8f3b_cfad8ae61d39)

**Reading: Changing Places** – a good starting point read

<https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/ChangingSpaces-Making-Places/Set-A/Notes%20on%20Changing%20Places,%20Making%20Places%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf>

**Video: Changing Places** – watch both parts – “Slumming it” – Dharavi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm0tHRs9Bng>

**Reading – a very good case study of London**

<https://www.latitudegeography.org/london-case-study.html>

**Reading – evaluating the success of the Olympic regeneration**

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/jul/27/london-olympic-park-success-five-yearsdepends>

**Video – sustainable cities**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUbHGI-kHsU>

## Topic 8B Migration, Identity & Sovereignty (Global Development & Connections)

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*This optional section of our specification focuses on the tensions that can result between the logic of globalisation, with its growing levels of environmental, social and economic interdependence among people, economies and nation states and the traditional definitions of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. From the United Nations to Brexit the relationships between countries has never been more important to understand.*

**Starting points...**

**Video – EU migration crisis: the inside story**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnYzcl4QRgY>

**Mixed multimedia – The Brexit Collection** (A BBC collection of programmes and content reflecting on the UK's departure from the EU).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p040j6lx>

**Video - Inside Story - How relevant is the United Nations?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtOG0Ns2GrU>

## A Level Geography Induction Task

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The Open University has a range of over 1000 free online learning courses that anyone is able to complete.

We would like you to complete the following courses that will prepare you for that you will be studying at the beginning of your A Level Geography course.

- Level 1 – Earthquakes <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-mathstechnology/geology/earthquakes/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
- Level 2 – Living in a globalised world <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/sociology/living-globalised-world/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

**In order to complete the courses fully, you will need to sign-up for an account and complete the reading and the quizzes.**

**Once the course is complete, you will be awarded a Certificate of Participation; you will need to print this out (or take a picture of it) and bring to your first Geography lesson of Year 12.**

Many other courses are available which may be of interest to you. This is a great resource for you to continue your learning, and will be excellent practice for future learning, especially for university.

We look forward to seeing you in September

The Geography Department