

## Preparing for A-Level Geography

**Aim:** The aim of the tasks detailed below are to help you develop some of the skills and knowledge you need to succeed in Geography at A-Level. In line with the topics that students study in Year 12 I have detailed below some work that would be extremely beneficial to undertake in preparation for A-level. Studying subjects at advanced level is a tremendous jump up in many areas including; difficulty and quantity of work as well as the organisation that is required by you. It would be extremely detrimental to take your foot off the pedal when in any other circumstances you would be studying harder than ever. These tasks will chip away at your lost time in education as well as help you hit the ground running in September.

### **\*\*PLEASE SIGN UP\*\* Free Fieldwork Lessons**

The Field-Studies Council are generously streaming 4 lessons on fieldwork investigations and techniques. This will be incredibly useful to a) recap what you did during GCSE and b) Look forward to A-level. There are 4 links below. Please sign up to each one separately and don't forget to tune in when they are streaming!

1. <https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/ks4-5-investigating-place-280420>
2. <https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/ks4-5-hydrology-and-flooding-010520>
3. <https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/ks4-impact-of-coastal-management-290420>
4. <https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/ks4-how-does-quality-of-life-vary-in-an-urban-centre-220420>

### **GCSE Content**

Unsurprisingly there is a lot of over-lap between topics studied in GCSE and A-level Geography. You absolutely must have a firm understanding of these topics at GCSE to enable you to grasp them at A-level. Therefore my first recommendation is that you study and revise several of the most transferrable and beneficial GCSE topics in-depth, to the level that you would have for your real GCSE. Thorough and detailed understanding of these units is critical, which include;

- Natural Hazards
- Changing Economic World
- The UK's Physical Landscape – Rivers and Coasts
- The Living World - Ecosystems
- Urbanisation
- Fieldwork Investigations

To do this you should use your **knowledge organisers**, **alongside the workbook quizzes** (I can email you these if you have lost them) as well as **Seneca Learning**. You should make detailed, **illustrated mind-maps** and **flash-cards** which you use to regularly **self-quiz** yourself. If you would like to test this knowledge further on GCSE past papers you can use the exam practice questions in the **workbooks**.

### **Podcasts – All the recommendations are hyperlinked below.**

If you really want to start thinking like an A-level Geographer there are some excellent subject specific podcasts out there, hosted by academics and experts in their field. You can find some by googling: [Ask the Geographer](#), [BBC Costing the Earth](#) and [Geography Ninja](#). Pick an area that interests you or if you would like some extra focus the main themes you will be studying at A-level are; tectonic and climatic hazards, the water and carbon cycles, population, globalisation and coasts. [IBgeog](#) also has an excellent range of podcasts ordered by topic. Be sure to write down approx. 5 key points from each podcast. Need some inspiration? Start with;

1. [Australian wildfires: Why live in fire prone areas and how do people cope?](#)
2. [How is globalisation changing the countryside?](#)
3. [Turning Japan Green. BBC Costing the Earth Podcast.](#)
4. [Why did unprecedented migration occur across the Mediterranean in 2015?](#)
5. [What are the big challenges for global water security?](#)
6. [Hazards and volcanic gas emissions.](#)
7. [Forests and the carbon cycle.](#)
8. [Plate tectonics and earthquake prediction.](#)
9. [The Economist asks: Sir David Attenborough](#)
10. [Coronavirus: Air pollution and CO2 fall rapidly as virus spreads.](#)
11. [What is the carbon footprint of streaming video on Netflix?](#)

## Food For Thought

This has been circulating on Twitter. Does this opinion match up with your GCSE case study of India? There are some questions you may wish to consider below.

A view from an Indian doctor:

"Social distancing is a privilege. It means you live in a house large enough to practise it. Hand washing is a privilege too. It means you have access to running water. Hand sanitisers are a privilege. It means you have money to buy them. Lockdowns are a privilege. It means you can afford to be at home. Most of the ways to ward the Corona off are accessible only to the affluent. In essence, a disease that was spread by the rich as they flew around the globe will now kill millions of the poor. All of us who are practising social distancing and have imposed a lockdown on ourselves must appreciate how privileged we are. Many Indians won't be able to do any of this."

1. How might the impacts of the coronavirus differ between an LIC and an HIC? How could poverty affect the impacts of the virus?
2. How could 'preparedness' and infrastructure affect the impacts of the virus?
3. Why might it be harder for an LIC than an HIC to manage an effective response to the virus? Do you think globalisation makes the virus easier or harder to manage?

I am sure there are many other questions that could be asked. But there is no doubt that geographers have a role to play in understanding the effects and responses to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Online Learning

If you would like the opportunity to become an expert in understanding UK weather patterns there is a free online course set-up by University lecturers that is suitable for aspiring A-level students. If you are interested the course can be found on; [https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/come-rain-or-shine/11?dm\\_i=2PRB,10TPZ,6P3RIA,3VZWS,1](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/come-rain-or-shine/11?dm_i=2PRB,10TPZ,6P3RIA,3VZWS,1)

## Careers in Geography

These links have some excellent information regarding career paths in Geography. See something you're interested in? Research where the nearest companies are based. Could you look into doing your Year 12 work experience there?

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

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

## Locational Knowledge

Improve your locational knowledge of the World's countries and capital cities by taking part in the excellent quizzes that can be found on; <https://www.seterra.com/#quizzes>

## TV/Film/Books

There is some excellent Geography on BBC iplayer, Netflix and Amazon Prime. Some of these are:

**Amazon Prime;** has some excellent documentaries on Antarctica.

**BBC iPlayer:** Anything by Simon Reeve, Earth From Space, War on Plastic and Chris Packham; 7.7 billion and counting, Race across the World, Expedition Volcano.

**Disney+:** Free Solo, Easter Island.

**Netflix:** The Dawn Wall, Into the Inferno, A Plastic Ocean, The Impossible, Lion, 72 dangerous places to live, , Rotten, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Wild Caribbean.

**YouTube:**

Population flows - VICE News migration [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=VICE+News+migration](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=VICE+News+migration) or VOX News migration [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=VOX+News+migration](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=VOX+News+migration)

Artifishal: The fight to save wild salmon by Patagonia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdNJOJAwT7I>

Lhotse by The North Face <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPXSfVruIHl>

Before the Flood by Leonardo DiCaprio - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbEnOYtsXHA>

If you just want short, feel-good outdoor themed films try typing in "Banff film festival" into Youtube.

Also the Royal Geographical Society has a good range of clips.