



# Sixth Form Preparation for Success

## Welcome to Geography

AQA A Level Geography (7037)

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### Introduction

The units we cover as part of the course include Coasts, Changing Places, Hazards, Global Governance, Water and Carbon Cycle and Population and the Environment – these units incorporate places of interest on a variety of scales ...

## Part I – Y11 into 12 Geography Specific Bridging Work

### To be completed May – Sept

Remember that prizes will be awarded for ‘exceptional’ work that demonstrates effort above expected!

#### a) Investigate places of interest

Due to Covid-19 investigating these places by visiting is probably out of the question, but what can you find out about them? What was Meadowhall like before the shopping centre? Have you been to the Winter Gardens in Sheffield? What’s there? When was it built? For each specific place mentioned below can you improve your knowledge of its location but also something about its history and the story of that place - it’s ‘locale’

**Coasts** – The Holderness Coast; a key starting point for our course, this stretch of coastline not only demonstrate as many of the processes affecting our coastlines but also demonstrates clearly the impact coastal management can have on both accelerating and accelerating rates of erosion.

**Changing Places** – one of the key areas you will study is Sheffield, any opportunity to go and have a look around the Lower Don valley area (near Meadowhall) or see some of the regeneration that has taken place (the Winter Gardens) grab with both hands!

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**Hazards** – We are fortunate in the UK that tectonic hazards are a very rare occurrence – if however you happen to be lucky enough to be travelling anywhere internationally this summer you may come across a volcano or an area where earthquake proof design is apparent – geography is everywhere and keep your eyes open!

**Global Governance** – The major case study studied here is Antarctica, although a trip to the South Pole may not feature in everyone’s summer plans! We do focus on the Global Commons and one of the issues facing the planet stakeholders is the management of oceans – there has been a lot of press coverage recently regarding plastics in the oceans and rivers – the River Don aqueduct, near Kirk Bramwith has recently been reported in the press as being one of the most polluted rivers in the country.

**Water and Carbon Cycle** – river valleys offer a great starting point for looking at the water cycle – relatively local examples can be found in the Peak District.

**Population and environment** – Balby! Great potential here for a case study, showing all Balby has to offer in terms of healthcare provision (don’t just think about biological healthcare also consider mental healthcare provisions). We will also be studying Glasgow and how your life expectancy varies according to how close to the city centre you live.

## **b) Wider reading**

### **BOOKS**

**Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall)** 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.

**Unruly Places (Alistair Bonnet)** At a time when Google Maps can take you on a virtual tour of most places on the planet, it’s hard to imagine there’s any uncharted ground left on the planet. Unruly Places goes to some of the most unexpected, offbeat places in the world to re-inspire our geographical imaginations.

**Map head: Charting the Weird World of Geography Wonks (Ken Jennings)** Ken Jennings takes readers on a world tour of geogeeks from the London Map Fair to the bowels of the Library of Congress, from the prepubescent geniuses at the National Geographic Bee to the computer programmers at Google Earth. Each chapter delves into a different aspect of map culture: highpointing, geocaching, road atlas rallying, even the “unreal estate” charted on the maps of fiction and fantasy. Jennings also considers the ways in which cartography has shaped our history, suggesting that the impulse to make and read maps is as relevant today as it has ever been.

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## **PODCASTS**

**Costing the Earth** – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player> There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues including 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!

## **FILMS**

**Before the Flood (2016):** Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, travelling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change first-hand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction.

**An Inconvenient Truth and An Inconvenient Sequel (2006, 2016):** These films follow Al Gore on the lecture circuit as the former presidential candidate campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of global warming and calls for immediate action to curb its destructive effects on the environment.

## **DOCUMENTRIES**

### **BBC iPlayer:**

**David Attenborough Box Sets**      <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>

**Simon Reeve around the world**      <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm>

### **Channel 4 On Demand**

**When the Immigrants Leave (Dispatches)**

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>

**The World’s Dirtiest Air (Unreported World)**

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/6719>

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## c) Compulsory tasks

**Task 1** - in preparation for starting our course in September it is worth taking a look at the course from the other side of the desk, with this in mind we'd like you to produce a 20 minute teaching activity based on one of the following areas:

- The relationship between environmental change and human activity in the Tropical Rainforest
- Predicted climate change and the impacts of this on coastlines
- The impact and human responses to a recent wildfire event
- Threats to Antarctica from climate change
- How humans perceive, engage with and form attachments to places and how they present and represent the world to others, including the way in which everyday place meanings are bound up with different identities, perspectives and experiences
- The role of international agencies and NGOs in promoting health and combatting disease at the global scale

Tips - Make your 20 minute slot as engaging and contemporary as possible, use resources such as; a Powerpoint, video clips, articles, handouts and remember to include a 'hook' to catch the attention of your classmates.

**Task 2** - In Geography we use both primary and secondary data of different forms. Most frequently these data sources can be grouped as either Quantitative or Qualitative.

You need to research the terms Quantitative or Qualitative and how that relate to different sources of data. Provide 3 examples of each type of data and then finish off with a discussion on which (Quantitative or Qualitative) you think is the most accurate and why.

Your work should be essay based.

## d) Stretch!

Open '**Preparing for A Level Geography - The Definitive Guide**'. This is the other file available in the Geography Subject Specific Bridging Work folder. The purpose of this is to help you 'get ahead' and prepare for the transition to A Level. More importantly, it provides hundreds, if not thousands of opportunities to further engage with the wonderful subject of geography!

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## Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

**AQA A Level Geography:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037>

Massively Important! Know the course! Use this video to have a look at the style of exam paper, layout and the type of topics and how the course is assessed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi5He3URqJ0>

### **So, what are you going to do?**

Firstly, you need to email Mr Tucker ([jtucker@mcauley.org.uk](mailto:jtucker@mcauley.org.uk)). This will do 2 things: One, show me exactly how interested you are in getting a head-start to A level Geography and secondly, it will let me email you out a resource booklet to help you gain further insight into the course and the topics you are going to study over the next 2 years.

### **Compulsory Task.**

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### **Textbooks & Revision Guides:**

You'll be given access to a free e-Textbook when we're back in school but you may wish to buy your own copy. Try used copies for a much-reduced price. Amazon or Ebay! We use this one mainly:

**Textbook:** [https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-level-Geography-Fourth-Whittaker/dp/1471858693/ref=sr\\_1\\_2\\_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=Geography+a+a+level+textbook+](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-level-Geography-Fourth-Whittaker/dp/1471858693/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=Geography+a+a+level+textbook+)

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**Revision Guide:** [https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Level-Geography-Complete-Revision-ebook/dp/B074PR3X26/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?dchild=1&keywords=Geography+a+level+textbook+aq&qid=1591277402&s=digital-text&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Level-Geography-Complete-Revision-ebook/dp/B074PR3X26/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=Geography+a+level+textbook+aq&qid=1591277402&s=digital-text&sr=1-3)

Good luck with this work. Looking forward to seeing you all soon back in the classroom and ready to go!

**‘The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.’**

***Barack Obama***