

# Preparing for A Level Geography



## THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE

## Your A Level starts here

Welcome to the Definitive Guide to A Level Preparation! At Ripley 6<sup>th</sup> Form students follow the AQA Geography Syllabus. The subject is split into two key areas; Physical Geography and Human Geography.

### The topics you will cover are:

**PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY - Water and Carbon cycles, Coastal systems and Landscapes & Hazards**

**HUMAN GEOGRAPHY - Global Systems and Governance, Changing Places & Contemporary Urban Environments.**

Let us take you through the purpose of this guide and what you can expect from it.

### What is the purpose of this guide?

This guide has been designed to help you '**get ahead**' and prepare for the transition to advanced level. More importantly, there are lots of opportunities to further engage with the wonderful subject of geography!



### How should I use it?

The Bridging Tasks on page 3 **are compulsory** to aid your transition to A Level study but imagine the rest as a geographical **pick n mix** if you will! You can choose the activities which best suit your learning style, geographical interests, and time commitments.



## Compulsory bridging the gap tasks:

Course Title	Examination Board & Web Address
A-Level Geography	AQA <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>
<b>A Level Topics Studied:</b> <b>Physical Geography:</b> Water and Carbon cycles, Coastal systems and Landscapes, Hazards <b>Human Geography:</b> Global Systems and Governance, Changing Places, Contemporary Urban environments	
<b>Complete the extended tasks below</b>	
<b>Water and carbon cycles</b> 1. Research global stores of water and carbon and present this information visually e.g. infographic, graph, table, diagram etc. Include information such as: name of the store, size of the store, residence time (find out what this means!) 2. What is the carbon budget? Why is this important now and into the future? 3. Watch the documentary 'Can We Cool the Planet?' at the following link: <a href="#">(105) Can We Cool the Planet?   Full Documentary   NOVA   PBS - YouTube</a> 4. What can we do about the issue of the carbon budget? Think about different scales such as individuals, local, national & international.	<b>Coasts</b> 1. Create a fact file about Eustatic, isostatic and tectonic sea level change: major changes in sea level in the last 10,000 years. 2. Give examples of coastlines of emergence and submergence. 3. Describe and explain the origin and development of associated landforms: raised beaches, marine platforms; rias, fjords, Dalmatian coasts. Explain the potential impacts of climatic change on the coastlines.
<b>Global governance</b> 1. Research the effectiveness of the United Nations, the World Health Organisation and the World Bank. Who are they? What do they do? What have been some of their successes and criticisms? 2. Create a fact sheet about Antarctica. Include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are global commons? Explain why Antarctica is one.</li> <li>Location of Antarctica.</li> <li>Climate of Antarctica.</li> <li>Research how Antarctica is threatened by the following: over fishing, tourism, climate change, whaling, mining.</li> <li>How is Antarctica being managed to limit these threats?</li> </ol>	<b>Changing Places</b> In relation to Lancaster research and summarise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How has the economy of Lancaster changed in the last 100 years?</li> <li>Research people's perceptions of Lancaster and how they have changed over time. Contact your older relatives, have a conversation!</li> </ol> How has the demographic and cultural characteristics of Lancaster changed in the last 100 years. Find some census data as evidence of this change.

There are so many ways to stay engaged with geography between now and your return to school in September. We have compiled a list of our top websites, online newsrooms, journals documentaries, films, podcasts and even Netflix shows to keep you engaged with geography and develop your geographical understanding ahead of your A Level.

## ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES AND JOURNALS



### Geographical <https://exacteditions.com/login>

Established in 1935, Geographical is the official magazine of the Royal Geographical Society and one of the leading magazines in its field with stunning photography, great writing and first-class design. Keep up to date with the world, its people and places through the fascinating articles. As a Geography student, you have exclusive, unlimited access to the online archive which dates back to 1935. Access it by following the link above, select library card and then enter with your school code. Enjoy!



### THE CONVERSATION.COM <http://theconversation.com/uk>

You will find this really useful to support many of your A Levels. It provides up to 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.



### THE FINANCIAL TIMES

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fjoin%2Flicence%2Fd0206fef-65cc-4c41-8ec3f9724f8f2b21%2Fdetails%3Ftoken%3Dd0206fef-65cc-4c41-8ec3-f9724f8f2b21&data=02%7C01%7Cben.christopher%40dubaicollege.org%7Cb3159c4ea0084d80a05208d7305b9821%7C5f6c2a344f244858becf5a0469100696%7C0%7C0%7C637031042260076085&asdata=C%2Biefao%2BVCF91P4M1fbtD78BFVVFc9i8nFuFfIXGvs%3D&reserved=0>

Following this link, and registering with your school email, will give you a full subscription to the Financial Times. An invaluable source of economic and geopolitical articles.



### BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

An excellent source of up to date articles – explore the key headings such as Science, Business, as well as the UK, World and other stories.



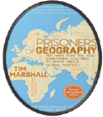
### THE GUARDIAN <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

Again, many useful articles and logically ordered – keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development stories in particular.

# Geographical Literature

Evidence suggests that students who read for enjoyment not only perform better in tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In the Geography Department, we believe it is one of the most valuable things you can do to enhance your academic performance. Remember you can make use of digital books (Kindles/e-Readers) – you don't have to access hard copies. All the titles below are also available in the JCL library for your return in September.



## **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.



## **Factfulness: Ten reasons we're wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think** (Hans Rosling)

Hans Rosling has written what 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.



## **Divided** (Tim Marshall)

Author Tim Marshall attempts to explain why we are living in an age of walls by delving into our past and present to reveal the fault lines that will shape our world for years to come. Another Sunday Times Best Seller from the author.



## **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.



## **Brick Lane** (Monica Ali)

A fictional novel which explores the rich cultural heritage of East London's Brick Lane. A less academic approach to key urban issues and cultural tensions in inner-city London.



## **China's Asian Dream** (Tom Miller)

Combining a concise overview of the situation with on-the-ground reportage from over seven countries, *China's Asian Dream* offers a fresh perspective on one of the most important questions of our time: what does China's rise mean for the future of Asia and of the world?





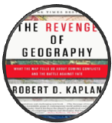
### **On the Map** (Simon Garfield)

Maps fascinate us. They chart our understanding of the world and they log our progress, but above all they tell our stories. From the early sketches of philosophers and explorers through to Google Maps and beyond, Simon Garfield examines how maps both relate and realign our history.



### **The Power of Place** (Harm De Blij)

The world is not as mobile or as interconnected as we like to think. As Harm de Blij argues in *The Power of Place*, in crucial ways--from the uneven distribution of natural resources to the unequal availability of opportunity--geography continues to hold billions of people in its grip. Incorporating a series of persuasive maps, De Blij describes the tremendously varied environments across the planet and shows how migrations between them are comparatively rare. De Blij also looks at the ways we are redefining place so as to make its power even more potent than it has been, with troubling implications.



### **The Revenge of Geography** (Robert D Kaplan)

*NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • In this provocative, startling book, Robert D. Kaplan, the bestselling author of *Monsoon* and *Balkan Ghosts*, offers a revelatory new prism through which to view global upheavals and to understand what lies ahead for continents and countries around the world.



### **Landmarks** (Robert Macfarlane)

Words are grained into our landscapes, and landscapes are grained into our words. *Landmarks* is about the power of language to shape our sense of place. It is a field guide to the literature of nature and a glossary containing thousands of remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to describe land, nature, and weather.



### **Mountains of the Mind** (Robert Macfarlane)

Combining accounts of legendary mountain ascents with vivid descriptions of his own forays into wild, high landscapes, Robert Macfarlane reveals how the mystery of the world's highest places has come to grip the Western imagination—and perennially draws legions of adventurers up the most perilous slopes.



### **Notes from a Small Island** (Bill Bryson)

Featuring an all-new cover, *New York Times* bestseller Bill Bryson's hilarious journey through the beloved island nation he called home for two decades. From Downing Street to Loch Ness, this is a delightful look at the United Kingdom.



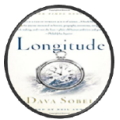
### **A History of the World in 12 Maps** (Jeremy Brotton)

Jerry Brotton examines the significance of 12 maps - from the almost mystical representations of ancient history to the satellite-derived imagery of today. He vividly recreates the environments and circumstances in which each of the maps was made, showing how each conveys a highly individual view of the world. Brotton shows how each of his maps both influenced and reflected contemporary events and how, by considering it in all its nuances and omissions, we can better understand the world that produced it.



### **The Phantom Atlas (Edward Brooke-Hitching)**

The Phantom Atlas is a guide to the world not as it is, but as it was imagined to be. It's a world of ghost islands, invisible mountain ranges, mythical civilizations, ship-wrecking beasts, and other fictitious features introduced on maps and atlases through mistakes, misunderstanding, fantasies, and outright lies.



### **Longitude (Dava Sobel)**

*Longitude* is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest and of Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation, and clockmaking, and opens a new window on our world.



### **The Happy City (Charles Montgomery)**

Charles Montgomery's *Happy City* is revolutionizing the way we think about urban life. After decades of unchecked sprawl, more people than ever are moving back to the city. Dense urban living has been prescribed as a panacea for the environmental and resource crises of our time. But is it better or worse for our happiness? Are subways, sidewalks, and condo towers an improvement on the car dependence of the suburbs?



### **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.

## **Geographical Reading Lists**

Alongside the extensive list above, the Geographical Association (The GA) has very recently produced two reading lists; one human and one physical, separated by topics to give you a feel for the people, places and issues you are studying as part of your A Level in Geography. You are not expected to read every title! But you should certainly dip in and out of particular titles which are linked to a topic or case study you will cover next year. A good idea would be to look over the exam specification and cross reference this against the titles on this list.

### **Human Geography Reading List:**

[https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading\\_List\\_1\\_Human\\_Geography.pdf](https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading_List_1_Human_Geography.pdf)

### **Physical Geography Reading List:**

[https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading\\_List\\_2\\_Physical\\_Geography,\\_Climate\\_Change\\_and\\_Maps.pdf](https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading_List_2_Physical_Geography,_Climate_Change_and_Maps.pdf)



# Geographical Films & Documentaries

If you are in need of some respite why not spend some down time with one of the following documentaries or films? Instead of watching re-runs of Friends or keeping up with Joe Exotic on Tiger King, make sure you are making use of your Netflix time by watching something geographical. Your brain absolutely needs to rest but watching any of the following means your brain is still learning and engaging with the subject.

## Netflix



**Into the Inferno:** With stunning views of eruptions and lava flows it captures the raw power of volcanoes.



**The Boy who harnessed the wind:** About water shortage in Malawi and a boy who makes a windmill to pump water.



**Cowspiracy:** Investigate the food and meat industry Available on Netflix



**Rotten:** Docuseries travels deep into the heart of the food supply chain to reveal unsavoury truths



**Africa:** Documentary series about Africa. Narrated by David Attenborough



**Our Planet:** Stunning Sir David Attenborough series investigating the different biomes and their varied flora and fauna.



**Planet Earth and Planet Earth 2:** The Irreplaceable Sir David Attenborough explores some of the world's different biomes



**Blue Planet:** More geographical joy from Sir David who takes us deep underwater to explore the world's oceans and seas.



**Wild Caribbean:** Explore the turbulent natural history and rich diversity of the Caribbean islands.



**The Dark Tourist:** David Farrier's eight-part series looks at unconventional destinations across the world. From the radioactive villages of Japan following the 2013 tsunami to the voodoo villages of South Africa. Farrier explores tourist's dark desires for the 'never seen before'.



**Dirty Money:** Dirty Money is a Netflix original television series which tells stories of corporate corruption, securities fraud and creative accounting. ... Each episode focuses on one example of corporate corruption and includes interviews with key players in each story.



**Explained:** From YouTube sensations, VOX Creators, each episode is 16-18 minutes long with each focusing on a different topic. There are plenty of geographical based ones to choose from including the World's Water Crisis.



**72 Dangerous Places to Live:** Get up close and personal with avalanches, fiery volcanoes and other natural disasters and learn why some people choose to live in their destructive paths

## 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.



**The Impossible (2012):** The story of a tourist family caught in the destructive and chaotic aftermath of one of the world's most devastating natural disasters. Based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.



**Slumdog Millionaire (15):** A Mumbai teenager reflects on his life after being accused of cheating on the Indian version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. Based on life in the slums of Mumbai and the realities of urban life in one of the world's largest megacities.

## Documentaries

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.

**BBC iPlayer:** [bbc.co.uk/iplayer](http://bbc.co.uk/iplayer)



David Attenborough Box Sets

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p03szck8>

The Americas with Simon Reeve

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-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>

**Channel 4 On Demand:** [www.channel4.com](http://www.channel4.com)

When the Immigrants Leave (Dispatches)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/when-the-immigrants-leave-dispatches>



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>

## Podcasts

Give your eyes a break at a time when your screen time has increased and pop your headphones in instead to broaden your geographical understanding. These podcasts come highly recommended by the department; a departmental favourite is the 'Ask the Geographer' series.



### 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!



### The Documentary podcast -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads>

From the BBC, these podcasts investigate global development issues and affairs.



### The Inquiry - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029399x/episodes/downloads>

BBC podcasts exploring the trends, forces and ideas shaping the world beyond the headlines.



### Podcasts from Oxford University School of Geography and the Environment – <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/school-geography-and-environment-podcasts>

These online audio resources consist of lectures, seminars and interviews from the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.



### Talks from the Royal Geographical Society

[https://www.rgs.org/all/?categories=FreeToView&utm\\_source=Twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=SocialSignIn](https://www.rgs.org/all/?categories=FreeToView&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn)

From micro plastics to microfinance, the RGS have released over 50 free geographical talks for you to watch and listen to.