**Planning on starting A level Geography next year?**

If you are interested in taking Geography next year, below is a brief outline of the subject and some ideas for tasks you could do.

**Outline of subject: -** Geography is a fascinating subject about the environment, how places differ, how physical systems work and about how people interact with the world. Geography is about real-world events, their impacts and their different interpretations. **Geography looks at the ‘big ideas’ in the world** and how people strive to make our world a better place to live in. We potentially face dramatic changes to our world through climate change. The course teaches how trade and economies operate in a globalised world and how to evaluate the choices being made about our future. **Geography examines the awe-inspiring natural processes of our beautiful planet**, helping us to appreciate and value its landscapes, oceans, and ecosystems. By studying different places, we inevitably delve into issues of culture and identity. Why do some places embrace multi-culturalism, why do others maintain strong social division? Geography is about places; people live in places and in turn are shaped by them.

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. The best geographers at A Level keep reading the news and seek to improve their geographical understanding by engaging in 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**

**There are several things you can do to prepare for next year and even keep doing throughout the course to develop as a geographer - through** general reading around / watching videos / listening to podcasts etc. to develop your geographical knowledge and understanding.

**The below includes websites, books, podcasts, documentaries and even films which provide a fantastic way of staying inspired and engaging with geography. Look through and choose a task to do.**

**Choice of tasks:-**

1. **Read one of the following fiction books** that all have a geographical theme. Write a summary – no more than 300 words – of what you enjoyed and learn from the book. (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 cheaply on Amazon.)

James, L. (2019) **The Quiet at the end of the world** Walker Books

Ali, M. (2003) **Brick Lane**, Transworld Publishers

Butcher, T. (2008) **Blood River**, Vintage

Conrad, J. (2007) **Heart of Darkness**, Penguin Eng,

Tan Twang (2013) **The Garden of Evening Mists**, Canongate Books Eng,

Tan Twang (2008) **The Gift of Rain**, Myrmidon Books Ltd

Garland, A. (1997) **The Beach**, Penguin

Greene, G. (1998) **Brighton Rock**, Penguin

Hosseini, K. (2007), **A Splendid Thousand Suns**, Bloomsbury Publishing

Hosseini, K. (2003) **The Kite Runner**, Bloomsbury Publishing

Levy, A. (2004) **Small Island**, Headline

Orwell, G. (2001) **The Road to Wigan Pier**, Penguin

Rodriguez, D. (2013) **The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul**, Penguin

Roy, A. (2004) **The God of Small Things**, Harper Perennial, new edition

1. **Read one of the following factual books.** Write a summary – no more than 300 words – of what you learnt from the book. (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 cheaply on Amazon.)

[**Prisoners of Geography**](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Prisoners-Geography-Everything-Global-Politics/dp/1783962437/ref%3Dsr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Prisoners+of+Geography&qid=1584880047&smid=A1G3UP32AZJ14F&sr=8-1) (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:**](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Adventures-Anthropocene-Journey-Heart-Planet/dp/0099572494/ref%3Dsr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=adventures+in+the+Anthropocene&qid=1584709494&sr=8-1) **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 how far the world has measurably improved and what’s left to be done.

[**Adventures in the Anthropocene**](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Adventures-Anthropocene-Journey-Heart-Planet/dp/0099572494/ref%3Dsr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=adventures+in+the+Anthropocene&qid=1584709494&sr=8-1) (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 looking for practical answers and solutions.

## **Online news articles** – look at any of these and produce a summary - no more than 300 words – of what you learnt about a topical news story.

**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 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.

**BBC NEWS** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>**-** an excellent source of up-to-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!

## **Podcasts** - now is the time to broaden your geographical understanding! Stick your headphones in and listen to some of the following and produce a summary - no more than 300 words – of what you learnt about a topical issue.

**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!

 **5. Geographical 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. Watch one and produce a summary - no more than 300 words – of what you learnt about a topical news story.

 The following are all available on **iPlayer.**

1. **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>
2. **The Americas with Simon Reeve** [https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/theamericas-with-simon-reeve](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve)
3. **Simon Reeve around the World**<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm>
4. **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 ***ITV Hub***
5. **Britain Underwater:** Fighting the Floods [https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fightingthe-floods/7a0157](https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157)
6. **Joanna Lumley’s Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti**[https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleyshidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578](https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleys-hidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578) **The following are all available on *Channel 4 – On Demand***
7. **When the Immigrants Leave** (Dispatches) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>
8. **China’s Lonely Hearts** (Unreported World) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/56011-011>
9. **The World’s Dirtiest River** (Unreported world) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/58399-001>
10. **Forests of Fear** (Unreported World) - [https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreportedworld/on-demand/69224-006](https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-006)
11. **Hurricane Hell (Unreported World)** [https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreportedworld/on-demand/69224-007](https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-007)
12. **The World’s Dirtiest Air (Unreported World)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/67193-002>
13. **The Week Britain Froze (Dispatches)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/66548-007>**6. Geographical films** Watch one and write a short summary - no more than 300 words – of what you enjoyed and learnt from the film. (some are available online free – others may be available on providers such as Amazon Prime / Netflix etc.)
14. **Touching the Void** **(15)** (great for visualising glacial landscapes) – a powerful true story docudrama (strong language in parts)
15. **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.
16. **The Impossible (2012) (12)**  – Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.
17. **Slumdog Millionaire (15)** – based on life in the slums of Mumbai
18. **Our Planet** (Netflix series) – explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.
19. **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.
20. **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.
21. **The Last King of Scotland (15)** – another hard-hitting story, based on struggles faced by Uganda under the dictatorship of Idi Amin.
22. **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

**It would be great if you brought in what you have written in September.**

**Enjoy! Mrs Fagan**