Wath Sixth Form Subject Preparation Pack

A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World-class learning</th>
<th>The highest expectations</th>
<th>No excuses</th>
<th>Growth mindset</th>
<th>Never give up</th>
<th>Everyone is valued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World-class learning every lesson, every day</td>
<td>Everyone can be successful; always set and expects the highest standards</td>
<td>Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit</td>
<td>Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback</td>
<td>Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence</td>
<td>Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone</td>
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A Level Geography Transition Pack

Contents:

- What is Geography?
- Why should I study Geography?
- What careers can Geography lead to?
- What will I study and how will I be assessed?
- Meet the team

What is Geography?

Geography is a science devoted to the study of the Earth and its natural phenomena. It is varied in scope and includes skills from many other disciplines such as Physics, Biology, Statistical Analysis, Geology and Sociology.

Geography is a popular subject at KS5 and is well liked by Universities and employers alike. The A-Level is split into Human and Physical Geography. In Human Geography, you will study Changing Places, Contemporary Urban Environments in addition to Global Systems and Governance. In Physical Geography, you will study The Water and Carbon Cycle, Hazards and Coastal Systems. Students will also complete an Independent Fieldwork Investigation worth 20% of the A-Level. Sixth form students are allocated a mentor to support with their Fieldwork Investigation.

Why should I study Geography?

Geography will help you develop your communication and teamwork skills, as you’ll often work on group projects. You’ll also develop your research and analysis skills through the use of ICT and fieldwork, which means you will be able to collect and look for patterns in data and present key findings. You will benefit from learning both inside and outside the classroom.

Employers love the mix of technical and social skills people gain from studying geography, which they see as very transferable, i.e. useful for a whole range of jobs.

Because geographers deal with the natural world and how we behave in it, their jobs can take them everywhere, from taking soil samples on the edge of a volcano to mapping a new town, or even charting the changes to a glacier in the arctic.

What careers could Geography lead to?

Geography can lead to a large range of careers including: cartographer, commercial, residential or rural surveyor, environmental manager, exploration geologist, facilities manager, geographic information systems manager, geomatics/land surveyor, landscape architect, nature conservation officer, recycling officer, tourist information officer, town and country planner, transportation planner, travel agent, waste disposal officer, water conservation officer... and many more!
What will I study and how will I be assessed?

At A Level, we follow the AQA specification. You will have two exams; one physical exam and one human exam, and one Non-Examination Assessment - a 3000-4000 word piece of coursework.

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<tr>
<th>Physical Exam</th>
<th>Human Exam</th>
<th>NEA</th>
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<tr>
<td>This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks</td>
<td>This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks</td>
<td>This is an independent enquiry meaning that it is driven by you. You will be given a NEA mentor to support you but we will not be able to mark formally and give this back to you. It will be mentor meeting driven.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water and Carbon (36 marks)</td>
<td>Global Governance (36 marks)</td>
<td>You will need to formulate a title and hypotheses from a topic that is studied on the AQA specification. You will then need to come up with methods to test your hypotheses, you will collect your own data and then present, analyse, conclude and evaluate your investigation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Environments (36 marks)</td>
<td>Changing Places (36 marks)</td>
<td>The deadline for this will be in February Half Term of Year 13. You will be taken out on 3 days fieldwork work to prep you for this.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazards (48 marks)</td>
<td>Contemporary Urban Environments (48 marks)</td>
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Meet the Geography A-Level team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr Murtagh-Burd</th>
<th>Mr Rudkin</th>
<th>Mr Woodward</th>
<th>Mrs Limer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Murtagh-Burd is the Head of Geography and teaches Physical Geography and the NEA (coursework). Mr Murtagh-Burd is an Examiner and Moderator for A Level Geography. Mr Murtagh-Burd enjoys teaching all the Geography topics, however, the favourite is Hazards.</td>
<td>Mr Rudkin teaches the Human Geography part of the course. Mr Rudkin has a lot of experience of teaching Geography A-Level at Wath Academy. Mr Rudkin’s favourite topics at A-Level are Changing Places and Contemporary Urban Environments.</td>
<td>Mr Woodward teaches the Human geography part of the course. Mr Woodward also has an interest in Geology, as well as Human Geography. Out of all topics, Mr Woodward’s favourite topic is again Changing Places.</td>
<td>Mrs Limer will be joining the Geography Department at Wath Academy in September 2020. Mrs Limer has a lot of experience teaching A-Level Geography at a Sixth Form College and it looking forward to joining to starting Wath in September.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Murtagh-Burd Classroom is S5</td>
<td>Mr Rudkin’s Classroom is S1</td>
<td>Mr Woodward’s Classroom is S7.</td>
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Recommended resources

Below are some links to podcasts, websites, books and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with Geography:

PODCASTS:

- **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](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player) (many topics including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative powers, plastics (etc)
- **Royal Geographical Society – ‘Ask the Geographer podcasts’**
  - [https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-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.
- **Links to general podcasts**
  - [https://eternalexploration.wordpress.com/2016/01/04/top-10-podcasts-for-geography-students/](https://eternalexploration.wordpress.com/2016/01/04/top-10-podcasts-for-geography-students/) - this has a number of different links to geography podcast, specifically targeted to Geography students. Definitely recommend the TED talks.

BOOKS:

If you are into reading both fiction and non fictions, why not try some Geographically themed books/magazines:

- **Prisoners of Geography** by Tim Marshall – an insightful book which helps understanding how the physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography- a good introduction to Geopolitics
- **Geography Review Magazines**: Subscribe for £40 and you will get 4 up to date magazines with articles that will be really relevant to the topics that you are studying.
- **Six Degrees** by Mark Lynas – a scary walkthrough of the impacts of Climate Change as world temperatures increase by 1 degree through to 6 degrees.
- **Divided** by Tim Marshall – his follow-up to Prisoners of Geography – a great book which explains how & why the world is becoming more divided and how countries are putting up barriers. Very relevant to events in Europe (Brexit), the US (Trump) and the Coronavirus situation.
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.

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](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9)

- **The Americas with Simon Reeve** [https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve) The first episode in Alaska/Canada is particularly good for Resource Security looking at energy.

- **Simon Reeve around the World** [https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm) The Russia series is really interesting.

- **Britain Underwater**: Fighting the floods [https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157](https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157)


- **Race across the World** [https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000g6nt/race-across-the-world-series-2-episode-1](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000g6nt/race-across-the-world-series-2-episode-1)

- **Andrew Marrs Megacities** [https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011qmcl/episodes/guide](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011qmcl/episodes/guide)

- **Trumps War on the Border** [https://www.channel4.com/programmes/trumps-war-on-the-border](https://www.channel4.com/programmes/trumps-war-on-the-border)

- **Dispatches** [https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/67256-001](https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/67256-001)

- **Earth from Space – episode 4 The Changing Planet (BBC iPlayer)** [https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p072n8m0/earth-from-space-series-1-4-changing-planet](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p072n8m0/earth-from-space-series-1-4-changing-planet)

Geography on NETFLIX, DVD or YOUTUBE:

- **Before the Flood** - A film presented by Leonardo DiCaprio- exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption

- **Our Planet Netflix Series** - Explores how climate change impacts all living creatures

- **Blood Diamond** – looks at the diamond trade in Sierre Leone

- **An Inconvenient Truth** – follows Al Gore on the lecture circuit as he seeks to raise awareness about Climate Change.

- **+ An Inconvenient Sequel**

**Transition tasks**

**How can I Prepare for Geography at Wath Sixth Form?**

There are a number of things you can do:

1. **Developing as a geographer** – through general reading around/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc the geography subject to develop your geography knowledge and understanding.

2. **Become a News Buff** - Watch the news- BBC news between 6am-9am or at 6pm. Or get on the BBC news app? Other websites such as the Guardian, The Independent, The Times. Create a Geography in the News Diary of all things that are relevant to what you are studying?

3. **Preparing for the A Level Course**- Starting to explore the topics and their foundations in which they will be studied in the A Level Course.
To be a great geographer, you will need to develop the ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview and how everything we study in Geography links together. Geography is not just about the studying people and landscapes, it is also the relationships that exists between people and their environment.

What should I do with the News that I am Watching?

You should be regularly watching the news to keep you up to date with what is happening in relations to the inter-relationship between people and the environment. You will be really surprised how many of the news bulletins relate to what you are studying.

- BBC NEWS: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news-](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news-) an excellent source of up to date articles- explore the headings such as Science, UK, WORLD and other stores
- THE CONVERSATION: [https://theconversation.com/uk](https://theconversation.com/uk) - Really useful to support many of you’re a Levels. Up to date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising the key points in a short but insightful articles.

Buy yourself a Scrapbook and either cut out the headline from a newspaper/print it off/ or just write it in your book and summarise the following:

- What are the key things that the article is telling you about- can you summarise in to 10 main points
- What part of Geography/what we study does this link to?
- Are there any keywords that you need to look into more or you feel would be useful for your studies.

Complete three of the tasks from the grid below based on the reading you have done:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Create a personal geography map of your own area- include photographs, personal reflections and places of importance (Changing Places)</th>
<th>Watch one documentary on Climate Change- Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary. (Water and Carbon)</th>
<th>Read ‘China’s Role in Africa in the Mineral Trade’- Can you categorise their role in to positives and negatives for China. Can you consider what might be the issue for Africa? (Resource Security)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Read ‘Changing Cities’- produce a case study summary on one of the cities. (Changing Places)</td>
<td>In 300 words, explain what ‘geography’ means to you Give three ways in which the World Health Organisation (WHO) are helping to control the spread of Coronavirus</td>
<td>Produce a mind map of the multi-hazard area of Haiti (Hazards)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read the Antarctica Case Study. Write a letter to the prime minister explaining three threats faced by Antartica- which do you think is the most important one? (Global Governance)</td>
<td>Read the Geofile ‘Coastal Systems, waves, sediments and cells) and summarise on 1 side of A4 paper. (Coasts)</td>
<td>Water as a resource is the most fought over commodity. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Read some reading on the Water Cycle and Water Conflicts from resource security to help your answer</td>
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