



# Wath Sixth Form Subject Preparation Pack

## Geography A Level

### World-class learning

World-class learning every lesson, every day

### The highest expectations

Everyone can be successful; always expect the highest standards

### No excuses

Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

### Growth mindset

Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

### Never give up

Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

### Everyone is valued

Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone

### Integrity

Be trustworthy and honest; deliver on promises and walk the talk

## **A Level Geography Transition Pack**

- What is Geography?
- Why should I study Geography?
- What careers could A level Geography lead to?
- What will I study?
- How will I be assessed?
- Meet the team
- Recommended resources
- Additional support.

### **What is Geography?**

Geography is one of the most relevant subjects to help us understand the world today. Covering a range of topical and contemporary issues, through this course you are given the opportunity to critically engage with real world issues and places, using knowledge, understanding and skills to make sense of the world around them. Geography requires problem-solving, decision making, critical thinking and communication. You will develop cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills. It is one of the eight facilitating subjects preferred by universities and it will help to keep your options open due to the key transferable skills you will learn.

### **Why should I study Geography?**

A- Level Geography builds on what you have learnt at GCSE about people, places and the world around you. The variety and range of topics covered makes Geography a fascinating subject, and studying it at A-Level allows you to explore in greater detail the human and physical world.

Geography appeals to students who have an interest in the environment and current affairs, or anyone who enjoys studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences. The course covers a diverse range of relevant, contemporary topics, including Hazards; Climate Change; Globalisation; Resource Security; Cultural Diversity; Changing Physical Landscapes and Geographical Skills.

According to the Royal Geographical Society and the Russell Group of Universities, Geography A Level is a key facilitating subject. This means students develop a range of highly valued transferable skills and therefore a wide range of options for university study.

### **What careers could A Level Geography lead to?**

A Level geography is one of the preferred subjects by the top universities for a wide range of degrees. It is essential for further study of the subject, and with increasing pressures being placed upon the world many careers require a sound geographical understanding. Some of the more obvious careers include sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change. Geography is also a good basis for careers such as law, human rights, business and economics

## What will I study?

At Wath Academy we cover the AQA syllabus, which covers a breadth of knowledge, split across 2 papers and a Non Examined Assessment.

### Paper 1:

#### Physical Geography

40% of the A level

Assessed in a 2 hour  
30 min examination  
at the end of Y13

Content consists of:

1. Water and Carbon Cycles
2. Coastal Systems and Landscapes
3. Hazards

### Paper 2:

#### Human Geography

40% of the A level

Assessed in a 2 hour  
30 min examination at  
the end of Y13

Content consists of:

1. Global Systems and Governance
2. Changing Place
3. Contemporary Urban Environments

### Non Examined Assessment

#### (NEA)

20% of the A Level

Assessed via a 4000  
word coursework  
assignment

Beginning June of Y12

Completed by  
December of Y13

## Fieldwork:

Fieldwork is essential for A-Level Geography and builds on what you have learnt at GCSE about people, places and the world around you. The variety and range of topics covered makes Geography a fascinating subject, and studying it at A-Level allows you to explore in greater detail the human and physical world



## Meet the team

### Mr Woodward



#### **Why I love Geography:**

Geography is such an important subject and it always has been. The study of our planet and its people helps us to understand a variety of problems that will challenge ourselves and future generations.

#### **Favourite Place:**

Peak District

#### **Favourite topic:**

Global Systems and Governance

### Miss Lindley



#### **Why I love Geography:**

I love Geography because it allows us to understand why the world around us is the way it is today and allows us to predict how the world will change in the future.

#### **Favourite place:**

Isle of Skye

#### **Favourite topic:**

Natural Hazards

### Mr Marsh



#### **Why I love Geography:**

It helps you understand the world around you and equips you with the skills to deal with the challenges our planet faces in the future.

#### **Favourite Place:**

Berlin, Germany

#### **Favourite topic:**

Changing Places

## What should I be doing outside of lessons

Each week you should be completing two hours of work outside the classroom. This will include but is not limited to:

- Each week you are expected to add one article to a “Geography in the news” section in your folder. You need to find an article related to Geography that interests you, read and highlight it, and explain in a short paragraph how it relates to the topic you are studying. This will be checked by your teacher.
- For each teacher you will be expected to complete around 1 hour of extended learning per week. This could consist of practice exam questions, independent research and revision for upcoming assessments.
- Prior reading around the topic is essential, your teacher will direct you to appropriate articles throughout the year, it is important these are completed and placed in your folder.

## Recommended resources

For A Level Geography lessons you will need

- 2 A4 lever arch folders (one for Human Geography and one for Physical Geography)
- A set of subject dividers for each of your folders
- AQA A Level Geography text book – We will provide you with a copy in September

## Links to useful websites

A copy of the AQA A level Geography specification can be found at:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specification/AQA-7037-SP-2016-V1-0.PDF>

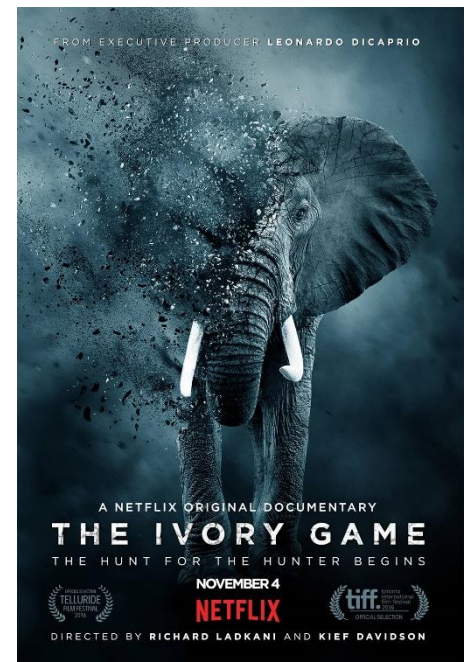
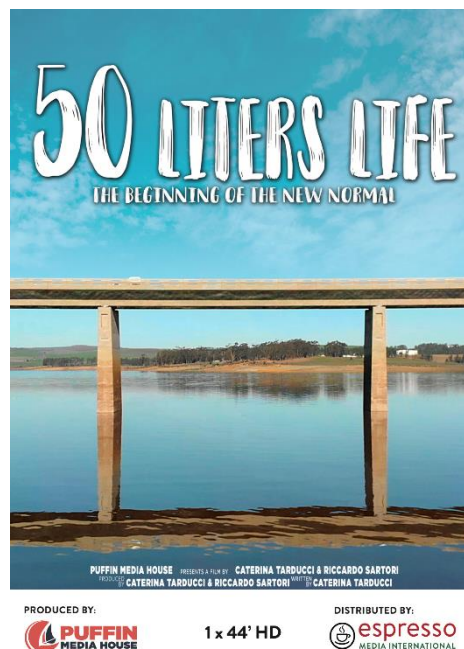
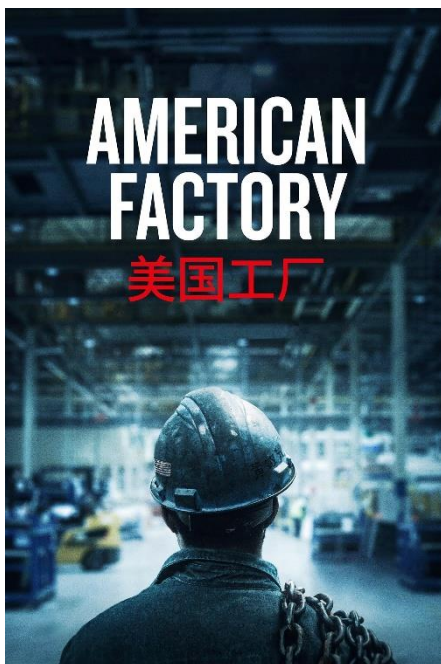
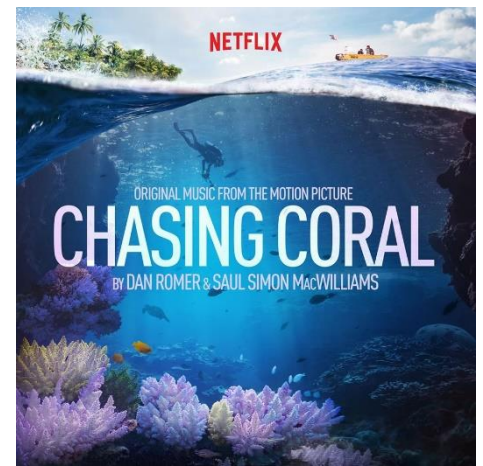
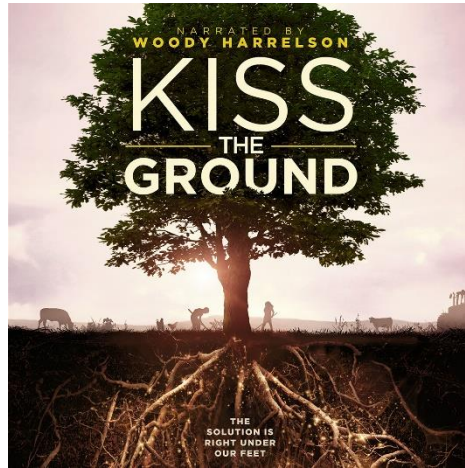
## Websites that you may find useful to classwork, homework and independent research include:

- <http://www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm>
- Geography Review, Go to: <http://www.philipallan.co.uk/geographyreview/index.htm>
- Geographical, Go to: <http://www.geographical.co.uk/Home/index.html>
- <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/geography>
- <https://geographyas.info/>
- <http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/A-level/AQA/AQA%20A%20level.htm> (this website is designed for the old specification but some of the topic content will be very useful)
- Many students find joining an online Geography-specific forum useful as it allows you to share revision notes, case studies and practice exam answers.
- AQA - AQA A-level Geography Fourth Edition (Hodder) <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/Product?Product=9781471858697>



## Geographical Netflix ideas:

1. The Ivory Game
2. Chasing Coral
3. Kiss the Ground
4. American Factory
5. 50 Liters Life
6. Flint Town



## Some of our favourite Geography TED talks:

1. Seven principles for building better cities
2. Why glass towers are bad for city life
3. Africa – The danger of a single story

## Activities to complete in preparation for September:

This pack contains lots of different activities that will allow you to become fully prepared for the start of A Level Geography. I can not recommend completing the tasks at the end of this pack enough, they will give you a comprehensive understanding of key principles you will cover during your studies.

## Transition tasks

Please complete the following tasks to support your transition between GCSE and A Level, you might want to use some of the suggested resources to support you.

### 1. Physical Geography – Hazards

For preparation for the study of Natural Hazards please complete the following:

#### Tectonic Processes and Hazards.

Enquiry Questions:

1. Why are some locations more at risk from tectonic hazards?
2. Why do some tectonic hazards develop into disasters?
3. How successful is the management of tectonic hazards and disasters?

*This topic develops your knowledge from GCSE. Use the information below, your own knowledge AND additional research to complete the tasks below.*

#### Plate Boundaries

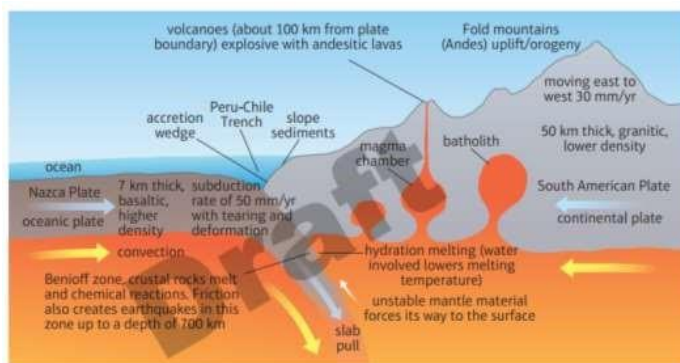


Figure 1.5: Destructive (convergent) plate boundary.

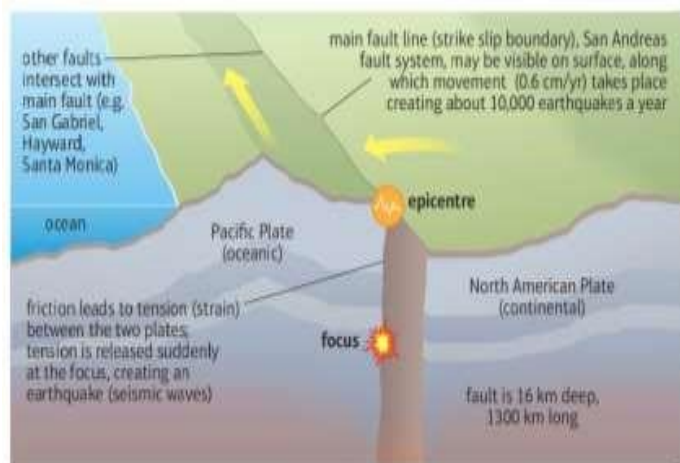


Figure 1.9: Transform (conservative) plate boundary.

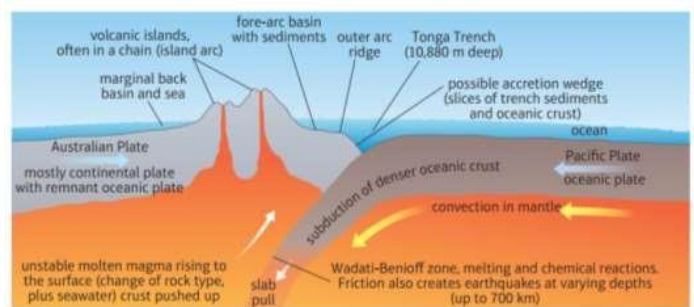


Figure 1.6: Destructive (convergent) plate boundary (island arc).

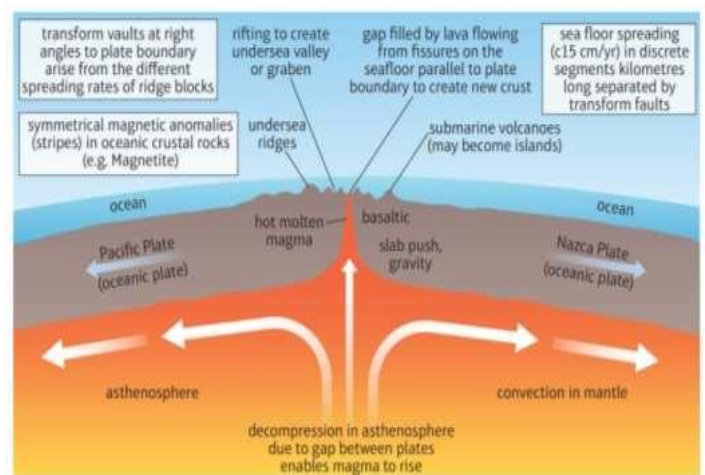
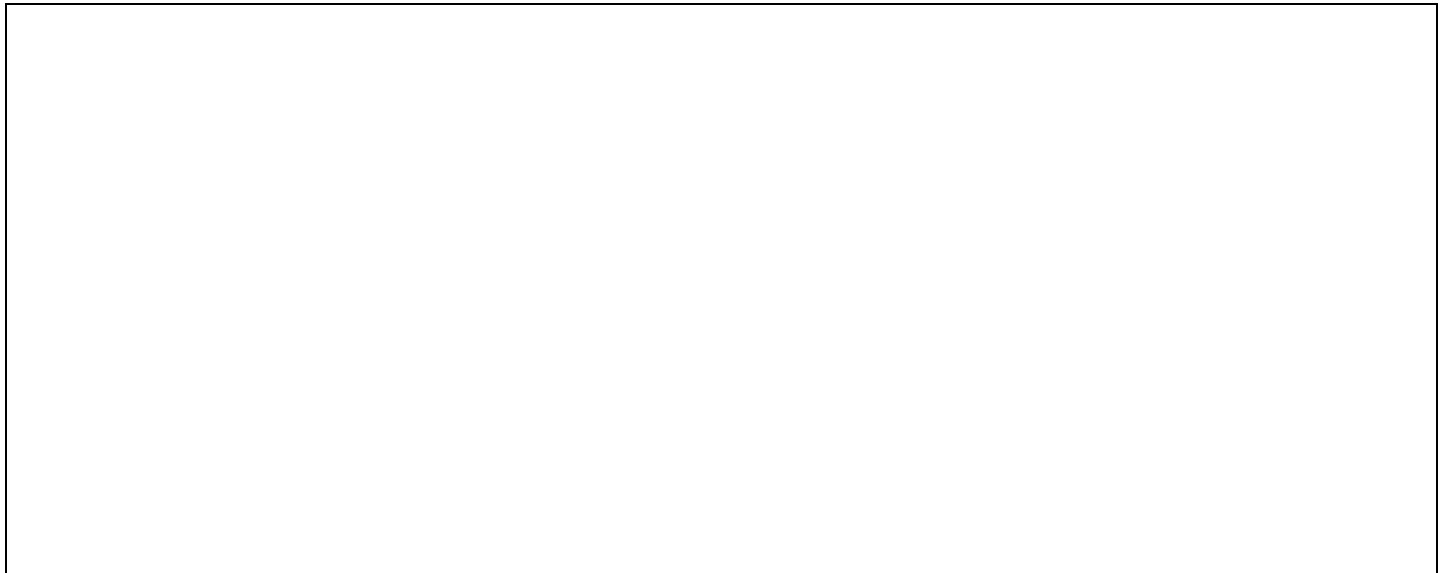


Figure 1.7: Constructive (divergent) plate boundary.



3 - Explain the cause of volcanoes at destructive plate margins (4)



4. Explain why earthquakes and volcanoes are often located in similar locations (6)





## 2. Physical Geography – Coastal Systems and Landscapes

### Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – Coastal landscape and change

Enquiry Questions:

- 1: Why are coastal landscapes different and what processes cause these differences?
- 2: How do characteristic coastal landforms contribute to coastal landscapes?
- 3: How do coastal erosion and sea level change alter the physical characteristics of coastlines and increase risks?
- 4: How can coastlines be managed to meet the needs of all players?

*This topic also develops your knowledge from GCSE. Use the information below, your own knowledge AND additional research to complete the tasks below.*

#### Coastal landscapes

The Jurassic Coastline in Dorset is one of the most famous stretches of coastline in terms of landforms and features.

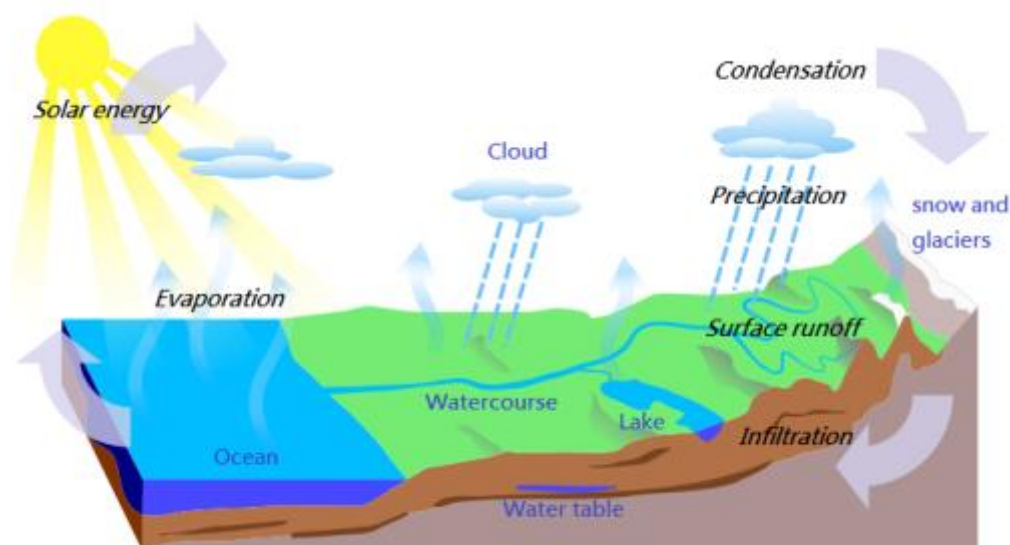
6 - Your task is to research this stretch of coastline to create a case study. You will need to include photos and annotated maps to identify the different features along this stretch of coastline and start to explain how and why the different landforms are created.



7 - Explain the relationship between geology and coastal form along the Dorset Coastline (6 marks)

### 3. Physical Geography – Water and Carbon Cycles

#### The drainage basin and hydrological cycle: the water balance.

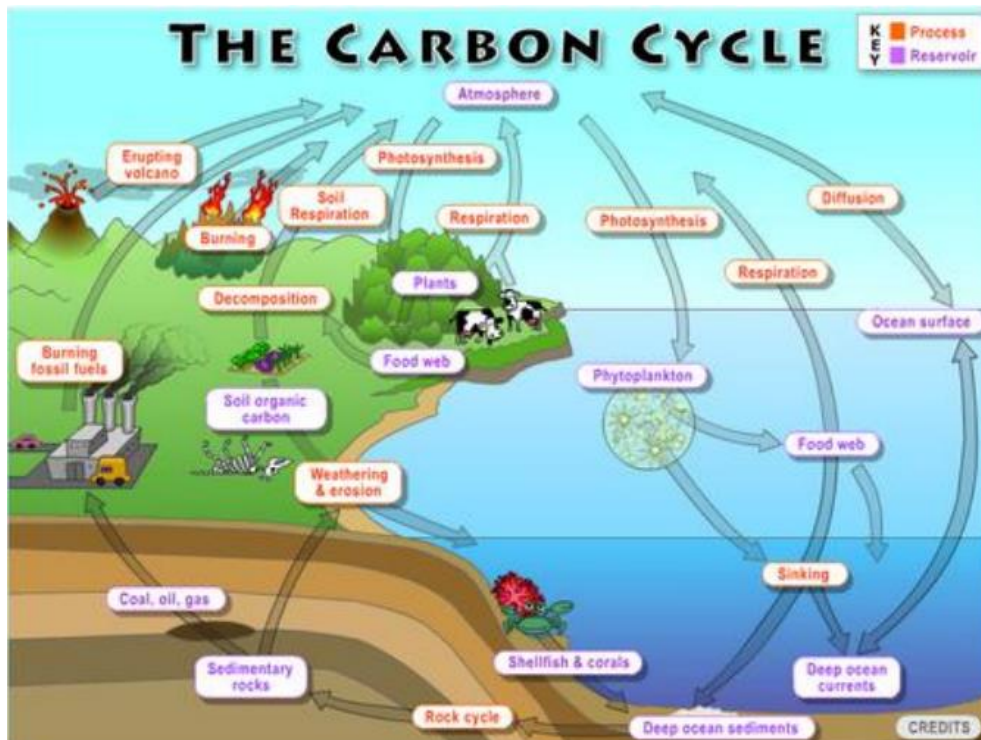


**You are to create an A3 poster with a detailed annotated diagram explaining the Water cycle and how it works. However, this also has to have the drainage basin incorporated into it as the two are linked.**

There should be a clear process to the cycle and should be in extensive detail making it easy to follow and explain. The poster should be clear and in extensive detail. Within this you need to incorporate key words that are defined (a good idea is to have flaps with the key term on one side and then the definition under it). Make it bright bold and clear so it is an easy and “fun” revision tool.

For some information on the drainage basin and the hydrological cycle you can start here [www.geographyiseverything.com/a---level.html](http://www.geographyiseverything.com/a---level.html). You can also try searching Google.

1. What affect can humans have on the hydrological (water) cycle?
2. What is a storm hydrograph and what factors can impact it? (Physical and human)
3. How have humans contributed to drought in Australia?
4. How might climate change impact the hydrological cycle?



You will be studying how the water and carbon cycles interact with each other so it will be important to initially understand how both work

**You are to create an A3 poster with a detailed annotated diagram explaining the carbon cycle and how it works. You should also include the rock cycle as this is a key part of the carbon cycle.**

There should be a clear process to the cycle and should be in extensive detail making it easy to follow and explain. The poster should be clear and in extensive detail. Within this you need to incorporate key words that are defined (a good idea is to have flaps with the key term on one side and then the definition under it). Make it bright bold and clear so it is an easy and “fun” revision tool.

For some information you can start here

<https://www.tutor2u.net/geography/reference/carbonstores-and-cycles>. You can also try searching Google.

## 5. Human Geography – Changing Places

### Why rebrand?

**There are many reasons why areas need to rebrand and change their image. Some key definitions are:**

- Regeneration- This is the physical change of an urban or rural area. The intention is to attract investment and bring economic wealth in the area and bring in more visitors.
- Re-Imaging- How areas construct and promote a more positive image to increase its popularity.
- Rebranding- Helping change to the area to be more attractive to a different target audience.

**Before an area rebrands itself, it must look into the following aspects:**

- Environmental factors- improving derelict infrastructure
- Social factors- overcoming cycles of decline and poverty
- Economic factors- Improve investment and job opportunities
- Political factors- What money can be brought in from various initiatives and grants?

### CBD in decline

Many CBDs can fall into decline due a number of reasons

1. Increase in rent and costs/upkeep
2. Congestion in town centres puts people off coming in and spending money
3. The rise of out of town shopping centres and outlets
4. Edge of town science parks reducing the need for offices in the centre of town.

**TASK** Create a cycle of decline for a town where the CBD is suffering. What are the knock on effects? 2. Using the photo of Birmingham below, research how the city has transformed itself.

### Decline in countryside villages

Although many countryside areas are deemed as idyllic, the rural community has been hit with many crises and images of village life has been portrayed as difficult and sometimes boring. This is due to:

- Wide spread coverage of the food and mouth scandal in 2001, showing the nation horrible images of burning dead animals.
- Pressure groups and coverage of hunting
- Bad reputation- boring, sleeping, backward and unfriendly

**This decline has led to a number of challenges for rural areas**



Affordable housing- often large farm houses or bought as second homes. This prices out first time buyers and a younger market

- Depopulation- younger residents moving out because of house prices, university or for job opportunities elsewhere.
- Changes in agriculture- low pay, long hours and increase of mechanisation
- Transport- difficult access and lack of reliant public transport

Previous coalmining areas

Between 1984 and 1997, 170,000 coal mining jobs were lost in England. This has led to a number of challenges in a previous thriving community:

- Ground contamination from the mines and now areas of dereliction
- No grounding for entrepreneurial skills or education as the population went into the coal mining business.
- Long term illnesses sue to the amount of time spent by some in the mines.

### Seaside issues

Synoptic link- Tourism! As resorts tend to be seasonal in the UK, this has led to the decline of many seaside resort.

TASK Create a timeline of decline for Blackpool. What have the impacts been? Have there been attempts to improve the area?

## 6. Human Geography – Global Systems and Governance

Trade blocs: To trade easily between countries, certain agreements have been created. Examples are EU, NAFTA, CARICOM



Economic groupings: Countries are grouped together based on wealth and power. Examples include LICs/HICs (LDC or HDCs), NICs, OPEC and OECD.

**TASK - What do the acronyms above stand for?**

### **TNCs and Trade aims**

- They tend to operate where labour is cheap and regulations are lacking
- To gain government grants from countries that are attracting new business - They operate inside local trade barriers and avoid tariffs
- They like to be near markets

### **Positives to TNCs**

- Raising living standards – TNCs invest in the economies of many NICs and LICs
- Transfer of technology – south Korean firms e.g. Samsung have learned to design products for foreign markets
- Political stability – investment by TNCs has contributed to economic growth and political stability e.g. China
- Raising environmental awareness – due to large corporate image TNCs do respond to criticism e.g. Starbucks have their sustainability campaign

### **Negatives to TNCs**

- Tax avoidance – many avoid paying full taxed in countries they operate in through concessions, e.g. Starbucks and Amazon
- Limited linkages - FDI does not always help developing nations economies
- Growing global wealth divide – selective investment in certain global areas is creating a widening divide e.g. Southeast Asia vs. sub-Saharan Africa
- Environmental disaster and destruction – example of Bhopal, India disaster in 1984/Deepwater Horizon spill

**TASK -** Create an annotated photo of either your family car or your living room with the various places where the parts/ features were manufactured.

Choose an example of a TNC and create a timeline of events since their foundation as a company. What have been the benefits that the company has brought to the countries involved. Examples could be Nike, Mattel, Disney or Tesco.