

A Level Geography Bridging Work

You have 4 tasks to complete in preparation for A Level Geography.

- 1) This is the biggest task - in preparation for Changing Spaces, Making Places: Research the characteristics of your local place (town or village) and present your findings in your preferred way (mindmap, written document, include relevant images) - keep your finished piece to two sides of A4

What to include:

- Natural Characteristics (e.g. the geology, altitude, shape of land, physical features- rivers, forests etc.)
- Demographic Characteristics (e.g. the age structure and ethnic mix)
- Socio-Economic Characteristics (e.g. income, employment, education, wealth, health, housing tenure etc.)
- Cultural Characteristics (e.g. religious festivals and other cultural events)
- Political Characteristics (e.g. the local council and community groups involved in making changes to the place)
- Built Environment (e.g. the architecture, types of buildings etc.)
- Past characteristics (e.g. what did it used to be like – industry, population, employment etc.)
- For extra challenge – how do you think the past has developed your local place today?

Some useful sites to get you started:

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/> is a good starting point to see your location

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/> (this provides census data for info to use for the demographic and socio-economic characteristics)

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/bfi-national-archive/your-britain-film> - look to see if there is any video footage of your local place (use to talk about the past characteristics)

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> – useful to see the geology of your area for the natural characteristics)

- 2) Carry out some wider reading that you think links to the topics “Changing Spaces, Making Places” and “Coasts”. See next page for a brief outline of the units and some suggestions of articles – or find your own. Prepare ½ page of notes on why you picked the articles and how it links to the topic.
- 3) Also, complete the 2 Open University Courses and bring your certificate of participation to your first lesson:
Level 2: Managing Coastal Environments <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/environmental-studies/managing-coastal-environments/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
Level 3 – Changing Cities <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/changing-cities/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
- 4) Finally...optional – read a book/watch a film/listen to a Podcast about a geographical topic (see a list of possibilities on next pages)

Wider Reading suggestions for Task 2:

Coastal Landscapes

In this topic you will explore coastal systems, how coastal landforms develop, how these landforms evolve over time as climate changes and finally, how human activity causes changes within coastal landscape systems.

Suggestions:

- Video: Power of the Planet (Oceans) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5amshu>
- Reading: Landscape Systems (Royal Geographical Society) – this is an excellent starting point <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/landscape-systems/>

Changing Spaces, Making Places

This is a very new topic to A level geography. Essentially, it is the investigation into what makes an area a 'place'. Place is more than just the location of an area, it evokes perceptions, opinions, emotions and above all else is dynamic (forever changing). In this unit we look at a range of places on different scales to investigate how places change over time, how we perceive different places, the different ways places are represented, how economic change can alter inequality in and between places and how places can be created through placemaking processes such as regeneration and rebranding.

Suggestions:

- Interactive: Changing Places – a good story map introduction – work your way through <https://focusschoolwilto.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f10c512164d0498d8f3bcfad8ae61d39>
- Reading: Changing Places – a good starting point read <https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/ChangingSpaces-Making-Places/Set-A/Notes%20on%20Changing%20Places,%20Making%20Places%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf>
- Video: Changing Places – watch both parts – “Slumming it” – Dharavi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Im0tHRs9Bng>
- Podcast: Royal Geographical Society – “Ask the Geographer” “How is high street regeneration managed?” (Changing spaces, Making Places topic)
- <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/how-is-high-street-regeneration-managed/>
- TED Talk “Why the wrong side of the tracks is usually the east side of the tracks” https://www.ted.com/talks/stephen_deberry_why_the_wrong_side_of_the_tracks_is_usually_the_east_side_of_cities#t-219215

Wider reading/watching opportunities:

The below includes, websites, books, podcasts, documentaries and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with geography.

i. ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES

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. There are both articles and video clips.

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!

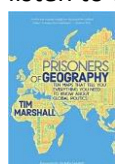
ii. **PODCASTS** Now is the time to broaden your geographical understanding! Stick your headphones in and listen to some of the following...


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!

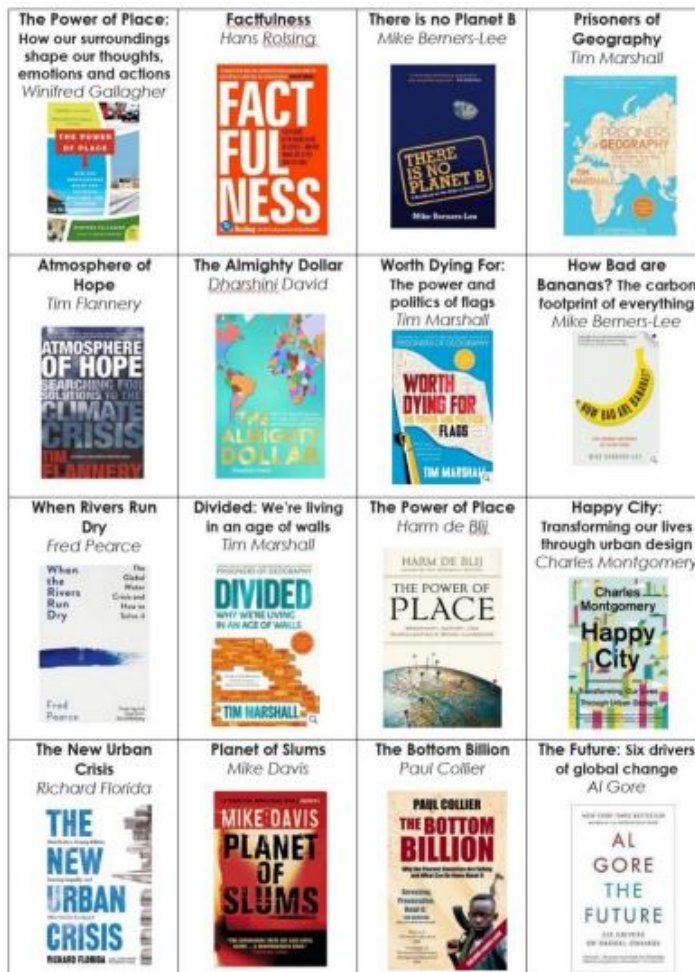
TED Talks – There are some great short, powerful talks (18 mins or less) covering all sorts of topics.

iii. **BOOKS** 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 fairly cheaply on Amazon or you can listen to them on Audible.

 Prisoners of Geography (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 (Powers and Borders topic)

 Factfulness: 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 actually how far the world has measurably improved and what's left to be done.

 Adventures in the Anthropocene (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 look for practical answers and solutions.



iv. 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 exploring our amazing world <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>
- Simon Reeve around the World <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm> (and other Simon Reeve travels)
- Race Across the World <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0002tvs>

Channel 4 – On Demand – Dispatches and unreported world documentaries (lots of geographical documentaries here)

v. GEOGRAPHICAL FILMS (some are available online free – others may be available on providers such as Amazon Prime / Netflix etc.)

- Touching the Void (15) (great for visualising glacial landscapes) – a powerful true story docudrama (strong language in parts)
- 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)
- The Impossible (2012) (12) – Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami
- Slumdog Millionaire (15) – based on life in the slums of Mumbai
- Our Planet (Netflix series) – explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.
- 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 – exploring the apartheid through Mandela's eyes.
- 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.
- The Last King of Scotland (15) – another hard-hitting story, based on struggles faced by Uganda under the dictatorship of Idi Amin.
- 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
- "A beautiful planet"
- "Rise of the continents" - BBC - Prof Ian Stewart.
- "The Dawn Wall" (ElCapitan) Netflix <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/81004270>
- "Tales by light" Netflix <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68tpCpDOsyA>
- "Jack Whitehall: Travels with my father" Netflix <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/80186848>
- "Journey to the edge of the universe" (Nat Geo) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68tpCpDOsyA>
- Documentaries: Seven must see Netflix documentaries -
Geographical's list <https://geographical.co.uk/reviews/films/item/1176-7-must-see-netflix-documentaries>