

Year 11 to Year 12 Transition Booklet

Edexcel A Level Geography

Welcome

Congratulations on choosing A Level Geography!

Geography is one of the most relevant and engaging subjects you can study. It helps us understand the complex relationships between people, places and the environment, while developing valuable skills in research, data analysis, critical thinking and communication.

Unlike GCSE Geography, A Level places much greater emphasis on:

- Independent learning
- Critical evaluation
- Wider reading
- Data interpretation
- Essay writing
- Synoptic thinking (making links between topics)

This booklet is designed to help you make a successful transition from Year 11 into Sixth Form.

Estimated completion time: 15–20 hours.

It is not expected that you complete all sections, but it is advised that you engage with as many topics as possible as this will make the course more engaging and enjoyable for you.

Mr Sayer

Head of Geography Department

Contents

1. Geography in the News
2. Globalisation
3. Superpowers
4. Regenerating Places
5. Health, Human Rights and Intervention
6. Tectonic Processes and Hazards
7. The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
8. The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
9. Coastal Landscapes
10. Wider Reading
11. Documentary and Podcast Review
12. Final Reflection

Geography in the News

Throughout the summer collect five news articles linked to geography.

For each news article, find the following:

1. Headline
2. Date
3. Source
4. Topic
5. Why it is important

Try to include stories relating to:

Climate change, Migration, Natural hazards, Development or Global trade

Section 1 – Globalisation

What is globalisation?

Globalisation describes the increasing interconnectedness of countries through trade, transport, technology, migration, investment and culture.

Modern supply chains stretch across continents and allow products to be designed in one country, manufactured in another and sold worldwide.

Key vocabulary

Define the following:

Term	Definition
Globalisation	
Outsourcing	
Offshoring	
TNC	
Foreign Direct Investment	
Interdependence	
Supply chain	

Choose one product you own.

Examples:

Mobile phone, Pair of trainers, Chocolate bar, Car

Research:

1. Where are the raw materials sourced?
2. Where is it manufactured?
3. Which countries are involved?
4. How is it transported?

Research these companies: Apple, Amazon, Toyota, Meta

For each explain:

1. Country of origin
2. Number of countries they operate in
3. Annual revenue
4. Why they are considered global companies

Extension

Write 500 words evaluating:

“Globalisation benefits everyone equally.”

Do you agree?

Section 2 – Superpowers

What is a superpower?

A superpower is a country capable of influencing events around the world economically, politically, militarily and culturally.

Complete the table:

Indicator	USA	China
Population		
GDP		
Military spending		
Largest export		
Number of billionaires		

Soft power

Research examples of soft power.

Complete the table:

Example	Country	How does it influence people?
Hollywood		
K-pop		
Olympics		
Universities		

Essay

To what extent is China challenging US global dominance?

Write approximately 600 words.

Section 3 – Regenerating Places

What is regeneration?

Regeneration aims to improve areas experiencing economic, social or environmental decline.

Examples include:

- Redeveloping brownfield sites
- Creating jobs
- Improving transport
- Building housing
- Attracting investment

Find the definitions of Regeneration, Gentrification, Stakeholder

Fieldwork Task

Visit a local town or city.

Take photographs showing:

- Evidence of investment
- Derelict buildings
- New housing
- Public spaces
- Retail developments

Evaluation

Do you think regeneration benefits everybody equally?

Explain your reasoning.

Section 4 – Health, Human Rights and Intervention

Key concepts

Define:

Term	Definition
Human rights	
Development	
Infant mortality	
Life expectancy	
Gender inequality	
NGO	
Humanitarian	
Intervention	

Country comparison

Choose two countries.

Compare:

- GDP per capita
- Literacy rate
- Infant mortality
- Life expectancy
- Access to clean water

Present your findings in a table.

Research task

Choose one conflict.

Examples: Ukraine. Syria, Yemen, Sudan

Explain:

1. Causes
2. Human rights impacts
3. International response

Should wealthier countries intervene in poorer countries?

Produce balanced arguments for and against.

Section 5 – Tectonic Processes and Hazards

Earth's structure

Draw the earth's structure and annotate the following: Crust, Mantle, Outer core, Inner core

Plate boundaries

Complete:

Boundary	Description	Hazards
Constructive		
Destructive		
Conservative		
Collision		

Volcano research

Choose one eruption.

Include:

1. Date
2. Location
3. VEI rating
4. Death toll
5. Economic impacts
6. Environmental impacts

Earthquake research

Choose one earthquake. Explain why impacts varied between different groups.

Section 6 – The Water Cycle

Draw the hydrological cycle.

Include:

- Evaporation
- Condensation
- Precipitation
- Interception
- Throughflow
- Percolation
- Surface runoff
- Groundwater flow
- Channel flow

Climate change

Research how climate change may affect:

- River flooding
- Drought
- Agriculture
- Water security

Produce a one-page summary.

UK Flood Case Study

Research one event.

Include:

- Causes
- Impacts
- Responses

Section 7 – The Carbon Cycle

Explain what is meant by the following terms:

1. Carbon sequestration
2. Carbon sink
3. Carbon source

Research

Why is the Amazon Rainforest important for regulating Earth's climate?

Evaluation

Can tree planting solve climate change?

Write approximately 400 words.

Section 8 – Coastal Landscapes

Coastal processes

Define:

1. Hydraulic action
2. Abrasion
3. Attrition
4. Solution

Draw

Illustrate how a cave becomes an arch, then a stack and stump.

Case study

Research one UK coastline.

Include:

1. Geology
2. Erosion rates
3. Management strategies
4. Future challenges

Decision making

Should governments continue defending every coastline?

Explain your answer.

Wider Reading

Try to read at least one of the following:

- *Prisoners of Geography* – Tim Marshall
- *Factfulness* – Hans Rosling
- *Population 10 Billion* – Danny Dorling
- *How the World Really Works* – Vaclav Smil
- *A Life on Our Planet* – David Attenborough

For your chosen book give the following:

1. Three key ideas
2. Most interesting quotation
3. Would you recommend it to other geographers?

Useful Websites

Use these throughout the summer. Search for the terms below to find the website:

- BBC News Environment
- National Geographic
- NASA Earth Observatory
- World Bank Open Data
- Our World in Data
- Gapminder
- ReliefWeb
- United Nations Development Programme

Write down three interesting facts you discover from each.

Geography Podcasts

Listen to at least one episode.

Suggestions:

- BBC – The Climate Question
- BBC – The Inquiry
- BBC – Inside Science
- The Rest is Politics (discretion advised as some strong language is used)
- The Rest is Politics Leading (discretion advised as some strong language is used)

For each Podcast you listen to complete the following:

1. Episode
2. Summary
3. Key learning points

Documentary Review

Watch at least one documentary.

Suggestions:

- *Our Planet*
- *A Life on Our Planet*
- *Before the Flood*
- *An Inconvenient Truth*

For each documentary watched complete the following:

1. Three facts learned
2. One question it made you ask

Independent Research Challenge

Choose one of the following:

- Will climate migration become the biggest challenge of the 21st century?
- Is globalisation slowing down?
- Should the UK achieve net zero by 2050?
- Is artificial intelligence changing global power?
- Will sea level rise force millions to relocate?

Produce a summary of your investigation no longer than one side of A4.

Final Reflection

Write approximately **800 words** answering:

“What do you think will be the greatest geographical challenge facing humanity over the next 50 years?”

Your answer should:

- Present a clear argument.
- Use evidence.
- Refer to examples.
- Consider alternative viewpoints.
- Reach a justified conclusion.

Preparing for September

Successful A Level geographers:

- Read widely.
- Follow current affairs.
- Use statistics to support arguments.
- Think critically.
- Ask questions.
- Make links between physical and human geography.

We look forward to welcoming you to the course.