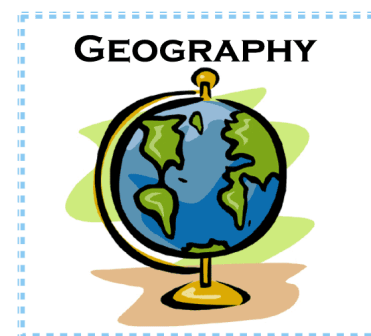


Welcome to A Level Geography!

@ Kings Langley School



During this academic year you will study four modules across two units – Dynamic Landscapes and Dynamic Places:

Dynamic Landscapes – Tectonic Processes and Hazards and Coastal Landscapes and Change, both are taught by Mr Sylvester

Dynamic Places – Globalisation and Regenerating Places, both are taught by Miss Keane

To prepare for the year ahead you need to be aware of some of the contemporary issues that are in the news week in and week out for these topics.

To ensure that the start of YOUR A Level Geography course gets off to the smoothest of beginnings, there are a few tasks which you need to have completed for the start of term. These tasks are a result of teaching experience and feedback from students in the previous years; so hopefully you are better prepared than those who came before you 😊

You need to purchase two large A4 ring binders; perhaps in different colours to help you remember which Geography modules within Dynamic Places and Dynamic Landscapes, you are studying. These should have dividers and a contents page too. This way you don't have to carry the work for each teacher around with you the entire time.

Complete all five tasks on this handout.

Task 1: Create a reading list around the following topics:

Coastal change – news about climate change, flood risk, coastal management decisions.

Regeneration – projects of urban or rural renewal that receive coverage: nationally or internationally (London, Teeside, Detroit)

Hazards – hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones that happen over the summer; any earthquakes, volcanoes or landslides that might occur.

Globalisation – the power and influence of TNCs (Transnational companies), discussions about national groupings of countries and trade agreements – EU (European Union – the impact of BREXIT), OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries), TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), the isolation of Russia internationally after the invasion of Ukraine, sporting events, and migration of people.

Keep a record of the name of the article, author and what you learnt from this article. Your list will be discussed in class with Mr Sylvester.



Task 2: Create a case study all about the Philippines and why it is a disaster hotspot referencing its tectonic and climatic hazards. You are to hand this work in to Mr Sylvester in the first lesson.

You should present your case study with the following three categories: (Causes, Impacts, Responses).

- Background information of the Philippines as a **nation**, e.g. location, names of **tectonic** plate boundaries and any specific events.
- The **impacts** of recent natural hazards upon the people and infrastructure.
- **Response** – how the country has recovered from tectonic and climatic events.

Task 3: Coastal management decisions due to climate change. You are to hand this work in to Mr Sylvester in the first lesson.

Create a factfile around the threats that exist to coastal areas of the UK. It should consider:

- Impacts on human activities, i.e. tourism
- Climate change and storm damage
- Costs of coastal management
- Decisions about managed retreat or hold the line over the long term.
- Pollution

For wider reading around this area, see – [National Trust – Coastal Management](#), [the Environment Agency – Coastal Erosion](#), [Surfers Against Sewage](#) as good starting points.



Task 4: Globalisation

Tasks 4a, 4b and 4c are to be handed in to Miss Keane in your first lesson.

Task 4a – What has accelerated globalisation?

a) What is globalisation? (just a couple of sentences, like the introduction to an essay)

b) What factors have contributed to globalisation? – (750 words)

Consider transport and ICT developments, the role of trade blocs, international organisations (the World Trade Organisation, International Monetary Fund and World Bank), the role of national government policies (privatisation, liberalisation, and subsidies for business start-ups), the attraction of foreign direct investment and special economic zones.

c) Why are some countries opposed to globalisation in some respects? Eg North Korea, Iran, France and China (300 words, we suggest you look at two of these countries)

Task 4b - What are the costs and benefits of globalisation?

a) What is the global shift of manufacturing? (A couple of sentences are required here).

b) Consider the social, environmental, and economic impacts of globalisation – both positive and negative.

Copy and complete this table. This research should be extensive and should have named examples throughout, therefore a minimum of 1,500 words are expected.

	Social	Environmental	Economic
Benefits	<i>Consider poverty reduction and growth of services eg education in EDCs.</i>	<i>What are the ways that globalisation is being made more sustainable in ACs? Consider ethnical consumerism (fair trade, supply chain monitoring and NGO action), transition towns and recycling.</i>	<i>How has offshoring and outsourcing supported economic growth in EDCs?</i>
Costs	<i>What are the social implications of industrialisation in EDCs? What are the implications of rapid urbanisation – resulting in the growth of megacities and the establishment of informal settlements eg Dharavi in Mumbai.</i>	<i>Consider air pollution, deforestation, resource pressure etc in Indonesia, China and the Ivory Coast.</i>	<i>How has deindustrialisation impacted traditional economies? Consider areas such as Teesside in the UK and Detroit, resulting in urban decline.</i>

Task 5: Shaping Places Regenerating Places.

Tasks 5a, 5b and 5c are to be handed in to Miss Keane in your first lesson.

Task 5a - Local and contrasting place studies

For both Hemel Hempstead (our local place) and Brick Lane (our contrasting place), create a fact file outlining the change in function and demographics over time. It may be easier to research Dacorum or Tower Hamlets as a whole for demographic data – there are links below.

- What are the main industries and how have these changed over time?
- How has the population size changed over time?
- How has the population structure changed over time? (age)
- How has the ethnic composition changed over time?
- What are people's views of the change?
- What have been the main drivers of change eg migration, gentrification, deindustrialisation, TNCs, regeneration projects.

Suggested support material:

Brick Lane/ Tower Hamlets:

<https://beyondbanglatown.org.uk/>

https://beyondbanglatown.org.uk/site/assets/files/1583/enquiry_3_-_why_is_brick_lane_changing.pdf

<https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Planning-and-building-control/Development-control/Conservation-areas/Brick-Lane-&-Fournier-StreetV1.pdf>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E09000030>

Hemel Hempstead/ Dacorum:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000096/>

https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/docs/default-source/planning-development/strategicplanning-11.10.24-7hemelhempstead_pre-subversion.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Task 5b - Urban regeneration: the London Olympic Regeneration project (750 words)

- Describe the location of the 2012 Olympic Park Urban Regeneration Scheme
- Discuss the causes and impacts of urban decline prior to the regeneration of this region.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of this regeneration scheme.

Suggested support material:

- [Facts and figures | Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park](#)
- [London boroughs: the winners and losers of the Olympics regeneration game | Evening Standard](#)
- [London Olympics has brought regeneration, but at a price locals can't afford | Penny Bernstock | The Guardian](#)


Task 5c - Rural Regeneration: Why are parts of Cornwall in need of regeneration? (500 words)

- What are the causes of the spiral of decline in Cornwall?
- What are the impacts of urban decline in areas such as Redruth or Cambourne in Cornwall?
- What are the benefits and costs of the Eden project?

Suggested support material:

<https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/Edexcel-IAL/Urban-Problems-Planning-and-Regeneration/Case-Studies/Cornwall%20Rebranding.pdf>

www.edenproject.com



That's all 😊

That wasn't that painful was it?! The A Level specifications place considerable emphasis on being adept at using the vast number of key terms that you have to know, and more importantly the ways in which you are able to apply them across topics. Speak to the current Year 12s... it was their advice; ensure that you start September with a grasp of some of the subject-specific vocabulary prior to teaching. If you have any issues with the work that has been set than please do not hesitate to come into school prior the beginning of the summer holidays and discuss them with us 😊. Alternatively you can use these email addresses too:

sylvesterj@kls.herts.sch.uk and keanen@kls.herts.sch.uk

This just leaves us enough space to wish you well with your results day in August, have a rest-filled summer and we are looking forward to seeing you in our A Level Geography lessons in September 😊

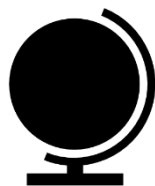
Enjoy, enjoy. ENJOY!!

'Geography is everywhere' – so what follows on pages 6 to 10 is a reading list to help you engage in the subject across different forms of media – podcasts, documentaries and films, books, journals, newspapers and websites.

Mr Sylvester and Miss Keane

21st May 2025

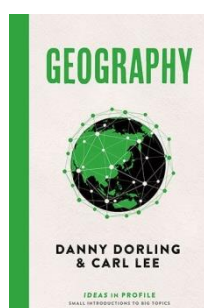
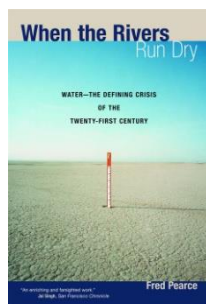
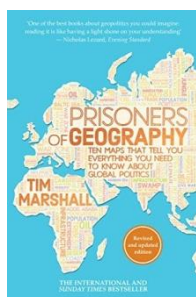
WIDER READING, VIEWING AND LISTENING TO – THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER!



Our hope is that you continue to stay cognitively engaged over the coming weeks and months. The following are suggestions, they are not compulsory, but we would love for you to engage in any that you find interesting. Then, we hope that this absorption of different types of Geography 'media' will become a good habit throughout the course.



Success at A'level is based in absorbing and assimilating lots of new ideas, contemporary issues and the actual course itself! This type of assimilation is called being 'synoptic'. It used to be said that you 'read for a degree', this is true – but actually you 'read for an A'level' too.



Books to seek out:

Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls by Tim Marshall

Worth Dying For – the power and politics of flags, by Tim Marshall

[Tim Marshall provides a really good introduction to geopolitics with this trio of books.]

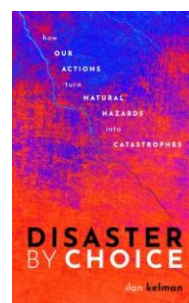
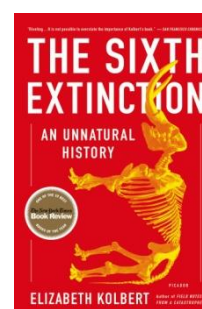
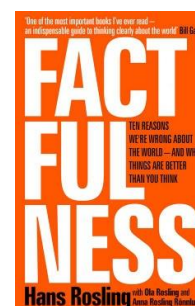
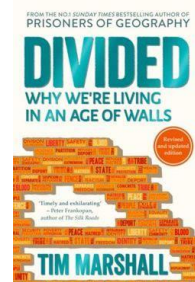
Factfulness – the reasons we're wrong about the world, and why things are better than you think, by Hans Rosling

When the Rivers Run Dry: The Global Water Crisis and How to Solve It by Fred Pearce

The Sixth Extinction – An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert

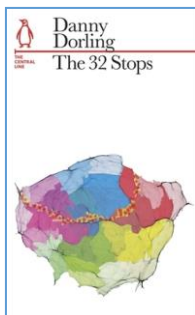
Geography: Ideas in Profile by Danny Dorling and Carl Lee

Disaster by Choice – How our actions turn natural disasters into tragedies by Ilan Kelman





Population - 10 Billion by Danny Dorling

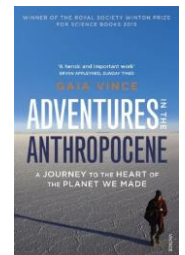


Shattered Nations by Danny Dorling

The 32 Stops by Danny Dorling [a socio-economic tour along the Central Line]



The Big Ones: How Natural Disasters Have Shaped Us (And What We Can Do About Them) by Lucy Jones

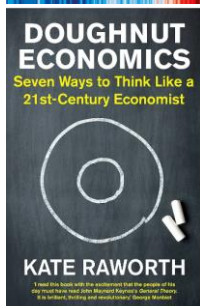
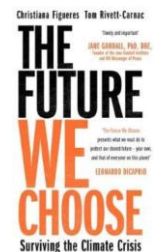


Adventures in the Anthropocene by Gaia Vince



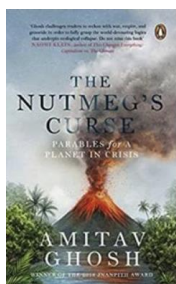
The Climate Book, edited by Greta Thunberg

The future we choose, Surviving the Climate Crisis by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac



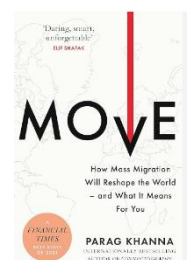
Doughnut Economics – Seven ways to think like a 21st Century Economist by Kate Raworth

We Need to talk about Africa by Tom Young



The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis by Amitav Ghosh

Globalization and its Discontents by Joseph Stiglitz



Move: How mass migration will reshape the world by Parag Khanna



How the world really works by Vaclav Smil





Coasts:

- Geofile on [Sediment Cells, Waves Types and Tides](#) – a good understanding of what the coastal system is made up of.
- Geofile on different [Coastal processes](#)- understanding the different processes that create different landforms
- Geofile on [Mass Movement in the UK](#) – a good link to different types of mass movement
- Geofile on [Coastal Management](#) – good comparison between different types of management strategies
- Geofile on [Holderness Coast](#) – A good look at a case study of a shore line management plan.

Hazards:

- Reading on [Vulnerability and Hazards](#) – something that is different from GCSEs with the A Level is that you need to be more aware of why people are vulnerable to Natural Hazards
- Geofile on [Hazard Hotspots and Response](#) – a A Level concept new to you on different ways to respond to Hazards

Global Governance

- A RGS summary of [Global Governance](#) – A good overview of the course
- The [Effects of Globalisation on the movement of people](#)

Shaping Places

- A RGS summary of [Changing Places](#) – A good overview of the course
- Interesting article by [Doreen Massey](#)- A human geography looking at The Sense of Place

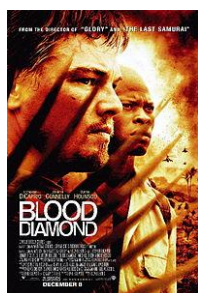


THE GUARDIAN: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> - Again many useful articles and logically ordered – keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development Stories, and Cities in particular.

THE CONVERSATION: <https://theconversation.com/uk> - Really useful to support many of your 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.

Reading: Plate Tectonics (The Geological Society) – This will be a good set up from your GCSE work to A Level and definitely worth navigating around the site
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>

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. We have a school subscription too.



Geography on NETFLIX, DVD or YOUTUBE:

[Before the Flood](#) - A National Geographic film presented by Leonardo DiCaprio exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption

[Blood Diamond](#) – looks at the diamond trade in Sierra Leone

[The Impossible](#) – based on experiences of the Boxing Day Tsunami, 2004.

[Economist Films](#) – A range of short videos on a range of contemporary social, economic, political and environmental issues.

[Tomorrow](#) – a film about the search for sustainability – through international case studies

Video: Power of the Planet (Volcanoes) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg> - a great introduction to the work on volcanoes we will be doing

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

[Seaspiracy](#) – a film about the impacts of the global fishing industry, on Netflix

[AfterShock – Everest and the Nepal Earthquake](#) – Netflix documentary with survivor's firsthand accounts from the 2015 earthquakes.

[The Volcano: Rescue from Whakaari](#) – Netflix documentary with survivor's accounts from the 2019 eruption of the volcano on this island in New Zealand.

[Earth Storm](#) – Netflix documentary, including two episodes on tectonic hazards – earthquakes and volcanoes, talking with first responders.

[Wall-E](#) – a film that contains subtle themes of Globalisation, Americanisation and climate change, on DisneyPlus



Websites and recordings of documentaries or lectures that are both interesting and inspiring:

[World Economic Forum Videos](#)

[Royal Geographical Society YouTube](#)

[Live Lessons – recorded by the Field Studies Council](#)

[BBC NEWS](#)



Expedition Volcano: (a pair of documentaries with a group of scientists, sharing their different disciplines)

iPlayer Climate Change Playlist

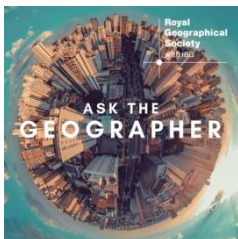
BBC Earth A collection of David Attenborough's wildlife programmes with the latest versions focus on the impact of human development on our ecosystems.

Chris Packham's Earth – Five episodes of this documentary about the history of our planet from 2023, on iPlayer

iPlayer Earth from Space

iPlayer Stacey Dooley on BBC Three

iPlayer Race Across the World



There are some very good podcasts here to pick from:

BBC Costing the Earth (many topics including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative powers, plastics (etc)

BBC The Documentary Podcast – The World Service

BBC Crossing Continents Podcast – Stories from around the world

<https://eternalexploration.wordpress.com/2016/01/04/top-10-podcasts-for-geography-students/> - this has a number of different links to geography podcasts, specifically targeted to Geography students. We definitely recommend the TED talks, search by topic.

Overheard – National Geographic Podcast – from the head office of the National Geographic in Washington DC, with stories from explorers

Ask the geographer podcasts from the Royal Geographical Society - = a fantastic set of podcasts to keep A Level studies up to date with the latest geographical research = pick out some that interest you.

The Development Podcast – Created by the World Bank

The World Economic Forum Podcasts from the organisation that hosts the meeting in Davos each year, and much more besides

Planet Money – the economy explained a podcast that investigates the economic forces that shape our lives

BBC – The Climate Question a podcast that investigates the science, politics and economics of climate change.