

**A-Level Geography A level Guide**

**How Geography will be taught:**

* Lots of class discussions
* Small group tasks
* Reading in class
* Reading and research at home
* Note taking and essay writing
* Presenting in class
* Practical activities which relate to fieldwork

**Working expectations:**

* Attend all lessons
* Complete organised and neat notes (use folders)
* Complete all tasks to the best of your ability
* Ask for help if required
* Work well independently and with others
* Be willing to share ideas
* Meet deadlines for essays and other homework projects

**What 100% effort in this subject looks like:**

* Practicing the different essay questions to the best of your ability and hand them in
* Making your own revision resources
* Wider reading, keeping up to date with contemporary Geography in the news
* Watching documentaries/films/YouTube relevant to the course
* Listening to podcasts and reading articles about the subject

**Folder Policy:**

Your folder should have:

* Separate folders for each part of the course (Physical, Human and Fieldwork including sub folders for individual units).
* Syllabus content booklet for whole course
* Clear notes filed with relevant PowerPoint
* Other revision materials and feedback lessons in folders
* Marked essays to show progress kept neatly in separate assessment folder in school

**What marking looks like:**

* Class notes are not marked
* Research homework will be marked visually but not graded
* All set essays/practice exam questions will be marked with comments and a numbered mark

**What homework looks like:**

* Reading
* Research
* Exam questions
* Presentation creation
* Revision activities
* Preparing for a test

**Specification at a glance:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Subject:** Geography |
| **Exam Board:** AQA |
| **What will I learn?** |
| **Component 1**  **Paper 1: Physical Geography (2 hours 30 minutes)**   * Section A: Water and Carbon Cycle (36 marks) * Section B: Coastal Systems and Landscapes (36 marks) * Section C: Hazards (48 marks)     **Component 2**  **Paper 2: Human Geography (2 hours 30 minutes)**   * Section A: Global Systems and Global Governance (36 marks) * Section B: Changing Places (36 marks) * Section C: Resource Security (48 marks)     **Component 3**  **Non-examined Assessment:**  What's assessed?  Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.  The fieldwork is normally conducted on a weeks residential trip (e.g Yorkshire, Devon or Wales). There is a financial cost for this trip.  How it's assessed   * 3,000 – 4,000 words * 60 marks * 20 % of A-level * Marked by teachers * Moderated by AQA |
| **How am I assessed?** |
| 80% examination (2 exams) 20% coursework |
| **What do I need to study this course?** |
| General college entry requirements plus a grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography. |
| **Where can it lead?** |
| Geography students can go forward into a wide range of different employment opportunities examples include: a cartographer, a surveyor, politics, planning and building officer, an environmental consultant, a secondary school teacher, local authority officers, working for an NGO, an international aid/development worker, a landscape architect, a market researcher, a tourism officer, data scientist and many more. |

**Summer Preparation Tasks**

The purpose of giving you a summer bridging task is:

1. To provide a bridge from level 2 to level 3 study, and lead into the early stages of the course.
2. To engage you in independent learning which is required at level 3.
3. To encourage you to develop your work ethic and commitment to study.
4. To measure your suitability for the course and assess your initial levels of achievement.

**Task 1**: There are a number of key terms that crop up in the first units for both human and physical geography. It is important that you are aware what the meaning is of these terms.

Define the following key terms:

**Physical Geography Unit 1 - Coastal Systems and Landscapes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inputs | Ouputs | Components | Negative Feedback | Positive Feedback | Dynamic Equilibrium |
| Open, Closed and Isolated Systems | Sub-Aerial Weathering | Sediment Cell | Littoral Drift | Coastal Sediment Budget | Marine Processes |

**Human Geography Unit 1 – Resource Security**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Exploitation | Exploration | Flow Resources | Reserves | Abstraction | Recharge (groundwater) |
| Inferred Resources | Geopolitical Risks | Resource Frontier | OPEC | Consumption | Scarce Ferroalloy Metals |

**Further Tasks:**

**Please complete the following tasks. They can be done in any order:**

**Physical Geography**

1. Using this link <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/coast/> explore the key themes surrounding coastlines and their processes. Watch the videos, explore the maps and read the articles.
2. One of your important case studies is looking at the impact of climate change on The Sundarbans region in Bangladesh and India. Using this link, take time to read <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/> and write an evaluation on how human activity has impacted this unique environment.
3. Using this link <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7915305/Dozens-people-lose-east-Yorkshire-homes-coastal-erosion.html> - write a mock letter to the local council either against or in support of building new sea/coastal erosion defences. Try to include the positive and negatives of the different defences.
4. Using this link <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/documents/resources/map-reading.pdf> – practice your map skills as they are integral to your knowledge and understanding to A Level Geography

**Human Geography**

1. Using this link TED talk link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7y4GlmwPLQ> – Write an opinionated essay on how megacities could change the way people live in the next 50 years.
2. In the future our energy security will become one of the most important issues the human race facts. I would like you to prepare a debate on either side of for or against the process of Fracking as a way to secure the energy security of our future.
3. Using this link <https://news.sky.com/story/the-rise-of-china-how-70-years-of-the-prc-is-shaping-all-our-futures-11821722> - write a summary on the rise of China. How important is China to the global economy?
4. Using this link <https://picturenottingham.co.uk/image-library.html?keywords=Sherwood&town=Nottingham%2C%20Sherwood> – I would like you to write a descriptive report on how Sherwood, Nottingham has changed over the past 150 years. Compare the photographs to modern day examples that you could simply Google image search.

**Please bring your work with you to your first lesson.**

1. **Watch Something Educational**. All kinds of films and series have Geography links in them examples include: Simon Reeves Around the World, Before the Flood, An Inconvenient Truth and The Day After Tomorrow.
2. **Brush up on your current knowledge**:

BBC bitesize sections on Geography: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zy3ptyc>

**Link to the Specification:**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037>

**Further Reading**

Origins… How the Earth Made Humans – Lewis Dartnell

The Growth Map – Jim O’Neill

Environment and the City – Peter Roberts

Fundamentals of Physical Geography – Peter Smithson