



# The Polesworth School GCSE to A Level Bridging the Geography Gap

Hoping to study Geography at A level? Or interested in just furthering your knowledge of Geography post the GCSEs?

There are a number of things you can do:

- 1. Developing as a geographer** – through general reading around/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc the geography subject to develop your geography knowledge and understanding.
- 2. Become a News Buff-** Watch the news- BBC news between 6am-9am or at 6pm. Or get on the BBC news app? Other websites such as the Guardian, The Independent, The Times. Create a Geography in the News Diary of all things that are relevant to what you are studying?
- 3. Preparing for the A Level Course-** Starting to explore the topics and their foundations in which they will be studied in the A Level Course.

To be a great geographer, you will need to develop the ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview and how everything we study in Geography links together. Geography is not just about the studying people and landscapes, it is also the relationships that exists between people and their environment.

## How can I develop as a Geographer before September?

Below are some links to podcasts, websites, books and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with Geography:

### PODCASTS:

- **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 climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative powers, 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.
- **Links to general podcasts**
- <https://eternalexploration.wordpress.com/2016/01/04/top-10-podcasts-for-geography-students/> - this has a number of different links to geography podcast, specifically targeted to Geography students. Definitely recommend the TED talks.

### BOOKS:

If you are into reading both fiction and non fictions, why not try some Geographically themed books/magazines:

- [Prisoners of Geography](#) by Tim Marshall – an insightful book which helps understanding how the physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography- a good introduction to Geopolitics
- [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.



## 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**- there are 9 amazing boxsets available on iplayer from David Attenborough exploring our amazing world. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>
- **The Americas with Simon Reeve** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve> The first episode in Alaska/Canada is particularly good for Resource Security looking at energy.
- **Simon Reeve around the World** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm> The Russia series is really interesting.
- **Britain Underwater: Fighting the floods** <https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157>
- **Joanna Lumley's Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti** <https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleys-hidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578>
- **Race across the World** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000g6nt/race-across-the-world-series-2-episode-1>
- **Andrew Marrs Megacities** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011qmcl/episodes/guide>
- **Trumps War on the Border** → <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/trumps-war-on-the-border>
- **Dispatches** → <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/67256-001>

## Geography on NETFLIX, DVD or YOUTUBE:

- **Before the Flood**- A film presented by Leonardo DiCaprio- exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption
- **Our Planet Netflix Series**- Explores how climate change impacts all living creatures
- **Blood Diamond** – looks at the diamond trade in Sierra Leone

## What should I do with the News that I am Watching?

You should be regularly watching the news to keep you up to date with what is happening in relations to the inter-relationship between people and the environment. You will be really surprised how many of the news bulletins relate to what you are studying.

- **BBC NEWS:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>- an excellent source of up to date articles- explore the headings such as Science, UK, WORLD and other stores
- **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.
- **THE CONVERSATION:** <https://theconversation.com/uk> - Really useful to support many of you're 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.

**Buy yourself a [Scrapbook](#) and either cut out the headline from a newspaper/print it off/ or just write it in your book and summarise the following:**

- What are the key things that the article is telling you about- can you summarise in to 10 main points
- What part of Geography/what we study does this link to?
- Are there any keywords that you need to look into more or you feel would be useful for your studies.

## What does the A Level Course look like at Polesworth?

At A Level, we follow the Edexcel specification. You will have three exams; one physical exam, one human exam, and a synoptic exam using a resource booklet and you will complete a Non-Examined Assessment (coursework)- essentially a 4000 - 5000 word piece of coursework.

### Pre Reading:

#### Water and Carbon:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Water and Carbon Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/water-and-carbon-cycles/>** - some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **An introduction in to the [Water Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction in to the [Carbon Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction into the [Carbon Cycle](#)** - a good geofile which introduces you to the carbon cycle.
- **Water and Carbon [Overview](#)** – a piece of work from the Royal Geographical Society that summarises the course
- **Documentary on Climate change:**
  - o <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009drg/panorama-climate-change-what-can-we-do>
  - o <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>
- **[News Articles](#) on Climate Change**

#### Coasts:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Coasts Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/coastal-systems-landscapes/>**- some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **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:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Hazards Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/hazards/>** some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **Reading on [Vulnerability and Hazards](#)** – something that is different with the A Level is 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
- **Haiti- [A multi-hazard Environment](#)**
- **Video: Power of the Planet (Volcanoes) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg>** - a great introduction to the work on volcanoes we will be doing
- **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>

#### Globalisation and Superpowers

- **PhysicsandMathsTutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-edexcel/superpowers/>** A really good overview.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-edexcel/globalisation/>**
- **A RGS summary of [Global Governance](#)** – A good overview of the course
- **[Antarctica Case Study](#)**
- **The [Effects of Globalisation on the movement of people](#)**

## Diverse Places

- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-edexcel/diverse-places/> really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor-** <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/resource-security/> some good links to other reading for the subject.
- A RGS summary of [Changing Places](#) – A good overview of the course

Complete as many of the tasks from the grid below based on the reading you have done.

<p>Create a personal geography map of your own area- include photographs, personal reflections and places of importance (Changing Places)</p>	<p>Watch one documentary on Climate Change- Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary. (Water and Carbon)</p>	<p>GIS (Geographical information systems) Spend some time on the following website looking at digital mapping <a href="https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-storymaps/overview">https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/arcgis-storymaps/overview</a></p>
<p>Produce a case study about a current Geographical news story Eg. HS2 Flooding in the UK Coronavirus Australian Wilf fires</p>	<p>In 300 words, explain what 'geography' means to you</p>	<p>Produce a mind map of the multi-hazard area of Haiti (Hazards)</p>
<p>Watch a Geographical film such as Before the flood on Netflix and write a review.</p>	<p>Produce a report on Coastal management in the UK. Where are the coasts eroding? Why are they eroding? And what are the different coastal management methods strategies being used. (Coasts)</p>	<p>Water as a resource is the most fought over commodity. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Read some reading on the Water Cycle and Water Conflicts from resource security to help your answer</p>