



Information for students taking A Level Geography at Latymer

Hoping to study Geography at A Level? Congratulations on picking a very important subject; Geography plays a crucial role in understanding our world. It makes a vital contribution to our knowledge of the rapidly changing environmental and social challenges facing us and how we should tackle them. It is a subject that is multi-disciplined in its skills and bridges both the sciences and humanities. It also is a preferred subject by the Russell group universities. This document aims at supporting the transition from GCSE to a successful A Level student.

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 studying people and landscapes; it is also the relationships that exist between people and their environment.

There are lots of things you can do to develop your wider geographical understanding, which can then help you to make more links. All of these are optional, but the more you engage with the content, the better your understanding of the world will be, and the better the geographer!

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

Geography BOOKS- lots in the Latymer Library

- **1 Prisoners of Geography**
Tim Marshall
Splitting the world into 10 distinct regions suggests our key political driver continues to be our physical geography. It includes why China and India will never fall into conflict. One of the best books about geopolitics you could imagine!
- **2 Factfulness**
Hans Rosling
A radical new explanation of why we systematically get the answers to questions about development, revealing ten instincts that distort our perspective. Sweeps aside our worst instincts and makes the world a sunnier place.
- **3 The Almighty Dollar**
Dharshini David
Follows \$1 from a shopping trip in Texas, via China's central bank, Nigerian railroads, the oilfields of Iraq and beyond to reveal the complex relationships of our new globalised world.
- **4 Connectography**
Parag Mehta
A guide through the emerging global network civilization in which megacities compete over connectivity and borders are increasingly irrelevant. Shows how a new foundation of connectivity is pulling together a world that appears to be falling apart.
- **5 Divided**
Tim Marshall
There are many reasons why we erect walls, because we are divided in many ways: wealth, race, religion, politics. Understanding what has divided us, past and present, is essential to understanding much of what's going on in the world today.
- **6 Off the Map**
Alastair Bonnett
From forgotten enclaves to floating islands, from hidden villages to New York gutter spaces, this book charts the hidden corners of our planet. Topophilia, the love of place, is a fundamental part of what it is to be human.
- **7 The Silk Roads**
Peter Frankopan
Our understanding of the world is shaped by the narrow focus on western Europe and the US. An antidote to Eurocentric accounts of the world, examining several continents and centuries and the factors that influenced the flow of goods and ideas.
- **8 Worth Dying For**
Tim Marshall
The histories, the power and the politics of the symbols that unite and divide us. We wave them and burn them and still, in the 21st century, we die for them. We need to understand the symbols that people are rallying around.
- **9 Adventures in the Anthropocene**
Gala Vince
Our planet is said to be crossing into the Age of Humans. This book sees what life is really like for people on the frontline of the planet we've made, from artificial glaciers to electrified reefs.
- **10 10 Billion**
Stephen Emmott
It's about our future: failure as individuals, the failure of business and the failure of our politicians. It is about an unprecedented planetary emergency. It's about the future of us.
- **11 The Bottom Billion**
Paul Collier
Explains four traps that prevent the homelands of the world's billion poorest people from growing and receiving the benefits of globalization - civil war, natural resources, being landlocked and ineffective governance.
- **12 10 Billion**
Danny Dorling
Explores how we got to 10 billion and the key issues that we face in the coming decades including how to deal with scarcity of resources and how our cities will grow and how we should prepare for population decline.
- **13 Peoplequake**
Fred Pearce
The population bomb is being defused. Half the world's women are having two children or fewer and within a generation, the world's population will be falling, and we will all be getting very old. This book confronts our demographic demons.
- **14 This is the Way the World Ends**
Jeff Nesbit
Our world is in trouble - right now. This book tells the real stories of the substantial impacts to Earth's systems unfolding across each continent from longer droughts in the Middle East to the monsoon season shrinking in India. A blueprint for real-time, workable solutions we can tackle together.

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.

Geography DOCUMENTARIES

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>
- 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>
- Earth from Space – episode 4 The Changing Planet (BBC iPlayer) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p072n8m0/earth-from-space-series-1-4-changing-planet>

Geography TASKS

Complete some of these optional tasks to start thinking synoptically.

Create a personal geography map of your own area - include photographs, personal reflections and places of importance (Changing Places).	Watch one documentary on Climate Change - Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary. (Water and Carbon Cycles).	Effectively managing a world Pandemic needs effective global governance. Discuss this viewpoint. (Global systems and Global Governance).
In 300 words, explain what 'geography' means to you.	Produce a mind map or poster of the multi- hazard area of Haiti (Hazards).	Listen to a geography Podcast of your choice. Summarise your findings as bullet points on 2-3 slides as a presentation, with your own OPINION on the matter.
Read up on news articles related to Corona Virus and the environment. Write a letter to the prime minister explaining the impact it has had on the environment and lessons to be learnt after the pandemic. (W&CC and Global Governance)	Read about coastal systems, and summarise on 1 side of A4.	Summer Binge on a Geography Book or video series of your choice. Use the links above as a starter point. Try and ensure there are some links to the course though! Could you discuss with another future Geographer.

We hope you have found this useful as a (very good) start to your A Level course. The advantage you will have by beginning these good habits now and completing pre course work will be huge. At A Level the more you put in, the more you will get out; and certainly a better grade!