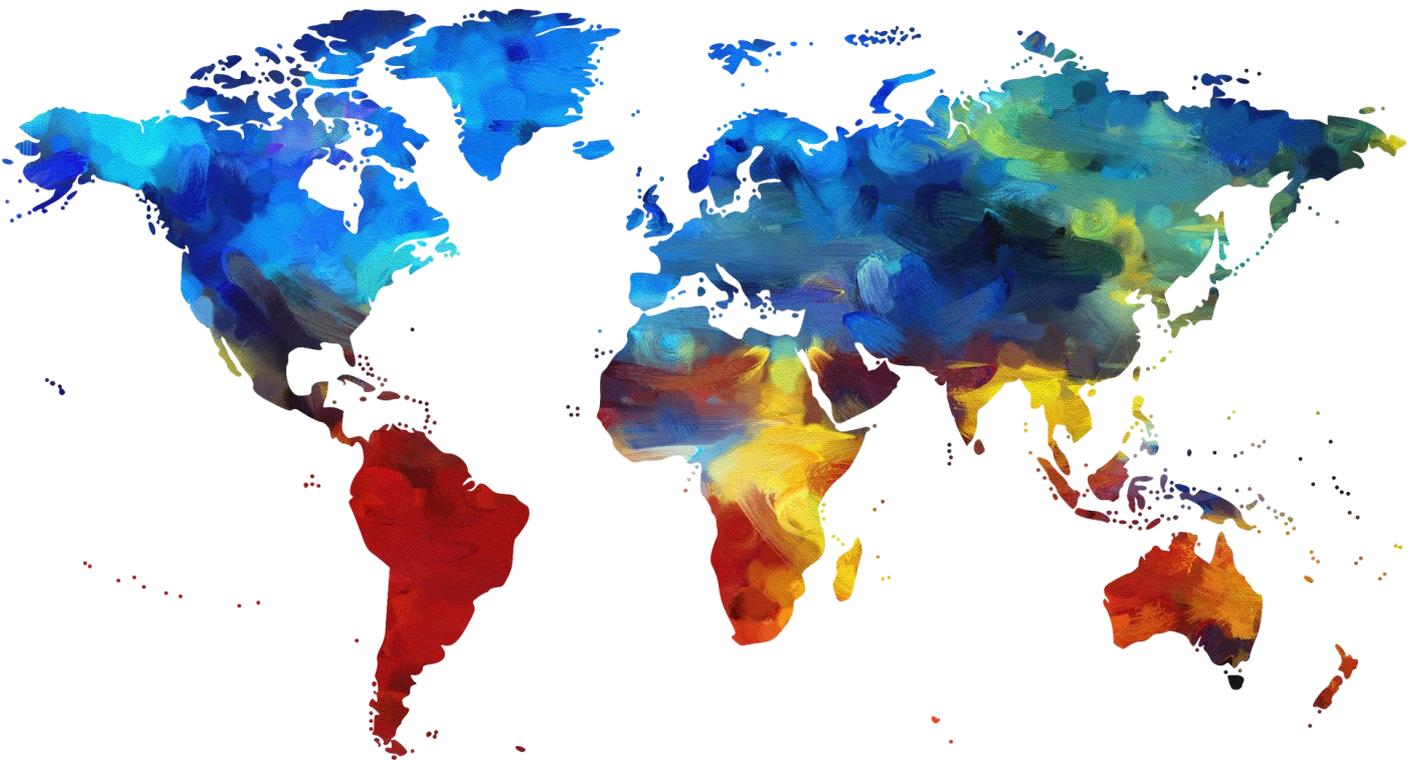


# Preparing for A Level Geography At Okehampton College



This is a document that details the specification, possible textbooks, additional reading and other online sources you can use to prepare yourself for studying A-level with us (or elsewhere) next year. We will also be preparing tasks for you to complete that will help you with course content and the skills required to be a successful A-Level Geographer.

If you have any questions about the A Level or how it is taught at Okehampton, then please let us know by contacting us via email:

Mrs. Doxford [ldoxford@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ldoxford@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)  
Mr. Gurney [mgurney@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mgurney@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk)

## WHAT WILL I STUDY IN MY A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY COURSE:

We study the Edexcel B syllabus for A Level. You can download the full A Level Geography Specification from Edexcel here: <https://bit.ly/2XqRjVj>

In a nutshell the two-year course looks like this:

YEAR:	Dynamic Landscapes	Dynamic Places
12	<b>Topic 1:</b> Tectonic Processes and Hazards <b>Topic 2:</b> Landscape Systems, Processes and Change- Coastal Landscapes and Change	<b>Topic 3:</b> Globalisation <b>Topic 4:</b> Shaping Places –4A Regenerating Places
	Physical Systems and Sustainability	Human Systems and Geopolitics
13	<b>Topic 5:</b> The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity <b>Topic 6:</b> The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security	<b>Topic 7:</b> Superpowers <b>Topic 8:</b> Global Development and Connections –8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention

### Assessment Objectives:

**AO1** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change, at a variety of scales

**AO2** Apply knowledge and understanding in different contexts to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues

**AO3** Use a variety of relevant quantitative, qualitative and fieldwork skills to investigate geographical questions and issues, interpret, analyse and evaluate data and evidence, construct arguments and draw conclusions.

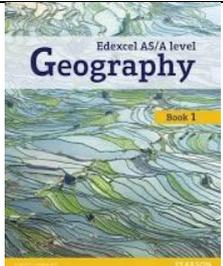
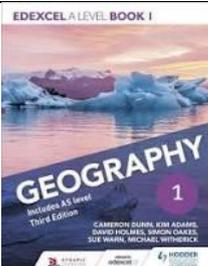
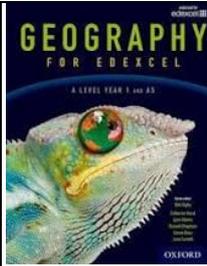
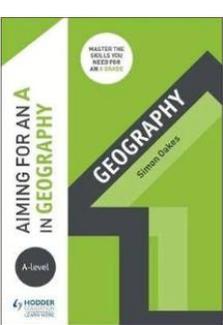
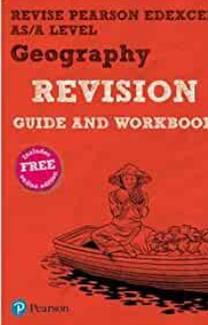
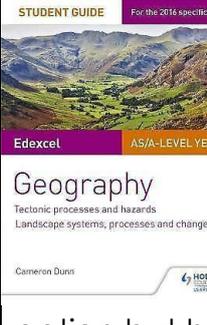
This will break down into the following examination structure:

<b>Paper 1</b> Assessment of Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems and Sustainability	 2 hours and 15 minutes	30% contribution to A level qualification Total marks <b>105</b>
<b>Paper 2</b> Assessment of Dynamic Places and Human Systems and Geopolitics	 2 hours and 15 minutes	30% contribution to A level qualification Total marks <b>105</b>
<b>Paper 3</b> Synoptic investigation of a contemporary geographical issue	 2 hours and 15 minutes	20% contribution to A level qualification Total marks <b>70</b>
<b>Coursework</b> <b>Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)</b> A level Independent Investigation	 Recommended word count 3000–4000 words	20% contribution to A level qualification Total marks <b>70</b>

It's worthwhile noting at this stage that the Geography A Level is 20% coursework, which is an independent investigation- you decide the topic (as long as its in the syllabus) so this is something you can start researching now!

## RECOMMENDED SUPPORT SOURCES:

We provide textbooks to use during lessons, but some students choose to buy their own copies so that they could use them at home- useful at the moment and in light of any potential future disruption. We mostly use the first textbook listed below, but the second textbook is the best option to give you a range of sources. They can be purchased for a fraction of the price on eBay. Now is a good time to get one as students across the country are selling them!!

	<p>Class Textbook: <b>Pearson A-Level Geography</b></p>		<p>Textbook: <b>Hodder Year 1 A Level Geography</b></p>		<p>Textbook: <b>OUP AS/A-Level Geography</b> This one is little more accessible than our class textbook and has good case studies.</p>
	<p>Skills and Exam Technique: <b>Aiming for an A in A-Level Geography</b></p>		<p>Student Revision Guides: <b>Pearson (available on Kindle for £1.90)</b></p>		<p>Student guides and workbooks: <b>Edexcel A-Level Geography x4</b> Cheapest option but have to buy one for each unit.</p>

## What else could I do to prepare for my A-Level studies?

One of the best things you can do to prepare for A-Levels is to get reading! This is something that should continue throughout your studies at sixth form and beyond! It's not just the content that can help broaden your geographical knowledge, but also the development of your vocabulary!

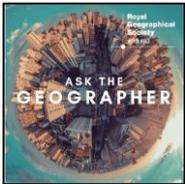
## Online Articles and podcasts:



### **National Geographic Magazine**

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/>

Read some of the articles and essays that have featured in some of the National Geographic publications. These are great to read online as often have interactive resources.



### **Royal Geographical Society – ‘Ask the Geographer’**

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>

A fascinating and varied series of podcasts that cover a wide range of geographical issues with the most up to date case studies



### **‘Isn’t that Spatial’**

<https://isntthatspatial.net/episodes>

A podcast series that looked at some interesting aspects of the geography and interconnections between spaces



### **80 Days – ‘An Exploration Podcast’**

<https://80dayspodcast.com/>

Explores little-known countries, territories and cities around the world- lead by three geography nerds.



### **Foreign Policy – ‘Global Thinkers’**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/tag/global-thinkers-podcast/>

Series to learn about how particular individuals around the world are influencing global trends, issues and events.



### **‘The Lost Geographer’**

<https://www.thelostgeographer.org/podcast.html>

Learn facts and interesting information about different countries with the unfiltered truth hearing it directly from the source

## Geographical Websites:

For many, this period will be an important time to prepare for A level studies, either from September 2020 or in some cases even sooner. These websites have been designed to help students ‘get ahead’ and to prepare themselves for the transition to advanced level studies.

### **The Geographical Association’s ‘Geography from Home’**

<https://www.geography.org.uk/Preparing-for-A-level-geography>

This web section from the GA provides general guidance on why you should study A level geography. It also contains extensive reading lists arranged by physical and human geography themes to help students find the most relevant and authoritative reading material in preparation for advanced study.

## **Royal Canadian Geographical Society's Online Classroom**

<https://onlineclassroom.cangeoeducation.ca>

Every week, new activities and resources will be shared to make learning from home, or teaching at a distance, easy and fun. Come back regularly to see what's been added. We highly recommend the soon to begin 'The Anthropocene Education Programme'.

## **The Royal Geographical Society's 'Geography at Home'**

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/geography-at-home/>

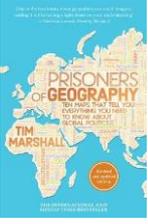
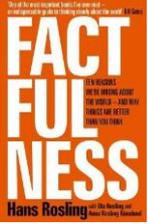
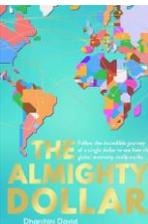
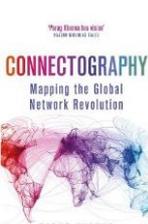
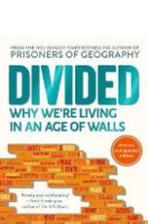
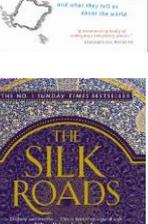
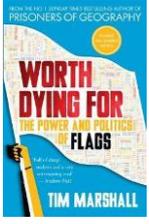
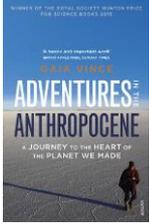
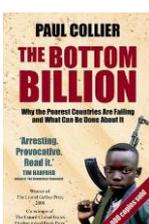
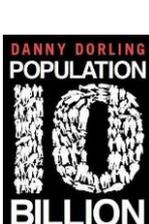
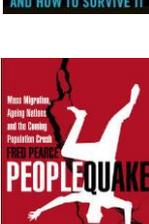
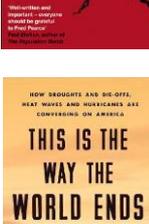
This page provides an overview of the Society's support and resources, whilst highlighting other online geography-related learning opportunities that you might find useful. We particularly love their online lecture catalogue along with their NEA guidance which is something you will start to think about towards the end of year 12.

## **Dynamic Earth Online**

<https://www.dynamicearth.co.uk/learning/dynamicearthonline>

Dynamic Earth will be sharing a series of fun and thought-provoking content that will range from hands-on experiments that you can carry out at home, through to fascinating insights about the history of our planet and the science behind climate change.

# Geographical Books- lots of these are available as kindle/online versions:

- 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 Khanna  
A guide through the emerging global network civilisation in which megacities complete 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 21<sup>st</sup> century, we die for them. We need to understand the symbols that people are rallying around.
- 9  **Adventures in the Anthropocene**  
Gaia 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 failure: 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 globalisation - civil war, natural resources, being landlocks 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.

## Geographical Films & Documentaries:

If you are in need of some respite from your latest book or Geographical podcast, why not spend some down time with one of the following documentaries or films? Instead of watching re-runs of Friends or keeping up with Joe Exotic on Tiger King, make sure you are making use of your chill time by watching something geographical.



### Available on BBC iPlayer

Looking at the 'Science and Nature Documentaries' on iPlayer bring up a range of amazing programmes, including those listed below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/categories/documentaries-science-and-nature/a-z>

- **David Attenborough Box Sets** – there are 9 amazing boxsets available including Planet Earth II, Blue Planet II and One Planet, Seven Worlds
- **Any thing with Simon Reeve in it!**- Mrs. D's personal favourite!
- **Earth's Tropical Islands**
- **Equator**
- **Meat: A threat to our planet?**



### Available on ITV Hub

Looking at the 'Factual' on ITV Hub brings up a range of programmes, many of which have a geographical element.

<https://www.itv.com/hub/categories/factual>

- **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>



### Available on All4

Looking at the 'Documentaries' and 'News and Current Affairs' on All4 brings up a range of programmes, including those listed below.

<https://www.channel4.com/categories/documentaries>

<https://www.channel4.com/categories/news-current-affairs-and-politics>

- When the Immigrants Leave (Dispatches) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>
- China's Lonely Hearts (Unreported World) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/56011-011>
- The world's dirtiest river (Unreported world) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/58399-001>
- Forests of Fear (Unreported World) - <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-006>
- Hurricane Hell (Unreported World) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-007>

- The World's Dirtiest Air (Unreported World)  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/6719>

### Available on YouTube



YouTube has some excellent channels that show a range of interesting documentaries, some examples of which are listed below. But a quick search for a documentary on a particular subject will probably bring you a huge number of things to watch (just watch out for fake news!!)

- **National Geographic Channel**  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NationalGeographic/videos>
- **Wonder Why Channel**  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/WonderWhy7439/videos>
- **Real Life Lore**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP5tjEmvPltGyLhmidwP7Ww/videos>



### Available on Netflix

Netflix is a paid subscription service, but if you do have access to Netflix there are a number of excellent programmes and documentaries. Some examples are listed below

- **Virunga**
- **You Laugh, But It's True**
- **Great Barrier Reef**
- **Blackfish**
- **Oceans**
- **Chasing Coral**
- **Cowspiracy**
- **Rotten**
- **Into the Inferno**
- **The True Cost**
- **City of Joy**
- **Before the Flood**
- **Standing Tall**
- **What Happened to Monday**
- **Explained** – some episodes include Can We Live Forever, Why Women Are Paid Less, The World's Water Crisis, The Next Pandemic and The Future of Meat.

## And Finally...

### Competitions:

This is a great way to prepare for A levels and will look great on any job or UCAS application. It's also a great motivator for you right now as there is potentially a prize at the end! We've gathered a list of student writing contests with a geographical twist. Myself and Mr. Gurney will be happy to support you with your entry. Furthermore, essays and competitions are a great way to explore your subject of interest in greater depth and allows you to develop and experience independent study skills which are needed in order to do well at A level and university.

### **The Royal Geographical Society's: Young Geographer of the Year Competition**

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/>

The Young Geographer competition, run by the Royal Geographical Society and Journal 'Geographical', has been running for over 20 years and in 2019 over 15,000 young people took part. This year's Young Geographer of the Year competition gives young people the chance to explore the potential that geography holds. The competition this year is asking young people to explore their wider geographical horizons by providing entries to explore the geography of 'The world beyond my window'.

**We strongly advise you enter this particular competition, particularly as an A Level Geographer and somebody who may be considering Geography at University. We are more than happy to support your entries.** Deadline is the 30<sup>th</sup> June

### **Lucy Cavendish Essay Prize on Contemporary Issues – University of Cambridge**

[https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-](https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/Lucy%20Cavendish%20Essay%20Prize%20in%20Contemporary%20Issues%202020_0.pdf)

[files/Lucy%20Cavendish%20Essay%20Prize%20in%20Contemporary%20Issues%202020\\_0.pdf](https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/inline-files/Lucy%20Cavendish%20Essay%20Prize%20in%20Contemporary%20Issues%202020_0.pdf)

The Lucy Cavendish Essay gives you the choice of 4 contemporary titles to address in 1000- 1500 words. With a cash prize pot of £200 and the lure of digging your teeth into a hot global topic, this isn't an essay to be missed!

### **The Bank of England & Financial Times School Blog Competition**

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/competitions/ftblog/school-blog-2019-2020>

The Bank of England in partnership with the Financial Times invite school and college students, aged between 16 and 19, to send a blog of up to 500 words on this year's theme: the economy and climate change. Whilst this term's competition has closed, they are released on a termly basis. Keep your eyes peeled!