

Phoenix –From GCSE to A-level Geography

You have now completed your GCSE in Geography and you may be hoping to study Geography at A level? Or interested in just furthering your knowledge of Geography post the GCSEs? Either way I hope you'll find one or two of the links in this pack interesting.

There are a number of things you can do between now and A-levels:

- **Develop as a geographer** – by reading geographical books/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc
The geography subject knowledge you have will naturally develop, plus you'll improve your knowledge of the world you'll be growing up into.
- **Become a News Buff-** Watch the news- BBC news between 6am-9am or at 6pm. Listen to it on a smart speaker: Alexa dot or Goggle home. 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? This could be simple just what happened, where and when. Droughts and Wildfires as well as hurricane season are coming up over the summer. You could also look at the geography of Covid-19.
- **Prepare for the A Level Course-** Start to explore the topics (I have included notes on these at within this document) explore key ideas we will be covering in this course. Subscribe to YouTubers such as 'the curious geographer' which specifically cover A-level Geography.

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 exist between people and their environment. You can develop your understanding of Geography easily through just being aware of what is going on in the news.

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. I hope you enjoy some of them. My personal favourites are, RGS podcasts, Curious geographer YouTube, Manc's in Mumbai and Race across the world. I am sure you will find something to help you enjoy.

PODCASTS: Now is the time to broaden your geographical understanding! Stick your headphones in and listen to some of the following...

- **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:

Remember you can make use of the local libraries digital library service for books – you don't have to access hard copies.

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
- **Factfulness: Ten reasons we're wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think** by H Rosling (2019) – this is a must-read book from a geography perspective – this takes a more realistic view of the world, presenting issues in fact-based context. It is a rational look at actually how far the world has measurably improved and what's left to be done.
- **Six Degrees by Mark Lynas** – a scary walkthrough of the impacts of Climate Change as world temperatures increase by 1 degree through to 6 degrees.
- **Divided by Tim Marshall** – his follow-up to Prisoners of Geography – a great book which explains how & why the world is becoming more divided and how countries are putting up barriers. Very relevant to events in Europe (Brexit), the US (Trump) and the Coronavirus situation.
- **Adventures in the Anthropocene (Vince, G) (2016)** – this looks at the effects that humans are having on the surface and structure of the planet with a balanced view on recognising threats and dangers whilst also look for practical answers and solutions.



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:

- **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>
- **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.
- **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>
- **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>

The following are available on ITV HUB:

- **Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai** <https://www.itv.com/hub/absolutely-india-mancs-in-mumbai/2a6811>

The following are all available on Channel 4 – On Demand:

- **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>
- **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>
- **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/67193-002>
- **The week Britain Froze (Dispatches)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/66548-007>

Geography on NETFLIX, AMAZON Prime, DVD or YOUTUBE:

- [Touching the Void \(15\)](#) (great for visualising glacial landscapes) – a powerful true story docudrama (strong language in parts)
- [Before the Flood \(2016\) \(PG\)](#) – National Geographic <https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/before-the-flood-2016/> (presented by Leonardo DiCaprio – exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.
- [The Impossible \(2012\) \(12\)](#) – Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.
- [Slumdog Millionaire \(15\)](#) – based on life in the slums of Mumbai
- [Our Planet \(Netflix series\)](#) – explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.
- Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (12) – an epic which celebrates the journey of Nelson Mandela from childhood in a rural village through to his election as President of South Africa. This explores what happened in South Africa with regards to apartheid and Black opposition through the eyes of Nelson Mandela.
- [Hotel Rwanda \(12\)](#) - the true story of hotel manager who houses and protects Tutsi refugees – this is a hard-hitting film based on the Rwandan Conflict of the 1990s. • [The Last King of Scotland \(15\)](#) – another hard-hitting story, based on struggles faced by Uganda under the dictatorship of Idi Amin.
- [Into the Wild \(2007\) \(15\)](#) – based on the story of a university graduate who gives up all of his material possessions and journeys alone into the Alaskan Wilderness.
- [Blood Diamond](#) – Looks at the diamond trade in Sierre Leone, the impacts on local people of western exploitation.
- [Deepwater Horizon \(2016\) \(12\)](#) This looks at an off-shore oil rig disaster, which created environmental impacts and political and business challenges. Good for understanding global governance issues.
- [An Inconvenient Truth and An Inconvenient Sequel](#). This follows Al Gore on the lecture circuit as he seeks to raise awareness about Climate Change.

Geography in the News

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 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.

What does the A Level Course look like at Phoenix?

At A Level, we follow the AQA specification. You will have two exams; one physical exam and one human exam, and one Non-Examined Assessment- essentially a 3000-4000 word piece of coursework.

Physical Exam-Mrs Sullivan	Human Exam- Mr Price and Mrs Adu-Boateng	NEA-Mrs Adu-Boateng
This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks	This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks	This is an independent enquiry meaning that it is driven by you. It's a bit like a piece of coursework which you decide for yourself what you would like to investigate.
Water and Carbon (36 marks)	Global Governance (36 marks)	
Coastal Environments (36 marks)	Changing Places (36 marks)	
Hazards (48 marks)	Resource Security (48 marks)	You will be taken out on fieldwork as part of this.

If you would like to purchase a book specific to A-level Geography to help you get ahead even further, I can highly recommend.

Need to know, *keyfacts at your fingertips*-AQA A-level Geography by David Redfern for Hodder.

RRP £8.99 ISBN 978-1-5104-2848-5