

Transition from GCSE to A Level Geography at Higham Lane Sixth Form

Aiming to study Geography at A level? What a great choice! Here's where you can start

There are a number of things you can do:

1. **Developing as a geographer** – through general reading around/watching videos on our **HLS Geog Youtube** site <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHWRWkIFFCVmfelT9A3Uw/> and our YouTube padlet <https://padlet.com/HLSGeog/tq9w04vixs90k3ol> guide to improve your knowledge and understanding of this great subject. Plus our dedicated website **HLS Geog** <https://www.hlsgeog.rocks/> too!
2. **Stay in touch with the world around us**- Watch the news- BBC or Sky news 6pm or 10pm. Or download the BBC or Sky news app. View online newspapers like The Guardian, The Independent, The Times. Why not 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**- visit the Edexcel A Level Geography website and explore the topics in which you will be studying <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>

To be a great geographer, you will need to develop the ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview on 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: try our podcast padlet first <https://padlet.com/HLSGeog/gjcl5i7h14pi> or look at the links below

- **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. Some ideas are below or click on our padlet <https://padlet.com/HLSGeog/r8mqlkzoo2yq>

- **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.
- **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.

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 BBC IPLAYER:

- **David Attenborough Box Sets**- there are 9 amazing boxsets available on BBC 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> Episode 1 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>
- **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>
- **Kevin McLeod rough guide to the Future** - Channel 4 - 3 episodes, <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/kevin-mcclouds-rough-guide-to-the-future/episode-guide/>

GEOGRAPHY ON NETFLIX, DVD or YOUTUBE (don't forget HSLGeog YouTube account and padlet!!):

- **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 <https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/before-the-flood-2016/>
- **Our Planet Netflix Series** - Explores how climate change impacts all living creatures <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/80049832>
- **Blood Diamond** - Another Leonardo DiCaprio film looks at the diamond trade in Sierra Leone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yknlZsvQjG4>
- **An inconvenient truth** - follows Al Gore on the lecture circuit as he seeks to raise awareness about Climate Change <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0497116/>

So what does the A Level Course look like at Higham Lane Sixth Form?

At A Level, we follow the EDEXCEL specification. You will have three exam papers; one Physical, one Human and one Synoptic. Plus one Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) - essentially a 3000-4000 word piece of fieldwork based coursework.

Paper 1: Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems and Sustainability	Paper 2: Dynamic Places and Human Systems and Geopolitics	Paper 3: <u>Synoptic Investigation</u>	<u>NEA</u>
<p>Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks</p> <p><i>Tectonic Processes and Hazards</i></p> <p><i>Coastal Landscapes and Change</i></p> <p><i>The Water Cycle and Water</i></p> <p><i>The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security</i></p> <p>The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions</p>	<p>Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 30% of the qualification 105 marks</p> <p><i>Globalisation</i></p> <p><i>Regenerating Places</i></p> <p><i>Superpowers</i></p> <p><i>Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</i></p> <p>The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions</p>	<p>Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes 20% of the qualification 70 marks</p> <p>The specification contains three synoptic themes:</p> <p>Players</p> <p>Attitudes and actions</p> <p>Futures and uncertainties.</p> <p>The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context</p> <p>A resource booklet will contain information about the geographical issue.</p>	<p>Non-examined assessment 20% of the qualification 70 marks</p> <p>This is an independent enquiry meaning that it is driven by you.</p> <p>You will need to formulate a title and hypotheses from a topic that is studied on the EDEXCEL specification. You will then need to come up with methods to test your hypotheses, you will collect your own data and then present, analyse, conclude and evaluate your investigation.</p> <p>You will be taken out on 2 separate fieldwork work trips to prep you for this. In Norfolk and Northumberland in Year 12</p>

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 the world. Focus on the 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 Business, Science, UK, WORLD and other stores
- **THE CONVERSATION:** <https://theconversation.com/uk> - Up to date articles from academics and specialists. These are short articles to keep you up to date important world issues

Pre Reading:

There many articles in our Further Reading website. Click on the link and complete a review on one of the articles for each topic use this link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1t8B-vbKtOg-IN9YDMcdKYCFCIBMCRFp3EWiFfs-0BM/edit>

Water cycle and water security

- https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fsUtsxC6Z0uLBwHCvyLz3yz-Gu4_exiwKttGDrJf2UU

Carbon and energy security

- <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1L2OAwakuSeyc3xSDmtyDypdq-2hPX8vCGpRUgYSv-10>

Coasts:

- <https://padlet.com/HLSGeog/yr4ma6o147q4>

Tectonic Hazards:

- https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Hco1ZBa_ZTNtyA8S9rDJ3NMOpcE0f63h4v0B42Ue1oY

Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

- <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UgA4pe1IzjLYR3uMqrWUggn8lg7WrmkydpPIUikTiQ>

Regenerating Places

- https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CyZWGBtP2S2Rcvcz8whVVRPMHEv15apQ_5SrwyrluK0

Optional tasks over those long summer days – One per week?

<p>Create a personal geography map of your of Nuneaton - include photographs, personal reflections and how it may change in the future (Regenerating Places)</p>	<p>Watch one documentary on Climate Change- Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00049b1 Carbon and energy</p>	<p>Read the essential notes on (Superpowers) https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/Edexcel/7-Superpowers/Essential%20Notes%20-%20Superpowers%20-%20Edexcel%20Geography%20A-level.pdf Use a timeline to show explain how superpowers have changed over time</p>
<p>Read Birmingham’s ‘Big City Plan’- produce a summary on the plan ahead https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/planning_strategies_and_policies/298/big_city_plan (Regenerating Places)</p>	<p>Read the geofile on Globalisation and migration https://sp.highhamlaneschool.co.uk/SixthForm/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc={53D4ACBC-3DDD-4922-9D31-8EA53D6AF360}&file=EQ1%20L1%20GeoFile-Globalisation.pdf&action=default Migration, Identity and Sovereignty</p>	<p>Produce a mind map of the multi- tectonic hazards in Japan (Hazards)</p>
<p>In one typed side of A4, explain what ‘geography’ means to you.</p>	<p>Read the Geofile on Coastal processes- to understand the different processes that create different landforms and summarise on 1 side of A4 paper. (Coasts)</p>	<p>Water as a resource is the most fought over commodity. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Read an article from Water Cycle and Water Conflicts from resource security to help your answer. (Water Security)</p>

There are also plenty of ‘Wider Courses’ that you can complete to strengthen your knowledge and enjoyment of Geography. Just click on our padlet <https://padlet.com/HLSGeog/1m35bposmmsx> and give one a go!!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SEPTEMBER

MR TURLEY, MRS CLEMPSON, MR COUGHLIN AND MR BLANKLEY THE HLSGEOG TEAM!