

Geography A-level at Heart of England School

Welcome to A-level Geography!

A-level geography is a wide and varied subject, having a good knowledge of current affairs and the world around you is an excellent start to your studies, and there are many opportunities you can take to increase your confidence and understanding.

The syllabus covered is outlined here:

- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037/specification-at-a-glance>

Topics include:

- Water and carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards
- Global systems and global governance
- Changing Places
- Contemporary urban environments

Geography is a synoptic subject so even though we teach specific topics there are many connections and links between the topics as well as to our day to day lives. A well informed geographer will be able to make these synoptic links much easier.

Background research

To help you to engage as a geographer have a look at some of the following websites, programmes, podcasts, books and even films that will help you engage with geography and inspire your continued interest.

Possible news websites

- <http://theconversation.com/uk>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>: Focus on the Environment, Society, Global Development and Science sections

Save the link to relevant stories or write a short summary considering how the article connects to our A-level geography.

Podcasts to consider:

Global news podcast – a short summary of the current global news from the BBC world service. Useful if you'd prefer to listen to your news than read it!

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0gn/episodes/downloads>

The Royal Geographical Society's ask the geographer series has a great range of useful and insightful podcasts for you to access.

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

Blue Planet II has a podcast. The final episode, considering the links between humans and the environment has the best geographical links.

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p05qhmfw>

The BBC has a number of podcasts that connect well to aspects of the course: 'From our own correspondent'

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qjlq/episodes/player> and

'The documentary podcast'

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads>

are both great of delving into for interesting global stories and perspectives. (By their nature, they are far reaching so pick something that interests you!)

Magazines to read



Geographical magazine – an excellent resource that is available to buy or you can access some of the articles on their website:

<https://geographical.co.uk/>

<https://worldmapper.org/> is a great website that is featured in the Geographical Magazine. It is a way to see the world differently, looking for patterns and links between location and other aspects of geography.

Books to read:

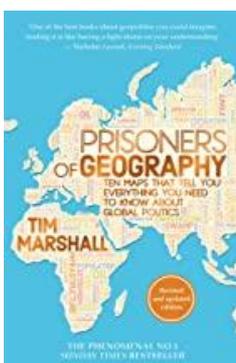
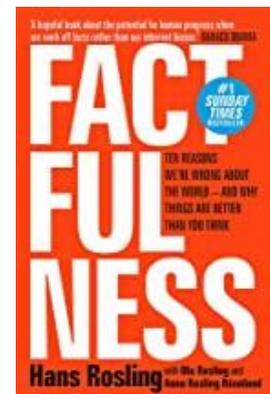
Factfulness by Hans Rosling. A great book to get you thinking about the "facts" we know about the world and how we use them.

Have a look at the website linked to this too:

<https://www.gapminder.org/> and take the gapminder test – what do you really know about the world.

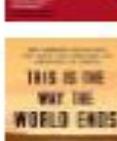
You may have looked at dollar street in lower school geography:

<https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street> a great way to visually compare people around the world



Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall. This is a book that puts the geography of places first and uses it to help us understand some of the current geopolitical issues around the world.

Other geographically linked books are listed below:

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|----|---|--|
| 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! | 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 st century, we die for them. We need to understand the symbols that people are rallying around. |
| 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. | 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. |
| 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 globalized world. | 10 |  | 10 Billion
Stephen Emmott
It's about our future: future as individuals, the future of business and the failure of our politicians. It is about an unprecedented planetary emergency. It's about the future of us. |
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

Suggested watching:

Simon Reeve has produced excellent programmes about almost all areas of the world and they are available on BBC iplayer. Choose a region and watch a series! There are always links to global systems and global governance as well as often links to coastal landscapes, urban environments and changing places.

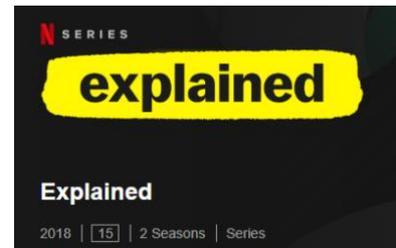
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01y0fx9/australia-with-simon-reeve-episode-1>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p02I5269/caribbean-with-simon-reeve-episode-1>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00792qj/equator-1-africa>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p00pqbfj/indian-ocean-with-simon-reeve-1-south-africa-to-zanzibar>

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0bqn4g1/mediterranean-with-simon-reeve-series-1-episode-4>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b099127q/russia-with-simon-reeve-series-1-episode-3>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b03sr67n/this-world-the-coffee-trail-with-simon-reeve>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00r15t5/tropic-of-cancer-with-simon-reeve-1-mexico-to-the-bahamas>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0094l8y/tropic-of-capricorn-4-chile-to-brazil>

Explained on Netflix. These are documentaries covering a wide range of topics from the documentary makers at Vox.

- <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/80216752>

Good ones to watch that link to our geography course include The World's Water Crisis, The Racial Wealth Gap, Diamonds, The Future of Meat.



Cowspiracy. A documentary discussing farmings impact on the planets natural resources. Links into water and carbon cycles as well as global governance.

- <https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/80033772>

Seaspiracy. A controversial documentary about the impact the fishing industry has on our oceans. Great links to water and carbon cycles and global governance.

- <https://www.netflix.com/title/81014008>

Frozen Planet and **Planet Earth** series have good episodes that connect people and their environments:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00zj39j/frozen-planet-7-on-thin-ice> and
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0861m8b/planet-earth-ii-6-cities>

Kevin McCloud's Rough Guide to the Future considers a range of geographical issues from waste management to farming and food production.

- <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/kevin-mcclouds-rough-guide-to-the-future/episode-guide/>

There are a number of documentaries that link to **climate change**:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p07fvjfs/extinction-rebellion-last-chance-to-save-the-world>, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p083tb16/dirty-streaming-the-internets-big-secret>.

A look at **urban areas** and where we live:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p01rk56y/where-we-live-now-3-new-town-home-town>, as well as
- **changing places** <https://www.my5.tv/london-2000-years-of-history/season-1>,
- **Natural hazards** feature in many documentaries: <https://www.my5.tv/decoding-the-weather-machine/season-1/episode-1>, <https://www.my5.tv/kilauea-hawaii-on-fire/season-1>

Just an understanding of our earth from space is a useful perspective!

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p072n7v7/earth-from-space-series-1-2-patterned-planet>

Any reading, listening or watching you complete, try to make observations about what you have learnt from the source. Are there any connections to your other geographical knowledge? Also consider if there is a bias – is there a purpose or agenda to the information?

Fill in the grid below to help you as you increase your geographical knowledge!

Source of information:	Date of production
Overview/Summary of key points:	
Possible links to A-level geography:	
Links to other sources:	
Possible bias?	

Your view?

Focused overviews of the topics of the course can be found here:

- Water and carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037/subject-content/physical-geography>

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing Places
- Contemporary urban environments

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037/subject-content/human-geography>

Further study

There are courses available via the Open University and Future Learn that could be of interest.

Don't forget – look around you! Geography is everywhere and is all about understanding the world in which we live; that includes what is just outside your window.