

PREPARING FOR A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY:



THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE



YOUR A LEVEL STARTS HERE...

Welcome to the Definitive Guide to A Level Preparation and what a treat we have in store for you! Let us take you through the purposes of this guide and what you can expect from it.

What is the purpose of this guide?

This guide has been designed to help you 'get ahead' and prepare for the transition to advanced level. More importantly, it provides hundreds, if not thousands of opportunities to further engage with the wonderful subject of geography!

How should I use it?

Imagine it as a geographical pick n mix if you will! You can choose the activities which best suit your learning style, geographical interests, and time commitments.



There is a lot to choose from here, how many activities should I choose?

We recommend you pace yourself throughout this guide. Don't try and do everything at once. Different activities take different amounts of time. For example, some MOOCs can last between 8-12 weeks. Creating a timetable or designating a set amount of time per day will help maintain structure and focus.



Should I keep a record of the activities I complete?

Absolutely! Not only is this going to give you a head start into the A Level but they will be invaluable for future UCAS applications (whether you are applying for a geography degree or not!) Make sure you keep a log of what you read, watch, write and take part in and be sure to tell the department!



Geography @ Home

There are so many ways to stay engaged with geography between now and your return to school in September. We have compiled a list of our top websites, online newsrooms, podcasts, online courses, journals, documentaries, films and even Netflix shows to keep you engaged with geography and develop your geographical understanding ahead of your A Level.

1. ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES AND JOURNALS



Geographical <https://exacteditions.com/login>

Established in 1935, Geographical is the official magazine of the Royal Geographical Society and one of the leading magazines in its field with stunning photography, great writing and first-class design. Keep up to date with the world, its people and places through the fascinating articles. As a Dubai College Geography student, you have exclusive, unlimited access to the online archive which dates back to 1935. Access it by following the link above, select library card and then enter with your school code: 757506 Enjoy!

THE CONVERSATION.COM <http://theconversation.com/uk>

You will find this really useful to support many of your A Levels. It provides UpToDate articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising key points in short but insightful articles.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fjoin%2Flicence%2Fd0206fef-65cc-4c41-8ec3-f9724f8f2b21%2Fd0206fef-65cc-4c41-8ec3-f9724f8f2b21&data=02%7C01%7Cben.christopher%40dubaicollege.org%7Cb3159c4ea0084d80a05208d7305b9821%7C5f6c2a344f244858becf5a0469100696%7C0%7C0%7C637031042260076085&data=C%2Biefao%2BVCF91P4M1ftD78BFEVVFc9i8nFuFfXGvs%3D&reserved=0>

Following this link, and registering with your school email, will give you a full subscription to the Financial Times. An invaluable source of economic and geopolitical articles.

BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

An excellent source of UpToDate articles – explore the key headings such as Science, Business, as well as the UK, World and other stories.

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.

2. PODCASTS



Give your eyes a break at a time when your screen time has increased and pop your headphones in instead to broaden your geographical understanding. These podcasts come highly recommended by the department; a departmental favourite is the 'Ask the Geographer' Series.



Costing the Earth – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player>

There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative power, 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 and give them a go!



The Documentary podcast – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads>

From the BBC, these podcasts investigate global development issues and affairs.



The Inquiry – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029399x/episodes/downloads>

BBC podcasts exploring the trends, forces and ideas shaping the world beyond the headlines.



Podcasts from Oxford University School of Geography and the Environment – <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/school-geography-and-environment-podcasts>

These online audio resources consist of lectures, seminars and interviews from the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.



Talks from the Royal Geographical Society

https://www.rgs.org/all/?categories=FreeToView&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn

From microplastics to microfinance, the RGS have released over 50 free geographical talks for you to watch and listen to.

3. ONLINE COURSES



Learning is the best way to stay engaged with the world. Whether you're looking for a new subject, are seeking out a new skill, or are hoping to get ahead of the curve with some preparation for A Level, there are hundreds of online courses available to you.



The Royal Geographical Online Lectures -

https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/?categories=OnlineLecture&utm_source=School+Members&utm_campaign=e21185bae0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_25_09_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bd6329754a-e21185bae0-

This is a comprehensive catalogue of online lectures facilitated by the Royal Geographical Society. Delivered by academics from leading universities in the UK, you will be spoilt for choice. Titles include: Feeding 9 billion, Digital Technology in Africa, Mobile Middle Classes and Air Quality for all?



The Open University – <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

The Open University is the leading university for flexible, distance teaching. As part of their OpenLearn programme, more than 1,000 free courses are available online for you to boost your brain. Courses accommodate a range of expertise and time required for study. Most also come with a free statement of participation on completion. Here are some of our suggestions for the geographically minded (click to be taken to the direct course online): ***Ecology and Ecosystems, Biofuels, Earthquakes, The Frozen Planet, Introduction to Geology, and Water and Human Health.***



Future Learn — <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Future Learn is a convenient online hub for free online courses. They collate loads of courses from top UK and European universities. You can filter your course search by subject, the amount of time you'd like to spend studying a week, and the duration of your course. Most courses have a set start date, but don't worry, you can join and work your way through it after it starts. Future Learn is powered by cutting edge research in education, favouring micro-learning principles and interactivity in education. Our top picks (Click to go directly to them):: ***Ecology and Wildlife Conservation – University of Leeds, Come Rain or Shine: Understanding the Weather – University of Reading, Exploring Our Ocean – University of Southampton.***



Open Yale Courses — <https://oyc.yale.edu/>

Yale provide free and open access to a selection of introductory courses taught by the university's highly esteemed scholars. Each course comes with high-quality, downloadable lecture videos, as well as suggested readings and problem sets. Here's some that will certainly appeal to A Level

Geographers: *The Atmosphere, the Ocean and Environmental Change* – Professor Ronald Smith, *Philosophy and the Science of Human Nature* – Professor Tamar Gendler, *Global Problems of Population Growth* – Professor Robert Wyman.



UN CC: e-Learn – <https://unccelearn.org/>

UN CC: eLearn is the official United Nations learning partnership for all things related to climate change. They offer self-paced and downloadable courses, meaning you can dip in and out of them as and when you please. There's an abundance of information on climate change – you can learn about climate policy, green economies, sustainable diets and personal finance, and lots more with these interactive courses. Take a look at some of the examples (Click to access these courses): *Introduction to Green Economy, Climate Change and Cities*.

3.i MOOCS – Massive Online Open Courses



MOOCS are online courses with a limitless capacity of participators. While they have no prerequisites (hooray), they are not necessarily a doddle. Most are run by leading universities or scientific institutions to challenge you to think differently and more broadly about the subject matter.

Most courses are structured into five or six weeks' worth of study, with around three hours of activity each week. However, you can study at your own pace and even drop in just occasionally to learn something new. They also show self-discipline and academic engagement – think about how that would look on your UCAS personal statements!



Ivy League Online Courses

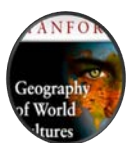
<https://www.classcentral.com/collection/ivy-league-moocs>

An incredible opportunity to study at an Ivy League University! Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale have made thousands of courses available for free. Search their catalogue for a course which links to one of your chosen A Levels or quite simply something which has always interested you! These courses are free, and you will receive a certificate of completion (at a small cost) upon completion. Another key feature for potential UCAS applications.

Geography of World Cultures – Stanford University

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/itunes-u/geography-of-world-cultures/id384233929?mt=10>

The purpose of this map-intensive course is to explore the locational dynamics of the world's languages, religions, and ethnic groupings. We will examine every world region, seeking to understand how places vary from each other with regard to the cultural attributes of their



inhabitants. The course will explore the historical forces that have generated cultural diversity and will carefully examine the processes of contemporary transformation. This course is presented in enhanced podcast format: the presentation images are synched with the audio track and will display in the album artwork section of your iTunes application.



Exploring Human's Space– EdX (EPFL)

<https://www.edx.org/course/exploring-humans-space-an-introduction-to-geograph>

As the title suggests, this course is a little more conceptual. The aim is to learn about the abstract terms through social science and cartography. Sounds complicated? 'The aim of this course is to help you feel comfortable with your daily notion of space,' says Jacques Levy Professor of Geography and Urbanism at EPFL. 'Firstly, space is about distances, the simplest way to understand it is to connect your daily life, your perceptions and your practices to the concepts of contact and remoteness. You will easily realise that space is omnipotent in your life'. The course is divided into nine distinct sessions, each of which are filmed in a geographically relevant space. This will help some of the abstract notions a little more concrete. First, the course will explore the different types of contemporary space and deconstruct the idea of the city and urbanism. Second, it will assess the function of cartography in the making of these spaces. After 10 weeks, you will be able to read and draw your own maps.



ChinaX – EdX (Harvard University)

<https://www.edx.org/course/chinas-political-and-intellectual-foundations-fr-2>

This course, the first in a comprehensive series on China, introduces you to the history, geography, and culture of the country. Time, space, and identity — enduring issues in Chinese history — are explored. You'll study China's early dynasties to understand how physical geography impacted its inhabitants and how the many ethnicities within the country affected Chinese identity. You'll learn about China's origins as told in ancient texts and through modern archaeology. You'll explore the first dynasties during the Chinese bronze age, the many facets of Confucianism and his Analects, and the competing schools of thought that followed. New political and moral ideas appear in Chinese culture in this period — ideas that make up the country's intellectual foundations and still resonate today. Join us to learn about China's origins and how early concepts in Chinese culture still matter in the 21st century.



Evidence suggests that students who read for enjoyment not only perform better in tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In the Geography Department, we believe it is one of the most valuable things you can do to enhance your academic performance. Remember you can make use of digital books (Kindles/e-Readers) – you don't have to access hard copies. All the titles below are also available in the DC library for your return in September.

4.i Books



Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall)

An insightful book which helps understand how physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography – a great introduction to geopolitics.



Factfulness: Ten reasons we're wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think (Hans Rosling)

Hans Rosling has written what 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.



The Almighty Dollar (Dharshini David)

By following \$1 from a shopping trip in suburban Texas, via China's central bank, Nigerian railroads, the oilfields of Iraq and beyond, The Almighty Dollar reveals the economic truths behind what we see on the news every day. Why is China the world's biggest manufacturer - and the USA its biggest customer? Is free trade really a good thing? Why would a nation build a bridge on the other side of the planet?; In this illuminating read, economist Dharshini David lays bare these complex relationships to get to the heart of how our new globalised world works, showing who really holds the power, and what that means for us all.



Geography: Ideas in Profile (Danny Dorling and Carl Lee)

Geography gives shape to our innate curiosity; cartography is older than writing. Channelling our twin urges to explore and understand, geographers uncover the hidden connections of human existence, from infant mortality in inner cities to the decision-makers who fly overhead in executive jets, from natural disasters to over-use of fossil fuels. In this incisive introduction to the subject, Danny Dorling and Carl Lee reveal geography as a science which tackles all of the biggest issues that

face us today, from globalisation to equality, from sustainability to population growth, from climate change to changing technology - and the complex interactions between them all.



32 Stops: The Central Line (Danny Dorling)

Geographer Danny Dorling tells the stories of the people who live along the 32 Stops of the Central Line to illustrate the extent and impact of inequality in Britain today - part of a series of twelve books tied to the twelve lines of the London Underground, as TfL celebrates 150 years of the Tube



Poverty Safari (Darren McGarvey)

Sunday Times Bestseller and winner of the Orwell Prize 2018. This book takes you inside the experience of poverty to show how the pressures really feel and how hard their legacy is to overcome. Arguing that both the political left and right misunderstand poverty as it is actually lived, McGarvey sets out what everybody - including himself - could do to change things. Razor-sharp, fearless and brutally honest, Poverty Safari is an unforgettable insight into modern Britain.



Divided (Tim Marshall)

Author Tim Marshall attempts to explain why we are living in an age of walls by delving into our past and present to reveal the fault lines that will shape our world for years to come. Another Sunday Times Best Seller from the author.



Unruly Places (Alistair Bonnet)

At a time when Google Maps can take you on a virtual tour of most places on the planet, it's hard to imagine there's any uncharted ground left on the planet. Unruly Places goes to some of the most unexpected, offbeat places in the world to re-inspire our geographical imaginations.



Brick Lane (Monica Ali)

A fictional novel which explores the rich cultural heritage of East London's Brick Lane. A less academic approach to key urban issues and cultural tensions in inner-city London.



China's Asian Dream (Tom Miller)

Combining a concise overview of the situation with on-the-ground reportage from over seven countries, *China's Asian Dream* offers a fresh perspective on one of the most important questions of our time: what does China's rise mean for the future of Asia and of the world?



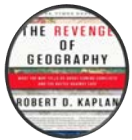
On the Map (Simon Garfield)

Maps fascinate us. They chart our understanding of the world and they log our progress, but above all they tell our stories. From the early sketches of philosophers and explorers through to Google Maps and beyond, Simon Garfield examines how maps both relate and realign our history.



The Power of Place (Harm De Blij)

The world is not as mobile or as interconnected as we like to think. As Harm de Blij argues in *The Power of Place*, in crucial ways--from the uneven distribution of natural resources to the unequal availability of opportunity--geography continues to hold billions of people in its grip. Incorporating a series of persuasive maps, De Blij describes the tremendously varied environments across the planet and shows how migrations between them are comparatively rare. De Blij also looks at the ways we are redefining place so as to make its power even more potent than it has been, with troubling implications.



The Revenge of Geography (Robert D Kaplan)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In this provocative, startling book, Robert D. Kaplan, the bestselling author of *Monsoon* and *Balkan Ghosts*, offers a revelatory new prism through which to view global upheavals and to understand what lies ahead for continents and countries around the world.



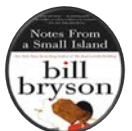
Landmarks (Robert Macfarlane)

Words are grained into our landscapes, and landscapes are grained into our words. *Landmarks* is about the power of language to shape our sense of place. It is a field guide to the literature of nature and a glossary containing thousands of remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to describe land, nature, and weather.



Mountains of the Mind (Robert Macfarlane)

Combining accounts of legendary mountain ascents with vivid descriptions of his own forays into wild, high landscapes, Robert Macfarlane reveals how the mystery of the world's highest places has come to grip the Western imagination—and perennially draws legions of adventurers up the most perilous slopes.



Notes from a Small Island (Bill Bryson)

Featuring an all-new cover, *New York Times* bestseller Bill Bryson's hilarious journey through the beloved island nation he called home for two decades. From Downing Street to Loch Ness, this is a delightful look at the United Kingdom.



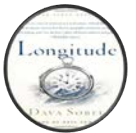
A History of the World in 12 Maps (Jeremy Brotton)

Jerry Brotton examines the significance of 12 maps - from the almost mystical representations of ancient history to the satellite-derived imagery of today. He vividly recreates the environments and circumstances in which each of the maps was made, showing how each conveys a highly individual view of the world. Brotton shows how each of his maps both influenced and reflected contemporary events and how, by considering it in all its nuances and omissions, we can better understand the world that produced it.



The Phantom Atlas (Edward Brooke-Hitching)

The Phantom Atlas is a guide to the world not as it is, but as it was imagined to be. It's a world of ghost islands, invisible mountain ranges, mythical civilizations, ship-wrecking beasts, and other fictitious features introduced on maps and atlases through mistakes, misunderstanding, fantasies, and outright lies.



Longitude (Dava Sobel)

Longitude is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest and of Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation, and clockmaking, and opens a new window on our world.



The Happy City (Charles Montgomery)

Charles Montgomery's *Happy City* is revolutionizing the way we think about urban life.

After decades of unchecked sprawl, more people than ever are moving back to the city. Dense urban living has been prescribed as a panacea for the environmental and resource crises of our time. But is it better or worse for our happiness? Are subways, sidewalks, and condo towers an improvement on the car dependence of the suburbs?



Map head: Charting the Weird World of Geography Wonks (Ken Jennings)

Ken Jennings takes readers on a world tour of geogeeks from the London Map Fair to the bowels of the Library of Congress, from the prepubescent geniuses at the National Geographic Bee to the computer programmers at Google Earth. Each chapter delves into a different aspect of map culture: highpointing, geocaching, road atlas rallying, even the “unreal estate” charted on the maps of fiction and fantasy. Jennings also considers the ways in which cartography has shaped our history, suggesting that the impulse to make and read maps is as relevant today as it has ever been.



Atlas of Improbable Places (Travis Elborough)

With beautiful maps and stunning photography illustrating each destination, Atlas of Improbable Places is a fascinating voyage to the world's most incredible destinations. As the Island of Dolls and the hauntingly titled Door to Hell — an inextinguishable fire pit - attest, mystery is never far away. The truths and myths behind their creation are as varied as the destinations themselves. Standing as symbols of worship, testaments to kingships or even the strange and wonderful traditions of old and new, these curious places are not just extraordinary sights but reflections on man's own relationship with the world around us.

4.ii Geographical Reading Lists

Alongside the extensive list above, the Geographical Association (The GA) has very recently produced two reading lists; one human and one physical, separated by topics to give you a feel for the people, places and issues you are studying as part of your A Level in Geography. You are not expected to read every title! But you should certainly dip in and out of particular titles which are linked to a topic or case study you will cover next year. A good idea would be to look over the exam specification and cross reference this against the titles on this list.



Human Geography Reading List:

https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading_List_1_Human_Geography.pdf



Physical Geography Reading List:

https://www.geography.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/Get%20involved/Reading_List_2_Physical_Geography_Climate_Change_and_Maps.pdf

5. Geographical Films & Documentaries



If you are in need of a respite from your latest online MOOC 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 even making use of your Netflix and 'chill' time by watching something geographical. Your brain absolutely needs to rest but watching any of the following means your brain is still learning and engaging with the subject.

5.1 Netflix



Into the Inferno: With stunning views of eruptions and lava flows it captures the raw power of volcanoes.



The Boy who harnessed the wind: About water shortage in Malawi and a boy who makes a windmill to pump water.



Cowspiracy: Investigate the food and meat industry Available on Netflix



Rotten: Docuseries travels deep into the heart of the food supply chain to reveal unsavoury truths



Africa: Documentary series about Africa. Narrated by David Attenborough



Our Planet: Stunning Sir David Attenborough series investigating the different biomes and their varied flora and fauna.



Planet Earth and Planet Earth 2: The Irreplaceable Sir David Attenborough explores some of the world's different biomes



Blue Planet: More geographical joy from Sir David who takes us deep underwater to explore the world's oceans and seas.



Wild Caribbean: Explore the turbulent natural history and rich diversity of the Caribbean islands.



The Dark Tourist: David Farrier's eight-part series looks at unconventional destinations across

the world. From the radioactive villages of Japan following the 2013 tsunami to the voodoo villages of South Africa. Farrier explores tourist's dark desires for the 'never seen before'.



Dirty Money: Dirty Money is a Netflix original television series which tells stories of corporate corruption, securities fraud and creative accounting. ... Each episode focuses on one example of corporate corruption and includes interviews with key players in each story.



Explained: From YouTube sensations, VOX Creators, each episode is 16-18 minutes long with each focusing on a different topic. There are plenty of geographical based ones to choose from including the World's Water Crisis.



72 Dangerous Places to Live: Get up close and personal with avalanches, fiery volcanoes and other natural disasters and learn why some people choose to live in their destructive paths

5.ii Films



Before the Flood (2016): Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, travelling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change first-hand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction.



An Inconvenient Truth and An Inconvenient Sequel (2006, 2016): These films follow Al Gore on the lecture circuit as the former presidential candidate campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of global warming and calls for immediate action to curb its destructive effects on the environment.



The Impossible (2012): The story of a tourist family caught in the destructive and chaotic aftermath of one of the world's most devastating natural disasters. Based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.



Slumdog Millionaire (15): A Mumbai teenager reflects on his life after being accused of cheating on the Indian version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. Based on life in the slums of Mumbai and the realities of urban life in one of the world's largest megacities. A favourite of Mr Thomas!



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): Based on the events of the brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's regime as seen by his personal physician during the 1970s.



Lion (2016): An Indian man who was separated from his mother at the age of 5 and adopted by an Australian family return home determined to find his birth family. Highlights the realities of slum life. A Favourite of Miss Quigley!

5.iii 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. These can be accessed through use of a VPN or for free when in the UK.



BBC iPlayer: [bbc.co.uk/iplayer](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer)

David Attenborough Box Sets

<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>

Simon Reeve around the world

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm>

Mediterranean with Simon Reeve

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0bnb6tt/mediterranean-with-simon-reeve>



ITV Player: www.itv.com/hub/itv

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>



Channel 4 On Demand: www.channel4.com

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>

6. Geographical Essays & Competitions



When students write for teachers, it can feel like an assignment. When they write for a real purpose, they are empowered! Student writing contests are an easy and inspiring way to try writing for an authentic audience. On the other end is a real panel of judges, and also the possibility of prize money! We've gathered a list of student writing contests with a geographical twist. Your teachers 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. Find out more by following the link above.



Lucy Cavendish Essay Prize on Contemporary Issues — University of Cambridge

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! Cash prizes along with your blog featuring on the Bank of England's website are surely good enough reasons to get involved!



Young Economist of the Year Competition in association with the Financial Times

<https://www.res.org.uk/education/young-economist-of-the-year.html>

The Royal Economic Society's Young Economist of the Year Essay Competition is now open. In partnership with the Financial Times, the RES is inviting Year 12 and 13 A-Level students to submit a 1500-word essay on one of five titles to be in with a chance of winning £1,000 and have their essay published in the FT. The deadline is 27 July.



Duke's Education Essay Prize

<https://dukeseducation.com/essay-prize/>

The Duke's Essay Prize is a nationwide scheme that encourages academic exploration creativity, and lateral thinking in students in years 11-12. Inspired by the famous past entrance exam for fellows at All Souls College, Oxford, students write an essay in response to a one-word title. The prize rewards creativity, lateral approaches and engagement with a subject beyond the curriculum.

7. 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.



AQA A Level

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

Here you'll find everything you need to prepare for A Level Geography including the specification, the NEA, and sample assessment materials.