Year 11 > 12 Bridging Work
Summer Term 2026

Subject	**Geography**
Course	**A-Level**
Awarding Body	**Edexcel**

A-Level Geography Bridging CWS

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Course/specification overview

Each year GCSE students are asked to complete some bridging work before they commence their A level. This work is completed after their examinations and in the summer. This year, however, is not an 'ordinary' year. Therefore there is more work in this bridging unit than would ordinarily be given. This might at first seem unfair but replaces the time you would have spent in school in lessons during the build up to your exams and the time you would have spent revising. We have also given you lots of different tasks rather than one long task so that you can complete it in parts. There is no expectation of when you complete this work…just before your first A level lessons in September! However, we suggest you should use the time you have now to get it completed and allow yourself a stress free summer…after all the hard work you have put in you deserve it! At the back of the booklet there is a tick list which you can use to help organise your time and completion of the work. Read through the booklet and decide which order you might like to complete things.

The work you produce and your tick list should be brought to your first Geography lesson at the start of your A Level course.

Your exam board: Edexcel

During your Geography course you will acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of physical processes through the study of places and environments and also develop an understanding of the inter-relationships between people and their environments. You will learn to appreciate how places, environments and issues change and how people respond to these changes. You will also understand how decisions are made about the use and management of environments and resources. You will learn to clarify and develop your own values and attitudes in relation to relevant, current global issues.

Paper 1 - Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes. 30% of the qualification - 105 marks

Content overview

- Area of study 1 Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Area of study 1 Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and

Change ● Area of study 3 Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water

Insecurity

- Area of study 3 Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2 - Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes. 30% of the qualification - 105

marks Content overview

- Area of study 2 Topic 3: Globalisation
- Area of study 2 Topic 4: Shaping Places
- Area of study 4 Topic 8: Superpowers
- Area of study 4 Topic 9: Global Development and Connections

Paper 3 - Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. 20% of the qualification - 70 marks

This exam contains three synoptic themes which are visited in the paper 1 and paper 2 topics:

- Players
- Attitudes and actions
- Futures and uncertainties

Coursework - Independent Investigation - Non-examined - 20% of the qualification

The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated. The student will produce a written report of 3000–4000 words.

Work begins on this in the summer term of year 12 following our residential field trip.

Review/revise

The work in this bridging unit will help prepare you for some of the topics and thinking that you will encounter during the A Level Geography course. Some of these topics will be new and some will develop and build upon knowledge encountered at GCSE Geography.

To remind yourself of some of the key concepts that will come up in A Level Geography we suggest you create knowledge organisers on some of the GCSE topic areas. You can use your GCSE books to help create these. Websites such as BBC bitesize or Seneca can help refresh your memory if you need as well. **Topic areas you can build from your current notes**

Tectonic Hazards
Coastal Landscapes & Change
Urban Challenges
Development dynamics

Watch

Multiple Geographies

Simon Reeve produces some excellent geographical programmes. He is careful to be balanced in his approach, always looking at both sides of the argument – something you will need to do to be successful at A level Geography! There are lots of excellent programmes to watch that are available on iplayer – just type 'Simon Reeve' into the search box in iplayer and it will bring in lots of his programmes.

There are lots of episodes you can watch...in fact it is extremely hard to pick which episodes to watch! If you have time they are all good to watch!!

However, we have picked 3 episodes which we think are the best. We would like you to pick **ONE** episode and complete the table below.

Issue	Cause	Effect	Response

The Americas with Simon Reeve. Simon Reeve's latest series was excellent and it is hard to pick one episode to watch. However, in this episode you will learn about some of the threats to our water supplies.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009tvs/the-americas-with-simon-reeve-series-1 - episode-3

Australia with Simon Reeve. In this episode Simon Reeve explores some of the impacts that people are having on the environment of Australia with a look at the Great Barrier Reef.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b021ncc4/australia-with-simon-reeve-episode-2

Inside Taiwan – Standing up to China. Taiwan is at the heart of a struggle between two nuclear powers – China and the United States. President Xi Jinping insists Taiwan is part of China and must re-unify with the motherland. But Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, says the island is already independent and must maintain its freedom and democracy.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001kbxp/inside-taiwan-standing-up-to-china

Mediterranean with Simon Reeve. This episode features a look at the movement of refugees meeting some of the people prepared to risk their lives making the perilous journey from their homeland to get to Europe.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0bqn4g1/mediterranean-with-simon-reeve-series-1 - episode-4

Optional watches…

Stacey Dooley also produces some good documentaries and is not afraid to investigate issues that society may not want to discuss. In this episode Stacey follows young South

Americans risking their lives to cross illegally into the USA. She gains unique access to the smuggling operation with the help of a local priest

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p00zhqb0/stacey-dooley-in-the-usa-series-1-3-border wars

Hans Rosling has written an excellent book called Factfulness (see reading list below). In this book he uses statistics to show that some of our conceived ideas about the world can actually be proved wrong by the figures. A good book to read if you want some optimism! Hans Rosling has also produced lots of TED talks on these themes. The one below looks at child mortality.

https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_the_good_news_of_the_decade_we_re_winning_th e_war_against_child_mortality?referrer=playlist-the_best_hans_rosling_talks_yo#t-8404

Listen to

RGS (Royal Geographical Society) podcasts – all these podcasts are about 20 minutes long (most just under).

There are loads of them to choose from...however, we would like you to pick **two** to listen to. We suggest listening to each one and then write a 100 word synopsis (a paragraph) of what you heard in each podcast.

1. What are the big challenges for global water security?
   https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/what-are-the-big-challenges-for global-water-secur/

2. Forests and the carbon cycle.
   https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/forests-and-the-carbon-cycle/

3. How is globalisation changing the countryside?
   https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/how-is-globalisation-changing-the countryside/

4. Diverse places and the high street.
   https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/diverse-places-and-the-high-street/

5. Sustainable urban communities and young people.
   https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/sustainable-urban-communities and-young-people/

6. A conversation with Tim Marshall
   https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/a-conversation-with-tim-marshall/

Read

Reading helps develop not only your knowledge and understanding but also your writing. There are lots of books that will be useful for A Level Geography but we suggest as a minimum you read **'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall.**

Feel free to read as many as you would like!

Cohen, Joel. 1996 How Many People Can the Earth Support? 1996.	Predictions for how many people the Earth can support have varied from 4 billion to 16 billion; Cohen suggests that the defining limits of land, food production, and water supply will lead to a more definitive number. Cohen also argues that while we might be able to prepare for future restrictions on our needs, our governments, our own personal choices, and time itself will ultimately determine the boundaries of our existence.

Marshall, Tim 2015 – Prisoners of Geography: Ten maps that tell you everything you need to know about global politics	Seeing geography as a decisive factor in the course of human history can be construed as a bleak view of the world, which is why it is disliked in some intellectual circles. It suggests that nature is more powerful than man, and that we can only go so far in determining our own fate. Splitting the globe into ten distinct regions, former Sky News Diplomatic Editor Tim Marshall redresses our techno-centric view of the world and suggests that our key political driver continues to be our physical geography.
Marshall, Tim 2016 – Worth dying for – the power and politics of flags	For thousands of years, flags have been the visual representation of our hopes and our destinies. We wave them. Burn them. March under their colours..... and still in the 21st Century we die for them. They represent the politics of high power and the politics of the mob. Tim Marshall gives essential insight into the symbols which continue to unite and divide us.
Marshall, Tim 2018 – Divided: Why we're living in an age of walls	We live in a time of openness, globalisation — and walls. A study of the world's fraught borderlands seeks to explain why. In eight chapters on China, the United States, Israel and Palestine, West Asia, India, Africa, Europe and the United Kingdom, Marshall examines the walls – physical, religious, ethnic, psychological – that fence people off or, at times, pen them in.
Carson, Rachel. 1962 Silent Spring.	First published in 1962, this book raised awareness about the environmental and human risks of using pesticides, such as DDT, and was one of the

	contributing factors that spurred the modern environmental movement.
Rifkin, Jeremy 2003 The Hydrogen Economy 2003.	In order to wean ourselves off of foreign oil, we need to develop hydrogen fuel to create a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable world.
Gore, Al 1992. Earth in the Balance	This book describes the plagues hoisted onto our environment; the second looks at how we got ourselves into this mess; and the final chapters present ways out
Lovelock, James 1988 The Ages of Gaia	The Ages of Gaia explains Lovelock's theory that the earth is a living organism. The book describes how the living earth may work, today, and in ages past, based on the latest research of Lovelock and

	others.
Lovelock, James 2006 The Revenge of Gaia	Lovelock contends that our Earth, "Gaia," is very ill and, alarmingly, will become even sicker due to the effects of global warming. He contends that the nations of the Earth must immediately institute a series of drastic actions to reduce carbon emissions and the other greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming; and that they quickly must take other vital steps to protect the environment. According to Lovelock, if the Earth's people do not take these long-overdue actions, civilization will most possibly perish and, as he grimly puts it, the Earth will become a savage world ruled by "brutal warlords." Lovelock's book is a crucial wake-up call for the planet and life upon it..
Stern, Nicholas. 2006 The economics of climate change	The Stern Review's main conclusion is that the benefits of strong, early action on climate change far outweigh the costs of not acting. The Review points to the potential impacts of climate change on water resources, food production, health, and the environment.
Thunberg, Greta. 2019 – No One is Too Small to Make a Difference	No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference is a 2019 book by climate activist Greta Thunberg. It consists of a collection of eleven speeches which she has written and presented about global warming and climate change
Berners-Lee, Mike 2011 – How Bad are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything.	Part green-lifestyle guide, part popular science, How Bad Are Bananas? is the first book to provide the information we need to make carbon-savvy purchases and informed lifestyle choices, and to build carbon considerations into our everyday thinking. It also helps put our decisions into perspective with entries for the big things (the World Cup, volcanic eruptions, and the Iraq war) as well as the small (email, ironing a shirt, a glass of beer). And it covers the range from birth (the carbon footprint of having a child) to death (the carbon impact of cremation). Packed full of surprises - a plastic bag has the smallest footprint of any item listed, while a block of cheese is bad news - the book continuously informs, delights, and engages the reader.
Harari, Yuval Noah 2014 – Sapiens	The book surveys the history of humankind from the evolution of archaic human species in the Stone Age up to the twenty-first century, focusing on Homo sapiens.

Rosling, Ana, Ola & Hans 2018 - Factfulness	Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think is a 2018 book by Swedish statistician Hans Rosling with his son Ola Rosling and daughter-in-law Anna Rosling Rönnlund. In the book. Rosling suggests the vast majority of human beings are wrong about the state of the world. He shows that his test subjects think the world is poorer, less healthy, and more dangerous than it is. Rosling recommends thinking about the world as divided into four levels based on income brackets.

Complete

It does not matter what order you complete things – the tick list below is not in any priority order but just the order of this booklet. Use this tick list to help organise when you will get the work completed and what you need to do. Be mindful that some of the tasks will take longer than others…the research tasks for example will probably take longer that the listening tasks so you may need to factor this in when planning when you complete the work.

Task	Notes	When I will complete it	Done? Y/N
Review/revise	Create a knowledge organiser of GCSE Natural Hazards topic		
Review/revise	Create a knowledge organiser of the GCSE Coasts topic		
Review/revise	Create a knowledge organiser of the Urban Challenges topic		
Review/revise	Create a knowledge organiser of the Development Dynamics topic		
Watch and add to table	Simon Reeve		
Listen and create a 100-word synopsis	RGS Podcast		
Read	Prisoners of Geography –		

	Tim Marshall		
	# Appendices/resources		

There is a whole host of information and resources available to support A Level Geography. Here is just a small selection of links that may be useful for you.

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BBC news app

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10628994

UN website – a website with an almost limitless supply of Geography! A good place to keep in touch with the issues that may not be making our mainstream news.

https://www.un.org/en/

UN twitter account – much easier than trawling their website…let someone else do the hard work and alert you to the news stories and issues!

https://twitter.com/UN

Seneca – you've used it for GCSE…just as useful for A level (remember we study Edexcel). https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/

BBC Bitesize (only goes up to GCSE level but still gives some good base knowledge) https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zkw76sg

The Guardian – lots of interesting Geography related articles…have a look!

https://www.theguardian.com/uk/environment

For those of you who have access to NETFLIX, there are some good documentaries on the platform

Seaspiracy – which investigates the impact of overfishing

Explained – An excellent series, and of particular relevance is the episode "World Water

Crisis”