

Subject: *A-Level Geography*

Exam Board: *Edexcel*



Welcome to A-level Geography. We are delighted that you are considering A-level Geography as an option in Year 12. To demonstrate your commitment to the course and to prepare you for September, you must complete the following tasks to the best of your ability. These tasks are compulsory and must be handed in to **Mrs Goodwin by Friday 19th July 2019.**

We expect you spend at least 3 hours completing the tasks outlined in this pack. The activities have been designed to help you begin to develop some of the key skills you will need for A-level Geography.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of interactions between the physical and human environments.
- To research an area of contemporary Geography.
- To start to develop evaluation skills which will be vital in A-Level Geography.

Contacts for Support:



Mrs Goodwin or Miss Robinson – Please email via Insight or visit room 6b

What is Geography?



Contemporary geography is a subject which explicitly engages with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time and their relationship with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global.

A Level Geography is an engaging and flexible course which gives students the opportunity to:

- engage with the relationship of human populations to each other over space and time
- study the relationship between human populations with their physical environment at a variety of scales from the local to the global
- consider their own role in relation to themes and issues being studied and the roles, values and attitudes of others including decision makers
- choose between specialised content, including a dedicated fieldwork option.

The specification follows an **issues and impacts** approach to contemporary Geography that is suitable for all students



Task 1: What is Geography?

Task – A successful Geographer has an interest in the world around them and an awareness of what is happening in the world. Over the summer holiday you are to complete a research task by watching the news, researching the internet or reading a newspaper/magazine article to research what you think are the top 5 Geographical news articles. Give a brief summary of the news article and your justification of why you think it is important. Remember the article could be local, national or international and either physical or human.

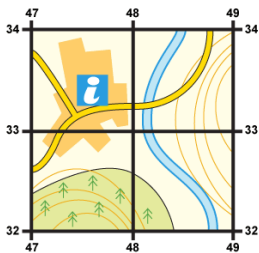
1. Article Title -

2. Article Title -

3. Article Title -

4. Article Title -

5. Article Title -



Task 2: Geographical Skills

Universities and employers think very highly of Geographers because of the range of skills that they have at their disposal.



Task – You are to choose one of the following skills and prepare a 60 second summary on the following;

- 1) How and why your skill could be used in Geography
- 2) What are the advantages and disadvantages of using your skill

You will present this to the rest of the group in any format you like but you are not allowed to read from a powerpoint slide!

Core skills

- Use and annotation of illustrative and visual material: base maps, sketch maps, OS maps (at a variety of scales), diagrams, graphs, field sketches, photographs, geospatial, geo-located and digital imagery.
- Use of overlays, both physical and electronic.
- Literacy – use of factual text and discursive/creative material and coding techniques when analysing text.
- Numeracy – use of number, measure and measurement.
- Questionnaire and interview techniques.

Cartographic skills

- Atlas maps.
- Weather maps – including synoptic charts (if applicable).
- Maps with located proportional symbols.
- Maps showing movement – flow lines, desire lines and trip lines.
- Maps showing spatial patterns – choropleth, isoline and dot maps.

Graphical skills

- Line graphs – simple, comparative, compound and divergent.
- Bar graphs – simple, comparative, compound and divergent.
- Scatter graphs, and the use of best fit line.
- Pie charts and proportional divided circles.
- Triangular graphs.
- Graphs with logarithmic scales.
- Dispersion diagrams.

Statistical skills

- Measures of central tendency – mean, mode, median.
- Measures of dispersion – range, inter-quartile range and standard deviation.
- Inferential and relational statistical techniques to include Spearman's rank correlation and Chisquare test and the application of significance tests.

ICT skills

- Use of remotely sensed data (as described above in Core skills).
- Use of electronic databases.
- Use of innovative sources of data such as crowd sourcing and 'big data'.
- Use of ICT to generate evidence of many of the skills provided above such as producing maps, graphs and statistical calculations.

Task 3: Geographical Understanding



Universities and employers also think very highly of Geographers because of their ability to interpret a range of information and come to a balanced decision.

Task – “The biggest challenge facing the earth is from people themselves.”
To what extent do you agree with this statement. Use your own knowledge to support your answer.
