

## PHGS Bridging the GCSE to A Level Geography Gap

To be a great geographer, you will need to develop the ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview and 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.

### What can I do before September?

1. **Developing as a geographer** – through general reading around/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc the geography subject to develop your geography knowledge and understanding.
2. **Become a News Buff**- Watch the news- BBC news between 6am-9am or at 6pm. Or get on the BBC news app? Other websites such as the Guardian, The Independent, The Times. 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**- Starting to explore the topics and their foundations in which they will be studied in the A Level Course.

### What do we expect you to do before September?

PHGS Geography department would like you to:

- Read 3 news article
- Watch 2 documentaries
- Listen to 1 podcast

For each of these sources we would like you to answer the following questions:

1. What are the key things that the source is telling you about- can you summarise it into 10 main points
2. What part of Geography/what we study does this link to?
3. Are there any keywords that you need to look into more or you feel would be useful for your studies.

**You need to bring this work with you to your first lesson in September as this will form part of the lesson.**

To help you with this below are some links to podcasts, websites, books and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with Geography:

### PODCASTS:

- **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:

- **[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

- **Six Degrees** by Mark Lynas – a scary walkthrough of the impacts of Climate Change as world temperatures increase by 1 degree through to 6 degrees.
- **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.

### 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 IPLAYER:

- **David Attenborough Box Sets**- there are 9 amazing boxsets available on 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>  
The first episode 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>
- **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>

### Geography on NETFLIX, DVD or YOUTUBE:

- **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
- **Our Planet Netflix Series**- Explores how climate change impacts all living creatures
- **An Inconvenient Truth** – follows Al Gore on the lecture circuit as he seeks to raise awareness about Climate Change.
- **+ An Inconvenient Sequel**

### NEWS:

You should be regularly watching the news to keep you up to date with what is happening in relations to the inter-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 Science, UK, WORLD and other stores
- **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.
- **THE CONVERSATION:** <https://theconversation.com/uk> - Really useful to support many of you're a Levels. Up to date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising the key points in a short but insightful articles.