

# **Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School: Bridging the GCSE to A Level Geography Gap**

Hoping to study Geography at A level? Or interested in just furthering your knowledge of Geography post the GCSEs?

## **There are a number of things you can do:**

- 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.*

To be a great geographer, you will need to develop the ability to think synoptically, i.e. 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 exist between people and their environment.

**Please note: none of the tasks on here are compulsory for you to complete before A-Level, they are simply ideas about things you might want to do if you have time, or are just interested in what is happening around you!**

## **How can I develop as a Geographer before September?**

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
- **[Geography Review Magazines](#)**: Subscribe for £40 and you will get 4 up to date magazines with articles that will be really relevant to the topics that you are studying.
- **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.

## GEOGRAPHICAL 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>
- **Race across the World à** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000q6nt/race-across-the-world-series-2-episode-1>
- **Andrew Marrs Megacities à** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011qmcl/episodes/guide>
- **Trumps War on the Border à** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/trumps-war-on-the-border>

- **Dispatches** à <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
- **Blood Diamond** – looks at the diamond trade in Sierra Leone
- **An Inconvenient Truth** – follows Al Gore on the lecture circuit as he seeks to raise awareness about Climate Change.
  - **+ An Inconvenient Sequel**

### NEWS

#### What should I do with the News that I am Watching?

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.

#### Buy yourself a **Scrapbook** (or even create a google doc) and either cut out the headline from a newspaper/print it off/ or just write it in your book or google doc and summarise the following:

- What are the key things that the article is telling you about- can you summarise in to 10 main points
- What part of Geography/what we study does this link to (look below to see what topics we study at A Level!)?
- Are there any keywords that you need to look into more or you feel would be useful for your studies.

#### Bring this with you for your first lesson in September.

## WHAT DOES THE A LEVEL COURSE LOOK LIKE AT SIR HENRY FLOYD GRAMMAR SCHOOL?

At A Level, we follow the AQA specification. You will have two exams; one physical exam and one human exam, and one Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)- essentially a 3000-4000 word piece of coursework.

This link will take you to the specification for AQA A Level Geography- remember much like the GCSE, we do not study every topic on the specification, only the ones outlined in the table below:  
<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-7037-SP-2016.PDF>

Physical Exam	Human Exam	NEA
<p>This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks</p> <p><u>TOPICS:</u></p> <p>Water and Carbon (36 marks)</p> <p>Coastal Environments (36 marks)</p> <p>Hazards (48 marks)</p>	<p>This exam will be 2 hours and 30 minutes and is worth 120 marks</p> <p><u>TOPICS:</u></p> <p>Global Governance (36 marks)</p> <p>Changing Places (36 marks)</p> <p>Population (48 marks)</p>	<p>This is an independent enquiry meaning that it is driven by you. You will be given a NEA mentor to support you but we will not be able to mark formally and give this back to you. It will be mentor meeting driven.</p> <p>You will need to formulate a title and hypotheses from a topic that is studied on the AQA specification. You will then need to come up with methods to test your hypotheses, you will collect your own data and then present, analyse, conclude and evaluate your investigation.</p> <p>The deadline for this is normally Christmas of Y13, to allow the teaching staff time to mark it and return it to you.</p> <p>You will be taken out on 4 days fieldwork work to prepare you for this, although you do not have to do complete the investigation on the topics related to these pieces of fieldwork, it can relate to anything in the specification. We will be doing a 3 day trip to Swanage in Dorset (focussing on coastal management, coastal ecosystems and the impact of tourism), and a one day trip to Shoreditch in London (focussing on changing places).</p>

## PRE READING

**This is in no way a compulsory reading list for A Level.** The purpose of these links is so that, if you wish to, you could have a look at some ideas relating to the type of materials we use at A-Level, and it could introduce you to some key ideas. However as I said, you are not expected to read all of these at all!

### Water and Carbon:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Water and Carbon Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/water-and-carbon-cycles/>** - some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **An introduction in to the [Water Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction in to the [Carbon Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction into the [Carbon Cycle](#)** - a good geofile which introduces you to the carbon cycle.
- **Water and Carbon [Overview](#)** – a piece of work from the Royal Geographical Society that summarises the course
- **Documentary on Climate change:**
  - o <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009drg/panorama-climate-change-what-can-we-do>
  - o <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>
- **[News Articles](#) on Climate Change**

### Coasts:

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Coasts Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/coastal-systems-landscapes/>**- some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **Geofile on [Sediment Cells, Waves Types and Tides](#)** – a good understanding of what the coastal system is made up of.
- **Geofile on different [Coastal processes](#)**- understanding the different processes that create different landforms
- **Geofile on [Mass Movement in the UK](#)** – a good link to different types of mass movement
- **Geofile on [Coastal Management](#)** – good comparison between different types of management strategies

- **Geofile on [Holderness Coast](#)** – A good look at a case study of a shore line management plan.

## **Hazards:**

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Hazards Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/hazards/>** some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **Reading on [Vulnerability and Hazards](#)** – something that is different with the A Level is you need to be more aware of why people are vulnerable to Natural Hazards
- **Geofile on [Hazard Hotspots and Response](#)** – a A Level concept new to you on different ways to respond to Hazards
- **Haiti- A multi-hazard Environment**
- **Video: Power of the Planet (Volcanoes)** <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg> - a great introduction to the work on volcanoes we will be doing
- **Reading: Plate Tectonics (The Geological Society)** – This will be a good set up from your GCSE work to A Level and definitely worth navigating around the site <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>

## **Global Governance**

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Global Governance](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/global-systems-and-governance/>** some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **A RGS summary of [Global Governance](#)** – A good overview of the course
- **[Antarctica Case Study](#)**
- **The [Effects of Globalisation on the movement of people](#)**
- Really interesting **Antarctica Websites:** <https://www.coolantarctica.com/index.php> AND <https://discoveringantarctica.org.uk/>
  - Tracking the **Coronavirus Pandemic:** <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> and <https://ourworldindata.org/> and <https://www.who.int/>
  - Governing Climate Change – World Agreements: <https://www.ipcc.ch/> and <https://unfccc.int/>

## **Changing Places**

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Changing Places](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/resource-security/>** some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **A RGS summary of [Changing Places](#)** – A good overview of the course
- **Geofile on the [Occupy Movement](#)**
- **Interesting article by [Doreen Massey](#)**- A human geography looking at The Sense of Place
- **[Changing Spaces –Making Places](#)** = A good powerpoint going through some of the content of the topic.

## **Population and the Environment**

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Population and the Environment](#)**– A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Glossary of key terms](#)**- a nice overview of some of the key terms for this unit.
- **TEd talk on [Population Pyramids](#)** -find out about why population pyramids are such useful indicators of past and future change
- **Video on the [Life of Migrants in the UK](#)** – look to see what sort of challenges ‘invisible’ migrants face in the UK.
- **TEd talk on [Easter Island](#)**- see why understanding our environment and using it in a managed way is so important for protecting populations.
- **The Guardian on [Total Fertility Rates](#)**- why it may be that we should be welcoming a fall in total fertility rates globally.
- **National Geographic [Green Revolution](#)**- should we be looking to another green revolution to solve future food security challenges?
- **George Monbiot talks about [Farming Subsidies and Soil](#)**- an interesting discussion of how economic help for farmers in Europe may be causing long term food security issues
- **Article on [Long Life in Okinawa](#)**- why is it that people in small pockets around the world such as Okinawa have such long lives.

**WHAT COULD I DO USING THE READING I HAVE COMPLETED FROM THE TOPICS ABOVE?**

<p><b>Create a personal geography map of your own area- include photographs, personal reflections and places of importance</b></p> <p><b>(Changing Places)</b></p>	<p><b>Watch one documentary on Climate Change- Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary.</b></p> <p><b>(Water and Carbon)</b></p>	<p><b>Investigate how mismanagement of the land may have led to the loss of population on Easter Island.</b></p> <p><b>How might the changes seen here apply to communities today?</b></p> <p><b>(Population and the Environment)</b></p>
<p><b>Read 'Changing Cities'- produce a case study summary on one of the cities.</b></p> <p><b>(Changing Places)</b></p>	<p><b>In 300 words, explain what 'geography' means to you</b></p> <p><b>Give three ways in which the World Health Organisation (WHO) are helping to control the spread of Coronavirus</b></p>	<p><b>Produce a mind map of the multi- hazard area of Haiti</b></p> <p><b>(Hazards)</b></p>
<p><b>Read the Antarctica Case Study. Write a letter to the prime minister explaining three threats faced by Antarctica- which do you think is the most important one? (Global Governance)</b></p>	<p><b>Read the Geofile 'Coastal Systems, waves, sediments and cells) and summarise on 1 side of A4 paper.</b></p> <p><b>(Coasts)</b></p>	<p><b>The only way for the world to develop sustainably, protecting environments, society and cultures in the future is through an understanding of how human and physical geography interact.</b></p> <p><b>Use your reading to write an extended answer to this question</b></p> <p><b>(All topics)</b></p>

I hope you find this helpful, and it gives you some idea about the types of things we may study at A-Level. If nothing else, there are some very interesting articles and documentaries on here that you could have a look at!

Once more, I would like to reiterate that this is in no way compulsory for you to complete before starting the course in September, these are just suggestions about things you might like to do if you wish to keep up to date with Geography over the summer.

I hope you enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Best wishes,

Miss S Davis

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