

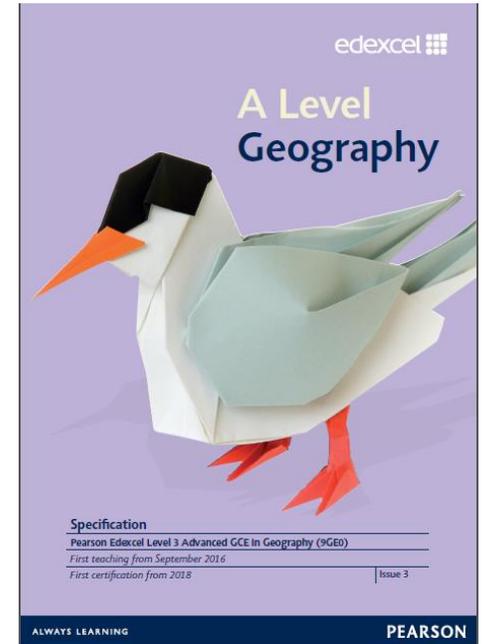


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St Mary's College

GEOGRAPHY – A LEVEL EDEXCEL

Pre-course reading and guidance





A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is a brilliant course for those who have an interest in both the physical and human world in which they live; **Geography helps make sense of this world**. As well as enabling an understanding of the complex interaction of processes that shape our world, A Level Geography shows how the subject is applied in the real world. By studying A Level Geography you will **develop a range of skills** including essay-writing, data analysis and critical thinking, making you highly **employable**. Furthermore, by being a broad-based academic subject, it fits well with both arts and science subjects and is **highly valued by universities**. Indeed, the Russell Group report identified geography as one of eight **facilitating** subjects while, in 2015, The Guardian identified it as the **'must-have A Level'**.

WHAT IS THE COURSE STRUCTURE LIKE?

The course is a **two year** course. It consists of **three exams** and **one piece of coursework** (NEA). Paper 1 focuses on physical geography (30% of the A-level), Paper 2 focuses on human geography (30% of the A-level) and Paper 3 is a synoptic paper which draws together learning from over the 2 year course (20% of the A-level). The NEA is worth 20% of the A-level. **All exams will be taken at the end of the second year.**

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A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY (Year 12)

Paper 1: Physical Geography

- › Area of study 1, Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- › Area of study 2, Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – Option 2B: Coastal Landscapes 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

In Year 12 we study Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards and Topic 2: Coastal Landscapes and Change

Assessment overview

- › An externally-assessed written examination comprising three sections.
- › **Section A** relates to *Topics 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards*.
- › **Section B** relates to *Topic 2B: Coastal Landscapes and Change*
- › **Section C** relates to *Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity and Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security*.
- › The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions. Calculators may be used.

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY (Year 12)



Paper 1: Physical Geography

Recommended pre-reading:

- › *The Earth. A very short introduction, by Redfern (2003).
- › *Landscapes and Geomorphology. A very short introduction, by Goudie and Viles (2010).
- › Eruptions that shook the world, by Oppenheimer (2011).
- › Volcanoes, by Francis and Oppenheimer (2003).
- › *The Dictionary of Physical Geography, by Thomas and Goudie (2000).
- › The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World, by Yergin (2011)
- › The Tectonics Plates are Moving! By Livermore (2018)
- › *Geology: A Complete Introduction: Teach yourself, by Rothery (2015)
- › Water Insecurity: A Social Dilemma (Community, Environment and Disaster Risk Management) by Habedin, Habiba and Shaw 2013.
- › The Cure for Catastrophe, by Muir-Wood (2016)
- › When the Rivers Run Dry, Fully Revised and Updated Edition: Water-The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-First Century, by Pearce (2018)
- › Your Water Footprint: The Shocking Facts About How Much Water We Use to Make Everyday Products by Stephen Leahy
- › The Source: How Rivers Made America and America Remade Its Rivers by Martin Doyle
- › The Water Paradox: Overcoming the Global Crisis in Water Management by Ed Barbier

* **Good introductory texts**

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A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY (Year 12)

Paper 2: Human Geography

- › Area of study 2, Topic 3: Globalisation
- › Area of study 2, Topic 4: Shaping Places – Option 4A: Regenerating Places
- › Area of study 4, Topic 7: Superpowers
- › Area of study 4, Topic 8: Global Development and Connections – Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

In Year 12 we study Topic 3: Globalisation and Topic 4A: Regenerating Places

Assessment overview

- › An externally-assessed written examination comprising three sections.
- › **Section A** relates to *Topics 3 and 7: Globalisation/Superpowers.*
- › **Section B** relates to *Topic 4: Shaping Places. - Option 4A: Regenerating Places*
- › **Section C** relates to *Topic 8: Global Development and Connections. - Option 8B: Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.*
- › The examination may include short open, open response and resource-linked questions. The examination includes 12-mark and 20-mark extended writing questions. Calculators may be used.



A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY (Year 12)

Paper 2: Human Geography

Recommended pre-reading:

- › ***Globalization: A Very Short Introduction** (2003) by Manfred Steger
- › ***Geopolitics: A Very Short Introduction** (2007) by Klaus Dodds
- › **Why Globalisation Works** (2004) by Martin Wolf
- › **The Great Convergence** (2016) by Richard Baldwin
- › **Urban Regeneration in the UK: Boom, Bust and Recovery** (2013) by Jones and Evans
- › **Rural regeneration in the UK** (2019) by Simon Pemberton
- › **Prisoners of Geography** (2015) by Tim Marshall
- › **The Almighty Dollar** (2018) by Dharshini David
- › **Factfulness** (2018) by Hans Rosling
- › ***Geography: Ideas in Profile** (2016) by Danny Dorling

* **Good introductory texts**

N.B. We have also included a range of shorter **Geofactsheets** in this folder:
https://smc23-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lhaworth_smchull_org/Documents/Year%2012%20NEW%20SP-EC/Pre-reading%20Geofactsheets



A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY (Year 12)

Syllabus for Geography

- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>
- This website sets out clearly what you will study in A Level Geography as well as how you will be assessed
- There is also access to other course materials and published resources
- We have included the textbook used in Year 12 in this folder



A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY – NEA (coursework)

Non-exam assessment: Independent Investigation

At the end of Year 12, you will start to plan your independent investigation. At SM6, all students attend a **5-day residential** to Castle Head Field Studies Centre in the Lake District during which your investigation is finalised, data is collected and begun to be analysed.

To best prepare you, we recommend you familiarise yourself with the town and geography of **Morecambe** (specifically its regeneration attempts and its coastal management) and with both primary and secondary data collection techniques.

In order to help you do that, on the next slide are some suggested tasks and recommended reading.



A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY – NEA (coursework)

Non-exam assessment: Independent Investigation

Recommended reading/tasks

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DJTW-4JiNgsbk0F553abTIUH7ZrDka-l/view> – this shows you where you can find some secondary data about places in the UK. Have a look at where you live and compare it to other places nearby. Use it to find out about Morecambe
- <https://www.geography-fieldwork.org/a-level/> - this website is a good introduction to help you explore fieldwork ideas. The most relevant to Morecambe are the ideas in the 'Coasts' and 'Place' folders
- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016/coursematerials.html#filterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FTeaching-and-learning-materials> – there are lots of example NEAs here which will give you a good idea of the sort of thing you will be producing
- <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335127085> The development and decline of Morecambe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries a resort caught in the tide – a good introduction to the decline of Morecambe and why it has needed regeneration

Resources to develop your geographical knowledge:



Newspapers

- › The best geography resource is the news. Every day there are geography related stories either about natural disasters, poverty, globalization, inequality, global differences, local differences, sovereignty, migration, regeneration, water management and conflict.
- › Look at the detailed specification for each of the topics you will be studying in Year 12;(tectonics, coasts, globalization and regenerating places) - see what articles you can find over the course of a week/fortnight/month relating to each topic.
- › Compare the reportage of the same stories by different newspapers – this helps you to evaluate/assess what's going on and reach an informed decision

Podcasts

- › Royal Geographical Society – a range of topics covered, many of which are on the specification - https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn
- › BBC World Service – The Inquiry – lots of topical news stories which are presented in a really clear, evaluative way

Television

- › Raging Planet/Planet Earth I and II/Earth: Power of Planets
- › Any Michael Palin documentaries
- › Andrew Marr's Megacities/Cities from Above
- › Human Planet – 8 part BBC documentary series
- › Walking the Amazon – Ed Stafford
- › Tropic of Capricorn/Tropic of Cancer – Simon Reeve

Any further questions?



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We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in September