

A Level Geography Summer & Wider Reading List

Wider reading is an important part of A Level Geography, but it is not just about having extra things to write about in your exam answers. It is about understanding the world around you, having a wider understanding of new and emerging geographies and theories and fostering an enjoyment of Geography. A lot of what is going on in the world has a link with Geography!

Over the summer before starting your A Levels, we advise that you read/listen/watch some of the following to help broaden your knowledge and understanding of the world around you and the topics we are going to be studying over the next two years.

You do not need to complete all of these and you can read/listen/watch alongside your studying over the next 2 years as well.

Below is a list of the topics you will study throughout the A Level Geography course, the ones in bold will follow on from learning at GCSE so if you did not study this topic please prioritise this for some wider reading before starting Year 12.

Physical Geography:

Water & Carbon Cycles

Coasts

Hazards

Human Geography:

Population & the Environment

Changing Places

Global Systems and Global Governance

A Level textbooks

This isn't wider reading, but this list contains textbooks which will aid your general study of Geography.

[AQA A-Level Geography fifth edition](#). Hodder.

[AQA A-Level Physical Geography student guide](#). Hodder

[AQA Geography A Level & AS Exam practice and skills](#). Oxford

[AQA A-Level Human Geography student guide](#). Hodder

[A Level Geography Changing Places Topic Master](#). Hodder

[A Level Geography, water and carbon cycles, Topic Master](#). Hodder

[A Level Geography, coastal landscapes, Topic Master](#). Hodder

[A Level Geography, global systems, Topic Master](#). Hodder

[A Level Geography, global governance, Topic Master](#). Hodder

Reading:

[Prisoners of Geography: Ten maps that tell you everything you need to know about global politics](#). Tim Marshall. 2016. This book explores geo-politics and is a fascinating and easy read.

[Ghosts of the Tsunami: Death and life in Japan's disaster zone](#). Richard Lloyd Parry. 2018. This book explores the earthquake and tsunami that rocked Japan in 2011. What really happened, and why were some people not evacuated to safety?

[Space and Place: The perspective of experience](#). Yi-Fu Tuan. 2001. The author explores the way people think and feel about space and how they form attachments. Ideal for the changing places unit.

[Factfulness: ten reasons we're wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think](#). Hans Rosling. 2018. This is a thought provoking and fascinating read. A great opportunity to question the world and what we think we know about it.

[Population 10 billion. Danny Dorling](#). 2013. The author of this book is also responsible for the website www.worldmapper.org. This book explores how the population is putting pressure on the planet and what the impacts of a huge population will be.

[The Bottom Billion](#). Paul Collier. 2018. When studying globalisation you will see that the impacts are not uniform. This book explores how the 1 billion poorest are being left behind, with the gap widening.

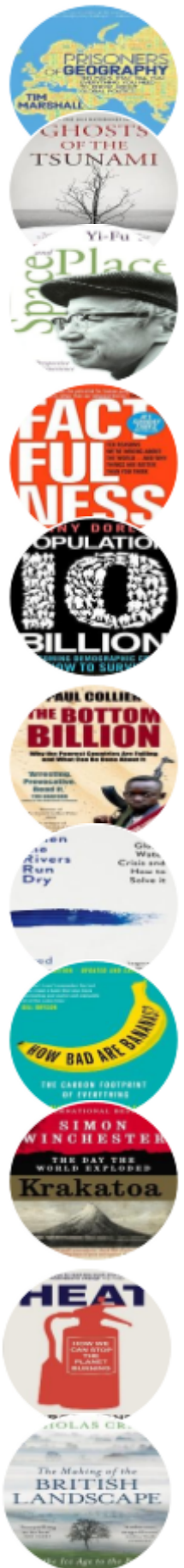
[When the rivers run dry: The global water crisis and how to solve it](#). Fred Pearce. 2019. This book explores the growing water crisis, from Kent to Kenya. Hope for the future is also offered. A series of case studies are explored.

[How bad are bananas?](#) Mike Berners-Lee. 2020. This book explores our carbon footprint (with many surprises!), and gives us an idea on how to manage and reduce our carbon footprint. A fascinating read for all geographers.

[Krakatoa: The day the world exploded](#). Simon Winchester. 2004. A mix of geography and history. This book chronicles the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 and charts the birth of our modern world. We've all heard of Krakatoa, but what actually happened?

[Heat: How can we stop the planet from burning?](#) George Monbiot. 2007. Can climate change be stopped? This book explores the very worst predictions and how they can be stopped. Each proposal in this book has had a rigorous investigation and includes costs and problems attached to each solution.

[The making of the British landscape](#). Nicholas Crane. 2017. This book explores the last 12,000 years of our country and how the British landscape has been changed over time.

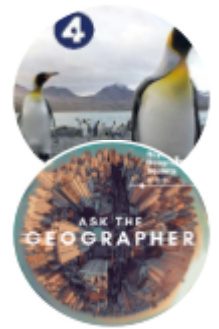


Listening:

Pop in your headphones and try some of these podcasts!

[Costing the Earth](#): This is a range of short podcasts which link to many areas of our study. There are 361 available to choose from and cover everything from shipping to landfill to the environmental impact of professional football.

[Royal Geographical Society: Ask the Geographer](#) This a series of award-winning podcasts which bring the latest in geographical research to the classroom from a host of experts.



[Science in Action](#): Has many different podcasts many of which have links to aspects you will study in Geography. For example: climate change, earthquakes and disease.

[The Economist](#): Have a range of podcasts on a variety of topics that will be of interest for Geographers. For example: China's birth rates and US-China trade and tariffs.

Watching:

[Before the Flood](#): A look at how climate change affects our environment and what society can do to prevent the demise of endangered species, ecosystems and native communities across the planet. (Currently on Disney+)

[Into the Inferno](#): With stunning views of eruptions and lava flows, Werner Herzog captures the raw power of volcanoes and their ties to indigenous spiritual practices. (Netflix)

[Explained](#): Short documentaries about a range of topics. Most interesting to Geographers are: S1 E19: The World's Water Crisis; S3 E5: The End of Oil; S3 E9: Hurricanes (Netflix)

[BBC Panorama](#): Short documentaries on a range of topics with new episodes on every week. Most interesting to Geographers are: The Day Los Angeles Burned; Rewiring Britain: The Race to go Green; Can Scientists Change the World.

Future learn online course

These are free online courses, which will help to build your knowledge in a variety of subject areas. You can get an online certificate of completion or pay for a printed certificate. Completion of these takes a few hours a week.

University of Reading: [Planet Partners: Tackling the climate crisis together](#)

University of Bergen: [Causes of climate change](#)

University of Exeter: [Learn about weather](#)

University of Leicester: [Concepts in sustainable development](#)

University of Lancaster: [Soils: introducing the world beneath our feet](#)

University of Reading: [Come rain or shine: understanding the weather](#)

University of Leeds: [Causes of human disease](#)

University of Leeds: [Causes of human disease: Nutrition and Environment](#)

University of Southampton: [Exploring our ocean](#)

Cardiff University: [The challenge of global water security](#)

University of Sheffield: [Population 10 billion: Researching global issues](#)