

## A-Level **Geography** Induction Pack and Pre-Course Activities



A-Level **Geography** builds on what you have learnt at GCSE about people, places and the world around you. The variety and range of topics covered makes Geography a fascinating subject, and studying it at A-Level allows you to explore in greater detail the human and physical world.

## What we study in A-Level Geography

A-Level **Geography** lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year.

	<u>Year 12</u>	<u>Year 13</u>
<b>Component 1: Physical Geography</b>	Coastal Systems and Landscapes Water and Carbon Cycles	Hazards
<b>Component 2: Human Geography</b>	Contemporary Urban Environments Changing Places	Global Systems and Global Governance
<b>Component 3: Independent Investigation</b>	Fieldtrips in Summer term 2021. Begin write-up on fieldtrip and continue in Summer Term and Autumn at school. Final deadline for submission will be in October 2021.	

## Fieldwork

Fieldwork is essential for **Geography** as it allows us to gain a better understanding of the current situation in the world around us, usually on a local scale.

Throughout the course, you will be required to undertake at **least 4 days'** worth of fieldwork; you will be assessed for this fieldwork as part of your Paper 1 and Paper 2 examinations, but mainly through the Independent Investigation which is **worth 20% of the A-Level**.

During fieldwork, you could investigate:

- The processes affecting coastal landscapes
- The effectiveness of coastal management
- The changing channel characteristics of a river
- The changing land use of an urban area
- The factors affecting the decline or success and growth of urban areas

**In June of Year 12, you will take part in a series of compulsory day visits in order to complete the majority of the Independent Investigation, with the remainder being written up back in school during the autumn term.**

### Exams

We follow the AQA specification (<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-7037-SP-2016-V1-0.PDF>)

The course is split into 3 sections:

- **Component 1: Physical Geography – 40% of the A-Level, assessed in a 2 hour 30 minute examination at the end of Year 13**
  1. Water and Carbon Cycles
  2. Coastal Systems and Landscapes
  3. Hazards
  
- **Component 2: Human Geography – 40% of the A-Level, assessed in a 2 hour 30 minute examination at the end of Year 13**
  1. Global Systems and Global Governance
  2. Changing Places
  3. Contemporary Urban Environments
  
- **Component 3: Geographical Independent Investigation – 20% of the A-Level, assessed via a 4000+ word coursework assignment beginning in June of Year 12**

### Entry Requirements

To ensure you are able to meet the demands of this challenging A-Level course the entry requirements are as follows:

- 4 or 5 in Geography
- 4 or 5 in Mathematics and English Language

### You also need to be:

- Interested in both Human and Physical Geography;
- Organised;

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- Good at managing your time (this is extremely important for the Independent Investigation);
- Able to work independently;
- Willing to put additional work in on challenging topics.

### Who teaches the course?

You will have 5 **Geography** lessons per fortnight which will be divided up between:

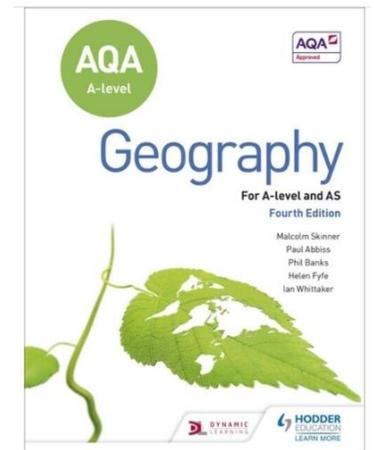
- **Mrs Marcus** (Hazards, Contemporary Urban Environments Water and Carbon Cycle and Independent Investigation)
- **Mrs Williamson** (Changing Places, Coastal Systems and Landscapes, Global Systems and Global Governance)

If you have any further questions after today, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school email: [wwilliamson@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:wwilliamson@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk) or [fmarcus@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:fmarcus@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk)

### Resources for Geography

For all A-Level **Geography** lessons you will need:

- 2 A4 lever arch folders (one for Human **Geography** and one for Physical **Geography**) with a set of subject dividers for each
- A full set of equipment including a calculator, pencil, ruler and lined paper
- AQA A-Level textbook (not compulsory but we would really recommend)
- AQA Geography A Level: Human **Geography** Student workbook and Physical **Geography** student workbook.



### What should I be doing outside of Geography lessons?

For every hour of a lesson, you should be completing **another hour of work outside the classroom**. This will include, but is not limited to:

- Each week, you will be expected to add one article to a 'Geography in the News' section in your folder. As part of your Directed Study Time, you will be required to find an article related to Geography that interests you, read and highlight it, and explain in a short paragraph how it relates to the topic(s) you are studying. This will be checked once per half term by your teacher.

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- **For each teacher, you will be required to complete around 1 hour of extended learning per week. This could consist of practice exam questions, independent research, and revision for upcoming assessments, prior reading or completion of classwork.**

At weekends and during holidays, you may wish to visit important geographical sites in the UK or further afield. Make sure that you take lots of photographs- they may be useful in lessons!

### Assessments in Geography

A formal assessment will take place following the completion of every topic, in addition to Mock/End of Year examinations. These will be based on past examination questions.

Throughout topics, you will also be set examination question practice; this will also be assessed.

Your performance in all assessments will be regularly reviewed and used to determine your continuation on the course and/or examination entry.

### Useful Sources of Information

A copy of the AQA A-Level **Geography** specification can be found at: <http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-7037-SP-2016-V1-0.PDF>

Websites that you may find useful to classwork, homework and independent research include:

- <http://www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm>
- <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/geography>
- <https://geographyas.info/> (this website is designed for the old specification but some of the topic content will be very useful)
- <http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/A-level/AQA/AQA%20A%20level.htm> (this website is designed for the old specification but some of the topic content will be very useful)

Many students find joining an online **Geography**-specific forum useful as it allows you to share revision notes, case studies and practice exam answers.

In the past, **Geography** classes have also set up their own online chat groups to share homework, etc. too.

Key dates and deadlines will be published via E schools and in lessons once they have been confirmed by the school and exam board.

### What can you do once you have finished studying A-Level **Geography**?

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### Possible Degree Options...

According to the Royal Geographical Society and the Russell Group of Universities, **Geography** A Level is **a key 'facilitating' subject** which means that students have a range of highly valuable, transferrable skills and therefore a wide range of options for university study, depending on your other A Level choices. Possible degree options (depending on your other subjects) include:

- **Geography** (Human or Physical or both)
- Geology/ Earth Science
- Natural Science
- Medicine
- Mathematics
- Law
- ...the list is endless!

### **Possible Career Options**

Studying a **Geography**-related degree at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Travel/Leisure industry
- Environmental Scientist/Consultant
- Surveyor
- Town Planner
- Hazard Management Coordinator
- Hazard Management Modeler for Insurance
- Accountant
- Geologist
- Teacher!

# A-Level Geography Induction Task

## Introduction

**Geography** appeals to students who have an interest in the environment and current affairs, or anyone who enjoys studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences. The course covers a diverse range of relevant, contemporary topics, including Hazards; Climate Change; Globalisation; Resource Security; Cultural Diversity; Changing Physical Landscapes and Geographical Skills.

**We look forward to starting A-Level **Geography** with you in September!**

**Mrs Williamson and Mrs Marcus**

## Task 1

**Geography** plays a crucial role in understanding our world, and is a subject that's constantly adapting to change. It is dynamic and relevant, and provides people with a multitude of opportunities. Whether you've always wanted **geography** to take you to a particular place, to help you in a particular career or to help you understand one of the many challenges facing our world, we want to know where **geography** can take you.

**You are to answer the question below in a 1,500 word essay:**

***'Where can geography take you?'***

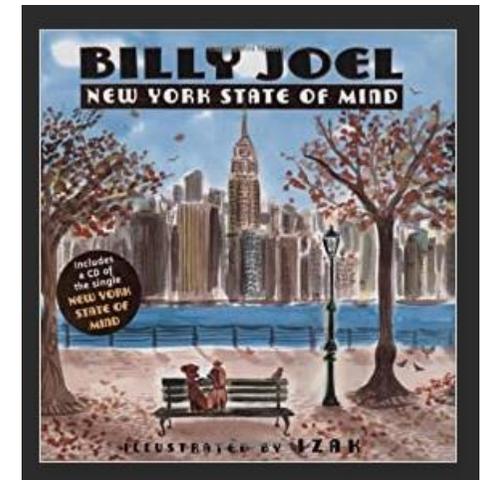
**Deadline:**

First lesson in September

**Task 2**

One of the units that we study during the A-level course is 'Changing Places'- which focuses on people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them. We look at how places are known and experienced, how their character is appreciated, and the factors and processes which impact upon places and how they change and develop over time. We look at two contrasting places and how they have changed over time by looking at both qualitative and quantitative sources; for example Ipswich and London.

We would like you to start looking at how places are represented in qualitative sources...



- 1. Find two songs that represent a particular place (e.g. New York State of Mind- Billy Joel and Empire State of Mind- Alicia Keys and Jay-Z- which are both about New York) - Can you write a paragraph to explain what those songs teach you about that particular place.**
- 2. Find at least two paintings/photographs of the same place you chose for the songs- does it tell you something different? Make sure you have digital copies of the images and add your information to your paragraph.**
- 3. Find any poems, stories, articles of the same place- does it tell you anything different? Remember to reference the material you have found and add to your existing work.**
- 4. Can you write a summary paragraph to explain how the place you have chosen is represented in qualitative data- does it show a positive or negative representation? Anything you have found that is interesting?**

(If you cannot find any songs of your own then use the New York ones mentioned above.)

