

GEOGRAPHY

Course: Edexcel Geography A-Level

Studying Geography at the A-Level offers an immersive exploration of the world's dynamic landscapes, cultures, and environmental systems. Through a blend of fieldwork, research, and critical analysis, students delve into pressing global issues, from climate change to urbanisation, gaining valuable insights into the interconnectedness of our planet.

A Level geographers at Sacred Heart develop a diverse skill set, including spatial reasoning, data analysis, and environmental awareness, essential for navigating today's complex world and shaping sustainable solutions for the future.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course is divided into four key areas of study and a fieldwork component (Non-Examined Assessment).

- Area 1 – Dynamic Landscapes
- Area 2 – Dynamic Places
- Area 3 – Physical Systems and Sustainability
- Area 4 – Human Systems and Geopolitics

HOW YOU ARE EXAMINED

There are three papers that comprise the four areas of study.

Paper 1 Physical Geography

1. Tectonics Processes and Hazards
2. Landscape systems, processes and change (Coasts)
3. Water cycle and water security
4. Carbon cycle and energy security

30%, 2hr 15mins, 105 marks

Paper 2 Human Geography

1. Globalisation
2. Diverse Places
3. Superpowers
4. Health, Human Rights and Intervention

30%, 2hr 15mins, 105 marks

Paper 3 Geographical Issues

The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue within the place-based context that links to the themes and is rooted in the compulsory content areas.

20%, 2hr 15mins, 70 marks

Non-Examined Assessment – Fieldwork Enquiry

Independent investigation based on fieldwork. 3000-4000 words.

20%, 70 marks

Use the summer as an opportunity to enhance your geographical knowledge and understanding. To keep your mind thinking geographically, complete the following tasks. These tasks will be covered in your introductory lessons in Y12.

TASK 1: 'GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS' SUMMER SCRAPBOOK CHALLENGE

The summer of 2023 was quite eventful. From continued threat of ongoing war spilling over, Trump election fraud, the heatwave in Europe, the Titanic Submersible implosion, to name a few.

Create a geographical scrapbook with news stories of geographical interest between now and September. Try to divide into human and physical geography. Collect relevant news stories, photos, articles etc and organise within the scrapbook – this can be really useful for supporting answers and arguments in essays. You might want to summarise the key geographical links within the images and articles.

TASK 2: PHOTO CHALLENGE BINGO!

You are challenged to gather a real-life photo that represents each of the 8 tiles below. Present these images on a PowerPoint slide. Annotate the images with their human and physical geographical relevance.

Coastal Landscapes	TNCs
Human Rights Violations	The Water Cycle
Carbon Sink	Culture in your local area
A natural hazard	Global power change

TASK 3: WHERE'S THE GEOGRAPHY?

For each of the texts you read, podcasts you listen to, films, tv programmes or documentary's you watch, try to record what you have learnt by:

- List any key terms from the text in a vocabulary list/glossary, researching their meanings.
- Create a picture mind-map of the key ideas. Use doodles and images to illustrate these.

WHAT TO LISTEN TO

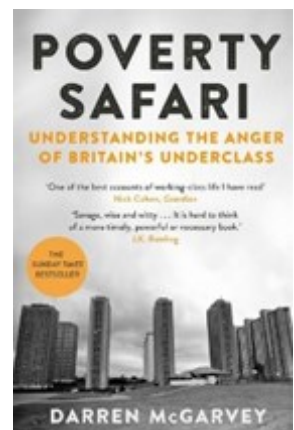
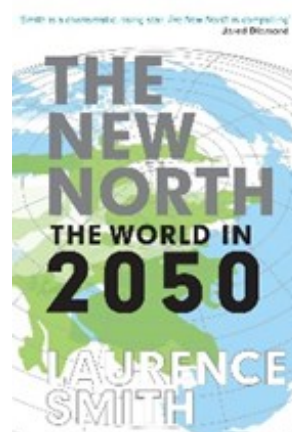
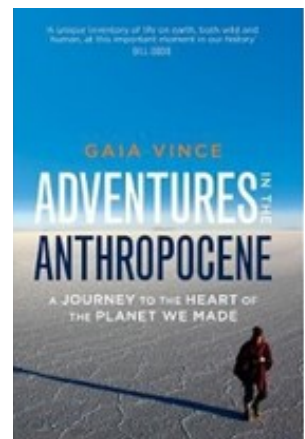
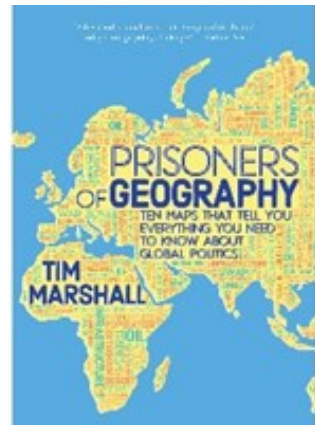
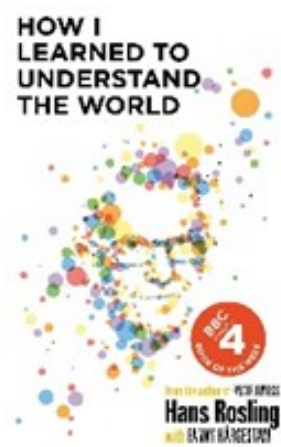
Royal Geographical Society – “Ask the Geographer podcasts” - <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/> - Up-to-date geographical research.

If you have read Tim Marshall's 'Prisoners of Geography', access the podcast conversation with him through RGS here: <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/a-conversation-with-tim-marshall/>

People fixing the world – BBC World Service – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04grdbc> - a podcast sharing brilliant solutions to the world's problems. Interviews of people with ideas to make the world a better place and investigate whether they work. **Episode suggestions:** [The big transport swap](#), [Forecasting volcanoes](#), [Saving the world's ice](#), and [Can we save coral?](#)

The Documentary Podcast – BBC World Service – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads> - this podcast covers a variety of global developments, issues and current affairs. **Episode suggestions:** [Finland's race to go carbon neutral](#), [Lethal force in Rio's favelas](#) and [Will China and America go to war?](#)

WHAT TO READ



WHAT TO WATCH

Vox (YouTube): <https://www.youtube.com/user/voxdotcom/videos> - an incredible visual resource that helps you cut through the noise and understand what's driving events in the headlines and in our lives. **Playlist suggestions:** [Climate Change](#), [Vox Borders](#) (Covering conflicts in India, China, Colombia, the Arctic and many more), and [Vox Atlas](#) (Geopolitics around the world).

TED-Ed (YouTube): <https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDEducation/playlists>. **Playlist suggestions:** [The power of nature](#) (Natural Hazards), [Troubleshooting the world](#) (Climate and Natural Resources), and [Our changing climate](#) (Climate Change).

Hans Rosling, The Gapminder Foundation (YouTube): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMbmqUMqzerMSM48pGYMYsg> - a 'fact tank' providing incredible statistical information that makes plenty of interesting points about gaps in wealth and health, history, inequalities between countries.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg> - a GREAT introduction to the work we will be doing on plate tectonics in Year 12

Films

- **Before the Flood** (2016) (PG) – National Geographic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbEnOYtsXHA> (presented by Leonardo DiCaprio – exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.
- **The Impossible** (2012) (12) – Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.
- **Slumdog Millionaire** (15) – based on life in the slums of Mumbai
- **Our Planet** (Netflix series) – explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.
- **Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom** (12) – an epic which celebrates the journey of Nelson Mandela from childhood in a rural village through to his election as President of South Africa.
- **The Last King of Scotland** (15) – another hard-hitting story, based on struggles faced by Uganda under the dictatorship of Idi Amin.
- **Into the Wild** (2007) (15) – based on the story of a university graduate who gives up all of his material possessions and journeys alone into the Alaskan Wilderness

Documentaries

You may need a personal login to access some of these.

- When the Immigrants Leave (Dispatches) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/ondemand/69555-001>
- China's Lonely Hearts (Unreported World) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreportedworld/ondemand/56011-011>
- The world's dirtiest river (Unreported world) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreportedworld/ondemand/58399-001>
- Forests of Fear (Unreported World) - <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/ondemand/69224-006>

QUERIES

If you have any further questions regarding the course, please contact the Head of Geography, Miss Nye:

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