



Welcome!

The geography department at Crossley Heath is friendly, supportive, and passionate about helping you achieve your best. A-Level Geography is taught by Miss Johnson, our Head of Department, and Mr Spencer. Both teachers are committed to making lessons engaging and relevant, with plenty of opportunities for discussion, discovery, and independent thinking.

Whether you're fascinated by natural processes or want to understand global challenges and how places change, the team is here to guide and support you every step of the way.

A-Level Geography

Introduction to A Level Geography

AQA A-Level Geography at Crossley Heath is an exciting and rewarding course that helps you make sense of the world around you. You'll explore a wide range of fascinating topics, from the Water and Carbon Cycles and Coastal Landscapes to Hazards, Changing Places, Urban Environments, and Global Systems and Governance.

The course is a great mix of physical and human geography, encouraging you to think critically, explore real-world issues, and develop valuable research and fieldwork skills. One of the highlights is our six-day residential trip to the beautiful Isle of Arran in Year 12, where you'll have the chance to carry out hands-on fieldwork in a stunning landscape and bond with your classmates.



To help you make a confident start to the course, we've put together some bridging work designed to introduce key themes and skills you'll be using throughout A-Level Geography.

This work will give you a taste of the topics we'll be studying, help you develop your independent learning and research abilities, and begin to build the geographical thinking needed at A-Level. It's a great opportunity to ease the transition from GCSE, explore new ideas, and come ready to get stuck in when we start in September.

Use the checklist below to ensure you have covered everything:

Tasks	Completed?
1. Hazards	
2. Changing Places	
3. Wider Reading	
4. Further Preparation	

We look forward to seeing your completed work in September, and hearing about the articles you've found most interesting!

Exam Board and Specification: AQA A-Level Geography (7037)

Link to Specification:

<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/p28bar15/green/f106b757b19b55b70ba3c9db7746cdf7381470c5.pdf>



Bridging work

1. Hazards

Task 1: Researching a recent tectonic hazard: Turkey-Syria earthquake (2023)

In this task, you'll research the **2023 Turkey-Syria Earthquake**, a devastating real-world tectonic hazard. This will help you understand key A-Level Geography concepts such as vulnerability, hazard impact, and responses.

Your job is to **independently research** the event using reliable online sources (e.g., BBC, The Guardian, USGS, National Geographic, UN, Red Cross) and **complete the table below** with clear, well-written information.

You'll explore not just what happened, but why it was so severe — and how it was (or wasn't) managed. You'll also start thinking critically about how human and physical geography interact in hazard events.

Category	Your Notes (Write in full sentences)
Date/Time of Event	
Location	(Written description and a map would be useful)
Magnitude	
Tectonic Cause	(Plate boundary, plate types, direction of movement)
Primary Impacts	(Deaths, injuries, damage to buildings and infrastructure)
Secondary Impacts	(Homelessness, disease, economic losses, aid delays, etc.)
Vulnerability Factors	(E.g. building quality, poverty, political instability, conflict, remoteness)
Short-term Responses	(Emergency rescue, aid, medical help, evacuations, etc.)
Long-term Responses	(Rebuilding, new policies, international aid, changes in planning or building codes)
Sources Used	(List at least 2 sources with titles or URLs)
Reflection	In 3–5 sentences: <i>Why do you think this hazard was so devastating? Could it have been managed better?</i>

Suggested Research Sources

- BBC News – Turkey-Syria Earthquake: What Happened**
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-64546490>
- USGS – Scientific Earthquake Summary**
<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us6000jllz/executive>
- YouTube (BBC News) – playlist of relevant videos**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY1puiezFBw&list=PLS3XGZxi7cBWO3cuDc3I2XRJX2skGpzua>
- The Guardian – Why So Many Buildings Collapsed**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/10/turkey-earthquake-why-so-many-buildings-collapsed>
- UN OCHA – Humanitarian Response Flash Update**
<https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-syria-earthquake-flash-update-9-february-2023>



Bridging *work*

2. Changing Places

Task 2: How is 'Your Place' represented?

In A-Level Geography, you'll explore how places are experienced and represented — not just physically, but emotionally and culturally. One key idea is that **media representations** (like news, adverts, or social media) can shape how people see a place, even if they've never been there.

This task asks you to explore how a **place familiar to you** is shown in different types of media. This could be your hometown, school town, or a neighbourhood you know well.

You'll look at a **range of media**, such as:

- News articles
- Social media (e.g. Instagram, TikTok, YouTube)
- Tourism sites or adverts
- Blogs or vlogs

Compare the In A-Level Geography, you'll explore how places are experienced and represented — not just physically, but emotionally and culturally. One key idea is that **media representations** (like news, adverts, or social media) can shape how people see a place, even if they've never been there.

Name of place: _____

Your Personal Experience	Source 1: News articles
What is the place like to you? How do you feel about it?	What do the headlines suggest about the place? Are there any themes (positive or negative)?
Source 2:	Source 3:
Describe what is shown and how it is portrayed (positive/ negative/ stereotyped?)	Describe what is shown and how it is portrayed (positive/ negative/ stereotyped?)

Question: How does your perception of this place compare to that of the media?



3. Wider Reading

Task 3: Geography in the news

Choose **two relatively recent articles** from David Redfern's Substack page that interest you. You will need to create a free account to access the content. This task will help you engage with current geographical issues and develop your skills in analysing real-world events linked to A-Level Geography. Once you have selected your articles, complete the attached proforma for each one.

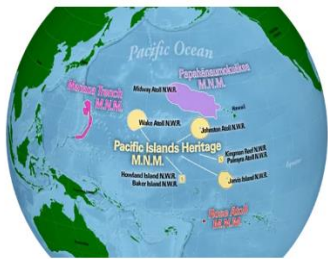
Access the articles here: <https://dredfern.substack.com/>

For example, some articles I've read recently include:



Canada wildfires May/June 2025

And a global scale report
JUN 15 • DAVID REDFERN



Recent actions (and inactions) by President Trump

Ecosystems, and Changing places (USA and...
MAY 10 • DAVID REDFERN



Models of health transition

Changing health in low-, middle-, and high...
JUN 21 • DAVID REDFERN



Antarctica and its threats

Long-term implications
JUN 28 • DAVID REDFERN



Geo Review _____



Title of Article: _____

Source: _____ Date articles was written: _____

Summary of Article:

What are the 3 most pertinent facts/figures/pieces of knowledge from the article that you can apply to your studies?

1	_____	Social Economic Environmental Political Scale?
2	_____	Social Economic Environmental Political Scale?
3	_____	Social Economic Environmental Political Scale?

How does this article link to the specification and what you have studied? (look for synoptic links)

Write down 3 key words below that you either learnt the meaning of, or will now try to use in your writing:

Key Word	Definition
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Date completed: _____

Checked by teacher: _____





Title of Article: _____

Source: _____ Date articles was written: _____

Summary of Article:

What are the 3 most pertinent facts/figures/pieces of knowledge from the article that you can apply to your studies?

1		Social Economic Environmental Political Scale?
2		Social Economic Environmental Political Scale?
3		Social Economic Environmental Political Scale?

How does this article link to the specification and what you have studied? (look for synoptic links)

Write down 3 key words below that you either learnt the meaning of, or will now try to use in your writing:

Key Word	Definition

Date completed: _____

Checked by teacher: _____



4. Further Preparation

As an optional extra, we recommend completing one or two Geography-related free online courses from the Open University website as part of your bridging work. These short courses are a fantastic way to explore geography beyond the classroom, build confidence with independent study, and show a genuine interest in the subject. They also look great on UCAS applications, apprenticeship forms, or CVs, helping you stand out by demonstrating motivation, curiosity, and a willingness to go the extra mile. You'll even receive a certificate of completion that you can keep as evidence of your learning.

Search through the free courses by clicking here: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

Suggested courses include:

- **Managing Coastal Environments:** <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/environmental-studies/managing-coastal-environments/>
- **Rising China and Africa's development-oil:** <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/rising-china-and-africas-development-oil/>
- **'Problem' populations, 'problem' places:** <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/sociology/problem-populations-problem-places/>
- **Changing Cities:** <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/changing-cities/>
- **Transport and Sustainability:** <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/transport-and-sustainability/>



5. The Importance of Wider Reading in AQA A-Level Geography

If you want to do well in AQA A Level Geography, reading beyond the textbook is one of the best things you can do. It will help you understand topics in more depth, improve your writing skills, and prepare you for university-level study. Plus, it can make your essays stand out and give you more confidence in exams.



Strengthen Your Subject Knowledge

Reading beyond the syllabus gives you extra examples, case studies, and real-world applications of geographical concepts. This can help you make stronger arguments in essays and bring in ideas that other students might not mention. It also makes learning more interesting, as you'll be able to connect what you study in class to things happening in the real world.



Develop a More Sophisticated Writing Style

A Level Geography isn't just about knowing the facts—it's about explaining them clearly and in a well-structured way. Reading high-quality sources exposes you to academic writing styles, helping you develop a more sophisticated and precise way of answering exam questions. It will also introduce you to useful terminology, making your essays sound more professional and well-informed.



Get Ready for University

If you're thinking about studying Geography (or any subject) at university, you'll be expected to do a lot of independent reading and research. By getting into the habit now, you'll find the transition to higher education much easier. Universities also look for students who are genuinely interested in their subject, and wider reading is a great way to show that passion in your personal statement.



Boost Your Reading Skills

Geography involves a lot of technical vocabulary and complex ideas. The more you read, the easier it becomes to understand academic texts, news articles, and reports. Many A Level students have a lower reading age than what's expected for their exams, so by challenging yourself with more advanced texts, you'll naturally improve your comprehension and ability to analyse information.

Where to Find Good Geography Reads

If you're not sure where to start, here are some great books and websites that link to AQA topics:

📖 **"Prisoners of Geography" – Tim Marshall**

How geography shapes global politics—perfect for topics like Superpowers and Globalisation.

📖 **"The Divide: A Brief Guide to Global Inequality and its Solutions" – Jason Hickel**

A deep dive into global inequality, great for Development and Globalisation.

📖 **"Coast: Our Island Story" – Nicholas Crane**

An engaging look at Britain's coastlines, useful for Coastal Systems and Landscapes.

🌐 **The Royal Geographical Society (www.rgs.org)**

A brilliant resource for articles, case studies, and podcasts.

🌐 **The Geographical Association (www.geography.org.uk)**

Up-to-date research, expert analysis, and teaching resources.

By reading widely, you'll not only do better in your A Levels but also build skills that will help you in university and beyond. So, pick up a book, explore new perspectives, and take your Geography studies to the next level!