

Flying Start 2019

Geography



Contents:

- Specification
- How to be successful in Geography
- Research and reading tasks for the summer

A Level GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD and SPEC:

Edexcel A level Geography – Pearson Edexcel level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography (9GE0).

How to be successful with A level Geography:

To be a successful geographer you need to have an enquiring mind and take a keen interest in current affairs, human actions and the physical world we live in. Geography is about examining the different ways that people interact with the environment and understanding the consequences of our actions.

To be successful, you need to have a good geography of the world, including knowing where countries, mountain ranges and major rivers and bodies of water are. This helps you to set case studies and issues in context, and foresee any conflicts.

Here are a few tasks that you can do over the summer holiday to ensure that you are prepared and get off to a flying start in geography:

The Physical and Human World

A good geographer has a spatial knowledge of the world we live in. Do you know where the major rivers, mountain ranges, deserts and rainforests are in the world? Could you locate and name countries that make up the Sahel, South East Asia, the Middle East etc. Improve your geography of the world by spending some time this holiday looking at google Earth or playing quizzes on websites like – world-geography-games.com

Energy and water security.

These topics ask us to explore issues facing the world today with regard to the use of essential resources. In light of growing populations and increasing levels of development and industrialisation globally, how can the world provide future sustainable supplies; without causing conflict or damaging our environment further?

China's South - North Project.

With regard to water security the Chinese government is currently building a vast water transfer scheme to bring water from southern China - the Yangtze River - up to the north of the country. The North is heavily industrialised and heavily populated but very dry. Carry out some research into this vast scheme - **China's South - North Project**. What does it involve in terms of infrastructure? Costs? Timeline for completion? Criticisms? Sustainability?

Singapore NEWater.

In contrast to China's South-North project, countries like Singapore are attempting to resolve future issues through **conservation** and the greater use of **recycled water**. Carry out some research into Singapore's NEWater <http://www.globalwaterforum.org/2018/01/15/newater-in-singapore/> . Why does Singapore have issues with regard to water security? What is NEWater? How has it been developed since 2003? Even though this water surpasses WHO guidelines with regard water quality, it is still recycled sewage water; how has the Singapore Government managed to overcome the public's reluctance to accept this new resource?

Tectonic Hazards

A major topic we examine at the beginning of year 12 is tectonic hazards. Tectonic hazards – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and secondary hazards such as tsunamis – represent a significant risk in some parts of the world. This is especially the case where active tectonic plate boundaries interact with areas of high population density and low levels of development. Resilience in these places can be low, and the interaction of physical systems with vulnerable populations can result in major disasters.

The USGS (United States Geological Survey)

The USGS is a very important government body with a wealth of knowledge and experience about natural hazards, especially earthquakes. You will be required to use their website regularly throughout the tectonics course. Your task is to produce a summary of the information stored on the website. This may include - When was the USGS set up, and what is its purpose? What sort of information can it provide about earthquake preparedness, early warnings and monitoring? Where would you look to find out about new theories and research? Where can you find out about the most recent earthquakes to have occurred around the world?

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Use the following link - <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/library/lib-terminology-eng%20home.htm>

Who are the UNISDR and what is disaster risk reduction? What sort of work does the UNISDR do to coordinate, campaign, inform and monitor? Produce a short factual account summarising your findings on no more than 1 side of paper

The British Geological Survey

Use the following link - <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>

What does the British Geological Survey do? What sort of information does the BGS provides? Make sure that you can use the geology maps and be able to look up different areas. Summarise what you have discovered

Globalisation

Another important topic that you will study in Year 12 is Globalisation. Over the past century, global interdependence and connections have continued to accelerate and increase, resulting in changing opportunities for businesses and people all around the world. There are many different players that are responsible for this increasing interconnectedness, and two of the most important ones are Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and International Organisations (IOs).

Investigate a TNC

Create a small case study of a TNC of your choosing. Remember a TNC is a company that has a branch in at least two or more countries (Apple, Nike and McDonalds are all good examples). Identify all of the countries that the TNC operates in and explain why you think they operate in all of these countries. Investigate the impacts that the TNC has had in both its' source country, and the host countries that it has invested in.

Investigate International Organisations (IOs)

Complete research into the following three IOs:

- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Make notes on the key aims of each IO, which countries are members, what their key policies are, and the impacts (both positive and negative) that each IO has had on countries around the world.