

Flying Start 2018

Geography



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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 and damaging our environment further?

Fracking

Carry out some research about **fracking** as a potential solution to future energy shortages - What is fracking? How successful has it been in the USA? What issues surround its development - pros and cons? Why did licences to test potential fracking sites in the UK cease in 2011? In May 2016 local councillors in North Yorkshire approved an application to carry out fracking in Ryedale - this is the first site to be approved since 2011 - why the change of heart? What do locals feel about this?

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?

Regeneration

Another topic covered in Year 12 is regeneration. This considers how relatively rundown and deprived areas of the UK; often suffering from deindustrialisation can be redeveloped to improve

local employment opportunities, the environment and peoples' quality of life. Regeneration can be triggered through major government investments in infrastructure, such as HS2.

HS2

HS2 is a highly controversial issue in the UK which will have impacts close to our local area. Find out exactly what the HS2 project involves and what the aims of the project are. How much is it going to cost? When is construction expected to start? Who will be the 'winners' and 'losers' from HS2? Can you find out the pressure groups who are acting for and against HS2? Draw up a table of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the HS2 project. To what extent might the benefits of HS2 outweigh the costs?

A very good starting point for this research is the BBC News website.

You should aim to produce a 'report' 2 sides of A4 maximum, summarising your findings of each 'case study'. You will need to be precise and factual.

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? Produce a two A4 sided account of your findings

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 on one side of A4 max