

Enhancing your geographical knowledge

There are number of things you can do:

1. **Developing as a geographer** - through general reading around / watching videos / listening to podcasts etc. to develop your geographical knowledge and understanding
2. **Preparing for the A Level Course** - Starting to explore the topics and their foundations which will be studied in the A Level course.

To be a great geographer you need to develop the ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview and how everything begins to link together. Geography is not just about studying people and landscapes; it is also the relationships that exist between people and their environment.

At GCSE you have covered a lot of the foundations of the underpinning concepts; physical processes and how they have shaped the landscape and the key human processes that shape our society. GCSE has provided a breadth of study, whereas A Level will now enable you to gain greater depth by exploring topics in greater detail but also encouraging you to see and explore the links between topics.

The best geographers at A Level keep reading the news and generally seek to improve their geographical understanding by engaging with geographical discussions regarding key issues.

Developing as a geographer:

These are a good idea while we have some extra time as you may find it difficult to fit this in while studying A levels.

Online news:

BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> - an excellent source of up to date articles - explore the key headings such as Science, as well as the UK, World and other stories.

THE GUARDIAN <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> - again many useful articles and logically ordered - keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development stories in particular!

Podcasts:

Costing the Earth - There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player> (many topics, including amongst others.. climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative power, plastics etc.)

Royal Geographical Society - "Ask the Geographer podcasts" - <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/> - a fantastic set of podcasts to keep A Level studies up-to-date with the latest geographical research - pick out some that interest you and give them a go!

Books:

Prisoners of Geography (Marshall, T) - an insightful book which helps understand how physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography - a great introduction to geopolitics.

Factfulness: Ten reasons we're wrong about the world - and why things are better than you think (Rosling, H 2019) - this is a must-read book from a geography perspective - this takes a more realistic view of the world, presenting issues in fact-based context.

The Almighty Dollar by Dharshini David Good overview of how the US dollar makes the world go around and how different countries use the global currency to their advantage; which was educational. Any easy read with a good plot line.

Preparing for A level:

We will set weekly tasks for both the human paper and physical paper to enhance your knowledge. These may be reading articles or watching programmes. Our google classroom code is 376v5jf

When reading articles either print them or do this online. Highlight the key information and annotate it with your own thinking and knowledge. Then write a summary paragraph or two to summarise the article.