



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Year 11 Transition Resources

Key Skills

from GCSE to Advanced Level...

Hello potential A Level Geographers,

Studying a full Advanced A level course is hard and a big step up from GCSE studies. Therefore, we would like you to explore some key terms, concepts and skills that will help you throughout your A-Level course.

To do this we would encourage you to have a look at some of the resources contained in this document which are designed to widen your geographical knowledge and to help you get a headstart on your studies for the next academic year.

The Geography Department

Emmanuel College

1. Geographical Skills Audit

You will need to develop a variety of basic, investigative, cartographic, graphical, applied ICT and statistical skills to help you succeed in your A-Level Geography studies. The level of accuracy, sophistication and detail required will be higher at A-Level than they were at GCSE.

Below is a list of key skills that a great Geographer needs to have. Read through the list and RAG/Traffic light each skill as follows:

RED: I do not know what this is or how to do this.

AMBER: I know a little about this but need to develop my ability in this area.

GREEN: I am confident that I know what this and have a good level of ability in this area.

A: Cartographic Skills	
• atlas maps	
• base maps	
• sketch maps	
• Ordnance Survey maps at a variety of scales	
• maps with located proportional symbols – squares, circles, semi-circles, bars	
• maps showing movement – flow lines, desire lines and trip lines	
• choropleth, isoline and dot maps	
• weather maps – including synoptic charts	
• detailed town centre plans	

B: Graphical Skills	
• line graphs – simple, comparative, compound and divergent	
• bar graphs – simple, comparative, compound and divergent	
• scatter graphs – and use of best fit line	
• pie charts and proportional divided circles	
• triangular graphs	
• radial diagrams	
• logarithmic scales	
• dispersion diagrams	
• kite diagrams	

C: ICT Skills

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| • use of remotely sensed data – photographs, digital images including those captured by satellite | |
| • use of databases, eg census data, Environment Agency data; meteorological office data | |
| • use of geographical information systems (GIS) | |
| • presentation of text and graphical and cartographic images using ICT | |

D: Investigative Skills

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| • identification of aims, geographical questions and issues, and effective approaches to enquiry/fieldwork investigation | |
| • identification, selection and collection of quantitative and qualitative evidence, including the use of appropriate sampling techniques, from primary sources (including fieldwork) and secondary sources | |
| • processing, presentation, analysis and interpretation of evidence | |
| • drawing conclusions and showing an awareness of the validity of conclusions | |
| • evaluation, including further research opportunities | |
| • risk assessment and identification of strategies for minimising health and safety risks in undertaking fieldwork | |

E: Statistical Skills

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| • measures of central tendency – mean, mode, median | |
| • measures of dispersion – interquartile range and standard deviation | |
| • Spearman's rank correlation test | |
| • application of significance level in inferential statistical results | |
| • comparative tests – Chi-squared, Mann Whitney U Test | |

2. Key Vocabulary

In preparing to be an exemplary Geography you will need to be able to write and speak like one. Have a look at the vocabulary list below and think about areas that they may apply to and familiarise yourself with them as you start the course. Of course, you are also encouraged to use other specialist geographical vocabulary in your answers beyond the terms list here!

Term	Definition
Appropriate	Whether actions or solutions are fit for purpose and realistic.
Benefits	The advantages/positive impacts of something (social, economic, environmental).
Causes	The reasons for the form/character of a phenomenon – for example, why a process occurs or why a phenomenon displays its characteristic features.
Challenges	Difficult, large-scale problems that require solutions.
Characteristics	The key features of a phenomenon.
Concerns	Aspects of an issue or problem that are worrying to people.
Conflicts	Issues over which two or more groups of people disagree.
Consequences	The results of an action, change or process; they can be positive or negative.
Costs	The disadvantages/negative impacts of an action, change or process (social, economic, environmental).
Contrasting	Where two (or more) examples are different from each other in one or more significant ways. This is often seen as referring to different levels of economic development but it could refer to other differences that are relevant to the question.

Distribution	The geographical locations of specified phenomenon/phenomena, most often shown on a map. It may or may not present as a pattern.
Economic	Connected with the economy and therefore often to do with employment, industry and welfare, and measurable in money terms.
Effects	The results/outcomes of an event, action or process.
Environmental	Connected with the environment – water, air and land, and the organisms which occupy it (including humans) and natural resources obtainable from it.
Factors	The underlying causes of a phenomenon or problem or issue and the elements which influence it.
Impacts	The results/outcomes of events, actions or processes on people and the environment. They can be positive or negative.
Implications	What happens or might happen as a results/consequence of events, actions or processes.
Interrelationships	Links between two or more phenomena, such that changing one leads to changes in the other(s).
Issues	Matters which cause concern to people and about which there may be differing views and may therefore be a source of conflict.
Lifestyle	The way in which people live their lives on a regular basis.
Management	The design and implementation of policies and strategies to minimise or reduce impacts or problems and enhance outcomes. Management implies a degree of deliberation and planning.
Opportunities	A situation where change might occur and where it could be for the better.

Patterns	Regularities in the occurrence or distribution of phenomena. Geographically, most often shown on a map.
Political	Connected with the distribution and exercise of power, the promotion of different viewpoints and policies, the resolution of any such differences and the consequent decisions.
Problems	Difficulties, risks or issues that worry people and indicate a response is required.
Process	A sequence of at least two related events that causes a change to take place.
Responses	The ways in which people react to an event or possible event – some may be as an individual, some may be as groups; some are planned, some are unplanned.
Scale	The area or scope of a phenomenon or focus of study – local, regional, national, international, global.
Social	Connected with people, their quality of life, health, education, prosperity and welfare.
Strategies	An overarching view and approach which indicates methods used to manage a problem or issue.
Sustainable	That which is capable of being maintained into the foreseeable future without prejudice to its own continuation or damage to the environment.
Threats	A situation where change might occur and where it could be for the worse.
Trends	The general direction of a change – increasing, decreasing, fluctuating.
Variation	How far a phenomenon differs from the norm or the average.

3. Recommended Reading List

- ***No one is too small to make a difference (Greta Thunberg)***: The groundbreaking speeches of Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist who has become the voice of a generation, including her historic address to the United Nations
- ***Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall)***: 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 (Hans Rosling)***: Hans Rosling has written what is a must-read book from a geography perspective – this takes a more realistic view of the world, presenting issues in fact-based context. It is a rational look at actually how far the world has measurably improved and what's left to be done.
- ***Divided (Tim Marshall)***: Author Tim Marshall attempts to explain why we are living in an age of walls by delving into our past and present to reveal the fault lines that will shape our world for years to come. Another Sunday Times Best Seller from the author.
- ***Unruly Places (Alistair Bonnet)***: At a time when Google Maps can take you on a virtual tour of most places on the planet, it's hard to imagine there's any uncharted ground left on the planet. Unruly Places goes to some of the most unexpected, offbeat places in the world to re-inspire our geographical imaginations.
- ***Brick Lane (Monica Ali)***: A fictional novel which explores the rich cultural heritage of East London's Brick Lane. A less academic approach to key urban issues and cultural tensions in inner-city London.
- ***The Weather Experiment (Peter Moore)***: This is the story of our greatest obsession: a gripping account of the sailors, scientists and inventors who sought to understand the weather.
- ***China's Asian Dream (Tom Miller)***: Combining a concise overview of the situation with on-the-ground reportage from over seven countries, China's Asian Dream offers a fresh perspective on one of the most important questions of our time: what does China's rise mean for the future of Asia and of the world?
- ***On the Map (Simon Garfield)***: Maps fascinate us. They chart our understanding of the world and they log our progress, but above all they tell our stories. From the early sketches of philosophers and explorers through to Google Maps and beyond, Simon Garfield examines how maps both relate and realign our history.
- ***The Power of Place (Harm De Blij)***: The world is not as mobile or as interconnected as we like to think. As Harm de Blij argues in *The Power of Place*, in crucial ways--from the uneven distribution of natural resources to the unequal availability of opportunity--geography continues to hold billions of people in its grip. Incorporating a series of persuasive maps, De Blij describes the tremendously varied environments across the planet and shows how migrations between them are comparatively rare. De Blij also looks at the ways we are redefining place so as to make its power even more potent than it has been, with troubling implications.
- ***Landmarks (Robert Macfarlane)***: Words are grained into our landscapes, and landscapes are grained into our words. *Landmarks* is about the power of language to shape our sense of place. It is a field guide to the literature of nature and a glossary containing thousands of

remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to describe land, nature, and weather.

- ***Mountains of the Mind (Robert Macfarlane)***: Combining accounts of legendary mountain ascents with vivid descriptions of his own forays into wild, high landscapes, Robert MacFarlane reveals how the mystery of the world's highest places has come to grip the Western imagination—and perennially draws legions of adventurers up the most perilous slopes.
- ***Notes from a Small Island (Bill Bryson)***: New York Times bestseller Bill Bryson's hilarious journey through the beloved island nation he called home for two decades. From Downing Street to Loch Ness, this is a delightful look at the United Kingdom.
- ***A History of the World in 12 Maps (Jeremy Brotton)***: Jerry Brotton examines the significance of 12 maps - from the almost mystical representations of ancient history to the satellite-derived imagery of today. He vividly recreates the environments and circumstances in which each of the maps was made, showing how each conveys a highly individual view of the world. Brotton shows how each of his maps both influenced and reflected contemporary events and how, by considering it in all its nuances and omissions, we can better understand the world that produced it.
- ***Longitude (Dava Sobel)***: Longitude is the dramatic human story of an epic scientific quest and of Harrison's forty-year obsession with building his perfect timekeeper, known today as the chronometer. Full of heroism and chicanery, it is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation, and clockmaking, and opens a new window on our world.
- ***The Happy City (Charles Montgomery)***: Charles Montgomery's Happy City is revolutionizing the way we think about urban life. After decades of unchecked sprawl, more people than ever are moving back to the city. Dense urban living has been prescribed as a panacea for the environmental and resource crises of our time. But is it better or worse for our happiness? Are subways, sidewalks, and condo towers an improvement on the car dependence of the suburbs?
- ***Map head: Charting the Weird World of Geography Wonks (Ken Jennings)***: Ken Jennings takes readers on a world tour of geogeeks from the London Map Fair to the bowels of the Library of Congress, from the prepubescent geniuses at the National Geographic Bee to the computer programmers at Google Earth. Each chapter delves into a different aspect of map culture: highpointing, geocaching, road atlas rallying, even the “unreal estate” charted on the maps of fiction and fantasy. Jennings also considers the ways in which cartography has shaped our history, suggesting that the impulse to make and read maps is as relevant today as it has ever been.
- ***Atlas of Improbable Places (Travis Elborough)***: With beautiful maps and stunning photography illustrating each destination, Atlas of Improbable Places is a fascinating voyage to the world's most incredible destinations. As the Island of Dolls and the hauntingly titled Door to Hell — an inextinguishable fire pit - attest, mystery is never far away. The truths and myths behind their creation are as varied as the destinations themselves. Standing as symbols of worship, testaments to kingships or even the strange and wonderful traditions of old and new, these curious places are not just extraordinary sights but reflections on man's own relationship with the world around us.

4. Recommended Podcasts of Interest

Give your eyes a break at a time when your screen time has increased and pop your headphones in instead to broaden your geographical understanding. These podcasts come highly recommended by many geographers and geography teachers.

- **Costing the Earth** – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player>
There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues including 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!
- **The Documentary podcast** -
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads>
From the BBC, these podcasts investigate global development issues and affairs.
- **The Inquiry** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029399x/episodes/downloads>
BBC podcasts exploring the trends, forces and ideas shaping the world beyond the headlines.
- **Podcasts from Oxford University School of Geography and the Environment** –
<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/school-geography-and-environment-podcasts>
These online audio resources consist of lectures, seminars and interviews from the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.
- **Talks from the Royal Geographical Society** <https://www.rgs.org/all/?categories=FreeToView>
From microplastics to microfinance, the RGS have released over 50 free geographical talks for you to watch and listen to

5. Recommended Websites of Interest

THE GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION'S ‘Geography from Home’

<https://www.geography.org.uk/Preparing-for-A-level-geography>

This web section from the GA provides general guidance on why you should study A level geography. It also contains extensive reading lists arranged by physical and human geography themes to help students find the most relevant and authoritative reading material in preparation for advanced study.

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY'S ‘Geography at Home’ <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/geography-at-home/>

This page provides an overview of the Society's support and resources, whilst highlighting other online geography-related learning opportunities that you might find useful. Their online lecture catalogue is an excellent resource along with their NEA guidance which is something you will start to think about towards the end of year 12.

DYNAMIC EARTH ONLINE <https://www.dynamicearthonline.co.uk/>

Dynamic Earth share a range of fun and thought-provoking content that ranges from hands-on experiments that you can carry out at home, through to fascinating insights about the history of our planet and the science behind climate change.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

Since 1890, the National Geographic Society has supported the work of more than 14,000 scientists, educators, storytellers, conservationists, technologists and many others across all seven continents. The work of the society focuses on illuminating and protecting the wonder of our world, split into five different areas of interest: Oceans, Land, Wildlife, Human History & Cultures and Human Ingenuity.

THE CONVERSATION.COM <http://theconversation.com/uk>

You will find this really useful to support many of your A Levels. It provides up to date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising key points in short but insightful articles

BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

An excellent source of up to date articles – explore the key headings such as Science, Business, 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.

6. Recommended TV programmes & Films

Why not spend some down time with one of the following documentaries or films? Instead of watching re-runs of Friends or keeping up with Joe Exotic on Tiger King, make sure you are even making use of your Netflix and relaxing time by watching something geographical! Your brain absolutely needs to rest but watching any of the following means your brain is still learning and engaging with the subject.

A: Documentaries

There are some great geographical documentaries which will help develop your general geographical knowledge and understanding and help you see what an amazing world we live in. *Please note that the list of programmes is changed and updated frequently, so keep checking the listings on a regular basis.*

BBC iPlayer: bbc.co.uk/iplayer

- David Attenborough Box Sets <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>
- The Americas with Simon Reeve <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve>
- Simon Reeve around the world <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm>
- Mediterranean with Simon Reeve <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0bnb6tt/mediterranean-with-simon-reeve>

ITV Player: www.itv.com/hub/itv

- Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods <https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157>
- Joanna Lumley's Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti <https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleys-hidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578>

Channel 4 On Demand: www.channel4.com

- When the Immigrants Leave (Dispatches)
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>
- China's Lonely Hearts (Unreported World)
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/56011-011>
- The world's dirtiest river (Unreported world)
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/58399-001>
- Forests of Fear (Unreported World) -
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreportedworld/on-demand/69224-006>
- Hurricane Hell (Unreported World)
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreportedworld/on-demand/69224-007>
- The World's Dirtiest Air (Unreported World)
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/6719>

B: Films

- ***Before the Flood (2016)***: Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, travelling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change first-hand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction.
- ***An Inconvenient Truth and An Inconvenient Sequel (2006, 2016)***: These films follow Al Gore on the lecture circuit as the former presidential candidate campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of global warming and calls for immediate action to curb its destructive effects on the environment.
- ***The Impossible (2012)***: The story of a tourist family caught in the destructive and chaotic aftermath of one of the world's most devastating natural disasters. Based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.
- ***Slumdog Millionaire (15)***: A Mumbai teenager reflects on his life after being accused of cheating on the Indian version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. Based on life in the slums of Mumbai and the realities of urban life in one of the world's largest megacities.
- ***Hotel Rwanda (12)***: The true story of hotel manager who houses and protects Tutsi refugees – this is a hard-hitting film based on the Rwandan Conflict of the 1990s.
- ***The Last King of Scotland (15)***: Based on the events of the brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's regime as seen by his personal physician during the 1970s.
- ***Lion (2016)***: An Indian man who was separated from his mother at the age of 5 and adopted by an Australian family return home determined to find his birth family. Highlights the realities of slum life.

7. Other things you might want to do as a committed Geographer

- Think about taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Think about joining a local Environmental Group.
- **Think about how you could work alongside the Geography staff team from September and throughout your two-year course. Perhaps by helping run a Geography Ecoclub, or being a Geography classroom assistant or Geography student mentor.**
- Subscribe to a Geography journal/magazine e.g. Geography Review, Geographical or National Geographic.
- Join the Royal Geographical Society.
- Enter a geography writing competition.
- Read and or watch the daily news. Make notes on topics of interest that will be relevant to your course over the next two years as there are always lots of topical Geography stories or themes in the news every day.