

Boston High School Geography Transition Pack



Welcome to A level Geography!

It's going to be great fun, challenging, exciting, surprising and hard work. It is going to be a chance to think, discuss, question and maybe change your ideas and those of the people around you. You will develop your learning skills- moving into a more collegiate (shared) way of working, bouncing ideas off each other, discussing, debating arguing- and sometimes even agreeing! You will find things out for yourself and then share them with your peers. You will be amazed and delighted at how the subject links to your real world experience and introduces you to a much wider perspective than before.

What A Level **isn't** going to be is 2 years of sitting silently, taking notes, learning them and churning them out in 3 exams and a piece of coursework at the end. It really doesn't work like that!

The following 7 activities are all things which will support your success at A Level. They are suggested activities in preparation for the course but you will also meet them from September. Any head start you want to give yourself before that can only help!

1. The specification is here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>

In Y12 you will study Areas 1 & 2B for the physical geography and 3 & 4B for the human. Find out what those topics are from the spec! The Edexcel website is a mine of information for you – from specs, student booklets to past papers and the examiners reports on them. Bookmark this site for your future use!

2. Thinking about Geography – Proff Peter Jackson, Sheffield University

<https://www.geography.org.uk/teaching-resources/videos/connections>

In this very short video, Peter Jackson talks about looking at things from a geographical point of view. The links and relationships he talks about are a key (integral) part of A level geography. The text book word is SYNOPTICITY. Try the questions below:

- How is the wealth of the global North related to the conditions in the global south?
- In what other areas can geographical thinking help uncover connections?
- In your opinion, are changes needed in the relationship between the global north and global south to achieve development?

3. A thinking tool – PMI

<https://www.virtuallibrary.info/pmi-plus-minus-interesting-strategy.html>

Geography requires you to think, evaluate and make decisions and judgements. There is regularly no right answer. You have to justify your view. This technique (PMI) is a very simple but effective way of making judgements and gathering the arguments to support each view of a decision. Try it now on the following statements.

- Geography is the best A level to do.
- School uniform should be abolished for sixth formers.
- Single use plastics should all be banned.

4. Hazards geography – Iain Stewart: Anatomy of an earthquake

<https://www.geography.org.uk/teaching-resources/earthquakes-tsunamis>

Watch Iain Stewart's film. How useful did you find it? Find some other work by the same person and see if there is anything you find more useful. Record your sources, summarise the content and explain briefly why they are/are not helpful to you.

5. Digital mapping- Intro to ArcGIS and Digimap

<https://learn.arcgis.com/en/paths/getting-started-with-maps-and-data-in-arcgis-online/>

You will need to be able to use GIS and digital mapping software. This link is an introduction to one of the main digital mapping platforms- work through the activities here. You can use the free public access but if you email me, I can give you access to the school account.

Digimap for schools

<https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/login>

Login:pe219pf

Password: rhells8461

You have probably used this at GCSE. You need to get better at it! Spend some time playing with the tool bar and making your own maps.

- Start with making an annotated map of your route to BHS, including measuring the distances, adding photos of things you pass and annotating interesting features. Digimap for schools has its own youtube account with extensive “how to” videos.

6. Diverse Places -Multiculturalism in UK Cities (London)

https://timeforgeography.co.uk/videos_list/cities/multiculturalism-london/

Watch the film made by the Geography Department at Kingston University. Think about the content- can you see any parallels in Boston? Think about where people come from and why. Think about why people may (have to) leave a place. Why did people leave Boston 400 years ago?

Choose another film that interests you from the site. Make brief notes on

- Why you chose the film
- What you already knew
- What was new to you

7. How does Geography help to understand the world?

You need to stay abreast of current events to be successful at geography. You should set up a reliable newsfeed for yourself – choose a regulated news provider- and read it daily.

- Choose any current news item, state the source and summarise the story. Then explain how Geography can help us to understand the issues involved.

Buy a big world map – the sort places like the Works sell for about a fiver. Every time you read about, watch, hear, get taught a new place, find it on your map and mark it. You can add a post it note with brief info, or use a key- but this will really, really help.

Finally, if you have any questions – please get in touch with either of us and ask! The ONLY daft question is the one you don't ask!

Anna.collingwood@bostonhighschool.co.uk

Harry.stroud@bostonhighschool.co.uk