

## A-Level Geography Preparation Guide

Welcome to A Level Geography!

You've probably been wondering how studying A Levels will compare to your previous studies so we have put together a quick guide and some activities to help you get ready for starting in September.

### Overview

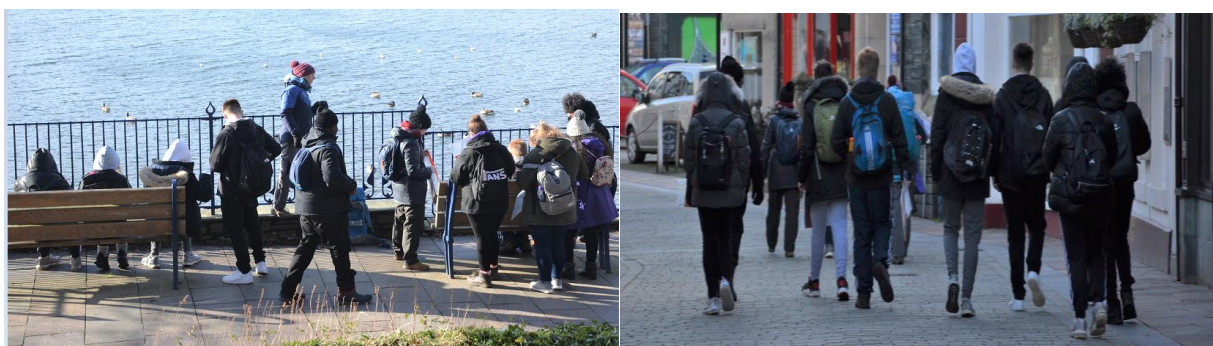
We live in a dynamic and rapidly changing world. The challenges we face including outbreak of diseases, natural hazards, migration, globalisation, wars over natural resource use. These factors are complex and interconnected. Our physical world (nature) and human interactions (socio-economics) overlap and that is why we take a multidisciplinary approach in analysing complex natural systems.

We understand you may have a mixture of interests, from social sciences to natural sciences. Geography provides you with an opportunity to study both 'physical' and 'human' geography. Our programmes will equip you with transferable skills essential for future employment. Geography students are skilled in working with digital technologies, statistics, mapping packages, immigration services, town planning, GIS and mobile media.

### Lessons/ equipment/ Uniform / Clothing

Students are expected to strengthen their critical thinking and problem-solving skills through collaborative learning. You will be expected to work as an individual and in teams. Students will engage in interactive seminars, workshops and independent study. Equipment include black pen, scientific calculator, pencil, ruler and paper. You will need a file to store all your case study notes, homework, tests and exams.

For fieldwork activities/ field trip, you will be required to have waterproof clothing wellingtons/ walking boots, warm sweaters, warm trousers (jeans are not advisable in wet weather) gloves, hats and scarves, thick socks (several pairs in case they get wet).





### **Learning to Learn**

Geography is a challenging but rewarding subject, offering insight into the world around us and how things that we take for granted work.

In order to succeed in this subject, you must have the ability to learn an extensive amount of work as well as be able to apply the theoretical knowledge.

With this in mind, to assist your learning and enable you to perform to your potential, we expect that:

- You will review and revise your notes by making flash-cards or other methods to assist your learning of the material.
- You will not leave all learning until the end of the year before exams. The volume of work cannot be learnt in a few days.
- You will complete two pieces of work every week to assess your progress and understanding.
- You to use MyVLE for extra resources and questions.

### **Planning for Exams**

The exam board for Geography is OCR and you will study Specification code: H481  
Qualification number: 601/8576/4 .

Why pick OCR? OCR's A Level in Geography aims to encourage learners to develop a range of essential skills for Higher Education and the world of work through content which is relevant to any citizen of the planet in the 21st century.

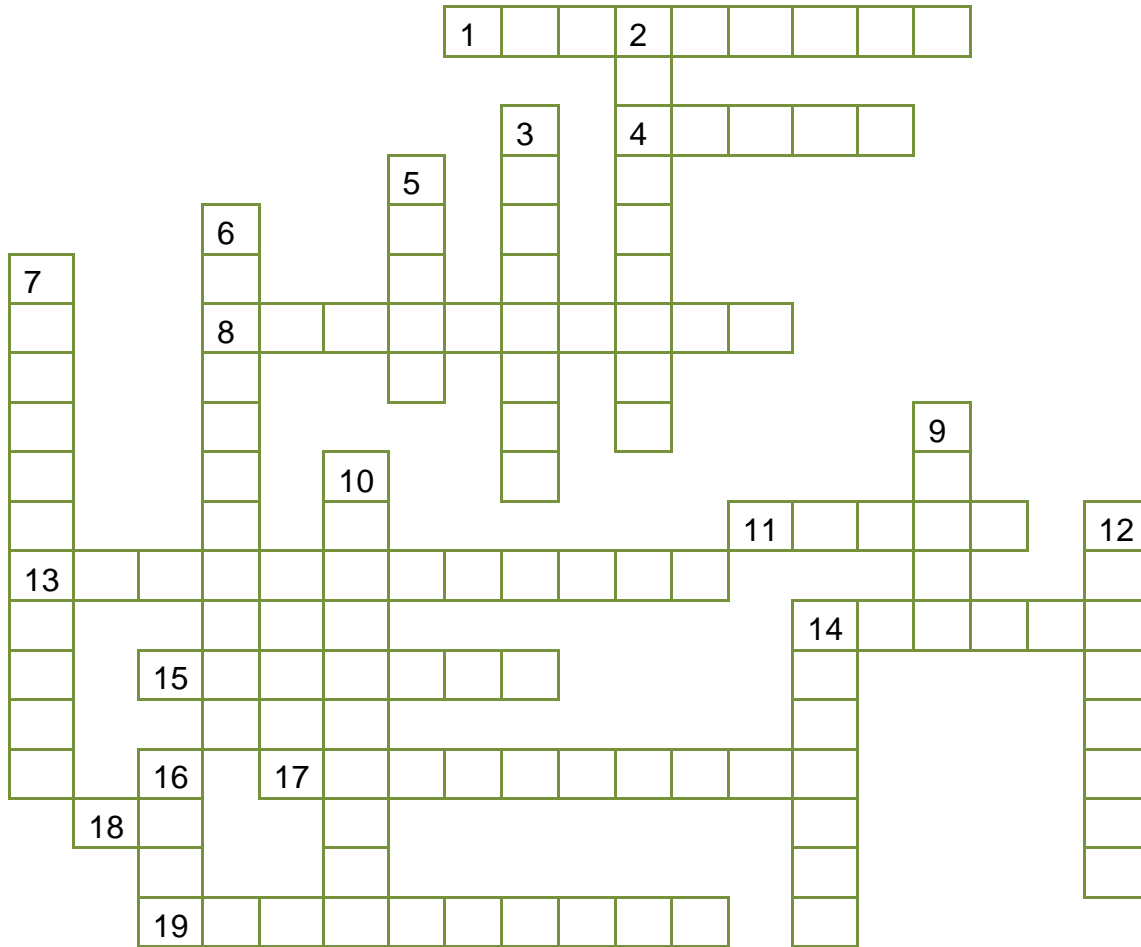
| Content Overview   | Assessment Overview  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Systems</li> <li>• Earth's Life Support Systems</li> <li>• Geographical Skills</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Physical systems (01)</b></p> <p>66 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minute written paper</p>              | <p><b>22%</b><br/>of total<br/>A Level</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing Spaces; Making Places</li> <li>• Global Connections</li> <li>• Geographical Skills</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Human interactions (02)</b></p> <p>66 marks</p> <p>1 hour 30 minute written paper</p>            | <p><b>22%</b><br/>of total<br/>A Level</p> |
| <p>Optionality – study 2 of 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Disease Dilemmas</li> <li>• Exploring Oceans</li> <li>• Future of Food</li> <li>• Hazardous Earth</li> <li>• Geographical Skills</li> </ul> | <p><b>Geographical debates (03)*</b></p> <p>108 marks</p> <p>2 hours 30 minute written paper</p>       | <p><b>36%</b><br/>of total<br/>A Level</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Investigation</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Investigative geography (04/05)*</b></p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Non-examination assessment (NEA)</p> | <p><b>20%</b><br/>of total<br/>A Level</p> |

Through the study of Physical systems, you will develop an understanding and appreciation of Landscape Systems, contextualised through either coastal landscapes or dryland landscapes and Earth's Life Support Systems, which encompasses the water and carbon cycles vital to our planet.

You will explore Human interactions through the study of Global Connections by focusing on the systems of migration and sovereignty on a global scale. You will also study Changing Spaces; Making Places, which gives you an insight into the nature of places and the fluidity of their meanings and representations.

In your first year, you will sit two exams Landscape and Place (H081/1) and Geographical debates (H081/2). In your Second year, you will sit three papers Physical systems (H481/1), Human Interactions (H481/2) and Geographical debates (H481/3). The exams will assess your knowledge and understanding of the practical aspects of the course that are taught throughout.

## Task



### Across

1. Point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.
4. Liquid rock below the Earth's surface.
8. Name given to a chain of volcanoes along the Pacific Rim.
11. Volcanic mud flow created by a pyroclastic flow mixed with water. One flowed down the slopes of Mt. St. Helens and heated the Toutle River to 90 degrees C.
13. Type of plate boundary where crust is neither created nor destroyed. It is responsible for the earthquakes experienced in California.
14. A deep sea feature created by subduction.
15. The Kobe earthquake measured 6.9 on this scale.
17. Zone where oceanic crust is forced down and under continental crust.

### Down

2. Type of volcano formed from successive layers of ash, lava and debris, such as Vesuvius.
3. A large area of solidified lava.
5. There is one in the Mid-Atlantic, and Iceland sits on one.
6. This 'flow' is a cloud of hot volcanic gases, ash and volcanic bombs that can flow down the side of a volcano.
7. Type of plate margin characterised by subduction zones and long fold mountain chains.
9. It's not an S-wave or an L-wave.
10. A sudden tremor or movement of the earth's crust, which originates naturally at or below the surface. An example occurred in Gujarat, India, 26th January 2001.
12. This white-hot volcanic hazard covered the Roman town of Pompeii, on 24th August AD79.
14. In December 2004 one of these hit Indonesia. It resulted in over 120,000 deaths,

**18.** Rough looking lava, or the Hawaiian word for "stony with rough lava".

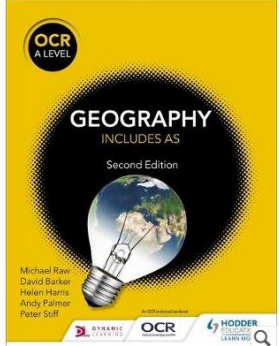
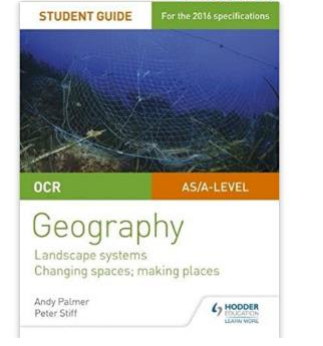
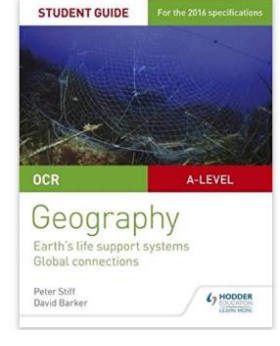
**19.** Earth tremors that follow the main 'quake.

90,000 people listed as missing, and left over 400,000 people homeless.

**16.** Liquid rock on the Earth's surface. It rarely kills people but can flatten buildings and destroy crops.

## Recommended Textbooks

New textbooks have been produced that are designed with the newly structured and examined specification. Those currently available are:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| OCR A Level<br>Geography Second<br>Edition (Paperback)<br>by <a href="#">Michael Raw</a> ( et al )<br>Publisher: Hodder<br>Education<br>ISBN: 9781471858703 | OCR AS/A-level<br>Geography Student<br>Guide 1: by <a href="#">Andy<br/>Palmer</a> (Author), <a href="#">Peter<br/>Stiff</a> (Author) | OCR AS/A-level<br>Geography Student<br>Guide 2: by <a href="#">Peter<br/>Stiff</a> (Author), <a href="#">David<br/>Barker</a> (Author) |
|   |   |   |

Older OCR certified Geography textbooks will also be suitable for most areas of the specification, but some of the topics have changed slightly and there is less of an emphasis on practical techniques in these books

## Recommended Websites

Whilst the internet is full of useful scientific information, we do not advise a random search as many of these sites are not specifically designed for OCR specification, this applies to Wikipedia, as the content regularly goes far beyond the A-Level specification and covers many interesting areas that are not relevant to the course.

The most useful websites are:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce/geography-h081-h481-from-2016/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/308342-changing-places-making-spaces-delivery-guide.pdf>

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

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/a-student-guide-to-the-a-level-independent-investi/>

The OCR website can be used for information relevant to the course, as well as past exam papers and exemplar questions.

## What I wish I'd known about A Level Geography

### Famous quotes

"An understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great curiosity, but great fulfilment." – **Sir David Attenborough**

"I gradually became aware that my interiority was inseparable from my exteriority, that the geography of my city was the geography of my soul."  
— **Aleksandar Hemon**

There is adventure in finding compelling stories and exploring complex issues in challenging environments, but there is also a responsibility to tell those stories accurately and objectively."— **K. Lee Lerner**

"Note for Americans and other aliens: Milton Keynes is a new city approximately halfway between London and Birmingham. It was built to be modern, efficient, healthy, and, all in all, a pleasant place to live. Many Britons find this amusing."  
— **Neil Gaiman,**

"Geography blended with time equals destiny," - **poet Joseph Brodsky**

With Theresa May in Number 10, the joke is no longer on geographers- **Financial Times**

You can't stop someone who knows where they are going -**Michael Jordan**