

SAINT JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE

Year 11 to Year 12 Transition Activity Pack SUMMER 2025

Geography

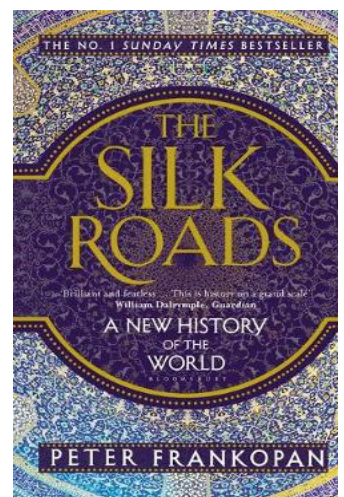
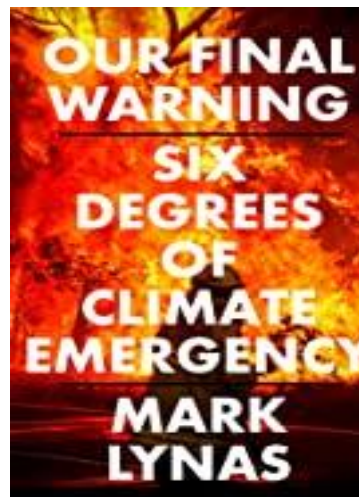
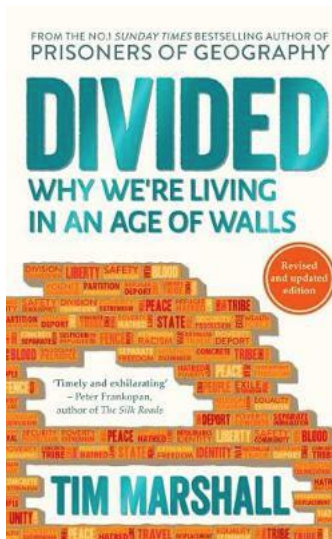
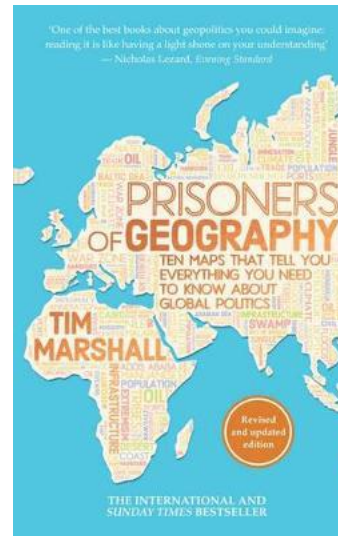
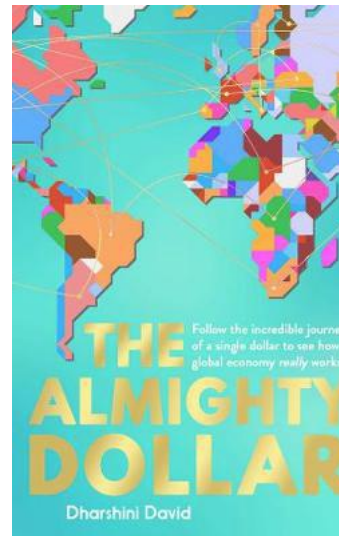
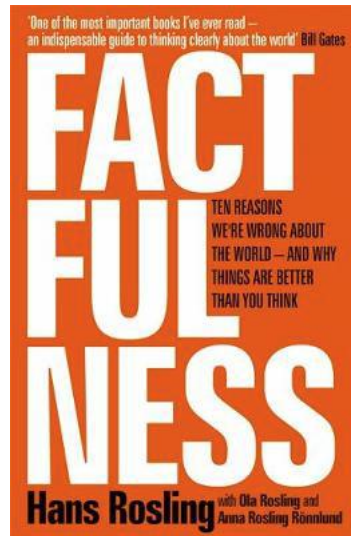
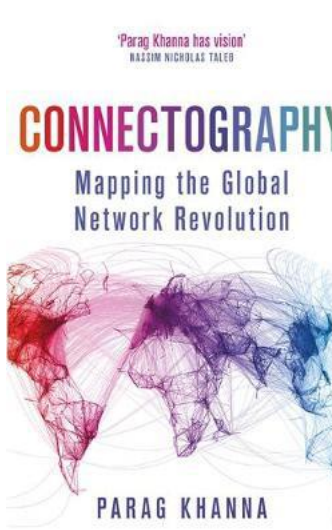


This pack contains a programme of activities and resources to prepare you to start an A level in Geography in September. It is aimed to be used after you complete your GCSE, throughout the remainder of the summer term and over the Summer Holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

If you have any questions, then please contact one of the Geography team.

Books recommendations

Below is a selection of books that are highly recommended for any keen Geographer. Many of the suggested titles link with key themes we will be exploring within the Geography A-Level, or at the very least, provide you with an opportunity to start asking questions about the world in which we live - hopefully having to challenge what we think we know already!



Ted Talk recommendations



Pankaj Ghemawat.

Actually, the world isn't flat!



Parag Khanna

How megacities are changing the map of the world.



Luisa Neubauer

Why you should be a climate activist.



Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd

3 kinds of bias that shape your world view.

Useful websites

1. <https://www.aga.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/environment>
3. <https://www.maproomblog.com>
4. <https://www.polgeonow.com>
5. <https://www.geographyrealm.com>
6. <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/geography/>
7. <https://www.alevelgeography.com>
8. www.gapminder.org

Twitter recommendations

1. Centre for Environmental Change and Human Resilience (@CECHR_UoD)
2. Russel Roberts (@EconTalker)
3. Richard Florida (@Richard_Florida)
4. Geographical (@GeographicalMag)
5. Geography <https://www.polgeonow.com> <https://www.polgeonow.com> Review (@GeogReview)
6. Michael E. Mann (@cMichaelEMann)
7. Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson (@ayanaeliza)
8. Prof. Katharine Hayhoe (@KHayhoe)
9. Weather Geeks (@WeatherGeeks)
10. Gapminder (@Gapminder)

Transition activities

The activities below are designed to highlight just some of the core knowledge and skills you will need to apply when studying A level Geography. It is recommended you complete these to help prepare for the start of your A level Geography course.

1. Virtual Fieldwork with the FSC



The Field Studies Centre (FSC) recently delivered virtual Fieldwork for a range of Geography and Biology topics. Of particular interest for us is the fieldwork delivered on Changing Places – a human element of the course with the 45-minute

session detailing a complete a place-based, qualitative investigation into how a local area is perceived and experienced by different people. Use the link below to access it.

<https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/ks4-5-investigating-place-280420>

Although the following virtual fieldwork is tailored towards GCSE students, it is an excellent starting point for you to revisit parts of the Coastal Landscapes topic from GCSE – in preparation for a similar unit at A-Level. This is also a very popular option for the NEA – an independent report that you will be expected to create as part of a geographical enquiry write up.

<https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/ks4-impact-of-coastal-management-290420>

As a core unit in the physical section of the A-Level titled Water and Carbon; the next piece of virtual fieldwork explores the link between drainage basin characteristics, hydrology and flooding.

<https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/ks4-5-hydrology-and-flooding-010520>

2. The Geographical Magazine Archive

Read through the archives of the 'Geographical' magazine and 'New Internationalist'.



Visit <https://geographical.co.uk> and stay up to date with the latest and archived editions of Geographical magazine.

Visit <https://newint.org> for the New Internationalist magazine.

3. Podcasts with the RGS

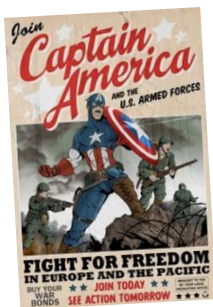


The Royal Geographical Society (RGS) have produced Podcasts with various experts within their fields. An interesting recent Podcast is linked to our AQA Water and Carbon unit and explores the role of forests in storing carbon.

Use the link below to listen.



<https://www.rgs.org/schools/resources-for-schools/forests-and-the-carbon-cycle>



What is the relationship between comic books and Superpowers? Another interesting Podcast from the RGS is with Professor Jason Dittmer who discusses themes around Global Governance. Again, Global Governance is a human unit that we will study as part of the A-level.

<https://soundcloud.com/rgsibg/what-is-the-relationship-between-comic-books-and-geopolitics>

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

For access to all the other Podcasts from the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) use the following link.

<https://soundcloud.com/rgsibg>

4. Getting to Grips with the new content

Changing Places

This section of our specification focuses on people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in their lives. Students acknowledge this importance and engage with how places are known and experienced, how their character is appreciated, the factors and processes which impact upon places and how they change and develop over time.

In order to prepare for this part of the specification, it is advised that you complete the following tasks:

1. Read 'Changing Places' by Richard Phillips on the RGS website. (Pg 1- 7) Summarise the article in no more than 500 words.
<https://www.rgs.org/schools/resources-for-schools/changing-place-changing-places>
2. Think about your favourite place and prepare a presentation to show others in your new class. You must include the following: location, maps, pictures with annotations. Can you explain why it is your favourite place?

Global Systems and Global Governance

This section of our specification focuses on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades. Increased interdependence and transformed relationships between peoples, states and environments have prompted successful attempts at a global level to manage and govern some aspects of human affairs.

In order to prepare for this part of the specification, please complete the following:

1. Read 'Global Systems and Global Governance' by Klaus Dodds on the RGS website. (Pg 1-7). Write a summary of the article in no more than 500 words.
<https://www.rgs.org/schools/resources-for-schools/global-systems-and-global-governance>
2. Research the origins of an iPhone and how this links to globalisation. Map some of the origins of your other belongings. Is there a pattern?
3. Find a recent news item that links well with globalisation. You will have to present it to the rest of the class discussing: What links it to globalisation? Is it good globalisation?

Water and Carbon

This section of our specification focuses on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth's surface and the dynamic cyclical relationships associated with them. These are major elements in the natural environment and understanding them is fundamental to many aspects of physical geography.

In order to prepare for this part of the specification, please complete the following:

1. Read 'Water and Carbon cycling' by Martin Evans on the RGS website. (Pg 1-19). Write a summary of the article in no more than 500 words.
<https://www.rgs.org/schools/resources-for-schools/water-and-carbon-cycles>

5. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

You will be developing your GIS skills throughout the two-year A-level course. To start with, use the link below for a brief overview of what GIS actually is!

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/geographic-information-system-gis/>

ArcGIS is a free to subscribe to GIS platform. For an example of how Arc can be used to support your learning, have a look at the examples below – the first details the events leading up to, during and after Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines in 2013. This case study is used in the Hazards unit of our A-level.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b1403a9c7fb344b6b11fba099e5dc391>

Another useful case study is on the Holderness Coast in North-West England. This stretch of coastline is rapidly retreating due to erosion and is used in our Coasts unit for A-Level.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=5dbe3c7e486d4087b86f4c9a1a848038>

Use some of the following suggested Earthquake and Plate Tectonic lessons to help prepare you to use GIS in our Hazards unit at A-Level. Volcanoes and their eruptions are an important part of this unit and we have not covered much of this before.

<https://learn.arcgis.com/en/paths/plate-tectonics-earthquakes-and-volcanoes/>

Please email Mr Cooper at dcooper@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk if you would like an individual account set up to further develop your GIS skills through our ArcGIS subscription.

6. Open University Courses



You will be developing your GIS skills throughout the two year A-level course. To start with, use the link below for a brief overview of what GIS actually is!

a) Changing Cities – learn about urban issues facing us today.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/changing-cities/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

b) Climate Change – An overview on the basic Science that underpins Climate Change and Global Warming

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/climate-change/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

c) Earthquakes – Learn about the causes, categories and consequences of earthquakes.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/geology/earthquakes/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>