

A-Level Geography Transition Activities



We are thrilled to welcome you to the Geography Department and hope to inspire your curiosity about the world, from local landscapes and communities to global challenges and environmental change. Over the summer, we would like you to begin thinking like a geographer by exploring the resources provided. There is no expectation to complete extensive written work; instead, we encourage you to read, watch and listen widely, ask questions and develop your awareness of the changing world around you. We hope these activities will spark your interest and prepare you for the exciting course ahead.

1. **Podcasts** are brilliant and there are usually free. Have a browse at the range of podcasts available through the Royal Geographical Society and listen to anything that appeals to you.

Choose a podcast that aligns with your geographical interests and supports your A Level studies. If you are more of a physical geographer, you may wish to select a podcast linked to Paper 1 topics, such as tectonic hazard events and their management, coastal flood risk, hard versus nature-based engineering solutions, sustainable ecosystem management, or carbon and water cycles. Alternatively, you may prefer a podcast that supports Paper 2 themes, including the contemporary geopolitical landscape, superpower futures, changing places and regeneration, or the impacts of globalisation on local and national communities and their economies.

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/resources-for-schools/ask-the-geographer-podcast-series>



Nature-based solutions to climate change with Dr Stephen Cornelius

Dr Stephen Cornelius from WWF explains how ecosystems can be part of the response to climate change.



Fossil fuel pathways

Dr. Angus McNelly discusses the intricate relationship between fossil fuels and the development of countries.



Wetlands

Dr David Anderson talks about wetlands as a solution to climate change, their importance and the methods adopted to restore them.



PODCAST

Climate Adapted Pathways in Education (CAPE)

We hear from members of the Climate Adapted Pathways in Education (CAPE) and how it is improving today's education for tomorrow's climate.



PODCAST

Climate action in education with Professor Andrew Charlton-Perez

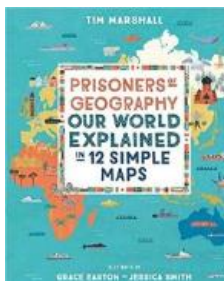
We talk to Professor Andrew Charlton-Perez OBE who has played a key role in shaping the National Climate Education Action Plan



PODCAST

Climate education with Dr Andrew Lee

We speak to Dr Andrew Lee from the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Education at University College London.



2. **Books** -One recommended read is **Prisoners of Geography** by Tim Marshall. He is a geopolitical journalist who has become a household name in recent years. Geographers are brilliant at seeing the bigger picture. Tim Marshall's work demonstrates how geography impacts the lives of people and affects decisions by governments around the world.

- If you would like to access his best-selling book 'Prisoners of Geography', it is currently **available for free** in audio form on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Prisoners-Geography-Everything-Global-Politics-ebook/dp/B00Y16BEM2>

- Further resources can be found:
 - An interview for the geographical society: <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/a-conversation-with-tim-marshall/>
 - Here he is introducing us to the adapted version of his book for children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjVOhCCJrGI>
 - Here he is being interviewed on BBC Newsnight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60hFeFXV4mY>

3. **Documentaries** - **Simon Reeve's** documentaries showcase remarkable landscapes while exploring the social, economic and environmental challenges facing the people who live there.

His latest series focuses on **Scandinavia**, journeying through Arctic tundra, vast forests and dramatic fjords to uncover the secrets behind some of the happiest and most equal societies on Earth. As you watch, consider the region's measures of development, the role of natural resources in shaping economies and livelihoods, and the geopolitical relationships and tensions that influence the area. However, there is a wide back catalogue available, so feel free to choose a region that sparks your interest and helps broaden your geographical understanding of the world.

[Scandinavia with Simon Reeve - BBC iPlayer](#)

4. **Further Enrichment Opportunity** - **The Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year 2026 – From Source to Sea**

For those looking to extend their geographical learning beyond the classroom, consider entering the Royal Geographical Society's **Young Geographer of the Year competition**. This year's theme, **From Source to Sea**, explores the importance of rivers and their role in shaping landscapes, supporting ecosystems, sustaining communities, facilitating trade and energy production, and creating both opportunities and conflicts.

Students are invited to create a **poster** (or an **Esri StoryMap for KS5**) that demonstrates an understanding of river processes and the connections between human and physical geography. Entries close on **2 October 2026**.

[Young Geographer of the Year | Competition for students](#)

TASK - Using the book, podcast, and or documentary, write a short summary of your geographical findings. Focus on specific case-study detail and explain how it illustrates a core geographical concept. At A Level, high-quality responses should demonstrate both a breadth of understanding of the place being studied and a wealth of supporting evidence, examples, and resource-based knowledge. You may wish to lay it out as follows:

Chosen extract	Main findings