



## Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their Geography A Level, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

### In Key Stage 5 Geography:

All students will study [AQA A Level Geography](#). There are 2 examined components and 1 non-examined component to A Level Geography as follows:

Paper 1 - Physical Geography

Paper 2 - Human Geography

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) - 4000 word piece of work produced independently by students on a subject of their choice linked to the Geography specification.

Throughout the A Level course, students will be learning a Physical and Human topic simultaneously. Students will start with Water and Carbon Cycles and then Coastal Systems and Landscapes for Physical Geography and Population and Environment and Changing Places for Human Geography in Year 12. In Year 13 they will study Hazards and Global Governance and Global Systems. Throughout Year 12, we will complete the compulsory fieldwork with students which will help to embed knowledge learnt in the classroom and provide them with fieldwork skills and experience that will be crucial for the NEA. Students will begin their NEA in the final term of Year 12 and will collect their own data over the summer holidays, before completing their piece of work at the beginning of Year 13.

A big difference from GCSE Geography to A Level Geography is the expectation of extra and further reading around the topics we are studying. By completing this, students will stand a better chance of doing well in their exams and NEAs. We will provide students with some extra reading, however they are encouraged to be doing their own as well.

### Textbooks and resources:

Students will be asked to get folders at the beginning of Year 12 to keep their class notes, homework and revision materials in. We would advise that students have two folders, one for the Physical topics and a second for the Human topics. All lesson material will be uploaded to the Google Classroom, along with some extra reading that students should be completing.

At the beginning of each topic, we give students a 'spec list' or 'topic on a page.' These break down the specification so students can see what they will be studying and can use this to tick off when they have studied it in class, revised it and completed practice exam questions.

Students will have access to the Oxford Physical Geography textbook and the Oxford Human Geography textbook in class and from the library. We also have the Hodder A Level Geography

textbook for use in class. As a department, we also have a range of textbooks on more specific topics that students are welcome to borrow for extra reading or for their NEAs. Students will have the opportunity to sign up and pay for the Geography Review magazines at the beginning of Year 12 and Year 13. There are 4 magazines a year that have articles on a variety of topics that will aid students learning and understanding as well as peak their geographical interest. We would advise that students make a regular habit of reading the news to get the most up to date information and events that are going on around the world.

**Homework and assessment:** Homework can be set twice a week in Geography to give students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school in both the Physical and Human topics. Homework may take the form of a written exam question, further research or revision. If they are struggling with their homework then they should talk to their teacher about it so that support can be provided. We will continuously monitor student progress throughout the years by completing end of topic tests and exam style questions.

**Revision:** Past exam papers can be found on the AQA website for students to practise. We advise students to complete revision notes and materials at the end of each topic, rather than waiting until larger tests such as the end of Year 12 assessments and Year 13 mocks. We would advise that students use their study sessions each week to complete revision.

**Co-curricular Geography:** Students can attend and help run Geography Club at lunchtime. Students will also have the opportunity of becoming Geography Ambassadors where they will be able to participate in a range of different events with the department and younger Geography students.

More information can be found on the [Geography subject page](#) of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs R Carbonaro, Head of Geography at, [rcarbonaro@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:rcarbonaro@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)