



10 Things to Do to Prepare for...

A Level Geography

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April 2020

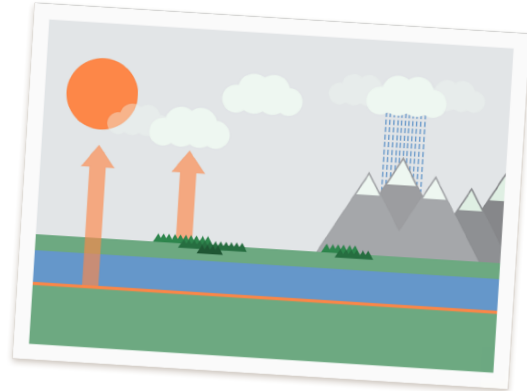


Activities

1. A systems approach

Our world is a complex place. To help our study of it, geographers simplify some key physical processes using a systems approach. Can you use a systems approach to create detailed diagrams that explain the water cycle?

Can you extend this and draw a carbon cycle?



2. Changing environments

Natural landscapes are dynamic and can be described using a systems approach.

Examples of where open systems operate are coastal landscapes, hot desert environments and glacial environments. An open system will have inputs, flows/transfers and outputs. Can you draw an open system for one of the natural environments named?

Can you extend this to include how human activities might alter these systems?

3. The meaning of “place”

The geographer Yi-Fu Tuan said, “Place is security, space is freedom”. The concept of “place” and how it is perceived is much debated, and is often related to how places are represented - either through media representation of a place or people’s lived experiences of a place. To what extent do you agree with Yi-Fu Tuan’s definition of place?

You can extend this by finding out what the geographer Edward Relph’s thoughts are on “place”.

4. Geographical calculations

When studying Geography, you will be asked to interpret data. To do this effectively you need to be able to use measures of central tendency, range, standard deviation and interquartile range. Practise using a range of statistical techniques and evaluate their usefulness.

Can you extend this and use Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient to interpret the relationship between two sets of data?





5. Tectonic landscapes

Our planet is a dynamic place, especially in areas that are tectonically active. Tectonic processes give rise to varied landscapes at a range of scales. Can you identify landforms that are created by both seismic and volcanic activities? To help you with this, find an image of a seismic or volcanic landscape then label the natural landforms / features that you can see.



To extend this, explain how the type of plate boundary can influence the landforms created in those locations.

6. Globalisation

The world is becoming interconnected through trade, flows of people, capital, labour and culture - this is the process of globalisation. Globalisation has both positive and negative impacts on local communities and global systems. Can you assess the extent to which globalisation has had a positive influence on your local area?

Can you extend this to assess whether the process of globalisation is beneficial to those living in the poorest countries in the world?

7. The 'global commons'

The high sea, outer space, the atmosphere and Antarctica are examples of the 'global commons.' Find out what is meant by 'global commons'. Research one of the 'global commons' named and discuss what might happen to this area in the future.

Can you extend this to discuss why an increasing population might impact upon the concept of 'global commons'?





8. Being synoptic

Making synoptic links in geography means making links between different aspects of geography. Can you think about how these elements of geography might be linked? The more connections the better.

- a. Climate change and population growth
- b. Tropical storms and levels of economic development
- c. Globalisation and ecosystems
- d. Transnational corporations and the changing character of a place

Can you extend this by adding four more ways that different aspects of geography might be connected?

9. Quantitative and qualitative data methods

Use of data is an important part of studying geography. You will need to use a range of quantitative and qualitative data methods at A Level. First, remind yourself what quantitative and qualitative mean. Then, list at least ten data methods and categorise them into quantitative and qualitative methods.

To extend this – evaluate the usefulness of at least three of the methods you listed.

10. Resources

Natural resources are aspects of the natural environment that humans need or find useful. These include fossil fuels, fresh water and a range of minerals. Find out what the following terms mean in relation to resources - resources frontier, geopolitics, exploitation, reserves, water stress and energy mix.

Can you extend this by investigating the link between resources and population? (Tip: Malthus and Boserup)

