

Edexcel A-Level Geography Transition Work

Bridging GCSE Geography to A-Level Geography

Topics: Tectonic Processes and Hazards & Coastal Landscapes and Change

Introduction

Welcome to A-Level Geography!

The purpose of this transition work is to help you develop the independent learning skills that are essential for success at A-Level. You are **not expected to know the A-Level content yet**, but you should become familiar with key geographical ideas, current events and academic reading.

Deadline: First lesson in September

You should complete **all tasks**. Present your work neatly in a folder or electronically.

Task 1 – News Geography (Tectonic Hazards)

Find **three recent news stories** (within the last 12 months) about earthquakes, volcanoes or tsunamis.

For each event include:

- Location
- Date
- Magnitude (if appropriate)
- Causes
- Primary impacts
- Secondary impacts
- Responses
- One map showing where it occurred

Finally answer:

Which event do you think governments found most difficult to manage? Explain why.

Extension

Identify whether each event occurred at a destructive, constructive or conservative plate boundary.

Task 2 – Coastline Investigation

Choose **one stretch of coastline anywhere in the world**.

Research:

- Physical characteristics
- Rock type
- Major landforms
- Coastal management
- Human uses
- Future challenges

Include:

- Annotated maps
- Photographs
- Satellite images
- A short conclusion answering:

Is this coastline changing naturally or because of human activity?

Suggested coastlines include:

- Holderness Coast (UK)
- Jurassic Coast (UK)
- Dorset Coast
- The Maldives
- East Coast USA
- Great Ocean Road (Australia)

Task 3 – Learn the Key Vocabulary

Produce revision cards for the following terms.

Tectonics

- Lithosphere
- Asthenosphere
- Plate boundary

- Subduction
- Convection current
- Mantle plume
- Earthquake focus
- hypocentre
- Epicentre
- Magnitude
- Volcanic eruption
- Tsunami

Coastal Landscapes

- Weathering
- Erosion
- Hydraulic action
- Abrasion
- Attrition
- Solution
- Longshore drift
- Wave refraction
- Deposition
- Sediment cell
- Cliff retreat
- Beach nourishment

Each card should include:

- Definition
- Diagram
- Real-world example

Task 4 – Geography Skills Challenge

Using Google Earth (or another mapping website):

Investigate your chosen coastline from Task 2.

Create a page including:

- Annotated satellite image
- Compass directions
- Scale estimate

- Grid coordinates or latitude/longitude
- Identification of at least five coastal features

Examples include:

- Spits
- Bays
- Headlands
- Beaches
- Sand dunes
- Wave-cut platforms
- Sea arches
- Stacks

Finally explain:

What evidence can you see that the coastline is changing?

Task 5 – Read Like a Geographer

Choose **one** of the following:

Option A

Watch a documentary about earthquakes, volcanoes or coastal change.

OR

Option B

Read a geographical article from sources such as:

- National Geographic
- BBC Future
- The Conversation
- Royal Geographical Society

Write a **500-word review** including:

- Summary
- Three interesting facts
- New geographical terminology
- Questions you still have

- Why this topic interests geographers
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Recommended Resources

Websites

- BBC News Science & Environment
- British Geological Survey
- US Geological Survey (USGS)
- Royal Geographical Society
- National Geographic

YouTube Channels

- Time for Geography
- GeoFacts
- National Geographic
- BBC Earth

Suggested Reading

- *Prisoners of Geography* by Tim Marshall (selected chapters)
 - *Adventures in the Anthropocene* by Gaia Vince
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Presentation Expectations

Your work should demonstrate:

- Accurate spelling and grammar
- Clear geographical vocabulary
- Maps, diagrams and photographs where appropriate
- Independent research from a range of reliable sources
- Thoughtful analysis rather than copying information

Estimated completion time: 8–10 hours over the summer.

Success Criteria

By September, you should be able to:

- Explain the basic causes of tectonic hazards.
- Describe how coastlines are shaped by physical processes.
- Use geographical vocabulary accurately.
- Interpret maps and satellite images.
- Compare places using evidence.
- Begin thinking like an A-Level geographer by evaluating evidence and forming supported judgements rather than simply describing facts.