

NELSON AND COLNE COLLEGE

A Level Geography



"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every 'superstar', every 'supreme leader', every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

Carl Sagan

This guide has been designed to deepen your understanding of geography before studying A levels at Nelson and Colne College. It does not contain command words or exam questions.....

It does however contain a great list of resources to engage your brain and develop knowledge of our amazing planet.

Answers you seek? Begin by asking the right questions!

Throughout the A level geography course we will be exploring themes of both physical and human geography, answering questions that are fundamental to our lives. What do you know about the following questions already?

- How do physical earth systems function? Plate tectonics, coastal environments, water and energy.....
- How is globalisation influencing human societies?
- How do we improve human society in a way that is sustainable?
- How can we meet our needs for energy and water?
- Why do borders exist?
- Why do some countries have more power than others?
- Does geography influence identity?

ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES AND JOURNALS

OXFORD UNIVERSITY <https://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/news/articles/>

Oxford Uni have put together a great list of updated and relevant news articles.

THE CONVERSATION.COM <http://theconversation.com/uk>

You will find this really useful to support many of your A Levels. It provides UpToDate articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising key points in short but insightful articles.

BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

An excellent source of up to date articles – explore the key headings such as Science, Business, as well as the UK, World and other stories.

THE GUARDIAN <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

Again, many useful articles and logically ordered – keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development stories in particular.

PODCASTS

Give your eyes a break at a time when your screen time has increased and pop your headphones in instead to broaden your geographical understanding. These podcasts come highly recommended by the department; a departmental favourite is the 'Ask the Geographer' series.

Costing the Earth – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player>

There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative power, plastics etc.

Royal Geographical Society – “Ask the Geographer podcasts”

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>

A fantastic set of podcasts to keep A Level studies up-to-date with the latest geographical research – pick out some that interest you and give them a go!

The Documentary podcast -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nq0lx/episodes/downloads>

From the BBC, these podcasts investigate global development issues and affairs.

The Inquiry - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029399x/episodes/downloads>

BBC podcasts exploring the trends, forces and ideas shaping the world beyond the headlines.

Podcasts from Oxford University School of Geography and the Environment –

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/school-geography-and-environment-podcasts>

These online audio resources consist of lectures, seminars and interviews from the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.

Talks from the Royal Geographical Society

https://www.rgs.org/all/?categories=FreeToView&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialSignIn

From microplastics to microfinance, the RGS have released over 50 free geographical talks for you to watch and listen to.

DOCUMENTARIES

There are some great geographical documentaries which will help develop your general geographical knowledge and understanding and help you see what an amazing world we live in.

BBC Iplayer

David Attenborough Box Sets

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>

The Americas with Simon Reeve

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve>

Simon Reeve around the world

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm>

Mediterranean with Simon Reeve

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0bnb6tt/mediterranean-with-simon-reeve>

ITV Player:

Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods

<https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157>

Joanna Lumley's Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti

<https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleys-hidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578>

Channel 4 On Demand:

When the Immigrants Leave (Dispatches)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>

China's Lonely Hearts (Unreported World)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/56011-011>

The world's dirtiest river (Unreported world)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/58399-001>

Anything from the Unreported World Series – its great

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/episode-guide/series-2019>

FILMS

Before the Flood (2016): Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, travelling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change first-hand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction.

An Inconvenient Truth and An Inconvenient Sequel (2006, 2016): These films follow Al Gore on the lecture circuit as the former presidential candidate campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of global warming and calls for immediate action to curb its destructive effects on the environment.

The Impossible (2012): The story of a tourist family caught in the destructive and chaotic aftermath of one of the world's most devastating natural disasters. Based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.

Slumdog Millionaire (15): A Mumbai teenager reflects on his life after being accused of cheating on the Indian version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. Based on life in the slums of Mumbai and the realities of urban life in one of the world's largest megacities.

Hotel Rwanda (12): The true story of hotel manager who houses and protects Tutsi refugees – this is a hard-hitting film based on the Rwandan Conflict of the 1990s.

The Last King of Scotland (15): Based on the events of the brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's regime as seen by his personal physician during the 1970s.

Lion (2016): An Indian man who was separated from his mother at the age of 5 and adopted by an Australian family return home determined to find his birth family. Highlights the realities of slum life.

NETFLIX

Into the Inferno: With stunning views of eruptions and lava flows it captures the raw power of volcanoes.

The Boy who harnessed the wind: About water shortage in Malawi and a boy who makes a windmill to pump water.

Cowspiracy: Investigate the food and meat industry Available on Netflix

Rotten: Docuseries travels deep into the heart of the food supply chain to reveal unsavoury truths

Africa: Documentary series about Africa. Narrated by David Attenborough

Our Planet: Stunning Sir David Attenborough series investigating the different biomes and their varied flora and fauna.

Planet Earth and Planet Earth 2: The Irreplaceable Sir David Attenborough explores some of the world's different biomes

Blue Planet: More geographical joy from Sir David who takes us deep underwater to explore the world's oceans and seas.

Wild Caribbean: Explore the turbulent natural history and rich diversity of the Caribbean islands.

The Dark Tourist: David Farrier's eight-part series looks at unconventional destinations across the world. From the radioactive villages of Japan following the 2013 tsunami to the voodoo villages of South Africa. Farrier explores tourist's dark desires for the 'never seen before'.

Dirty Money: Dirty Money is a Netflix original television series which tells stories of corporate corruption, securities fraud and creative accounting. ... Each episode focuses on one example of corporate corruption and includes interviews with key players in each story.

Explained: From YouTube sensations, VOX Creators, each episode is 16-18 minutes long with each focusing on a different topic. There are plenty of geographical based ones to choose from including the World's Water Crisis.

72 Dangerous Places to Live: Get up close and personal with avalanches, fiery volcanoes and other natural disasters and learn why some people choose to live in their destructive paths

BOOKS (A very small selection)

Evidence suggests that students who read for enjoyment not only perform better in tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In the Geography Department, we believe it is one of the most valuable things you can do to enhance your academic performance. Remember you can make use of digital books (Kindles/e-Readers) – you don't have to access hard copies.

Prisoners of Geography (Tim Marshall)

An insightful book which helps understand how physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography – a great introduction to geopolitics.

Factfulness: Ten reasons we're wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think (Hans Rosling)

Hans Rosling has written what is a must-read book from a geography perspective – this takes a more realistic view of the world, presenting issues in fact-based context. It is a rational look at actually how far the world has measurably improved and what's left to be done.

Divided (Tim Marshall)

Author Tim Marshall attempts to explain why we are living in an age of walls by delving into our past and present to reveal the fault lines that will shape our world for years to come. Another Sunday Times Best Seller from the author.

Unruly Places (Alistair Bonnet)

At a time when Google Maps can take you on a virtual tour of most places on the planet, it's hard to imagine there's any uncharted ground left on the planet. Unruly Places goes to some of the most unexpected, offbeat places in the world to re-inspire our geographical imaginations.

Brick Lane (Monica Ali)

A fictional novel which explores the rich cultural heritage of East London's Brick Lane. A less academic approach to key urban issues and cultural tensions in inner-city London.

China's Asian Dream (Tom Miller)

Combining a concise overview of the situation with on-the-ground reportage from over seven countries, China's Asian Dream offers a fresh perspective on one of the most important questions of our time: what does China's rise mean for the future of Asia and of the world?

On the Map (Simon Garfield)

Maps fascinate us. They chart our understanding of the world and they log our progress, but above all they tell our stories. From the early sketches of philosophers and explorers through to Google Maps and beyond, Simon Garfield examines how maps both relate and realign our history.

The Power of Place (Harm De Blij)

The world is not as mobile or as interconnected as we like to think. As Harm de Blij argues in *The Power of Place*, in crucial ways--from the uneven distribution of natural resources to the unequal availability of opportunity--geography continues to hold billions of people in its grip. Incorporating a series of persuasive maps, De Blij describes the tremendously varied environments across the planet and shows how migrations between them are comparatively rare. De Blij also looks at the ways we are redefining place so as to make its power even more potent than it has been, with troubling implications.

The Revenge of Geography (Robert D Kaplan)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In this provocative, startling book, Robert D. Kaplan, the bestselling author of *Monsoon and Balkan Ghosts*, offers a revelatory new prism through which to view global upheavals and to understand what lies ahead for continents and countries around the world.

Landmarks (Robert Macfarlane)

Words are grained into our landscapes, and landscapes are grained into our words. *Landmarks* is about the power of language to shape our sense of place. It is a field guide to the literature of nature and a glossary containing thousands of remarkable words used in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to describe land, nature, and weather.

Mountains of the Mind (Robert Macfarlane)

Combining accounts of legendary mountain ascents with vivid descriptions of his own forays into wild, high landscapes, Robert MacFarlane reveals how the mystery of the world's highest places has come to grip the Western imagination—and perennially draws legions of adventurers up the most perilous slopes.

Notes from a Small Island (Bill Bryson)

Featuring an all-new cover, New York Times bestseller Bill Bryson's hilarious journey through the beloved island nation he called home for two decades. From Downing Street to Loch Ness, this is a delightful look at the United Kingdom.

ONLINE COURSES

Learning is the best way to stay engaged with the world. Whether you're looking for a new subject, are seeking out a new skill, or are hoping to get ahead of the curve with some preparation for A Level, there are hundreds of online courses available to you.

The Royal Geographical Online Lectures -

https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/?categories=OnlineLecture&utm_source=School+Members&utm_campaign=e21185bae0-MAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_25_09_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bd6329754a-e21185bae0-

This is a comprehensive catalogue of online lectures facilitated by the Royal Geographical Society. Delivered by academics from leading universities in the UK, you will be spoilt for choice. Titles include: Feeding 9 billion, Digital Technology in Africa, Mobile Middle Classes and Air Quality for all?

The Open University – <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

The Open University is the leading university for flexible, distance teaching. As part of their OpenLearn programme, more than 1,000 free courses are available online for you to boost your brain. Courses accommodate a range of expertise and time required for study. Most also come with a free statement of participation on completion. Here are some of our suggestions for the geographically minded (click to be taken to the direct course online): Ecology and Ecosystems, Biofuels, Earthquakes, The Frozen Planet, Introduction to Geology, and Water and Human Health.

Future Learn – <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Future Learn is a convenient online hub for free online courses. They collate loads of courses from top UK and European universities. You can filter your course search by subject, the amount of time you'd like to spend studying a week, and the duration of your course. Most courses have a set start date, but don't worry, you can join and work your way through it after it starts. Future Learn is powered by cutting edge research in education, favouring micro-learning principles and interactivity in education. Our top picks: Ecology and Wildlife Conservation – University of Leeds, Come Rain or Shine: Understanding the Weather – University of Reading, Exploring Our Ocean – University of Southampton.

Open Yale Courses – <https://oyc.yale.edu/>

Yale provide free and open access to a selection of introductory courses taught by the university's highly esteemed scholars. Each course comes with high-quality, downloadable lecture videos, as well as suggested readings and problem sets. Here's some that will certainly appeal to A Level Geographers: The Atmosphere, the Ocean and Environmental Change – Professor Ronald Smith, Philosophy and the Science of Human Nature – Professor Tamar Gendler, Global Problems of Population Growth – Professor Robert Wyman.

UN CC: e-Learn – <https://unccelearn.org/>

UN CC: eLearn is the official United Nations learning partnership for all things related to climate change. They offer self-paced and downloadable courses, meaning you can dip in and out of

them as and when you please. There's an abundance of information on climate change – you can learn about climate policy, green economies, sustainable diets and personal finance, and lots more with these interactive courses. Take a look at some of the examples; Introduction to Green Economy, Climate Change and Cities.

MOOCS – Massive Online Open Courses

MOOCS are online courses with a limitless capacity of participants. While they have no prerequisites (hooray), they are not necessarily a doddle. Most are run by leading universities or scientific institutions to challenge you to think differently and more broadly about the subject matter.

Most courses are structured into five or six weeks' worth of study, with around three hours of activity each week. However, you can study at your own pace and even drop in just occasionally to learn something new. They also show self-discipline and academic engagement- think about how that would look on your UCAS personal statements!

Ivy League Online Courses

<https://www.classcentral.com/collection/ivy-league-moocs>

An incredible opportunity to study at an Ivy League University! Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale have made thousands of courses available for free. Search their catalogue for a course which links to one of your chosen A Levels or quite simply something which has always interested you! These courses are free, and you will receive a certificate of completion (at a small cost) upon completion. Another key feature for potential UCAS applications.

Geography of World Cultures – Stanford University

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/itunes-u/geography-of-world-cultures/id384233929?mt=10>

The purpose of this map-intensive course is to explore the locational dynamics of the world's languages, religions, and ethnic groupings. We will examine every world region, seeking to understand how places vary from each other with regard to the cultural attributes of their inhabitants. The course will explore the historical forces that have generated cultural diversity and will carefully examine the processes of contemporary transformation. This course is presented in enhanced podcast format: the presentation images are synched with the audio track and will display in the album artwork section of your iTunes application.

Exploring Human's Space- EdX (EPFL)

<https://www.edx.org/course/exploring-humans-space-an-introduction-to-geograph>

As the title suggests, this course is a little more conceptual. The aim is to learn about the abstract terms through social science and cartography. Sounds complicated? 'The aim of this course is to help you feel comfortable with your daily notion of space,' says Jacques Levy Professor of Geography and Urbanism at EPFL. 'Firstly, space is about distances, the simplest way to understand it is to connect your daily life, your perceptions and your practices to the

concepts of contact and remoteness. You will easily realise that space is omnipotent in your life'. The course is divided into nine distinct sessions, each of which are filmed in a geographically relevant space. This will help some of the abstract notions a little more concrete.

First, the course will explore the different types of contemporary space and deconstruct the idea of the city and urbanism. Second, it will assess the function of cartography in the making of these spaces. After 10 weeks, you will be able to read and draw your own maps.

ChinaX - EdX (Harvard University)

<https://www.edx.org/course/chinas-political-and-intellectual-foundations-fr-2>

This course, the first in a comprehensive series on China, introduces you to the history, geography, and culture of the country. Time, space, and identity — enduring issues in Chinese history — are explored. You'll study China's early dynasties to understand how physical geography impacted its inhabitants and how the many ethnicities within the country affected Chinese identity. You'll learn about China's origins as told in ancient texts and through modern archaeology. You'll explore the first dynasties during the Chinese bronze age, the many facets of Confucianism and his Analects, and the competing schools of thought that followed. New political and moral ideas appear in Chinese culture in this period — ideas that make up the country's intellectual foundations and still resonate today. Join us to learn about China's origins and how early concepts in Chinese culture still matter in the 21st century.