

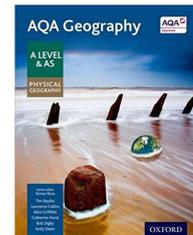
# Preparing for Geography at S6C

At S6C we follow the [AQA](#) A Level. The **structure** of our course is explained in the table below. The topics are categorised as follows: **PHYSICAL**, **HUMAN** and **NEA**.

	Year 12	Year 13
Topics	<a href="#">Water &amp; Carbon Cycles</a> <a href="#">Changing Places</a> <a href="#">Coastal Systems &amp; Landscapes</a> <a href="#">Population &amp; the Environment</a>	<a href="#">NEA (Independent Investigation)</a> <a href="#">Global Systems &amp; Governance</a> <a href="#">Hazards</a>

In the September of Year 12 we start with **Water and Carbon Cycles**. We have put the following resources together for you to start doing some **reading** and **watching** for the first topic. There is also a short optional **project** for you to complete which should help you settle in quickly when you start studying Geography at college.

You will need to purchase the year 1 textbook - **AQA Geography A Level & AS Physical Geography Student Book Paperback** - by [Simon Ross](#) (Author), [Tim Bayliss](#) (Author), [Lawrence Collins](#) (Author), [Alice Griffiths](#) (Author). It is available on [Amazon](#).



## Water and Carbon Cycles

Water and carbon are **fundamental** to supporting life on earth and are hence regarded as Earth's "life support" systems. Water and carbon are cycled in both open and closed systems between the land, oceans and the atmosphere. The processes in the water and carbon cycles are interrelated. In this topic you will study the natural changes in the systems and also how human activity is increasingly threatening and altering water and carbon cycles e.g. through deforestation, ocean acidification and desertification.

Reading	Watching
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the first chapter of the <b>course textbook</b> and take some notes.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Water and Carbon Cycling (Royal Geographical Society)</a> - this is an <b>excellent</b> starting point for this topic.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Introduction to the Carbon Cycle</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Introduction to the Water Cycle</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Climate Change - The Conversation</a> - a wealth of articles (frequently updated) - highly recommended!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Climate Change the Facts - David Attenborough</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Panorama - Climate Change: What can we do?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Water Cycle</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Real World: The Carbon Cycle -- Essential for Life on Earth</a></li> </ul>

## Project

Use the information you have learned from the reading and watching to construct a detailed **mind map** on the following question:

**“Why are the water and carbon cycles so important to planet Earth?”**

If you have any **questions** whilst exploring the following please do not hesitate to contact me at [sumurphy@s6c.mlp.college](mailto:sumurphy@s6c.mlp.college)

## Developing further as a Geographer at S6C

The best geographers at A Level keep up with **current events around the globe** by reading, listening and watching a variety of media to improve their geographical understanding. This helps to engage with **geographical discussions** regarding **key issues**.

This guide has been designed for you to be able to **dip in and out of** as you please. Some of the links will help develop your ability to **“think like a geographer”**. Other links will start to explore some of the topics we will be looking at in Year 12 and 13 so that you can do some valuable **background reading**.

Below you will find recommended websites, books, podcasts, documentaries and films which provide a great way of staying **inspired** and **engaging** with geography.

### ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES

- **The Conversation** <http://theconversation.com/uk> *we can highly recommend you use this!* This is really useful to support many of your A Levels. It provides up-to-date 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, as well as the UK, World and other stories.

### PODCASTS

Now is the time to broaden your geographical understanding! Stick your headphones in and listen to some of the following...

- **Costing the Earth** - There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/downloads>(many topics, 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!

## BOOKS

Remember you can make use of your local library's 'digital library service' for books - you don't have to access hard copies.

- **Prisoners of Geography** (Marshall, T) - 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** (Rosling, H 2019) - this 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 how far the world has measurably improved and what's left to be done.
- **Adventures in the Anthropocene** (Vince, G) (2016) - this looks at the effects that humans are having on the surface and structure of the planet with a balanced view on recognising threats and dangers whilst also looking for practical answers and solutions.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARIES

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

The following are all available on **iPlayer**.

- **David Attenborough Box Sets** - there are 9 amazing box sets available on iplayer from David Attenborough exploring our amazing world  
<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>

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

The following are all available on **Channel 4 - On Demand**.

- **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>
- **Forests of Fear** (Unreported World) -  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-006>  
[Dispatches - On Demand](#)
- **Hurricane Hell** (Unreported World)  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-007>
- **The World's Dirtiest Air** (Unreported World)  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/67193-002>
- **The week Britain Froze** (Dispatches)  
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/66548-007>

## **GEOGRAPHICAL FILMS**

Some are available online free - others may be available on providers such as Amazon Prime/Netflix etc.

- **Touching the Void (15)** (great for visualising glacial landscapes) - a powerful true story docudrama (strong language in parts).
- **The Impossible (2012) (12)** - Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.
- **Slumdog Millionaire (15)** - based on life in the slums of Mumbai.
- **Our Planet** (Netflix series) - explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.
- **Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (12)** - an epic which celebrates the journey of Nelson Mandela from childhood in a rural village through to his election as President of South Africa. This explores what happened in South Africa with regards to apartheid and Black opposition through the eyes of Nelson Mandela.
- **Hotel Rwanda (12)** - the true story of a hotel manager who houses and protects Tutsi refugees - this is a hard-hitting film based on the Rwandan Conflict of the 1990s.
- **Into the Wild (2007) (15)** - based on the story of a university graduate who gives up all of his material possessions and journeys alone into the Alaskan Wilderness.