



Geography GCSE to A Level Bridging Activity

Welcome to the Rooks Heath School 'A Level' Geography course!

Stepping up from GCSE to A Level study can be both a rewarding and exciting time. However, it is also likely to present you with huge challenges in terms of your subject knowledge and independent learning skills. To help prepare you for this transition, the Geography Department would like you to undertake a summer bridging activity, to be handed in on the first day of the new course in September. We will be studying the Edexcel Geography A Level course and because you have done well in GCSE Geography, we feel confident that you will be up to the following challenge!

When studying Geography, it is important to be aware of the 'big questions' that impact upon our world today. Below is a set of 'big questions' for you to consider:

Question 1: 'It is a country's level of economic development that will determine how well it copes with natural hazards.' Evaluate the validity of this statement.

Question 2: 'Wars in the future will be fought over water.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Question 3: 'Globalisation is positive to all.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Question 4: Doreen Massey's work revolves around the concept of "a sense of place". What do you consider this phrase to mean?

Question 5: 'Coastal areas in developing countries are more at risk than those in developed countries.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Question 6: Urban areas are better places to live than rural areas. Discuss.

Question 7: How should Antarctica be used by people in the future, if at all?

Choose **three** of these questions to investigate and for **each** one, produce an answer which is 500-600 words in length. Each answer should include a range of relevant examples and key arguments and show evidence that a range of websites have been used for research purposes. Each answer should finish with a conclusion in which you make it clear what your overall opinion is.

This task is an opportunity to show that you are both a good independent learner and a committed Geographer. We look forward to seeing what you are really capable of when working without the support of your GCSE Geography teacher. **These answers must be presented using your own words – do not copy and paste from the internet!**

Developing as an independent learner

To further support the development of your independent learning skills we would also like you to get into the habit of watching/reading/listening to the news on a regular basis. In particular the Guardian Newspaper website has a section dedicated to news stories about the 'environment', which often has strong links with the topics we will be studying at A Level.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/environment>

For those of you who enjoy videos and are ready to tackle some of the more challenging topics A Level can offer, you may want to visit the TED website (Technology Entertainment Design) where you can watch 'talks' on a number of new and exciting topics.

For Geography, it's worth visiting the 'Global Issues' part of the site.

<http://www.ted.com/>

The Geography team is very much looking forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form in September.

Enjoy the rest of the holiday! **Mr Simpson**