



GEOGRAPHY: BRIDGING ACTIVITY

Introduction:

Welcome to the geography department, we are delighted to have you studying with us, and look forward to working with you over the next two years.

Firstly, you have made a great choice! Geography is a highly respected subject that will develop your sense of wonder and fascination about the increasingly globalised world we live in. A range of exciting and topical physical and human geography themes, plus fieldwork opportunities, will ensure you will leave Becket Keys as a confident, skilled and informed global citizen ready to take your place in a competitive world. You will be well prepared with a variety of skills to impress universities and employers from a huge range of careers. To ensure you hit the ground running in September, I have designed a series of tasks and challenges below for you to complete. You will give a short **(5-minute maximum)** presentation to show off your achievements in your first geography lesson, so you must arrive prepared **with evidence** to show you have completed the following tasks:

1. **Collect news articles relating to geographical events around the world.**
2. **Create case study summaries.**
3. **Go out and find some geography around London or beyond.**
4. **Complete an A-Level exam-style question.**

Aim of Bridging Work:

A Level Geography involves a range of skills including, independent research, analysis of complex ideas, evaluation of sources and much more! It is a dynamic subject which changes with current events. With this in mind, we will be using a variety of media throughout the year, including graphs, maps, satellite images, data tables, newspaper articles, videos, journal articles, fact files and opinion pieces. The aim of the bridging work set is to minimise the 'gap' between GCSEs and A-Levels. Completion of this work is essential to ensure that you are fully prepared for the geography course at Becket Keys.

Tasks:

1. **Collect news articles** - Favourite or bookmark them, use Pinterest, cut and stick them into a scrapbook – it does not matter how you do it, as long as you collect examples of current geographical events. You should aim to focus on examples relating to topics in the table below. You must be ready to explain the geographical significance of your findings in your presentation.

Physical Geography	Human Geography
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water & Carbon Cycles • Atmosphere & Weather • Rocks & Weathering • Tropical Environments • Hazardous Environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Migration • Settlement Dynamics • Environmental Management • Economic Transition

2. Create case study summaries.

Once you have collected articles, make **one physical** and **one human** geography case study summary. Split the information up into the sections below:

- Location (maps and a written description)
- What caused the 'issue'? E.g. earthquake, migration event etc.
- What social, economic and environmental impacts has this had?
- How have people responded to or managed the situation?
- How could the situation have been managed more effectively?
- Which individuals/groups of people were involved and what role did they play?

You may want to use the template below to help you set out your case study. This is an optional layout, if you have a better idea then use it!

Example:

Name of case study: The Syrian Refugee Crisis

Location map and location description:



Syria is located in _____

What caused the issue or event?

The Assad government in Syria...

What were the effects?

Social:

13.5 million people need humanitarian assistance

4.6 million refugees

6.6 million displaced within Syria

Economic:

Environmental

Responses to the issue? How was the issue managed?

How successfully was the situation managed? How could it have been improved?

Who/which groups were involved and how?

The UK became involved...

ISIS involvement...

The Assad government...

The UN...

3. Go out, find some geography and report your discoveries!

You must take photographs as evidence of your visits and get ready to share your findings with the group. I have made some suggestions below:

a) Take the **Emirates Airline Cable Car** <http://www.emiratesairline.co.uk/tickets-information/> and get some great views of the regeneration projects happening in the area. Whilst you are on it, look out for the **Thames Barrier** that protects London from flooding <http://www.emiratesairline.co.uk/local-attractions/thames-barrier/>. Are there any discussions about a new Thames Barrier?

b) Once you have been on the cable car, visit **The Crystal** <http://www.emiratesairline.co.uk/local-attractions/the-crystal/>. This is a fantastic example of a 'green' building with exhibitions about sustainable cities and cities of the future.

c) Head to **Stratford** (one stop on the train from Shenfield!) and see the huge redevelopment that has occurred there because of the 2012 Olympics. Both **Westfield** and the amazing sports facilities in and around the **Olympic Park** were all developed because of the Olympics. There are lots of different events and activities taking place at the Olympic park over the summer so find out about them and get involved! <http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/>.

d) Visit **Canary Wharf** <http://www.emiratesairline.co.uk/local-attractions/canary-wharf/>, another example of huge redevelopment. Make a note of the big businesses that have based themselves there and then find the **Museum of London Docklands** to get some background and history of the changes seen in London over time: <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands/whats-on/permanent-galleries/>. Lots of exhibitions are held here, so you can immerse yourself in images of landscapes, cultures and wildlife from all around our planet <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands/whats-on/exhibitions-displays>

e) **The Science Museum** http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/plan_your_visit and **Natural History Museum** <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/> are always worth a visit with free entrance. Exhibitions are changing all the time, so if you see something geographical, take a look. The Natural History Museum runs exhibitions such as a virtual reality Barrier Reef dive and the volcanoes and earthquakes section is always free to visit <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/galleries-and-museum-map/volcanoes-and-earthquakes.html>.

f) If you go on **holiday** make a note of the different landscapes, climate, vegetation, cultures, population, politics etc. Or, go on a day trip and take a train to the south coast and look how tourism has affected seaside areas such as **Brighton** <http://www.visitbrighton.com/> or **Eastbourne** <http://www.visiteastbourne.com/> - **Beachy Head** near Eastbourne gives some fantastic coastal views and some examples of coastal landforms such as natural arches. An alternative could be **Old Harry's Rocks** on the south coast.

g) You don't have to travel far to immerse yourself in geography. Just look around you in your **local area** and make a note of the geography around you. Can you see inequalities? Crime? Redevelopment? Wealth? Poverty? Economic activity? How might you measure these things and why do you think they have occurred? Look at the amazing fieldwork ideas on the Royal Geographical Website and try some out!

<http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Schools/Fieldwork+and+local+learning/Local+learning/Fieldwork+in+the+local+area/Place+profiling.htm>

4. Complete an A-Level style question.

Answer the question in bold below, aim for around **600** words:

Assess the positive and negative effects of globalisation on people and the environment.

Use the structure advice and prompt questions below to make sure you produce a high quality answer.

1. Start with an introduction explaining what globalisation is and explaining what your essay will be about.
2. Research the positive and negative effects that globalisation can have – a good place to start is by using *Cool Geography's* globalisation section here: <http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/A-level/AQA/Year%2013/Development%20&%20Globalisation/Globalisation/Globalisation.htm>
3. Where possible, back up your points with a case study example.
4. Complete your essay with a conclusion that answers the original question – are the effects mainly positive or negative? Which groups tend to benefit or lose from globalisation the most (rich or poor) and why?

Use the grid below to help:

Sections of Report	What to include	Skills involved	Grade
Introduction	What is globalisation? What examples of globalisation could you give? Which places and groups of people are the main people affected by globalisation?	Describing	C
1: Globalisation offers more benefits	What benefits does globalisation offer? Which groups of people benefit the most? Challenge: categorise your effects socially, economically and environmentally to assess which benefits are the biggest	Explaining	B
2: Globalisation offers more problems	What problems does globalisation bring? Which groups of people suffer the most? Challenge: are the problems of globalisation fairly distributed? Why?	Explaining	A
Conclusion	What are your main findings? Is globalisation more of a problem than a benefit or vice versa? Why?	Evaluating	A
Bibliography	A list of all sources used in your report, give the full website address and the name of the company/site/source, list these in alphabetical order.		

I wish you the very best of luck with all of these different challenges. They will be handed in on your **first geography lesson** of your A-Level course.

Equipment List for 1st Lesson:

Ring binder folder and coloured dividers.

Pencil case with equipment you will need for this year in Geography:

- **Black, red and green pens**
- **Highlighters**
- **Ruler**
- **Pencils**
- **Rubber**
- **Calculator**

Pad of lined paper.

Suggested Reading & Viewing:

Journals/Magazines

GA Magazine

National Geographic

Cambridge International Geography A-Level Textbooks

Documentaries/Movies

Pole to Pole (Michael Palin)

Amazon (Michael Palin)

Brazil (Michael Palin)

Planet Earth I & II (David Attenborough)

Dante's Peak

Ice Age

Slumdog Millionaire

Blood Diamond

Detroit

8 Mile

If you have any questions before September, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Mr Taylor Smith– Head of Geography

office@becketkeys.org