A Level Geography Summer Bridging Project

What is a Bridging Project?

To better prepare you for the rigours of A Level geography and to start as you mean to go on, the bridging project allows you to begin developing your skills ready to hit the ground running when you start the A Level course in September. The project will be ongoing but the work completed before starting the course will be used in the early lessons, therefore it is vital that you complete it well as you begin you first steps into A Levels.

Your Bridging Project – Part 1

Below is a list of the topics which we will cover together during your time on the A Level Geography course.

Year 12

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places

Year13

- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Superpowers
- Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

You are required to begin collecting information about these topics, throughout the coming months and over the summer. Begin by finding out more about the topics themselves by searching for the specification from the Edexcel website and look at how they relate to what is going on around the world. At A Level it is extremely important to develop **independent learning skills** and also have a bank of knowledge which you are able to draw upon linked to the topics we cover which are **contemporary and up to date** (not just from the text books).

The best way to carry out this research and collect this information would be in the form of a **scrap book or journal**. It can be compiled **electronically (using Word not PowerPoint) or by hand**. It will need to include newspaper articles, photographs, quotes, magazine articles, maps, theories, charts and most importantly your own thoughts on the issues you have included.

I would be tempted to chunk your work in prepearation to starting the course by researching it in sections, for example:

Enquiry question 1: Why are some locations more at risk from tectonic hazards?	
Key idea	**Detailed content**
1.1 The global distribution of tectonic hazards can be explained by plate boundary and other tectonic processes.	a. The global distribution and causes of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. (1)
	b. The distribution of plate boundaries resulting from divergent, convergent and conservative plate movements (oceanic, continental and combined situations).
	c. The causes of intra-plate earthquakes, and volcanoes associated with hot spots from mantle plumes.
1.2 There are theoretical frameworks that attempt to explain plate movements.	a. The theory of plate tectonics and its key elements (the earth's internal structure, mantle convection, palaeomagnetism and sea floor spreading, subduction and slab pull).
	b. The operation of these processes at different plate margins (destructive, constructive, collision and transform). (2)
	c. Physical processes impact on the magnitude and type of volcanic eruption, and earthquake magnitude and focal depth (Benioff zone).
1.3 Physical processes explain the causes of tectonic hazards.	a. Earthquake waves (P, S and L waves) cause crustal fracturing, ground shaking and secondary hazards (liquefaction and landslides).
	b. Volcanoes cause lava flows, pyroclastic flows, ash falls, gas eruptions, and secondary hazards (lahars, jökulhlaups).
	c. Tsunamis can be caused by sub-marine earthquakes at subduction zones as a result of sea-bed and water column displacement. (3)

Explore ideas for each sub section and then in your scrap book / journal identify the link (1.1a for example) to the relevant part of the specification.

To further support you in your research use websites such as:

https://www.rgs.org/ - Royal Geographical Society

https://timeforgeography.co.uk/ - Time for Geography – a range of video resources

http://geographical.co.uk/ - Geographical – up to date news from around the world

https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Geography - The Independent

https://www.theguardian.com/uk/environment - The Gaurdian (Environment)

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development - The Guardian (Global Development)

https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/geography - New York Times

https://www.sciencedaily.com/news/earth_climate/geography/ - Science Daily

https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/ - National Geographic

Your Bridging Project – Part 2

On your return in September we will ask that you carry out a short presentation on your research and share with the class a little bit about how you carried it out and what you found interesting. In addition to this we will also be setting two of the following questions for which you must also prepare for. One question will be from the tectonics topic and one question will be from the globalisation topic. We will not tell you which you will be given so you must prepare for them all and then we will set them in exam conditions in the first few weeks as an initial assessment of your ability to see how you approach the answers in terms of both content (gathered independently prior to starting the course doing the work set above) and structure at this level. These will form part of your initial assessment when you arrive

Your possible tectonic questions will be:

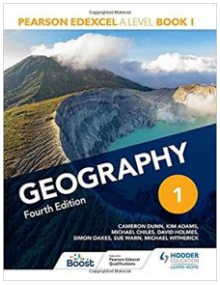
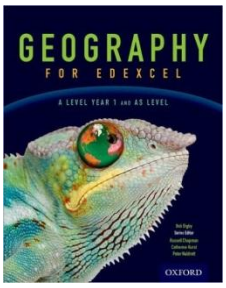
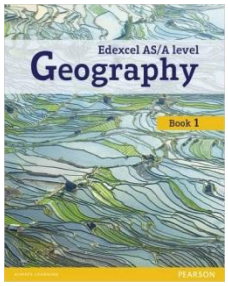
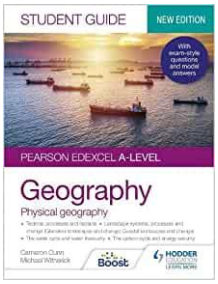
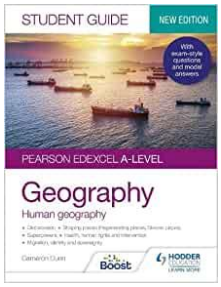
1. Assess the reasons why, even within a country, some people are more vulnerable to hazards than others. (12 marks)
2. Assess the statement that 'we are living in a more hazardous world'. (12 marks)
3. Assess the extent to which hydrometeorological hazards can produce very similar impacts to hazards with tectonic causes. (12 marks)

Your possible globalisation questions will be:

1. Explain how technology has contributed to the process of globalisation. (6 marks)
2. Assess the role played by TNCs in the globalisation process. (12 marks)
3. Using examples, explain why some countries are more globalised than others. (8 marks)

You must research and prepare for these questions in addition to creating your **scrap book or journal**. This will be your first assessment and marked piece of work, which we will use to guide, both you and ourselves in your suitability to succeed at this level in this subject.

Further Guidance

The exam board for the A Level is Edexcel so feel free to begin looking around this new 2016 specification on their website. The additional details regarding the content will help support your work.

There are also a series of text books you may want to consider but we will discuss these in more detail when you arrive in September, links to them can be found below (ctrl+click on the images) so that you can have a look at their costs and content.