



Geography

1. Expectations for success are:

- You need to work independently – we are not doing it ALL for you!
- You need to use a wide range of examples in your work (more breadth)
- You need to include more depth in your work – you should use complex geographical theories and terminology.
- You must develop sophisticated essay-writing skills: analysis, synthesis, discussion and evaluation. Improving your extended writing skills are key to success.
- Exam Papers are longer and tougher than at GCSE – you will have to write extended answers which count 50% of the total marks for sections in Paper 1.
- You need to read widely! Keep an eye on current affairs and be more aware of geography-in-the-news.
- Complex graphical, cartographic and statistical skills – make sure you identify any weaknesses from GCSE Geography/Mathematics!!

2. The characteristics of an outstanding student in this subject are:

- Exceptional Level of subject knowledge developed through wider reading and passion for the subject.
- Well prepared for lessons – has done advanced reading or re-reading of the topics in advance of class and shows this through lesson contribution.
- Self-evaluative, always keen to know how to improve further. Uses PLCs, and self-reflection to identify strengths and weaknesses and improves on these without being asked.
- Makes full use of exam board website. Identifies past paper questions and completes these as practice to develop knowledge and hone skills.
- Re-does work that doesn't meet their own high level of expectation to improve further.
- Includes clear and detailed plans with all their class essays to show they have researched and thought about their answer and the structure.
- Includes a bibliography listing wider areas of research for each essay.
- Goes beyond the classroom tasks and completes all extension / challenge tasks to broaden their knowledge and understanding.
- Keep a glossary of key terms, individuals and historians as well as a timeline of events and frequently updates these. Self-tests using these to improve knowledge and understanding.

3. Wider reading list

- Geography : An Integrated Approach David Waugh (library)
- Geography Review (library)
- National Geographic (library)
- The Economist (library)
- www.bbc.co.uk and www.aljazeera.com
- <http://geowilmington.weebly.com> and Twitter @GeoWilmington

4. Independent Study ideas

- Unlike GCSE, you no longer have a FULL timetable – you have some free periods. You need to use your free time in school to organise yourself and keep on top of the classwork/homework we set.
- You need to spend at least an additional 5 hours per week on independent reading, study and completing homework/classwork tasks.
- You should also use and find other resources that you could include in your written work – there are the resources in the WGSG and WGSB libraries (e.g. Geography Review, National Geographic).
- Make links between your subjects to show a breadth of knowledge – e.g.:
 - (a) If you take Business Studies/Economics, use relevant articles from *The Economist* in Geography essays
 - (b) If you take Politics, ideas and themes covered in lessons are useful to many topics on Paper I at AS Level!

BASIC POINT: Candidates who get Grade As, do much more than is set in class!!

- Form 'study groups' – you will benefit from sharing your ideas and discussing things amongst your friends. Friends are also a good support as you make the transition from GCSE to A Level.
- Be prepared to 'go over' material again – learn to be resilient!