




# A Level GEOGRAPHY At Coombe Dean School

I'll start with a couple of questions for you – “will electric cars really provide a solution for a sustainable energy future?” “are there any areas of Plymouth that you think should be regenerated?” “Is it too late to save the orangutans?” Hello! I'm Mrs Husband, and I'll be talking to you today about why you should take A Level geography at Coombe Dean.



**A-levels**  
Opinion

# The Guardian view on geography: it's the must-have A-level



Firstly, I'd like to talk to about the reasons why I studied geography. Geography is nationwide one of the most popular option choices at GCSE. Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, but it's one of the most exciting adventurous and valuable subjects to study at GCSE level. It's so important in fact, that the Guardian newspaper in 2015 named geography as a must have A level and it has been listed as the most interdisciplinary subject by some of the world's top universities. Geography brings together the world of hard scientific facts and processes with human interaction and reaction through skilful application. That is the strength in geography, we don't study for the sake of it, we problem solve.

"Geography is all the rage."

"Geography is a subject for our times."

"Geography is soaring in popularity."



Great job

# PROSPECTS

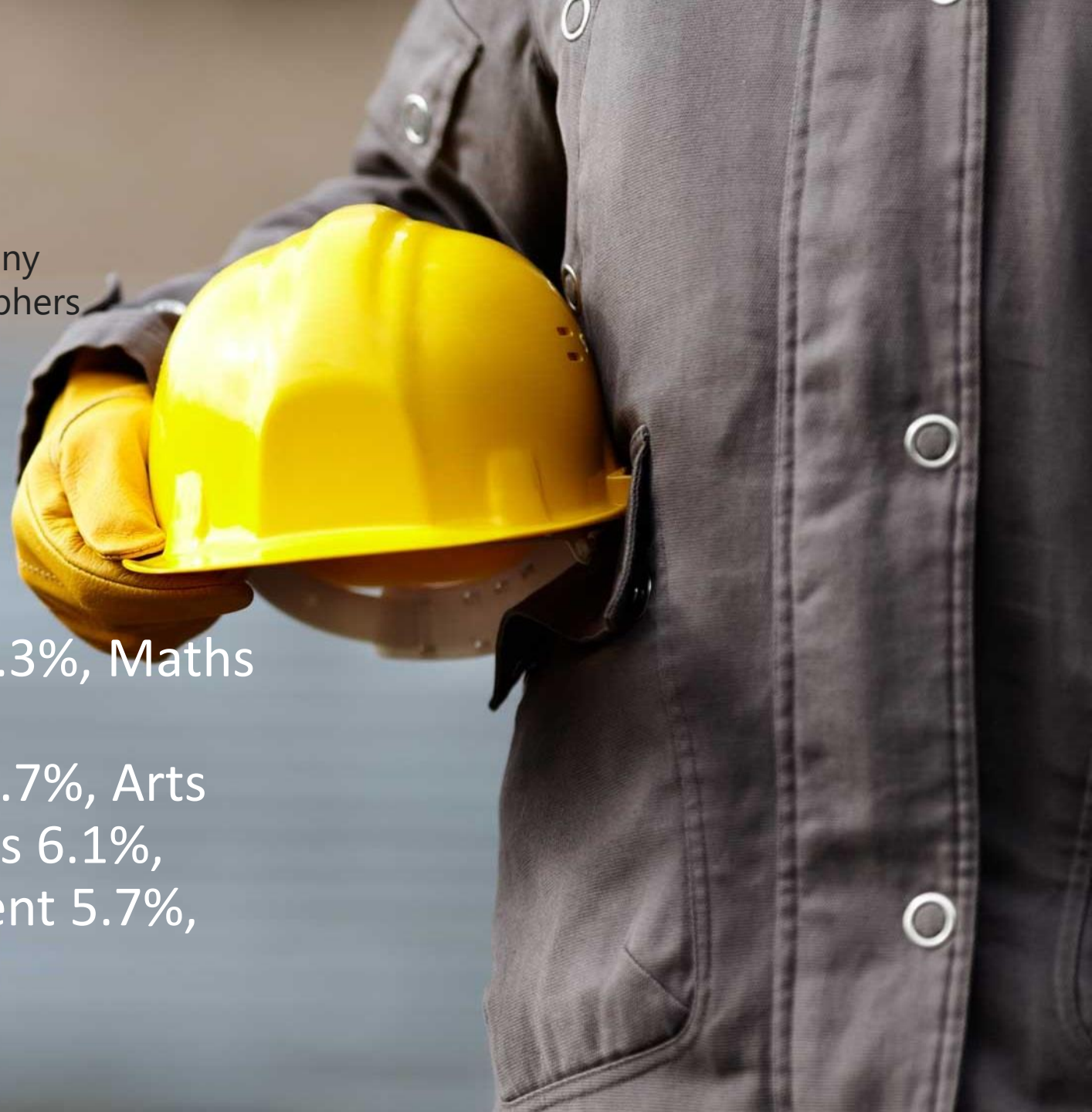
Geography has skills which can be transferred to many employment types and as you can see here, geographers often do not struggle to get jobs.

## Unemployment rate (2017):

Computer Science 10.0%, Physics 8.3%, Maths 7.3%

Biology 6.3%, DT 7.2%, Chemistry 6.7%, Arts 6.9%, English 5.5%, Business Studies 6.1%, History 6.1%, Average unemployment 5.7%, Law 4.9%, **Geography 4.8%**

*(six months after graduation)*





modern computer based mapping

debating  
and arguing  
your point

interpreting photos,  
cartoons, diagrams...

fieldwork

map skills

digital technologies

working  
with  
data

statistics

investigating  
issues in the  
real world

empathy

convincing  
others you  
are right

critical  
analysis

decision making

boosting your  
memory

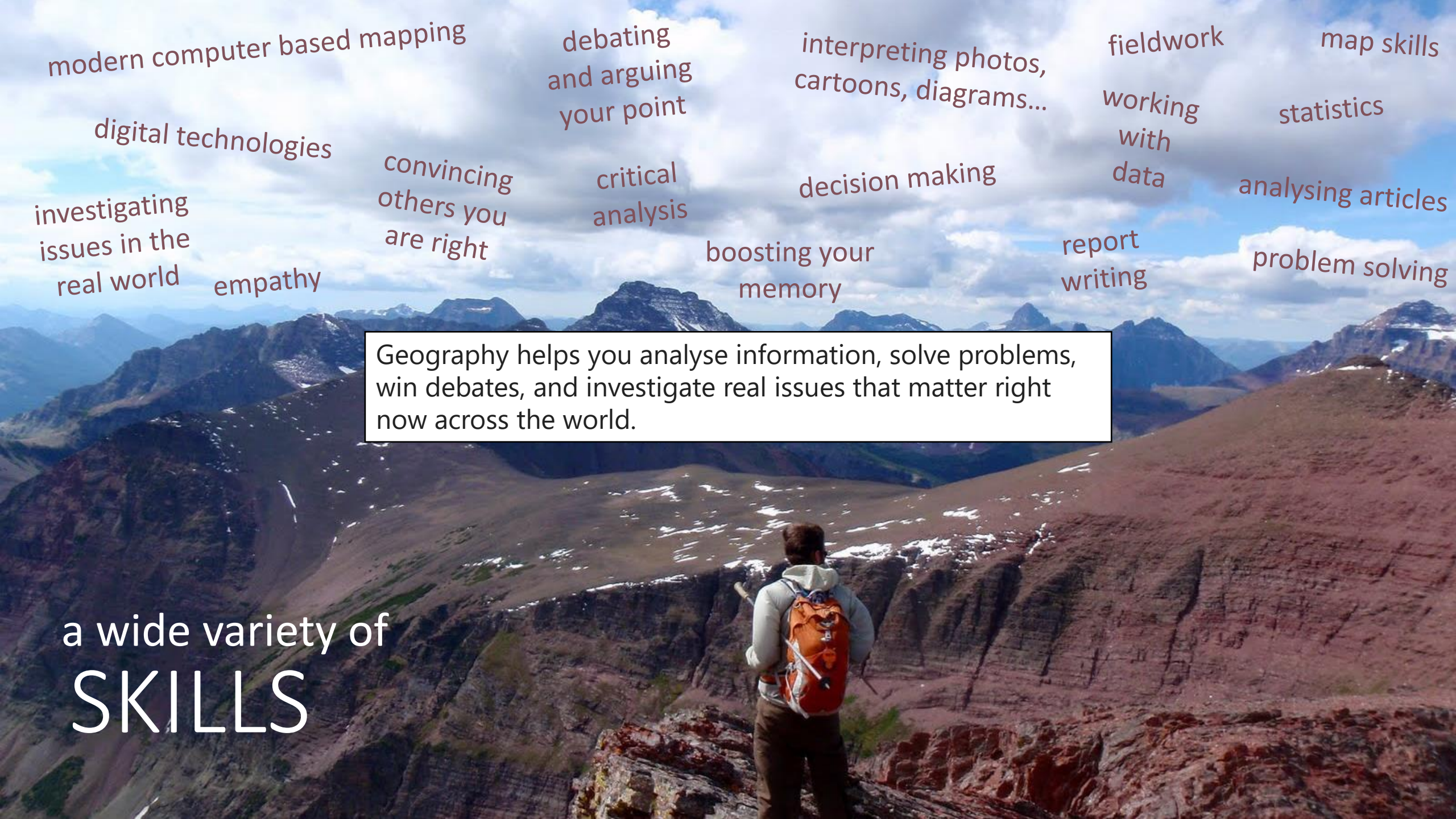
report  
writing

analysing articles

problem solving

Geography helps you analyse information, solve problems, win debates, and investigate real issues that matter right now across the world.

a wide variety of  
**SKILLS**





Pupils who have studied Geography have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, science, sales, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, manufacturing, teaching, childcare, engineering and building, arts, design and media, town planning, working abroad and many (many) more...

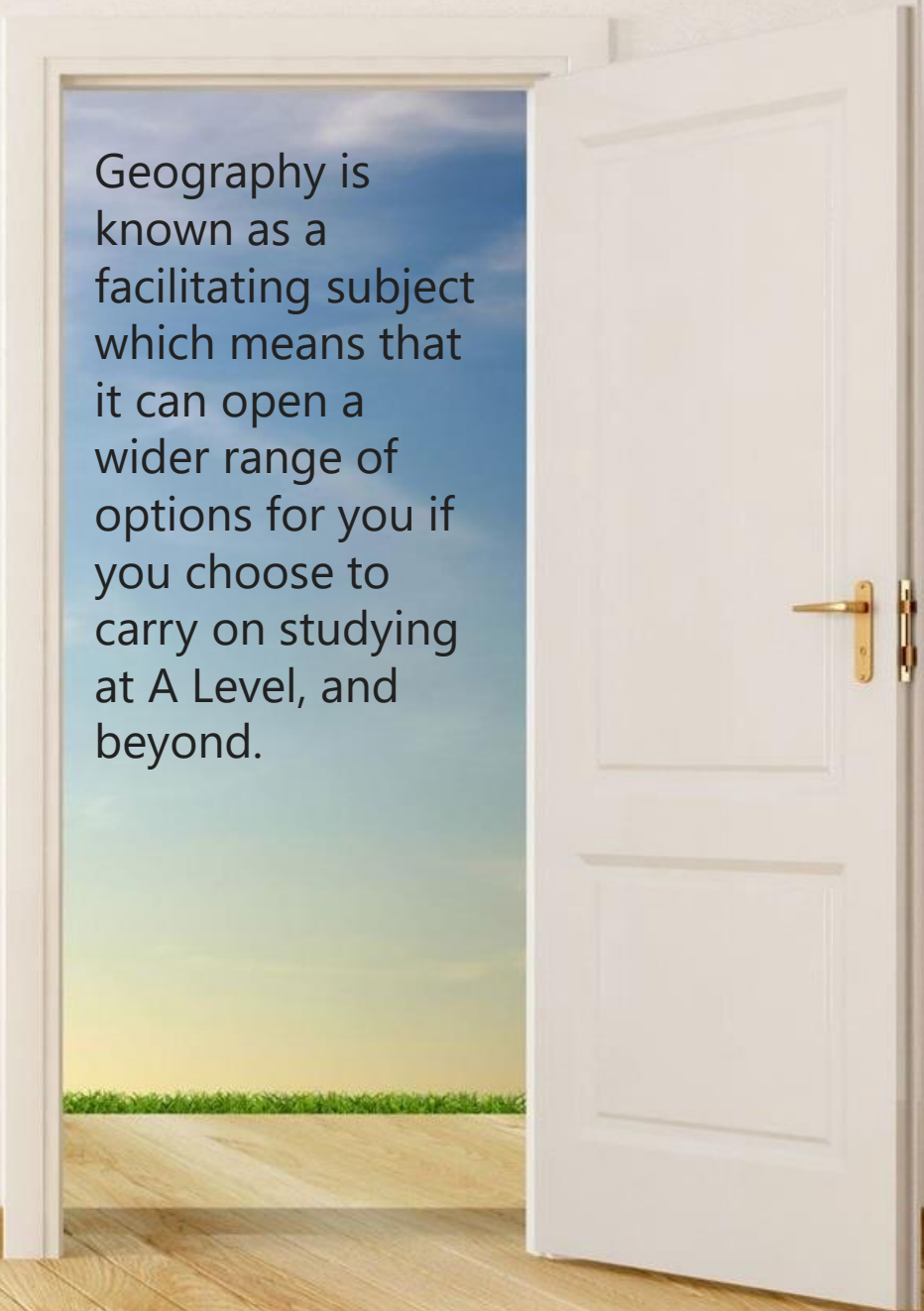
This means that the skills you gain from studying geography could lead into so many different sectors. Just talk to your geography teachers about some of the jobs or opportunities they have had as a result of studying geography and travelling the world.



# Geography OPENS DOORS

Geography is a **facilitating subject** along with Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Further Maths, English, History and Classical and Modern Languages.

*“By choosing facilitating subjects at advanced level, you will have a much wider range of options open to you at university. An A Level qualification in any facilitating subject will keep open to you a number of degree courses.”*



Geography is known as a facilitating subject which means that it can open a wider range of options for you if you choose to carry on studying at A Level, and beyond.

So let's have a look at some of the exciting topics you will study in your future geography lessons at Coombe Dean School.



# What do we study in A Level Geography?



# GLOBALISATION

**iPhone manufacturer Foxconn plans to replace almost every human worker with robots**

*China's iPhone factories are being automated*

by Nick Statt | @nickstatt | Dec 30, 2016, 5:07pm EST

The globalisation unit looks at people, technology, TNCs, trade and how and why some countries are more developed than others.

What jobs  
will there be  
in the  
future?

How will new  
technology affect  
business and  
trade?





# TECTONIC HAZARDS



Are earthquakes  
the deadliest  
natural hazard?

We then look at TECTONIC hazards including how they are caused, how people respond and what we can do to stop them hurting so many people in the future.

What if the UK  
was hit by a  
tsunami?



# REGENERATING PLACES

REGENERATING PLACES looks at how places change over time, and the demographic influences that shape a place.





This explains all about how each of these incredible landscapes we're lucky enough to be surrounded by has been shaped over time, and how flooding and erosion can impact the people around them. It also goes into more depth regarding sea level change and worldwide impacts of this.

# COASTS

What if all our cliffs collapsed?

How should we protect our coastlines?



We then apply our knowledge of coastal processes to fieldwork at one of the amazing coastlines around the south west, alongside some fieldwork opportunities in a city as well. This will give you the tools needed to complete your NEA (coursework) on a topic and question of your choice.

# FIELDWORK & NEA





# CARBON

Lastly, we learn about THE CARBON CYCLE specifically on where carbon comes from, why it is an issue and finding solutions for producing more energy and consuming less globally, nationally and on a local or individual basis.

Are we running  
out of  
resources?

What if all  
power was  
renewable?





# WATER

After this, we move back to the more physical aspects of geography looking at the water cycle, reasons for drought across the world, and ways that we can provide more water and prevent pollution.

What if all the world's water dried up?

Why do people live near rivers that flood?



Going back to human geography with MIGRATION, IDENTITY AND SOVEREIGNTY looks at why people migrate, how countries became what we know of them today and how we form our own identities based on the cultures and countries that we associate with.

Why do people choose (or not) to move?

# MIGRATION, IDENTITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

What is your identity? How do you define it?





A vertical arrangement of five national flags: Brazil, South Korea, India, China, and South Africa. The flags are slightly overlapping and appear to be hanging from a common point.

# SUPERPOWERS

What happens if  
one country  
becomes too  
powerful?

Why are some  
countries more  
powerful than  
others?





# TASKS TO COMPLETE

To kick start you into your summer work, we'd like you to find one recent news article that links to each topic taught at A Level, and including a link, write a short synopsis of what the article is about and how it links to geography.

## TOPICS:

- GLOBALISATION
- TECTONIC HAZARDS
- COASTS
- REGENERATING PLACES
- CARBON
- WATER
- MIGRATION, IDENTITY AND SOVERIGNTY
- SUPERPOWERS

*HELP: If you're unsure on what each topic involves, I've included the Edexcel geography specification in the folder which lists every sub-topic within each topic.*



# What subject(s) does Geography go well with?

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All of them! Geography goes well with the Sciences and Mathematics as well as the Humanities, Languages and Arts. It is very flexible in terms of what it can be combined with at A Level.

Geography keeps your options open!



Sciences, Maths

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Humanities & Arts





# Am I good enough to do Geography?

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Yes, if you...

- are interested in the subject and the world around you (really important!)
- are a good 'all-rounder' and/or be committed to work on areas you may find trickier
- have good enquiry skills (i.e. good scientists)
- Sustainable global citizens
- Likely to achieve a grade 6 or above in GCSE geography





# Assessment

## Paper 1:

Assessing the physical geography content (topics 1, 2, 5, 6) & skills  
2 hours 15 minutes  
105 marks

**30%**

## Paper 2:

Assessing the human geography content (topics 3, 4, 7,8) & skills  
2 hours 15 minutes  
105 marks

**30%**

## Paper 3

Synoptic investigation of a geographical issue  
2 hours 15 minutes  
(including 30 minutes of reading time)  
70 marks

**25%**

## Coursework non

## examined

## assessment:

Independent Investigation  
70 marks  
Internally assessed & externally moderated.  
3000–4000 words

**20%**



# How am I going to decide what subject to pick?!

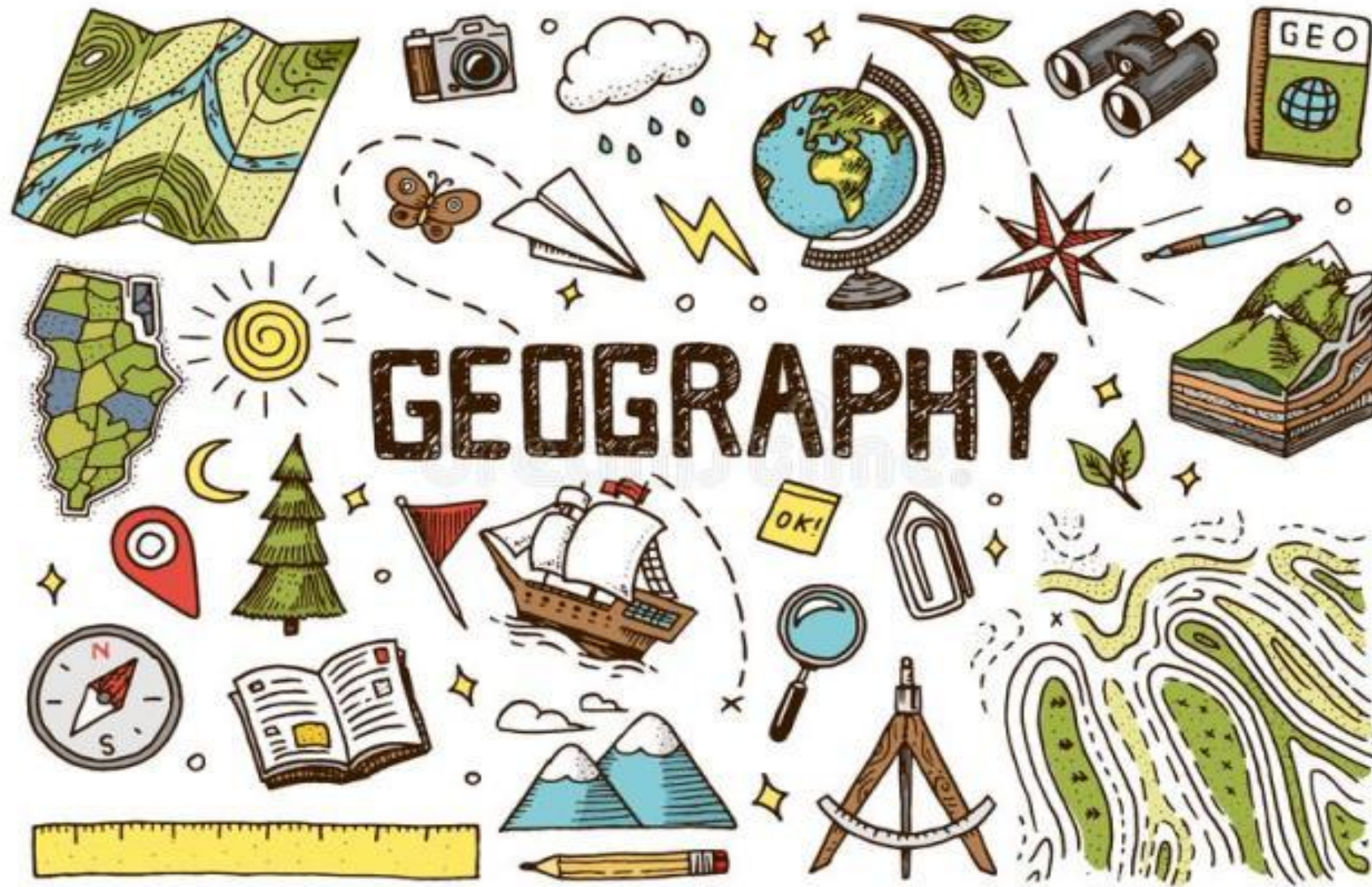
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I want to do everything!  
How do I choose?

Go with subjects that you are **good at** and **enjoy**. If you're still stuck, are there any that you can do as an extra-curricular option?







Any further questions, please speak to  
your geography teacher, or contact:  
[ahusband@coombedean.co.uk](mailto:ahusband@coombedean.co.uk)

(or come and see us in G block!)