

# A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY: TRANSITION MATERIALS

## Recommended Media:

### Documentaries and Movies:

'An Inconvenient Truth: Global Warming'. DVD available at Croydon Libraries (South Norwood).

'Slumdog Millionaire'. DVD available at Croydon Libraries (New Addington, Sanderstead and Shirley).

Before the Flood (2016) (PG)– National (presented by Leonardo DiCaprio)

Exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet

Our Planet (Netflix series)

Explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.

### Podcasts:

School of Geography and Environment podcasts, University of Oxford.

(<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/school-geography-and-environment-podcasts>)

London School of Economics (School of Geography).

(<http://www.lse.ac.uk/geographyAndEnvironment/Events/events.aspx>)

Ask the Geographer Podcasts. Available on iTunes and Soundcloud via the link.

(<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>)

### Documentaries:

David Attenborough Box Sets

There are 9 amazing boxsets available on iPlayer from David Attenborough exploring our amazing world

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>

Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods

<https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157>

When the Immigrants Leave (Dispatches)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>

China's Lonely Hearts (Unreported World)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/56011-011>

The world's dirtiest river (Unreported world)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/58399-001>

Forests of Fear (Unreported World) –

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-006>

Hurricane Hell (Unreported World)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-007>

The World's Dirtiest Air (Unreported World)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/67193-002>

The week Britain Froze (Dispatches)

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/66548-007>

## Activity 1: Current (and future) sea level rise

### Background Information:

The first topic that we will be covering in Year 12 is Coastal Systems and Landscapes. A large part of this topic looks at the impact of sea level change and the impact on coastlines.

The most detailed resource for current and historical sea level changes, and the processes causing these changes, is the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report. Various sections are related to sea level, but Chapter 5.5 is a good place to start, while Chapter 10.6 covers current predictions for sea level change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

[http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch5s5-5.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch5s5-5.html)

[http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch10s10-6.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch10s10-6.html)

**However**, these are quite dense and long discussions! They are written in a scientific style, and can therefore be a challenge to work through. There are several resources that summarise these discussions in a more accessible way. One is the FAQ section of the IPCC report:

[http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/wg1/en/faq-5-1.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/faq-5-1.html)

UNESCO have also produced a summary for policy-makers called “*Sea-Level Rise and Variability*” which provides an overview of current and future sea level rise (and also includes some background).

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001893/189369e.pdf>

### TASK:

Use these resources to make notes on the following key questions regarding sea level rise:

- What is the current rate of global sea level rise? Don’t forget to note the uncertainty (i.e. the +/- bit..).
- What are the main contributors to the current rate of sea level rise?
- How much can we expect sea level to have risen by the end of the century?
- How much variation is there in these predictions?

Then use these notes, and all the other material you have read so far, to think about the following question:

### **What are the major uncertainties in our predictions of future sea level rise?**

### HINTS:

What do we **NOT** understand very well that will affect sea level rise?

Think about the major contributors to sea level rise (e.g. thermal expansion, melting of land-based ice), and what we do and don’t understand very well about them.

Think too about the uncertainty in future climate change (which drives the processes causing sea level change).

## Activity 2: The process of urbanisation

### Background Information:

The first topic covered on the human course is Contemporary Urban Environments. Here is the link to the AQA website that summarises what you will learn during this topic:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037/subject-content/human-geography/contemporary-urban-environments>

Read the information/ watch the videos from the following links to gain further understanding of the process of urbanisation, the expansion of the world's population, the problems that are caused by urbanisation and the need for cities to be sustainable.

- General information on urbanisation and the importance of it:  
[http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/advanced/Urbanisation importance human affairs.php](http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/advanced/Urbanisation%20importance%20human%20affairs.php)
- Article on the problems faced by the world's megacities:  
<https://geographical.co.uk/opinion/item/1170> (Growing Pains)
- Video on urbanisation: [www.cambridge.org/links/gatd6078](http://www.cambridge.org/links/gatd6078)
- Website with information on sustainability: <https://21stcenturychallenges.org/sustainability/>
- Andrew Marr's Series on Megacities:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011qmcl/episodes/guide>

### Choose 3 of the tasks below to complete:

Explain some of the reasons why countries grow at different rates. (Why are some countries HIC's whereas others are still LICs?)	Explain some of the main challenges megacities face as they continue to grow.	What is the main challenge faced by cities to become more sustainable? How are cities tackling this challenge?
What factors affect the rate of urbanisation in a place? Use knowledge from KS3 and KS4 linking back to development.	Create 2 contrasting case studies of megacities (HIC vs. LIC) using the information in the Andrew Marr documentaries. What are the main similarities and differences between the cities?	Watch one of the Andrew Marr Megacity documentaries. Create 20 questions that people could answer if they were to watch the documentary.
Describe the change in urban populations from 1970 to 2030 (prediction) based on the maps. (Growing Pains article)	Produce a mind map summarising your reading on urbanisation.	In your opinion explain the reason you think urbanisation is so important for society.

These questions form part of the first topic 'Contemporary Urban Environments'. The tasks will help to further your understanding of a topic that is very relevant to life today.

Please bring all completed work for Activity 1 and 2 to our first lessons

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**STEP 1**

**STEP 2**

**STEP 3**



**Reading**  
Recommended book to start with



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**STEP 5**

**STEP 4**



**Create**  
Physical Geography- Hazard event fact files for LIC and HIC's



**Create**  
Human Geography-Contrast case studies for HIC and LIC



**Develop**  
Cultural understanding, academic language and writing



**STEP 6**

**STEP 7**

**STEP 8**