

# Geography

## Secondary PGCE

*Useful information to build your subject knowledge before starting the course*



Welcome to the Geography PGCE at Roehampton!

### A. Subject knowledge

Use the subject audit to assess your strengths and areas for development. To get ready for the course, you might want to complete some of the following tasks:

1. **Write** freely for 20-40 minutes about your experience of Geography as a child:
  - a) Did you enjoy Geography lessons? Why? Or Why not?
  - b) Did you read or watch geography documentaries for pleasure as a child?
  - c) Were there aspects of the subject that bored or frightened you? When were you inspired?
  - d) Why do you think it is important to consider your own schooling?
2. **Watch** as many documentaries as you can! They are great for improving subject knowledge, the following link are some short videos the GA has produced. I fully encourage you to join the GA when joining the course.

Get yourself familiar with The Geography Association website:

<https://www.geography.org.uk/teaching-resources/videos>

On the following website are short videos which are labelled as knowledge boosters for pupils, but they will prove a starting point for you. You do need to register but it is free.

<https://timeforgeography.co.uk/>

The RGS also provide many resources for teachers and here is a link to these:

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/geography-at-home/>

3. **Familiarise** yourself with the latest Geography GCSE and A level exam board 'specifications' and past exam papers:

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/geography-2016.html>

[www.ocr.org.uk/subjects/geography/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/subjects/geography/)

An example of the amount of detail available for a topic in Edexcel A:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Geography-A/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/Edexcel\\_GCSE\\_Geography\\_SpecA\\_TopicBooklet\\_Topic1\\_ChangingUKLandscapes.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Geography-A/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/Edexcel_GCSE_Geography_SpecA_TopicBooklet_Topic1_ChangingUKLandscapes.pdf)

I also suggest you download an example exam paper and have a go at doing it to see how you get on. The mark schemes are also available and they can be useful after completing the paper.

## **B. Essential texts for PGCE Secondary Geography**

Learning to Teach Geography in the Secondary School. 3rd ed by Biddulph, M., Lambert, D. and Balderstone, D

Becoming an Outstanding Geography Teacher by Mark Harris

Making Every Geography Lesson Count by Mark Enser

The Handbook of Secondary Geography edited by Mark Jones

Below is a school textbook – it is a really good resource and although schools do not really use textbooks anymore this is very good for basic subject knowledge and gives you ideas for level of content required and teaching ideas

### **Progress in Geography: Key Stage 3 Paperback – 29 Jun. 2018**

by [David Gardner](#) (Author), [Catherine Owen](#) (Author), [Eleanor Hopkins](#) (Author), [Jo Coles](#) (Author), [John Lyon](#) (Author)

There are other texts available and we will discuss these as you start the course. The main pedagogical approach to geography teaching is enquiry based learning. Margaret Roberts has produced a lot of literature on this, so you may also wish to look at this before September, but we will be having a session on this early on in the course.