

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 your own subject audit (completed prior to interview) 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) Think about all of your teachers, you will remember your most and least favourite ones, what was it about them that you liked (or not)
 - b) Did you read geographical books 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, but we are members as a university.

<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

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

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

If you have any issues navigating these websites please do not hesitate to contact me, 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

Enser, M. (2021). *Powerful geography : a curriculum with purpose in practice*. Wales, UK: Crown House Publishing Limited.

Enser, M. (2019). *Making every geography lesson count*. Bancyfelin: Crown House Publishing.

Harris, M. (2018). *Becoming an outstanding geography teacher*. London ; New York: Routledge.

Jones, M. and Geographical Association (2017). *The handbook of secondary geography*. Sheffield: Geographical Association.

Lambert, D. and Balderstone, D. (2020). *Learning to Teach Geography in the Secondary School : A Companion to School Experience*. Hoboken: Taylor And Francis. (There are older versions of this text also available)

Roberts, M. (2013). *Geography through enquiry approaches to teaching and learning in the secondary school*. Sheffield. Geographical Association.

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.