



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

A Level Geography

Purpose of task:

The summer task below is an opportunity to share your views on sustainability with your new geography teachers by completing a response to the Royal Geographical Society's School Essay Competition. There will be Amazon voucher prizes for the best THS essays, which will also be entered into the national competition. The task also provides an insight into how you naturally structure your extended writing, so that your teachers have a starting point upon which to build your A Level essay.

The essay question:

Drawing on information from your daily life, what sustainability action points would you prioritise?

The RGS information states that the judges are looking for:

- A clear essay which is **well-evidenced** and reaches a clear conclusion.
- Submissions that **do not exceed 1,000 words** (excluding references). The word count should be provided in the document.
- **Referenced sources** of information and data (this can just be links in a bibliography when you submit to teachers).

Recommended resources:

We recommend you research many areas, but the article below is a good place to start:

[Carbon counting - how much do your lifestyle choices cost the planet?](#)

[This](#) document summarises some of the essay skills and structures we cover in the A Level. You will not be expected to consider all of this in your essay, but it might be helpful to glance at during your essay planning!

Additional Information:

Required Stationery and Equipment for

Pens, pencils, highlighters, glue and scissors, maths set and scientific calculator.

Three folders:

- **Paper 1 – Physical Geography.** Dividers splitting into four sections: *Water and Carbon, Coastal Systems and Landscapes, Hazards, CAT assessments*
- **Paper 2 – Human Geography.** Dividers splitting into four sections: *Changing Places, Global Systems and Governance, Population and the Environment*
- **Fieldwork, Skills and the NEA.** Dividers splitting into three sections: *Fieldwork practice, statistical tests, NEA Independent Investigation.*

Essential Resources

For those who like to work with the support of books:

1. *Recommended: AQA A Level Revision Notes book* - [Amazon Link](#)
2. *Optional: A Level Geography textbook* - [Amazon Link](#) (please note – this is the textbook we use in our lessons. However, not many students purchase this one, as it's pricey!)

Things to Consider Throughout the Year

The fieldwork process begins after Year 12 mocks in May/June. This consists of two compulsory fieldwork days (Poundbury and Studland Bay). There will be a voluntary contribution towards the cost of coach travel to Studland (this was £10 in 2024).

Our "Awe and Wonder" trip to Iceland 2025 will be advertised in the first week in September. This trip will take place in October 2025 when you are in Year 13. If you have any questions about this trip, please contact Mrs Bramley at nbramley@thomas-hardye.net

Deadline for Task: First lesson in the week commencing 14th September 2026

Recommended reading & activities list: