

A-level Geography

Summer Transition Task

These tasks are designed to help you prepare for your first unit of A-Level Geography.

You need to complete the to do list below and bring this booklet with you to your first Geography lesson in September.

Transition from GCSE to A Level

Moving from GCSE Geography to A Level can be challenging. You'll be expected to remember a lot more facts, including case studies and place studies as well as using a more detailed knowledge of processes to explain the way we interact with the world. We will begin you're a-Level course with the Changing Places unit, which explores the meaning of place and how our interactions with environments influences them and ourselves.

This preparation work aims to give you a head start by helping you:

- Learn some of the key ideas behind Changing Places, including Relph's theory of place and placelessness
- Practice researching information and using GIS software to study places in Geography

Sources that might help you:

The reference library on the Tutor2u Geography website:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/geography/reference/the-concept-of-place>

You can search for other articles or use the 'you might also like' suggestions at the bottom of the webpage

http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/advanced/changing_places.php

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/changing-places/>

Relph's Theory of placelessness:

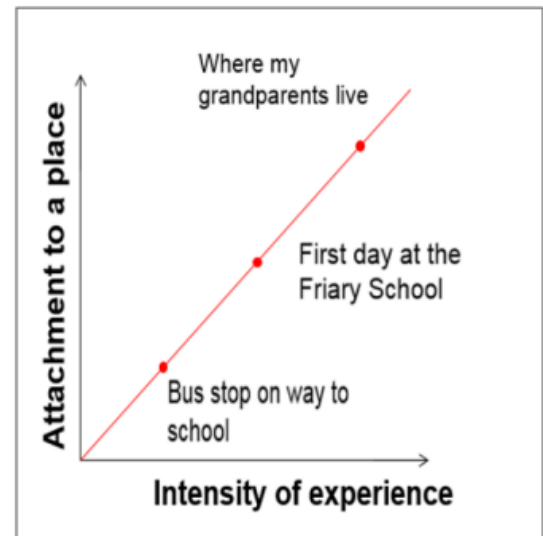
[Place and Placelessness Edward Relph.pdf](#)

1. The graph to the right shows the relationship between intensity of experience and depth of attachment to a place.

- Add photos to the graph opposite to show some places that you have an attachment to and to what extent that attachment is strong.
- How does our sense of place change as we grow up?

2. The way we understand different places depends on how attached we are to them. Geographer Edward Relph described these different responses to place as insider and outsider perspectives. Read this article and explain how it relates to Relph's theory:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-38316852>



3. Another way in which geographers think about place is in terms of those that are privately owned and those that are open and accessible to the public. Look at the images below. Do you think they are privately or publicly owned and why?



4. What are topophobia and topophilia?

- Find two images to illustrate topophobia and topophilia for you.
- Would everyone agree with your opinion on these two places and why?
- Could your perception of this place ever change and, if so, why?

5. The frictional effect of distance is a concept that states that places near to each other have a greater interaction, whereas those that are further apart have less interaction.

Time-Space Convergence is the impression that distances between two locations have decreased due to between transport communications. How might these two theories contradict one another?

6. The rural:urban continuum shows how rural and urban areas are quite difficult to define and that places often lie in-between.

- How can places move from rural to urban?
- How can places move from urban to rural? (this one is harder to imagine, but think about abandoned places).



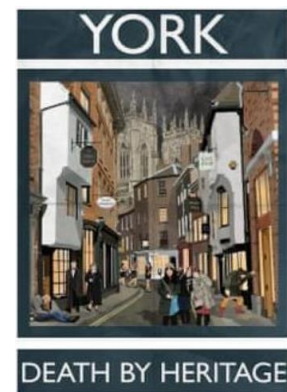
7. Listen to the song 'New York' by Alicia Keys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT4RIDl7z3w>

- What is her perception as New York as a place?
- Try to pick out specific lyrics and explain how you know this.
- Is her perception realistic or reliable and why?

8. Read this article from the Guardian newspaper:

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/nov/29/rubbish-seaside-abackhanded-love-letter-to-urban-britain>

- What is the name of the artist who made these postcards?
- Choose one of the postcards and explain what it shows.
- Is this view fair/realistic/useful?



9. Watch this 18 minute TED talk about place representation:

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story/up-next?language=ky

What is the message that the presenter is trying to give?

10. Almost all places that you visit are designed to manipulate your attitudes/feelings/behaviours. A good example of this is the sixth form centre. Think of one example of place manipulation and explain how it works.

11. **Have a look at this brilliant case study of Birmingham, which has been created by ESRI (click on the image for the hyperlink). Create a concept map to outline Birmingham as a place.**

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=e2012ff3c47d4207834160223e903676>

What are the characteristics of this place: economically and socially?

How has this place changed over time?



12. **Use the Birmingham case study as a guide to create a fact file about the area of Stratford in London. Include things like a location map and a timeline of events that have affected the city.**