

geog.

newsletter

Tuvalu is drowning

Tuvaluans worry about global warming and rising sea levels more than most people – surrounded by the mighty Pacific Ocean, they wonder how long it will be before their islands are drowned.

The islands are small, low-lying, and narrow – in most places you can walk across them in not much more than a few strides. They are beautiful, but extremely vulnerable.

Tuvalu is a group of nine coral atolls in the South Pacific, about half-way between Hawaii and Australia.

The islands are fragile strips of green that only just break the surface of the Pacific. Rising sea levels threaten their future.

Tuvalu has regular tides, and then there are 'king tides'. And the king tides are getting higher. The water floods in, and surges up from under the ground, through the coral the islands are built on. The salty water is poisoning the soil.

A typical tide has a height of about 2½ metres. A king tide has a height of more than 3 metres. The UN climate panel

predicts that king tides will rise another half metre, to nearly 4 metres. And the highest point on the islands is only about 4½ metres.

As coral is porous, saving the islands will cost a fortune.

The islanders have asked the outside world to help – the countries they say have caused global warming. But Tuvalu covers an area of just 26 sq km and is home to just 11,000 people. Will the outside world think it's worth saving?

Did you know?

- ◆ In 2000 Tuvalu leased its internet domain name '.tv' for £50 million in royalties over a twelve-year period.
- ◆ Some of the money has been used to pave roads and build schools.

A video clip called *Tuvalu is drowning* is part of the video collection on the *geog.2 resources and planning OxBox CD-ROM*.



Tuvalu facts

- Tuvalu is one of the smallest and most remote countries on Earth.
- Tuvalu has no streams or rivers, and the groundwater isn't drinkable – so rain-water collection is vital.
- Subsistence farming and fishing are the main economic activities.
- Fewer than 1000 tourists visit each year.
- Tuvalu was formerly known as the Ellice Islands – a name given in 1819 by the captain of a visiting ship owned by British MP Edward Ellice.
- Tuvalu gained independence from the UK in 1978.
- Tuvalu has asked Australia and New Zealand to accept Tuvaluan environmental refugees if rising sea levels make evacuation necessary.

Hello, welcome to the autumn term edition of the *geog.* newsletter.

The nights are starting to draw in and it's beginning to get chilly, so why not make a hot drink and settle down with this newsletter? In this issue: Tuvalu is drowning – can it be saved? Are you looking at the new 2009 GCSE specs? We take a look at the new Edexcel B and OCR A specs. And don't miss your chance to win a class set of *geog.2* – see page 3.

Congratulations to Alison Ainsworth of Friends School, Saffron Walden who won our competition to win a National Trust Day Out for Two. We hope you had a great time!

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Thinking about your new GCSEs?

With the curriculum changes at KS3 under way it is now time to think about choosing your new GCSEs, for first teaching in September 2009.

Ten reasons to choose OCR Spec A

OCR's Specification A has been developed from the acclaimed Pilot GCSE, effectively building upon the experiences of teachers and students, and so has much potential for the forward-thinking geography department! It offers:

1. an innovative course encompassing relevant and modern geography designed to maintain and strengthen pupil interest, enjoyment, and motivation
2. support for the learning of geographical concepts in a lively and engaging way through the explicit use of enquiry and fieldwork
3. the opportunity to explore and analyse topical geographical issues which are within the students' experience, and which have real meaning for them
4. a structure which actively encourages and supports teacher innovation and challenges students to work independently, display initiative, and to think as geographers
5. a reduction in prescribed content, so at last giving the time and opportunity to explore geographical issues in depth
6. the opportunity to present work in creative and original ways, allowing students to utilise skills and expertise from other subject areas and to work to their strengths
7. varied, flexible, and unitised assessment which can greatly aid student motivation, including an issues-analysis paper based around a topical issue, supported by pre-release material
8. progression from KS3, and a springboard for AS level, giving teachers and students scope to choose the geographical content that is of importance to them
9. opportunities for students to practise and develop an extensive range of personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS) seen as vital for young people today
10. the chance for your department to reinvigorate post-14 geography with a GCSE that is both fresh in content and flexible in approach, which will appeal to your students, and challenge them to consider and reflect upon their role in shaping the world of tomorrow

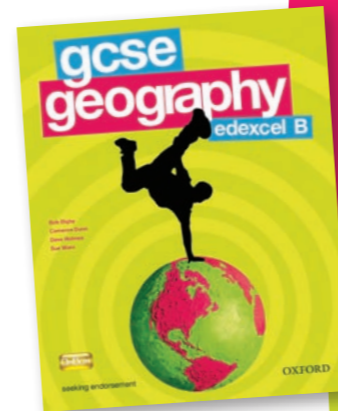
Justin Woolliscroft

Ten reasons to choose Edexcel Spec B

Geographical issues pepper the media. Geography's task is to set the media stream in context, without revisiting the same issues repeatedly. Edexcel's GCSE Specification B has been designed to achieve this. It offers:

1. key contemporary topics linked to broader contexts – global warming to longer-term climate change, and sustainability to trends in resource use
2. a common core that examines concepts in physical and human geography, to provide a foundation for GCSE and beyond. This covers geological processes and hazards, and the biosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere in physical geography. Population, settlement, the world of work, and resources form the core human component
3. core content that helps more able students make links across the subject
4. carefully designed and accessible exam papers, plus a clear structure to the specification, that will benefit less able students
5. a choice of option topics – a mix of old favourites, and some more contemporary choices – that give you flexibility and a range of pathways. Some options are local in scale; others investigate global issues such as extreme climates
6. a refreshed Decision-Making Exercise – pre-release resources will be available for use with your students for several months prior to the exam, allowing real integration into your teaching programme
7. a modular course structure, allowing some exams to be taken in Year 10, if this suits your needs and those of your students. A more traditional linear route is equally possible
8. Controlled Assessment (coursework) based on one fieldwork investigation, which you can choose from a range of options. Your choice of investigation is linked to one of your option choices, allowing the controlled assessment to be structured within your teaching programme. You will be able to use fieldwork locations and investigations you already know, or branch out into something new and different
9. a specification designed to support and compliment Edexcel's innovative new GCE
10. updated content, focused coursework, and a modular course structure that will appeal to your KS3 students choosing their options. Combined with Edexcel's GCE specification, GCSE B will build into an exciting four-year programme of Geography

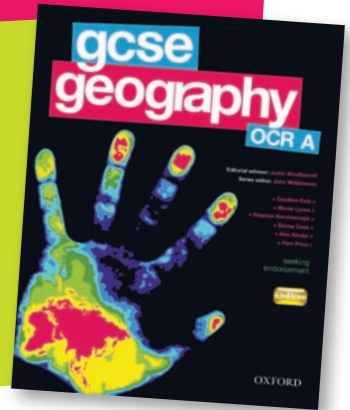
Cameron Dunn



We are publishing two brand new courses for the new 2009 GCSE specifications – *GCSE Geography Edexcel B* and *GCSE Geography OCR A*. These are content AND exam-driven; both courses use student-friendly language to help the transition from KS3 without losing any of the exam-focused rigour.

If you are following the new Edexcel B specification next year, or the new OCR A specification, why not order an Evaluation Pack? If you're not sure which specification you'll be following then why not order both Evaluation Packs to help you decide? They're available on 90 days' free trial and will be out in spring 2009.

To order your Evaluation Packs, call Customer Services on 01536 741068 or email shelly.phillips@oup.com.



Fancy winning a class set of geog.2?

For your chance to win 30 copies of the geog.2 students' book, all you need to do is email shelly.phillips@oup.com and put 'Enter me into the geog.2 prize draw' in the subject line. You will then be entered into the free prize draw and the winner will be picked at random. Closing date: 15th December 2008. Good luck!

Want all the latest news and information sent direct to your inbox?

Sign up to the geography email newsletter today! It's packed full of information on our latest resources, bursting with discounts and freebies, and much, much more. So it's really worth signing up for!

2 easy ways to sign up

1. Email shelly.phillips@oup.com with the subject line 'Sign me up to the geography email newsletter'. Remember to include your name and school details.

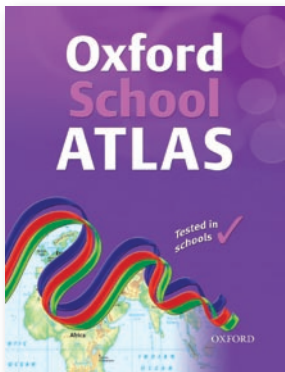
2. Visit www.OxfordSecondary.co.uk/geography and follow the link on the page.

By giving us your email address, you are agreeing to us sending you emails about relevant Oxford University Press products and offers. This includes the geography email newsletter which contains all the latest news, information, discounts and offers. Your email address will not be passed onto third parties outside Oxford University Press.

Autumn term sale

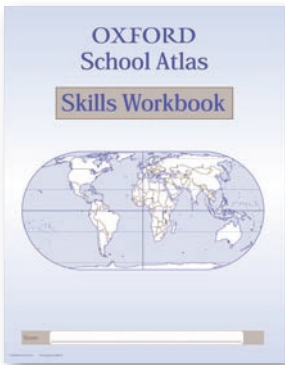
Save 33.3% on all atlases from now until the end of the year

Need to top up your atlas resources? Order now and **save 33.3%** when you buy 10 or more atlases until 31st December 2008.



Recommended Atlas to use with geog.123

The *Oxford School Atlas* is the most engaging KS3 atlas – now updated and even better. It targets core geography KS3 case study requirements whilst retaining generic mapping.

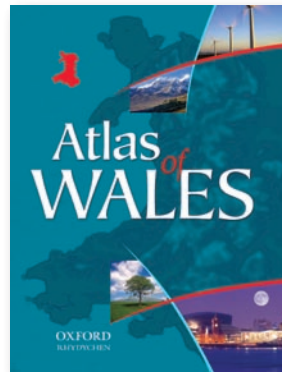


And now the *Oxford School Atlas Skills Workbook* is also available. This provides an accessible, fill-in format which allows students to develop their atlas skills at home or in the classroom.

Oxford School Atlas H/b
978 019 832700 4 £11.99

Oxford School Atlas P/b
978 019 832699 1 £9.99

Oxford School Atlas Skills Workbook
978 019 832578 9 £3.25



Highly Commended at the 2008 GA Awards

Are you a school in Wales or are you focusing on Wales for a particular topic? Then take a look at the *Atlas of Wales*. Available both in English and Welsh versions, the *Atlas of Wales* takes an up-to-date look at Wales, its people, landscape and environment.

Atlas of Wales P/b (English version)
978 019 831901 6 £8.99

Atlas Cymru P/b (Welsh version)
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