Improving and developing your subject content knowledge

It is your professional responsibility to ensure that you have secure and accurate subject knowledge for the lessons you teach. If you are aware of any shortcomings, or they are pointed out to you, take steps to improve these areas through self-study before you teach your classes.

- Read widely about geography. The Learning to Teach Geography web materials provide many references to read on all aspects of geography subject content and geography teaching.
- Read the Geographical Association’s Secondary Geography Handbook (2017) especially the chapters where you know that you need to improve your subject knowledge.
- Refer to Geographical Association’s website and publications. There is a growing collection of videocasts on the website that provide short subject updates. Browse the GA catalogue for professional development support or look for specific topics in the on-line shop.
- Complete a subject audit. Your ITE provider may give you an audit to complete and to use for monitoring your subject knowledge during the training. Otherwise download this subject audit to use.
- Look at the Geography National Curriculum and the key stage 3 schemes of work in your school. List any topics of which you are unsure. Discuss these with your geography mentor and ask for guidance on reading to bring your subject knowledge up to scratch.
- Look at GCSE and A Level specifications and examination papers. Identify any topics in which you have weak subject knowledge and write a model answer to an examination question. Ask your geography mentor to mark your answer.
- Plan a sequence of lessons in a geography topic in which you lack confidence so you focus on developing your knowledge and understanding. Ask your geography mentor to let you teach the lessons, if they approve of your plans.
- Research for and develop resources for the department in an area in which your subject knowledge is weak.
- Research and then teach other geography trainees or geography colleagues about a topic that you are unsure about in geography.
- Attend geography meetings and conferences about topics of which you are unsure.


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