

WELSH BACCALAUREATE

Advanced

Individual Project

Aberystwyth University -

Geography Department - Flooding



Brief

Floods are one of the most common and costly natural hazards, putting lives at risk and damaging homes and infrastructure like roads, railways and water, electricity and gas provision. However, the methods used to reduce these risks in the past (e.g. levees, river straightening) often worsened the problem, and caused new ones (e.g. erosion). There is evidence in Wales that these measures were not successful. There are new measures of managing floods and reducing flood risk used today. These differ from past approaches. There are advantages and disadvantages to these new measures to the people who live and work on floodplains.

Contacts

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/iges/>



WELSH BACCALAUREATE

Advanced

Individual Project

Aberystwyth University -

Geography Department - Migration



Brief

There is a long history of different groups moving to Wales, and for a variety of reasons. One can think of examples including Irish immigrants in the coal fields during the 19th century, immigrants from Somalia in Cardiff from the 1880s (and also refugees from the war there in the 1980s and 1990s), and Polish immigrants in rural Wales (following the Second World War and again after Poland's accession to the EU in 2004). The border between Wales and England is also permeable, with much coming and going over the centuries. The media often present migration and immigration in very negative terms. Migrants contribute to local communities and to Wales more generally, but also face challenges. Alongside immigration, Wales has also experienced considerable emigration, although its diaspora has received less attention than other emigrant communities, such as the Irish diaspora. Although the Welsh settlement of Patagonia in 1865 has received much attention, there were also notable Welsh communities in the USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Following the Second World War, nearly a third of the population left Wales, with many settling in the South and Midlands of England.

Contacts

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WELSH BACCALAUREATE

Advanced

Individual Project

Bangor University – College of
Natural Sciences



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

Brief – Flooding is the biggest climate change-related threat the UK will face

The following statements could form the basis of your project.

Since the autumn floods of 2000, the UK has seen an increase in the incidence of riverine flooding. Now flood events regularly hit the headlines, and the impact on people is tangible. The Met Office forecast/forewarn about likely events. Flood risk maps exist to identify properties liable to flooding. The EA and NRW work to keep people safe during the event.

However, with more and more people and businesses affected by the direct inundation by flood waters, there are increasing calls to control rivers and to install more flood protection measures, such as flood barriers, walls and gates. Worse still has been the request to dredge river channels, effectively 'engineering' them.

However, the idea that we can control nature in this way is an unworkable one! In flood-affected communities, issues surrounding insurance blight (i.e. difficulty in obtaining flood insurance) and the health and well-being of individuals (esp. those inundated more than once) is a difficult to tackle. These issues cannot be fixed by so-called 'engineering' projects. The UK government recognises the need for addressing these types of socio-economic issues when thinking about flood management.

There is now an issue around whether floods are predictable, preventable and what can be done to improve personal and community resilience to them.

Contact - <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/senrgy/>



WELSH BACCALAUREATE

Advanced

Individual Project

Cardiff University – School of
Modern Foreign Languages

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

Brief

Japan is subjected to a range of natural forces every year; heavy snow, typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. There are several actions Japan can take to minimize the impact of such events so that they don't become a disaster. There are different ways in which Japan can respond when a particularly large event occurs and memorialising those lost needs considering too. Japan can teach the world a lot about how to respond to such event, although some groups feel that that Japan could consider how to improve the way it prepares for and responds to them.

Contacts

Dr Christopher Hood, MLANG



WELSH BACCALAUREATE

Advanced

Individual Project

Cardiff University – School of
Modern Foreign Languages



Background/Context

Japan is one of the most developed countries in the world. One of the key symbols of its advanced status is the *shinkansen* ('bullet train'). In the over 50 years since it began operations, the *shinkansen* has been speeding people across the country, with services noted for their punctuality and safety.

The *shinkansen* was first developed more than forty years ago and the network has been successfully expanded across the country. Many things are done to ensure that trains are safe and services are punctual. Some feel the UK could learn from Japan to help improve railway operations here.

Contacts

Dr Christopher Hood, MLANG