This issue marks the 30th year of Geography Review as the flagship magazine for sixth-form geographers. The front covers shown here demonstrate that over that time the style of the magazine has changed, as has the way it is produced, with a shift from analogue to digital production methods. A lot has changed in 30 years and this of course is also true of the nature of the geography that we study.

Changing environmental concerns

In 1987 concerns about climate warming were in their early stages. In the 1980s anxiety about climate had focused on the risks of a new ice age, or a ‘nuclear winter’ as result of nuclear warfare. The environmental challenge looming largest was the impact of acid rain across northern Europe.

Improvements in technology

Technological advances have driven changes in the way we study geography. Geographical information systems and satellite remote sensing were in the early stages of their development 30 years ago. The easy access to spatial data that we take for granted today through tools such as Google Earth was not dreamt of.

Supporting you

Geographers study the world around us. That world and the way that we study it has changed dramatically in 30 years. The new A-level specifications introduced this year reflect these changing geographies. Geography Review has reflected and reported the changing geography of the last 30 years. We will continue to bring you challenging and exciting material from the cutting edge of geographical knowledge to support your A-level studies.

Social and cultural geography

One of the most significant changes of the last 40 years in human geography was under way around the time of the first issue of the magazine. This was the adoption of more qualitative methods of analysis, it meant a focus on understanding the social and cultural practices which make places, rather than simply studying patterns of human activity across space.