

IB GEOGRAPHY

Contact Person - Mr P. Flynn



Options A, C & F
STUDIED 2010-12)

The Nature of the Subject

Geography is a dynamic subject that is firmly grounded in the real world and focuses on the interactions between individuals, societies and the physical environment in both time and space. It seeks to identify trends and patterns in these interactions and examines the processes behind them. It also investigates the way that people adapt and respond to change and evaluates management strategies associated with such change. Geography describes and helps to explain the similarities and differences between spaces and places. These may be defined on a variety of scales and from a range of perspectives.

Course Aims

The aims of the **Geography** syllabus at SL and HL are to enable students to:

1. develop an understanding of the interrelationships between people, places, spaces and the environment
2. develop a concern for human welfare and the quality of the environment, and an understanding of the need for planning and sustainable management
3. appreciate the relevance of geography in analysing contemporary issues and challenges, and develop a global perspective of diversity and change.

Course Structure

Part 1: Core theme—patterns and change (SL/HL)

There are four compulsory topics in this core theme.

1. Populations in transition
2. Disparities in wealth and development
3. Patterns in environmental quality and sustainability
4. Patterns in resource consumption

The core theme provides an overview of the geographic foundation for the key global issues of our times.

The purpose is to provide a broad factual and conceptual introduction to each topic and to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular those concerning poverty reduction, gender equality, improvements in health and education and environmental sustainability. An evaluation of the progress made towards meeting these goals is also provided.

The core theme also develops knowledge of the likely causes and impacts of global climate change, a major contemporary issue of immense international significance. An understanding of this issue is the fundamental basis for the section on patterns in environmental quality and sustainability.

Part 2: Optional themes (SL/HL)

There are **seven** optional themes

Two optional themes are required at **SL**.

Three optional themes are required at **HL**.

- A. Freshwater—issues and conflicts
- B. Oceans and their coastal margins
- C. Extreme environments
- D. Hazards and disasters—risk assessment and response
- E. Leisure, sport and tourism
- F. The Geography of food and health
- G. Urban environments

Part 3: HL extension—global interactions (HL only)

There are **seven** compulsory topics in the HL extension.

1. Measuring global interactions
2. Changing space—the shrinking world
3. Economic interactions and flows
4. Environmental change
5. Sociocultural exchanges
6. Political outcomes
7. Global interactions at the local level

Fieldwork (SL/HL)

4 day residential trip to Snowdonia in March leading to one written report of 2500 words. This will be based on a fieldwork question, information collection and analysis with evaluation.

Assessment

The external assessment in geography consists of two examination papers at SL and three at HL that are externally set and externally moderated. They are designed to allow students to demonstrate their competencies in relation to the geography assessment objectives and specific parts of the geography syllabus, namely the geographic skills, the core theme, the optional themes and, at HL, the higher level extension. The external components contribute 75% to the final assessment at SL and 80% at HL.

Internal assessment is an integral part of the course and is compulsory for both SL and HL students. It enables students to demonstrate the application of their skills and knowledge, and to pursue their personal interests, without the time limitations and other constraints that are associated with written examinations.

The internal assessment should, as far as possible, be woven into normal classroom teaching and not be a separate activity conducted after a course has been taught. The internal assessment requirements at SL and at HL are the same. The time allowed is 20 hours and the weightings are 25% at SL and 20% at HL. Students are required to undertake fieldwork collecting primary information and produce one written report that is based on a fieldwork question.