



TRAILL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Geography

IGCSE Geography



YEAR 9 OPTION BOOKLET: 2024-2026

Subject: Geography

Course Title: IGCSE Geography

Study Geography to Understand Our Planet.

Studying geography can provide an individual with a holistic understanding of our planet and its systems. Those who study geography are better prepared to understand topics impacting our planet such as climate change, global warming, desertification, El Nino, water resource issues, among others. With their understanding of political geography, those who study geography are well-positioned to comprehend and explain global political issues that occur between countries, cultures, cities and their hinterlands, and between regions within countries. With instant global communications and media coverage of geopolitical hotspots around the world on twenty-four hour news channels and on the Internet, the world might seem like it has gotten smaller. Yet centuries-old conflict and strife remain despite huge technological developments over the past few decades.

Being A Well-Educated Global Citizen.

In addition to knowing about our planet and its people, those who choose to study geography will learn to think critically, research, and communicate their thoughts through writing and other means of communication independently. They will thus have skills that are valued in all careers.

Finally, geography is a well-rounded discipline that provides students not only with ample career opportunities but it also provides students with knowledge about our rapidly-changing world and how humans are impacting our planet.

While a common question of those who are studying geography is, "What are you going to do with a degree in geography?," there are actually many options and potential careers for geography majors. Geography is a major that teaches students a wide-range of useful skills for the marketplace. Employers value the wide-ranging computer, research, and analytical skills that geography students bring to work as employees. When job-hunting, it's important to stress these skills you've gained during college.

Careers Involving Geography.

While there aren't many job titles that are "geographer," there are many types of positions that fit well with a degree in geography:

Urban Planner/Community Development
Climatologist
Transportation management
Environmental Management
Writer/Researcher
Teaching/Faculty
Emergency Management
Demographer
Foreign Service
Marketing

Why study this subject:

Successful IGCSE Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including:

- An understanding of the impacts which both physical and human geography can have and the processes which affect their development;
- A sense of place and an understanding of relative location on a local, regional and global scale;
- The ability to use and understand geographical data and information;
- An understanding of how communities and cultures around the world and how they are affected and constrained by different environments.

Aims of this subject:

The syllabus aims are to encourage candidates to develop:

- a sense of place and an understanding of relative location on a local, regional and global scale;
- an awareness of the characteristics and distribution of a selection of contrasting physical and human environments;
- an understanding of some of the processes affecting the development of such environments;
- an understanding of the spatial effects of the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environments;
- an understanding of different communities and cultures throughout the world and an awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints presented by different environments.

Assessment at a glance:

Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 mins – 45%

Paper 2 – 1 hour 30 mins – 27.5%

Paper 4 – 1 hour 30 mins – 27.5%

There is no coursework in IGCSE Geography

Curriculum content:

The curriculum is divided into three themes which have been designed to develop an understanding of both the natural and the human environment:

- Population and settlement
- The natural environment
- Economic development and the use of resources

Population Dynamics

- Describe the growth of the world's population and associated problems and show an understanding of the causes and consequences of over-population and under-population.
- Identify and suggest reasons for contrasting patterns of population growth (or decline) as influenced by migration, birth rate and death rate, especially the impact of HIV/AIDS.
- Describe the consequences (benefits and problems) of different patterns of population growth.
- Identify and suggest reasons for different types of population structure as shown by age/sex pyramids.
- Describe the factors influencing the density and distribution of population and population migration.

Settlement

- Describe and explain the factors influencing the size, development and function of urban and rural settlements and their spheres of influence.
- Describe and give reasons for the characteristics of land-use zones of urban areas in less economically developed countries (LEDCs) and more economically developed countries (MEDCs).
- Describe the problems of urban areas in LEDCs and MEDCs, their causes and possible solutions.
- Describe the impact on the environment resulting from urbanisation and possible solutions to reduce this impact.

Plate Tectonics

- Describe the distribution of earthquakes, volcanoes and fold mountains in relation to plate margins.
- Describe the causes and effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Landforms and Landscape Processes:

- Describe weathering, river and marine processes.
- Describe and explain the landforms associated with these processes.

Weather, climate and natural vegetation:

- Describe the methods of collecting and measuring meteorological data.
- Describe and explain the characteristics of the climate and natural vegetation of two ecosystems: tropical rainforest and tropical desert
- Describe and explain the relationship between climate and natural vegetation in these two ecosystems.

Inter-relationships between the natural environment and human activities:

- Demonstrate the interaction between the natural environment and human activities with reference to natural hazards, landscape processes, climate and the two named ecosystems.

Agricultural systems:

- Describe and identify the influence of inputs (natural and human) on the processes and outputs of each of the following agricultural systems: large-scale commercial farming, and small-scale subsistence farming.
- Recognise the causes and effects of shortages of food and describe possible solutions to this problem.

Industrial systems:

- Classify industries into primary, secondary and tertiary.
- Describe and explain how the proportions employed in primary, secondary and tertiary industries differ in LEDCs and MEDCs and may change with time and level of development.
- Describe and identify the influence of inputs on the processes and outputs of industrial systems.
- Describe and explain the factors influencing the distribution and location of high technology industries and one other manufacturing/processing industry. Distribution should be studied on a global/national scale. Study should also be made of particular zones and/or industrial plants with respect to locational and siting factors.

Leisure activities and tourism:

- Describe and account for the growth of leisure facilities and tourism in relation to the main attractions of the physical and human landscape.
- Assess the benefits and disadvantages of tourism to receiving areas.

Energy and water resources:

- Describe the significance of fuelwood, non-renewable fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas), renewable energy supplies (geothermal, wind, running water, solar and biofuels).
- Describe the factors influencing the development and siting of power stations (thermal, hydro-electric and nuclear).
- Describe the uses, provision and competition for water resources and the impact of water shortages.

Additional Information:

In an ever-changing planet, Geography, above all other subjects, holds the key to sustainable living and a brighter future.