

IB Geography

HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

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

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

What does it involve?

Part 1: Geographic themes (Seven options - Two at SL/Three at HL)

The themes include: Freshwater - Drainage Basins; Oceans and Coastal Margins; Extreme Environments; Geophysical Hazards; Leisure, Tourism and Sport; Food and Health; Urban Environments.

Part 2: Core themes (Compulsory topics – SL/HL)

These are: Geographic Perspectives - Global Change; Population Distribution - Changing Population; Global Climate - Vulnerability and Resilience; Global Resource Consumption and Security.

Part 3: HL extension (Compulsory topics – HL only)

These are: Geographic Perspectives - Global Interactions; Power, Places and Networks; Human Development and Diversity; Global Risks and Resilience.

Fieldwork (SL/HL)

Fieldwork, leading to one written report based on a fieldwork question, information, collection and analysis with evaluation.

How is it assessed?

External assessment

Paper 1

- SL - 1 hour and 30 minutes, 35%
 - HL - 2 hours and 15 minutes, 35%
- Each option has a structured question and one extended answer question from a choice of two.

Paper 2

- SL - 1 hour and 15 minutes, 40%
 - HL - 1 hour and 15 minutes, 25%
- Section A - Three structured questions, based on each SL/HL core unit.
- Section B - Infographic or visual stimulus, with structured questions.
- Section C - One extended answer question from a choice of two.

Paper 3

- HL - 1 hour, 20%
- Choice of three extended answer questions, with two parts, based on each HL core unit.

Internal assessment

Fieldwork question to be based on any suitable topic from the syllabus.

SL - 25%

HL - 20%



Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students should have gained a grade C at Higher Tier iGCSE/GCSE or equivalent. Students who have not studied GCSE Geography to Higher Level may find the Geography HL or SL courses challenging.

Why is it a useful qualification?

IB Geography develops:

- Intellectual skills, such as critically evaluating theories and judging evidence in order to make informed decisions and to develop reasoned arguments
- Research skills, such as using a range of technical methods for the collection and analysis of spatial and environmental data, and undertaking fieldwork
- Transferable skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, IT skills, communication skills (presentation, writing, debating)
- Personal attributes, such as time-management, development of responsibility, coping with uncertainty, self-reflection, motivation, flexibility, and creativity

Geography is a useful subject for those planning to continue their studies in areas such as Civil Engineering, Sociology and Geology.