

# Geography SL/HL

## Course Description

Integrating both Physical and Human studies, Geography “focuses on the interactions between individuals, societies and the physical environment in both time and space”. In contrast to the other Group 3 subjects, Geography is not just a discipline concerned with social matters; it constitutes the “middle ground between social sciences and natural sciences”. As a result, students will become familiar with “both scientific and socio-economic” research methodologies and approaches. Geography constitutes the discipline dealing with issues such as environmental management, “poverty, sustainability and climate change. It considers examples and detailed case studies at a variety of scales, from local to regional, national and international”. (IB, 2009)

Geography is a dynamic subject that is firmly grounded in the real world and focuses on the interactions between individuals, societies and physical processes in both time and space. It seeks to identify trends and patterns in these interactions. It also investigates the way in which people adapt and respond to change, and evaluates actual and possible management strategies associated with such change.

Geography takes advantage of its position to examine relevant concepts and ideas from a wide variety of disciplines. This helps students develop life skills and have an appreciation of, and a respect for, alternative approaches, viewpoints and ideas.

## Distinction between SL and HL

- SL students study two optional themes; HL students study three optional themes,
- Both SL and HL students study the core geographic perspectives—global change.
- HL students study the HL extension geographic perspectives—global interactions, and further examine, evaluate and synthesize the prescribed concepts, which by their nature are complex, contestable, interlinked and require holistic treatment. This provides further depth at HL.
- Both SL and HL students complete a fieldwork study for the internal assessment.

## Geography aims

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

1. develop an understanding of the dynamic interrelationships between people, places, spaces and the environment at different scales
2. develop a critical awareness and consider complexity thinking in the context of the nexus of geographic issues, including:
  - acquiring an in-depth understanding of how geographic issues, or wicked problems, have been shaped by powerful human and physical processes
  - synthesizing diverse geographic knowledge in order to form viewpoints about how these issues could be resolved
3. understand and evaluate the need for planning and sustainable development through the management of resources at varying scales.

HL students have 6 lessons per week

SL students have 4 lessons per week

## Assessment:

### Internal assessment - Fieldwork (SL/HL) - compulsory

- SL students: 25% of the final grade

- HL students: 20% of the final grade
- Written report based on fieldwork question, information, collection and analysis with evaluation; Time allocation: 20 h; Maximum 2,500 words

### **External assessment**

- Paper 1: Common for SL and HL students: In section A, students answer all short-answer questions; in section B, students answer one extended question.
- Paper 2: SL students answer 2 and HL students answer 3 structured questions based on the optional themes they have studied
- Paper 3: Only for HL students answering 1 out of 3 essay questions
- SL students: 75% of the final grade
- HL students: 80% of the final grade

*Sources used for Geography Course Description, Study Material and Assessment:*

<https://www.ibo.org/>