



Syllabus

Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1) Geography 0976

Use this syllabus for exams in 2025, 2026 and 2027.
Exams are available in the June and November series.



Version 1

Please check the syllabus page at www.cambridgeinternational.org/0976
to see if this syllabus is available in your administrative zone.

For the purposes of screen readers, any mention in this document of Cambridge IGCSE
refers to Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education.

Why choose Cambridge International?

Cambridge International prepares school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. We are part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is a department of the University of Cambridge.

Our Cambridge Pathway gives students a clear path for educational success from age 5 to 19. Schools can shape the curriculum around how they want students to learn – with a wide range of subjects and flexible ways to offer them. It helps students discover new abilities and a wider world, and gives them the skills they need for life, so they can achieve at school, university and work.

Our programmes and qualifications set the global standard for international education. They are created by subject experts, rooted in academic rigour and reflect the latest educational research. They provide a strong platform for learners to progress from one stage to the next, and are well supported by teaching and learning resources.

Our mission is to provide educational benefit through provision of international programmes and qualifications for school education and to be the world leader in this field. Together with schools, we develop Cambridge learners who are confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged – equipped for success in the modern world.

Every year, nearly a million Cambridge students from 10 000 schools in 160 countries prepare for their future with the Cambridge Pathway.

School feedback: ‘We think the Cambridge curriculum is superb preparation for university.’

Feedback from: Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University, USA

Quality management



Cambridge International is committed to providing exceptional quality. In line with this commitment, our quality management system for the provision of international qualifications and education programmes for students aged 5 to 19 is independently certified as meeting the internationally recognised standard, ISO 9001:2015. Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/ISO9001

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Important: Changes to this syllabus

The latest syllabus is version 1, published September 2022. There are no significant changes which affect teaching.

Any textbooks endorsed to support the syllabus for examination from 2016 are still suitable for use with this syllabus.

1 Why choose this syllabus?

Key benefits

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds, although it can be taken by students of other ages. It is tried, tested and trusted.

Students can choose from 70 subjects in any combination – it is taught by over 4500 schools in over 140 countries.

Our programmes balance a thorough knowledge and understanding of a subject and help to develop the skills learners need for their next steps in education or employment.

Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Geography develops lifelong skills, including:

- an understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments
- an understanding of place on a local, regional and global scale
- the ability to use and understand geographical data and information
- an understanding of how communities around the world are affected and constrained by different environments.

Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Geography encourages learners to be:

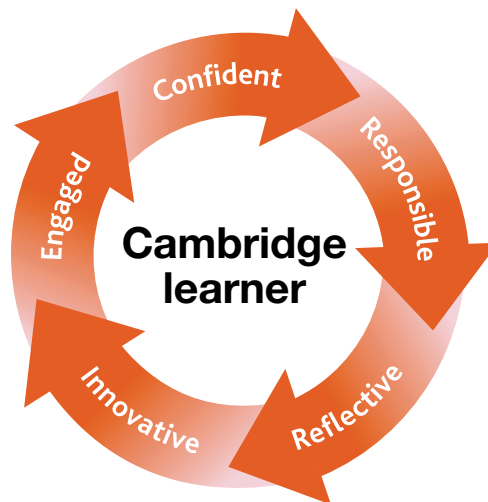
confident, using geographical data to interpret the world around them

responsible, and aware of the duty present and future generations have in creating sustainable solutions to global issues

reflective, considering the similarities and differences between different environments, communities and economies

innovative, by encouraging and being open to resourceful, technological solutions to geographical issues

engaged, with geographical issues, ideas and solutions that will have positive long-term impacts on the physical and human environment.



School feedback: ‘The strength of Cambridge IGCSE qualifications is internationally recognised and has provided an international pathway for our students to continue their studies around the world.’

Feedback from: Gary Tan, Head of Schools and CEO, Raffles International Group of Schools, Indonesia

International recognition and acceptance

Our expertise in curriculum, teaching and learning, and assessment is the basis for the recognition of our programmes and qualifications around the world. The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Geography gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades 9 to 4 are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including Cambridge International AS & A Level Geography.

Cambridge IGCSEs are accepted and valued by leading universities and employers around the world as evidence of academic achievement. Many universities require a combination of Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs or equivalent to meet their entry requirements.

UK NARIC*, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has carried out an independent benchmarking study of Cambridge IGCSE and found it to be comparable to the standard of the GCSE in the UK. This means students can be confident that their Cambridge IGCSE qualifications are accepted as equivalent to UK GCSEs by leading universities worldwide.

* Due to the United Kingdom leaving the European Union, the UK NARIC national recognition agency function was re-titled as UK ENIC on 1 March 2021, operated and managed by Ecctis Limited. From 1 March 2021, international benchmarking findings are published under the Ecctis name.

Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition

School feedback: ‘Cambridge IGCSE is one of the most sought-after and recognised qualifications in the world. It is very popular in Egypt because it provides the perfect preparation for success at advanced level programmes.’

Feedback from: Managing Director of British School of Egypt BSE

Supporting teachers

We provide a wide range of resources, detailed guidance, innovative training and professional development so that you can give your students the best possible preparation for Cambridge IGCSE. To find out which resources are available for each syllabus go to our School Support Hub.

The School Support Hub is our secure online site for Cambridge teachers where you can find the resources you need to deliver our programmes. You can also keep up to date with your subject and the global Cambridge community through our online discussion forums.

Find out more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/support

| Support for Cambridge IGCSE | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Planning and preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schemes of work Specimen papers Syllabuses Teacher guides | Teaching and assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed resources Online forums Support for coursework and speaking tests | Learning and revision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example candidate responses Past papers and mark schemes Specimen paper answers | Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate Results Service Principal examiner reports for teachers Results Analysis |

Sign up for email notifications about changes to syllabuses, including new and revised products and services at www.cambridgeinternational.org/syllabusupdates

Professional development

We support teachers through:

- Introductory Training – face-to-face or online
- Extension Training – face-to-face or online
- Enrichment Professional Development – face-to-face or online

Find out more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/events

- Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications

Find out more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/profdev



Supporting exams officers

We provide comprehensive support and guidance for all Cambridge exams officers.

Find out more at: www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

2 Syllabus overview


Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

The aims are to enable students to:

The aims are to enable students to:

- an understanding of location on a local, regional and global scale
- an awareness of the characteristics, distribution and processes affecting contrasting physical and human environments
- an understanding of the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environment
- an awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints presented by different environments
- an appreciation of and concern for the environment
- an appreciation of the earth including its people, places, landscapes, natural processes and phenomena.



Cambridge Assessment International Education is an education organisation and politically neutral. The contents of this syllabus, examination papers and associated materials do not endorse any political view. We endeavour to treat all aspects of the exam process neutrally.

Content overview

The syllabus is divided into three themes:

Theme 1: Population and settlement

Theme 2: The natural environment

Theme 3: Economic development

The themes are designed to develop an understanding of natural and human environments.

Assessment overview

All candidates take three components. All candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 2, and either Component 3 or Paper 4. Candidates will be eligible for grades 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade.

All candidates take:

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes
 Geographical Themes 45%
 75 marks, weighted to 100 marks
 Candidates answer three questions, each worth 25 marks. Candidates must answer one question from each section.
 Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes
 Geographical Skills 27.5%
 60 marks
 Candidates answer all the questions.
 Externally assessed

and either:

Component 3
 Coursework 27.5%
 60 marks
 Teachers set one centre-based assignment of up to 2000 words.
 Centre-based assessment*

or:

Paper 4 1 hour 30 minutes
 Alternative to Coursework 27.5%
 60 marks
 Candidates answer two compulsory questions, completing a series of written tasks.
 Externally assessed

* Cambridge International offers schools in-service training courses on centre-based assessment which are held in Cambridge and elsewhere.

Information on availability is in the **Before you start** section.

Check the samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples for submission information, forms and deadlines for Component 3.

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives (AOs) are:

AO1 Knowledge with understanding

Candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- the wide range of processes, including human actions, contributing to the development of:
 - (a) physical, economic and social environments and their effects on the landscape
 - (b) spatial patterns and interactions which are important within these environments
- the relationships between human activity and the environment
- the importance of scale (whether local, regional or global)
- the changes which occur through time in places, landscapes and spatial distribution.

AO2 Skills and analysis

Candidates should be able to:

- interpret and analyse geographical data
- use and apply geographical knowledge and understanding to maps and in numerical, diagrammatic, pictorial, photographic and graphical form
- use geographical data to recognise patterns in such data and to deduce relationships
- select and show understanding of techniques for observing and collecting data
- select and use techniques for organising and presenting data.

AO3 Judgement and decision-making

Through their geographical training, candidates should be able to:

- reason and make judgements and decisions, including evaluation and conclusions, which demonstrate, where appropriate:
 - (a) an appreciation of the attitudes, values and beliefs of others in issues which have a geographical dimension
 - (b) an awareness of the contrasting opportunities and constraints of people living in different places and under different physical and human conditions
 - (c) a willingness to review their own attitudes in the light of the views of others and new knowledge acquired.
- make judgements and decisions and recognise how these are made within a geographical context as affected and constrained by:
 - (a) the physical and human contexts in which decisions are made
 - (b) the values and perceptions of differing groups or individuals
 - (c) the choices available to decision-makers
 - (d) the increasing level of global interdependence and the need for sustainable development.

Weighting for assessment objectives

The approximate weightings allocated to each of the assessment objectives (AOs) are summarised below.

Assessment objectives as a percentage of the qualification

| Assessment objective | Weighting in IGCSE % |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| AO1 Knowledge with understanding | 30 |
| AO2 Skills and analysis | 52 |
| AO3 Judgement and decision-making | 18 |
| Total | 100 |

Assessment objectives as a percentage of each component

| Assessment objective | Weighting in components % | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| | Paper 1 | Paper 2 | Component 3 and Paper 4 |
| AO1 Knowledge with understanding | 48 | 11 | 20 |
| AO2 Skills and analysis | 30 | 80 | 60 |
| AO3 Judgement and decision-making | 22 | 9 | 20 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 |

3 Subject content

This syllabus gives you the flexibility to design a course that will interest, challenge and engage your learners. Where appropriate you are responsible for selecting topics, subject contexts, resources and examples to support your learners' study. These should be appropriate for the learners' age, cultural background and learning context as well as complying with your school policies and local legal requirements.

The subject content is arranged into the three themes:

- Population and settlement
- The natural environment
- Economic development.

The content listed is exhaustive except where the word 'including' is used. Where 'including' is used, candidates must study everything in the list but may also study other relevant aspects. For example:

- in Topic 2.3, all the coastal landforms you must cover are listed
- in Topic 2.5, where 'including' is used, you may choose to introduce other climatic characteristics as well as the ones listed.

Resources

Some questions in all the written papers are based on resource material, such as photographs, map extracts, satellite images, drawings, diagrams, graphs, text extracts, statistics and tables of data.

To meet the aims of an international syllabus and examination, resource materials come from various areas of the world. Candidates may not be familiar with the world areas used in the resources. The questions **do not** require specific regional knowledge. The resources are designed to prompt candidates to use the general principles they have studied.

The units used in all resources and papers are:

- metres and kilometres for height and distance
- degrees centigrade for temperature.

Questions in all papers may include references to latitude or longitude.

Case studies

Where a case study is specified in a topic, teachers should choose a suitable example to illustrate the subject content. For example, Topic 1.6 requires a case study of an urban area. The case study can be from anywhere in the world but it must illustrate all the content listed under Topic 1.6.

You can choose more than one case study for a topic. For example, for Topic 1.6 you could choose Settlement X for a case study on land use and Settlement Y for a case study on urban problems.

You can also use the same case study for more than one topic as long as it is suitable for the subject content.

Theme 1: Population and settlement

Please see the guidance on case studies for the options when planning case studies and note whether the word ‘including’ is used in the further guidance column.

1.1 Population dynamics

Candidates should be able to:

Describe and give reasons for the rapid increase in the world’s population

Show an understanding of over-population and under-population

Understand the main causes of a change in population size

Give reasons for contrasting rates of natural population change

Describe and evaluate population policies

Further guidance

Causes and consequences of over-population and under-population

How birth rate, death rate and migration contribute to the population of a country increasing or declining

Impacts of social, economic and other factors (including government policies, HIV/AIDS) on birth and death rates

Case Studies required for 1.1

- A country which is over-populated
- A country which is under-populated
- A country with a high rate of natural population growth
- A country with a low rate of population growth (or population decline)

1.2 Migration

Candidates should be able to:

Explain and give reasons for population migration

Demonstrate an understanding of the impacts of migration

Further guidance

Internal movements such as rural-urban migration, as well as international migrations, both voluntary and involuntary

Positive and negative impacts on the destination and origin of the migrants, and on the migrants themselves

Case Study required for 1.2

- An international migration

1.3 Population structure

Candidates should be able to:

Identify and give reasons for and implications of different types of population structure.

Further guidance

Age/sex pyramids of countries at different levels of economic development.

Case Study required for 1.3

- A country with a high dependent population.

1.4 Population density and distribution

Candidates should be able to:

Describe the factors influencing the density and distribution of population

Further guidance

Physical, economic, social and political factors

Case Studies required for 1.4

- A densely populated country or area (at any scale from local to regional)
- A sparsely populated country or area (at any scale from local to regional)

1.5 Settlements (rural and urban) and service provision

Candidates should be able to:

Explain the patterns of settlement

Describe and explain the factors which may influence the sites, growth and functions of settlements

Give reasons for the hierarchy of settlements and services

Further guidance

Dispersed, linear, and nucleated settlement patterns

Influence of physical factors (including relief, soil, water supply) and other factors (including accessibility, resources)

High-, middle- and low-order settlements and services. Sphere of influence and threshold population

Case Study required for 1.5

- Settlement and service provision in an area

1.6 Urban settlements

Candidates should be able to:

Describe and give reasons for the characteristics of, and changes in, land use in urban areas

Explain the problems of urban areas, their causes and possible solutions

Further guidance

Land use zones including the Central Business District (CBD), residential areas, industrial areas and the rural-urban fringe of urban areas in countries at different levels of economic development

The effect of change in land use and rapid urban growth in an urban area including the effects of urban sprawl

Different types of pollution (air, noise, water, visual), inequality, housing issues, traffic congestion and conflicts over land use change

Case Study required for 1.6

- An urban area or urban areas

1.7 Urbanisation

Candidates should be able to:

Identify and suggest reasons for rapid urban growth

Describe the impacts of urban growth on both rural and urban areas, along with possible solutions to reduce the negative impacts

Case Study required for 1.7

- A rapidly growing urban area in a developing country and migration to it

Further guidance

Reference should be made to physical, economic and social factors which result in rural depopulation and the movement of people to major cities

The effects of urbanisation on the people and the natural environment

The characteristics of squatter settlements

Strategies to reduce the negative impacts of urbanisation

Theme 2: The natural environment

Please see the guidance on case studies for the options when planning case studies and note whether the word ‘including’ is used in the further guidance column.

2.1 Earthquakes and volcanoes

Candidates should be able to:

Describe the main types and features of volcanoes and earthquakes

Describe and explain the distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes

Describe the causes of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and their effects on people and the environment

Demonstrate an understanding that volcanoes present hazards and offer opportunities for people

Explain what can be done to reduce the impacts of earthquakes and volcanoes

Case Studies required for 2.1

- An earthquake
- A volcano

Further guidance

Types of volcanoes (including strato-volcanoes [composite cone] and shield volcano)

Features of volcanoes (including crater, vent, magma chamber)

Features of earthquakes (including epicentre, focus, magnitude)

The global pattern of plates and their structure; an awareness of plate movements, subduction zones and their effects – constructive/divergent, destructive/convergent and conservative plate boundaries

2.2 Rivers

Candidates should be able to:

Explain the main hydrological characteristics and processes which operate in rivers and drainage basins

Demonstrate an understanding of the work of a river in eroding, transporting and depositing

Describe and explain the formation of the landforms associated with these processes

Demonstrate an understanding that rivers present hazards and offer opportunities for people

Explain what can be done to manage the impacts of river flooding

Case Study required for 2.2

- The opportunities presented by a river or rivers, the associated hazards and their management

Further guidance

Characteristics of rivers (including width, depth, speed of flow, discharge) and drainage basins (including watershed, tributary, confluence)

Processes which operate in a drainage basin (including interception, infiltration, throughflow, groundwater flow, evaporation, overland flow)

Forms of river valleys – long profile and shape in cross-section, waterfalls, potholes, meanders, oxbow lakes, deltas, levées and flood plains

Causes of hazards (including flooding and river erosion)

Opportunities of living on a flood plain or a delta or near a river

2.3 Coasts

Candidates should be able to:

Demonstrate an understanding of the work of the sea and wind in eroding, transporting and depositing

Describe and explain the formation of the landforms associated with these processes

Describe coral reefs and mangrove swamps and the conditions required for their development

Demonstrate an understanding that coasts present hazards and offer opportunities for people

Explain what can be done to manage the impacts of coastal erosion

Case Study required for 2.3

- The opportunities presented by an area or areas of coastline, the associated hazards and their management

Further guidance

Cliffs, wave-cut platforms, caves, arches, stacks, stumps, bay and headland coastlines, beaches, spits, and coastal sand dunes

Hazards (including coastal erosion and tropical storms)

2.4 Weather

Candidates should be able to:

Describe how weather data are collected

Make calculations using information from weather instruments

Use and interpret graphs and other diagrams showing weather and climate data

Further guidance

Describe and explain the characteristics, siting and use made of a Stevenson Screen

Rain gauge, maximum–minimum thermometer, wet-and-dry bulb thermometer (hygrometer), sunshine recorder, barometer, anemometer and wind vane, along with simple digital instruments which can be used for weather observations; observations of types and amounts of cloud

2.5 Climate and natural vegetation

Candidates should be able to:

Describe and explain the characteristics of two climates:

- equatorial
- hot desert

Describe and explain the characteristics of tropical rainforest and hot desert ecosystems

Describe the causes and effects of deforestation of tropical rainforest

Case Study required for 2.5

- An area of tropical rainforest
- An area of hot desert

Further guidance

Climate characteristics (including temperature [mean temperature of the hottest month, mean temperature of the coolest month, annual range]; and precipitation including convection and relief rainfall [the amount and seasonal distribution])

Factors influencing the characteristics of these climates (including latitude, pressure systems, winds, distance from the sea, altitude and ocean currents)

Climatic graphs showing the main characteristics of temperature and rainfall of the two climates

The relationship in each ecosystem of natural vegetation, soil, wildlife and climate

Effects on the natural environment (both locally and globally) and effects on people

Theme 3: Economic development

Please see the guidance on case studies for the options when planning case studies and note whether the word ‘including’ is used in the further guidance column.

3.1 Development

Candidates should be able to:

Use a variety of indicators to assess the level of development of a country

Identify and explain inequalities between and within countries

Classify production into different sectors and give illustrations of each

Describe and explain how the proportions employed in each sector vary according to the level of development

Describe and explain the process of globalisation, and consider its impacts

Further guidance

Indicators of development (including GNP per capita, literacy, life expectancy and composite indices, e.g. Human Development Index (HDI))

Primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors

Use of indicators of development and employment structure to compare countries at different levels of economic development and over time

The role of technology and transnational corporations in globalisation along with economic factors which give rise to globalisation

Impacts at a local, national and global scale

Case Study required for 3.1

- A transnational corporation and its global links

3.2 Food production

Candidates should be able to:

Describe and explain the main features of an agricultural system: inputs, processes and outputs

Recognise the causes and effects of food shortages and describe possible solutions to this problem

Further guidance

Farming types: commercial and subsistence; arable, pastoral and mixed; intensive and extensive

The influence of natural and human inputs on agricultural land use (including natural inputs [relief, climate and soil] and human inputs [economic and social]). Their combined influences on the scale of production, methods of organisation and the products of agricultural systems

Natural problems which cause food shortages (including drought, floods, tropical storms, pests) and economic and political factors (including low capital investment, poor distribution/transport difficulties, wars)

The negative effects of food shortages; the effects of food shortages in encouraging food aid and measures to increase output

Case Studies required for 3.2

- A farm or agricultural system
- A country or region suffering from food shortages

3.3 Industry

Candidates should be able to:

Demonstrate an understanding of an industrial system: inputs, processes and outputs (products and waste)

Describe and explain the factors influencing the distribution and location of factories and industrial zones

Further guidance

Industry types: manufacturing, processing, assembly and high technology industry

The influence of factors including land, labour, raw materials and fuel and power, transport, markets and political factors

Their combined influences on the location, scale of production, methods of organisation and the products of the system

Industrial zones and/or factories with respect to locational and siting factors

Case Study required for 3.3

- An industrial zone or factory

3.4 Tourism

Candidates should be able to:

Describe and explain the growth of tourism in relation to the main attractions of the physical and human landscape

Evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of tourism to receiving areas

Demonstrate an understanding that careful management of tourism is required in order for it to be sustainable

Further guidance

Case Study required for 3.4

- An area where tourism is important

3.5 Energy

Candidates should be able to:

Describe the importance of non-renewable fossil fuels, renewable energy supplies, nuclear power and fuelwood; globally and in different countries at different levels of development

Evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of nuclear power and renewable energy sources

Further guidance

Non-renewable fossil fuels including coal, oil and natural gas. Renewable energy supplies including geothermal, wind, HEP, wave and tidal power, solar power and biofuels

Case Study required for 3.5

- Energy supply in a country or area

3.6 Water

Candidates should be able to:

Describe methods of water supply and the proportions of water used for agriculture, domestic and industrial purposes in countries at different levels of economic development

Explain why there are water shortages in some areas and demonstrate that careful management is required to ensure future supplies

Further guidance

Methods of water supply (including reservoirs/dams, wells and bore holes, desalination)

The impact of lack of access to clean water on local people and the potential for economic development

Case Study required for 3.6

- Water supply in a country or area

3.7 Environmental risks of economic development

Candidates should be able to:

Describe how economic activities may pose threats to the natural environment and people, locally and globally

Demonstrate the need for sustainable development and management

Understand the importance of resource conservation

Further guidance

Threats to the natural environment (including soil erosion, desertification, enhanced global warming and pollution [water, air, noise, visual])

Case Study required for 3.7

- An area where economic development is taking place and causing the environment to be at risk

Using mathematical skills in geography

Candidates should be able to:

- add, subtract, multiply and divide
- understand map scale and the use of the scale line and representative fractions
- understand the terms *mean* and *range*
- use averages, decimals, fractions, percentages and ratios
- use standard notation, including both positive and negative indices
- understand significant figures and use them appropriately
- recognise positive and negative relationships shown by scatter graphs
- draw and interpret graphs from given data for the types of graph listed in the syllabus
- select suitable scales and axes for graphs
- use a ruler and protractor.

Calculators may be used in all examinations.

4 Details of the assessment

Paper 1 – Geographical Themes

Written paper, 1 hour 45 minutes, 75 marks

All candidates take Paper 1. They choose **three** questions.

Please note:

Candidates must comply with the instructions for Paper 1. They must choose only **three** questions, one from each of the three sections. Sometimes there is a choice within a question. Candidates must not answer more than is required.

Questions are structured with different levels of difficulty. They consist of a combination of resource-based tasks and free-response writing requiring place-specific information.

For resource-based tasks, candidates should interpret and analyse the resource and use the data provided to illustrate their understanding of the concept being assessed.

Candidates are expected to know the location of the continents.

All the other information they need to answer a resource-based question is in the resource. No other previous knowledge is needed of the content of the resource.

Resources may be:

- photographs
- sketch maps
- diagrams
- text extracts
- GIS data
- map extracts
- drawings
- graphs
- statistics and tables of data-satellite images
- maps showing latitude and longitude

Resource materials are chosen from different world areas. This means that candidates may be dealing with world areas they are not familiar with. You should make it clear to candidates that they do not need any regional knowledge to answer a resource-based question. Everything they need is provided. It is important that candidates are not influenced in their choice of question by the nature or location of a resource.

Case studies

Candidates should refer to suitable case studies to illustrate the individual themes.

You may choose a case study because it relates to:

- the local school area
- a contemporary development such as the occurrence of a natural hazard in part of the world
- a particular illustration with which you are familiar
- a presentation in a newspaper or website or video or film, or a well-documented illustration in a textbook, etc.

A case study may also be based on a field study undertaken as part of the work for Component 3 (Coursework) or Paper 4 (Alternative to Coursework). Specific questions based on fieldwork will not be set in Paper 1, but candidates may use information based on their fieldwork to illustrate answers in Paper 1.

The case studies should give candidates details which they can use in their answers to certain questions on Paper 1. Some part questions ask candidates to refer to information from the specific case studies for each theme. Candidates may also use details from these case studies to volunteer information when they are answering other part questions.

Specific named illustrations of case studies are not included in the syllabus. This is to give you complete freedom in selecting examples which you feel are most suitable for your candidates.

Candidates should be aware of the sub-marks for each part question. These are printed on the question paper. Candidates should use them as a guide to the amount of detail and length of response expected and to help them manage their time effectively.

Paper 2 – Geographical Skills

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks.

All candidates take Paper 2. They must answer all the questions.

The paper tests:

- skills of application, interpretation and analysis of geographical information, for example:
 - topographical maps
 - other maps
 - diagrams
 - graphs
 - tables of data
 - written material
 - photographs and pictorial material
- application of graphical and other techniques.

Candidates do not need any place-specific knowledge to answer questions in Paper 2. Questions that require knowledge and understanding (AO1) will be based on topics from the three themes (see section 3).

Equipment for Paper 2

Candidates must have in the examination room:

- a pencil, rubber, ruler, protractor and calculator
- access to a sheet of plain paper for measuring distance or for assisting with cross-sections on the large-scale map.

Mapwork question

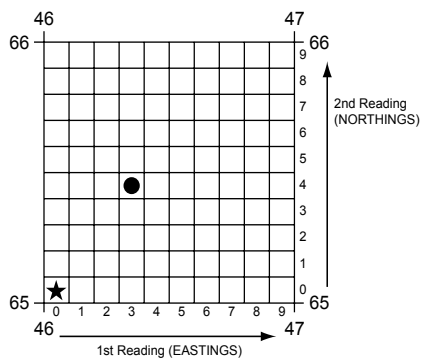
All answers to the mapwork question must be based on map evidence only.

One question will be based on a large-scale map. The large-scale maps provided will be on a scale of either 1:25 000 or 1:50 000 and will always contain a full key.

One third of the marks for Paper 2 are for the mapwork question. Candidates are asked to describe and analyse a large-scale map. This means that candidates must be proficient in map-reading and interpretation skills.

Candidates should be able to use a co-ordinate reference system and to give and read four-figure and six-figure grid references to locate places.

In this example, the four-figure reference for the dot is 4665 and the six-figure grid reference for the dot is 463654:



To give the six-figure grid reference, first identify the grid square, in this case 4665. The third figure is obtained by dividing the space between grid lines 46 and 47 into ten equal parts. Similarly, the sixth figure is obtained by a division of the gap between northings 65 and 66. This results in a grid reference of 463654 for the dot and 460650 for the star. Please note that the first tenth is 0 and the last tenth is 9 in the divided grid square.

Candidates should be able to give directions, both in terms of a 16-point compass (such as north, north-north east, north east, etc.) and as a bearing from grid north of one place from another. For this reason candidates must have protractors in the examination room.

Candidates should be able to measure horizontal distances. This is done most accurately by using a straight-edged piece of paper and the scale line. If the line to be measured is curved, divide the curve into straight sections and rotate the paper after each straight section to follow the next straight section. Finally, place the completed straight-edged piece of paper along the linear scale line on the map extract and read off the distance in kilometres/metres. This method avoids complicated mathematical calculations which can arise when rulers are used.

Candidates should also be able to:

- calculate differences in height by means of contour reading
- interpret, construct or complete a cross-section
- translate the scale of a feature by describing its size and shape in real terms
- be proficient in using the key to identify features on the map
- draw inferences about the physical and human landscape by interpreting map evidence (including patterns of relief, drainage, settlement, communication and land use)
- identify basic landscape features (such as river valleys and uplands)
- give brief descriptions of basic landscape features using suitable geographical terms (such as ridge, plateau, scarp, flood plain) and simple adjectives showing an appreciation of their nature (such as broad, flat, steep-sided, deeply cut, gently sloping)
- recognise essential differences in density of drainage, stream patterns, gradients or sizes of streams in relation to the relief

- describe the physical features of coastlines and the shape and form of river channels as they are shown on large-scale maps
- describe variations in land use
- recognise and analyse patterns of settlement (dispersed, nucleated, linear)
- draw sketch maps illustrating these patterns
- interpret and describe features of urban morphology as they are shown on large-scale maps
- describe the functions of and services provided by settlements
- give reasons for the site and growth of individual settlements
- recognise communication networks in terms of their type and density in relation to physical and human features.

Maps, diagrams, graphs, tables of data, written material

Questions will be set using some or all of these resources, which are all important ways of representing geographical data. Resources may be used to illustrate a basic principle which candidates must be able to interpret. For example, a population pyramid may be used to illustrate the age and sex structure of a country. Maps based on global and other scales may also be used.

Candidates should be able to:

- Describe the broad features of the population structure and use the pyramid to identify comparisons and contrasts between the male and female populations, the working and non-working population and the young-, middle- and old-age groups.
- Identify and describe significant features of the human and physical landscape on maps, for example, population distribution, population movements, transport networks, settlement layout, relief and drainage.
- Recognise patterns and deduce relationships.
- Extract specified geographical information from graphs, diagrams, tables of data and written material. Various types of graphs, maps and diagrams may be used, for example: pictograms, line graphs, bar graphs, divided bar graphs, histograms, kite diagrams, flow diagrams, wind rose graphs, dispersion graphs, isoline maps, scatter graphs (including best-fit lines), choropleth maps, pie graphs, triangular graphs and radial graphs.
- Describe variations and identify trends in information. Graphs may show, for example, temperature, birth rate, death rate, energy, rainfall distribution or river discharge.
- Plot information on graphs when axes and scales are provided.

Data tables may provide various types of information on physical phenomena, economic activities, population, settlement, agricultural and manufacturing output, etc. and candidates may be asked to describe and analyse features and trends from the data provided. They may also be asked to suggest a suitable form of graphical representation for the data provided.

Written material may be extracts from books, periodicals and newspapers, and candidates will need to show an understanding of the material presented.

Photographic and pictorial material (including field sketches)

Questions may include field sketches of physical and human landscapes to stimulate geographical description and annotation. Cartoons illustrating a geographical theme may be set for interpretation and analysis.

Some questions will include oblique photographs. Candidates should be able to:

- Give simple descriptions of human and physical landscapes (landforms, natural vegetation, land use and settlement) and geographical phenomena from photographs, aerial photographs, satellite images and GIS.
- Add specified detail on maps or other material provided to show that they can apply geographical knowledge and understanding.
- Use supporting material in conjunction with large-scale maps to identify, describe and analyse features and show that they can recognise patterns and deduce trends.

Component 3 – Coursework

Centre-based assessment, 60 marks

Candidates must complete **one** coursework assignment, set by teachers, of up to 2000 words.

Coursework assignments may be based on physical geography or human geography or on an interaction between physical and human geography. Coursework must be clearly related to one or more of the subject themes (see section 3).

The focus of assignments can be common to all candidates at a centre but they do not have to be. There should be enough variety and differentiation of tasks, and opportunity for individual initiative in all assignments, to fulfil the assessment criteria at all levels of achievement.

Coursework will be assessed on the quality of the content of the assignment in relation to the criteria on which assessment is based. The time candidates spend on their coursework assignments should reflect the weighting of the component in the total assessment (27.5 per cent).

Centre-based assessment provides a complementary assessment of the assessment objectives tested in Papers 1 and 2, with an emphasis on AO2, skills and analysis. Coursework assignments must cover the assessment criteria in the proportions given below.

| Assessment criteria | Marks allocated |
|--|-----------------|
| AO1 Knowledge with understanding | 12 |
| AO2 Skills and analysis | |
| Observation and collection of data | 12 |
| Organisation and the presentation of data | 12 |
| Analysis and interpretation | 12 |
| AO3 Judgement and decision-making (conclusion and evaluation) | 12 |
| Total: 60 marks | |

You should devise and structure coursework assignment(s) to enable all candidates to fulfil these assessment criteria. Differentiation should be achieved by candidates engaging in enquiries appropriate to their abilities, which will allow them to demonstrate what they know and can do.

Setting up a coursework assignment

You should structure each coursework assignment to promote the:

- acquisition of geographical knowledge
- understanding and application of ideas
- development of skills and the clarification of values in a geographical context.

The coursework assignment should follow the accepted ‘route to geographical enquiry’ as below.

| The route to geographical enquiry | |
|--|--|
| 1 Identification of issue, question or problem | A topic for investigation is recognised through observation, discussion, reading or previous study. The design of hypotheses to test the issue, question or problem. |
| 2 Objectives of the study are defined | The objectives of the study are defined in specific terms. Decisions are made on: (a) what data are relevant to the study (b) how the data can be collected. |
| 3 Collection of data | Candidates carry out a group or individual set of tasks, which may include fieldwork to collect primary data, such as undertaking questionnaires, mapping or sketching, observation, recording counts or measurements. This may also involve gathering data from secondary sources such as census information, the internet, published maps, books, newspapers or magazines. |
| 4 Selection and collation of data | You may collate data for class use. Candidates select data to develop the aims or hypotheses for the topic. |
| 5 Presentation and recording of the results | Candidates individually record results and present findings in appropriate forms using a variety of maps, graphs, etc. |
| 6 Analysis and interpretation | Candidates individually analyse and interpret their findings in response to the issue/question/problem with reference to relevant geographical concepts. |
| 7 Making effective conclusions, evaluation and suggestions for further work | Candidates individually draw conclusions from their findings and make evaluations related to the original objectives. If appropriate, comments may be made on the limitations of the data and possibilities for further study. |

Examples of suitable coursework assignments

The coursework assignments listed below identify issues, questions or problems which could be investigated.

Human geography

| Theme 1: Population and settlement | Topic reference |
|---|-----------------|
| • What are the push and pull factors influencing migrants in a certain area? | 1.2 |
| • Are the leisure facilities of a settlement area adequate for the needs of its population? | 1.5 |
| • To what extent has the physical landscape influenced settlement patterns in an area? [also listed under physical geography topics] | 1.5 |
| • Do pedestrian and traffic patterns vary within the CBD of a local town/city? | 1.5 / 1.6 |
| • How does the pattern of land use vary with distance from the centre of a settlement? | 1.6 |
| • To what extent does an urban area match the <u>Burgess concentric ring</u> model of urban land use? | 1.6 |
| • How and why do housing types differ in the residential environments of a settlement? | 1.6 |
| • How and why does the height of buildings vary with distance from the CBD? | 1.6 |
| • Do most people employed in the CBD work in shops and service industries? | 1.6 |
| • Use a particular city or town(s) to find out if newer housing areas have better environments than older housing areas. | 1.7 |
| Theme 3: Economic development | Topic reference |
| • What are the benefits and problems created by tourists visiting an area/settlement? | 3.4 |
| • Where does a particular tourist resort fit in the <u>Butler model</u> of tourist development? | 3.4 |
| • To what extent are problems of an uneven/unreliable water supply being solved by people and organisations in an area? | 3.6 |

Physical geography

| Theme 1: Population and settlement | Topic reference |
|---|-----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has the physical landscape influenced settlement patterns in an area? [also listed under human geography topics] | 1.5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are temperatures near to and in the CBD always higher than temperatures on the rural-urban fringe of a settlement? | 1.6 |
| Theme 2: The natural environment | Topic reference |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does river velocity increase downstream? | 2.2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the bedload of a local river become smaller and more rounded downstream? | 2.2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How far do a river's characteristics fit the <u>Bradshaw model</u>? | 2.2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does pollution increase as a river flows downstream? | 2.2 / 3.6 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comparison of two beaches to see if the size of beach material gets larger towards the top of a beach nearer to the cliff. | 2.3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the direction of the wind and waves influence the size and location of pebbles on a beach? | 2.3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a relationship between the amount of rainfall and the wind direction in the local area? | 2.4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a relationship between atmospheric pressure and the amount of rainfall in your local area? | 2.4 |

Where a single hypothesis is stated, it can be broken down into two sub-hypotheses. If the question is not in the form of a hypothesis, it is hoped that one or more hypotheses may be derived from any particular one. This list is not prescriptive and other titles are equally valid providing they fall within the syllabus.

It is important to note that, although data collection may be a collaborative exercise, a candidate's actual coursework should still be individual in its presentation and analysis. Only part of the total data collected by the group may be relevant for a candidate's particular hypothesis/hypotheses.

Outline proposal forms are no longer in use for this syllabus. As part of teaching, you should give guidance and feedback to candidates on whether their coursework title is suitable.

For guidance on developing suitable titles for coursework go to our School Support Hub www.cambridgeinternational.org/support

For further information, see the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Teacher guidance

You must devise the coursework assignment and give candidates suitable guidance on their choices and methods.

Suitable guidance includes:

- introducing the ‘route to geographical enquiry’
- outlining the purpose and aims of the assignment
- teaching the relevant geographical concepts to allow the assignment to be placed in context
- discussing and giving instructions on data collection methods
- introducing suitable presentation techniques
- ensuring candidates understand the requirements for the finished assignment, including word counts
- ensuring candidates are aware of the extent of individual initiative required to access higher levels in the generic mark scheme.

Different candidates will need different levels of individual guidance on their choice of graphs, analytical comments or conclusions. You should reflect the amount of guidance provided in the level of marks awarded.

Undertaking coursework assignments

The amount of time candidates spend on their assignment will vary. Assignments should follow a programme of introductory work and should assess the outcomes of about **four or five weeks’ work in the classroom plus homework**. You should incorporate coursework assignments into the course at a suitable time.

Candidates are encouraged to use computers to produce coursework for geography, both for word-processed text and for computer-generated maps, diagrams and graphs. But you should also remind candidates that hand-drawn maps, diagrams and graphs can sometimes be more suitable and more useful than those generated by computer.

Candidates will gain credit for selecting and using the most appropriate method for data presentation.

Paper 4 – Alternative to Coursework

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks

Candidates must answer **all** the questions.

Alternative to Coursework will provide a complementary assessment of the assessment objectives tested in Papers 1 and 2, with an emphasis on AO2, skills and analysis. The breakdown of marks in Alternative to Coursework will assess the same assessment objectives in the same proportions as provided by the route to geographical enquiry and generic mark scheme for the Coursework option.

| Assessment criteria | Marks allocated |
|--|-----------------|
| AO1 Knowledge with understanding | 12 |
| AO2 Skills and analysis | |
| Techniques for observing and collecting data | 12 |
| Techniques for organising and presenting data | 12 |
| Analysis and interpretation | 12 |
| AO3 Judgement and decision-making (conclusion and evaluation) | 12 |
| Total: 60 marks | |

Candidates are set a series of tasks on issues relating to one or more of the subject themes (see section 3). Questions test the methodology of questionnaires, observation, counts and measurement techniques, and involve testing hypotheses appropriate to specific topics. Questions also test processing, presentation and analysis of data.

Candidates should be aware of the general requirements for this paper. To prepare for it they should follow the route to geographical enquiry, as for Component 3 (Coursework). **They should have some practical experience, however limited, of coursework methodology.** One approach is to introduce the appropriate enquiry skills and techniques relevant to Paper 4 during the teaching of specific topics for Paper 1. For example, while you are teaching Topic 2.2 Rivers, you could discuss how key aspects of the form of rivers can be measured, how depth data can be plotted and how cross-sectional area and discharge can be calculated. You could introduce the skills required for questionnaires, counts and observations in a variety of topics, wherever this is practical for the centre.

Candidates should be aware of the range of aspects involved in the route to geographical enquiry for coursework assignments, such as identifying aims and hypotheses, using enquiry skills to collect data, using presentation techniques to display data, making analyses of data and reaching conclusions. Enquiry skills involved in coursework assignments are stated in items 1 to 7 of 'The route to geographical enquiry' in the section on Component 3 (Coursework).

Enquiry skills for Paper 4

1 Formulating aims and hypotheses

Candidates should be familiar with hypotheses as statements that form the basis of coursework assignments. The hypotheses may investigate a geographical concept, for example, 'A CBD has the highest concentration of comparison shops.' Hypotheses can be tested by collecting relevant data, by analysis and by drawing conclusions using the data as evidence.

2 Enquiry skills to collect data

Questions will test knowledge and application of the methodology used in the following range of enquiry skills to collect data.

Questionnaires

Questionnaires can be oral or written to gain information from an individual or a group of individuals. Questionnaires can be used when studying a number of syllabus topics, including: spheres of influence; use of services; shopping habits; a farm study; a factory or industrial study; leisure activities; tourism; or attitudes of the public to developments associated with resource development.

Candidates should be aware of:

- factors influencing the successful design of questionnaires, for example:
 - layout
 - format of questions
 - appropriate wording of questions
 - number of questions
- the practical considerations involved in conducting a questionnaire, for example:
 - sampling methods
 - pilot survey
 - location of survey.

Observation

Examples of using observations to collect data include the recording of land use in an urban area or observations of river or coastal features. Candidates can use maps, recording sheets, field sketches and annotated photographs to record their observations.

Counts

Examples of counts are pedestrian and traffic counts. Candidates should be aware of suitable methods for recording counts, including the layout of recording sheets, instructions and the information required to identify the sheet following the count (time, date, location and name of recorder).

Measurement

Candidates should be aware that when they are recording measurements, it is important to plan the layout of the recording sheet, the location of instruments and the sampling methods used to provide reliable data. They should know what measurement equipment is required, such as the quadrat, the clinometer and the pebbleometer or callipers. They should be familiar with:

- river measurements of channel width, depth, speed of flow and the size and shape of bedload
- beach studies of beach profile, the size and shape of pebbles and the movement of beach material
- weather study instruments closely linked to Theme 2: The natural environment
- measurement techniques associated with human fieldwork such as survey strategies and pedestrian/traffic counts.

3 Data presentation techniques

Candidates need to know about the illustrative techniques that can be used to present data. These include various types of graphs, maps and diagrams, for example:

- line graphs
- bar graphs
- divided bar graphs
- histograms, flow diagrams
- wind-rose graphs
- isoline maps
- scatter graphs (including best-fit lines)
- pie graphs
- triangular graphs
- radial graphs
- dispersion graphs
- choropleth maps
- kite diagrams
- pictograms.

4 Analysis

Candidates should be able to describe the patterns in data presented in graphs and tables of results. Questions often require candidates to refer to relevant geographical knowledge and understanding when they are interpreting data.

5 Making conclusions

Using the evidence from the data, candidates should be able to make judgements on the validity of the original hypothesis or the aims of the assignment. They must refer to the reliability of the data collected and give a critical evaluation of the data collection methods chosen, along with suggestions for other possible hypotheses and extension work.

Coursework assessment

When assessing coursework, you must use the generic mark scheme on the next page. The mark scheme allocates marks out of a total of 60.

You should study the generic mark scheme closely at the same time as candidates are preparing topics for the coursework assignments. This will help you ensure that topics will provide opportunities for each of the assessment criteria at different levels of achievement.

There are two key stages in marking a coursework assignment.

Stage 1: Use the assessment criteria stated in the generic mark scheme and for each one identify the level of achievement (Levels 1–3).

Stage 2: Then decide which mark within a level of achievement for each assessment criterion best fits the standard achieved.

Guidance on using levels-based mark schemes

Marking of the coursework should be positive, rewarding achievement where possible but clearly differentiating across the whole range of marks available.

In approaching the assessment process, the marker should look at the work and then make a 'best fit' judgement as to which level statement it fits. In practice the work does not always match one level statement precisely so a judgement may need to be made between two or more level statements.

Once a 'best fit' level statement has been identified, the following guide should be used to decide on a specific mark:

- Where the candidate's work **convincingly** meets the level statement, the highest mark should be awarded.
- Where the candidate's work **adequately** meets the level statement, the most appropriate mark in the middle of the range should be awarded.
- Where the candidate's work **just** meets the level statement, the lowest mark should be awarded.

Generic mark scheme for coursework assessment

| Assessment criterion | **Level 1 1–4 marks | Level 2 5–8 marks | Level 3 9–12 marks |
|--|---|--|---|
| Knowledge with understanding (within the context of teaching and guidance) (max 12 marks) | Describes information in simple geographical terms and shows a tentative grasp of the aims. | Outlines relevant information using appropriate geographical terms and develops a clear link between the aims and geographical ideas. | Provides comprehensive information with a careful use of appropriate geographical terms and the aims are clearly related to relevant key geographical ideas. |
| Skills and analysis | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observation and collection of data (max 12 marks) | Shows evidence of some ability to collect and record basic information from limited sources and shows evidence of simple planning . | Collects and records relevant information from valid sources with evidence of sound planning . | Collects and records detailed data from a range of valid sources within a clear planning design . |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation and presentation (max 12 marks) | The presentation is loosely ordered and uses one simple presentation technique appropriately. | The presentation is logically ordered using two or more presentation techniques appropriately and effectively. | A coherent presentation using a range of appropriate techniques with accuracy and clear relevance to the aims. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and interpretation (max 12 marks) | Makes descriptive and simple comments about the information. | Makes a number of valid statements about the data with some explanations attempted. | A thorough interpretation of the data with reasoned explanations and comments. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion and evaluation (max 12 marks) | States superficial conclusions showing tenuous links to the original aims. Simple evaluation showing little awareness of any shortcomings. | States tentative conclusions linked to the original aims. Some judgements linked to information collected. Some evaluation of a limited range of weaknesses. | States clear conclusions in the light of the aims, clearly related to the evidence collected. Makes a sound evaluation identifying weaknesses and suggesting improvement. |

** Level 0 (0 marks) is awarded for a criterion where there is no credit-worthy material.

Bold words are level indicators.

Coursework guidance notes

Recording and submitting candidates' marks and work

Please refer to the samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples for information, dates and methods of submission of candidates' marks and work.

You should record candidates' marks for Component 3 Coursework on the Individual Candidate Record Card which you should download each year from the samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples. The database will ask you for your country/territory and the syllabus code (i.e. 0976), after which it will take you to the correct forms. Follow the instructions on the form to complete it.

The marks on this form must be identical to the marks you submit to Cambridge International.

Internal moderation

If more than one teacher in your centre is marking internal assessments, you must make arrangements to moderate or standardise your teachers' marking so that all candidates are assessed to a common standard. (If only one teacher is marking internal assessments, no internal moderation is necessary.) You can find further information on the process of internal moderation on the samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples

You should record the internally moderated marks for all candidates on the Coursework Assessment Summary Form and submit these marks to Cambridge International according to the instructions set out in the Cambridge Handbook for the relevant year of assessment.

External moderation

Cambridge International will externally moderate all internally assessed components.

- You must submit the marks of all candidates to Cambridge International.
- You must also submit the marked work of a sample of candidates to Cambridge International.

The sample you submit to Cambridge International should include examples of the marking of each teacher. The samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples explains how the sample will be selected.

The samples database also provides details of how to submit the marks and work.

External moderators will produce a short report for each centre with feedback on your marking and administration of the assessment.

Supervising coursework

A general discussion on the progress of coursework is a natural part of the teacher–candidate relationship, as it is for other parts of the course. If plans and first drafts are completed under teacher supervision, you can be sure of the authenticity of the final coursework. Candidates can draft and redraft work, but you should only give brief summative comments on progress during this drafting phase.

Coursework must be a candidate's own, unaided work. Unless there is subject-specific guidance that says otherwise, you can support candidates by reviewing their work before it is handed in for final assessment. You can do this orally or through written feedback. Your advice should be kept at a general level so that the candidate leads the discussion and makes the suggestions for any amendments. You must not give detailed advice to individual candidates or groups of candidates on how their work can be improved to meet the assessment criteria. You should not correct or edit draft coursework.

For further information about supervising coursework, see the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Authenticity and academic honesty

It is the centre's responsibility to make sure all assessed work is the candidate's original work. Candidates must not submit someone else's work as their own, or use material produced by someone else without citing and referencing it properly. You should make candidates aware of the academic conventions governing quotation and reference to the work of others, and teach candidates how to use them.

A candidate taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as his or her own is an example of plagiarism. It is your responsibility as a teacher to prevent plagiarism from happening and to detect it if it does happen. For more information, search for 'Preventing plagiarism – guidance for teachers' on our website at www.cambridgeinternational.org/teachingandassessment

Command words

Command words and their meanings help candidates know what is expected from them in the exams. The table below includes command words used in the assessment for this syllabus. The use of the command word will relate to the subject context.

| Command word | What it means |
|------------------|--|
| Calculate | work out from given facts, figures or information |
| Compare | identify/comment on similarities and/or differences |
| Define | give precise meaning |
| Describe | state the points of a topic / give characteristics and main features |
| Devise | create a questionnaire to present other information according to specific requirements |
| Estimate | use judgement to give a unit value to a distance or area |
| Explain | set out purposes or reasons / make the relationships between things evident / provide why and/or how and support with relevant evidence |
| Give | produce an answer from a given source or recall/memory |
| Identify | name/select/recognise |
| Justify | support a case with evidence/argument |
| Locate | indicate the position of a place, feature or entity from/on a resource |
| Plan | create a method to obtain or present certain information (such as a questionnaire) according to specific requirements |
| Predict | suggest what may happen based on available information |
| Sketch | make a simple freehand drawing showing the key features, taking care over proportions |
| State | express in clear terms |
| Suggest | apply knowledge and understanding to situations where there are a range of valid responses in order to make proposals / put forward considerations |

Phrases such as ‘How far do you agree ...?’ and ‘To what extent ...?’ may also be seen in the assessment for this syllabus.

5 What else you need to know

This section is an overview of other information you need to know about this syllabus. It will help to share the administrative information with your exams officer so they know when you will need their support. Find more information about our administrative processes at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Before you start

Previous study

We recommend that learners starting this course should have studied a geography curriculum such as the Cambridge Lower Secondary programme or equivalent national educational framework.

Guided learning hours

We design Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses to require about 130 guided learning hours for each subject. This is for guidance only. The number of hours a learner needs to achieve the qualification may vary according to each school and the learners' previous experience of the subject.

Availability and timetables

All Cambridge schools are allocated to one of six administrative zones. Each zone has a specific timetable.

You can view the timetable for your administrative zone at www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables

You can enter candidates in the June and November exam series..

Check you are using the syllabus for the year the candidate is taking the exam.

Private candidates can enter for this syllabus. Coursework options are not available to private candidates. For more information, please refer to the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*.

Combining with other syllabuses

Candidates can take this syllabus alongside other Cambridge International syllabuses in a single exam series. The only exceptions are:

- Cambridge IGCSE Geography (04606)
- Cambridge O Level Geography (2217)
- syllabuses with the same title at the same level.

Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) and Cambridge O Level syllabuses are at the same level.

Making entries

Exams officers are responsible for submitting entries to Cambridge International. We encourage them to work closely with you to make sure they enter the right number of candidates for the right combination of syllabus components. Entry option codes and instructions for submitting entries are in the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*. Your exams officer has a copy of this guide.

Exam administration

To keep our exams secure, we produce question papers for different areas of the world, known as administrative zones. We allocate all Cambridge schools to an administrative zone determined by their location. Each zone has a specific timetable. Some of our syllabuses offer candidates different assessment options. An entry option code is used to identify the components the candidate will take relevant to the administrative zone and the available assessment options.

Support for exams officers

We know how important exams officers are to the successful running of exams. We provide them with the support they need to make your entries on time. Your exams officer will find this support, and guidance for all other phases of the Cambridge Exams Cycle, at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Retakes and carry forward marks

Candidates can retake the whole qualification as many times as they want to. Information on retake entries is at www.cambridgeinternational.org/retakes

Candidates cannot resubmit, in whole or in part, coursework from a previous series. To confirm if an option is available to carry forward marks for this syllabus, refer to the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries* for the relevant series. Regulations for carrying forward internally assessed marks can be found in the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Language

This syllabus and the related assessment materials are available in English only.

Accessibility and equality

Syllabus and assessment design

Cambridge International works to avoid direct or indirect discrimination. We develop and design syllabuses and assessment materials to maximise inclusivity for candidates of all national, cultural or social backgrounds and candidates with protected characteristics; these protected characteristics include special educational needs and disability, religion and belief, and characteristics related to gender and identity. In addition, the language and layout used are designed to make our materials as accessible as possible. This gives all candidates the fairest possible opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding and helps to minimise the requirement to make reasonable adjustments during the assessment process.

Access arrangements

Access arrangements (including modified papers) are the principal way in which Cambridge International complies with our duty, as guided by the UK Equality Act (2010), to make ‘reasonable adjustments’ for candidates with special educational needs (SEN), disability, illness or injury. Where a candidate would otherwise be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to a candidate with no SEN, disability, illness or injury, we may be able to agree pre-examination access arrangements. These arrangements help a candidate by minimising accessibility barriers and maximising their opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in an assessment.

Important:

- Requested access arrangements should be based on evidence of the candidate’s barrier to assessment and should also reflect their normal way of working at school; this is in line with the *Cambridge Handbook* www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide
- For Cambridge International to approve an access arrangement, we will need to agree that it constitutes a reasonable adjustment, involves reasonable cost and timeframe and does not affect the security and integrity of the assessment.
- Availability of access arrangements should be checked by centres at the start of the course. Details of our standard access arrangements and modified question papers are available in the *Cambridge Handbook* www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide
- Please contact us at the start of the course to find out if we are able to approve an arrangement that is not included in the list of standard access arrangements.
- Candidates who cannot access parts of the assessment may be able to receive an award based on the parts they have completed.

After the exam

Grading and reporting

Grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 indicate the standard a candidate achieved at Cambridge IGCSE (9–1).

9 is the highest and 1 is the lowest. ‘Ungraded’ means that the candidate’s performance did not meet the standard required for grade 1. ‘Ungraded’ is reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

In specific circumstances your candidates may see one of the following letters on their statement of results:

- Q (PENDING)
- X (NO RESULT).

These letters do not appear on the certificate.

On the statement of results and certificates, Cambridge IGCSE is shown as INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (IGCSE).

How students and teachers can use the grades

Assessment at Cambridge IGCSE has two purposes:

- 1 to measure learning and achievement

The assessment confirms achievement and performance in relation to the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the syllabus, to the levels described in the grade descriptions.

- 2 to show likely future success

The outcomes help predict which students are well prepared for a particular course or career and/or which students are more likely to be successful.

The outcomes help students choose the most suitable course or career.

Grade descriptions

Grade descriptions are provided to give an indication of the standards of achievement candidates awarded particular grades are likely to show. Weakness in one aspect of the examination may be balanced by a better performance in some other aspect.

Grade descriptions for Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Geography will be published after the first assessment of the syllabus in 2025.

Changes to this syllabus for 2025, 2026 and 2027

The syllabus has been updated. This is version 1, published September 2022.

There are no significant changes to this syllabus that affect teaching.

You must read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme. We review our syllabuses regularly to make sure they continue to meet the needs of our schools. In updating this syllabus, we have made it easier for teachers and students to understand, keeping the familiar features that teachers and schools value.

Any textbooks endorsed to support the syllabus for examination from 2016 are still suitable for use with this syllabus.



School feedback: ‘While studying Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Levels, students broaden their horizons through a global perspective and develop a lasting passion for learning.’

Feedback from: Zhai Xiaoning, Deputy Principal, The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China

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