



**Cambridge Assessment  
International Education**

# Syllabus

## Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1) Geography 0976

For examination in June and November 2020, 2021 and 2022.



Version 3

Please check the syllabus page at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse) to see if this syllabus is available in your administrative zone.

**Cambridge  
Pathway** 

---

## Why choose Cambridge?

---

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

Our international qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career. As a not-for-profit organisation, we devote our resources to delivering high-quality educational programmes that can unlock learners' potential.

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 an international education from Cambridge International.

**'We think the Cambridge curriculum is superb preparation for university.'**

**Christoph Guttentag**, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University, USA



### Quality management

Our systems for managing the provision of international qualifications and education programmes for students aged 5 to 19 are certified as meeting the internationally recognised standard for quality management, ISO 9001:2008. Learn more at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/ISO9001](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/ISO9001)

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which itself is a department of the University of Cambridge.

UCLES retains the copyright on all its publications. Registered centres are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use. However, we cannot give permission to centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within a centre.

---

# Contents

---

<b>1 Why choose this syllabus?</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Syllabus overview</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Aims	5
Content overview	5
Assessment overview	6
Assessment objectives	7
<b>3 Subject content</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Resources	9
Case studies	9
Theme 1: Population and settlement	10
Theme 2: The natural environment	13
Theme 3: Economic development	16
Using mathematical skills in geography	18
<b>4 Details of the assessment</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Paper 1 – Geographical Themes	19
Paper 2 – Geographical Skills	20
Component 3 – Coursework	23
Paper 4 – Alternative to Coursework	29
Coursework assessment	32
Coursework guidance notes	34
Command words	35
<b>5 What else you need to know</b> .....	<b>36</b>
Before you start	36
Making entries	37
After the exam	38
How students and teachers can use the grades	38
Grade descriptions	38
Changes to this syllabus for 2020, 2021 and 2022	39

## Changes to this syllabus

For information about changes to this syllabus for 2020, 2021 and 2022, go to page 39.

The latest syllabus is version 3, published October 2020. There are no significant changes which affect teaching.

Any textbooks endorsed to support IGCSE Geography (0460) for examination from 2016 are still suitable for use with this syllabus.



---

# 1 Why choose this syllabus?

---

## Key benefits

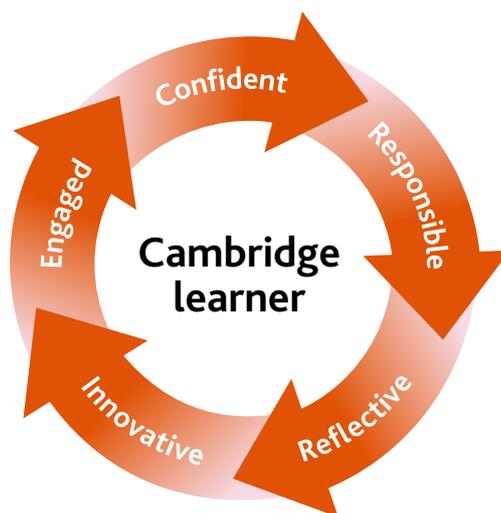
Cambridge IGCSE® syllabuses are created especially for international students. For over 25 years, we have worked with schools and teachers worldwide to develop syllabuses that are suitable for different countries, different types of schools and for learners with a wide range of abilities.

Successful Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Geography candidates develop lifelong skills, including:

- an understanding of the processes which affect physical and human environments
- an understanding of location 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 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.

Our approach encourages learners to be:



**'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.'**

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

## Recognition and progression

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Geography gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades 4 to 9 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 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.

Learn more at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition)

**'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.'**

**Mrs Omnia Kassabgy**, Managing Director of British School in Egypt BSE

## Supporting teachers

We provide a wide range of practical resources, detailed guidance, and innovative training and professional development so that you can give your learners the best possible preparation for Cambridge IGCSE.

### Teaching resources

- The School Support Hub  
[www.cambridgeinternational.org/support](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support)
- Syllabus
- Scheme of work
- Learner guide
- Discussion forum
- Resource list
- Endorsed textbooks and digital resources

### Exam preparation resources

- Question papers
- Mark schemes
- Example candidate responses to understand what examiners are looking for at key grades
- Examiner reports to improve future teaching

Support for  
Cambridge  
IGCSE

### Training

- Face-to-face workshops around the world
- Online self-study training
- Online tutor-led training
- Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications

### Community

You can find useful information, as well as share your ideas and experiences with other teachers, on our social media channels and community forums.

Find out more at  
[www.cambridgeinternational.org/social-media](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/social-media)

---

## 2 Syllabus overview

---

### Aims

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

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.

### 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.



#### Support for Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Geography

Our School Support Hub [www.cambridgeinternational.org/support](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support) provides Cambridge schools with a secure site for downloading specimen and past question papers, mark schemes, grade thresholds and other curriculum resources specific to this syllabus. The School Support Hub community offers teachers the opportunity to connect with each other and to ask questions related to the syllabus.

## Assessment overview

All candidates take three papers. All candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 2, and either Component 3 or Paper 4.

### 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

\* Centre-based assessments require the written approval of Cambridge International. This will only be given to teachers who satisfy Cambridge International requirements concerning moderation. Cambridge International offers schools in-service training courses which are held in Cambridge and elsewhere.

## 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

### 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

---

## 3 Subject content

---

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

#### Case Study required for 3.6

- Water supply in a country or area

#### 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

### 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

#### Case Study required for 3.7

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

#### Further guidance

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

## 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

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

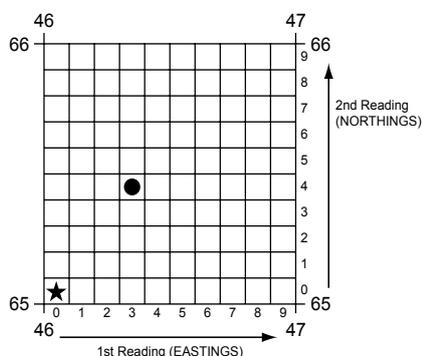
**All answers to the mapwork question must be based on map evidence only.**

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, 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.

Outline proposal forms are no longer in use for this syllabus for entries from 2022 series onwards. As part of teaching, you should give guidance and feedback to candidates on whether their coursework, essay or project title is suitable.

For guidance on developing suitable titles for coursework, essays or projects go to our School Support Hub [www.cambridgeinternational.org/support](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support)

For further information, see the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide)

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 <b>Knowledge with understanding</b>	12
AO2 <b>Skills and analysis</b>	
Observation and collection of data	12
Organisation and the presentation of data	12
Analysis and interpretation	12
AO3 <b>Judgement and decision-making (conclusion and evaluation)</b>	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

<b>1 Identification of issue, question or problem</b>	A topic for investigation is recognised through observation, discussion, reading or previous study. The design of hypotheses to test the issue, question or problem.
<b>2 Objectives of the study are defined</b>	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.
<b>3 Collection of data</b>	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.
<b>4 Selection and collation of data</b>	You may collate data for class use. Candidates select data to develop the aims or hypotheses for the topic.
<b>5 Presentation and recording of the results</b>	Candidates individually record results and present findings in appropriate forms using a variety of maps, graphs, etc.
<b>6 Analysis and interpretation</b>	Candidates individually analyse and interpret their findings in response to the issue/question/problem with reference to relevant geographical concepts.
<b>7 Making effective conclusions, evaluation and suggestions for further work</b>	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"> <li>To what extent has the physical landscape influenced settlement patterns in an area? [also listed under human geography topics]</li> </ul>	1.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are temperatures near to and in the CBD always higher than temperatures on the rural-urban fringe of a settlement?</li> </ul>	1.6
Theme 2: The natural environment	Topic reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does river velocity increase downstream?</li> </ul>	2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the bedload of a local river become smaller and more rounded downstream?</li> </ul>	2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How far do a river's characteristics fit the <u>Bradshaw model</u>?</li> </ul>	2.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does pollution increase as a river flows downstream?</li> </ul>	2.2 / 3.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	2.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the direction of the wind and waves influence the size and location of pebbles on a beach?</li> </ul>	2.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a relationship between the amount of rainfall and the wind direction in the local area?</li> </ul>	2.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a relationship between atmospheric pressure and the amount of rainfall in your local area?</li> </ul>	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.

## An example of an appropriate coursework assignment

An investigation related to Topic 1.5 Settlements and (rural and urban) service provision:

'Is there a pattern to the distribution of settlements in area X and the types of services they offer?'

- 1 **Identification of issue, question or problem.** Definition of the area to be studied. Relationship to concepts studied for Topic 1.5 of the syllabus – in particular, site, situation and functions of small settlements; services in relation to settlements – threshold, range of a service. Candidates will select hypotheses from the following list and devise one additional statement:
  - 'Larger settlements will have a higher number of services.'
  - 'Residents travel further to obtain high-level goods.'
  - 'Services in smaller settlements serve the local community.'
  - 'The number of services in smaller settlements has decreased recently.'
- 2 **Objectives of the study are defined** – the characteristics of each settlement – its site, situation, size, population, shops and other services, sphere of influence.
 

How may each of these characteristics be investigated?

What data collection methods are appropriate? The role of map study of both recent and older maps, counts, observations and questionnaire layout and sampling techniques are discussed as a group and decisions made.
- 3 **Collection of data** – the methods of field investigation are outlined and carried out.
 

The site and situation of the settlements are described by combining visual evidence recorded at each location with mapwork using a large-scale map.

The size of each settlement – a count of the number of inhabited and uninhabited houses.

The population of each settlement is calculated using an average head-per-household figure or secondary data found.

Recordings are made of the numbers and types of services found in each settlement – shops, telephone boxes, post boxes, bus stops, etc. Candidates are encouraged to make individual additional observations and take photographs.

Questionnaires to residents to identify spheres of influence. More able candidates will devise three questions of their own to include in the group questionnaire.
- 4 **Selection and collation of data** – to be completed by the teacher but candidates will select the data related to their chosen hypotheses.
- 5 **Presentation and recording of results** – drawing of maps to show settlement distribution, desire lines for certain services, graphs, etc. Candidates will select appropriate graphs to present their results.
- 6 **Analysis and interpretation** – candidates identify trends, patterns and findings, and explain what they mean in relation to what they set out to investigate.
- 7 **Making effective conclusions, evaluation and suggestions for further work** – candidates draw conclusions and identify the key pieces of evidence that support them. The evaluation indicates what worked well and suggests improvements in the light of hindsight. Suggestions for future lines of enquiry are identified.

## 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 <b>Knowledge with understanding</b>	12
AO2 <b>Skills and analysis</b>	
Techniques for observing and collecting data	12
Techniques for organising and presenting data	12
Analysis and interpretation	12
AO3 <b>Judgement and decision-making (conclusion and evaluation)</b>	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
- 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
<b>Knowledge with understanding</b> (within the context of teaching and guidance) (max 12 marks)	Describes information in <b>simple</b> geographical terms and shows a <b>tentative grasp</b> of the aims.	Outlines relevant information using <b>appropriate geographical terms</b> and <b>develops a clear link</b> between the aims and geographical ideas.	Provides <b>comprehensive</b> information with a <b>careful use of appropriate geographical terms</b> and the <b>aims are clearly related</b> to relevant key geographical ideas.
<b>Skills and analysis</b> • <b>Observation and collection of data</b> (max 12 marks)	Shows evidence of some ability to collect and record <b>basic information</b> from <b>limited sources</b> and shows evidence of <b>simple planning</b> .	Collects and records <b>relevant information</b> from <b>valid sources</b> with evidence of <b>sound planning</b> .	Collects and records <b>detailed data</b> from a <b>range of valid sources</b> within a <b>clear planning design</b> .
• <b>Organisation and presentation</b> (max 12 marks)	The presentation is <b>loosely ordered</b> and uses <b>one simple presentation technique appropriately</b> .	The presentation is <b>logically ordered</b> using <b>two or more presentation techniques appropriately and effectively</b> .	A <b>coherent presentation</b> using a <b>range of appropriate techniques</b> with <b>accuracy and clear relevance</b> to the aims.
• <b>Analysis and interpretation</b> (max 12 marks)	Makes <b>descriptive</b> and <b>simple</b> comments about the information.	Makes a number of <b>valid statements</b> about the data with <b>some explanations</b> attempted.	A <b>thorough interpretation</b> of the data with <b>reasoned explanations</b> and comments.
• <b>Conclusion and evaluation</b> (max 12 marks)	States <b>superficial conclusions</b> showing <b>tenuous</b> links to the original aims. <b>Simple evaluation</b> showing little awareness of any shortcomings.	States <b>tentative conclusions</b> linked to the original aims. Some judgements linked to information collected. <b>Some evaluation</b> of a limited range of weaknesses.	States <b>clear conclusions</b> in the light of the aims, clearly related to the evidence collected. Makes a <b>sound evaluation</b> 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

Candidates' marks for Component 3 Coursework (must be recorded on the Individual Candidate Record Card) produced by Cambridge International. The marks recorded on the Record Card must be identical to the marks you submit to us electronically. The Individual Candidate Record Card, and the instructions for completing it, should be downloaded from the samples database at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples). The database will ask you for the syllabus code (i.e. 0976) and your centre number, after which it will take you to the correct forms. Follow the instructions on the form itself when completing each form.

For information, dates and methods of submission of the coursework marks and sample, please refer to the samples database at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples)

### Moderation

If more than one teacher in your centre is marking internal assessments, you must make arrangements to standardise your teachers so that all candidates are assessed to a common standard. Further information on the process of internal moderation can be found on the samples database at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples)

The sample you submit to Cambridge International should include examples of the marking of each teacher. You should record the internally moderated marks for all candidates on the Coursework Assessment Summary Form and submit these marks to Cambridge International electronically or using the Internal Assessment Mark Sheet (MS1).

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 samples database provides details of how the sample will be selected and how it should be submitted. The samples database can be accessed at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples)

External moderators will produce a short report with feedback on your application of the mark scheme and administration of the assessment.

### Authenticity

- A general discussion on the progress of assignments is a natural part of the teacher/candidate relationship, as it is for other parts of the course. In addition, if plans and first drafts are completed under teacher supervision, you can be assured of the authenticity of the final assignment.
- You should not mark, correct or edit draft assignment material; candidates can certainly draft and redraft work, but you should only give brief summative comment on progress during this phase.
- It is the centre's responsibility to make sure all coursework is the candidate's original work. Candidates should provide references to any secondary source material, listing these at the end of the assignment.

### Avoidance of plagiarism

Candidates should be made aware of the academic conventions governing quotation and reference to the work of others and taught to use them. This should include full reference to the publication, including date, author and page number. If it is a website, the website address and the date the website was accessed should be included.

## Command words

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

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/examsofficers](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsofficers)

### 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. Learners in England will normally have followed the Key Stage 3 programme of study within the National Curriculum for England.

#### Guided learning hours

We design Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses based on learners having about 130 guided learning hours for each subject during the course but this is for guidance only. The number of hours a learner needs to achieve the qualification may vary according to local practice and their previous experience of the subject.

#### Availability and timetables

You can enter candidates in the June and November exam series. You can view the timetable for your administrative zone at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables)

All Cambridge schools are allocated to one of six administrative zones. Each zone has a specific timetable. This syllabus is **not** available in all administrative zones. To find out about the availability visit the syllabus page at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse)

#### Private candidates

Coursework options are not available to private candidates. For more information please refer to the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*.

Private candidates can enter for this syllabus.

#### 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 (0460)
- 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 one 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.

### Estimated entries

You must make estimated entries for this syllabus. Instructions and timescales for centres making estimated entries are in the *Cambridge Handbook*.

### 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/examsofficers](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsofficers)

### Retakes

Candidates can retake the whole qualification as many times as they want to. This is a linear qualification so candidates cannot re-sit individual components.

For information on the resubmission of internally assessed coursework please see the *Cambridge Handbook*.

### Equality and inclusion

We have taken great care to avoid bias of any kind in the preparation of this syllabus and related assessment materials. In compliance with the UK Equality Act (2010) we have designed this qualification to avoid any direct and indirect discrimination.

The standard assessment arrangements may present unnecessary barriers for candidates with disabilities or learning difficulties. We can put arrangements in place for these candidates to enable them to access the assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. We do not agree access arrangements if they give candidates an unfair advantage over others or if they compromise the standards being assessed.

Candidates who cannot access the assessment of any component may be able to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have completed.

Information on access arrangements is in the *Cambridge Handbook* at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsofficers](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/examsofficers)

### Language

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

## After the exam

### Grading and reporting

Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 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 (result pending)
- X (no result)
- Y (to be issued)

These letters do not appear on the certificate.

## How students and teachers can use the grades

Assessment at Cambridge IGCSE has two purposes.

- 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.
- 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
  - 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 IGCSE in 2020. Find more information at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse)

## Changes to this syllabus for 2020, 2021 and 2022

The syllabus has been reviewed and revised for first examination in 2020.

The latest version of the syllabus is version 3, published October 2020.

The syllabus and specimen papers have been updated our new name Cambridge Assessment International Education.

There are no substantial changes to the syllabus or specimen assessment material.

---

### Changes to version 3, published October 2020

#### Other changes

- Outline proposal forms are no longer in use for this syllabus for entries from 2022 series onwards.

---

### Changes to version 2, published February 2018

#### Changes to syllabus

##### Availability

This syllabus is no longer restricted to centres in the UK. Please check the syllabus page at [www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/igcse) to see if this syllabus is available in your administrative zone.

#### Changes to syllabus content

- To improve clarity, we have made some changes to the wording of the subject content and have corrected some inconsistencies. The subject content has not changed.
- **Section 3 Subject content**  
Notes on using mathematical skills in geography have been added to in order to make the mathematical requirements clear.  
A statement has been added for clarification that 'Questions in all papers may include references to latitude or longitude.'
- **Section 4 Details of the assessment**  
The list of examples of suitable coursework assignments has been revised to ensure that they all refer to issues, questions or problems.  
The coursework guidance notes have been updated.  
A list of command words used in the assessment has been updated.  
Grade descriptions will be published after the first examination in 2020.

#### Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)

- We have updated the specimen materials for this syllabus.
- There are no other changes to the assessment

In addition to reading the syllabus, teachers should refer to the updated specimen assessment materials.

**You are strongly advised to read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.**

Any textbooks endorsed to support IGCSE Geography (0460) for examination from 2020 are suitable for use with this syllabus.



'While studying Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Levels, students broaden their horizons through a global perspective and develop a lasting passion for learning.'

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

This document was initially designed for print and as such does not reach accessibility standard WCAG 2.1 in various ways including missing text alternatives and missing document structure. If you need this document in a different format contact us at [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) (with the subject heading: Digital accessibility) and we will respond within 15 working days.

Cambridge Assessment International Education  
The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)1223 553554 Fax: +44 (0)1223 553558  
Email: [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) [www.cambridgeinternational.org](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org)

Copyright © UCLES September 2017