

Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES



Content

The course has three areas of study:

- Physical environments
- Human environments
- Global issues



Skills

Learners will be able to:

- use a wide range of geographical skills and techniques
- understand the complexity of ways in which people and the environment interact in response to physical and human processes on local, national, international and global scales
- understand spatial relationships and the complexity of the changing world in a balanced, critical and sympathetic way
- develop a geographical perspective on environmental and social issues and their significance
- develop an interest in, understanding of, and concern for the environment and sustainable development



Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- use, interpret, evaluate and analyse a wide range of geographical information
- interpret and explain complex geographical phenomena
- use a wide range of maps and other data to process and communicate complex geographical information
- develop research skills, including fieldwork
- develop an awareness of a range of geographical information systems through ICT or alternative means



Assessment

- The course will be assessed through two question papers (exams) and an assignment, which will be marked by SQA and graded A to D or as no award.
- The assessment marks are scaled so that question paper one (physical and human environments) makes up 46% of the total assessment mark and question paper two (global issues and geographical skills) makes up 27%.
- The assignment makes up 27% of the total assessment mark. There are two stages: research and production of evidence. Learners have an open choice of geographical topic or issue.



Question Paper 1 Section 1: Physical environments (50 marks)

Section 2: Human environments (50 marks)

1 hour 50 minutes

100 marks

Question Paper 2 Section 1: Global issues (40 marks)

Section 2: Application of geographical skills (20 marks)

1 hour 10 minutes

60 marks

Specimen Paper www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm

Assignment

The research stage is completed over a notional period of 8 hours.

The production of evidence stage must be done in one sitting

(1 hour 30 minutes) in time to meet a submission date set by SQA.

8 hours (approx.)

1 hour 30 minutes

30 marks



Progression Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Geography: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47922.html

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features [Factfile](#)

Education Scotland: <https://education.gov.scot/nationalqualifications>

[Further Information for Parents and Learners](#) Information on assessment, skills,

progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

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