

Geography teaches us about the significance of 'place' and 'space' in understanding our world. These two concepts are foundational to the discipline, with the concepts of environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change building on this foundation. By observing and measuring spatial, environmental, economic, political, social and cultural factors, geography provides a way of thinking about contemporary challenges and opportunities.

Teaching and learning in Geography are underpinned by inquiry, through which students investigate places in Australia and across the globe. When students think geographically, they observe, gather, organise, analyse and present data and information across a range of scales.

Fieldwork is central to the study of Geography. It provides authentic opportunities for students to engage in real-world applications of geographical skills and thinking, including the collection and representation of data. Fieldwork also encourages participation in collaborative learning and engagement with the world in which students live.

Spatial technologies are also core components of contemporary geography. These technologies provide a real-world experience of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), allowing students to interact with particular geographic phenomena through dynamic, three-dimensional representations that take the familiar form of maps. The skills of spatial visualisation, representation and analysis are highly valued in an increasingly digital and globalised world.

In Geography, students engage in a range of learning experiences that develop their geographical skills and thinking through the exploration of geographical challenges and their effects on people, places and the

environment. Students are exposed to a variety of contemporary problems and challenges affecting people and places across the globe, at a range of scales. These challenges include responding to risk in hazard zones, planning sustainable places, managing land cover transformations and planning for population change.

This course of study enables students to appreciate and promote a more sustainable way of life. Through analysing and applying geographical knowledge, students develop an understanding of the complexities involved in sustainable planning and management practices. Geography aims to encourage students to become informed and adaptable so they develop the skills required to interpret global concerns and make genuine and creative contributions to society. It contributes to their development as global citizens who recognise the challenges of sustainability and the implications for their own and others' lives.

Pathways

A course of study in Geography can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of urban and environmental design, planning and management; biological and environmental science; conservation and land management; emergency response and hazard management; oceanography, surveying, global security, economics, business, law, engineering, architecture, information technology, and science.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- explain geographical processes
- comprehend geographic patterns
- analyse geographical data and information
- apply geographical understanding
- propose action
- communicate geographical understanding using appropriate forms of geographical communication.

Structure

| Unit 1 | Unit 2 | Unit 3 | Unit 4 |
|---|--|---|--|
| Responding to risk and vulnerability in hazard zones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural hazard zones • Ecological hazard zones | Planning sustainable places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to challenges facing a place in Australia • Managing challenges facing a megacity | Responding to land cover transformations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land cover transformations and climate change • Responding to local land cover transformations | Managing population change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population challenges in Australia • Global population change |

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

| Unit 3 | | Unit 4 | |
|--|-----|---|-----|
| Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — combination response | 25% | Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Data report | 25% |
| Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Field report | 25% | Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — combination response | 25% |