

IGCSE Geography (0460)

What book(s) would you recommend?

It is never easy to recommend one particular text as people's preferences vary so much. However the following are very useful.

The New Wider World, D Waugh, pub Nelson, ISBN 0174343140

This covers much of the syllabus in suitable detail, but does not have any section on coursework or mapwork.

Skills Base Geography, K Grimwade and D Hart, pub Hodder & Stoughton, ISBN 0340670207

Useful for Paper 3, 4 and 5

H/IGCSE Geography Books 1-4, pub Cambridge University Press, ISBN

Book 1: 0521787068

Book 2: 0521787076

Book 3: 0521787084

Book 4: 0521787092

Written as Distance Learning texts for IGCSE Geography. A copy of each would be helpful. Books 1, 2 & 3 cover each of the 3 main themes. Book 4 covers skills and alternative to coursework.

A new candidate has joined my class who was previously at a different school; s/he has missed one or two pieces of coursework. Does s/he have to complete all the coursework in a limited time?

All candidates must have completed at least 50% of the coursework. At present this means at least two of the three assignments must have been submitted. From 2003 onwards, when the coursework requirements change such that candidates will submit two assignments of up to 1500 words each, one of the two assignments must be submitted. Centres will need to complete a Special Consideration form (available from the Centre's examinations officer) to request that CIE will accept the shortfall in coursework without penalising the candidate.

Is there a preferred order for teaching IGCSE Geography?

No, although the basic syllabus order is often followed. To a large extent it depends on the individual department or teacher and the preparation of the students in previous school years. There are certain parts of the course that should be integrated rather than taught separately. Geographical skills should not be taught as a block. Coursework should develop naturally from the topics being covered. If the Centre enters candidates for Paper 5 they still need to develop coursework skills and carry out surveys or questionnaires, however limited at relevant points in the course. Themes 2.3 and 3.5 also lend themselves to integration, rather than teaching them as separate topics.

Can I teach the IGCSE course in one year?

It has been known for Centres to teach IGCSE Geography in one year on 4x70 minute lessons per week. Consequently this is only to be considered when candidates are taking a fairly small number of IGCSEs in total, say four or five. If the pupils have good prior knowledge of some topics, such as the geomorphology or population, it should be possible.

Should all candidates at the Centre be entered for the same option?

Most Centres enter some candidates for Paper 1 (core) and some for Paper 2 (extended). The content is the same for both routes. Those who you are confident will achieve Grade C or better should be entered for Paper 2. There is considerable overlap of grades anyway.

It is also quite possible to enter some candidates for Paper 4, Coursework, while others are entered for Paper 5, Alternative to Coursework. This is particularly useful if candidates fail to complete their coursework or arrive at the Centre once a considerable amount of the coursework has been completed.

Are there any changes to the syllabus/assessment in the near future?

In 2003 the coursework requirements have been reduced from 3 pieces of work at 800-1000 words each to two pieces of coursework at 1200-1500 words each.

In 2004 the tiered papers will no longer be available. This will simplify entries for Centres. As Papers 3, 4 and 5 were for all candidates it seemed a little incongruous to have tiered papers which limited candidates to Grades c to G if they entered for Paper 1 (core) and A* to E if they entered for Paper 2 (extended). From June 2004 the papers will be renumbered.

Paper 1 replaces the current Papers 1 and 2 and will combine the question types on both those papers to test candidates of all abilities.

Paper 2 will be the mapwork and skills paper that is currently Paper 3.

Paper 3 will be Coursework, currently paper 4.

Paper 4 will be the Alternative to Coursework, currently Paper 5.

Entry options will be simplified to,

Option A – Papers 1,2,3 (i.e. with coursework);

Option B – Papers 1,2,4 (i.e. with the Alternative to Coursework paper);

Option C – Papers 1,2,84 (i.e. carry forward coursework mark from the previous June or November).

IGCSE Geography will now have a similar assessment structure to many other Humanities and Social Science syllabuses.

Are there any sample examination papers for the revised 0460 Geography in 2004?

Specimen QPs for 0460 have not been produced. The new Papers 2 and 4 will be the same style as the old Papers 3 and 5. The new Paper 1 will contain a combination of question types from the current Papers 1 and 2. Therefore there will be nothing new or startling in the question paper.

Can I use local examples in my teaching?

Local examples, or at least those from the region/country are encouraged. Such case studies are used to exemplify many parts of the course. You don't have to use text book examples!

How should we go about introducing coursework?

Centre entering candidates for coursework must have one teacher, at least, who is accredited to moderate coursework. This accreditation can be achieved in two ways. Those with previous experience of marking/moderating GCSE or A level coursework for UK exams may send a CV and details of a referee who can vouch for their experience. Otherwise Centres need to purchase a Distance Training Pack. This contains guidelines, pieces of coursework annotated with marker's comments and final marks and a variety of other pieces of coursework for you to assess using the markschemes and outline proposals provided. These marks are sent back to Cambridge and the Coursework Consultant decides on suitability and hence accreditation. A new version should be published in late 2001.

Coursework should be planned well in advance so that the topics for study fit in with the topics being taught in preparation for the examination. Centres must get approval for coursework before starting. Details are given on p23 of the 2003 syllabus, but basically CIE requires Centres to submit outline proposals and markschemes. These are passed to the Coursework Consultant for comments and approval.

How many hours contact time do you recommend for IGCSE Geography?

There is no set rule. Over a two-year course some 2 to 2.5 hours per week of lessons should be sufficient. Students will need to do extra work in their own time to supplement this.

What support materials are available?

Syllabus, which from now on will contain the Notes for Guidance as well;

IGCSE Geography Standards Booklet (this contains student answers to IGCSE questions along with the mark scheme, marks and comments of a senior examiner);

Question papers for the past two years;
Mark schemes from November 2000 onwards;
Distance Training Pack for accreditation of teachers to assess coursework (a revised edition will be available in 2002).

All the above are available from CIE Publications

What is the difference between static and moving counts as mentioned in the notes for guidance for the Alternative to Coursework paper?

STATIC

This is the traditional method where a person stands in one position and records the number of pedestrians passing them in a certain length of time. Another person stands at the same point and counts the number going in the opposite direction. Two people would also be needed for the other side of the street. Thus to survey any reasonable area will require a lot of people to do the recording.

MOVING

This involves a person walking along a street counting the number of people who pass him/her in the opposite direction. The count can be broken down into sections, for instance every time the recorder reaches a road (end of a block) they would start a new count. Alternatively they can have even distances of 50 or 100m marked on a base map and start a new count each time they pass a 50 or 100m point. Another way is to record the time taken for a certain fixed number of people to pass in the opposite direction. Once the recorder reaches the end of their route they can turn round and do the count in the opposite direction. If necessary they could then do the opposite side of the street, etc.

The moving method allows a small number of recorders to cover a large area. It also takes into account those areas that might fall between static recording points.

What are craft industries?

Craft industries are those small scale industries that are based originally on local skills and materials. Such industries are often to be found in developing countries. Examples are hand spinning/weaving, pottery, wood carving, leather work, etc.

Can we buy copies of the survey map extracts used in the question papers?

For copyright reasons we are unable to sell copies of maps. The same number of question papers and survey maps are printed. Spare question papers and maps are then sent to our Publications Department for sale and we are unable to print further copies once these have been sold.