

O Level Geography (2217)

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.

Essential Mapwork Skills, Ross S, pub Nelson Thornes, ISBN 0748764615

May survey maps, not all from the UK, and lots of photographs and a variety of other stimuli, so very good for preparing candidates for Section A of Paper 2.

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.

Is there a preferred order for teaching O level 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 and the coursework type skills should develop naturally from the topics being covered. Centres 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 O level course in one year?

It has been known for Centres to teach O level 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 O levels 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.

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

The syllabus is being introduced for first examination in 2004, but it is based on a pre-existing IGCSE Geography syllabus. This is due for revision and updating, so the O level syllabus will change at the same time. These changes, for first examination in 2006, will be relatively minor and will involve a reduction in the content, particularly in the Natural Environment section. Updated syllabuses will be provided early in 2004 so there will be plenty of time to make the necessary adjustments to schemes of work.

Are there any sample examination papers for the revised 2217 Geography in?

Specimen papers and mark schemes are available. As the syllabus is based on 0460 IGCSE Geography past papers and mark schemes from this syllabus will be useful. There are also other materials available that are principally designed for the IGCSE syllabus which will be of great value to those teaching the O level syllabus.

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 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?

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