Suggested Scheme of Work

The following outline Scheme of Work is a potential scheme – you should adapt it to the needs of your students. This scheme assumes that the course will take about 130 hours to deliver. Rather than allocating each topic lesson by lesson, a termly allocation is suggested. The details should be adapted to fit the lengths of your terms, dates of exams, etc.

It is assumed that there will be approximately 39 teaching weeks in Year 1 and 34 in Year 2. Some of the weeks will be ‘lost’ due to end of year exams and mock exams.

Paper 1 Physical Geography accounts for 36% of the marks.

Paper 2 Human Geography accounts for 36% of the marks.

Component 3 Coursework or Paper 4 Geographical Investigations accounts for 28% of the marks.

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| Approximate time allocation | Topic | Syllabus references | Resources | Notes |
| Year 1 | | | | |
| Term 1 | | | | |
| Week 1 | Topic 1 Changing river environments | 1.1 The main hydrological characteristics and processes that operate in rivers and drainage basins   * the characteristics of rivers and drainage basins * how the drainage basin operates within the water cycle * the processes that operate in a drainage basin * the processes that operate within a river. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 2–11  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 1.1 |  |
| Week 2 |  | 1.2 The main landforms associated with these processes   * the characteristics and formation of upland landforms * the characteristics and formation of lowland landforms * detailed specific example: the Rhône delta. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 12–17  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 1.2 |  |
| Weeks 3–4 |  | 1.3 Rivers present opportunities and hazards for people   * the opportunities of living near a river * the hazards of living near a river: floods and pollution * detailed specific example: the 2019 Mississippi River flood * detailed specific example: restoring Shanghai’s Suzhou Creek | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 18–32  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 1.3 |  |
| Week 5 | Topic 2 Changing coastal environments | 2.1 The physical processes that shape the coast   * transportation * deposition * longshore drift * types of wave * wave refraction. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 35–38  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 2.1 |  |
| Week 6 |  | 2.2 The main landforms associated with these processes   * the main landforms associated with coastal processes * the formation and main characteristics of discordant and concordant coastlines. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 39–46  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 2.2 |  |
| Weeks 7–8 |  | 2.3 Coasts present opportunities and hazards for people   * the opportunities and hazards of living in coastal areas * the distribution and characteristics of tropical cyclones and how they can be managed * detailed specific example: the causes, impacts and potential solutions to coastal erosion in the USA’s Eastern Seaboard * the extent to which coral reefs and mangroves can be managed so that people can benefit from them * detailed specific example: the Coral Triangle, Southeast Asia. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 47–65  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 2.3 |  |
| Week 9 | Topic 3 Changing ecosystems | 3.1 The characteristics of the Antarctic ecosystem   * the location of the Antarctic ecosystem * the climate of Antarctica * the features of the Antarctic ecosystem. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 67–71  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 3.1 |  |
| Week 10 |  | 3.2 The threats to the Antarctic ecosystem and how they can be managed   * the threats posed to Antarctica * the impacts of the destruction of the Antarctic ecosystem * to what extent the strategies and techniques used to manage the Antarctic ecosystem have been successful. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 72–75  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 3.2 |  |
| Week 11 |  | 3.3 The characteristics of the tropical rainforest ecosystem   * the global distribution of tropical rainforests * the characteristics of the equatorial climate * the characteristics and structure of the tropical rainforest ecosystem. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 76–79  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 3.3 |  |
| Weeks 12–13 |  | 3.4 The threats to the tropical rainforest ecosystem and how they can be managed   * the main threats to tropical rainforest ecosystems * the impacts and causes of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazonian rainforest * to what extent the strategies and techniques used to manage tropical rainforest ecosystems have been successful * detailed specific example: Danum Valley Conservation Area, Borneo. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 80–84  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 3.4 |  |
| Term 2 | | | | |
| Week 1 | Topic 4 Tectonic hazards | 4.1 The structure of the Earth and the distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes   * the characteristics of the layers of the Earth, namely the inner core, outer core, mantle, crust and lithosphere * the main tectonic plates and how they move * the main types of plate boundary and how they relate to earthquakes and volcanoes. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 87–92  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 4.1 |  |
| Week 2 |  | 4.2 The processes and features associated with earthquakes and volcanoes   * the processes at plate boundaries that cause earthquakes and volcanoes * the main characteristics of earthquakes * the main types of volcanoes * how volcanoes are classified * the main features of volcanoes * the hazards associated with volcanoes. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 93–97  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 4.2 |  |
| Week 3 |  | 4.3 The impact of tectonic hazards   * the reasons why people live in areas at risk from earthquakes and volcanic eruptions * the impacts of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions * how the magnitude of tectonic events is measured. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 98–101  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 4.3 |  |
| Weeks 4–5 |  | 4.4 Managing the impacts of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes   * the primary and secondary responses to tectonic hazards * the strategies and techniques used to manage the impacts of tectonic events * detailed specific example: Tiburon Peninsula earthquake, Haiti, 2021 * detailed specific example: Mount Etna, Sicily, Italy. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 102–108  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 4.4 |  |
| Week 6 | Topic 5 Climate change | 5.1 The natural and human causes of climate change   * the evidence for climate change * the factors that influence natural climate change * how human influence affects climate change. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 110–114  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 5.1 |  |
| Week 7 |  | 5.2 The impacts of climate change at a range of geographic scales   * the changes to global temperature and weather patterns * the changes to sea levels * future predictions. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 115–117  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 5.2 |  |
| Weeks 8–9 |  | 5.3 The responses to climate change   * the strategies used to manage the impacts of climate change * how successful mitigation and adaptation strategies and techniques have been in managing the impacts of climate change * detailed specific example: The impacts of, and responses to, climate change in Bangladesh. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 118–121  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 5.3 |  |
| Week 10 | Topic 6 Changing populations | 6.1 Populations grow and decline   * the patterns and trends in global population growth and the rapid increase in the world’s population * the reasons for the growth and decline of a country’s population * the impacts of pro-natalist and anti-natalist policies on birth rates * the strengths and limitations of the demographic transition model. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 124–133  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 6.1 |  |
| Week 11 |  | 6.2 Population structures change over time   * the factors influencing population structures * the issues of youthful populations * the issues of demographic ageing * detailed specific example: renewed concerns about population size in India in the twenty-first century. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 134–141  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 6.2 |  |
| Weeks 12–13 |  | 6.3 The causes and impacts of international migration   * the types of migrant * the causes of migration * the impacts of migration on countries of origin and destination and on migrants themselves * the different approaches to managing international migration * detailed specific example: international migration from Mexico to the USA. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 142–154  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 6.3 |  |
| Term 3 Geographical skills | | | | |
| Weeks 1–2 |  | Cartographic skills | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 291–299 |  |
| Weeks 3–4 |  | Graphical skills | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 299–306 |  |
| Week 5 |  | Mathematical skills | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 306–308 |  |
| Week 6 |  | GIS and image skills | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 308–310 |  |
| Weeks 7–9 |  | Fieldwork skills | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 310–324 |  |
| Weeks 10–11 |  | Revision for end of year exams |  |  |
| Weeks 12–13 |  | End of year exams |  |  |
| Year 2 | | | | |
| Term 1 Coursework or Geographical investigations | | | | |
| Week 1 |  | Identification of issue, question or problem – the hypothesis |  |  |
| Week 2 |  | Objectives of the study defined |  |  |
| Week 3 |  | Collection of data |  |  |
| Week 4 |  | Selection and collation of data |  |  |
| Week 5 |  | Presentation and recording of data |  |  |
| Week 6 |  | Analysis and interpretation of data |  |  |
| Week 7 |  | Conclusion, evaluation and suggestions for further study |  |  |
| Week 8 | Topic 7 Changing towns and cities | 7.1 Where people live   * the reasons for variations in urbanisation * the causes of rapid urban growth in LICs. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 157–160  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 7.1 |  |
| Week 9 |  | 7.2 The opportunities and challenges of urbanisation   * the opportunities of urban living * the challenges of urban living * the impacts of urban sprawl on the rural-to-urban fringe. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 161–167  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 7.2 |  |
| Week 10 |  | 7.3 The management of urban growth   * the strategies and techniques used to manage urban growth * the extent to which these strategies and techniques are successful * how the management of urban areas can be sustainable * detailed specific example: urban change in Shanghai. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 168–175  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 7.3 |  |
| Week 11 | Topic 8 Development | 8.1 Measuring development   * indicators of development * the Human Development Index: a broader measure of development. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 178–183  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 8.1 |  |
| Week 12 |  | 8.2 The world is developing unevenly   * the global pattern of LICs, MICs and HICs * the development gap. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 184–190  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 8.2 |  |
| Week 13 |  | 8.3 Achieving sustainable development   * what sustainable development is * the strategies to try to achieve sustainable development * the techniques used by selected sectors that promote sustainability * the strategies to reduce uneven development * detailed specific example: Indonesia: an emerging economy. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 191–205  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 8.3 |  |
| Term 2 | | | | |
| Weeks 1–2 |  | Mock exams |  |  |
| Week 3 | Topic 9 Changing economies | 9.1 Changing employment structures   * how production is classified into different economic sectors * how employment structure varies and changes over time in LICs, MICs and HICs * the factors that affect the location and distribution of industries. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 208–217  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 9.1 |  |
| Week 4 |  | 9.2 The impact of globalisation and the role of transnational corporations   * globalisation and its key features * the impacts of globalisation on trade, transport, culture, communications and technology * the role, location and costs and benefits of transnational corporations * detailed specific example: globalisation and TNCs in Mongolia. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 218–231  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 9.2 |  |
| Weeks 5–6 |  | 9.3 Tourism is a growing industry   * the growth of international tourism * the benefits and problems caused by tourism * the strategies and techniques used to sustainably manage tourism * detailed specific example: tourism in Jamaica. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 232–245  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 9.3 |  |
| Week 7 | Topic 10 Resource provision | 10.1 How our food is produced   * the different types of farming * the systems used in farming. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 247–250  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 10.1 |  |
| Week 8 |  | 10.2 The global patterns of food supply and demand   * global variations in calorie intake and the reasons for this * the changing global production and consumption of food * the strategies used to increase food supply * the reasons for the globalisation of food supplies * the impacts of the globalisation of food supplies. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 251–257  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 10.2 |  |
| Week 9 |  | 10.3 The challenges of food supply   * the physical (natural) and human factors that negatively affect food supply * the problems caused by food insecurity * the sustainable strategies and techniques used to manage desertification and soil erosion * detailed specific example: food insecurity in Nigeria. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 258–269  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 10.3 |  |
| Week 10 |  | 10.4 How our energy is produced   * non-renewable and renewable energy sources * transforming the global energy mix to achieve a better balance between renewable and non-renewable sources of energy. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 270–271  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 10.4 |  |
| Week 11 |  | 10.5 The global patterns of energy supply and demand   * the increasing global production and consumption of energy * trends in the consumption of energy * energy surplus and deficit and the importance of energy security * the reasons for variations in the types of energy produced and used. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 272–278  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 10.5 |  |
| Weeks 12–13 |  | 10.6 The impacts of energy production   * the advantages and disadvantages of non-renewable sources of energy * the advantages and disadvantages of renewable sources of energy * the strategies and techniques used to increase energy supplies * detailed specific example: energy resource management in Sweden. | *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography 4th edition*  Pages 279–289  *Cambridge IGCSETM and O Level Geography Workbook 3rd edition*  Topic 10.6 |  |
| Term 3 Revision | | | | |
| Week 1 |  | Revision Geographical skills |  |  |
| Week 2 |  | Revision Geographical Investigations or Coursework |  |  |
| Weeks 3–4 |  | Revision Physical Geography |  |  |
| Weeks 5–6 |  | Revision Human Geography |  |  |