

Geography

New syllabus for the HSC in 2025

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.

Geography - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	Commercial Studies

What will I be doing in this course?

You will study the relationship between people and the natural and built environments. As a geographer, you will develop skills in gathering information about the environment from a wide range of sources. Maps are important for geographers and you will use graphs, diagrams, written and electronic media, as well as primary research involving surveys, interviews and environmental monitoring. With our guidance, you will plan, develop and implement your own Geographical Investigation in Year 11, where you research a subject that interests you. You will present your findings in a written report, which makes up 30 - 40% of your Preliminary HSC assessment.

The Year 11 course is structured to provide students with opportunities to develop and apply their understanding of the geographical concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, scale, sustainability, and change. Students investigate natural systems; people, patterns and processes; and human–environment interactions. They develop an understanding of the nature and value of geographical inquiry through planning and conducting a geographical investigation.

The Year 12 course is structured to provide students with opportunities to develop and apply their understanding of the geographical concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, scale, sustainability and change. Students investigate global sustainability, rural and urban places, and ecosystems and global biodiversity.

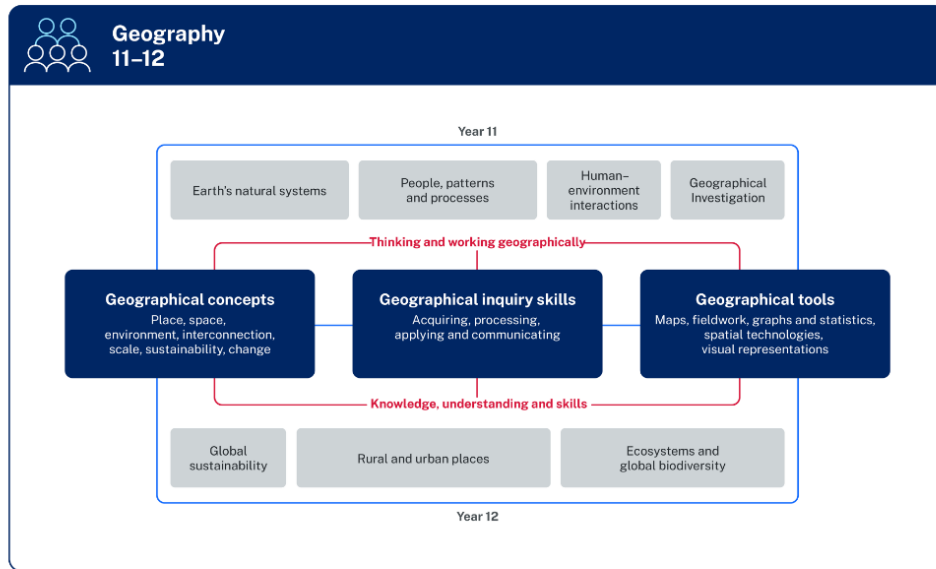


Figure 1: The organisation of content for Geography 11–12 syllabus

Source: <https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/learning-areas/hsie/geography-11-12-2022>

What should I be able to do at the end of this course?

- Understand the interactions between factors, which make up the natural environment, and the role of people in environmental change.
- Have the skills to observe your surroundings and be able to develop strategies for researching existing knowledge and, through your own research framework, gather new knowledge about the environment and the people who depend on it.
- Communicate knowledge through a wide variety of methods.

How will I be assessed in this course?

You are required to undertake fieldwork activities for your Geographical Investigation, as well as within both Preliminary and HSC courses. Fieldwork reports make up a considerable part of the assessment in both years and attendance and completion of fieldwork are compulsory. Most students find fieldwork to be very enjoyable and remember what they learn on field trips.

How will this course help me in the future?

Geography gives us a broad range of skills to interpret the world around us. It also helps us to shape our lives so that we maximise our enjoyment of the wonders of nature while minimising our negative impact on the systems which support life on the planet.

Any career, be it law, tourism, business, or any other area, will benefit from your study of Geography. The 21st Century will be the crucial time where we must learn to work within our planet's ability to support us. The managers of the future must think globally and act locally. Geography gives us a head start.

Supporting all learners

We develop syllabuses that are inclusive of the learning needs of all students, to ensure opportunities to access and progress through the NSW curriculum.



Teachers should make decisions about learning goals and curriculum options for your child together with you, their caregiver. Find out more by scanning the QR code or visiting curriculum.nsw.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/diversity-of-learners

Aboriginal students

For success at school, teachers should support students to maintain and further develop their Cultural identities by building on their understanding of students' Cultural and Community needs, and respect for Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge.

Parents and carers, families and Aboriginal Communities are important partners in teaching and learning about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultures, Histories and Languages.

EAL/D students*

Communicating, reading and writing in their home language or dialect can help EAL/D students to develop proficiency in Standard Australian English and to learn subject content.

Gifted and talented students

Gifted students and students with high ability or talent in a subject can be challenged by diving deeper into content within and across subjects.

Students with disability

Schools are obligated to provide reasonable adjustments for students with disability. If your child has a disability, speak to your school about the different options for accessing the curriculum, including accessing Life Skills courses.

*Students learning English as an additional language or dialect



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A parent and carer guide to supporting your child in

Geography 11–12 and Geography Life Skills 11–12



Geography 11–12 and Geography Life Skills 11–12*

*A pathway to learning Geography for students with intellectual disability

You have an important role
in supporting your child
at home in their learning.



Scan the QR code to find out more about
the Geography 11–12 syllabus or visit
[curriculum.nsw.edu.au/learning-areas/
hsie/geography-11-12-2022](https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/learning-areas/hsie/geography-11-12-2022)



Scan the QR code to find out more about the
Geography Life Skills 11–12 syllabus or visit
[curriculum.nsw.edu.au/learning-areas/
hsie/geography-life-skills-11-12-2022](https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/learning-areas/hsie/geography-life-skills-11-12-2022)



What will my child learn?

Your child can develop an understanding of how natural systems and human activity shape the world through the areas of:

- Earth's natural systems
- People, patterns and processes
- Human–environment interactions
- Geographical investigation
- Global sustainability
- Rural and urban places
- Ecosystems and global biodiversity.

How will my child benefit?

The study of Geography 11–12 can benefit your child by helping them to:

- explore and understand environments across the world
- become responsible global participants
- take on careers in geographic fields.

What can I do to help?

You can help your child at home by:

- encouraging them keep up to date with current affairs, and with environmental issues both in Australia and internationally
- subscribing to streaming services with channels such as National Geographic and/or accessing magazines, podcasts and other resources through school and community libraries
- supporting them to undertake the Geographical Investigation by allowing them to access local fieldwork sites outside of school hours.