

# Geography

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 Senior Geography Project where you research a subject that interests you. You will present your findings in a written report, which makes up 25% of your Preliminary HSC assessment.

You will also study the nature of the biophysical environment, in a particular location, and human interaction within it. In addition, you will look at a range of global challenges, such as population growth, development, political & cultural issues and natural resources, which are impacting us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The HSC course builds on the Preliminary HSC course by examining ecosystems at risk, such as coral reefs, rainforests and wetlands, followed by a study of urban places, looking at urban dynamics and a case study on our own city of Sydney. We also examine world cities and megacities in the developing world. We then move on to examine people and economic activity,

focussing on how people earn their livelihood from activities such as tourism, and how this impacts upon the natural environment.

***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 Senior Geography Project, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.