

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Geography 0460

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

Understanding the whole syllabus

Geography explains the relationship between environments, people and places. Physical processes shape opportunities and hazards, while human decisions change landscapes and patterns of development. Maps, fieldwork and case evidence help you explain those relationships at different scales.

For Geography 0460, the content map below follows the approved subject briefing and the official syllabus. Labels group related areas for orientation; the detailed syllabus remains the authority for individual learning requirements.

Content map

Syllabus area or component	What the area covers
Physical and human geography	The syllabus is divided into physical and human geography.
Physical environments and processes	Physical geography covers changing rivers, coasts and ecosystems, together with tectonic hazards and climate change. You will investigate the processes shaping these environments, their effects on people and the strategies used to manage them.
Human environments and development	Human geography examines population change, towns and cities, development, changing economies and the provision of resources. You will consider how places are connected and how social, economic and environmental impacts vary between locations and levels of development.
Geographical sources and fieldwork	Across both areas, you will use detailed examples from real places and develop skills in maps, photographs, satellite images, graphs, statistics and other geographical sources. You will also learn how to collect, present, analyse and evaluate fieldwork data.

These areas should be read as a connected course. Begin with the foundational knowledge identified in the first part of the map, then build towards the applications and explanations that depend on it. Develop map and data skills throughout the course. Keep case evidence concise and connected to the process it illustrates; revisit fieldwork methods alongside the relevant physical or human topic. Where a row describes a choice of topics or components, study the selection required by your agreed route rather than treating all alternatives as compulsory.

Qualification and component choices

Route	Required components
Coursework route	Papers 1 and 2, plus Component 3
Written alternative route	Papers 1 and 2, plus Paper 4

These are alternatives for the third component. Coursework requires the centre's supervision, assessment and submission arrangements. The written alternative still requires the skills described for that paper.

The 2027-2029 syllabus separates Physical Geography and Human Geography into Papers 1 and 2. Older arrangements using a combined themes paper and a skills paper do not describe this route. Private candidates should confirm the Paper 4 route with their centre.

The assessed skills

Assessment objectives describe the abilities Cambridge looks for across the qualification. The following explanations paraphrase the syllabus objectives; they are not additional topics or separate orientation tasks.

Assessment objective	Meaning for the learner
AO1 Knowledge and understanding	Select accurate subject knowledge, terminology and examples that answer the question, and explain their meaning.
AO2 Skills and analysis	Interpret the information, apply an appropriate method and explain the relationships or reasoning that support the answer.
AO3 Evaluation and decision-making	Weigh evidence, explanations or methods, explain limitations and reach a justified judgement.

These abilities work together in an answer. Accurate knowledge supports application, while a clear explanation shows how the evidence or method leads to a conclusion. The balance varies by component, so the next lesson connects these abilities with the actual assessment formats.

Key pointers: Follow the stated examination-year syllabus, cover the required areas for your route and develop skills alongside knowledge. **Next:** Open **Assessment Overview**.