

# Leaving Certificate Geography Learning Outcomes



Unifying Strand Learning Outcomes		Strand 1: The Physical Environment Learning Outcomes		Strand 2: The Human Environment Learning Outcomes		Strand 3: The Global Environment	
Students learn about	Students should be able to	Students learn about	Students should be able to	Students learn about	Students should be able to	Students learn about	Students should be able to
<p><b>The value and importance of geography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the scope of the discipline of geography</li><li>the importance of a geographical perspective and geographical questions</li><li>the adaptability and transferability of geographical skills</li></ul> <p>• geographical thinking and skills, including those related to inquiry and geospatial technologies, in economic, environmental and social planning and decision-making</p> <p><b>Key concepts in geography</b> <b>concepts including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>change over time</li><li>interactions</li><li>interconnections</li><li>implications</li><li>location</li><li>patterns</li><li>place</li><li>power and influence</li><li>process</li><li>scale</li><li>spatial distribution</li><li>sustainability</li><li>systems</li><li>region</li></ul> <p><b>Geographical inquiry and skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>geographical questions including</li></ul> <p>Who, What, Where, When, Why, How</p> <p>• geographical inquiries involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>formulating research question(s)</li><li>planning</li><li>gathering data</li><li>analysing the data</li><li>drawing conclusions</li><li>communicating findings</li><li>evaluating and reflecting</li></ul> <p>• desk-based and fieldwork research, including ethical, safety and sustainability considerations</p> <p>• geographical data and information including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>primary and secondary data</li><li>qualitative and quantitative data</li><li>aerial photographs and satellite imagery</li><li>different types of images</li><li>different types of maps at a variety of scales</li><li>geospatial datasets</li><li>graphs, charts and statistics</li></ul> <p>• the effectiveness of geographical inquiries, including the inquiry question(s) or focus, methodologies and sources</p> <p>• communication formats including maps, graphs, charts, sketches, diagrams, statistics, geospatial datasets</p> <p>• ethical considerations including cultural awareness</p>	<p><b>U1</b> appreciate the nature, breadth and value of geography</p> <p><b>U2</b> recognise the application and contribution of geographical thinking and skills in the real world</p> <p><b>U3</b> demonstrate understanding of key concepts in geography</p> <p><b>U4</b> formulate geographical questions</p> <p><b>U5</b> plan and conduct geographical inquiries</p> <p><b>U6</b> research geographical data and information using appropriate methodologies</p> <p><b>U7</b> analyse and synthesise geographical data and information from a range of appropriate sources</p> <p><b>U8</b> evaluate the effectiveness of geographical inquiries</p> <p><b>U9</b> communicate geographical understandings, results, conclusions and recommendations effectively and ethically</p>	<p><b>Tectonics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>global geography of lithospheric plates</li><li>types of plate boundaries: constructive, transform, destructive</li><li>processes including convection currents, subduction, sea floor spreading, plate formation and slab pull</li><li>two different examples of mountain ranges, one in Ireland and one international example</li><li>volcanic activity and their resultant landforms</li><li>examples applicable in Irish and international settings</li><li>positive and negative impacts of volcanic activity</li><li>causes and effects of earthquakes including different types of plate movement</li><li>preparation and responses: short-term and long-term</li></ul> <p><b>Rock Cycle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>processes of the rock cycle that form different rock types, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>endogenic (metamorphism, magma cooling)</li><li>exogenic (volcanic activity, mechanical and chemical weathering, erosion, and lithification)</li></ul></li><li>locations in Ireland for each rock type</li></ul> <p><b>Surface Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>physical environments: fluvial, coastal and glacial</li><li>two management strategies: <b>- one flood management strategy</b> <b>- one coastal management strategy</b></li></ul> <p><b>Atmosphere and weather</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the five layers (troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, exosphere)</li><li>the formation of high- and low-pressure systems (including storms):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>uneven distribution of solar radiation</li><li>global atmospheric circulation and Coriolis effect</li></ul></li><li>the characteristics of high- and low-pressure systems: temperature, precipitation, and wind</li></ul> <p><b>Climate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>climate zones including tropical, temperate, continental, polar and arid</li><li>the influence of climate on soils, flora and fauna</li><li>impacts on physical and human environments <b>including:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>melting frozen landscapes: glaciers, ice caps, and permafrost</li><li>ocean circulation</li><li>sea level rise</li><li>extreme weather events</li><li>farming practices</li><li>climate migration</li></ul></li><li>Irish and international examples for each applicable impact</li><li>responses including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>international agreements</li><li>mitigation including carbon capture and reducing greenhouse gas emissions</li><li>adaptation aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate change including early warning systems, and climate resilient infrastructure</li></ul></li><li>Irish, international and global examples for each applicable response</li></ul>	<p><b>1.1</b> explain plate tectonics and the processes that occur at different types of plate boundaries</p> <p><b>1.2</b> examine the formation of mountain ranges through folding processes</p> <p><b>1.3</b> examine volcanic activity at constructive and destructive plate margins, and at hotspots</p> <p><b>1.4</b> investigate the economic, environmental and social impacts of volcanic activity in one Global North and one Global South setting</p> <p><b>1.5</b> discuss the causes and effects of earthquakes in one Global North and one Global South setting</p> <p><b>1.6</b> evaluate preparation for and responses to earthquakes in one Global North and one Global South setting</p> <p><b>1.7</b> outline the relationship between the rock cycle and rock formation</p> <p><b>1.8</b> analyse how geomorphological processes of erosion, transport and deposition impact on physical environments in Ireland</p> <p><b>1.9</b> discuss flood and coastal management strategies in Ireland</p> <p><b>1.10</b> describe the layered structure of the Earth's atmosphere</p> <p><b>1.11</b> analyse the formation and characteristics of high- and low-pressure systems impacting on Ireland</p> <p><b>1.12</b> identify different climate zones</p> <p><b>1.13</b> analyse how climate influences the characteristics of Ireland's temperate rainforest biome</p> <p><b>1.14</b> investigate the impacts of climate change on physical and human environments</p> <p><b>1.15</b> examine responses to global climate change</p>	<p><b>Human Settlement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>rural and urban settlements in Ireland, including local examples</li><li>evidence of site, situation and function of settlements in Irish-language placenames</li><li>distribution of rural settlement including linear, dispersed, clustered</li><li>physical and human factors including soil, drainage, relief, transport and other services, proximity to other settlements</li><li>sustainable responses including planning strategies at local and national levels, and community-based initiatives</li><li>factors affecting urban development: development plans, employment, globalisation, service provision</li><li>the impacts of urban development on gentrification, land use, natural and built environments and service provision, and urban sprawl</li><li>responses including conservation, renewal, redevelopment, ecocities, and smart cities</li></ul> <p><b>Population and migration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>factors including conflict, culture, food, gender equality, health, physical landscape, and natural resources</li><li>factors impacting on birth rates and aging, gender equality, migration, and rural depopulation</li><li>factors including colonial history, conflict, climate change, culture, demography, economy, and government policy</li><li>Ireland as a receiver and donor country</li><li>impacts including community relations, diversity, employment, service provision, and remittances</li></ul>	<p><b>2.1</b> describe how human settlements can be defined by site, situation and function</p> <p><b>2.2</b> explain the factors affecting the distribution of rural settlement in Ireland</p> <p><b>2.3</b> discuss sustainable responses to challenges facing rural settlements in Ireland</p> <p><b>2.4</b> explain the factors affecting urban development</p> <p><b>2.5</b> discuss responses to the impacts of urban development in one Irish city</p> <p><b>2.6</b> describe the impact of different factors on population size and distribution in Ireland and one Global South country</p> <p><b>2.7</b> examine the characteristics of population structure in Ireland, including their local setting, and in one Global South country</p> <p><b>2.8</b> analyse factors that impact on population change in Ireland, including their local setting, and in one Global South country</p> <p><b>2.9</b> discuss the factors affecting international migration</p> <p><b>2.10</b> explain the impacts of migration in Ireland, including their local setting</p>	<p><b>Agriculture and fisheries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>economic, environmental and social factors affecting agriculture</li><li>changing agricultural practices including intensification, organic approaches, urban food production, and the use of technology</li><li>changes in the fishing industry: the development of aquaculture, in-land fisheries, and conservation</li><li>EU policies relating to agriculture and fisheries</li></ul> <p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>tourist attractions</li><li>tourism infrastructure</li><li>patterns and trends including visitor numbers and revenue</li><li>positive and negative economic, environmental and social impacts of mass tourism</li></ul> <p><b>Globalisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>factors influencing globalisation: digital technology, finance, research and development, tax policies, and transport</li><li>opportunities and challenges presented by the four EU freedoms (free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour)</li><li>factors including access to infrastructure and services, markets, product life cycle, raw materials, skilled workforce, trade and tax policy</li></ul> <p><b>Development assistance and cooperation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>approaches including Protectionism, Modernisation and Sustainable Development</li><li>measures including Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI), the Human Development Index(HDI) and the Gender Development Index (GDI)</li><li>the dimensions of the HDI (long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living)</li><li>factors including climate, colonial history, conflict and peace, debt and trade, government policies, and physical landscape</li><li>humanitarian assistance in response to one humanitarian crisis</li><li>overseas development cooperation in one Global South country</li></ul> <p><b>Geopolitics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>geopolitics as the interrelationship between geography, demographics, economics, environment and politics</li><li>influence of superpowers: hard power and soft power</li><li>a geopolitical territorial dispute: land, maritime or airspace</li><li>the actors involved in the chosen territorial dispute</li><li>the causes and impacts of, and proposed or realised responses to the chosen territorial dispute</li></ul>	<p><b>3.1</b> examine the importance and changing nature of agriculture in Ireland</p> <p><b>3.2</b> explore changes in the fishing industry in Ireland</p> <p><b>3.3</b> discuss the impact of European Union (EU) policies on agriculture and fisheries in Ireland</p> <p><b>3.4</b> analyse patterns and trends associated with tourism in Ireland</p> <p><b>3.5</b> investigate the development and impacts of mass tourism in one Mediterranean coastal setting</p> <p><b>3.6</b> explore the factors influencing globalisation</p> <p><b>3.7</b> analyse the four freedoms of the EU</p> <p><b>3.8</b> investigate the factors influencing the location of one Multi-National Corporation (MNC) in Ireland</p> <p><b>3.9</b> outline approaches to, and evaluate measures of development</p> <p><b>3.10</b> analyse how different factors impact on the dimensions of the HDI in Ireland and one Global South country</p> <p><b>3.11</b> examine the Government of Ireland's humanitarian assistance and overseas development cooperation programme</p> <p><b>3.12</b> explore the concept and relevance of geopolitics</p> <p><b>3.13</b> outline the influence of superpowers in geopolitics</p> <p><b>3.14</b> investigate a geopolitical territorial dispute</p>

