

## **Introduction:**

As [Michael Palin](#) said, "Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future".

Geography helps us understand how past societies and environments developed, which provides the context for the present and helps us to plan for our future. Geography helps us answer the question of "how do we wish to live?" in an informed way.

Geography combines the study of physical and human worlds and provides a unique context to study how our world is changing and how we can adapt to and mitigate changes. Geography considers both human and non-human processes and how they affect each other, for example how and why floods occur and how they impact landforms, human settlements and industries.

It combines scientific and social literacy; it provides a bridging space in the curriculum to bring together the creativity of the arts, the insights of social science and humanities as well as the important principles of natural science methods and practices. It gives students a "big picture" view of the world as well as detailed understanding of natural and social systems and provides students with the ability to translate knowledge across disciplinary fields, a skill that will become increasingly important in the 21st century.

There is no silver bullet to resolve global challenges such as biodiversity loss, mass extinctions, major societal upheaval, rising inequalities and global climate change. Geography provides the intellectual glue that can bind together insights from physics, chemistry, biology, geology, sociology, economics, Geography provides important applied and transferable skills, with many employers prizing the knowledge and skills that geography students acquire throughout their education. UK studies have found low levels of unemployment amongst geography graduates where leading universities and politicians, political science and many other disciplines.

Leaving Certificate geography will help students develop an understanding of the changing relationships between the

physical and human worlds. Through their study of geography, students will develop geographical skills that will help them to make informed judgements about issues at local, national and international levels.

### Geography Aims;

1. To develop a knowledge and understanding of a selection of contrasting physical and human (social, economic, and cultural) environments and of the relationships that exist between them.
2. To promote an awareness of the spatial, structural, and temporal patterns of environmental phenomena, both physical and human, at a variety of scales, and to realise that these patterns can change with time.
3. To understand the opportunities for, and challenges of, global interdependence.
4. To promote the conservation and sustained management of the earth's resources for the welfare and happiness of its inhabitants and for future generations.
5. To recognise, and be sensitive to other people and their culture, here in Ireland and elsewhere.
6. To develop a variety of geographical skills which can be applied to the world of work and to many other aspects of life.
7. To develop and promote active citizenship and to encourage informed participation, through lifelong learning, in society at local, national, European and global level.
8. To encourage the use of information and communication technologies in the teaching and learning of geography.
9. To assist students to become well-informed and responsible citizens and to enable them to progress to further studies or to enter the world of work.

**10. To provide students, through their study of geography, with an interesting and enjoyable experience and imbue in them a lifelong love of their natural and cultural environment.**

### **Main Topics Covered**

**Core Unit 1: Physical Geography.... building on foundations in place from Junior Cycle**

**Core Unit 2: Regional Geography... study of the concept of regions, detailed focus on regions in Ireland, Europe and a Sub-Continental Region (India), The EU and changes of regions overtime.**

**Elective: Economic Activities .... Measuring Economic development, changes in Economic development, The Global Economy, The EU, The Environment.**

**Skills: OS Skills, Aerial Photo Interpretation, GIS, Satellite Interpretation**

**Fieldwork: The students participate in a Field study which is written up in class time and worth 20% of final grade**

**What type of student would do well at this course?**

**Students who are curious about the world they live and the role they play as part of it. Students who develop critical thinking and learning to apply knowledge to topical situations. As a geography student, you'll study the world and how humans interact with it. It's largely a science, but you'll also gain insight into other subjects including politics and sociology**

**D: To what careers does lend itself well?**

**Geographers work in a wide range of professions including:**

- **Engineering**
- **Science**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Public Sector**
- **Agriculture**
- **Travel**
- **Planning Consulting**
- **Conservation**
- **Government Agencies,**
- **NGOs**
- **Business**
- **Education**
- **Energy**
- **Utilities**
- **Meteorology**
- **Journalism,**
- **Foreign Service**
- **Auctioneering**
- **Marketing**
- **IT**

- Research and many more.

## **Similarities/Differences between Junior and Senior Cycle**

**Junior Certificate Geography provides a solid foundation on which Senior students can build on. There is content overlap but the approach is much more interconnected and it is really about learning to apply the knowledge you learn to assess, analyze and interpret the information in Leaving Cert.**

**F: How is the subject examined in Leaving Certificate?**

**Studied at higher and ordinary levels**

**20% Geographical Investigation (project completed in advance)**

**80% Written Exam in June (with a wide choice of questions)**

**Leaving Certificate geography may be studied at Ordinary or Higher level. The course is divided into core, elective and optional units of study. Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level. Students are expected to complete a report on a geographical investigation and to sit a written examination**

**What other school subject/s is it linked to at Leaving Certificate?**

**Maths - statistical analysis, graphing, data interpretation**

**Art - map skills and diagrams**

**Physics, Chemistry and Biology - earth science, renewable energy energy development, climate change, chemical processes, thermal heat currents**

**Home Economics - food production, agriculture and fishing around the world**

**History - impact of historical events on societies, planning and development**

**Economics - trade and employment, globalisation**

**English - promotes language and visual literacy**

**Irish - Gaeltacht regions, geographic connection between Irish place names and mapping**  
**Modern Languages - an environmental, social and economic focus on Paris Basin region and Southern Italy.**  
**Music - cultural impact of music in a variety of regions e.g. Ireland, Italy, France and India.**

**What type of skills will it help to develop?**

**Develops literacy, numeracy and questioning skills**  
**Spatial thinking skills**  
**To analyse problems broadly yet systematically**  
**To research in both human and physical fields**  
**To learn learn different methodologies**  
**Field based work (practical skills)**  
**How these can be applied to 'real world' contexts**  
**An understanding of the spatial consequences of policy Decisions, economic relations, and/or environmental systems at multiple scales.**

**What do students like about it?**

**An extension of knowledge gained in Junior Cycle**  
**A wide variety of content**  
**Managing information**  
**Developing critical thinking**  
**The project can be completed in advance, reducing pressure for them in the written exam**  
**Development of an extensive mix of skills**  
**An opportunity to succeed to their best ability**  
**Develops a real connection with current events in real life**  
**Choice as there are a wide variety of questions to choose from on the paper**

**What type of Students does Geography Attract?**

**The subject attracts a wide range of students with strengths in a variety of areas. The students tend to be curious, like to question and be open to the process of learning. Many people see geography as a subject concerned with remembering the names of places and landforms, and learning about human and physical processes responsible for the world around us. There is a common perception that geographers learn ‘the facts’, present them in maps, hydrographs, pie charts and ‘do fieldwork’. Geography is now more about applying your learning to real world events. Students who like to think outside the box, develop their own informed voice. Be able to research information, process it and give their own opinion backed up with geographical facts.**

**Further information can be found following the link below;**

**[https://careersportal.ie/school/lc\\_subject\\_detail.php?course\\_name=Geography&search1=geography&search2=&course\\_id=16&lc\\_subject\\_group=5](https://careersportal.ie/school/lc_subject_detail.php?course_name=Geography&search1=geography&search2=&course_id=16&lc_subject_group=5)**