



LEAVING CERTIFICATE GEOGRAPHY

A Two Year Course

What is involved in Leaving Certificate Geography ?



CORE UNIT- INCLUDES PHYSICAL &
REGIONAL TOPICS, SKILLS BASED
MATERIAL, FIELDWORK

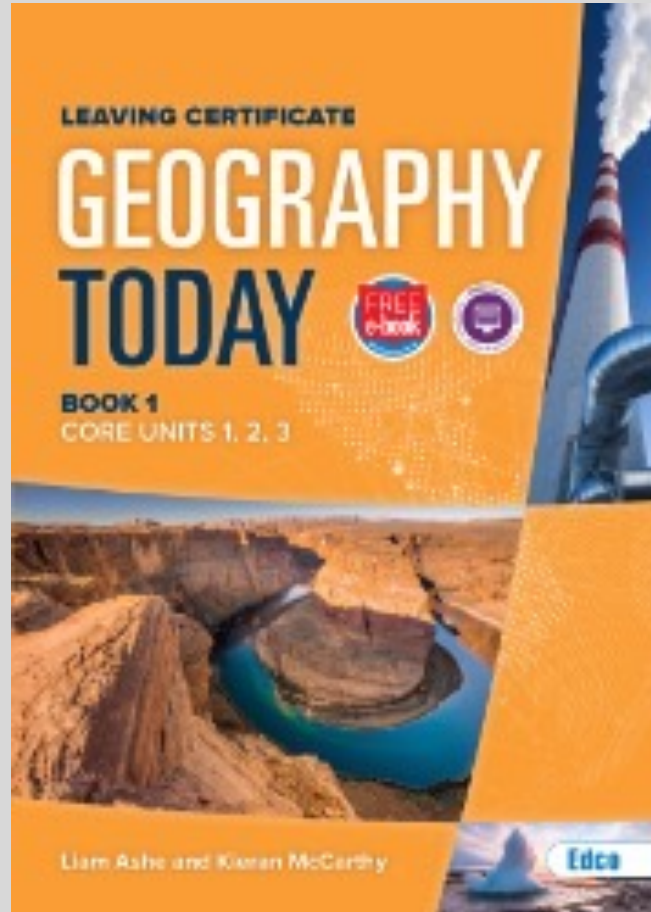


ELECTIVE UNIT
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT



OPTION-HIGHER LEVEL
GEOECOLOGY

Core Unit- Book 1, Physical, Regional, Skills, investigation



What is Physical geography?

- Here we examine in more details some of the topics which you will have covered at Junior Certificate/ Junior Cycle
- These include
 - Plate tectonics
 - Volcanoes/ Earthquakes
 - Rocks
 - Weathering
 - Rivers, Coasts and Glaciation



What is Regional Geography?



- Here we examine the world around us in more detail, locational geography
- Define what a region is
- Explore the types of regions – for example religious, regions defined by language
- The issues which might arise in those regions
- We also explore the economic activities in each region we study- so Primary, secondary and tertiary economic activity
- Look at if they are a core or peripheral region
- The Human processes of that region- Population structure, migration

Skills and investigation work

- Covers things like map work, direction, measuring and sketching skills
- Develop your skills to interpret the physical landscapes on an OS map
- Interpret the human and economic landscapes
- Graph and table reading and how to display information using those items
- These skills can transfer into many areas of work and even study in college
- They are also essential to the field work part of the course





Field study/ geographical investigation

Accounts for 20% of your
over all exam result.

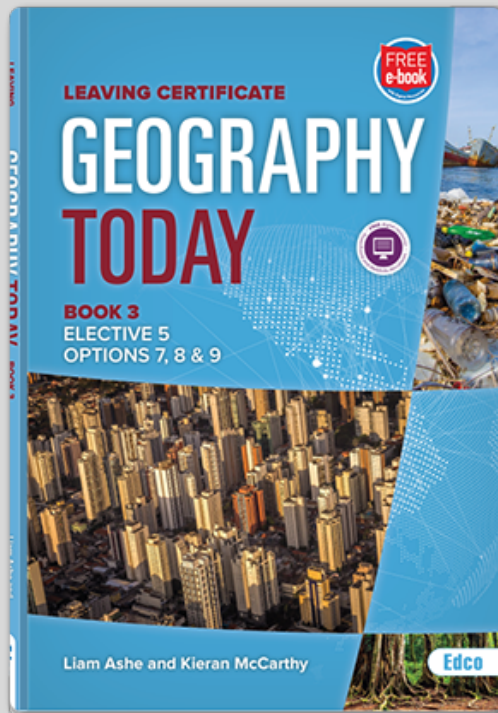
Is conducted before the
exam

Usually in 6th year

Involves day to site- using
skills developed and
practiced in class

Location- Coastal field
study, Howth

Elective Unit- Human Environment



- This book contains both the Elective unit which we study- the Human Environment and The geoecology option for higher level students.
- It is usually studied in 6th year



What is contained in the unit on the Human Environment?

- Here we focus on people and places . We revisit topics like population , but look in depth at particular examples, the trends, changes and projections for the future. We look at the impact population has on the planet.

Topics include

- Overpopulation
- Migration
- Settlement- historically, more recently
- Urban development- planning, land use, map work and Aerial photograph evidence
- Urban problems- traffic congestion, environmental issues, urban sprawl, solutions



Geoeecology- Higher level only

- **This unit covers two main topics**
- Soils
- Biomes



Soils



- Soils- we examine the composition of soils
- Revisit the soil profile
- Discuss the characteristics which affect soil formation
- Focus on Irish soil types
- Examine the impact of human activity on soils in the Sahel region

Biome Unit

- Biomes are the various natural regions of the earth where climate, soils, vegetation and animal life are dependent on one another
- This unit is similar to the climate section you would have covered in geography before but now we focus specifically on some key examples



Focus on the Tropical Rainforest Biome



- We look at the different examples of tropical rain forest biomes across the world and focus on the Amazon rainforest. We also look at the impact of human activity on the rainforest biome
- Four main topics
- Climate
- Soils
- Vegetation
- Animal life

Exams

- **Exam is 80% of over all mark**
- **Field work is 20%**
- **Essay based- some short answer questions**
- **Higher and ordinary level papers differ**
- **Only difference in topics is higher level study geoecology.**
- **Levels can be influenced by level at junior certificate**
- **Exams results from Junior cycle will be considered**
- **Not decided until 6th year- stay in same class**

What can I use geography for?

The skills you learn in geography are very transferable to many types of study and career

Journalist

Natural preservation

Cartographer

Landscape architect

Coastal rescue

Geologist

Development of renewable energy sources

Meteorologist

Statistician

Politics

Climate change analyst

Tourism industry

Primary/Secondary/University Education Sector

Tv Researcher

Town planner

Estate agent

.....And many more

Important point to note

- **You may not necessarily want to study geography when you leave school. However, the skills you learn can be adapted to many, many different jobs.**
- **You also need to consider- do I enjoy this subject, have I the subjects I “need “ for my course, could geography be the subject that I will do well in, can it add to my points?**
- **If the answer to this is yes, then consider geography as an option for your leaving certificate.**

I would like to know more/ I have a question

- **Please don't hesitate to get in contact with any member of the geography department to ask us for more information.**

