



### Key information for the Geography 11-12 syllabus

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Geography 11-12 Syllabus](#) requires students to study 7 topics over 240 hours of course time.
- The new Geography 11-12 syllabus is digital and formatted in the manner of all reform syllabuses. The digital format is interactive and allows for easy navigation. You can filter, search for specific topics, and explore resources directly. Categories include overview; rationale; aim; outcomes; content; assessment; glossary and teaching and learning support.
- Specific Course Requirements: In addition to the core topics, students will be required to complete twelve (12) mandatory hours of fieldwork for the Year 11 and the Year 12 course. Fieldwork may be integrated within an individual focus area or across focus areas as appropriate.
- Schools are required to develop an assessment program for each Year 11 and Year 12 course. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Geography 11-12 Assessment](#).

### HSC examinations

- The Geography HSC requires completion of a 3 hours of writing plus 10 minutes reading time. The written examination consisting of four sections totalling 100 marks. Details can be found at [Geography HSC examination specifications](#).
- Past HSC papers published by NESA are a useful resource to help students become familiar with the examination format and structure. An annotated sample examination materials package is available as well as the [2025 HSC examination pack](#).
- [HSC examination packs from 2015 to 2024](#) are also available; however, these relate to the previous Geography syllabus.

### Support materials

The HSIE curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Geography 11-12 syllabus. Teachers can find support by:

- visiting and bookmarking the [HSIE webpage](#)
- engaging with the HSIE statewide staffroom ([click here to join the HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#))
- visiting and bookmarking the [HSIE SharePoint page](#).

Additional resources can also be accessed on the Geography 11-12 Syllabus under the [Teaching and learning support](#) tab. These include sample scope and sequences, assessment schedules and units of work.

### Professional learning

A range of 'on demand' [professional learning resources](#) to support the implementation of HSIE Stage 6 syllabus are available.

The HSIE curriculum team also offer a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. Upcoming events are posted in the [professional learning channel of the HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#).

### General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.

### Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email [hsie@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:hsie@det.nsw.edu.au) or reach out to our team via the [HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#). Join the HSIE statewide staffroom if you are not already a member. You can also subscribe to our [HSIE Newsletter](#).

