

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION

Geography is one of Queensland's most popular senior electives. Its dynamic nature and worldly relevance are quickly enjoyed by students wanting to know more about the REAL world—its dramas, dilemmas, patterns and processes. Geography has long moved on from its traditional focus and now looks at the "front page" issues.

RATIONALE

Geography is concerned with the active investigation of issues relevant to the lives of students. Geography offers students opportunities to explore questions and issues that arise in their environment and society and to seek answers in local and broader contexts. It focuses on the relationship between people and their social and physical environments. **In short Geography will investigate the major world issues of today, not last year or even last week.** Learning Geography expands the student's horizons so that they appreciate the network of interaction between societies and environments around the world. This helps them adopt a balanced, mature perspective in making decisions in their local community and about their world environment. Thus, Geography helps students to become better citizens and hopefully better people.

As a 2012 Graduate said- "some subjects prepare you for a career, Geography also prepares you for life".



In Senior, Geographers ask questions such as:

What are the important questions, issues and problems we are facing?

What are the different environments like and where are they found?

Why do different people have different views about how to use the environment?

How should the environment be used?

Why are there different living standards around the world?

How can the world be made a better place for everyone?

COURSE

INTRODUCTION

Presently in Year 10 in we aim to emphasise and exacerbate the skills students will utilise in Years 11 & 12. So spatial literacy, analysing, evaluating and justifying are all incorporated into Elective Units we believe are also relevant and stimulating. In Year 10 we offer electives on



Sustainability, Development Issues in the Noosa Shire and world environment, as well the all-topical International Issues Unit which is as cutting edge as school gets. In other words, we aim to give you the chance to *get real and get*

your hands dirty!

It is always rewarding to hear that often our Seniors base their extended writing task response in the Core Skills Test on some of the issues covered in the Geography Course.

The Senior Geography course is comprised of four semesters:

Semester 1 Managing Natural Hazards

With the devastating impacts of the recent New Zealand quakes and Japanese Tsunami this unit becomes all the more compelling. This starts as a physical geography unit which looks at the spectacular and dynamic processes and landscapes of our earth. The how and why of tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes and coastlines are investigated, with the highlight being a field excursion looking at our spectacular but endangered beaches. Then more specifically we look at ways of alleviating the magnitude and consequences of mother nature at her worst.

Semester 2 Social Environments

Are you a DINK, PUMCIN or KIPPER.? Why are Brazilian people protesting AGAINST the 2016 Olympics? Is Roger Federer playing at the 2014 Brisbane Tennis International an example



of re-urbanisation or the doughnut effect ? Cities are changing rapidly and not always for the better. The history, functions, patterns and processes of the world-wide city phenomenon are studied, The section where we look at real estate trends on the Coast is always well received.

Semester 3 Studies of Development

"Make poverty history". Let's see what we can do?

Almost 33% of the world's population of 1.3 billion people live in total poverty. Each day 3500 infants die from malnutrition and disease ... the sorry saga continues.

Who, where, why and how can I help are questions that are asked here. "Food for Thought".

Semester 4 Resources and The Environment

Another timely human Geography component where contemporary issues of "Assault and Battery" on the ecosystem such as in the Nigerian delta, Antarctica and the Amazon. A **three day wilderness excursion to Fraser Island** is a serious adventure. In the final Term it is inevitable we look at Global Warming, the myth or reality and future political, economic and environmental consequences for the Earth and Australia. "Big kid stuff"

ASSESSMENT

A broad range of assessment instruments are used.

- Practical exercises using international people, places and issues.
- Reports based on excursion investigations to sites such as the North Coast Beaches and Fraser Island and/or computer generated data
- Extended Responses
- And the ever popular tests.

All of these are based on skills which have been cultivated and refined since Year 8 in the Humanities courses. They are all the types of assessment that tertiary institutions expect and examine.

COMPUTERS IN GEOGRAPHY

With the resource bases ever expanding computers have proven a valuable ally to Senior Geography students. Latest, up-to-the-minute facts and figures, simulation games and IT tools are used extensively, as reflected by our **extensive Senior Geography pages on the LMS.**

GEOGRAPHY AND A CAREER

It is quite common for Senior Geography students to undertake Tertiary Urban and Environmental planning courses. Two of our Senior Geography graduates from 2012 have started down this career path. Other potential career paths are in Engineering, Commerce, Planning and Design, the Public Service and Diplomatic Corp. A solid geographical background is always an advantage.

GEOGRAPHY & KEY LEARNING AREAS

Geography is **THE best subject** for developing competencies in the common curriculum elements such as analysing, interpreting, comparing and evaluating. Geography covers 80% of the 50 skills and provides extensive Core Skills Test preparation.

Furthermore- in 2012 eight of our top ten OP students studied AT LEAST one Senior Humanities subject.

GEOGRAPHY—A FINAL COMMENT

In a world full of intimidating issues and complex controversies, Geographers strive to make sense of the one real dimension—our world. To make our students—your children—more worldly, that is our aim. Always remember **Geographers "know their place"**.

Ron Bartholomew
Head of Humanities



Saint Andrew's College

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY

is a Board Subject which can **REALLY** help your OP.

Fact— all **FOUR** of our 2012 **O.P. ONE** Students did Senior Humanities

