

Geographical skills

Students are required to develop a range of geographical skills throughout their course of study. These skills may be assessed across any of the examined components. The full list of geographical skills is given below. Some geographical skills are specific to particular subject content; these are indicated in the 'integrated skills' sections within the topics throughout the specification.

Atlas and map skills:

- recognise and describe distributions and patterns of both human and physical features at a range of scales using a variety of maps and atlases
- draw, label, annotate, understand and interpret sketch maps
- recognise and describe patterns of vegetation, land use and communications infrastructure, as well as other patterns of human and physical landscapes
- describe and identify the site, situation and shape of settlements

Graphical skills:

- label and annotate and interpret different diagrams, maps, graphs, sketches and photographs
- use and interpret aerial, oblique, ground and satellite photographs from a range of different landscapes
- use maps in association with photographs and sketches and understand links to directions

Data and information research skills:

- use online census sources to obtain population and local geo-demographic information

Investigative skills:

- identify questions or issues for investigation, develop a hypothesis and/or key questions
- consider appropriate sampling procedures (systematic vs random vs stratified) and sample size
- consider health and safety and undertake risk assessment
- select data collection methods and equipment to ensure accuracy and reliability, develop recording sheets for measurements and observation
- use of ICT to manage, collate, process and present information, use of hand-drawn graphical skills to present information in a suitable way
- write descriptively, analytically and critically about findings
- develop extended written arguments, drawing well evidenced and informed conclusions about geographical questions and issues.