

OIB Cambridge Geography Revised Exam Specification – October 2018

About the syllabus

Geography occupies a central position in understanding and interpreting issues affecting people, places and environments, and change in both space and time. OIB Geography will help learners develop the knowledge and skills required by both the French government and Cambridge Assessment International Education to ensure the qualification retains a standard equivalent to British A Level to successfully prepare learners for study at university level.

The qualification is split up into two main modules of study, with sustainable development occupying a central theme in both. In addition, different views and interpretations of world organisation through the study of maps focussing on issues of globalisation and development are also key elements of the course and ensure a critical appreciation of data presentation.

Key concepts

It is important to remember that Geography is an academic discipline built upon key concepts outlined below. Teachers are expected to embed the key concepts through the study of the topics, both in general and specifically through examples and case studies.

1. **Space:** The implications of spatial distributions and patterns of a range of human geographical phenomena.
2. **Scale:** The significance of spatial scale in interpreting environments, features and places from local to global.
3. **Place:** The importance of human characteristics which create distinctive places with different opportunities and challenges.
4. **Environment:** How the interactions between people and their environment create the need for environmental management and sustainability.
5. **Interdependence:** How the complex nature of interacting physical systems, human systems and processes creates links and interdependencies.
6. **Diversity:** The significance of the similarities and differences between places, environments and people.
7. **Change:** The importance of change and the dynamic nature of places, environments and systems.

Module 1 – Globalisation and development - with reference to the Americas, Africa, South and South-East Asia and East Asia

OIB syllabus: required content	Key terms	Key Issues
<p>1.1 The Globalisation of Economic Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transnational patterns of production and global markets including the major hubs (<i>key maritime areas and global cities</i>) and flows (<i>trade, FDI, loans, aid, services, remittances, people</i>) in the global economy. - Core-Periphery theory and interdependence in relation to global trade and production processes. <p><u>Case study: global city and global maritime area.</u></p> <p><u>Annotated map references:</u></p> <p>-Hubs and flows in globalisation.</p> <p>-Maritime areas: a geostrategic approach.</p> <p><i>Note: The following sub areas on the major actors of globalisation should further explain the above concepts and link to the production of the annotated maps.</i></p> <p>-TNCs as actors of globalisation: Factors affecting the growth and spatial structure of transnational corporations (TNCs) including the New International Division of Labour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The impact of TNCs on global development. Positives and negative impacts in countries at different stages of development. <p><u>Case study: candidates must study the global spatial organisation and operation of TNCs and their impact in countries at different stages of development.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Core – periphery -Deindustrialisation -Free Trade -Foreign direct investment (FDI) -Globalisation -Global trade -Interdependence -International organisations -Newly Industrialised Country (NIC) -New International Division of Labour (NIDL) -Outsourcing -Special Economic Zones (SEZ) -Transnational Corporation (TNC) -Trade bloc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To what extent is globalisation responsible for the development of global inequalities? -Discuss the role of the major economic powers in the global economy. -Evaluate the positive and negative impacts of globalisation. -To what extent do all regions benefit from globalisation? -Evaluate the consequences of international relocation and outsourcing. -Evaluate the role of TNCs in the process of globalisation. -To what extent has the evolution of industry in major world economic powers been influenced by globalisation? -Assess the factors affecting global trade. -To what extent is the growth of industry in NICs dependent on globalisation? -To what extent do trade blocs hinder globalisation? -Examine the role of governments in globalisation and development. -Discuss the importance of the major hubs and flows in the globalisation of economic activity. -Examine the causes and consequences of NIDL. -Evaluate the factors which have led to the growth of NICs. -Evaluate the role of International Organisations in globalisation and development. -Examine the factors affecting the spatial distribution of TNCs.

<p>- National Governments as actors of globalisation: Factors in the emergence and growth of newly industrialised countries (NICs) and the impact of SEZs and trade blocs.</p> <p><u>Case study: candidates must study the emergence of one NIC.</u></p> <p>International Organisations as actors of globalisation: The role of the IMF, World Bank and WTO in the global economy.</p> <p>1.2 Development in a Global(ised) World</p> <p>- What is development and how is it measured?</p> <p>- The nature, causes and distribution of global inequalities in social and economic wellbeing.</p> <p>- Candidates should be able to critically evaluate some of the measures and indices of social and economic inequality (<i>development indicators</i>).</p> <p>- Candidates must consider a range of factors which cause underdevelopment. (<i>(geo)political and economic factors such as conflict, corruption, TNC exploitation as well as geographical constraints and historical factors</i>)</p> <p>-Introduction to sustainable development: what is it and how is it measured? Refer to the UN sustainable development goals. Emphasis of social, economic and political aspects of sustainability as well as environmental.</p> <p><u>Case Study: candidates must study the causes of underdevelopment in at least two countries.</u></p> <p>- The causes, nature and problems of debt for countries. The international debt crisis and debt relief.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aid - Development classification - Development Indicators - Development strategies - Global South - Income status (HIC/MIC/LIC) - Least Developed Countries (LDCs) - Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) - Political conflict - Sustainable Tourism - UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - World Poverty 	<p>-To what extent are TNCs beneficial to countries in different stages of development?</p> <p>-Examine the key components of the global economy.</p> <p>-Account for disparities in development between countries of the global South.</p> <p>-To what extent is the global South an area of similarity or diversity?</p> <p>-Evaluate the causes of underdevelopment.</p> <p>-To what extent does the natural environment of a named country constrain its development?</p> <p>-Is the North/South divide still a valid concept?</p> <p>-Can development be assessed by economic indicators alone?</p> <p>-Examine the key features of sustainable development.</p> <p>-To what extent is political conflict the biggest obstacle in tackling underdevelopment?</p> <p>-Compare and contrast the causes of underdevelopment.</p> <p>-Examine the importance of employment sectors in relation to development.</p> <p>-Evaluate whether trade or aid is more effective for development.</p> <p>-Evaluate the role of NGOs in the development process.</p> <p>-To what extent is sustainable development possible?</p> <p>-Evaluate the success of different development strategies.</p>
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<p>- Different types of international aid and aid donors: The role of international organisations (World Bank, IMF) and NGOs in international aid.</p> <p>- Different development strategies: top down strategies, bottom up strategies, trade-oriented strategies, sectoral shift and sustainable tourism.</p> <p><u>Case study: Candidates should be able to critically evaluate the success of different development strategies</u></p> <p><u>Annotated map reference: Disparities in development and unequal integration in a globalised world: the case of the African continent</u></p> <p>1.3 Regional disparities within countries</p> <p>- Regional disparities in social and economic development.</p> <p>- The concept of core–periphery on a national scale.</p> <p>- The process of cumulative causation from initial advantage(s), spread and backwash effects</p> <p>- The management of regional development and development strategies.</p> <p><u>- Case study: candidates must study one country’s regional development policy, its regional disparities, some of the difficulties faced in trying to overcome these disparities and evaluate the attempted solutions.</u></p>	<p>- Regional inequality</p>	<p>-To what extent do development strategies respect sustainability?</p> <p>-Compare and contrast the success of different development strategies.</p> <p>-How far do you agree that bottom up strategies are the best strategies in tackling underdevelopment?</p> <p>-To what extent is sustainable tourism a myth, rather than reality?</p> <p>-Assess to what extent debt is a constraint to the development of LICs.</p> <p>-Examine the causes of regional inequalities within countries.</p> <p>-Examine the reasons for the development of an economic core within countries.</p> <p>-Evaluate the success of strategies used to deal with regional inequality.</p>
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Case study: Candidates must study different international migration flows: causes, character, scale, pattern and impacts on source areas and receiving/destination areas.

2.3 Demographic issues

- Natural increase as a component of population change: natural increase rate, birth rate and death rate, fertility rate, and infant mortality rate.
- Factors (social, economic, environmental and political) affecting levels of fertility and mortality.
- Population structure (age, gender, dependency, and dependency ratio) and the interpretation of diagrams.
- Demographic transition: Changes in birth rate and death rate over time
- A critical appreciation of the demographic transition model, Stages 1–5.
- Issues caused by youthful and ageing populations.

Case study: candidates must study examples of youthful and ageing populations and the impact that this demographic change has on development.

- Links between population and development: changes in infant mortality rate and life expectancy over time.

Case study: candidates must compare the population policies of at least two countries regarding natural increase/decrease, the difficulties faced and evaluate the attempted solutions. (The case study must include attempts to alter the natural increase rate and to manage the results of population change)

- Dependency ratio
- Ageing population
- Demographic transition model
- Natural increase
- Population structure
- Pro / Anti natal policies
- Youthful population

- Examine the link between demographics and development.
- Evaluate the impact of youthful population on development.
- Evaluate the impact of ageing population on developed countries.
- Assess the factors that determine population structure.
- Compare and contrast the impact of demographic issues in countries at different stages of development.
- Evaluate strategies used to tackle problems posed by demographic issues.
- Compare and contrast the impact of different population management strategies.

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Appendix – Links between the OIB Syllabus and the French thematic approach

Module 1 – Globalisation and development- with reference to the Americas, Africa, South and South-East Asia and East Asia

OIB syllabus: required content	References to French thematic approach
<p>.1 The Globalisation of Economic Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transnational patterns of production and markets including the major hubs (<i>key maritime areas and global cities</i>) and flows (<i>trade, FDI, loans, aid, services, remittances, people</i>) in the global economy. - Core-Periphery theory and interdependence in relation to global trade and production processes. <p><u>Case study: global city and global maritime area.</u></p> <p><u>Annotated map references:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hubs and flows in globalisation. -Maritime areas: a geostrategic approach. <p><i>Note: The following sub areas on the major actors of globalisation should further explain the above concepts and link to the production of the annotated maps.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -TNCs as actors of globalisation: Factors affecting the growth and spatial structure of transnational corporations (TNCs) including the New International Division of Labour. - The impact of TNCs on global development. Positives and negative impacts in countries at different stages of development. <p><u>Case study: candidates must study the global spatial organisation and operation of TNCs and their impact in countries at different stages of development.</u></p>	<p>Areas of globalisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study of a global city Maritime areas <p><i>Note: To be integrated into the study of ‘global patterns of production and markets’, ‘the role of the major hubs and flows of globalisation’ and annotated maps.</i></p> <p>How globalisation works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study of a global product Processes and actors of Globalisation Flows and networks <p><i>Note: This is the major part of section 1.2 but links to development are also encouraged throughout.</i></p>

- **National Governments as actors of globalisation:** Factors in the emergence and growth of newly industrialised countries (NICs) and the impact of SEZs and trade blocs.

Case study: candidates must study the emergence of one NIC.

International Organisations as actors of globalisation: The role of the IMF, World Bank and WTO in the global economy.

1.2 Development in a Global(ised) World

- What is development and how is it measured?
- The nature, causes and distribution of global inequalities in social and economic wellbeing.
- Candidates should be able to critically evaluate some of the measures and indices of social and economic inequality (*development indicators*).
- Candidates must consider a range of factors which cause underdevelopment. (*(geo)political and economic factors such as conflict, corruption, TNC exploitation as well as geographical constraints and historical factors*)
- Introduction to sustainable development: what is it and how is it measured? Refer to the UN sustainable development goals. Emphasis of social, economic and political aspects of sustainability as well as environmental.

Case Study: candidates must study the causes of underdevelopment in at least two countries.

Africa :

Challenges of development

- Africa : facing development and globalisation

Note: *To be integrated into the study of 'nature, causes and distribution of global inequalities', the annotated map and in-depth case studies.*

- The causes, nature and problems of debt for countries. The international debt crisis and debt relief.
- Different types of international aid and aid donors: The role of international organisations (World Bank, IMF) and NGOs in international aid.
- Different development strategies: top down strategies, bottom up strategies, trade-oriented strategies, sectoral shift and sustainable tourism.

Case study: Candidates should be able to critically evaluate the success of different development strategies

Annotated map reference: Disparities in development and unequal integration in a globalised world: the case of the African continent.

1.3 Regional disparities within countries

- Regional disparities in social and economic development.
- The concept of core–periphery on a national scale.
- The process of cumulative causation from initial advantage(s), spread and backwash effects.
- The management of regional development and development strategies.
- Case study: candidates must study one country's regional development policy, its regional disparities, some of the difficulties faced in trying to overcome these disparities and evaluate the attempted solutions.

Module 2: Urbanisation and demographic issues - with reference to the Americas, Africa, South and South-East Asia and East Asia

OIB syllabus: required content	References to French thematic approach
<p>2.1 Urban trends, issues of urbanisation and migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban growth. The process of urbanisation and its causes and consequences in countries at different stages of development. - Causes of internal migration: push and pull factors, processes of migration, and patterns of migration (including by distance and by age), the role of constraints, obstacles and barriers (e.g. cost, national borders). - Rural–urban and urban–rural movements: their causes and impacts on source areas and receiving/destination areas including population structures. - The concept of a megacity and the spatial distribution of megacities. - Reasons for the growth of megacities and the challenges that megacities face. -Sustainable city and the quality of living environment <p><u>Case study: Candidates must study megacities showing the challenges, whilst evaluating the attempted solutions, in at least two countries at different stages of development.</u></p> <p><u>Annotated map reference: Mumbai: Spatial dynamics and urban inequality.</u></p> <p>2.2 International migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voluntary and forced (involuntary) movements. - Causes and patterns of international migration (including economic migration and refugee flows) with reference to migration theory (Lee’s model of migration). - Impact on source and receiving/destination areas. - The management of international migration. <p><u>Case study: Candidates must study different international migration flows: causes, character, scale, pattern and impacts on source areas and receiving/destination areas.</u></p>	<p>South and South-east Asia and East Asia : issues of growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mumbai (case study): modern city and inequalities - South and South east Asia : challenges of population and growth <p><i>Note: to be integrated into the study of ‘urban growth’ and ‘the concept of a megacity and spatial distribution of megacities’.</i></p>

2.3 Demographic issues

- Natural increase as a component of population change: natural increase rate, birth rate and death rate, fertility rate, and infant mortality rate.
- Factors (social, economic, environmental and political) affecting levels of fertility and mortality.
- Population structure (age, gender, dependency, and dependency ratio) and the interpretation of diagrams.
- Demographic transition: Changes in birth rate and death rate over time
- A critical appreciation of the demographic transition model, Stages 1–5.
- Issues caused by youthful and ageing populations.

Case study: candidates must study examples of youthful and ageing populations and the impact that this demographic change has on development.

- Links between population and development: changes in infant mortality rate and life expectancy over time.

Case study: candidates must compare the population policies of at least two countries regarding natural increase/decrease, the difficulties faced and evaluate the attempted solutions. (The case study must include attempts to alter the natural increase rate and to manage the results of population change)

South and South-east Asia and East Asia : issues of growth

- South and South east Asia : challenges of population and growth

Note: to be integrated into the study of ageing populations and challenges associated with.

- **Suggested case studies :**

- (i) *Japan : managing an ageing population*
- (ii) *India / China: managing population growth*

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