

Summary of Geography HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements from 2010

In December 2008, the Board of Studies approved changes to the examination specifications and assessment requirements for a number of courses. These changes will be implemented for the 2010 HSC cohort. Details of the Board's decisions are available on the Board's website at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

The HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements for Geography are outlined below.

Outline of HSC examination specifications

A written examination of three hours plus 5 minutes reading time.

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Objective response questions	20
<i>Section II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Short-answer questions	40
<i>Section III</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Three extended response questionsStudents answer two questions, each with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words).	40
	100

Changes from current examination specifications

In Section I, the mark value of the objective response items is increased from 15 marks to 20 marks and, in Section II, the mark value of the short-answer questions is increased from 25 marks to 40 marks.

The total mark value for Section III is reduced from 60 marks to 40 marks: students will choose to answer two of the three 20-mark questions instead of all three as at present. The expected length for the extended responses is included as a guide. It is presented as the approximate number of examination writing booklet pages (based on average-sized handwriting), and/or an approximate number of words. Students will not be penalised for responses of excess length: they may write less than or more than what is expected, and their responses will be marked on their merits.

Outline of internal assessment requirements

There will be three to five assessment tasks comprising the following components and weightings.

Component	Weighting
Knowledge and understanding of course content	40
Geographical tools and skills	20
Geographical inquiry and research, including fieldwork	20
Communication of geographical information, ideas and issues in appropriate forms	20
	100