

St. Paul's College
Department of Geography

New Senior Secondary Curriculum - Geography

The new Senior Secondary geographical education equips our students to become geographically informed and inquiring people who see meaning in the arrangement of things in space; understand the relations between people, place and environment; ask geographical questions and find answers through enquiry; use geographical knowledge and skills in solving problems; and apply spatial and ecological perspectives to life contexts.

The study of senior secondary Geography provides students a spatial perspective on socio-economic and environmental issues, a focus on citizenship and on national and global identity, and opportunities for developing generic skills such as the ability to analyse and synthesise, to solve problems, to communicate and to use information technology. The subject also prepares students for a range of career choices in which a global perspective, environmental ethics and awareness, and a sound sense of space and region are needed. The most obvious examples of such careers are urban and transport planning, resources and environmental management, tourism and recreation.



The New Senior Secondary Geography curriculum comprises a compulsory part and an elective part. The Compulsory Part accounts for 60% of total lesson time. It aims to assist students to acquire fundamental geographical concepts and knowledge and to develop a framework of thinking and enquiry essential for academic study, career development and lifelong learning. The Elective Part, which takes up 20% of lesson time, serves as an extension to the Compulsory Part of the curriculum. The remaining 20% of lesson time is assigned for fieldwork and spatial data enquiry, which will be infused in the learning and teaching of the Compulsory and Elective Parts.

The Compulsory Part comprises seven geographical issues and problems that have strong relevance for Hong Kong students and are of considerable public concern. These seven modules are structured around three major themes.

Living with our physical environment

- (1) Opportunities and Risks – is it rational to live in hazard-prone areas?
- (2) Managing Rivers and Coastal Environments: A continuing challenge

Facing changes in the human environment

- (3) Changing Industrial Location – How and why does it change over space and time?
- (4) Building a Sustainable City – Are environmental conservation and urban development mutually exclusive?

Confronting global challenges

- (5) Combating Famine – Is technology a panacea for food shortage?
- (6) Disappearing Green Canopy – Who should pay for the massive deforestation in rainforest regions?
- (7) Global Warming – Is it fact or fiction?

The Elective Part comprises four electives, out of which students study two.

- (1) Dynamic Earth: the building of Hong Kong
- (2) Weather and Climate
- (3) Transport Development, Planning and Management
- (4) Regional Study of Zhujiang (Pearl River) Delta

The department tends to opt for “Weather and Climate” and “Regional Study of Zhujiang (Pearl River) Delta”. These two elective modules have a strong coherence with the Compulsory Part. The former provides an extension of the geographical knowledge and concepts included in the Compulsory Part. The latter places a greater relevance to recent developments in Hong Kong and its neighbouring regions.

In short, the students have to study nine modules, and carry out one fieldwork enquiry within the three years of senior secondary geographical education.

