



Senior Secondary Geography – Information Sheet

What is the focus of the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography?

There is one senior secondary subject for Geography as part of the Australian Curriculum.

The senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography builds on the Foundation to Year 10 *Australian Curriculum: Geography* and focuses on further developing student understanding and appreciation about the complexity of the world and the diversity of its environments, economies and cultures. Students investigate and analyse a range of challenges and associated opportunities from the local to the global scale including rapid change to biophysical environments, the sustainability of places, environmental risk, and the consequences of international integration.

How is the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography structured?

The senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography specifies content and achievement standards:

- The content describes the knowledge, understanding and skills that are to be taught and learned.
- The achievement standards describe the quality of learning (the depth of understanding, extent of knowledge and sophistication of skill) expected of students who have studied the content for the subject.

The curriculum for Geography is organised into four units with the last two units cognitively more challenging than the first

two. Each unit is designed to be taught in about half a 'school year' of senior secondary studies.

Content has been specified for each unit, and achievement standards are described for each pair of units, that is, Units 1 and 2, and Units 3 and 4.

The curriculum also includes a rationale and a set of aims, a description of how the subject is organised, how general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities are represented, and a glossary of key terms.

How does senior secondary Geography align with the F-10 Australian Curriculum?

The *F-10 Australian Curriculum: Geography* was released in May 2013. The senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography continues to develop student learning through the same strands that form the F-10 Geography curriculum, that is, *Geographical knowledge and understanding*; and *Geographical inquiry and skills*.

The *Geographical knowledge and understanding* strand includes investigation and application of the underpinning concepts in greater depth and the opportunities for geographical study in a wider range of contexts at a variety of scales, from the local to the global.

The *Geographical inquiry and skills* strand continues to develop key inquiry skills with a greater focus on applying these skills across a range of scales and contexts.



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How does the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography differ from senior secondary courses in states and territories?

The Australian Curriculum: Geography contains content similar to that of state and territory courses but there are some variations in scope, sequencing and emphasis.

There is more emphasis on international cultural integration, personal geographies and economic, cultural and social processes shaping human and physical environments in the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography. This is in response to international research indicating that 21st century learning in Geography should foster engagement in learning, offer opportunities for real understanding, and encourage debate about future directions for people and the planet.

What national and international curricula and research was drawn upon to develop the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography?

In developing the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography, ACARA reviewed state and territory Geography curriculum.

The development of the senior secondary Australian Curriculum: Geography has taken into account curriculum documents from Canada (Ontario) and the United Kingdom.

In addition, as part of ACARA's curriculum development process and a focus on high standard quality curriculum, the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for Geography was reviewed by eminent international experts.