



Geography Grade Descriptors

Strand	Developing	Proficient	Confident	Mastery
Locational Knowledge	Identifies continents, oceans, and a few countries	Locates countries and regions using maps at different scales	Understands global locational patterns (population, climate, development)	Explains how location influences people, environments, and global connections
Place Knowledge	Knows that places are different	Describes similarities and differences between places	Explains how physical and human characteristics shape places	Develops nuanced understanding of place, identity, and change over time
Knowledge of Geographical Concepts and Processes	Knows basic geographical terms related to physical and human geography	Understands key geographical concepts (e.g. place, space, scale, environment)	Secure understanding of a wide range of geographical concepts	Applies concepts flexibly to unfamiliar places and issues
Understanding of Geographical Concepts and Processes	Describes geographical features, patterns, or processes	Explains features and processes using simple reasons	Analyses causes and effects of geographical processes	Evaluates processes and makes reasoned judgments using evidence
Use of Key Geographical Terminology	Uses simple geographical terms (e.g. river, weather, settlement)	Uses key terms confidently and accurately	Uses precise and varied geographical terminology	Uses key terms fluently and explains complex concepts clearly

Interpreting Geographical Information	Identifies information from maps, graphs, and images	Interprets maps, graphs, and data accurately	Analyses patterns and trends using a range of data sources	Critically evaluates data, including its reliability and limitations
Map Skills	Uses basic map skills (simple symbols and directions)	Uses scale, coordinates, and keys accurately	Applies advanced map skills (six-figure grid references) accurately	Selects and applies map skills independently to support written work
Fieldwork Skills	Follows instructions to collect data	Collects data accurately using simple methods	Independently selects appropriate data collection methods	Designs and adapts fieldwork methods to suit enquiry questions
Geographical Writing	Describes human and physical geography topics separately	Explains links between human and physical geography	Analyses interactions between people and environments	Evaluates interactions between people and environments
Geographical Writing	Gives simple opinions about geographical issues	Supports opinions with credible evidence	Weighs up different viewpoints and perspectives	Justifies opinions using balanced, well-researched evidence
Geographical Writing	Needs guidance to plan extended geographical responses	Plans structured extended geographical responses	Organises ideas logically with clear use of relevant data and examples	Produces coherent, well-developed arguments tailored to the task