



GEOGRAPHY

General course

Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: General capabilities

For teaching in 2027

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment to investigate the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA), the Authority has updated the statements about the general capabilities in each syllabus.

The Authority has mapped the general capabilities through the unit content and assessment types for each of the WACE courses. Students will have the opportunity to develop the general capabilities identified in the course through the teaching, learning and assessment programs. These general capabilities will be reflected on the WASSA.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Investigating the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Representation of the general capabilities

The general capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the Geography General course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Critical and creative thinking

Students develop strong thinking skills in the course to understand how people and the environment interact. They learn to look at problems from different angles, think creatively and test solutions. They practise thinking about big ideas like sustainability and how things change over time. When students study geographical questions, they learn to ask productive questions to start their research; look at information from different sources and viewpoints; find patterns and connections; make predictions; decide if information is trustworthy; think about different solutions to problems; suggest actions to solve problems considering the environment, society and the economy; use diagrams to organise their thoughts; predict future conditions based on trends; and draw conclusions and make generalisations from information. Students learn to think independently and to explain their ideas clearly. They are encouraged to be curious and open-minded, and to use their creativity to find new solutions.

Digital literacy

Students develop digital literacy as they use online tools, including mapping technology, to explore geographical topics and problems. They support their inquiries into geographical phenomena and issues by using digital tools, including spatial technologies. They also use these tools to collect and analyse data, represent it in digital form, and access and manipulate databases. In addition, students analyse the quality of digital information and sources of information. They gather, analyse and show data digitally, and work with online databases. They also learn to check whether online information is accurate and reliable. Students create presentations and reports using a range of digital tools to share what they have learned. They develop an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of using digital information and how information is shared online. Students also consider the ethical use of online information, especially data about people and places.

Intercultural understanding

Students build their intercultural understanding by exploring how different cultures respond to global and environmental challenges. They examine the spread and impact of cultural ideas, assess the effects of cultural change and learn to propose solutions that are respectful and sustainable across diverse communities. Through case studies on hazards, globalisation and regional development, students apply geographical tools and inquiry to real-world issues, deepening their global awareness.

Literacy

Students learn to understand and communicate about the world by using reading, writing and speaking skills. They work with diverse types of information, like diagrams, maps, websites and pictures, to learn about geographical topics. Students practise gathering, organising and analysing information, and sharing their ideas and opinions clearly. They also learn to understand how maps, graphs and images communicate information. Students conduct investigations by gathering information from primary and secondary sources, following ethical guidelines. They develop skills to communicate geographical ideas using maps, graphs, and written responses, using geographical terminology.

Numeracy

Students develop numeracy skills in the course to describe patterns and connections using graphs and maps, and work with numbers to understand how things change over time. During fieldwork and practical exercises, such as source and map analysis, students analyse and interpret quantitative data. They learn to use basic mathematics to calculate map scales, distance and area and to read contour lines to understand the shape and steepness of land. They use online tools like Google Earth and maps to analyse relationships, patterns and trends, and make predictions.

Addressing the other general capabilities

Although the following general capabilities have not been identified as a focus in the Geography General Year 12 syllabus, teachers may find opportunities to incorporate these capabilities into the teaching and learning program.

- Ethical understanding
- Personal and social capability

Such opportunities may occur through the application of different contexts, pedagogical practices and/or assessment strategies that relate to the syllabus as part of the teaching and learning program.

Summary representation of the general capabilities in the Geography General course

A representation of the general capabilities for the two years is summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	Geography (GEGEO)	General	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Year 12	Geography (GTGEO)	General	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Key

CCT: Critical and creative thinking, DL: Digital literacy, EU: Ethical understanding, IU: Intercultural understanding, L: Literacy, N: Numeracy, PSC: Personal and social capability