



Briefing on the Update of Senior Secondary Geography

Key Updates

CDI 2017

Introduction

- Proposed to update **FIVE** modules of the Secondary 4-6 Geography curriculum, namely:
 - two compulsory modules, ‘Global Warming’ and ‘River and Coast’,
 - three elective modules, ‘Weather and Climate’, ‘Transport’ and ‘Zhujiang Delta Region’.

Introduction

- The **other six modules** under **Section 2.2** of the Geography Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6) 2007 (updated as at November 2015) **remain unchanged**.
- **All the other chapters** also remain unchanged.

Introduction

- Geography Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6) 2007 (with updates in July 2017)

- Full version:

<http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/curriculum-development/kla/pshe/curriculum-documents.html#3217>



Rationale and Design Principles

- Be comparable with international trend in geography education
 - The choice of content shows a preference for socio-economic **issues** and emphasizes on developing students' global perspective
 - Elements of physical geography are taught with a strong connection to the socio-economic systems, especially in terms of resource and environmental **management**
 - There exists a foundation / core component for all students, supplemented by a variety of options / electives to **cater for different students' interest and aptitude**

Rationale and Design Principles

- Responding to teachers' comments
 - “Logistics” too demanding to students
- Incorporating the latest knowledge, concepts and information into the five modules proposed to be revised.
 - “Villages-in-the-city” and “city clusters”
 - “Climate Change”
- “Issue” as core; “systematic” as elective
 - Catering for greater student diversity
 - Correcting the defects identified in HKAL

Summary of Update

Compulsory module on 'river and coast'

- First guiding question “How does water shape our rivers and coasts?” cancelled and replaced by a brief introduction of hydrological cycle.
- Guiding questions 2 -5 rewritten: more straightforward on the work of running water and wave; remove “variation over space”
- Only the management strategies found in Hong Kong are included.
- The UK case study on coastal management cancelled.

Summary of Update

Compulsory module on 'river and coast'

- Skills included in the column **“Skills and Suggested Learning Activities”**
 - They serve as reminder of the geographical skills that should be covered.
 - Choose the best topic for a particular skill to be included.

Summary of Update

Compulsory module on 'river and coast'

- For example, the formation of coastal features will be an appropriate topic for learning how to draw annotated diagrams.
- NOTE: Since the development of coastal landform features is under the same sets of erosional / depositional processes over time, it is best represented by a series of annotated diagrams rather than separate sets of diagrams for each individual feature.

Summary of Update

Compulsory module on 'climate change'

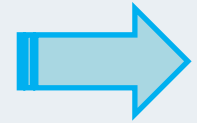
- **Title rewritten** to incorporate of the concept 'climate change': from "fact or fiction" to "long-term fluctuation or irreversible trend"
- 1st part guiding questions: add "weather and climate" basis; "Evidence" retained

Summary of Update

Compulsory module on 'climate change'

- Retain **issue-enquiry approach** to study climate change as a geographical issue, focusing on the causes, impacts and respective human responses. **Academic concepts** go to elective module "weather and climate".
- 2nd part guiding questions on "global warming": come from original 3rd part; the original part on "temperature" removed

Summary of Update



Compulsory module on 'climate change'

- The concept '**climate change**' incorporated, with 'global warming' as an illustration at global scale, 'urban microclimate' as an illustration at local scale.
- 3rd part guiding questions – newly added
- focus on heat island effect and characteristics of urban climates: temperature, precipitation, wind, particulate matter, photochemical smog

Summary of Update

Compulsory module on 'climate change'

- 4th part guiding questions – **mostly retained** the original: impact, consequences and solutions
- add “international collaboration”

Reminders

Compulsory module on 'climate change'

- Avoid over-teaching of meteorological concepts as the focus of this compulsory is on the causes and the impact of climate change, and the mitigation and adaption measures adopted to resolve the problems.
- Academic components should go to the elective module “weather and climate”.

Summary of Update

Elective module on 'weather and climate'

- Retain **systematic approach** to study weather and climate.
- 1st part guiding questions: strengthened & enriched, including the three properties of the atmosphere, namely heat, moisture and motion.

Summary of Update

Elective module on 'weather and climate'

- 2nd part guiding questions: restriction on the choice of Chinese cities removed.
- “An introduction of the climate of China” should include the climate of Hong Kong
- Concepts included in the “Concept” column should be covered even if they are not found in the explanatory notes, e.g. **Monsoon**.

Summary of Update

Elective module on 'weather and climate'

- 3rd part guiding questions: “sandstorm” removed.
- Weather hazard 氣象災害;
 - originated from the academic term “meteorological-related hazard”
 - University subject experts preferred to use a simplified term.

Reminders

Elective module on 'Weather and Climate'

- Drought 乾旱/ 旱災
 - Depends on the context in using Chinese equivalence.
 - Referring to meteorological drought according to the curriculum.

Reminders

Elective module on 'weather and climate'

- Avoid knowledge and concepts that are of university level, such as climatic classification scheme (e.g. Köppen), different types of lapse rates, concepts of latent heat, etc.

The End