Assessment objectives

There are four assessment objectives (AOs) for the SL and HL Diploma Programme geography course. Having followed the course at SL or HL, students will be expected to do the following.

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specified content

– Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the core theme—patterns and change

– Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two optional themes at SL and three optional themes at HL

– At HL only, demons trate k nowle dge and under s t anding of the HL e x tension — global interactions

– In internal assessment, demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a specific geographic research topic

2. Demonstrate application and analysis of knowledge and understanding

– Apply and analyse geographic concepts and theories

– Identify and interpret geographic patterns and processes in unfamiliar information, data and cartographic material

– Demonstrate the extent to which theories and concepts are recognized and understood in particular contexts

3. Demonstrate synthesis and evaluation

– Examine and evaluate geographic concepts, theories and perceptions

– Use geographic concepts and examples to formulate and present an argument

– Evaluate materials using methodology appropriate for geographic fieldwork

– At HL only, demonstrate synthesis and evaluation of the HL extension—global interactions

4. Select, use and apply a variety of appropriate skills and techniques

– Select, use and apply the prescribed geographic skills in appropriate contexts

– Produce well-structured written material, using appropriate terminology

– Select, use and apply techniques and skills appropriate to a geographic research question

Command terms

**Classification of command terms**

Key command terms are used in the syllabus content under the development column, as described in the “Structure of the syllabus” section, to indicate the depth of understanding that is required of students. These are classified below according to the assessment objectives of:

. A0l Knowledge and understanding of specified content

. A02 Application and analysis of knowledge and understanding

. A03 Synthesis and evaluation

. A04 Selection, use and application of a variety of appropriate skills and techniques.

There is a progression in demand from A0l–A03, while A04 terms are specific to particular skills and examination questions. The command terms within each classification are listed in alphabetical order in the following table.

Students must also be familiar with these terms to understand the depth of treatment required in examination questions. A command term used in an examination question will either be from the same classification as specified in the development column or a less demanding command term. For example, if the command term in the development column is “explain”, and is classified as A02, an examination question could contain the command term “explain”. Alternatively, another command term, such as “suggest”, which is also classified as A02 could be used, or one associated with A0l, such as “describe”. The allocation of marks in examination questions also reflects this classification of the assessment objectives.

**Assessment objectives in practice**

Definitions of these command terms are listed in the appendix.

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| **Objective** | **Key command term** | **Depth** |
| **AO1 Knowledge and understanding of specified content** | Define Describe Determine Estimate Identify  0utline  State | These terms require students  to demonstrate knowledge and understanding. |
| **AO2 Application and analysis of knowledge and understanding** | Analyse Classify Distinguish Explain Suggest | These terms require students to use and analyse knowledge and understanding. |
| **AO3 Synthesis and evaluation** | Compare  Compare and contrast  Contrast Discuss Evaluate Examine Justify  To what extent | These terms require students to make a judgment based on evidence and when relevant construct an argument. |
| **AO4 Selection, use and application of a variety of appropriate skills and techniques** | Annotate Construct Draw Label | These terms require students to demonstrate the selection and application of skills. |