BERLIN BRITISH SCHOOL
Course overview
Geography

Grade 6	
Map Skills	The importance and use of maps. The different types of maps. Knowledge and understanding of map skills: scale, height, grid referencing. The interpretation of maps using symbols.
Settlement, towns and cities	Know and understand the key factors affecting the early location and growth of settlements. Study the different functions and types of settlements. Look at and understand 'urban models.' Investigate settlements of the future and the features and characteristics they have.
Weather and Climate	Study what makes up the weather and understand the difference between weather and climate. Understand the importance of forecasting the weather. Know and understand the three types of rainfall. What affects 'global' temperature. Know how weather is measured and using what equipment. Knowledge of high and a low-pressure weather system and their key features. Climate zones around the world, biomes. Different climate zone maps.
Population- Introduction	Population: Reasons for population growth. Looking at BR, DR + LE. Graph work Population distribution and the reasons for densely and sparsely populated areas.
Geographical skills and investigation	Geographical investigation: Weather report Geographical Skills: Interpretation of maps, tables, statistics, images. Development of relevant mathematical skills Climate graphs- showing precipitation and temperature on graph. Research and presentation skills. Using diagrams to illustrate an idea, using annotated diagrams to explain, elaborate or emphasise the visual elements of. Diagram, graph or map.

Grade 7	
Plate Tectonics and Hazards	Examining the structure of the Earth and the mechanism behind earthquakes. Two relevant earthquake case studies are presented. Theory of plate tectonics and plate boundaries Case study, Volcanoes, types.
The 'work of rivers'	Studying the work of water on the planet, including the hydrological cycle. Understanding the features of a river, and its drainage basin from source to mouth. upper, middle and lower course and different erosional and depositional landforms
Climate and Environment	Climate change issues, causes, effect and some mitigation strategies Knowing and understanding some of the major environmental problems facing the planet and possible solutions to these problems. The importance of conservation and management, food and energy supply with relevant case studies
Ecosystems	Antarctic and Tropical Rainforest- Case study addressing location, climate, treats and management
Geographical skills and investigation	Investigation: Environmental Quality Index Fieldwork Skills: Interpretation of maps, tables, statistics, images. Research and presentation skills. Using diagrams to illustrate an idea, concept or process.

Grade 8	
Development	Measuring Development, Uneven Development, Challenges of development and achieving sustainable development.
Economic Change	Globalisation: Understanding what Globalisation is and studying its effects. Transnational corporations, e.g. Nike. Tourism: Dubai/Maldives
Coastal Environment	Knowing and understanding the processes at work and the features formed by coasts, opportunities and challenges living near coasts
Geographical skills	Cartographic skills, types of maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, GIS, image skills, mathematical skills
Geographical investigation	Investigation: Measuring Gradients Skills: Interpretation of maps, tables, statistics, images and graphs Research and presentation skills. Using diagrams to illustrate an idea, concept or process.

Grades 9/10 – IGCSE (2 Year Programme) 2027/28/29 exam – New Syllabus	
Paper 1: Physical Geography (Topic 1-5) **Paper 2: Human Geography (Topic 6-10)** **Paper 4: Alternative to coursework** **Geographical Skills (integrated throughout the course)**	
Grade 9	
Topic 1: Rivers	● Rivers and drainage basins ● River processes ● River landforms ● Hazards, opportunities and management **Case Studies:** ○ Mississippi River, USA ○ Citarum River, Indonesia
Topic 2: Coastal Environments	● Coastal processes ● Coastal landforms ● Opportunities and challenges near coasts ● Coastal management **Case Studies** ● Florida, USA ● Great Barrier Reef, Australia
Topic 3: Changing Ecosystems	● Antarctic ecosystem ● Tropical rainforest ecosystem ● Threats and management ● **Case Study**: Ecuador
Topic 6: Population Change	● Population growth and decline ● Population structures ● Migration ● Impacts of migration

	Case Studies ● Hungary ● Mexico–USA migration
Topic 7: Changing Towns and Cities	● Urbanisation ● Opportunities and challenges ● Urban growth management **Case Study** ● Mumbai, India
Topic 8: The Challenge of Development	● Measuring development ● Uneven development ● Sustainable development **Case Study** ● Botswana

Grade 10	
Topic 4: Tectonic Hazards	● Earth's structure ● Earthquakes ● Volcanoes ● Hazard management **Case Studies** ● Türkiye ● Tonga
Topic 5: Climate Change	● Causes ● Impacts ● Management ● **Case Study:** India
Topic 9: Economic	● Changing economies

Change	• Globalisation • Tourism **Case studies** • Dubai, UAE • Maldives
Topic 10: Resource Provision	• Food production • Food supply and demand • Food security • Energy production • Energy supply and demand • Sustainable energy futures **Case Studies** • Haiti • Qatar
	Geographical Skills (integrated throughout the course): Students will develop geographical skills alongside each topic, including interpreting topographic and thematic maps, using grid references, scale, direction and bearings, analysing graphs, charts, photographs and satellite images, interpreting geographical data, drawing and analysing cross-sections, using GIS and digital maps where appropriate, and applying these skills to investigate, analyse and solve geographical problems in preparation for the IGCSE examinations.
	Paper 4 (Alternative to Coursework) • Fieldwork questions and hypotheses • Sampling techniques • Data collection methods • Questionnaires • Observation studies • Data presentation • Graph selection • Data analysis • Drawing conclusions • Evaluation

	• Full Alternative to Coursework papers

Grade 11/12 – IB Diploma (2 Year programme)	
CORE THEMES: Changing Population	• **Population and economic development patterns**: How population varies between places - Physical Human factors affecting population distribution at the global scale, global patterns and classification of economic development. • **Changing populations and places**: Process of population change and their effect on people and places. • **Challenges and opportunities:** Population possibilities and power over the decision-making process.
Global Climate	• **Causes of global climate change:** How the natural and human processes affect the global energy balance. • **Consequences of global climate change:** The effects of global climate change on places, societies and environmental systems. • **Responding to global change:** Possibilities for responding to climate change and power over the decision-making process.
Global resources consumption and security	• **Global trends in consumption:** How global development processes affect resource availability and consumption. • **Impacts of changing trends in resource consumption:** How pressure on resources affect the future security of places. • **Resource Stewardship:** Possibilities for managing resources sustainably and power over the decision-making process.
Optional Themes: Urban Environments	• **The variety of urban environments:** The characteristics and distribution of urban places, populations and economic activities. • **Changing urban systems:** How economic and demographic processes bring change over time to urban systems. • **Urban environmental and social stresses:** The varying power of different stakeholders in relation to the experience of and management of urban stresses. • **Building sustainable urban systems for the future:** Future possibilities for the sustainable management of urban systems

Extreme Environments	❖ **The characteristics of extreme environment:** Why some places are considered to be extreme environments ❖ **Physical processes and landscapes:** How physical processes create unique landscapes in extreme environments ❖ **Managing extreme environment:** The varying power of different stakeholders to extract economic value from extreme environments ❖ **Extreme environment features:** Future possibilities for managing extreme environments and communities
Food & Health (HL Only)	● **Measuring Food and Health:** Ways of measuring disparities in food and health between places. ● **Food systems and spread of diseases:** How physical and human processes lead to changes in food production and consumption and incidence and spread of disease. ● **Stakeholders in Food and Health:** The power of different stakeholders in relation to influence over diets and health. ● **Future Health and food security and sustainability:** Future possibilities for sustainable agriculture and improved health
Higher Level Themes: Power, Place and Networks	● **Global interactions and Global power:** How global power influence varies spatially. ● **Global networks and flows:** How different places become interconnected by global interactions. ● **Human and physical influences on global interactions:** How political, technological and physical processes influence global interactions.
Human development and diversity	● **Development opportunities:** Ways of supporting the processes of human development. ● **Changing identities and culture:** How global interactions bring cultural influences and changes to places. ● **Local responses to global interactions:** The varying power of local places and actors to resist or accept change.
Global risks and resilience	● **Geopolitical and economic risks:** How technological and globalizing processes create new geopolitical and economic risks for individuals and societies. ● **Environmental risks:** How global interactions create environmental risks for particular places and people.

	• **Local and global resilience:** New and emerging possibilities for managing global risks.
KEY SKILLS:	*Essay writing *Using statistical tests *Application, interpretation and analysis of key geographical knowledge and data, including maps, graphs, tables, images. * Development of relevant mathematical skills (e.g. using bearings, calculations with basic formulas, interpretation of statistics etc.) *Synthesising information, judgement and decision-making. *Extended writing skills *Using diagrams to illustrate an idea, concept or process *Selection and correct use of fieldwork methods/presentation and interpretation of fieldwork data