

Geography IB Course IB Geography Essays and Approach To Learning Guidelines (Paper 1, 2, 3)

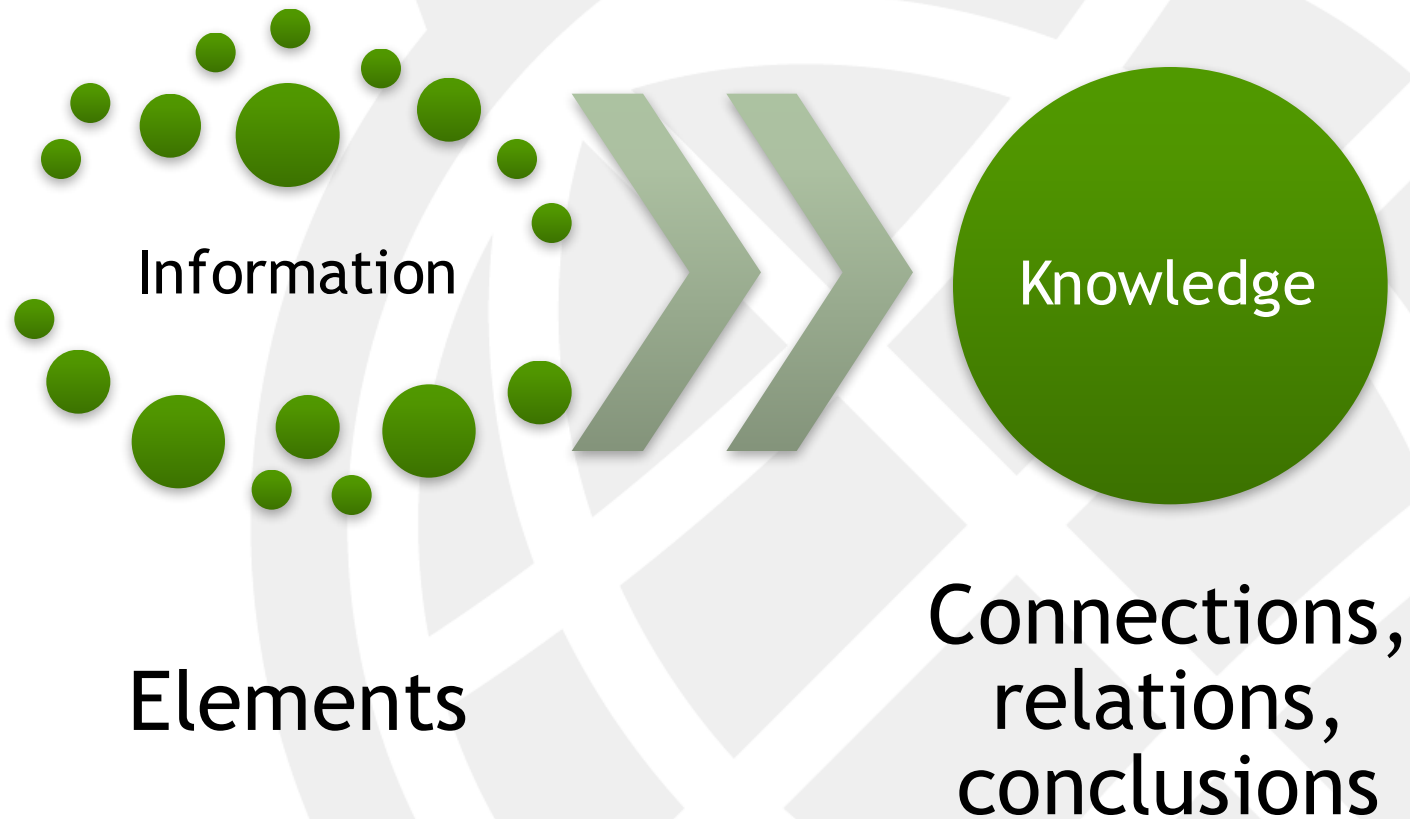
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Geography Essays Guidelines

- **Do not write everything you know on the matter** - chaotic wall of text is not an essay
- **Sentences and words have meaning** - it is important and significant what words you use, do not throw all the concepts that come to your mind into one sentence, paragraph or essay
- **Do not dramatize / enhance** - this is not a piece of poor, internet-like journalism, it is supposed to be an “academic” essay
- **The essay is not a blog-post stating your opinion, therefore:**
 - firstly, define what you mean
 - then refer to IB definitions/concepts
 - thirdly use additional/alternate concepts, be critical
 - finally back up your view with data, examples, case studies and think about trends in time and patterns in space
- **Use the terms carefully** - the social sciences is a sphere of negotiating definitions and meanings: most of the concepts are ambiguous, relative, discussable
- Follow the **guides** and pay a lot of attention to the **structure** - **always conclude!**

Geography Essays Guidelines - HL

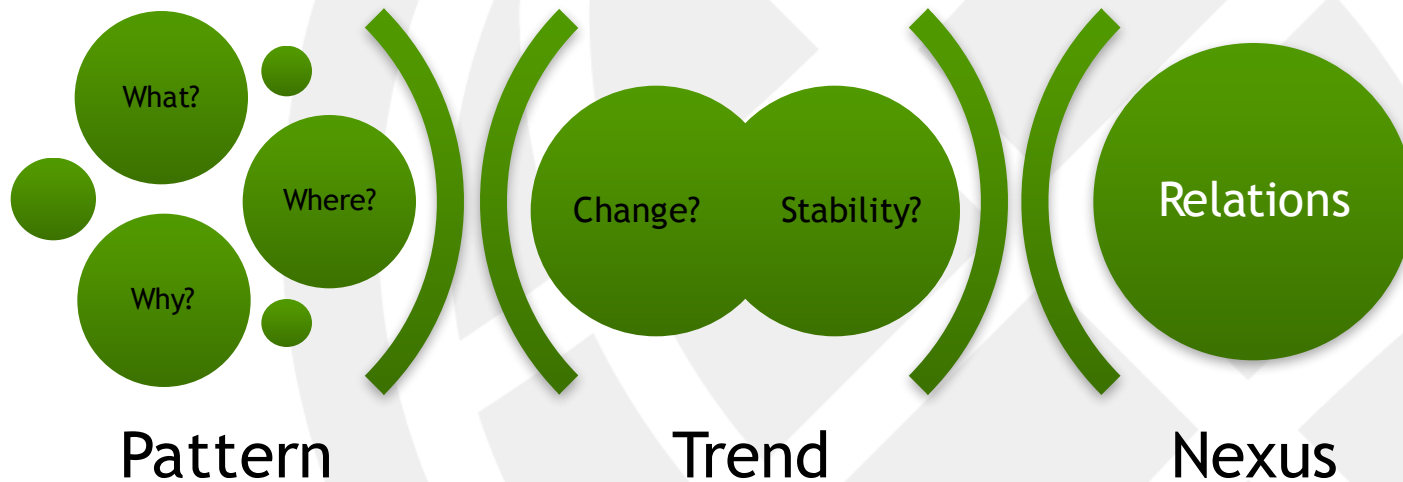
- Being a Geography HL student you are expected to **conclude clearly**, but especially to **link different elements** of the geography curriculum
- In Paper 3 (only for HL) you cannot limit your answer to one chapter or one topic - you should have a holistic approach



Geography Essays Guidelines

Basic concepts in IB geography course are:

- **Pattern** - crucial in geography, notion on the arrangements of elements in space, the distribution of given phenomena within space and spatial differences
- **Trend** - changes of given phenomena over time, notion on dynamics of different phenomena
- **Nexus** - notion of interconnectedness and both positive and negative feedback loops



Geography Approach To Learning Guidelines

These three concepts translate into 4Ps:

- **Places** can be identified at a variety of scales, from local territories or locations to the national or state level. Places can be compared according to their cultural or physical diversity, or disparities in wealth or resource endowment. The characteristics of a place may be real or perceived, and spatial interactions between places can be considered
- **Processes** are human or physical mechanisms of change, such as migration or weathering. They operate on varying timescales
- **Power** is the ability to influence and affect change or equilibrium at different scales. Power is vested in citizens, governments, institutions and other players, and in physical processes in the natural world
- **Possibilities** are the alternative events, futures and outcomes that geographers can model, project or predict with varying degrees of certainty. Key contemporary questions include the degree to which human and environmental systems are sustainable and resilient, and can adapt or change
- and the organizing concepts of **scale** and **spatial interactions**. Scale has both temporal and spatial perspectives

Geography Approach To Learning Guidelines

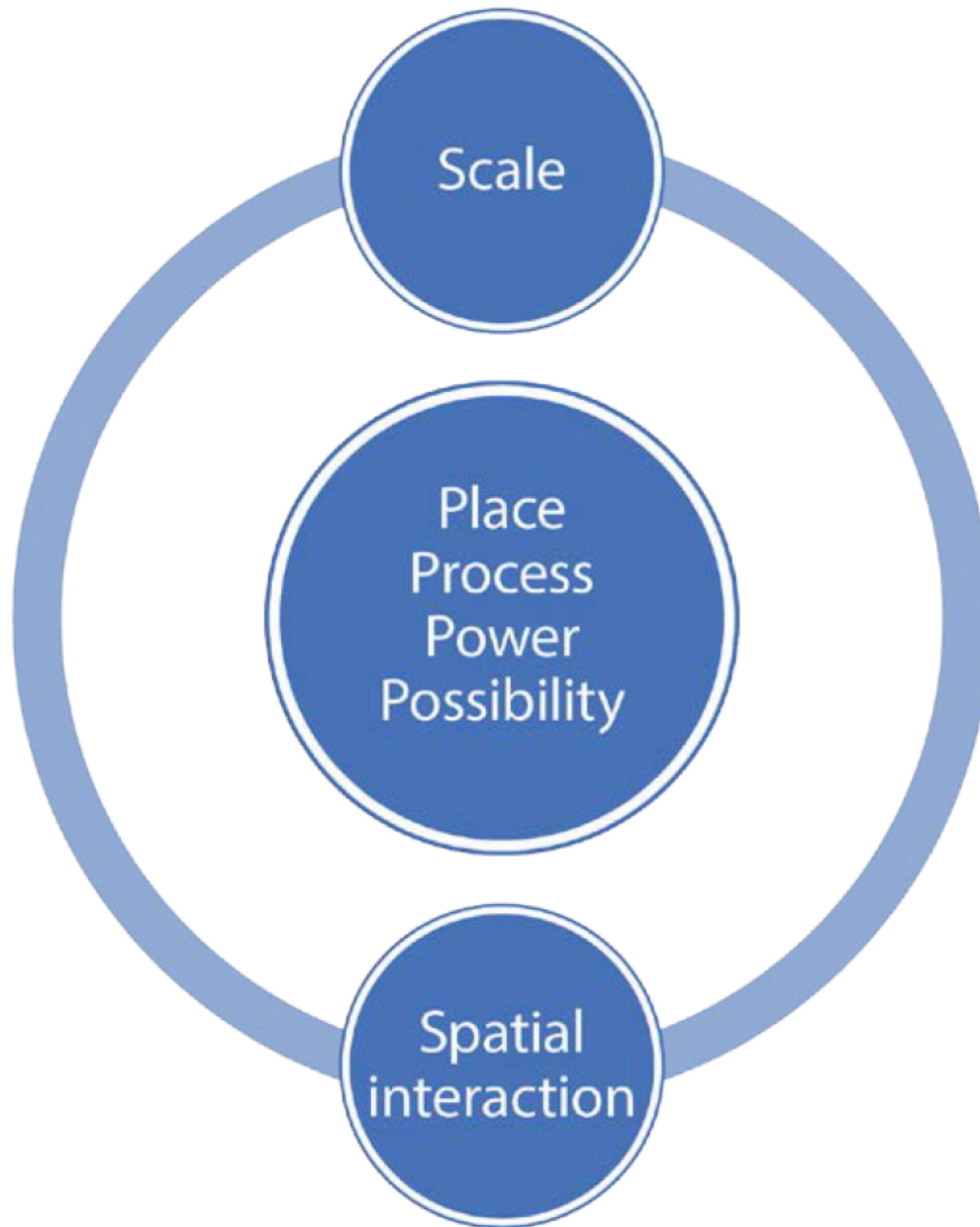


Figure 3

Geography concepts

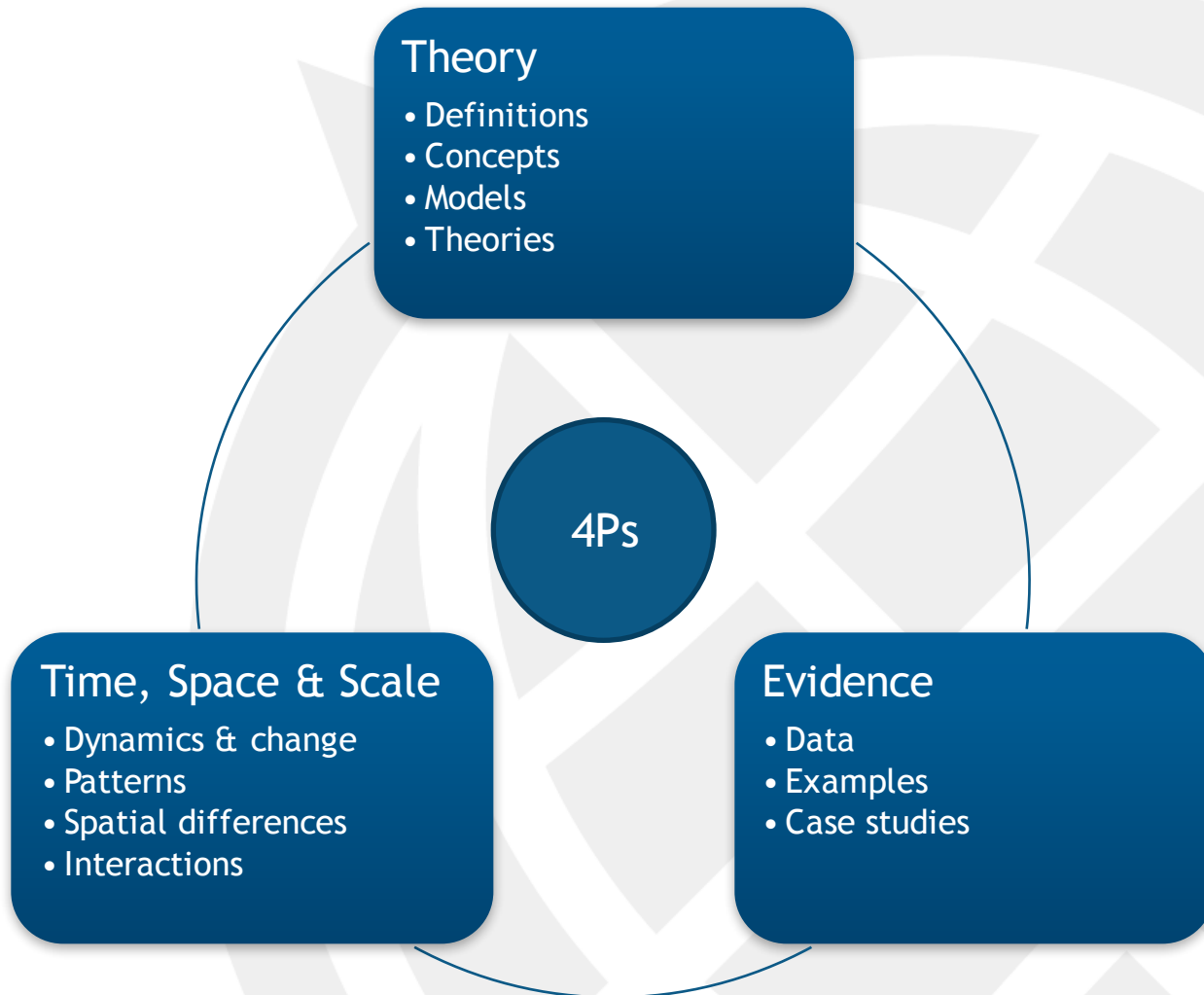
Geography Essays Guidelines


Be aware of different commands:

- **Define (AO1)** - Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity
- **Describe (AO1)** - Give a detailed account
- **Analyze (AO2)** - Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure
- **Explain (AO2)** - Give a detailed account including reasons or causes
- **Evaluate (AO3)** - Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and weaknesses/limitations
- **Discuss (AO3)** - Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses; opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence
- **Related important link:** <http://www.geoib.com/command-terms.html>

Geography Essays Guidelines

- In writing essays you need to follow this guide and “triangulate”:





Thank you for your attention
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