

Anglo European Sixth Form

Summer Transition Work

Subject: Geography

Exam Board: IB

Qualification: HIGHER IB Geography

Compulsory tasks:

These tasks must be completed by students before their first lesson in September. These tasks will be reviewed by the class teacher.

Learning Activities

In addition to your Standard IB the Higher IB studies a unit on “Global Interactions”. This task is specifically on the first unit and explores Superpower Geographies and Global Groupings.

The goal of this task is to analyse and map the geographical influence of superpowers and global groupings (e.g., G7, BRICS, NATO) using data analysis tools and visualizations. You will explore the spatial distribution of political, economic, and military power in relation to these groupings, focusing on key superpowers like the USA or China.

1. Research and Collect Data

Start by gathering data for the key superpowers and their global groupings. You can download datasets from open data portals or manually compile the data.

Key Data Points to Collect:

- **Countries in Global Groupings** (e.g., G7, BRICS, NATO)
- **Superpowers:** The US, China, Russia (and other key countries of influence)
- **Military Alliances:** NATO countries, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
- **Economic Groupings:** G7, G20, BRICS
- **GDP and Population Data:** For countries in these groupings (can be found on the World Bank or UN data portals)
- **Trade Routes:** Major global trade routes like the Belt and Road Initiative, Trans-Pacific, and Transatlantic Trade Routes.

You can use resources like:

- [World Bank Open Data](#)
- [United Nations Data](#)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)

2. Organize Data in Excel or Google Sheets

Now, compile your data into an easily readable format. Create separate tabs for each type of data (e.g., one for **Superpowers**, one for **GDP**, one for **Military Alliances**).

Example Spreadsheet Structure:

Country	Group	GDP (USD billion)	Population (millions)	Military Alliance
United States	G7, NATO	21,000	331	NATO
China	BRICS	14,000	1393	None
Russia	BRICS	1,700	145	SCO, BRICS
India	BRICS	2,900	1380	None
Germany	G7	3,800	83	NATO

- **Note:** Populate this table with as many countries as needed.
- **Group** column will denote the economic or political grouping (G7, BRICS, etc.).
- **GDP** and **Population** are for contextualizing economic and demographic influence.

3. Analyse the Data

Now, analyse the data you've gathered to identify patterns or correlations that relate to the geography of superpowers and global groupings.

Steps:

1. **Sort Data:** Sort countries by GDP, population, or military presence to see the most influential nations.
 - **In Excel or Google Sheets**, you can use **Sort** or **Filter** functions to order countries by GDP or population.
2. **Identify Key Players:** Focus on the countries that are consistently in multiple groupings or are superpowers (e.g., US, China, Russia). Highlight their key features, like GDP, population size, and military alliances.
3. **Calculate Correlations:** You can use basic functions like **SUM**, **AVERAGE**, and **CORREL** to understand the relationship between GDP, population size, and military alliances.

4. Create Visualizations

Bar Graph for GDP and Population:

Create a **bar chart** comparing the GDP and population of the key superpowers and their influence.

- Use Excel or Google Sheets to create a **bar graph**.
- X-axis: **Countries** (e.g., US, China, Russia).
- Y-axis: **GDP** or **Population**.
- Color code the bars based on **Global Grouping** (e.g., Blue for G7, Green for BRICS).

Pie Chart for Global Groupings:

Create a **pie chart** that shows the percentage of countries in each global grouping (G7, BRICS, NATO, etc.).

- Group countries by the organizations they belong to.
- Calculate the percentage of countries in each group.
- Use this data to create a pie chart to visualize the distribution of these groupings.

Advisory tasks:

These tasks will support you to excel in the course. They may not be explicitly reviewed by your teachers, but they will allow students to demonstrate a genuine passion for going “above and beyond” in this subject.

Optional Extension Activities:

- **Compare historical changes** in superpower influence (e.g., post-Cold War vs. today).
- **Analyse shifting global alliances** (e.g., the growing influence of China in global politics).

MOOC

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/subject-information>

Complete one (or more) of the free courses available online through Open Learn. Check out the geography-related courses on offer in Nature & Environment, Science, Maths & Technology or Society, Politics & Law. Pick something that interests you based on what you will be studying next academic year and have a go!

- Introductory courses should consolidate your knowledge and understanding from GCSE and provide a stepping stone to studying in the Sixth Form.

- Intermediate course broadly replicate the level of detail required to achieve a top grade at A Level and in the IB.

- Advanced courses include material that is equivalent to undergraduate study at university.

News & Magazines

Along with the books recommended above, reading about the geographical topics that you are interested in the news will keep you up-to-date with what is happening right now.

The BBC

<https://www.bbc.com/news>

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

The Guardian publishes excellent articles on a range of geographical topics with the depth of analysis and critical thought that is expected from you as an A Level or IB student.

The Economist

<https://www.economist.com/>

A weekly newspaper that is about far more than economics, business and finance. If you are interested in geopolitics, this is a must-read every week. In addition, it covers a broad range of geographical topics including in-depth and analytical special reports on issues such as global water security, globalisation, climate change and migration. You need a subscription to read the Economist but there is likely to be a special offer running e.g. 12 issues for £12 to get you started.

Geographical Magazine

<http://geographical.co.uk/>

The magazine of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) is published monthly and contains illustrated articles on people, places, adventure, travel and environmental issues as well as a summary of the latest academic research in geography.

Podcasts

The following podcasts are recommended and will be used throughout the IB courses to support independent learning. Check them out on your preferred podcast platform – the BBC podcasts are available online and through the BBC Sounds app.

Ask the geographer

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/>

An excellent podcast produced by the Royal Geographical Society. The RGS interview a range of geographers about their current research to help keep your case studies up-to-date.

GA Geopod

<https://www.geography.org.uk/GeogPod-The-GAs-Podcast>

A new podcast from the Geographical Association (GA) that includes interviews about teaching and learning as well as the latest geographical research.

BBC The Inquiry

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029399x/episodes/downloads>

A brilliant podcast from the BBC World Service that focuses on one question, ideas from four expert witnesses and an answer. There are a host of geographical questions

in the archive. IB students, check out the podcasts about water scarcity in Cape Town and Chennai.

BBC Thinking Allowed

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05/episodes/downloads>

Another excellent podcast from the BBC World Service. Search for the disasters episode - it is a must-listen for IB students for their hazards unit.

TED Talks

<https://www.ted.com/talks>

TED talks are short, powerful talks that focus on “ideas worth spreading” There is a wealth of geographical talks on the website. As a starting point, check out anything by Hans Rosling as well as Parag Khanna’s talk on how megacities are changing the map of the world.