



Field 049: Social Studies—Geographical Perspectives Assessment Blueprint

Domain I—Geographic Concepts and Research Skills

0001 Geographic Terms and Concepts (Standard 1)

0002 Geographic Tools, Sources, and Research Skills (Standard 2)

Domain II—Geographic Systems

0003 Physical Systems (Standard 3)

0004 Human Systems (Standard 4)

Domain III—Places, Regions, and Human-Environment Interactions

0005 Places and Regions (Standard 5)

0006 Human-Environment Interactions (Standard 6)

Domain IV—Geographic Instruction, Assessment, and Application

0007 Uses of Geography (Standard 7)

0008 Geographic Instruction and Assessment (Standard 8)

Domain	Objectives	Standards	Approximate Test Weight
I. Geographic Concepts and Research Skills	0001–0002	1–2	25%
II. Geographic Systems	0003–0004	3–4	25%
III. Places, Regions, and Human-Environment Interactions	0005–0006	5–6	25%
IV. Geographic Instruction, Assessment, and Application	0007–0008	7–8	25%

Standard 1: Geographic Terms and Concepts

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of geographic terms, concepts, themes, and elements, including:

- 1.1** spatial interaction, demographic cycle, cultural diffusion, patterns, relationships, and other basic geographic terms and concepts
- 1.2** the six essential elements of geography (i.e., the world in spatial terms, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, human-environment interactions, and the uses of geography) as reflective of the five fundamental themes of geography (i.e., location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region)
- 1.3** major developments in the history of geography, influential geographers, and the changing ways in which geographers have viewed the world
- 1.4** subdivisions of geography and the allied fields to which they relate such as urban planning, epidemiology, and others

Standard 2: Geographic Tools, Sources, and Research Skills

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of geographic tools and sources, conducting geographic investigations, and analyzing and interpreting geographic information, including:

- 2.1** research methods and procedures used by geographers
- 2.2** sources of geographic information, characteristics and uses of geographic information systems, and geographic tools and technologies
- 2.3** basic cartographic concepts, how to interpret geographic information in maps, charts, diagrams, and other graphic formats, and how to select appropriate graphic formats to convey geographic information
- 2.4** how to identify purpose, point of view, and central questions in geographic documents and statements and how to analyze assumptions, logical validity, factual accuracy, evidence, and conclusions in geographic arguments and interpretations
- 2.5** how to communicate geographic information, analysis, and interpretation in effective written forms

Standard 3: Physical Systems

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of major physical features of the world and the natural processes that shape Earth's surface and create patterns and relationships, including:

- 3.1** the shape, location, and relationship of major landmasses, significant landforms, and important bodies of water around the world
- 3.2** the characteristics of various types of physical features (e.g., plains, plateaus, peninsulas, deltas, gulfs, bays, capes, channels)
- 3.3** volcanism, glaciation, tectonic movement, erosion, and other physical processes that create and modify Earth's physical features
- 3.4** the Earth-sun relationship and its effect on Earth's physical processes and patterns
- 3.5** characteristics and operation of the four basic components of Earth's physical systems: the atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere
- 3.6** principal elements of climate and the processes that influence weather
- 3.7** distribution and characteristics of major global and regional ecosystems
- 3.8** location, distribution, and uses of natural resources; factors influencing demand for natural resources; and the effects of natural resources on human populations
- 3.9** the effects of physical factors such as climate, topography, and location on population distribution, patterns of work, industry, agriculture, and transportation

Standard 4: Human Systems

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the human characteristics of the world and the patterns and relationships they create, including:

- 4.1** the concept and components of culture, and the processes by which cultural attitudes, beliefs, practices, and values are transmitted from one generation to the next
- 4.2** characteristics of major cultural groups associated with particular world regions
- 4.3** purposes, organization, and functions of diverse human settlements; processes influencing the establishment of human settlements; and the ways in which settlements change over time
- 4.4** characteristics and significance of major structures that comprise the built environment
- 4.5** factors influencing the location of cities and the causes and consequences of urbanization
- 4.6** human migrations and the causes and effects of population movement within and between world regions
- 4.7** causes and consequences of population increase and decline, world population trends, and the regional distribution of human populations
- 4.8** the principal beliefs, writings, sacred artifacts, and historical development of major world religions
- 4.9** types of economic activity and the ways in which human societies organize, promote, and control economic activity
- 4.10** major forms of government, factors affecting the location of national boundaries, and political and cultural divisions within major world regions

Standard 5: Places and Regions

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the physical and human characteristics of, and relationships between, world regions and places, including:

- 5.1** physical and human characteristics of different world regions
- 5.2** ways in which people create places that reflect human needs, historical experience, cultural attitudes, and current values and ideals
- 5.3** economic, cultural, and political connections within and between major world regions and places
- 5.4** patterns of conflict and cooperation within and between major world regions and places

Standard 6: Human-Environment Interactions

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the interactions and relationships between humans and the environment, including:

- 6.1** fundamental knowledge of ecosystems
- 6.2** how human actions modify the physical environment
- 6.3** how the physical environment affects humans
- 6.4** basic forms of land use and development and the economic, environmental, cultural, and political consequences of land use and development decisions
- 6.5** ways in which knowledge of local and regional ecosystems aids human decision making about environmental issues
- 6.6** causes, social consequences, and economic effects of historical and contemporary environmental issues
- 6.7** the role of technological innovation and economic development in the creation and solution of environmental problems, such as conservation initiatives or programs for resource use and management
- 6.8** human perceptions of and responses to natural hazards and catastrophes and the impact they have on human societies

Standard 7: Uses of Geography

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of ways in which geographic knowledge can be applied to the study of historical and contemporary developments and issues to solve problems and plan for the future, including:

- 7.1** physical and human geographic factors associated with the origin and development of culture hearths and the establishment and spread of major world religions in different regions of the world
- 7.2** geographic factors influencing the origins, major events, and consequences of global exploration, territorial expansion, conquest, and colonization
- 7.3** the effect of geographic factors on the creation, diffusion, and effects of new ideas and practices in agriculture, science, culture, politics, industry, and technology
- 7.4** the influence of geography on contemporary issues associated with population growth, natural resources, and patterns of global interaction, cooperation, and conflict
- 7.5** ways in which geographic knowledge can be used to plan for the future

Standard 8: Geographic Instruction and Assessment

Geography teachers have a broad and comprehensive understanding of content-specific instruction and assessment in geography, including:

- 8.1** the Indiana Academic Standards and Core Standards for Social Studies
- 8.2** the NCSS National Standards for Social Studies Teachers, the NCGE National Geography Standards, and the ISTE Technology Standards
- 8.3** instructional strategies for promoting student understanding of concepts and skills related to geography
- 8.4** strategies and skills for planning and designing geographic instruction, including the use of techniques and approaches that meet the needs of diverse learners
- 8.5** instructional strategies for promoting student learning and fostering the development of critical-thinking, problem-solving, and performance skills in the social studies
- 8.6** communication methods that promote student learning and foster active inquiry, interaction, and collaboration in the social studies classroom
- 8.7** strategies and skills for selecting, adapting, and using technological resources to enhance teaching and learning about geography
- 8.8** strategies and skills for effectively assessing student understanding and mastery of essential geographic concepts and skills