VCE Geography

Year 11
Unit 1: Natural environments
This unit investigates the geographic characteristics of natural environments and landforms and the natural processes that shape and change the Earth’s surface. It investigates how the interactions between natural processes and human activities can also change natural environments.

The world’s physical environments are composed of four natural systems: atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, which are fundamental to the operation of all interactions within the environment. There are few places in the world where only natural processes operate.

Human activities interact with natural processes, each affecting the other. The nature of change caused by the interaction between natural processes and human activities varies at a range of scales, over space and over time.

Unit 2: Human environments
This unit investigates the characteristics of rural and urban environments which are developed by human activities and their interactions with natural environments. Rural and urban environments vary significantly from place to place and across a variety of scales. Rural and urban environments are significant because they are the locations where people live. Their presence creates settlements, which vary in size and complexity from individual farm houses to small villages, regional towns, large metropolitan cities and mega cities.

Students must investigate at least two human environments in each area of study. The environments selected for investigation may be the same in each area of study, but one of the environments must be a rural environment and one an urban environment; one must be from Australia and one must be from another country. Each environment selected for investigation must focus on human geography at two different scales.

Year 12
Unit 3: Regional resources
This unit investigates the characteristics of resources and the concept of region. A resource is anything which occurs naturally or is created by humans provided that people use it to satisfy a need or want. Resources found within regions mean different things to different people over place and time. A study of resources is about the processes and relationships operating in the past, in the present, and those which will operate in the future. Regions are areas of various scales that have characteristics and features that distinguish them from other areas according to the elements used to define them. The use and management of resources is dynamic and changes spatially over time in response to the interactions between human activities, natural processes and the legislative processes that humans put into place. Social, historical, environmental, economic and political factors can be used to predict and plan for future policies and strategies to ensure the sustainability of the available resources.

Students must investigate a regional resource and a local resource in Australia. The regional resource will be water in the Murray-Darling Basin region. Students will use fieldwork to investigate a local resource.
Unit 4: Global perspectives
This unit investigates the geographic characteristics of global phenomena and responses to them. Global phenomena are major natural or human events, processes or activities. Such phenomena are distributed globally and possess the capacity to affect the globe or significant parts of the globe and require more than a local or national response. Students must investigate two global phenomena in each area of study, one of which must be human population.

Assessment
The award of satisfactory completion for a unit is based on a decision that the student has demonstrated achievement of the set of outcomes specified for the unit. This decision will be based on the teacher’s assessment of the student’s performance on assessment tasks designated for the unit.