



Highfields State  
Secondary College

# Semester 1 Course Overview

**Faculty:** Humanities  
**Subject:** Studies of Society & Environment (SOSE)  
**Year level:** 10

## Course Outline

In Year 10 SOSE, units are divided into two key content areas: *Geography and Civics & Citizenship*. Terms 1-3 focus on Geography, whilst Term 4 has a Civics and Citizenship unit.

### Geography:

There are two units of study in the Year 10 curriculum for Geography: 'Environmental change and management' and 'Geographies of human wellbeing'.

'Geographies of human wellbeing' focuses on investigating global, national and local differences in human wellbeing between places. This unit examines the different concepts and measures of human wellbeing, and the causes of global differences in these measures between countries. Students explore spatial differences in wellbeing within and between countries, and evaluate the differences from a variety of perspectives. They explore programs designed to reduce the gap between differences in wellbeing. These distinctive aspects of human wellbeing are investigated using studies drawn from Australia, India and across the world as appropriate

'Environmental change and management' focuses on investigating environmental geography through an in-depth study of a specific environment. The unit begins with an overview of the environmental functions that support all life, the major challenges to their sustainability, and the environmental world views – including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples – that influence how people perceive and respond to these challenges. Students investigate a specific type of environment and environmental change in Australia and one other country. They apply human-environment systems thinking to understand the causes and consequences of the change and geographical concepts and methods to evaluate and select strategies to manage the change.

## Semester 1

### Geography Unit: Geographies of Human Wellbeing

This unit continues to develop the students' knowledge of human geography and the social consequences of globalisation and development by investigating the nature of human wellbeing across different countries. Students will gain an improved understanding of the factors that contribute to and jeopardise human wellbeing and the methods that are adopted by different governments in order to address rates of wellbeing.

#### Assessment:

**Data Response Exam** – This is a two-lesson supervised exam assessment, allowing students to demonstrate their ability to:

- represent multivariable data in a range of appropriate graphic forms
- evaluate data and propose explanations for significant patterns

draw reasoned conclusions, taking into account alternative points of view

### Geography Unit: Environmental Change and Management

This unit continues to develop the students' knowledge about the characteristics of different biomes around the world through exploring the concept of sustainability and environmental functions of particular environments (case studies). Students will study how peoples' culture and varying perceptions of place influence how people perceive and respond to changes.

#### Assessment: Response to Stimulus Exam (Extended Response)

Students will write an extended response (in essay form) evaluating the water supply options using stimulus materials provided.