

GEOGRAPHY YEARS 7–10

GUIDE TO THE NEW NSW SYLLABUS

The Australian curriculum is being implemented in New South Wales through new syllabuses developed by BOSTES. The new *Geography K–10 Syllabus* will replace the *HSIE K–6 Syllabus* and the *Geography Years 7–10 Syllabus*.

The new Geography syllabus includes agreed Australian curriculum content and content that clarifies learning for Geography from Kindergarten to Year 10. The stage statements for Early Stage 1 to Stage 5 reflect the intent of the Australian curriculum achievement standards.

The syllabus identifies knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes students are expected to develop at each stage, from Kindergarten to Year 10. Teachers will continue to have the flexibility to make decisions about the sequence of learning, the emphasis to be given to particular areas of content, and any adjustments required based on the needs, interests and abilities of their students.

The Years 7–10 section of the syllabus is designed to be taught within the existing NSW indicative time requirements.

Assessment for learning continues to be an essential component of the *Geography K–10 Syllabus*.

Learning across the curriculum areas include cross-curriculum priorities, general capabilities and other important learning for all students. These 13 areas are incorporated in the content of the syllabus and identified by icons. Teachers may identify additional opportunities for students to learn about these areas.

The structure and many of the features of the current Geography syllabus have been retained, including:

- objectives and outcomes
- content organised in stages from Early Stage 1 to Stage 5.

WHAT IS SIMILAR?

Students will continue to:

- investigate the interactions between environments and communities across local to global scales
- experience an inquiry-based approach to learning
- develop an understanding of being informed, responsible and active citizens
- acquire, process and communicate geographical information using geographical tools
- undertake mandatory fieldwork for both Stage 4 and Stage 5
- have an opportunity to study the Geography Elective course in Stage 4 and/or Stage 5.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

- An emphasis on contemporary geographical concepts such as interconnection and sustainability.
- Flexibility to integrate Australian and global examples in both Stage 4 and Stage 5.

- Opportunity for students to develop deep understanding of a range of geographical issues through inquiry-based learning.
- Continuums of geographical concepts, skills and tools.
- Related Life Skills outcomes are included with the Stage 4 and Stage 5 content.

HOW DOES THE SYLLABUS CATER FOR ALL STUDENTS?

The *Geography K–10 Syllabus* is inclusive of the learning needs of all students. Particular advice about supporting students with special education needs, gifted and talented students, and students learning English as an additional language or dialect is included in the syllabus.

Students with special education needs can access the *Geography K–10 Syllabus* outcomes and content in a range of ways, including:

- under regular course arrangements
- with adjustments to teaching, learning and/or assessment experiences.

For some students with special education needs, particularly those with an intellectual disability, Life Skills outcomes and content can provide a relevant and meaningful program.

WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

2015–2016	Familiarisation and planning
2017	Start teaching Years 7 and 9
2018	Start teaching Years 8 and 10

WHAT SUPPORT IS BOSTES PROVIDING?

Many existing resources will continue to be useful and relevant. Current units can be modified to meet the requirements of the new syllabus, and some existing units will form the bases of effective programs.

For the first time, the Geography syllabus will be available in an interactive online format. The online Geography syllabus can be viewed by stage, outcomes and content, and provides links to support materials.

Support materials are provided to assist teachers in understanding the syllabus and its associated assessment requirements.

Initial materials

Initial materials released with the syllabus include:

- this guide
- schools guides
- parents guide
- advice on assessment
- advice on programming
- Program Builder.

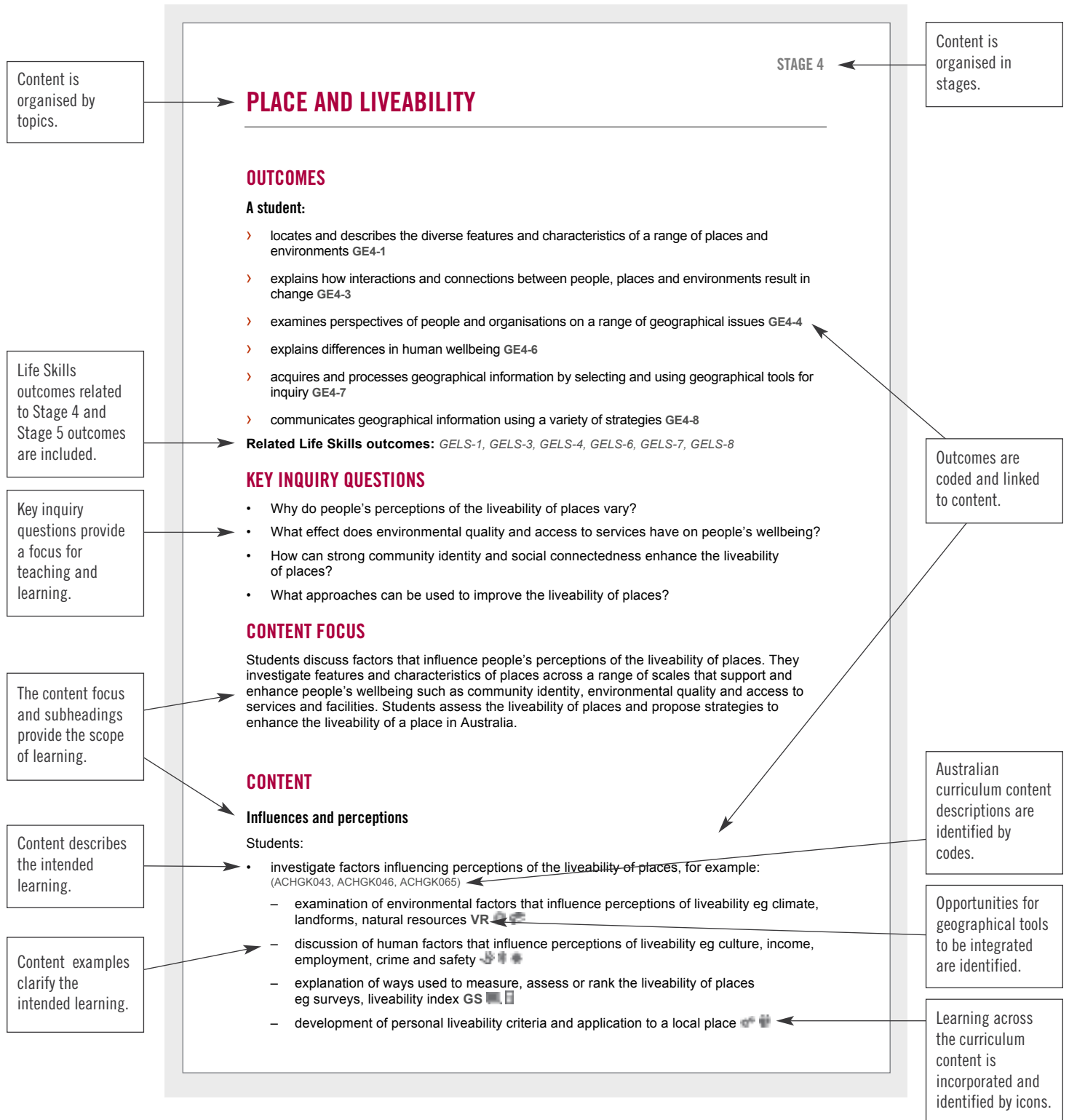
Additional materials

Additional materials available later in 2015 include:

- sample scope and sequences
- sample units
- sample assessment and activities.

The NSW Department of Education, the Catholic Education Commission NSW, the Association of Independent Schools NSW, and other school systems and professional associations will continue to assist and support the ongoing implementation of the syllabus.

Features of the Geography Years 7–10 content pages



Features of the Geography Years 7–10 Life Skills content pages

Geography Life Skills outcomes and content:

- are developed from the Geography K–10 objectives
- are selected based on students' needs, interests and abilities.

Students are not required to complete all content to demonstrate achievement of an outcome.

