Supported preparation: Population and spatial scale

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Geography · HL

Scope and prerequisites

IB geography first assessment 2019. School chooses two of seven options at SL and three at HL: freshwater, oceans/coasts, extreme environments, hazards, leisure/tourism/sport, food/health, urban environments. Introductory lessons do not claim to teach every option.

Mapped preparation outcomes: ib_geography_hl.1.1, ib_geography_hl.1.2. Read the matching native lesson first. Actual approved choices, evidence and final learner work remain separate.

Source vocabulary

population density ; **spatial scale** .

Explanation and worked method

Density=population/area; growth compares population over time. Natural change combines births and deaths; migration adds inflows and outflows. A regional average hides spatial variation. Development measures need comparable dates, boundaries, units and attention to distribution.

Original source / task evidence

Task: region A has 120,000 people over 300 km², with most residents in one town. Compute density and explain why it cannot describe every locality.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
Population and spatial scale

Task: region A has 120,000 people over 300 km^2, with most residents in one town. Compute density and explain why it cannot describe every locality.

Density=120,000 people/300 km^2=400 people/km^2. This is an areal average, not a uniform settlement pattern. Map smaller units and compare access, income or services within them.

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Independent transfer

A region adds uninhabited land to its boundary and its density falls. Does this demonstrate out-migration?

Attempt independently before reading the model.

Checked original model

Density can fall because area increases while population is unchanged. Compare fixed-boundary populations and migration records before inferring movement. The denominator change, not necessarily demographic change, explains the reported average.

These are authored formative expectations, not official IB descriptors. Accept other justified arguments with evidence and material limits.

Source and task holds

This supplement teaches the method for this part of the course. The full assessment criteria and any texts your school chooses come from your teacher.

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