

Département de Géographie et Urbanisme**Cours en ligne Anglais L2/S3****Unité d'enseignement : UE Transversale UET31****Intitulé de la matière T311: Langue 3****Langue anglaise****Crédits : 1****Content :****Introduction:** Understanding basic geography concepts in English**Speaking :** logical development of ideas, participation in a discussion presentation, dialogue, interview, discussions, interpretation, assessment and generalization on the speciality topics.**Listening:** to authentic/simulated texts (presentations, lectures, academic discussions, conversations) of average complexity on speciality topics. Types of texts: practical guidelines and instructions, descriptions of a process, an interview, a conversation.**Language in use:** forming and expanding professional / speciality vocabulary on the basis of the topics discussed, learning to use grammatical structures typical of scientific texts in all language skills: tenses of the verbs, active/passive voices, order of adjectives, nominal adjectives, adverbs.**Part 1/Introduction:**

Part 1/ Understanding basic geography concepts in English

Introduction

Geography is the study of our Earth and the living things on it. We are surrounded by natural elements that shape our planet and affect our lives. These elements can be found in different environments, such as continents, oceans, mountains, rivers, and forests.

1.1.The meaning of Geography

Geography was derived from the Greek word 'ge' or 'geo' which means 'Earth' and 'graphein' or 'graphos' meaning to 'write' or 'describe' or 'draw'. Geography simply means the writing about or description of the Earth. However, geography extends beyond mere description of the Earth and can therefore be explained as the study of the physical features of the Earth, its atmosphere and the relationship between them and humans. Geography is simply the study of people, their activities, places, and physical things or features of the Earth.

Key Ideas

- Geography is the study of the Earth's physical landscapes, human population, and their complex interactions.
- There are three main branches; Physical, Human and Practical Geography.
- When you study geography, you have a wide range of career opportunities such as cartography, surveying, weather forecasting and hospitality or tourism management among others.

1.2.Branches of Géography

1/ Physical geography

Physical geography focuses on the Earth's natural features, which include its landforms such as mountains, valleys, plains, plateaus, rivers, distribution of flora and fauna, weather and climate.

2/ Human geography

Human geography looks at the role and activities of humans and their relation to the physical environment. It also includes the built environment where human activities are conducted such as schools, markets, roads and railways, airports and farmlands, among others.

3/ Practical geography

Practical geography is a branch of geography that equips learners with practical skills to enhance their understanding and interpretation of human, physical and geographical information. Practical geography can involve interpreting information and data, maps and diagrams related to physical and human features. Examples are statistical method geography,

map work and fieldwork, remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS), among others.

1.3. Career prospects and the importance of studying geography

There are career opportunities associated with the study of geography at higher levels. You can become a professional, based on the skills and expertise you acquire in studying geography.

So, you see why it is important to study geography? You can build a career and earn a living in the following areas if you study geography successfully:

1. **Surveyor:** The one who determines and draws maps of land boundaries, zoning of areas, road routes and building locations.
2. **Teaching:** A geography teacher imparts geographical knowledge to learners like you. So you see, your geography teacher earns a living from the certificate and the skills they acquired by studying geography.
3. **Health/Medical geographer:** Deals with the occurrence and distribution of disease.
4. **Town and country planning:** Helps in the location of human structures in towns and cities.
5. **GIS specialist/analyst:** Helps in the digitisation of maps, locations and spread of activities in areas.
6. **Cartographer:** Making local maps and plans to be used by tourists, architects, and pilots.
7. **Environmental protection specialist:** Helps preserve the Earth as a planet through environmental education and acting as an agent of environmental conservation. *How can you become an agent of environmental conservationists in your community?*
8. **Meteorologist:** Specialises in atmospheric activities such as predicting the weather.

1.4. Sectors of the economy where the skills and expertise of geographers are needed

Areas where geographical skills could be employed include the following:

- Tourism
- Transport
- Education
- Civil service
- Building and construction
- Agriculture
- The Military
- Health

2. Basic geography Concept

Geography → Earth science /spatial science/the physical features of a region as a whole

EXP: World Atlas, one of the largest *geography* publishing resources

Synonyms of geography

- **Orpography** → relief, physical features, surface configuration, geography
- **Landscape** → scenery, countryside, view, panorama, vista
- **Terrain** → ground, land, area, tract, topography
- **Geomorphology** → landform study, physical geography, earth surface processes
- **Scenery** → landscape, view, panorama, surroundings, vista
- **Chorography** → regional description, local geography, area mapping
- **Land** → ground, earth, soil, terrain, territory
- **Landform** → feature, formation, natural shape, geological form

Key words

1/ **Earth** → World / planet / globe

2/**Natural elements** → Natural features / components of nature / physical elements

3/**Environments** → Surroundings / habitats / ecosystems / settings

4/**Continents** → Landmasses / mainlands

5/**Oceans** → Seas / large bodies of water

6/**Mountains** → Peaks / hills / highlands / ranges

7/**Rivers** → Streams / waterways / brooks

8/**Forests** → Woods / jungles / woodlands

9/ **Settings** → surroundings, environment, context, location, backdrop

10/ **Landmasses** → continents, mainlands, large lands, terrestrial areas

11/ **Mainlands** → continent, continental area, large land area, inland region

12/ **Peaks** → summits, tops, crests, pinnacles, mountaintops

13/ **Hills** → mounds, knolls, rises, uplands, elevations

14/ **Highlands** → uplands, mountains, elevated regions, plateaus

15/ **Ranges** → chains, series, groups, lines (of mountains), mountain systems

16/ **Streams** → creeks, brooks, rivulets, flows, watercourses

17/ **Waterways** → channels, rivers, canals, routes, streams

18/ **Brooks** → creeks, streams, rivulets, runs, small rivers

2.1. Classification of Basic geography Concept

In geography we recognize some concepts ; the basic geography concept are :

2.1.1/The Earth

***Continent** : a large landmass (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Antarctica, Australia).

***Ocean** : a very large body of salt water (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern).

***Country** : a nation with borders (e.g. Algeria, Canada).

***Capital city** : the main city where the government is located (e.g., Algiers, London).

2.1.2. Physical geography (Natural Features)

Mountain : a very high hill (e.g., the Alps, Mount Everest).

River : a large stream of water flowing across land (e.g., Nile, Amazon).

Lake : a large body of water surrounded by land (e.g., Lake Victoria).

Desert: a very dry, sandy area (e.g., Sahara Desert).

Island : land surrounded by water (e.g., Madagascar).

Valley : low land between hills or mountains

2.1.3. Human Geography

City / Town / Village – different sizes of places where people live.

Population – the number of people living in a place.

Migration – movement of people from one place to another.

Urban area – city environment.

Rural area – countryside

2.1.4. Geographical Directions

North – South – East – West (the cardinal points).

Example: *Algeria is in North Africa.*

2.1.5. Climate & Weather

Climate – the long-term weather of a region (desert climate, tropical climate).

Weather – daily conditions (sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, hot, cold).

2.2. Definitions about basic geography concepts

Place

Having a 'sense of place' – simply put, what is the place like? Having the locational knowledge to describe where there are – which continent or ocean? Which country? Which local street? This focuses on how we create a sense of place (patterns, behaviour and communication) the specific key human and physical aspects of a place created by a shared human experience (what are 'The Potteries' like?) We also have to consider the sustainability of places.

2/ Space

How natural and man-made places fit together in the jigsaw of the world. We need to look at the significance of location and spatial distribution, and ways people organise and manage the spaces that we live in. Spaces are perceived, structured, organised and managed by people, and can be designed and redesigned to achieve particular purposes. The concept of space considers how the environmental and human characteristics of places are influenced by their location, but also how the effects of location and distance from other places on people are being reduced by improvements in transport and communication technologies.

3/ Scale :

This is about understanding the big picture as well as our experiences in day to day life. The concept of scale is about the way that geographical phenomena and problems can be examined at different spatial levels. If we are studying climate – how do we examine climate on a personal, local and global scale? Scale is influential in how we represent what we see or experience. Scale might be personal or local, regional or global. There is also national and international scales.

4/ Environment

This considers how we use the natural world and how people have the ability to change it. The environment is the product of geological, atmospheric, hydrological, geomorphic, edaphic (soil), biotic and human processes. The environment supports and enriches human and other life by providing raw materials and food, absorbing and recycling wastes, maintaining a safe habitat and being a source of enjoyment and inspiration. It presents both opportunities for, and constraints on, human settlement and economic development. The constraints can be reduced but not eliminated by technology and human organisation. Culture, population density, economy, technology, values and environmental worldviews influence the different ways in which people perceive, adapt to and use similar environments.

5/ Interconnections

No object of geographical study can be viewed in isolation. We need to look at the impact of people, places or processes. We can also examine diversity in this concept: people around the world have different experiences and ways of life but we also have an impact on each other. Interconnections explore how people and organisations in places are interconnected with other places in a variety of ways. These interconnections have significant influences on the characteristics of places and on changes in these characteristics. It also considers environmental and human processes, for example, the water cycle, urbanisation or human-induced environmental change, are sets of cause-and-effect interconnections that can operate between and within places. They can sometimes be organised as systems involving networks of interconnections through flows of matter, energy, information and actions.

6/ Physical and Human Processes

Looking at how events can change the physical and human world. Physical process – an event or sequence of events that occur naturally due to the power of the planet. Human process - things created/affected by people. These processes would not occur without human involvement.

Physical geography

Algeria Relief

The main structural relief features in Algeria were produced by the collision of the African and Eurasian tectonic plates along the Mediterranean margin, giving the country its two geographic regions. The Tell, home to most of the country's population, contains two geologically young massifs, the [Tell Atlas](#) (Atlas Tellien) and the [Saharan Atlas](#) (Atlas Saharien), that run generally parallel from east to west and are separated by the [High Plateau](#) (Hauts Plateaux). The south, consisting of the Sahara, is a solid and ancient platform of basement rock, horizontal and uniform. This region is uninhabited desert with the exception of several oases, but it conceals rich mineral resources, most significantly petroleum and natural gas.

Vocabulary :

- A. **Mountain** : Montagne -**River** : Rivière -**Sea** : Mer- **Ocean** : Océan- **Valley** : Vallée -
Lake : Lac- **Desert** : Désert- **Forest** : Forêt
- B. **Glacier** : Glacier
- C. **Peninsula** : Péninsule
- D. **Canyon** : Canyon

- E. **Plateau** : Plateau
- F. **Island** : Île
- G. **Volcano** : Volcan
- H. **Delta** : Delta
- I. **Cape** : Cap
- J. **Cliff** : Falaise
- K. **Estuary** : Estuaire
- L. **Marsh** : Marais
- M. **Reef** : Récif
- N. **Hill** : Colline
- O. **Archipelago** : Archipel
- P. **Waterfall** : Cascade
- Q. **Plain** : Plaine
- R. **Tundra** : Toundra
- S. **Oasis** : Oasis
- T. **Fjord** : Fjord
- U. **Cavern** : Caverne
- V. **Dune** : Dune
- W. **Summit** : Sommet