

# IGU CGE Geography Education Questionnaire

Country: Taiwan

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1. What is the aim of geography in primary education in your country?

Develop a world view from the hometown, the country to the world.

2. What is the aim of geography in secondary education in your country?

- a. Understand local and global issues from the view of geography
- b. Understand human-environment interaction from the view of sustainable development
- c. Enhance global citizenship for the 21th century

3. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in primary education in your country?

Geography is not a separate subject in primary school level. It is integrated with history and civic education into social studies. Below is the estimation of geography teaching hours out of social studies in every week.

9 years old: 0.5 hour geography out of 2-hour social studies

10 years old: 0.7 hour geography out of 2-hour social studies

11 years old: 1.5-hour geography out of 3-hour social studies

12 years old: 0.5 hour geography out of 3-hour social studies

4. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in secondary education in your country?

Geography is not a separate subject in junior high school level. It is integrated with history and civic education into social studies.

Geography is a separate subject in all senior high schools.

In junior high school level, the teaching time is 45-90 minutes per week.

In senior high school level, the teaching time is 100-150 minutes per week for 1st grade and 2nd grade, and the teaching time is 200 minutes per week for 3rd grade.

5. What are the most important themes in primary geography teaching in your country?

- o landforms
- o climate
- o environmental issues
- o map and space
- o culture
- o economic activity
- o population
- o transportation
- o settlement

6. What are the most important themes in secondary geography teaching in your country?

In junior high school level:

1. General geography is integrated into Taiwan regional geography (there are 12 themes)
2. Regional geography (China and world geography) (there are 22 themes)

In senior high school level:

1. General geography (there are 13 themes among physical geography, human geography and geographic skills)
2. Regional geography (Taiwan, China, and world geography)
3. Applied geography (natural hazards, sustainable development, planning, and globalization, etc.)

7. What is the position of geography in the upper levels of secondary education in your country?

It is compulsory for age 13-15 students in junior high school level.

It is compulsory for age 16-17 students of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in senior high school level.

It is optional for age 18 students. Half of the students take geography in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in senior high school level.

8. What is the biggest problem for geography teaching in your country?

School geography teaching, the same as the other subjects, is very much focusing on preparing students for the entrance exam of high school and university.

Teaching methods in practice are less diverse as expected due to insufficient teaching hours.

9. Mention one or more good practices or very successful projects of geography teaching in your country.

Geography Education Resource Center (of Senior High School), Ministry of Education is founded to develop teaching materials and teaching methods.

Geographical Society and geography departments have co-organized geography competitions for various age groups and provided students additional opportunities to pursue more advanced geography beyond school.

10. Mention research projects in the field of geography teaching in your country.

National Academy for Educational Research is conducting a project of Taiwan Assessment of Student Achievement on Geography for various age groups.

Geography curriculum of junior high-school will be revised in 2013.

11. Mention publications or websites with information in English about geography teaching in your country.

Websites about geography teaching have not been translated into English at the moment.

12. Mention contact addresses for information about geography teaching in your country.

Geography Education Resource Center (of Senior High School), Ministry of Education  
c/o National Taichung Girls' Senior High School

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