

Praxis® Geography (5921) Curriculum Crosswalk

Required Course Numbers															
Test Content Categories															
I. Geography Literacy and Tools (20%)															
A. Knows map types and their uses															
1. Knows the uses of reference or location maps (e.g., road maps, topographic maps, maps in an atlas)															
2. Knows the uses of the main types of thematic maps that show distribution of data															
a. graduated symbol															
b. dot															
c. choropleth															
d. isometric															
e. cartograms															
B. Understands distance, direction, and scale															
1. Can differentiate between absolute distance and relative distance															
2. Has knowledge of cardinal and intermediate directions															
3. Has knowledge of relative directions that are culturally based (e.g., out west, down east, up north)															
4. Understands the various uses of scale in geography															
a. Local, regional, and global scales															

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b. map scales															
C. Understands the use of mental maps as a means of organizing information in a spatial context															
1. Knows that mental maps are developed by individuals to organize activities															
2. Understands that sense of place is often influenced by age, gender, location, and socio-economic status															
D. Understands the difference between absolute location and relative location															
E. Understands the geographic concepts of spatial distribution and density															
F. Understands the differences between formal, functional, and perceptual/vernacular regions															
G. Understands that geographic models are used for organizing spatial information															
1. Recognizes the uses of urban, agricultural, demographic, and industrial models															
H. Can apply geographic concepts to current events (e.g., devolution, environmental stress, globalization)															
1. Understands the impact of devolution and/or supranationalism (e.g., former Soviet Union, former Yugoslavia, European Union)															
2. Comprehends the magnitude and rate of global environmental change															

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3. Has knowledge of the increased economic, social, and cultural interactions as related to the process of globalization															
I. Recognizes how geographic tools can be used for interpreting the past, understanding the present, and planning for the future															
1. Can use various maps to interpret changes in space and place over time															
2. Recognizes the uses of geospatial technologies, such as															
a. Geographic Information System (GIS)															
b. Global Positioning System (GPS)															
3. Can interpret demographic trends by using census data and population pyramids															
J. Can use statistical information to answer geographic questions and infer geographic relationships															
II. Physical Geography (20%)															
A. Recognizes the natural factors that influence weather															
1. Temperature															
2. Humidity															
3. Pressure															
4. Wind															

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B. Recognizes the natural factors that influence climate															
1. Distribution of landmasses and bodies of water															
2. Latitude															
3. Altitude and elevation															
4. Ocean and atmospheric currents															
5. Earth-Sun relationships															
6. Orographic effect (rain shadow)															
C. Can identify the key terms used for describing weather and climate															
1. Temperature															
2. Precipitation															
3. Absolute and relative humidity															
4. Atmospheric lifting															
5. Weather fronts, air masses, and pressure systems															
6. Major climate types															
D. Can interpret climographs															
1. Interprets temperature and precipitation of locations using climographs															

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E. Can identify and locate Earth’s biomes or ecosystems															
1. Forest biomes															
a. tropical															
b. midlatitude															
c. coniferous															
2. Grassland biomes															
a. tropical savanna															
b. midlatitude															
3. Desert biomes															
4. Tundra biomes															
a. arctic															
b. alpine															
5. Marine ecosystems															
F. Can identify Earth’s primary spheres															
1. Biosphere															
2. Lithosphere															
3. Atmosphere															
4. Hydrosphere															

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G. Is familiar with geomorphic processes														
1. Internal geomorphic processes:														
a. plate tectonics														
b. extrusive and intrusive volcanism														
c. folding and faulting														
2. External geomorphic processes:														
a. physical or chemical weathering														
b. erosion														
c. glaciation														
H. Is familiar with the ways tectonic processes affect the physical environment														
1. Volcanoes														
2. Earthquakes														
3. Tsunamis														
I. Understands the differences between various landforms														
1. Can identify and locate major types of landforms on a map														
a. plains														
b. tablelands														

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Test Content Categories														
c. hills														
d. mountains														
e. valleys														
2. Can identify the ecoregions of the United States														
a. midlatitude forests														
b. midlatitude grasslands														
c. Mediterranean forests and scrubs														
d. deserts														
e. mountains														
f. plains														
g. lakes and water systems														
h. tundra														
J. Is familiar with the processes involved in the hydrologic cycle														
1. Evaporation														
2. Condensation														
3. Precipitation														
4. Runoff														

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III. Human Geography (25%)															
A. Understands spatial patterns and variations in characteristics of human populations															
1. Can identify source regions for major language families and has knowledge of patterns of language on a global scale															
2. Can identify source regions for major world religions and has knowledge of patterns and landscapes of religion on a global scale															
3. Can identify cultural landscape patterns in the United States															
4. Understands changing ethnic patterns on varying scales															
5. Can identify changing patterns of economic development on various scales															
B. Knows the basic demographic indicators (e.g., age, gender, mortality rates)															
1. Recognizes and can apply data and measurements used by demographers															
2. Recognizes the stages of the demographic transition model															
3. Recognizes patterns of global population distribution															
C. Knows how to interpret population pyramids on four scales															
1. Global															
2. National															

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3. Regional														
4. Local														
D. Understands patterns of internal and international migration														
1. Can identify major migration patterns within the United States														
2. Has knowledge of historical and current international migration streams, particularly as they apply to the United States														
3. Understands the push-and-pull factors that influence migration														
E. Can identify the characteristics of urban and rural settlements														
1. Can distinguish among urban, suburban, and rural settlement patterns														
2. Can recognize interactions among urban, suburban, and rural settlements														
F. Understands the development and diffusion of agriculture														
1. Recognizes the different forms of agriculture														
a. subsistence														
b. commercial														
c. intensive														
d. extensive														

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2. Can identify hearths of plant and animal domestication															
3. Recognizes historical patterns and current patterns of agricultural diffusion															
G. Recognizes how technology affects agricultural production in diverse environments															
1. Terracing															
2. Irrigation systems															
3. Mechanization															
H. Understands the industrialization of agriculture															
1. Understands the linkages between production, processing, marketing, and consumption of agricultural commodities															
2. Understands how recent technologies and practices can affect agricultural production in a variety of ways (e.g., Green Revolution, genetically modified organisms [GMOs], agribusiness)															
I. Understands concepts of nation, state, nation-state, stateless nations, multistate nations, and multinational states															
J. Can identify and locate examples of nation, state, nation-state, stateless nations, multistate nations, and multinational states as recognized by political geographers															

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K. Recognizes recent conflict and cooperation throughout the world															
1. Recognizes issues that influence conflict and cooperation at various scales throughout the world															
2. Can identify areas of cooperation and conflict															
a. European Union															
b. Arab-Israeli conflict															
c. oil and water rights															
3. Recognizes patterns and effects of industrialization, development, and deindustrialization															
4. Recognizes the relationships between various indicators and the level of a country's development (e.g., social, economic, demographic)															
5. Understands economic interdependence and can interpret patterns of acquisition and distribution of commodities															
6. Understands spatial examples of globalization															
7. Understands patterns of globalization of human activities															
a. cultural diffusion															
b. global transportation networks															
c. universalizing religions															

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8. Recognizes changing global economic patterns (e.g., export processing zones, international division of labor, and outsourcing)															
9. Recognizes the economic and cultural roles of the World Cities in globalization (e.g., New York City, London, and Tokyo)															
IV. Regional Geography (15%)															
A. Understands that regions can be classified according to human or physical characteristics															
1. Economic activity															
2. Linguistic divisions															
3. Religious predominance															
4. Climate															
5. Topography															
6. Biomes															
B. Can identify major regions of the world when indicated on a map or described by physical and/or human characteristics (e.g., Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America)															
C. Knows and can associate the important human and physical characteristics that define the major world regions (e.g., Polynesia, tropical rainforest biomes in South America, the Sahel in Africa)															
D. Can identify major regions of the United States (e.g., Midwest, New England, Southwest)															

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E. Is aware that people’s perceptions of regions differ based on their own culture and experience															
1. Can recognize differing perceptual frameworks for dividing the United States or other areas of the world into regions based on a variety of factors, such as history, religion, and perceived cultural or ethnic traits															
V. Environment and Society (20%)															
A. Understands how human decisions and activities modify the physical environment															
1. Agriculture															
2. Dam construction															
3. Industrialization															
B. Understands the interaction between human and physical systems															
1. Understands the effects of physical systems on human activities, such as how climate and weather affect agriculture															
2. Understands the effects of human activities on physical systems, such as how deforestation affects biodiversity															
C. Recognizes that physical systems can have a limiting but not a determining effect on human activities															
1. Recognizes the effects of climate, seismic processes, and topography on human activities															

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2. Recognizes ways in which humans have sought to mitigate the limiting effects of physical systems and environmental features															
3. Can differentiate between environmental determinism and possibilism															
D. Is familiar with ways humans overcome the limitations of the physical environment															
1. Air-conditioning															
2. Greenhouses															
3. Irrigation															
E. Recognizes how the positive and negative features of the physical environment affect patterns of human settlement															
F. Knows the natural hazards related to settlements near oceans and rivers and recognizes why humans continue to settle in those locations															
G. Understands the effects of tectonic processes on human settlements															
1. Earthquakes															
2. Volcanic eruptions															
3. Tsunamis															
4. Nutrient-rich volcanic soil															

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H. Recognizes the long-term environmental impacts of patterns of industrial concentration															
1. Air pollution															
2. Water contamination															
3. Traffic congestion															
I. Understands the effects of chemicals on the environment															
1. Industrial															
2. Agricultural															
3. Household															
J. Understands the long-term effects of groundwater pollution and depletion															
K. Is familiar with the debates concerning global warming and climate change															
L. Recognizes how climate change affects human settlements and ecosystems															
1. Prolonged drought															
2. Excessive precipitation															
M. Understands the differences between renewable and nonrenewable resources															
N. Knows the factors influencing the search for alternative sources of energy															
1. Production and transport costs															

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2. Desire to reduce pollution															
3. Fluctuating prices for fossil fuels															
O. Recognizes the effects of population and changes of living standards on Earth's resources															