**Guidelines for writing Geography IB essays**

**Interpreting the title**

Look carefully at the essay title and carry out the following:

**• Underline the key words in the title.**

**• Use the L.I.S.T. checklist below to ensure that you give the essay title its broadest interpretation.**

**LOCATION (spatial context):** poor/rich countries; rural/urban areas; tropical/temperate; land/air/sea; marine/terrestrial/atmospheric

**ISSUES (factors):** positive/negative, advantages/disadvantages, costs/benefits, human/physical, environmental, social, cultural, demographic, political, economic, geographic

**SCALE:** global, regional, international, national, sub-national, local

**TIME:** long-term/medium-term/short-term; past/present/future; contemporary/recent/current

***Some of the items in the L.I.S.T. may not be relevant to the essay.***

**Planning**

Planning ensures that:

•ideas can be presented in a logical sequence

•new points can be added to the plan while writing the essay

•responses are well structured and can access the highest markbands

•content is relevant and the focus remains on the essay title

**Structure**

Introduction

•the first sentence should make an impact

•define terms if necessary

•outline the general direction of the essay

**Develop its subject clearly**

•use clear English and write concisely

•limit each sentence to one or two points

•have clear self-contained paragraphs

•have a recognizable connection between paragraphs

**Come to an effective conclusion**

•again try to finish with a sentence / sentences that make an impact

•provide an overview of the response which links back to the title

•do not introduce new ideas at this stage

**Throughout the essay:**

•use a wide vocabulary

•use appropriate geographic terminology

•write legibly in dark blue or black ink

•avoid note form and/or lists (bullet points)