

# Contents

## ■ 1 Geofactors & Ecozones 6

- 1.1 Plate tectonics – Endogenous forces shaping the Earth 8
- 1.2 The changing climate 20
- 1.3 Water – Embedded in a global network of relationships 42  
Regional case study: North Sea 50
- 1.4 Landforms – The effect of exogenous factors 54
- 1.5 Soil – The basis of life for humans, animals and plants 62
- 1.6 Ecozones – Zonal geoecosystems 66
- 1.7 Permanently humid tropics – Tropical rainforest zones 74  
Regional case study: Amazonia (Brazil) 82
- 1.8 Deserts and semi-deserts – Arid regions of the world 84  
Regional case study: Egypt 88
- 1.9 Polar ice and boreal cold zones – Tundra and taiga 90  
Regional case study: Finland 94

## ■ 2 The Economy 96

- 2.1 Economic sectors – Fundamental principles 98
- 2.2 The primary sector – Energy and mining 102
- 2.3 The secondary sector – Products and production in transition 110  
Regional case study: The Ruhr Region (North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany) 114
- 2.4 The tertiary sector – The growing tourism industry 126
- 2.5 Globalization – Concept and origin 130
- 2.6 Driving forces – Global impact 132
- 2.7 The global economy – Structures 136
- 2.8 Globalization – Winners and losers 143

## ■ 3 Life in Towns and Cities 148

- 3.1 Town and country – Living space 150
- 3.2 Urban development and urban structures – Germany 156  
Regional case study: Hamburg 162
- 3.3 Urban districts – Competition for land and usage 166
- 3.4 Urbanization worldwide – Growing megacities 168
- 3.5 The ecology of towns – Quality of life and environmental pollution 174

## ■ 4 One (dis-)united World 176

- 4.1 Differences in development – Indicators and classifications 178
- 4.2 Social conditions – A core question of development 184
- 4.3 Population development – Of global significance 188  
Regional case study: Kenya 194
- 4.4 Integration in the world economy – Historical and present day 196
- 4.5 Development – Goals, models and strategies 202



## ■ 5 Ways into the Future 206

- 5.1 Carrying capacity – Global challenges 208
- 5.2 Migration – Worldwide population movements 214
- 5.3 Sustainability and sustainable development – Perspectives 218

## ■ 6 Selected Regions 222

- 6.1 Germany 224
- 6.2 United States of America 240
- 6.3 China 256

## Appendices 266

- Index 266
- Collage – Model of our environment and human impacts 270
- Sources 272

### Assignments and expected results

- name: list without explanation
- summarize: tell a given or well-known content in your own words
- outline: give a broad outline of the bare bones of something
- describe: report all the details of a matter
- present: outline a matter in detail, make a plan, map or diagram of it
- subdivide: divide into further divisions using given features or those of your own choice
- characterize: point out typical or conspicuous things and illustrate them if necessary
- give reasons: set out the causes of an event or phenomenon
- investigate: carry out a systematic inquiry and elaborate on your findings
- compare: identify similarities and differences between aspects given or of your own choice
- apply to: apply something already known or familiar to another example
- explain: describe the facts and explain the connections between them
- interpret: enable the understanding of phenomena, developments, contexts or causes
- analyze: examine structural features and their contexts methodically
- work out: basically develop a new concept
- examine: measure a hypothesis (educated guess) against new observations or its internal logic
- discuss: examine a matter in detail regarding its positive and negative appearances/ effects; describe and evaluate your results
- comment: state your own, well-founded and evaluated opinion on a matter or assertion
- evaluate: deliver your own judgment on the correctness, probability, reasonableness or applicability of a matter or an assertion, and give sound reasoning for your judgment

*(find out, sketch, reconstruct, ... – Please follow this concrete assignment.)*