

# MICHIGAN TEST FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION (MTTC)

## TEST OBJECTIVES FIELD 008: GEOGRAPHY

<b>Subarea</b>	<b>Approximate Percentage of Questions on Test</b>
Foundations of Geography	28%
World Processes	16%
World Regions and Events	16%
Historical, Civic, and Economic Perspectives	20%
Inquiry, Public Discourse, and Decision Making	20%

### FOUNDATIONS OF GEOGRAPHY

#### **Describe and apply basic geographic themes, terms, and concepts.**

Includes describing and applying the five basic geographic themes (i.e., location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region) and fundamental geographic terms and concepts (e.g., habitat, cultural diffusion, assimilation, spatial distribution).

#### **Identify characteristics of maps and globes and use maps, globes, and other geographic representations to answer geographic questions.**

Includes identifying basic properties of maps and globes (e.g., grid systems, symbols, scales); recognizing the characteristics, uses, and limitations of commonly used maps; locating places on maps using latitude and longitude; understanding the purposes of, and recognizing distortions in, common map projections; and understanding the techniques used to represent geographic phenomena (e.g., cartography, remote sensing, geographic information systems).

#### **Describe and compare major physical features of the earth and explain the natural processes that create and modify them.**

Includes recognizing the shape and location of major landmasses and bodies of water and their significant physical features; explaining the geologic and hydrologic processes that shape the earth's surface; and analyzing the effects of natural processes (e.g., plate tectonics, volcanic activity, erosion, hydrologic cycle).

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 008: GEOGRAPHY**

**Describe and compare the location and characteristics of ecosystems and climate regions and explain the interrelationships among them.**

Includes recognizing the locations, characteristics, and processes of major ecosystems (e.g., food chains, energy flows, biodiversity, plant succession); demonstrating knowledge of global and regional climatic patterns; describing the main elements of climate (e.g., temperature, precipitation, seasonality); and examining ways in which climatic conditions affect plant and animal life and human societies.

**Describe, compare, and explain the characteristics and locations of resources and global and regional patterns of resource distribution.**

Includes distinguishing between renewable and nonrenewable resources; analyzing the geological, biological, and climatic factors that determine the location of water, soil, mineral, fossil fuel, and living resources; and identifying the location of major concentrations of important natural resources.

**WORLD PROCESSES**

**Describe, compare, and explain the characteristics and locations of places, cultures, and settlements.**

Includes describing the human characteristics of places and analyzing factors that affect these characteristics; demonstrating a knowledge of major cultural groups associated with particular regions and recognizing and comparing important cultural variations within and among the peoples of those regions (e.g., in language, religion, traditions, gender roles); identifying diverse types of communities and examining factors that influence their characteristics and locations; and using knowledge of world cultures to analyze interactions of human societies with one another and the environment.

**Demonstrate a knowledge of basic demographic concepts and describe and explain patterns of population growth, distribution, and migration.**

Includes demonstrating a knowledge of basic demographic concepts (e.g., dependency ratio, doubling time, population density); examining economic, environmental, and cultural factors that influence demographic change; analyzing the causes and consequences of population increase and decline in world history; analyzing the causes and consequences of contemporary and historical patterns of human migration within and among world regions; and examining physical and cultural factors that have influenced patterns of rural and urban settlement.

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 008: GEOGRAPHY**

**Identify major types of economic systems and describe and explain the geographic context of various economic activities.**

Includes identifying major characteristics of different types of economic systems (e.g., traditional, command, mixed, market); examining patterns of economic activity and trade; analyzing factors that influence transportation and communication within and among major world regions; recognizing patterns and networks of economic interdependence (e.g., transnational corporations, cartels, regional economic organizations) and analyzing factors that encourage and discourage economic self-sufficiency and interdependence; and evaluating international economic issues from a spatial point of view.

**Identify major types of political systems and describe and explain the geographic context of various political activities.**

Includes recognizing characteristics of major historical and contemporary political systems (e.g., oligarchy, monarchy, democracy, dictatorship); examining physical, cultural, and historical factors that influence the location of political boundaries; explaining the geographic context for political developments (e.g., Balkanization, regionalism, ethnic separatism) in different world regions; identifying the effects of geographic context on foreign and domestic policy; recognizing the structure and goals of major international organizations (e.g., United Nations, NATO); and analyzing ways in which the forces of cooperation and conflict influence the development and control of political entities.

**WORLD REGIONS AND EVENTS**

**Describe and explain the relationship between humans and the environment.**

Includes examining interrelationships between the physical environment and the development of specific human societies; analyzing ways in which people adapt to, affect, and are affected by their environment; assessing the effect of technological innovations on the physical environment; and recognizing sources of pollution and the human and environmental effects of pollution.

**Describe major human and physical characteristics of Michigan and explain the causes and consequences of cultural patterns and land use.**

Includes identifying major state landforms and bodies of water and recognizing principal climate and vegetation patterns; demonstrating a knowledge of the political, economic, social, ethnic, and religious characteristics that have shaped the cultural development of Michigan; examining economic, technological, political, and historical factors that have shaped patterns of human settlement, population growth, land use, and economic development within the state; and examining human-environment interactions within Michigan.

## **TEST OBJECTIVES FIELD 008: GEOGRAPHY**

### **Describe major human and physical characteristics of the United States and explain the causes and consequences of cultural patterns and land use.**

Includes identifying major landforms and bodies of water and recognizing principal climate and vegetation patterns in the regions of the United States; demonstrating a knowledge of the political, economic, social, ethnic, and religious characteristics that have shaped the cultural development of our country; examining economic, technological, political, and historical factors that have shaped patterns of human settlement, population growth, land use, and economic development within the United States; and examining human-environment interactions within our country.

### **Describe major human and physical characteristics of world regions and explain the causes and consequences of cultural patterns and land use.**

Includes locating major human and physical characteristics; describing major cultural characteristics (e.g., language, religion, population, economic development, land use); describing historical, natural, and/or cultural characteristics that define the area as a region; and comparing and contrasting the human and physical characteristics of major world regions.

### **Describe and explain the causes, consequences, and geographic contexts of major global issues and events.**

Includes recognizing geographic aspects of contemporary and historical events that have occurred in various regions of the world; analyzing how geography and world processes influence major world events; analyzing the potential global consequences of social changes or scientific and technological developments; and identifying the origins and importance of global issues involving cultural stability and change, refugee populations, economic development and international trade, resource use, environmental impact, and conflict and cooperation.

## **HISTORICAL, CIVIC, AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES**

### **Demonstrate an understanding of geographic aspects of major events in different eras of U.S. history.**

Includes describing defining characteristics of major eras of U.S. history, including The Meeting of Three Worlds: Africa, Europe, and the Americas (prehistory to 1620), Colonization and Settlement (1585–1763), Revolution and the New Nation (1754–1815), Expansion and Reform (1801–1861), Civil War and Reconstruction (1850–1877), The Development of the Industrial United States (1870–1900), The Emergence of Modern America (1890–1930), The Great Depression and World War II (1929–1945), Postwar United States (1945–1970), and Contemporary United States (1968–present); and examining relationships, including cause and effect, among important events.

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 008: GEOGRAPHY**

**Describe the structure and functions of American government, explain the meaning and origin, including the core democratic values, of foundational documents of the United States (e.g., Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution), and recognize the rights and responsibilities of citizens.**

Includes describing the structure of the U.S. system of government; comparing the organization and operation of local, state, and federal governments in the United States; identifying the major ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the origins of these ideas from multiple sources; recognizing the basic principles of the U.S. Constitution; interpreting the meaning of the rights and liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; identifying the responsibilities of citizens in upholding constitutional rights; and evaluating political behavior, conduct of citizens and residents, practices of government, and issues of diversity according to the principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

**Apply basic economic concepts to geographic topics.**

Includes applying basic economic concepts (e.g., scarcity and choice, supply and demand, opportunity cost); making economic decisions; describing the roles and relationships of business, labor unions, and households in the U.S. economic system; and recognizing the relationship between a domestic economy and the international economic system (e.g., trade, exchange rates, tariffs).

**INQUIRY, PUBLIC DISCOURSE, AND DECISION MAKING**

**Acquire information from books, maps, newspapers, data sets, and other sources and organize and present the information in maps, graphs, charts, and time lines.**

Includes recognizing the characteristics of various sources of social science information (e.g., people, books, primary documents, newspapers, tables) and methods of locating specific information in these sources; recognizing the role of traditional and electronic technologies in accessing and managing social science information; and organizing and communicating social science information using a variety of formats (e.g., outlines, maps, tables, graphs).

**Interpret the meaning and significance of information from various sources.**

Includes recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of various sources of information; interpreting the meaning and significance of information from various sources; evaluating the reliability of information and analyzing factors that affect reliability; using various sources (e.g., maps, charts, electronic media, texts, oral histories) to interpret relationships; and developing generalizations about social science topics by interpreting and synthesizing information from a variety of sources.

**TEST OBJECTIVES**  
**FIELD 008: GEOGRAPHY**

**Apply methods of conducting geographic investigations by formulating a clear statement of a question, gathering and organizing information from a variety of sources, formulating and testing hypotheses, and reporting results.**

Includes formulating questions or hypotheses to serve as the basis for social science investigations; identifying procedures for gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information to investigate a given research question or hypothesis; applying methods for organizing and reporting results; recognizing alternative interpretations of results; and drawing conclusions based on evidence and results.

**Evaluate ways to use data to support a position on a public policy issue that has geographic implications.**

Includes stating public policy issues and their related ethical, definitional, and factual issues as questions; tracing the origins of a public issue; analyzing various perspectives people bring to an issue and factors that influence their perspectives (e.g., cultural experiences); analyzing factors that need to be considered when formulating possible resolutions to a public issue; and evaluating possible alternative resolutions to public issues.

**Describe core democratic values and explain how they relate to public policy issues.**

Includes describing ways to apply democratic values, anticipate consequences, and work toward making decisions.