

CONCEPT NOTE

Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts
University of Colombo

Advanced Certificate Course for A/L Geography Teachers

1. Introduction

Department of Geography seeks the permission of the Senate of the University of Colombo to offer the Advance Certificate Course for A/L Geography School Teachers. The course is expected to commence in the 1st week of March 2022.

Geography is a multi-disciplinary subject in the field of social science. It is a highly demanded subject, but it shows a slight regressive trend in relation to the A/L students in the recent past. The students have a common misunderstanding that Geography is a difficult subject. Major reason behind this is lack of subject knowledge and incorrect method of teaching by School Teachers. They are lacking in the area of applicability of modern techniques in the Geography, such as Cartography/mapping, GIS applications, GPS and Remote Sensing and answering and selection of questions *etc.* At the same time, they are not updated with recent changes, taken place in the field of Geography. Further, accumulation of new subjects in the school curriculum provides more choice/options in selecting subjects for their A/L stream of studies and also they have poor understanding about the importance/value of this subject for their professional career in the future. Therefore, teaching and learning of Geography in the schools have become a challenging task at present.

2. The Need

Considering all above, the Department of Geography, University of Colombo intends to introduce a short course for teachers in order to enhance their knowledge and teaching techniques of Geography. Department believes that this course will improve the service quality and delivery standard of the teachers, absorbing more students towards this subject.

3. Objectives

- To train the school teachers in teaching Geography as a subject and upgrade their subject knowledge in the field of Geography in order to meet the changing requirements of this subject and as well as students.
- To equip the school teachers with recently introduced cartographic techniques such as GIS, GPS and RS.

4. Target Groups

Advanced Level Geography Teachers

5. Admission Requirements

Minimum two years teaching experience in Geography

6. Medium of Instruction

Sinhala, Tamil and English

7. Course Fee

Course fee: Rs. 15 000/=

Registration fee: Rs. 1 000/=

8. Course duration

90 hours (Saturdays only)

9. Teaching Methodology

Online Lectures (Zoom)

10. Evaluation

Attendance, Assignments and Practicals

Syllabus

1. Recent trends of geographical study.

2. Importance of practical geography.

3. Various types of maps and new cartographic techniques.

4. Types of data.

5. Statistical techniques and their applications.

6. Preparation of statistics based diagrams.

7. Interpretation of data.

8. Importance of map marking.

9. Geo informatics information (E.g.: GIS, RS...)

10. Construction of multiple choice questions (MCQ).

- Designing of right set of MCQ
- Selecting accurate answer
- Quick answering techniques
- Importance for enrichment of general knowledge on geography

11. Examination techniques

- Selection of suitable questions
- Effective ways of answering system-Essay type questions
- Attention for selection of correct number of questions
- Ways of attractive answering methods
- Time management