



Pearson Baccalaureate for the IB DIPLOMA

GARRETT NAGLE

As a youngster I was fortunate to live in Killarney, which is in County Kerry in Ireland. Kerry is nicknamed 'the Kingdom' and Killarney is the jewel in the Kingdom. There are limestone caves, glacial cirques, mountains, woodlands, waterfalls, a national park, cliffs, a thriving tourism industry, a train link to Cork and Dublin. I used to go fishing in the River Flesk – sometimes at the mouth where it entered the Lakes of Killarney, and at other times near its source. I had a teacher who took us on trips to the various mountains and who believed that we should experience the place in which we lived. My upbringing was, unknowingly to me, rooted in physical geography, and to an extent human geography – tourism, farming, emigration and an early form of globalisation – Irish-American links.

In Britain, I was fortunate to read Geography at Oxford University. My college, Hertford, had a reputation for Geography and it was a very fertile place for an aspiring geographer. I was lucky to travel to Alaska which has a massive impact on my environmental awareness. As a Geographer I have always enjoyed travelling – my thesis was on *Malnutrition in the Zwelitsha region of South Africa* and that involved four field trips to the region. Subsequent research and travel has included Japan, Korea, Brunei and Malaysia. I have also visited the Caribbean on a number of occasions and much of Europe and North America.

Geography is very much an outdoors pursuit. It often goes hand in hand with people who take part in lots of sports. I enjoy running, squash, swimming, cycling and football. I completed in the Blenheim Triathlon and hope to do it again next year. I also enjoy walking, gardening, cooking and writing.

I have examined and moderated at GCSE, A/S, A Level, A2, International A-Levels and IB for more years than I wish to remember (22 years to be precise). I find the International courses the most enjoyable as I find that I learn most from them. I do check examples that are quoted – the Internet is a great resource and it allows me to check quickly what people have written but, more importantly, it directs me to new teaching materials which are valid and worthwhile for my own teaching.

The research for books and articles helps keep me on top of my subject. I like to learn new things and pass them on to my students. I have really enjoyed helping write this book. I have learnt a massive amount from Andrew. The whole process has been a huge learning experience, and I feel very fortunate to have been a part of it.