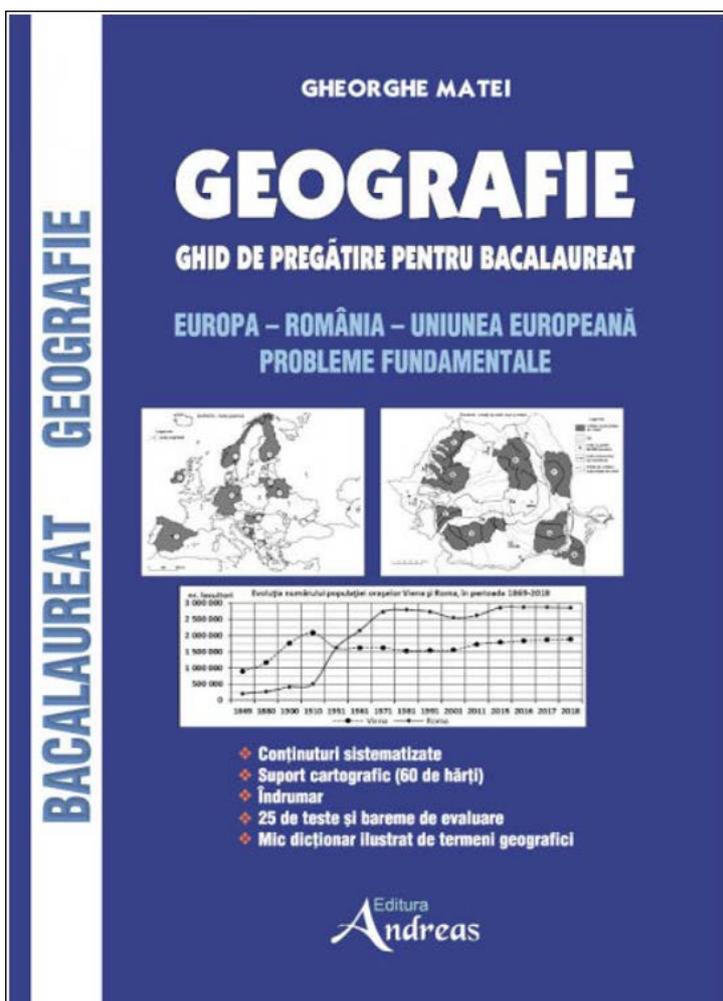


MATEI GHEORGHE (2020). *Geografie. Ghid de pregătire pentru bacalaureat [Geography. A Guide to the Bacalaureate Examination]*. Bucharest: Andreas, 208 + 4 colour pages, ISBN 978-606-765-117-1



This guide is authored by the geography teacher Gheorghe Matei from Constanța, Romania. His rich experience in high school education allowed the author to provide students with a valuable tool that they can use to gain geography knowledge and to train and develop the general and specific skills set forth in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade geography school curriculum.

The geography studied by the students during the final grades of their high school cycle, *Europe-Romania-The European Union. Fundamental Issues* is part of the bacalaureate examination through a written test, comprising three tasks, by which students have to

demonstrate that they trained their skills provided both by current school and examination syllabuses.

The guide aims at analysing the “fundamental problems” facing the world today, Romania, in particular, within the continent which is a part of, i.e. Europe, and within the political and economic union of 27 member states, i.e. the European Union.

The guide offers: contents (1), tests with evaluation scales (2), cartographic support (3), guide (4), list of items (5), a concise illustrated dictionary (colour) of geographical terms (6) and a concise dictionary of geographical terms (7).

1. The *contents* are organized according to the current school syllabus and the examination syllabus;

2. The 25 tests of the guide include items related to the whole problem of the exam sample, ensuring an overview on Europe, Romania and the European Union; the topics cover issues that human society is currently facing: demographic aging, migration, nuclear reactors, renewable energy sources, gas pipelines, CO2 emissions, electric cars, highways, fatal road accidents, forests, tourism, etc.;
3. The *cartographic support* comprises 60 maps, allowing the student to form representations of the studied space: Map of the climate in Europe, Map of the European states and capitals, Map of the Apuseni Mountains, Map of the inland rivers of Romania, Map of the residence county-cities, EU formation map, Bulgaria map, Germany map, etc.
4. The *guide* provides examples and ways of solving practical items and problems: working maps, observations, exercises, analysing the relations between climate and relief, tables, reading and interpreting various graphical representations, applying calculation formulas in solving some exercises (thermal amplitude, natural balance, migratory balance, etc.);
5. The *list of items* includes over 300 tasks of the type "Describe ...", "Specify ...", "Explain ...". Tasks are grouped into categories according to the specific physical and human elements of the geographical structure (landforms, climate, water, vegetation, population, settlements, natural resources, etc.), offering a broad perspective on the specific and current issues of Europe, Romania and the European Union;
6. The *Concise Illustrated Dictionary of Geographical Terms* allows students to visually represent their geographical terms (e.g. fjord, polder, estuary, carved structure, glacier relief, different types of power plants, steelworks, etc.);
7. The guide ends with a concise dictionary / glossary of geographical terms (vines, sunflower, etc.).

An important feature of the guide is updating the geographical data. It contains the latest changes on the map of Europe: the emergence of the state of Kosovo (2008), the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation (2014), the change of the name of Macedonia in North Macedonia (2019), the change of the name of Holland in The Netherlands (January 1, 2020), the Brexit, The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (February 1, 2020).

This complete guide ensures a deep step-by-step understanding and an effective knowledge of the contents of geography, creating the premises for successfully solving the proposed subjects and those of the geography sample of the bacalaureate examination.

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