**Step One: Learning How to Approach IB Geo Problems**

**“Interpreting the Question”**

***If you were going to write a short essay on the following subjects, what would you write about? Use the guide below to develop initial ideas.***

Look carefully at the essay title and carry out the following:

**•        Underline the key words in the title and then define command word**

**•         Use the L.I.S.T. checklist below to ensure that you give it the essay title its broadest interpretation. Choose the best options for each heading and list some examples…**

* **LOCATION (spatial context):** poor/rich countries; rural/urban areas; tropical/temperate; land/air/sea; marine/terrestrial/atmospheric
* **ISSUES (factors):** positive/negative, advantages/disadvantages, costs/benefits, human/physical, environmental, social, cultural, demographic, political, economic, geographic
* **SCALE:** global, regional, international, national, sub-national, local
* **TIME:** long-term/medium-term/short-term; past/present/future; contemporary/recent/current

\*\*\*Some of the items in the **L.I.S.T.** may not be relevant to the essay

Complete the **LIST for the question given to you** below:

“The Millennium Development Goals (MDCs) have **not** improved life for the world’s poorest people.” Discuss this statement.”

**Command Word: /Definition:**

**Key words with short definition:**

**Location:**

**Issues:**

**Scale:**

**Time:**

**Possible Case Study:**

“There is no truly sustainable solution to the world’s growing energy problems.” Discuss this statement.

**Command Word: /Definition:**

**Key words with short definition:**

**Location:**

**Issues:**

**Scale:**

**Time:**

**Possible Case Study:**

“For a country you have studied, describe to what extent do the economic benefits of tourism outweigh the environmental costs?”

**Command Word: /Definition:**

**Key words with short definition:**

**Location:**

**Issues:**

**Scale:**

**Time:**

**Possible Case Study:**