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GCSE Geography A 1GA0 02

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Introduction

This report covers responses from Paper 2 GCSE Geography A in 2023, with exemplar responses from actual scripts used to exemplify good practice and how the mark scheme was applied.

This was the sixth year of examining this specification, but only the fourth in which it had been attempted by a full cohort of candidates, and the first time since 2019 that the full cohort had sat the full paper (i.e., without the 'optionality' that was included in 2022).

The 1 hour 30-minute paper with 94 marks comprised of the full range of question types, including multiple-choice, short open-response questions (1-4 marks) and longer extended open-response answers (8 marks). All questions came both with and without stimulus material, depending on which Assessment Objective (AO) they were targeting. The questions required candidates to use and apply a range of skills, including the interpretation of photographs, graphs, maps, diagrams, and charts. Candidates of all abilities were able to access the resources with good use being made of them for all of the questions. The rubric was generally followed, though there were some errors, generally in the form of candidates attempting both of Questions 4 and 5 in Section C.

The full range of marks was seen, although there were a number of instances where a candidate failed to answer a question, but limited evidence that candidates were short of time as most were able to complete the paper. Overall, the paper proved to be accessible to candidates of all abilities as the questions elicited answers from candidates across the ability range, effectively discriminating between varying abilities.

Despite interruptions due to industrial action and the legacy of the pandemic, the paper showed evidence of thorough preparation by candidates for the examination. At the time of writing this report, data indicates that the size of the cohort sitting this paper had increased by approximately 8% in comparison to 2019; performance on this paper was broadly similar to 2019, with a mean mark of 49.6 marks compared to 47.4 marks in 2019. The Standard Deviation (spread of marks) was also very similar to 2019: 17.6 in 2023 vs 17.4 in 2019. Once again, Question 4 (Energy Resource Management) proved more popular than the parallel Question 5 (Water Resource Management).

Question 1 (a)(ii)

This question was generally done very well by candidates, with a mean mark of 0.93 / modal mark of 1.

Question 1 (a)(iii)

The mean mark for this question was 0.97, with many candidates able to score 1-2 marks, with the most popular response being related to the level of development for a country where most people still worked in the agricultural sector which meant they continued to work in rural areas. This also linked with the idea of job opportunities still to be found in these rural areas and hence no need to move to the cities for employment.

A minority of candidates confused the question with some factors related to suburbanisation. In addition, a few offered the idea of counter-urbanisation and cited reasons clearly associated with more developed countries. There were some who developed an argument around the cost of living / expense of living in urban areas and very occasionally there would be mention of the idea that industrialisation had not really taken place as yet in a country, so this negated the idea of employment in urban areas as a "pull" factor.

(iii) Explain **one** reason why some countries have low percentages (%) of their population living in urban areas.

(2)

Because some can't people can't affford to live in a urban area.

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Some people cannot afford to live in urban areas (1).

(iii) Explain **one** reason why some countries have low percentages (%) of their population living in urban areas.

(2)

They are less developed. This means that families will live out in rural areas to collectively run a farm, in order to provide themselves with a stable income.

Question 1 (b)

Generally, a well answered question with the vast majority of candidates able to score 2-3 marks (the modal mark was 3). Maximum marks were achieved mainly by recognising that urban populations had increased in both Asia and North America, then providing relevant supporting data and then pointing out that the most rapid rate of urbanisation had occurred in Asia. The last mark was also obtained, in this context, by noting that North America had always had the higher percentage of urban population. A much smaller number of candidates were able to achieve maximum marks without the use of supporting data.

Disappointingly those candidates that only achieved 1 mark, by and large, merely noted that urban populations had risen in both Asia and North America. There were, of course, more able candidates who identified all the elements in the mark and answer scheme as well as providing supporting data. Some ignored the word "changes" and just compared the two regions in 1950 or 2020. A few even thought that urban populations had fallen in both regions between 1950 and 2020.

(b) Study Figure 1b in the Resource Booklet.

Compare the changes in the urban populations of Asia and North America between 1950 and 2020.

(3)

In Asia the urban Population in 1950 to 2020 has been increased by 33.6%. However In the North America the Urban Population is also increased between 1950 –2020 by 19.7%. This cleanly mean Urban Population increased

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Both counties have increased (1) idea that Asia has had the greater increase (1) use of data from both continents (1) = 3 marks

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Examiner Tip

The command word 'compare' has a different requirement to 'describe', for example data from both continents is needed for the 'data mark'.

Question 1 (c)

Overall, the candidate performance on this question was rather weak (mean mark was 0.92 / modal mark was 0). Only a 31% of candidates were able to gain the maximum of 2 marks available for this question, with a similar proportion attaining 1 mark for a reason why suburbanisation has occurred. Too many candidates, when able to identify a relevant reason why suburbanisation had taken place, were unable to develop their argument/explanation. Indeed, some even thought that a definition of suburbanisation would suffice. However, there were some good explanations seen particularly with regards the rising population and demand for more housing, being more affluent/having more disposable income and thus being able to live on the outskirts and travel into work; the availability of good transport links and the ability to be able to commute to work; and lastly, factors linked to cheaper house prices and related benefits to the individual/family.

It was quite surprising to see that the idea of more people working from home nowadays was not picked up by more candidates. Some confused the process of suburbanisation with deindustrialisation. Others talked about "pull" factors and reasons associated with job opportunities available in the CBD, often due to the lack of such opportunities in the rural areas, so younger age groups would move into the city, (rural-urban migration ideas).

(c) Explain **one** reason why suburbanisation has taken place in the UK.

(2)

one reason is rapid population growth. Due to this problem more housing is needed as the population of the UK increases and that is why Suburbanisation has taken place.

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Population growth in the UK (1) has increased the demand for housing (1) = 2 marks.

ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

For a 2-mark 'explain' question, a development of one idea is needed (rather than 2 x separate ideas).

Question 1 (d)(i)

A very well completed task by the candidates of completing figure 1c by plotting two pieces of data. The majority (84.5%) of candidates scored 2 marks. Apart from a minority who did not even attempt to complete the graph, the main error occurred with the 14.4 million bar for 2015, where the candidates would count up 4 squares, thus providing a bar that represented 14.8 million. The other main error noted was for the candidate to produce the bars the wrong way round.

The city of Kolkata is in India, an emerging country.

(d) Study Figure 1c below.
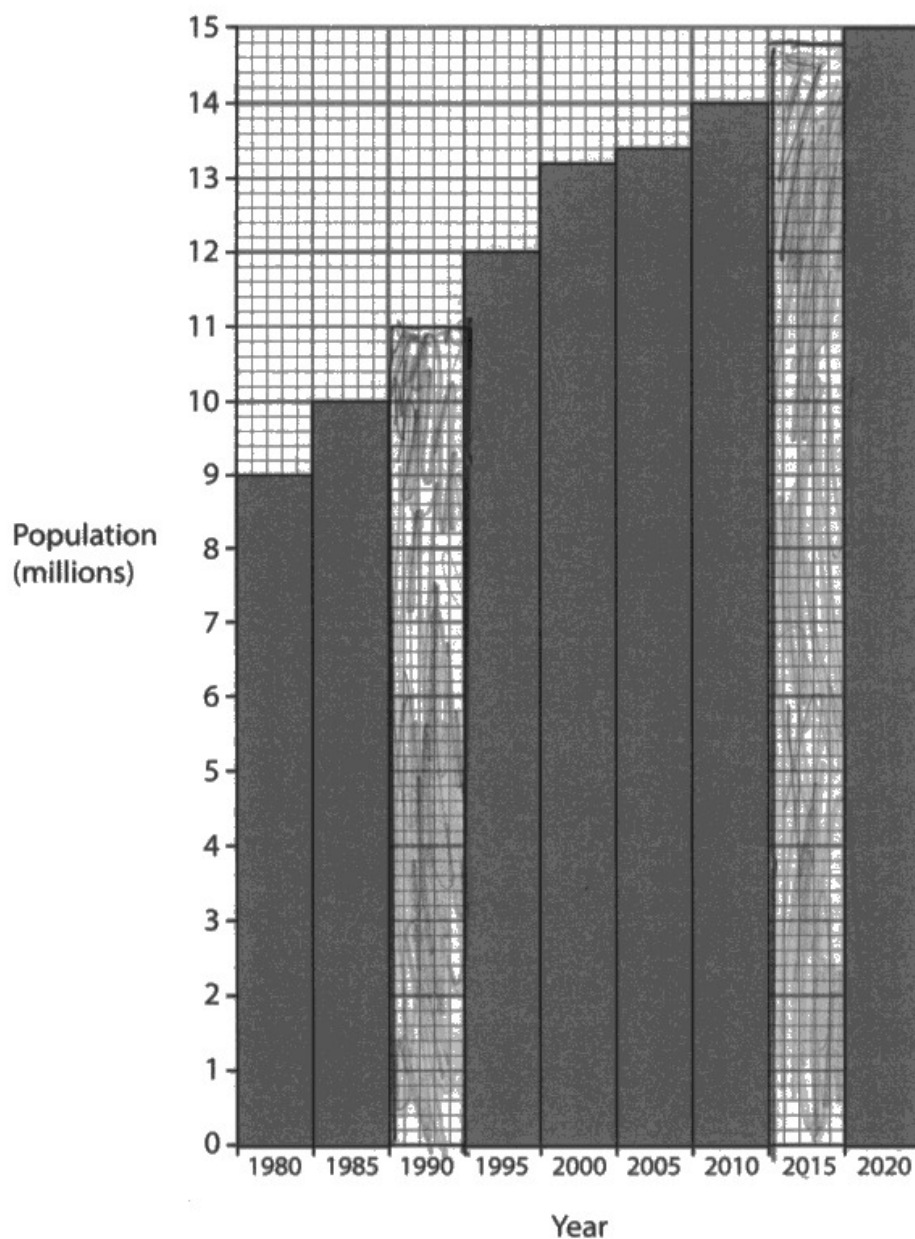
Figure 1c

Population growth of Kolkata between 1980 and 2020

(i) Complete Figure 1c by plotting the data from the table below.

(2)

Year	Population (millions)
1990	11.0
2015	14.4

Question 1 (d)(iii)

Only a minority of candidates were able to achieve 1-2 marks on this question. Too many did not show their working in the space provided, often just putting down an incorrect answer. In addition, when calculations were shown and a final % answer written down on the line provided, this was not written to one decimal place. The most frequent incorrect answer was 66.6%. It was a disappointment to see a candidate fail to secure full marks when the correct working out had been provided.

(iii) Calculate the percentage increase in the population of Kolkata between 1980 and 2020.

Write your answer to one decimal place.

You must show your working in the space below.

(2)

$$\frac{new - old}{old} \times 100$$

2

$$\frac{15 - 9}{9} \times 100 = 66.\dot{6}$$
$$= 66.7$$

66.7 %

(iii) Calculate the percentage increase in the population of Kolkata between 1980 and 2020.

Write your answer to one decimal place.

You must show your working in the space below.

(2)

$$\frac{15 - 9}{9} \times 100$$
$$= 66.6 \text{ 1dp}$$
$$67\%.$$

67 %

Question 1 (e)(ii)

Candidates generally performed very well on this question, with the majority able to acquire 3-4 marks. These responses clearly made good use of the evidence from 1d. The better answers explained what the main attractions were in the urban area that saw some people willing to migrate to Kolkata from the surrounding countryside. All reasons associated with rapid population growth from Figure 1d were referred to, but the two most frequently seen were better medical and education services than the surrounding rural areas and the reference to the large proportion of adults aged 18 to 30 living in Kolkata. Where candidates referred to the New Town area of Kolkata, they did not offer the required further explanation in terms of what improvements could have been made i.e. building factories, job opportunities, better housing/schooling etc that would have attracted more people to move there. Those achieving 2 marks did so by identifying and then copying out the pertinent information from Figure 1d.

> (ii) Suggest **two** reasons why Kolkata has had rapid population growth.
>
> You must use evidence from Figure 1d in your answer.
>
> (4)
>
> 1 The coastal area around the Bay of Bengal is very flat Kokata has better medical and education services than the surrounding rural areas in figure No 1d.
>
> 2 The New Town area of kolkata has recieved money from India's government to improve urban areas. This means people will move to these areas because of better housing and workplaces for jobs.

ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response was awarded 3 marks; 1 mark in the first section and two marks in the second section.

The response would have been awarded full marks if the candidate had developed the reason in the first section by adding, "... which meant that people moved from surrounding rural areas to Kolkata".

Question 1 (e)(iii)

Many candidates struggled with this question (mean mark was 1.13 / modal mark was 0). The most successful answers concentrated on the environmental impact of cleaning the land (deforestation) in readiness for housing development linked to habitat/biodiversity loss. Other relatively successful factors considered were waste disposal/water pollution, noise/air pollution from the increased number of cars. Occasionally, one saw a reference to the unattractiveness of squatter developments. There were far too many vague comments on offer, such as, "more people move into squatter areas which lead to more pollution". Others merely wrote that squatter settlements/informal housing developed on the outskirts of Kolkata. Also, candidates were prone to discuss why these squatter settlements grew up on the outskirts, or what problems related to large scale migration development due to the growth of these squatter settlements. Sometimes candidates offered more than one environmental impact, but this was not then developed by further explanation.

(iii) Suggest **one** negative environmental impact of rapid population growth in Kolkata.

Use evidence from Figure 1d in your answer.

(3)

The construction of large squatter settlements has led to large scale pollution of local water sources. This is because people because the shelter don't feature any type of sewage system. This means people can catch infections like typhoid or cholera if they accidentally drink these sources.

ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response was awarded 3 marks: the candidate was able to provide a double-development of the idea about 'water pollution'.

ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

No marks just for 'pollution' – be specific (e.g. 'air pollution' etc.)

Question 1 (f)

Overall, quite a well answered question with the many candidates obtaining a Level 2 mark; nevertheless, there were quite a large proportion of responses (28.4%) that were left blank or without any credit-worthy material. The most popular case study material seen was Birmingham, Bristol and London. It was apparent that the better responses saw the candidates focussed on identifying the key changes affecting retailing in their chosen city, attempting to explain how this would have affected areas in their city, most notably the CBD and what the effects/implications were of these changes both for the city/town and the people who lived there i.e. the impact on their shopping habits. Those that scored 6-8 marks used place/specific detail well to support/exemplify their argument and were seen to weigh up the evidence provided and reach a conclusion as to what they considered to be the most important.

Birmingham did prove to be the most successfully used case study, often mentioning out-of-town shopping centres like Merry Hill, the more general notion of internet shopping and its impact on footfall in the CBD, followed by the city authority's attempt to "fight back" against these out-of-town developments, so here we saw mention of the Bullring shopping centre (often cited incorrectly as an out-of-town shopping centre), the Mailbox and even, on occasion, the new Grand Central Shopping Centre. Bristol was less well done, but references to Cabot Circus, Cribbs Causeway were beneficial to their answers. Of course, changes associated with London mentioned Bluewater and Lakeside. In terms of geographical detail, the weaker answers were far too generic and limited in their references to changes, often ignoring the impacts of the town that these changes brought about. Particularly in the case of Bristol (other cities like Cambridge were similar and barely addressed the actual question), the candidate talked more about urban regeneration schemes centred on housing and industry with barely a mention of retailing. Other faults seen in candidate responses were when they concentrated on the advantages of out-of-town shopping centres rather than considering the actual impact(s) of such developments. Some actually talked about deindustrialisation, the movement of factories to other areas and what impact this would have on people.

(f) You have studied a major UK city.

Assess the impacts of recent changes in retailing on this city. ≡ conclusion

(8)

Named UK city

Birmingham

→ online
→ large shopping centres → in
→ bullring → CBD.
Peel

One recent change in retailing is the increase in online shopping. This means that less people are travelling to the CBD for shopping e.g. Bullring, as they can just shop online. Therefore means that there is less capital as city get a lower mumer as people are not travelling to the city and spending their money. This may lead to a decrease in the number of shops in the city, as people are not using them. which negatively impacts Birmingham.

Another change is the introduction to

suburban shopping centres. These are large shopping centres on the outskirts of Birmingham with free parking. This is more convenient and so more people will go shopping there, rather than going to the city centre, which is more expensive. This negatively impacts the city as less people are going there.

However, the Bullring shopping centre, in the city was undergoing major works. This positively impacts the retailing as more people are attracted to the new shops, restaurants and activities that are on offer and so will go and shop there. This leads to an increase in their shopping meaning the centre can stay running.

In conclusion, online shopping has negatively impacted retailing

in Birmingham as it is more convenient so people are less likely to go to the CBD. There are also suburban shopping centres, meaning people do not have to go to the city to buy clothes etc. This reduces the investment in the CBD as less shops will be available. However, the Bullring has attracted more people and is slowly increasing the CBD investment

This response was awarded Level 3 (7 marks).

The candidate provided some convincing place-specific information, describing how retailing has changes, and crucially, explaining the impact that this has had on Birmingham.

The candidate also provides a conclusion, which assesses which of the impacts have been the most significant.

Question 2 (a)(i)

The vast majority of candidates handled this graphical question extremely well. 93.1% of candidates were able to correctly label the pie graph. The most common error was to label the countries the wrong way round. What was disappointing was to see a minority of candidates who didn't attempt this task.

Question 2 (a)(iv)

Another generally well answered question where the majority (90%) of candidates were able to achieve 1-2 marks, and 53.1% achieved full marks. The most popular answers were associated with the generation of income and developing relationships with other countries, followed by resources they don't have themselves in their country and job opportunities.

(iv) State **two** ways that international trade may help a country to develop.

(2)

1. It would allow them to have access to better/new resources

2. It allows for them to create stronger relationship which be need for aid in disaters

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Two legitimate ways that international trade can help (one in each section) = 2 marks.

Question 2 (b)

Not a particularly well answered question (mean mark was 0.84 and the mode was 0). Too often, candidates failed to identify a valid geopolitical relationship where they might name one country and then offer some generic description. Some of the weakest responses seen even cited cities e.g., Mexico City and would talk about their general level of development, so completely misunderstanding the concept of a geopolitical relationship. The other main fault identified was where the candidate would offer a valid point e.g., spend more on the military (army), related to the border dispute over Kashmir between India and Pakistan, but then fail to provide further explanation as to how/why this relationship has affected developments. Too often in their development / further explanation, the answer would move away from the necessary specifics of the geopolitical relationship and would talk in very general terms about trade relationships or levels of development. The most popular, and indeed successful, geopolitical relationship on show was India's dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir.

(b) Explain **one** way a geopolitical relationship has affected the development of a named developing or emerging country.

(2)

Named country

India

India has participated in 3 wars with Pakistan over the independence of Kashmir in the last 80 years. This has meant more money has been spent on the military rather than infrastructure such as education or healthcare which will have slowed development.

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This response was awarded 2 marks.

A valid geopolitical relationship was identified (1) with some further explanation about why this affected India's level of development (1).

Question 2 (c)

There was a most notable variation in the quality of the responses seen with regards to this question (standard deviation was 1.70, and the mean mark was 2.13). There were clear reasons that could account for this, namely whether the candidate understood what constituted a "physical" factor. The responsibility for the lower levels of achievement were due to the candidates discussing "social" factors such as birth rates, healthcare, education, life expectancy, housing, migration, population growth, infrastructure. Some would comment on "economic" factors like trading opportunities, globalisation, exports, office development, taxation with the odd "historical" factor thrown in like the Industrial Revolution (no mention here of natural resource exploitation) and even colonialism. Another fault displayed by candidates' responses, were where they offered physical reasons that would limit the development of a country's level of development such as being landlocked or frequently suffering from national hazards i.e., tropical cyclones. The most successful line of argument related topography (flat land), being close to/next to a coastline, abundant natural resources (i.e., minerals and fossil fuels) and fertile soil for agriculture.

(c) Explain **two** physical factors that have led to some countries having a high level of development.

(4)

1 One physical factor is the ~~edesesion~~ amount of agriculture that is taken place over the year. This means, the more agriculture the more food there is which increase food security.
2 Another factor is the years spent in education. This means if there is many people who have been educated then sophiscated jobs can be easily filled increases the development.

(c) Explain **two** physical factors that have led to some countries having a high level of development.

(4)

1 Countries with flatter land are able to develop More urban areas and transport links allowing for more Job opportunities.

2 Countries with a Coastline ~~(that it)~~ ~~have to rely on~~ have an advantage because they can control trade and ~~first~~ arrange trade deals with other Countries.

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The response was awarded 4 marks.

Two developed physical factors (flat land and a coastline) have been included by the candidate.

Question 2 (d)(i)

A much more successfully answered question than 1d(iii), with 75.1% of candidates attaining full marks. The main error/reason for 1 mark being awarded rather than 2, was the candidate's failure to give the final figure to one decimal place, or when they rounded up the answer to the next whole number (i.e., 80 or occasionally 79).

(d) Study Figure 2c in the Resource Booklet.

(i) Calculate the mean life expectancy for the countries shown on Figure 2c.

Write your answer to one decimal place.

You must show your working in the space below.

(2)

$$74.8 + 76.9$$
$$+ 83.5 + 76.1 + \quad 79.783$$
$$83.6 + 83.8 \qquad \cancel{79}$$
Income
$$= 478.7 \div 6 \qquad \cancel{79.783} \text{ years}$$

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Correct working (1), but answer not rounded up to one decimal place = 1 mark.

Question 2 (d)(ii)

The mean mark on this question was 1.47 (and the modal mark was 1), with only 12.4% of candidates achieving full marks. Many candidates appeared content to identify the relationship between GNI per capita and life expectancy and add nothing else, hence why so many only achieved 1 mark.

Candidates should be aware that data is there for a reason and should be utilised to support their answer. Some of the weaker answers merely contained a comparison of GNI and life expectancy saying the former always appeared larger. A large proportion of candidates, after identifying the positive relationship, would offer explanations, often talking about investment in healthcare and hospitals or that the level/standard of healthcare was better in these countries. Occasionally, one would see an answer where the candidate merely offered definitions of the two main terms. Another tendency was for candidates to produce "mirror-image" answers i.e., higher GNI therefore higher life expectancy, then lower GNI resulting in lower life expectancy would increase. It was rare to see a candidate to note that there was a greater range/variance in GNI per capita compared to life expectancy.

(ii) Describe the relationship between GNI per capita and life expectancy shown in Figure 2c.

(3)

> There is a positive correlation between GNI per capita and life expectancy. Belarus has the lowest life expectancy and the lowest GNI ($18,546 and 74.8 years). Switzerland has the highest life expectancy (83.6) however is the 2nd wealthiest nation on the list which is an anomaly. This doesn't disprove the positive correlation though as it is still richer and above (in terms of life expectancy) all country bar 1 (Singapore)

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This response was awarded 3 marks.

The relationship has been identified (1) supporting data used (1) and the anomaly flagged up (1) = 3 marks.

(ii) Describe the relationship between GNI per capita and life expectancy shown in Figure 2c.

(3)

The higher a country's GNI per Capita, the longer the country's life expectancy. Belarus has lowest GNI per capita (18,546) and lowest quality of life (74.8). Romania has a higher GNI per capita (29,497) and a longer life expectancy (76.1).

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The response was awarded 2 marks, because the positive relationship has been identified and supporting data used.

Question 2 (d)(iv)

This question was generally done poorly by candidates, with only 22.9% of the cohort correctly stating one other measure used in the calculation of the HDI.

Question 2 (e)

The mean mark for this question was 1.23 and the mode was 0 marks. 37.5% of candidates scored 0 marks, and only 18% of candidates (62%) achieved full marks on this question. The range of reasons of why investment by TNCs has helped increase levels of development was somewhat limited. The better responses focussed on the creation of job opportunities leading to individuals enjoying higher wages which resulted in the country's government benefitting from higher levels of taxation. A minority of the answers seen saw the candidates looking at this question from the perspective of the TNC. For example, they would explain that a TNC would move to a country to take advantage of a cheap labour force.

(e) Explain **one** way that investment by transnational corporations (TNCs) has increased the development of some developing and emerging countries.

(3)

TNC's are countries with their headquarters in one country and branches all over the world. This has increased the development in Tanzania due to the multiplier effect. This is where the locals are given jobs by the TNC's, increasing their income (disposable income also) meaning they are spending more money into the countrys economy which is increasing development. An example is Standard Chartered and Unilever; Tanzanias largest TNC's.

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A good response, scoring full marks.

The candidate has provided a double-development linked to 'job' that have been created through investment by TNCs.

(e) Explain **one** way that investment by transnational corporations (TNCs) has increased the development of some developing and emerging countries.

(3)

more large companies in those countries and will ~~can~~ bring a large income to the country as workers will stay and live in the country and will bring money to the cantry.

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We are not told how or why 'TNCs bring a large income' into the country; therefore, this response was judged too vague for credit to be awarded.

Ideally, the candidate would have talked about how jobs/wages/rising levels of disposable incomes could lead to greater consumer spending, more tax paid etc.

0 marks.

Question 2 (f)

Candidate performance on the question was fairly similar to the 8-mark question in Section A. The mean mark was 2.85 and the modal mark was 0. Only 6% of the cohort accessed Level 3, and too many responses lacked a clear structure with answers tending to be quite disjointed and unbalanced with the weaker candidates only dealing with historical or economic factors. There was a paucity of real-world exemplar material to help develop or exemplify their answers, some merely degenerated into generic description and flawed arguments.

It was rather disappointing to only see a few responses where there was sufficient breadth and depth related to both historical and economic factors allied to clear judgements being made throughout the answer to lift the response into Level 3. The key was the impact of the factors on the development of a country, a point lost on too many candidates, as well as the need to assess the significance of all the factors on offer. Nevertheless, there were some excellent answers at the top-end, and it was impressive to see some candidates grasping the idea in the AO3 indicative content of uneven development, most notably evidenced by Mumbai and Bihar in India and a contrast between southern and northern regions in the UK.

(f) Assess the importance of historical and economic factors in the development of countries.

(8)

There are developed, emerging and ~~eco~~ developing countries around the world. These have been impacted by historical factors, relating to past relationships, and ~~eco~~ economic factors, relating to money and ~~tese tete~~ investment.

Historical factors are important in the development of countries. ~~B~~ ~~big impact had a~~ Past relationships such as ~~cole~~ colonialism affect a ~~countries~~ country's current development. For example, India was colonised by Britain. Britain stole many resources from India, meaning it ~~was harder f~~ couldn't develop very much. It also means Britain could rapidly develop as it could sell the resources for income or ~~generate~~ gain resources with no cost. This means in the current day, the UK is a developed country and India is an emerging country. Moreover, ~~trade~~ some countries have had trade links ^with each other for many centuries, so can continue to trade with that country. This makes it easier for them to develop. ~~For example~~

Economic factors are also important in the development of countries. Countries that receive more FDI are able to improve their infrastructure or fill more jobs, which creates more income, allowing more investment back into the country. FDI can however cause uneven development, as

core regions receive the most, meaning rural periphery regions remain undeveloped. Moreover countries that are a part of economic trade organisations such as G20, are more easily able to develop as they can ~~have access to~~ trade ~~with~~ with other countries **(Total for Question 2 = 30 marks)** ~~and~~ and generate income, to ~~devel~~ **TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 30 MARKS** invest in development.

Overall, I think historical factors are more important in the development of countries as if a country has colonised ~~developed lots in the past~~, another or had strong trade ties, ~~to another~~ it can have more income to develop. Countries that suffered in the past from colonialism, have a lack of resources, so can't trade to create income to develop with.

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This response was awarded 8 marks (top of Level 3).

The response clearly distinguishes between 'historical' and 'economic' factors and provides a balance argument with regards to the significance of these in the development of different parts of the world.

Some appropriate place-specific detail has been included to support a range of legitimate ideas.

(f) Assess the importance of historical and economic factors in the development of countries.

(8)

Historical ~~and economic~~ factors can be very important in the rate of development of countries. Many countries will have once been part of a colony such as Tanzania in the British colony until 1961, but only have achieved independence recently. This leaves are there countries as developing or emerging countries who are behind the rate of development of developed countries such as the UK. Once these countries gain independence often there is a lack of infrastructure in the country and also a lack of ~~gover~~ government and a good working society.

Economic factors are also very important factors affecting the rate of development ~~in~~ of countries as countries main sectors contributing to the GDP can ultimately affect the ~~development~~ level of development of the countries. Countries ~~with~~ in which their main sector is the primary sector such as agriculture often tend to have low levels of development as a result of inability to ~~se~~ export these goods. Countries such as Tanzania rely on imports from other countries ~~An are such~~ as the UK as ~~they~~ they had a negative trade balance. This is the same for most developing countries who either have low value goods such as Gold or ore

unble Co to export them. This contrast with countries
with high levels of development who often have access
to trade cates trade cates because of good geopolitical
relationships with other countries.

(Total for Question 2 = 30 marks)

* continued :

In conclusion historial and economic factors have a huge
impact and importance of development of countries as
historical factors such as colonisation being colonised inhibit
the creation of good geopolitical relationships and also
poor trade rates. Econ Economic factors also have a huge
impact as the growth of a countries GAP depends on
nt's ability to export goods so if a country has a regular
trah the balance it will be hard to undergo development.

This response was awarded 5 marks (mid-Level 2).

The candidate does include a range of ideas (economic and historical) with some partial explanation and limited place specific information.

One would expect greater depth of explanation for top of Level 2.

Question 3 (a)

The majority of candidates (81.8%) successfully scored a mark for this question by defining biotic correctly. The most popular answers were "living things/factors". Incorrect responses tended to refer to "natural resources" or "non-living" things.

Question 3 (b)

A large proportion (40.7%) of candidates achieved full marks for this question. It was apparent that the idea of fossil fuels being finite (run out) was clearly understood, although some of the weaker responses would refer to them as being finite and then go on to explain how they would run out. The main/most popular comments were then related to the idea that you couldn't re-use them because of the length of time involved in their formation and there was a lot of answers referring to the fact that we are using up these resources at a faster rate than they can be replaced.

(b) Explain **one** reason why fossil fuels are non-renewable.

(2)

Fossil fuels are a non-renewable resource as they ~~grow~~ will eventually run out and cannot be used for future generations.

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Examiner Comments

eventually run out (1).

For the second mark, there needs to be some further development of this idea, for example the fact that fossil fuels take such a long time to form in the first place.

Question 3 (c)

This question appeared to be quite challenging for candidates, with 59.2% of them failing to score a mark. A lot of responses referred to (for example) "the south-east" or "south-east of the UK" and not specifically the country (i.e., south-east England), so failed to obtain the mark. Others just referred to a country e.g., "Wales", "Scotland" etc.

Question 3 (d)(ii)

63.4% of candidates successfully achieved full marks on this question. Incorrect responses often came about from candidates adding too many 0s or not enough to their final answers despite the workings being correct. Other incorrect answers often said "2.1" as an answer and not 2.1m/2.1 million so couldn't be accepted.

Question 3 (d)(iii)

The mean mark for this question was a high 1.55 and the mode was 2 marks. Deforestation/land clearing was the most popular negative environmental impact chosen by candidates, being developed to the destruction of habitats/ecosystems and food chains/webs. Most answers were relevant and identified something specific to soya farming although a minority would talk about cattle ranching and link to slash and burn. Overall, the resource was well referenced, and answers were developed to 2 marks by 65.3% of candidates.

(iii) Suggest **one** negative impact of soya farming on the environment.

Use evidence from Figure 3 in your answer.

(2)

Deforestation for soya farming burns trees which releases carbon dioxide. This is a greenhouse gas so it will enhance global warming which can lead to unwanted climate change

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A developed point about deforestation, scoring 2 marks.

Question 4 (a)

Only a small proportion of candidates (15.7%) were able to provide an accurate definition of 'energy mix' for 1 mark. 'Different types/the mixture of energy sources used in a country' was the most popular incorrect response, followed by 'multiple different energy sources' or 'the use of both renewable and non-renewable energy in a country'.

4 (a) Define the term **energy mix**.

(1)

different types of energy used

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A common/typical incorrect answer that was given by candidates.

0 marks.

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Examiner Tip

Use the glossary/key terms list that is available on the Pearson website to help you remember and apply the correct definitions for the terms included in the specification.

4 (a) Define the term **energy mix**.

(1)

The different amounts and types of energy used overall by a country

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Examiner Comments

A legitimate definition of energy mix (using the word 'amounts'), scoring 1 mark.

4 (a) Define the term **energy mix**.

(1)

the ~~% of~~ percentage of different types of
energy a country uses.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Correct definition of energy mix = 1 mark.

Question 4 (b)(iv)

Reasonably well answered question with a relatively small majority of candidates (60.6%) scoring 1 mark. The most popular response referred to a growing population, followed by not producing carbon emissions/climate change and policies designed to encourage the use of renewables. Others talked of renewables being more environmentally friendly, and the public awareness of the damage done by non-renewables. The weaker responses merely commented on the fact that renewables were increasing.

(iv) State **one** possible reason for the predicted trend in consumption of renewables between 2020 and 2040.

(1)

The increase in population (increase in demand)

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'population increase' = 1 mark.

Question 4 (c)

This proved to be quite a demanding question with the majority of candidates who picked up marks of this question achieving the modal mark of 1 (40.5%). The vast majority of candidates who did score on this question were able to offer the name of an appropriate method, but then struggled to either explain what it entails or actually how they were going to collect the data so that a variety of viewpoints would be achieved. Very few went into detail about the composition of a questionnaire such as the nature of the questions devised (i.e., open or closed) and similarly with how/where to collect the data was very limited. Some mentioned online, on the street/CBD area, by post or telephone. The idea of interviews was poorly explained and only a few talked about any type of sampling if a survey was to be conducted.

Question 4 (d)

Quite a well answered question with the majority (75%) of candidates being able to achieve between 2 and 4 marks. The main reasons identified by candidates for global demand for energy resources increasing was attributed to growth of global population, increased wealth and technological advances. Only a few referred to the recent economic development in poor countries so that with their increased spending power they have brought things which was energy such as cars, TVs or fridges. Differentiation between the candidates was quite effective with this question that called for extension through explanation, a clarity and depth that proved elusive for some of those who had identified a correct reason for increasing energy demand.

(d) Explain **two** reasons why the global demand for energy has increased over the last 100 years.

(4)

1 Increasing urban population meaning more people need energy for their homes for heating, cooking

2 Rise in car ownership so more fuel is needed to supply the demands of increasing number of car owners.

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Two developed points here (2+2): one linked to 'rising urban population' and one linked to 'rising car ownership'.

4 marks.

(d) Explain **two** reasons why the global demand for energy has increased over the last 100 years.

(4)

1 World population has increased so more people are using energy ~~so it~~ which means that we need more of it

2 advances in technology have resulted in people using electrical devices and cars every day which ~~need~~ requires lots of energy

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In the first section, the candidate has correctly identified 'rising population' (1), but has failed to develop this – they have simply written out part of the question again.

There is a developed point in the second section: advances in technology (1) has led to more people using electrical devices (1).

3 marks.

Question 4 (e)

Overall, a somewhat disappointing effort on the part of many candidates with relatively few being able to enter Level 3 (only 25% of candidates achieved 8 or more marks out of 12). One might have expected more with a contemporary topic with the debate around fracking having been well covered by different sections of the media; one therefore might have expected candidates to have been able to set out a wider range of reasons both for and against the use of fracking as one method of meeting our future demand for energy. The majority of responses that did pick up marks achieved high Level 1 / low Level 2 (mean mark was 5.13 out of 12), and it was clear that a greater focus was needed on what the actual question was asking for, as some candidates spent time in their answer outlining what was involved in the process of fracking. The candidates hampered themselves by only working on a fairly limited range of ideas and were not very adept at weighing up the pros and cons of utilising this energy resource in the future. Conclusions tended to be somewhat simplistic and lacked considered judgement on their part. Too many discussed the idea of fracking in rather general terms rather than clearly identifying the various stakeholders involved who were rather in favour or against fracking becoming part of the energy mix in the future in order to meet the increased demand for energy.

More should have been made of the impacts on countries like the USA that have adopted fracking as an important part of their energy mix (AO2 Point 3). Also, it was noted that many candidates were unable to develop relevant points in sufficient depth to reach Level 3 and were more than content to offer a more superficial treatment of the subject matter.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which fracking can meet the future demand for energy.

(8)

Fracking is the process of releasing g trapped gases e.g. in rocks underground and this can be used to supply energy to power homes and businesses.

A negative impact of fracking is that it releases carbon emissions which contributes to global warming and climate change and so there may be potentially a decreased amount of fracking being used to save the environment. It also has very high initial costs and ~~you can only do it~~ is only available to do in countries such as Iceland due to its high volcanic and geothermal activity. However, countries such as Iceland have a very small population and ~~so~~ due to their geography, it is much harder to export this energy, so it as a result, it is much harder to reach for the future demand for energy.

~~How~~ On the other hand, a positive impact of fracking is that it is able to supply energy for more people as the population increases. As technology advances, there is a higher chance that ~~fracking~~ developing countries will have the necessary technology to do fracking and so it can supply the demand

for a growing population.

In conclusion, I think that fracking will not supply the future demand for energy since it increases the erosion of the ground and contributes to major issues such as climate change.

(Spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology = 4 marks)

(Total for Question 4 = 24 marks)

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Examiner Comments

This response was awarded 5 marks (Level 2) + 3 marks for SPaG.

The candidate has included a range of possible advantages and disadvantages of developing fracking, with some partial explanation.

The response does consider other forms of energy, which is fine, but this appears to have been at the expense of offering some detailed information about fracking.

There is a conclusion, but it is quite brief – perhaps due to the lack of depth offered in the main two paragraphs on the first page.

In this question, up to four additional marks will be awarded for your spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which <u>fracking</u> can meet the future demand for energy.

(8)

Fracking is the extraction of natural gas from shale works which have been injected with water, sand and chemicals to free the gas and can be used to meet growing demands for energy.

However, fracking produces natural gas which is a non-renewable energy source which releases CO_2 when burnt increasing the enhanced green house gas effect and contributing to climate change meaning it will not meet current demands but not sustainably so will effect the availability of demand in the future. Also, fracking can effect the environment and people as it can cause gas leaks in peoples homes, and gas is flammable presenting a large danger and the extraction can also cause subsidence of homes and can pollute groundwater effecting habitats and biodiversity.

However, fracking is the US provides 1000's of jobs and enables them to get cheap energy meaning they have more disposable income and less reliance on the middle East for oil, making them more independant, allowing them to boost their economy and increase their GDP. Also, fracking a shale rock store has been found in the

UK., that could generate electricity for the next 70 years and provide the UK again with a cheaper alternative that also provides jobs for those in the North West of England. Overall, I think fracking can't meet the needs of energy for the future because it is a non-renewable

energy source, that increases CO_2 emission and will run out as it is finite. Instead, the use of renewable energy sources like wind or solar energy may be more effective for the future as they do not release CO_2 and can be reused and regenerated.

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Examiner Comments

This response was awarded 7 marks (Level 3) + 4 marks for SPaG.

This candidate has considered a range of positive and negative points associated with the debate around fracking – and has developed these ideas through some compelling explanation.

There is also a conclusion at the end that arrives at a final judgement – a requirement of the command word 'evaluate'.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which fracking can meet the future demand for energy.

(8)

It could be argued that fracking can meet the future demand for energy. This is because fracking can get alot of oil that can be used for various things. Fracking is drilling wholes in the ocean floor where alot of oil is. Fracking can meet future demands if it is set up on are larger scale, more fracking machine must be made.

It could be argued that fracking cannot meet the future demand for energy. This is because fracking takes along time because you need to find the oil first. Fracking is also bad for the ocean and enviroment and cost alot of money to build the machines.

In conclusion, fracking can not meet the future demand for energy because it is bad for the ocean and the enviroment and costs alot to run.

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Examiner Comments

This response was awarded 3 marks (Level 1) + 3 marks for SPaG.

The candidate has identified some pros and cons of fracking, but there is a lack of depth / explanation; the response is quite descriptive (which is typical at this Level) – and the conclusion is quite simplistic.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which fracking can meet the future demand for energy.

(8)

Fracking can provide energy for a reasonable amount of time due to its technology. It can successfully extract natural gas by pumping water into a well that it drilled into the earth. However, the natural gas is not a renewable recourse so therefore it cannot be considered as a substit sustainable method. This is particularly relevant when you consider the fact that their is an estimated population of 9 billion by 2040 and the continues growth beyond that. Therefore, energy demand will only increase but the amount of energy fracking can supply will only decrease as natural gas is a non-renewable recourse. Furthermore, technological advancements mean that energy demand will rise at a faster rate than previously experienced. So fracking will have to provide a large amount of energy.

Similarly, fracking will not be sustainable as it could poison natural water sources. This could mean as the amount of energy that the fracking process extract increases so does the death as run-off from the natural gas extraction process contaminates natural water sources. Furthermore, fracking can damage the ground around where it is taking place so is not sustainable at all in comparison to other sources. Therefore, the damage due by fracking will only increase as the amount of fracking done damages increases.

To conclude, fracking will struggle to meet the future increasing demand for energy as it extracts a non-renewable resource. It damages its environment and is potentially dangerous to people who live near the site of fracking.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which fracking can meet the future demand for energy.

(8)

Fracking is used to gather energy from the ground and is a very efficient method as it can gather lots of gas ild which can be converted rill to electricity. The method of fracking is quite new and modern meaning there are many feature changes and improvements that can be made

The process of fracking is drilling a hole deep into the earth, then a pipe goes down and once it reaches the bottom where there is open space of gas the pipe will extend to the right for 50 meters. The pipe will then begin fracking.

Question 5 (a)

There was quite an even split here between correct and incorrect answers, with 47.4% of candidates achieving the 1 mark for this question by providing a sufficiently accurate definition of the term "water surplus".

5 (a) Define the term **water surplus**.

(1)

Having more water than needed to meet the needs of the population

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Examiner Comments

Accurate definition of water surplus = 1 mark.

5 (a) Define the term **water surplus**.

(1)

where the water is usage meets the demands of the environent.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Inaccurate definition of water surplus = 0 marks.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Use the glossary/key terms list that is available on the Pearson website to help you remember and apply the correct definitions for the terms included in the specification.

Question 5 (b)(iv)

Overall, a very well answered question with the majority of candidates (63.5%) able to offer a clearly stated reason for the increased domestic water consumption from Figure 5. Many references were made concerning the increase in our global population, growing affluence with increased disposable income so people can afford the new products (due to technological advancement) that need water i.e., washing machines, dishwashers etc. However, there was, on occasion, instances where the candidate would talk about water usage in agriculture i.e., irrigation of crops.

(iv) State **one** possible reason for the trend in domestic water consumption between 1990 and 2020.

(1)

The gradual increase might be because technology means more water is being used for domestic - dishwashers, washing machines

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Development of technology = 1 mark.

Question 5 (c)

As with Question 4(c), this proved to be challenging, with 32% of candidates not scoring, and only 36.2% of candidates picking up 1 mark. Again, most candidates were able to offer the name of an appropriate method but then struggled to either explain what it entails or actually how they were going to collect the data so that a variety of viewpoints would be achieved. Very few went into detail about the composition of a questionnaire such as the nature of the questions devised (i.e., open or closed) and similarly with detail about how/where to collect the data was very limited. Some mentioned online, on the street/CBD area, by post or telephone. The idea of interviews was poorly explained and only a few talked about any type of sampling if a survey was to be conducted.

(c) Describe **one** method that could be used to collect different views about the sustainable use of water resources.

(3)

Questionaire online
people could write their opinion in one
sentance
research opinions on it by
research politic views aswell send compan

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Examiner Comments

One mark for the identification of a data collection method, but not further development.

1 mark.

(c) Describe **one** method that could be used to collect different views about the sustainable use of water resources.

(3)

Do a survey in different regions to different people and people who work in the different sectors like Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and ask whether the sustainable use of water is good or bad / does it affect them

Survey (1) some indication of how 'different views' might be collected (1) and some idea of what the survey might involve (1) = 3 marks.

(c) Describe **one** method that could be used to collect different views about the sustainable use of water resources.

(3)

Could carry out a global survay and understand stakeholders points of their views such as an individual farmer, organisation like coca-cola or the government of a country and thes survay would examine their different views.

Idea of a survey (1) and how 'different views' might be collected (1) = 2 marks.

Some further details about what the survey might involve/include would lift this response to full marks.

Question 5 (d)

The majority (60%) of candidates were able to achieve between 2-4 marks, with 17% of those achieving the maximum score. A common response was to refer to rapid population (social factor) growth in some areas where demand was greater than supply and the influence of climate (physical factor) particularly with reference to very dry areas, or areas that suffer from "seasonal imbalance" i.e. monsoon areas, Mediterranean area (winter rain, summer drought idea linked to heavy tourist demands) and, of course, climate change and its impact of affecting/altering the total amount of rainfall an area receives, as well as how frequent. Some candidates also mentioned limited infrastructure due to either rapid urbanisation or the country's level of development i.e., lack of pipes/sewers, potential contamination thus limiting the supply of "fresh" water. A few also made mention of pollution of water resources, a problem especially in rapidly industrialising countries where a lot of industrial waste is dumped into rivers without being treated, a problem especially where people share water resources (i.e., rivers).

(d) Explain **two** reasons why some parts of the world have a limited supply of fresh water.

(4)

1. Low Annual Rainfall in some counties paired with extreme temperature due to climate change means that there's a water deficit and not enough fresh water for people

2. Pollution of Water Courses in some countries due to fertilisers and industrial products travelling and contaminating rivers and not treating water means that the fresh water is contaminated and has bacteria and no longer fresh.

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Two developed points here, one in each section (2+2) = 4 marks.

Question 5 (e)

Candidate performance of this question was similar to 4(e), with the mean mark being 5.04 and the modal mark being zero (many 'blanks' again). The majority of answers ranged from top Level 1 to top Level 2, and once again, the stronger element in responses was linked to the indicative content of AO2; for example, candidates were able to comment on the source of the increased demand for water, what the process involved, where in the world these desalination plants were being used and a little bit about why desalination could help solve the problem and looking into some of the problems/disadvantages associated with the process. This element proved more straightforward rather than making clear judgemental statements that were backed up by supporting evidence as well as really trying to take all things into account and deliver a considered conclusion.

Many responses could have done with a more structured approach, for example by starting with an idea of what the process involves, what is the main driving force behind the need to increase the supply of water, then making an argument around the use of technology (with supporting exemplification) as the best way to meet the demand for water by overcoming the supply problems, then providing an evaluation of the disadvantages to this desalination technology before bringing the evidence together and before presenting a considered conclusion. Candidates really needed to plan more carefully and address more closely the demands of the question i.e., can this process meet our future needs? If so, how? If not, why not and provide the necessary evidence to support their argument.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which desalination can meet the future demand for water.

(8)

Desalination is the process of puri purifying salty water to produce fresh water by removing the salt. Some people may agree desalination can meet meet future water demands because there is an almost endless supply of salt water in the seas. This means that as demands for water increase due to a rising population, salt water can be provided as fresh water in huge quantities once it has been desalinated.

However, someone may disagree because desalination is a very expensive process which requires a lot of energy. In order for desalination plants to be built, lots of natural environment is destroyed. For example, China has a huge desalination plant which provides a huge quantity of water, however it took 7 years to build and destroyed natural habitat. Furthermore, in order for lots of water to be desalinated, a huge amount of energy is needed to run the plant, which may involve the burning of fossil fuels or hydroelectric dams, which are not great as they fossil fuels release greenhouse gases in to the atmosphere, enhancing climate change.

In Conclusion, I agree with the statem think desalination can meet future demands for water to a great extent. This is because a large quantity of fresh water can be

supplied and we don't have to worry about sea water running out. However, this does have negative environmental impacts on marine life.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which desalination can meet the future demand for water.

(8)

$\rightarrow$ water from the sea

I think desalination can meet the demand for water very well. I think this because there is alot of of seawater for the demand. Another reason is its a renewable source as were never going to run out of sea water. There for because it being alot of sea water already and it being a renewable means it will meet the demand.

Although a reasons why desalan wont meet the further demana is it's very expensive. That too And seeing how most the counter in the demand are emerging/developing contrays. There for wont be able to afford the desaliawar tank. So want meet the demand. The emerging/developing contay may have to use government laws schemes a water hose ban.

This response was awarded 3 marks (+2 marks for SPaG).

The candidate is able to offer some basic aspects of knowledge around the pros and cons of desalination – but these have not been developed.

The response does consider both sides of the argument, but does not arrive at a final judgement.

(e) Evaluate the extent to which desalination can meet the future demand for water.

(8)

Desalination could somewhat meet the future demand for water.

Desalination is the cleaning of water by using specialist equipment provided by creators and the government. This could be beneficial in the future as ~~more~~ less fortunate cities and countries can use it to provide healthy clean water to their growing population. this means there's less chance of people getting ill from polluted water and having to pay for expensive healthcare treatments, consequently improving their quality of life.

A disadvantage of ~~dete~~ desalination would be it's not cost effective, this means it would cost alot of money to remove toxins and chemicals from the water in order to cater for the countries in need, ~~this t me~~ therefore, although it can meet the water demands, it isn't energey efficient and is very expensive for the countries that could afford it. It takes energy from equipment to collect a mass amount of water and to use desalination to actually purify the water, this adds cost to the already high price of

the process but would benefit many people in the future od provide them with a higher quality of living.

In conclusion desalination would widely benefit countries but would cost alot of money to do so.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- The 8-mark questions once again provided a significant challenge for a large proportion of the cohort; the mean mark for these questions was quite low (below 3/8 marks in Questions 1 and 2, and below 6/12 marks for Questions 4 and 5). In addition to this, the modal mark for all 8-markers was zero. This indicates that candidates need to be able to understand the demands of the question, be able to structure a response that helps address the command word and apply place-specific information from their case studies to unfamiliar contexts or, when asked, to refer to a named city/country.
- Candidates should be able to define all the key geographical terminology in the detailed content: For example, a knowledge of the terms 'suburbanisation' (1c), 'geopolitical' (2b), 'energy mix' (4a), and 'water surplus (5a) were not fully grasped by a significant proportion of candidates. Centres may wish to use the Glossary that is available on the website to help reinforce the definitions of these terms (found under 'Teaching and Learning Materials – Guidance').
- Read through the question paper carefully: a significant number of candidates failed to attempt 1d(i) and 2a(i) – complete the graph questions – was this possibly because they did not see any 'answer lines for these questions?
- Double-developed points are needed on the more challenging 3 – and 4-mark 'explain/suggest one...' questions (e.g., 1d(iii), 2e, 4c/5c). This was also an issue in the past, where there were a number of instances on these types of questions where candidates struggled to develop an initial point.
- Candidate performance for the 'calculate' questions was generally very good, however the 'calculate of percentage increase' remains a challenge for many. Also, it is important to be mindful of the mark tariff for these questions: when a 'calculate' question is worth 2 marks, there will be a requirement to display workings.
- Ensure that candidates read each question carefully, and whilst the command word is important, do not neglect to focus on other words in the question. For example, in Question 2(f), many candidates wrote about the 'causes/reasons' for changes in retailing, rather than the 'impacts' of these changes.
- Avoid 'mirrored' responses on the scaffolded 4-mark questions, for example in Questions 1(e)(ii) and 2(c); this means that the development of a different idea is required for more than 2 marks to be awarded.
- Centres are encouraged to use the past papers (from 2018-2023), Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) and specimen papers to help familiarise candidates with the structure of the paper and question types – including the tackling of the 8-mark extended open response questions. Centres should spend time reviewing the examples in this report, and other support materials via the qualification page on the Pearson website. This will help candidates become more familiar with the range of command words and how they are attached to different Assessment Objectives.

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html