

Mark Scheme (Results) January 2008

GCE

GCE Geography B (6476/01)

6476 Synoptic Issues Analysis

Question Number	Question	
1.		
	Indicative content	
	<p>Expect some use of the criteria outlined in Fig 5. Candidates may use these to give their responses a structure.</p> <p>Candidates need to identify the reasons why the Borders is eligible for Objective 2 funding. They may also identify those criteria which do not fit the area as well. Expect better candidates to identify the key reasons in some way, by suggesting which issues are critical to the areas eligibility. Some linkage, for instance industrial decline leading to migration might be expected.</p> <p>Credit students who refer to the new EU regional funding arrangements for 2007-2013, although it is <i>not necessary</i> for them to mention these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial restructuring The area has undergone a painful transition as the traditional textiles industry has declined, leaving a legacy of industrial buildings in need of new uses. Both issues lead to unemployment and the need for re-skilling, as well as depopulation of some sections of the community. Some candidates may recognize a spiral of decline / vicious cycle here. The service sector does appear to have been fairly buoyant, and to some degree has replaced decline in manufacturing and primary. • Diversification of rural areas Farming is also in marked decline, although the decline may have stabilized to some degree. Coastal communities such as Eyemouth have experienced a decline in the fishing industry. Tourism may have filled the gap to some extent, although compared with other Scottish regions the tourism industry is small and employs a low % of the population - a further reason to fund its development. • Severe geographical or natural handicaps The region could be described as peripheral, and poorly integrated into the rest of the UK and Scottish economy in terms of transport. There is a clear problem in retaining young people as the population pyramids show. One key issue, which could be seen as unique, is the lack of large population centre to provide a critical mass growth pole for development. Any type of development here needs to be spread thinly over a large area due to the low population density. The lack of major road and rail links is unique for a UK region. The climate is problematic in terms of inward investment. 	
Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	12-9	Structured explanation. Explanatory detail which identifies key reasons and uses criteria for eligibility effectively. Some linkage to knowledge of other places and situations and use of appropriate terminology.
Level 2	8-5	Some structure which attempts to explain some reasons for eligibility; less certain evidence and may be unbalanced between criteria for eligibility.
Level 1	4-1	Basic statement; lacks structure; identifies a few reasons for the area 'needing help'. Poor use of evidence.

Synoptic elements:

- Rural development issues from 6472 including diversification
- Demography and economic development; even globalisation and the loss on jobs in manufacturing from 6474, 'problem regions' and deindustrialisation, peripherality

Question Number	Question	
2.		
	Indicative content	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography & position The area is geographically close to Edinburgh. Currently there are no motorways and the road network is low density and slow, so there are opportunities to develop transport links, especially as the Scottish Parliament can now determine regional policy. The opportunity of attracting new investment in these circumstances is obvious. Commuting and counter-urbanisation is possible, as is tourism. In-migration has already occurred, as the peace, tranquillity and isolation attracts retirees and to some extent, tourists. More is possible. • Work and Skills Unemployment is low, but only due to out-migration of working age people. Incomes are well below the Scotland average. The economy of the area has more than its fair share of low skill, low wage jobs in contracting industries such as manufacturing and farming. Entrepreneurs might see a large pool of relatively cheap labour; some people have good skill levels. Relatively low cost location for investment. With land available, probably at a low cost. There are opportunities for FE /HE development as this currently restricts the skill level in the workforce. • Tourism Tourism presents an opportunity, as the area lags behind many other Scottish regions - it is likely to appeal to the over 40s particularly. There are opportunities for fishing, shooting, outdoor pursuits; this could be linked to farm diversification; conversions of farm buildings into B&Bs and other accommodation; perhaps also niche, organic food, and regional food. Credit opportunities to develop a marketing strategy, and pursue rebranding. • Demography Some areas do have a large potential workforce; large numbers of over 40 age bracket might appeal to some businesses. • Environment The area has a very attractive, unspoilt landscape with opportunities to roam freely, without facing the mountainous landscape of the Highlands. The area's environment has large wind energy potential, and some HEP potential; some potential to develop urban brownfield sites. <p>Accept other realistic opportunitis for development</p>	
Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	12-9	Detailed or wide ranging coverage of opportunities; uses evidence to support thoroughly. Likely to refer to other areas/example/scheme in support. Well structured.
Level 2	8-5	Some range of opportunities identified but may be unbalanced. Some use of evidence but not always thorough. Some structure.
Level 1	4-1	Description of one or two opportunities. Likely to be unclear in places. Poor use of evidence. Lacks structure.

Synoptic elements:

- Reference to similar rural areas or regions
- Demographic issues from 6474
- Climate from 6474
- Development fro 6474 / 6475 / 6472 (rural)

Question Number	Question										
3.											
	Indicative content										
	<p>Expect an evaluation, rather than a simple description. From the better candidates there may be some attempt to argue for / against the impacts of the developments.</p> <p>Different groups of people should be mentioned - for instance residents (young, old, rich, poor, lacking mobility etc), commuters, businesses and their owners, tourist and incomers may also be mentioned.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1. Waverley rail project</th> <th>2. Housing, commercial, retail, land use development</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>Economy</th> <td> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> May stimulate economic growth and create jobs - good for the young seeking work Improved access could give a boost to tourism and lead to a local multiplier effect (jobseekers, existing businesses) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High costs - where does the money come from (taxes?) and is the scheme viable? Could impact on local bus services in a negative way Some house prices could change - not easy to say whether up or down </td> <td> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job creation in the construction industry (young, unemployed). Greater supply could reduce housing costs for the young first time buyer (young; outside investors); improved services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oversupply could lead to fall / stagnation for exiting property owners Possibility of a boom / bust situation if the railway fails to take off. (existing residents) Closure of small businesses? </td> </tr> <tr> <th>Quality of life</th> <td> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved accessibility - could be for jobs, services, entertainment; easy to reach Edinburgh (young residents) Any economic growth could spin off into service growth, increasing the range of services for local (residents; visitors) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on bus services if no station (Stow residents) Some loss of property through compulsory purchase (Stow and elsewhere) Loss on amenity if close to route 'Rural Idyll' destroyed for some if area does grow rapidly (older residents) </td> <td> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Better housing stock - especially if some is affordable (home buyers) Slows out migration (young) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss of greenspace - town is set to expand in a major way; NIMBY issues for existing residents during and after construction (existing older residents) Some might feel the community of the town might change if it grows Swamped by new migrants counter-urbanising? (existing residents) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleaning up brownfield site and improving image </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			1. Waverley rail project	2. Housing, commercial, retail, land use development	Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> May stimulate economic growth and create jobs - good for the young seeking work Improved access could give a boost to tourism and lead to a local multiplier effect (jobseekers, existing businesses) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High costs - where does the money come from (taxes?) and is the scheme viable? Could impact on local bus services in a negative way Some house prices could change - not easy to say whether up or down	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job creation in the construction industry (young, unemployed). Greater supply could reduce housing costs for the young first time buyer (young; outside investors); improved services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oversupply could lead to fall / stagnation for exiting property owners Possibility of a boom / bust situation if the railway fails to take off. (existing residents) Closure of small businesses?	Quality of life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved accessibility - could be for jobs, services, entertainment; easy to reach Edinburgh (young residents) Any economic growth could spin off into service growth, increasing the range of services for local (residents; visitors) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on bus services if no station (Stow residents) Some loss of property through compulsory purchase (Stow and elsewhere) Loss on amenity if close to route 'Rural Idyll' destroyed for some if area does grow rapidly (older residents)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Better housing stock - especially if some is affordable (home buyers) Slows out migration (young) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss of greenspace - town is set to expand in a major way; NIMBY issues for existing residents during and after construction (existing older residents) Some might feel the community of the town might change if it grows Swamped by new migrants counter-urbanising? (existing residents) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleaning up brownfield site and improving image
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Level	Mark	Descriptor									
Level 4	20-16	Structured evaluation of both developments; detailed use of evidence and likely to use own knowledge in support. Balanced. Considers different groups.									
Level 3	15-11	Some structure and attempt to evaluate with less depth and balance; some use of own knowledge and good use of evidence. Mention of different groups. Max Level 3 if 1 development only.									
Level 2	10-6	Unbalanced - focussed on one scheme more than the others, and more descriptive; little evaluation, or only implied. Some use of evidence.									
Level 1	5-1	Lacking balance and focus; descriptive disjointed account with limited structure; little if any use of evidence.									

Synoptic elements:

- 6472 rural issues and rural development; urban terminology
- 6474 - ideas on economic growth and development
- Should have a range of similar areas / themes that could be used to support these examples

Question Number	Question	
4.		
	Indicative content	
	<p>Clear statement of sustainability is needed. Expect the Bruntland definition. A structure is also required, which could take several forms such as the 'stool' or 'quadrant': Other structures should be credited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Economic, Social, Environmental</i> • <i>Futurity, Public Participation, Bottom-up; Environmentally friendly</i> <p>Candidates will need to assess the scheme based on the structure they use. Some likely arguments are:</p> <p>The scheme may decrease car use, although people are reluctant to give up cars and costs may be an issue for commuters. The residents of settlements such as Stow argue that, without a station, they will not benefit. Environmentally, the scheme could spark of a series of developments putting pressure on greenspace. Some might see the over grown line as having ecological / amenity value which will be lost.</p> <p>Socially the increased access could increase access to job opportunities, in construction, running the railway and associated developments - especially if it increases tourism. These benefits might need to be set against the cost (£150 million) - could the money be better spent?</p> <p>The scheme was initially a grassroots one, with pressure from community groups - which could be seen as bottom -up, although compulsory purchase orders may be seen as top-down.</p> <p>The economic case is related largely to the idea of futurity and whether the investments pays of in the long term in terms of arresting population decline and job creation.</p>	
Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 4	16-13	Clear statement of sustainability linked to structured assessment of a range of aspects of the railway project; well evidenced and argued case.
Level 3	12-9	Some understanding of sustainability with some structure around identified criteria; more descriptive but begins to assess. Good use of evidence and linked to railway project.
Level 2	8-5	Implied understanding of sustainability with less structure; largely descriptive may focus on one aspect e.g. environment. More use of evidence; some links to railway project.
Level 1	4-1	Some basic statements with poor understanding of sustainability and weak use of evidence and linkage to railway project.

Synoptic elements:

- Other similar transport schemes might be mentioned, such as the A66 or channel tunnel rail link, Humber Bridge etc
- The economy part of 6474 has obvious links, as does the rural part of 6472
- Sustainability is very much a whole Spec theme so candidates should be well versed in it; there is even a link to reducing carbon emissions
- A conservation -v- development theme might be broadly identified in terms of an unspoilt region being swamped by new development

	Quality of Written Communication
	<p>As many parts of the Issues Analysis can be answered via annotated tables, techniques matrices and bullet pointed summaries, Quality of Written Communication is additionally assessed as part of an overview of the overall quality and fitness for purpose of the whole report. The mark scheme for individual sections has criteria scales which do assess clarity of argument, structure, use of geographical terminology from across the course. The assessment looks at the degree to which the student can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organise the issues analysis to develop a clear and coherent and well evidenced sequence of enquiry • write an integrated report which uses a form and style of writing appropriate to the task • ensure the text is legible, and spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that the message is clear • demonstrate effective synoptic understanding from the course.
1-3 marks	Overall the report lacks a clear and coherent sequence. It is written in a rather basic style, which presents limited aspects of the complex subject matter effectively to the reader. Spelling, punctuation and grammar contain inaccuracies, several sections are not fit for purpose.
4-7 marks	The report shows some coherence and clarity in its enquiry sequence and is written in a style, which presents some aspects of the complex subject matter effectively to the reader. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are generally accurate. Not all sections are fit for purpose. Some evidence used with attempts at synopticity.
8-10 marks	The report follows a clear and coherent enquiry sequence, and is written in a style which presents the complex subject matter effectively for the reader, with high standards of accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar. A professional report which uses evidence very effectively. Effective synopticity.