

GCE

Geography

Unit 3 Contemporary Geographical Issues (GEOG3)
Exemplar Script 5

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Option 3 Ecosystems: Change and Challenge**Total for this option: 25 marks****07**

Study **Figure 3** which provides information on the island of Socotra in the Arabian Sea. Comment on the nature and management of its environment. (7 marks)

Candidate's Answer

*On the small island of Socotra there seems to be great biodiversity in an area which is quite minute. The island is found just off of mainland Africa to the East in the Arabian Sea. On the island there are 900 plant species in total, 300 of which are endemic to Socotra itself. This is a large number of species whose habitat is here given the island's small size. Along with the 900 plant species, there are also 27 species of reptile that live on the island, and a huge proportion of the 27 species; 24 are endemic to Socotra like the 300 species of plant. This causes for great biodiversity in the area alone. **[Comment regarding biodiversity range in such a small area]** As well as its natural side, Figure 3 shows us and suggests that Socotra is managed very well; there are vast areas of National Park designed to protect the unique habitats and the islands landscapes, which can also be used to educate and provide recreational and scientific opportunity. The National Parks are very centralised on the island. There are two General use Zones on the island, one called Hadiboh the major city slightly northern, and another smaller area to the North West. These are already urban settlements and the governing body allow development in only these two specific areas. **[Comment regarding the scale of the management of the island, and the smallness of area allowed to be developed]** The majority of the island however, mainly surrounding the central area mainly made up of National Park, is what is known as a Resource use reserve. In these areas, development by the community is allowed, but only if the biodiversity is maintained and not damaged. The Resource use reserves cover most of the island. Finally there are also 13 Nature Sanctuaries, spread throughout the area of National Park, and these are undeveloped areas of land and sea that are protected to ensure their natural character is maintained. This system and management, by looking at just Figure 3 seems a very good way to proceed as lots of the area is protected, sustainable development is allowed, and with two strict pockets of development in already urban areas seems to suggest that this management strategy meets the needs of all. **[Comment regarding the sustainability of the island's management strategy]***

[The candidate fully appreciates the scale of the management strategies on the island and the context within which they are set. Top Level 2 - 7 marks]

08 Describe the characteristic features of the biome of **one** tropical region that you have studied. (8 marks)

Candidate's Answer

One tropical region we have studied would be the tropical Rainforest, and even more specifically the Amazon Basin. **[Chosen biome]** The features of this biome mean that all year round there is rainfall, sun, and humidity. Temperature levels don't vary much, maybe by 2/3°C due to the tropical rainforests being so near to the equator. **[Brief reference to climate]** Plants here must compete for sunlight to enable photosynthesis and to survive. In a tropical rainforest, the characteristic features would be of the forest floor covered with leaves as trees lose leaves all year round and of mosses and flowering plants, which again because of the conditions flowers all year round too. There would then be a shrub layer with the taller plants and smaller trees as well as younger trees too. There would then be an under canopy or understory where the growing younger trees would be waiting for a gap in the next level, the canopy to appear for them to out compete others, and move into. The canopy is the main layer of the rainforest where most of the fully grown trees stand. Finally there are the emergent, the tallest trees which break up even further and past the canopy, sticking up and almost standing alone. **[Description of vegetation - a pity no species are identified]** Because the rainforest is so diverse it's often presumed the soil is rich and fertile, this isn't the case. Because of the massive amounts of rainfall leaching is very rapid causing the soil to be very acidic. The rainforest only survives because of the rapid nutrient cycle that's sped up because of the humidity. **[Brief description of soil]** Decomposed plant litter that enters the soil causes the first metre or two of soil to be fertile meaning that the huge tall trees have buttress roots to try and spread to widest in an attempt to outcompete and gain as many nutrients as possible. The trees also have leathery drip tip leaves so the water slips off them so they don't take in too much, and the trees below the canopy must be very capable of photosynthesising quickly, and dealing without sunlight, as there is very little available through the canopy. These are very clear adaptations they must have. Plants such as vines and epiphytes also cover trees in an attempt to get closer to the sun and the inverted umbrella shape the trees take when in the canopy is very distinct, purposeful and a result of having no branches with leaves before then, simply because those branches aren't necessary as there is no sunlight for them to use. **[More detail of vegetation - some confusion towards the end. Climate, vegetation and soils described for the biome, but some precise detail is lacking - Level 2, 7 marks]**

09

Discuss the potential for sustainability in relation to development issues in **one** tropical biome that you have studied. (10 marks)

Candidate's Answer

*Sustainable development in the tropical rainforest is a subject that has been discussed for years. Tropical rainforests once covered around 14% of the Earth's land; now that figure is just 6%. This deforestation has occurred as our world develops and continues to do so, and our need for materials increases even more so. In the Amazon Basin, 1000's of km² of trees have been cleared for cattle ranches, farmers, and loggers. Roads have been built through the forest to then access these areas and support these organisations, without the thought of sustainability. **[General statements of development uses]** The indigenous tribes in the Amazon which we have looked at used the one recognised sustainable method of farming; this is shifting cultivation. Shifting cultivation is where the indigenous would farm an area for one or two yields of crop, whatever that may be, and instead of just staying in this one place and over cultivating the land until it is totally bare and destroyed for years and years, just like the farmers who come into the area did, they would use a slash and burn technique, burning the remainder of the area in a controlled manner, which would then put the nutrient filled ash back into the soil, and they would move onto their next area to farm. The previously farmed area would then have enough time to recuperate and regenerate, and when they had farmed elsewhere this area would be farmed again. **[Description of a traditional use - specific to this region]** This is widely regarded as the only sustainable way of using the rainforest. **[Brief link to question]** Although in the past we haven't developed sustainably in the tropical rainforest, we are trying to alter that. The Jau reserve is an example of this, where like elsewhere they maintain their idea of wanting to develop, yet are attempting to do so in a more sustainable fashion with the interests of the rainforest and biodiversity being taken into account. In the Amazon efforts are being made, for example the replanting of trees once they've been cut down and in some cases planting 2 or 3 trees in its place, but due to the diversity of the rainforest with so many different tree types it is hard to do. **[Some reference to another way to manage the area sustainably - but lacks detail]***

*The potential to develop more sustainably is there, but to develop entirely sustainably I think may be a struggle. **[Clear reference to the question]***

[The candidate has addressed the question, but with a lack of specific detail, so Level 3 cannot be awarded. There is a sense of place though - the student is clearly writing about the Amazon. Level 2 - 7 marks]

Option 6 Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges**Total for this option: 25 marks**

- 1 6 Study **Figure 6** which shows some information about five states in the north-east region of India. Comment on the nature of, and reasons for, separatist pressures in this region. (7 marks)

Candidate's Answer

The main languages of India are Hindi and English. Each of these regions does not share both of these languages with India. This will cause tensions and feelings of disassociation across these regions as they will not feel that they are 'Indian'. They may identify themselves as something else and the fact that many of these regions have different main religions helps towards this. [General statements so far - Level 1]

The nature of these pressures may be peaceful as in Arunachal Pradesh. This largely Buddhist and tribal region has no military groups that will fight against Indian authorities. [Comment - maybe peaceful] In the other regions there are different insurgency groups that will use violence in order to try and encourage the separation of these regions around India. Assam has the highest population and so its insurgency groups will more likely have more force to encourage their want for separation. [Second comment here]

The narrow Siliguri corridor will exacerbate problems as it will cause a feeling of isolation and build as the provinces will be almost cut off from India, adding to the effect of making populations feel less patriotic. [Third comment. Overall - max Level 2 - 7 marks]

17

Outline processes by which conflict resolution can take place.

(8 marks)

Candidate's Answer

Conflicts can be resolved many ways. They can be peaceful or, sadly, involve much violence.

*The Yugoslavian conflict of the 1990s was resolved using a more peaceful method. The Bosnian Serbs and Croats had been at war and horrific scenes of ethnic cleansing were experienced by the regions muslims. UN Troops were sent in to try and diffuse the situation. The UN intended to prevent further violence by using their troops as a deterrent to both sides so that peace talks could take place. Diplomats from both sides were brought together and eventually an agreement was reached where by both sides stopped fighting and the present ex-Yugoslavian states were created in order to try and make both sides happy. **[First strategy with supportive example]***

*Another method used is much more violent where one side emerges from a war 'victorious' in the sense that they won the war (even if they have lost many resources and lives in order to do so). After one side is victorious they will sometimes take control of the countries they defeated. They happened in world war two and the control of Germany was not ended until the collapse of the Soviet Union in Russia. **[A form of resolution - plus brief example]***

[Two strategies outlined with supporting examples - mid Level 2 - 6 marks]

1 8

With reference to **one** recent major international conflict, discuss the impact of the conflict on the **environment** of the area affected. (10 marks)

Candidate's Answer

Afghanistan has been the site of conflict most recently since 2004. After Osama bin Laden co-ordinated the destruction of the twin towers and took refuge in Afghanistan, NATO has been fighting the Taliban in the region. The environmental impacts of this war are:

Firstly, as with any war, the use of weapons and explosives leaves wasted cartridges and huge holes in the ground. Fields may be destroyed and houses collapsed as fighting takes place in and around them. This will have a detrimental effect on crop yields and the scenery at an area.

[Generic impacts - could be any such conflict zone]

*Wildlife will be killed either by explosives or destruction of their habitat which will lead to more indirect effects such as overgrowing of certain insects or plants if their main predator's habitat is repeatedly destroyed. In Afghanistan it is becoming increasingly hard for goat herders to graze their goats as trees and fields are blown up, removing what little food there is in the already sparse landscape. ***[Still very generic]****

*Also, land mines and explosive devices are laid by the Taliban where ever possible. This makes the environment extremely dangerous for the locals. Children are usually the worst effected as they play in open areas they may have been mined. This factor may last for years as mines are left undiscovered until they are hopefully spotted or blow a poor civilian up. ***[Again, generic, and not entirely environmental]****

In conclusion conflict of this nature has had a hugely negative effect on the environment of Afghanistan and it looks likely to take years to reach a state where it is back to normal.

[All generic - even the references to goat herders and the Taliban are not enough to take this to Level 2. Specific environmental impacts in Afghanistan are needed. Top Level 1 - 4 marks]

Option 4 World Cities

2 2 'The decentralisation of retailing and other services has had a major impact on urban areas.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

(40 marks)

Candidate's Answer

Decentralisation of retailing such as out of town retailing centres such as the Trafford centre in Manchester has undoubtedly contributed to urban decline. Central Business Districts are currently facing huge impacts as sub-urbanisation and counter-urbanisation needs leads to an increase in out of town retail parks. However, despite the decline many inner city areas are attempting to reverse this decline, and therefore decentralisation may not be as negatively impacting as originally thought to be. [An introduction]

The nature of shopping habits has inevitably allowed the increase of supermarkets and large retail centres outside the inner city. The introduction of freezers has allowed for a weekly shop to now be the norm, as well as more people having shopping as something 'for pleasure' and leisure as opposed to simply shopping for need purposes. Due to the fact that counter-urbanisation and sub-urbanisation has led to a huge decrease of population within city centres such as that of Manchester, retailing patterns here also decentralised to fit the changing needs of the population. Therefore retailing has certainly led to urban decline. [Evidence of background conceptual knowledge]

There have firstly been numerous economic impacts of out of town retailing centres. As big companies such as the John Lewis Partnership as well as Tesco's have had the money to invest in huge super stores, local shops within the CBD are unlikely to compete in terms of offering cheap products or a larger variety of products and therefore are forced to close. [Evidence of critical understanding - c/u] Moreover, fewer companies although, meaning larger shops does not necessarily mean more choices as a lot of retail centres are seen to be 'clones' of one another, such as the Metro Centre in Newcastle or Meadowhall in Sheffield. [Brief reference to examples] Therefore, economically, although there is certainly urban decline as less money is spent here, there does seem to not be the extent of urban decline that one was believe there is, especially now with the major influence of e-commerce, which is decreasing the role of shops both within and out of the CBD. [Evidence of c/u and synopticity. Implicit link to question]

Secondly, socially, an out of town retailing centre can impact massively. Due to the 11,000 free car parking spaces offered by the Trafford Centre, the decentralised centres seem to appeal more to younger, more affluent people who can afford to drive there by private car as the price of cars has not increased in comparison to the increase in income. Therefore, out of town centres appeal to those who can get there efficiently via motorway such as the Trafford Centre which is on the M60 and near the M6. [Evidence of c/u, and some detail of an example] However, despite the bus links to the centre aimed at the elderly who do not drive or the less than 17 yr olds, 78% of people visit the centre by car, and therefore the elderly and younger generation rarely visit decentralised retail areas, and therefore the elderly in particular get left behind in the CBD. [Evidence of synopticity] This certainly decreases the 'buzz' of the CBD, and many people feel the CBD doesn't have a good 'feel' any more as shops become boarded up, warehouses become derelict and the area turns into a 'black landscape'. Therefore, Manchester City Centre for example decreased in attractiveness considerably during the building of the Trafford Centre, and therefore socially, the retailing centres impact began on CBD's. [Some evidence of background knowledge, and a brief sense of place]

In contrast, the Trafford Centre is hugely attractive socially to visitors with a 20-pin bowling alley and 20 screen cinema complex, as well as a 'Laser Quest' arena, the Trafford are certainly offering more services than purely retail services to the customers. **[Detail of case study]** Due to huge amounts of sub-urbanisation and counter urbanisation the centres appeal to all those who don't want to face the traffic in an urban centre, and the retail centres have a huge sphere of influence, Manchester Trafford has approximately 5 million people within a 45 minute radius as well as 120 buses travelling to and from the centre every hour. Therefore, the centre is hugely attractive to affluent people. **[More detail and brief c/u]** However, it is not all bad news for urban centres; an urban renewal is rife at the moment to appeal and attract people once again as Kaben City in Germany have been successful at. **[This example is not developed]** Areas such as these have increased the services within their CBD such as increasing the amount of banks, travel agents and post offices within the area, as even as developing flagship projects such as increasing the amount of museums in the area alongside, putting on more 'farmers markets' and fetes or fairs to attract people back into the urban centre. **[More knowledge - aspects of CBD 'fightback']** Moreover, Tesco's has become 'Tesco Express' in an urban centre. **[Not developed]** For example Central Manchester Development Corporation (CMDC) has attempted to improve the southern area of Manchester by developing 3,000 new luxury apartments as well as introducing the GMEX centre for science. Therefore, socially although the decentralisation of retail is negatively impacting on an urban area, CBD's are attempting to counteract this. **[Clear link to question here, together with some synopticity]**

Furthermore, the environmental impacts of decentralisation of retail are phenomenal. The huge increase of traffic around the M60 near the traffic centre is said to have increased by 30% over the past decade and pollution is said to have increased rapidly. **[Evidence of synopticity]** Moreover, the area is at threat at becoming an 'urban heat island' as cars and the buildings itself is adding to an increase of temperature around the retailing centre. **[And more synopticity]** Despite 'Manchester Metroline' a mass transit train system improving the area and decreasing the amount of cars on the road by 5.3 million annually, there is still such a huge amount of traffic and pollution increase around the centre, which is a similar problem for the Metrocentre, near Newcastle. **[But the Manchester metro does not serve the Trafford Centre]** Therefore, although the environmental problems may be improved in the urban centres due to less cars and traffic present, it is counter balanced by the negative impacts of the retailing centre. Moreover, the use of air conditioning and electricity for CCTV in the retail centres also negatively impacts on the environment, certainly adding to climate change. **[Wider impact - synopticity - though questionable]** Therefore, urban areas may be positively impacted environmentally by retail centres, however this is not the case for the located area of the retail centre. **[Link to question]**

Finally, huge political problems are further caused by retail centres being removed from inner cities. CBDs become less attractive and areas of 'decay' come about where dirty, derelict buildings are vandalised and graffiti is common. The lack of community feel as a result of urban decline means that the turnout for elections in inner cities is the lowest ever, as we saw at the last election, turnout in Manchester was less than 20%. **[A wider impact - not sure that decentralisation of retailing would have this impact, but the candidate is entitled to suggest it - synopticity]** Moreover, extreme parties such as the BNP are voted for as people want rapid change and councils begin to demolish properties to meet governmental quotas also means that urban centres are having political problems due to retailing being decentralised. Despite attempts to reverse the decline by adding free space and building luxury apartments as we can see in Kaben city in Germany, it is true that urban centres are having huge negative political impacts as a result of decentralisation of retail. **[More elements of synopticity]**

Overall, the decentralisation of retail has impacted massively on urban centres, particularly economically and politically as even attempts of urban renewal cannot overcome deep under-lying issues. However, attempts have been successful at reversing the decline in urban centres such as the work of the CMDC as the Trafford Centre was built, and therefore although it is irrevocable that decentralisation does have a huge impact on urban centres, the increase of e-commerce as well as the renewal of urban centres means that it is not yet the end for inner city areas. **[Clear conclusion with view being expressed]**

[Despite some confusion regarding 'inner city areas' and CBDs, there is a clear sense of focus within this answer together with some strong evidence of conceptual knowledge. The candidate also demonstrates strong evidence of critical understanding. However, the case studies are not developed as strongly as they could be, and there is little discussion of the impacts of out of town retailing areas on nearby towns and cities. The discussion is thematic - concentrating on social, environmental and political impacts. This is a valid approach, but a key element of impact has been missed - other areas in the vicinity. The account is purposeful and coherent, and does introduce some alternative perspectives of the issue. A solid essay.]

[Knowledge - Level 4 (lower)

Critical understanding - Level 4 (lower)

Case studies - Level 3

Synopticity - Level 3

Quality of argument - Level 4 (lower)

Overall Level 4 (lower) - 32 marks]