



ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

Mark scheme January 2004

GCE

Geography A

Unit GGA3

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General Guidance for Examiners

Quality of Written Communication

As required by QCA, the marking scheme for this unit includes an overall assessment of quality of written communication. There are no discrete marks for the assessment of written communications but where questions are “Levels” marked, written communication will be assessed as one of the criteria within each level.

Level 1: Language is basic, descriptions and explanations are over simplified and lack clarity.

Level 2: Generally accurate use of language; descriptions and explanations can be easily followed, but are not clearly expressed throughout.

Level 3: Accurate and appropriate use of language; descriptions and explanations are expressed with clarity throughout.

Levels Marking – General Criteria

The following general criteria relate to knowledge, understanding and their critical application and the quality of written communication as outlined in the AQA Geography A subject specification. They are designed to assist examiners in determining into which band the quality of response should be placed, and should be used when assessing the level of response an answer has achieved. It is anticipated that candidates’ performances under the various dimensions will be broadly inter-related and the general guidelines for each level are as follows:

Level 1: An answer at this level is likely to:

- display a basic understanding of the topic;
- make one of two points without support of appropriate exemplification or application of principle;
- demonstrate a simplistic style of writing perhaps lacking close relation to the term of the question and unlikely to communicate complexity of subject matter;
- lack organisation, relevance and specialist vocabulary;
- demonstrate deficiencies in legibility, spelling, grammar and punctuation which detract from the clarity of meaning.

Level 2: An answer at this level is likely to:

- display a clear understanding of the topic;
- make one or two points with support of appropriate exemplification and/or application of principle;
- demonstrate a style of writing which matches the requirements of the question and acknowledges the potential complexity of the subject matter;
- demonstrate relevance and coherence with appropriate use of specialist vocabulary;
- demonstrate legibility of text, and qualities of spelling, grammar and punctuation which do not detract from the clarity of meaning.

Level 3: An answer at this level is likely to:

- display a detailed understanding of the topic;
- make several points with support of appropriate exemplification and/or application of principle;
- demonstrate a sophisticated style of writing incorporating measured and qualified explanation and comment as required by the question and reflecting awareness of the complexity of subject matter and incompleteness/tentativeness of explanation;
- demonstrate a clear sense of purpose so that the responses are seen to closely relate to the requirements of the question with confident use of specialist vocabulary;
- demonstrate legibility of text, and qualities of spelling, grammar and punctuation which contribute to complete clarity of meaning.

NB A perfect answer is not usually required for full marks. Clearly it will be possible for an individual candidate to demonstrate variable performance between the levels. In such cases the principle of best-fit should be applied. Experience suggests that the use of exemplars within this mark scheme and the discussion which takes place during the Standardisation Meeting normally provides sufficient guidance on the use of levels in marking.

Annotation of Scripts

- Where an answer is marked using a levels of response scheme the examiner should annotate the script with ‘L1’, ‘L2’ or ‘L3’ at the point where that level is thought to have been reached. The consequent mark should appear in the right hand column. Where an answer fails to achieve Level 1, zero marks should be given.
- Where answers do not require levels of response marking, each script should be annotated to show that one tick equals one mark. It is helpful if the tick can be positioned in the part of the answer which is thought to be credit-worthy.

General Advice

It is important to recognise that many of the answers shown within this marking scheme are only exemplars. Where possible, the range of accepted responses is indicated, but because many questions are open-ended in their nature, alternative answers may be equally credit-worthy. The degree of acceptability is clarified through the Standardisation Meeting and subsequently by telephone with the Team Leader as necessary.

SECTION A

Question 1

- (a) (i) Long profile is drawn from source to mouth. (1)
 showing relative height (1) from sea/base level. (1)
 while cross profile is drawn from valley side/bank to bank. (1)
 showing features of banks and bed. (1)
 May add detail – e.g. expected concave nature of long profile (1),
 bankful or channel cross section. (1)
- 4×1 Distinction must be clear, otherwise max 3 (maybe implicit/explicit) **(4 marks)**
- (ii) Stepped/Not smooth. (1) Concave only. (1)
 Partly concave e.g. from source to approximately 150kms from source.
 (1) and then again from 150km to mouth. (1)
 Very steep in places (1) e.g. near source. (1)
 Relatively gradual descent (1) 100-105 metres over 239kms in total
- 4×1 Any valid point, 2+1+1 any developed point. Any combination. **(4 marks)**
- (iii) Profile at source is higher up (1) 120m versus 40m. (1)
 Valley is V shaped (Albeit quite shallow) (1) while very wide U
 downstream. (1)
 Narrow near source – but wider downstream (1) 100/200m compared to
 4km. (1)
 Valley sides have more abrupt end downstream (1) + evidence (1)
 Reasons should relate to process:
- Vertical erosion means level of valley drops due to down cutting (1)
 to base level to form graded profile. (1)
 - Lateral erosion becomes more important downstream (1) therefore
 valley wider.
 - Deposition occurs along flat valley floor creating floodplain. (1)
- Max 5×1 for description or explanation. Elaborated points 1+1. If very
 well done up to 3. Contrasts should be made to allow access to marks
 for description or explanation. **(8 marks)**

- (b) Narrow channel (1) which does not extend across whole of bed. (1)
 Riffles/shallow sections clearly visible. (1)
 Pools/ deeper sections. (1)
 Evidence of turbulent flow/rapids. (1)
 Bed clearly descends. (1)
 Large amount of deposited load (1) with many large boulders. (1)
 Evidence that discharge relatively low at time photograph taken.
- Comment relating to relative size of load and channel.
 - Comment relating to relative width of channel and bed.
 - Comment relating to marked level of vegetation , suggesting cover by water at certain times. (1)
 - Comment relating to bedload splitting channel, braiding (1)
- Labels may mix characteristics/evidence of low discharge; allow elaborated point as labels 1+1.

Max 6 for labelling of features, minimum of 2 for evidence.
 Features must be correctly arrowed to be creditworthy.

(8 marks)

- (c) Changes shown by satellite images – Figures 4b and 4c.
 In February channels clearly split – one main channel – Jamura and other smaller channels whilst in August these all merged.
 Only relative depth is different.
 Old Brahmaputra is approximately 23km northeast of Jamura, whilst in August, the land separating the two varies from 5km to less than 1km.
 Uncultivated island adjacent to river covered whilst much cultivated land also covered as well as some of that occupied by settlement e.g. along Chatal.
 Channels can be seen to meander in February whereas this is less apparent in August.
Maps clearly emphasise the extent of braiding in February and presence of islands of deposition. It is clear that area closest to Jamura is not always used for cultivation, although some sections are, these are the areas of the shallowest floods.
 At the time of low flood – the impact of channel processes is not evident from maps. However, this clearly increases during flooding, an extreme, if regular event in such a location. Erosion process can be clearly seen e.g. where water is forced to flow around islands of deposition (akin to outside bend of a meander) and deposition in other locations (e.g. on inside meander band on centre west of map).

Level 1 Simple description of generalised characteristics shown on either satellite images or maps. Will note some changes/contrasts or may describe processes shown on Figures 4(a) and (e).

(1-3 marks)

Level 2 Begins to focus description on contrasts between February and August. Some specific and appropriate terminology used and some specific evidence.
 Will make some reference to both satellite images and maps, although imbalance likely.

(4-6 marks)

Level 3 Clearly describes contrasts between February and August.
 Specific reference to evidence in support and appropriate

terminology used.

Reference to satellite images and maps is more balanced.
 “Erosion/Deposition” Refers to processes and perceives impact these have on channel characteristics, may show awareness of importance of extreme events.

(7-8 marks)

- (d) Photographs clearly show large concrete dam, with lake behind it. Dam offers opportunity for major routeway, shown by large number of (stationary) cars and lorries.
 Lake may offer opportunity for recreation, clearly offers hydroelectric power as shown by number of electricity pylons and two power houses in front of the dam. The dam is likely to act as a source of water storage and supply large towns/cities.
 The above may be viewed as benefits and can be developed. Simultaneously, there should be a consideration of costs:
 The dam is large, a clear scar on the environment, as are the many electricity pylons.
 The road cannot cope with traffic.
 There appears to be evidence of a build up of sediment in the lake in the foreground.
 Below the dam, water is flowing turbulently, clear water erosion is likely and there may have been some efforts to protect the channel.
 Candidates own knowledge may relate to this or another case study using a dam as a management strategy.
 Social, economic, environmental and political impacts are all valid.

Level 1 Describes features from the photographs.

May note, but not differentiate between costs and benefits.

Will probably feature on general impacts rather than channel impacts.

(1-4 marks)

Level 2 Begins to target information on photographs to purpose.

Shows an awareness of impact (costs and benefits), uses evidence in support.

Will begin to consider lake impacts (characteristic of top end) and will refer to knowledge to some extent.

Tentative assessment of impact.

(5-7 marks)

Level 3 Clearly targets information on photographs to purpose.

Specific evidence relating to impacts (costs and benefits) referred to.

Considers impacts on lake as well as valley.

Clear reference to own input, relating to Colorado or another river where dams are used as a management strategy.

Clear assessment of impact, relative importance of costs and benefits.

(8-10 marks)

- (e) (i) Any small scale aim is valid.
 1 mark for basic statement, 1 additional mark for elaboration.
 e.g. are some types of urban regeneration better than others? (1 mark).
 Do those involving local people appear more successful? (1 mark).

(2 marks)

- (ii) Item of primary data, e.g. bipolar analysis of environment, - with

consideration of variety of indicators e.g. noise, traffic, landscaping (1)
on a scale of 1 to 5 / opposites noted (1) / at systematically sampled
locations (1) up to 4 for outline of primary data item.

Presented via located comparative/compound bar, 1 mark for technique
and up to 3 for elaboration of how presented/perceived.

As this will show all elements simultaneously. (1)

And indicate spatial variation. (1)

Related to regression strategy (1), up to 4 for justification.

1 mark reserved for each element.

(6 marks)

SECTION B

Question 2

- (a) (i) Label likely to refer to:
- Relative height (1) +1 for specific reference to contrasting number of stories.
 - Relative density (1) +1 for further comment, many more buildings.
 - Relative size (1) +1 for further comment, individual plots much bigger.
 - Relative design (1) +1 for noting individual buildings/floor area, relative uniformity, box shapes/rectangular with flat roofs in foreground but greater diversity in shape in high rise zone to rear e.g. 'pyramid'. (+1)
 - Relative appearance/building materials, seemingly glass and concrete in high rise zone (1), but more variation in colours in foreground.
 - Characteristics of boundary, clearly distinct (1), abrupt change in characteristics, not a zone of change (1) all characteristics change simultaneously (1) some changes more noticeable e.g. height. (1)

Maximum 6 for contrasts, minimum 2 for characteristics of boundary, features must be correctly arrowed to be creditworthy.

(8 marks)

- (ii) Description likely to relate to:
- Main shopping area in triangular shape in central area (1)
 - largest, most well known stores around Union Square (1)
 - banks mainly found in single area in north east (1)
 - hotels largely found in area to west of Powell Street, but this mixed with entertainment (theatre), car rental and restaurants (1)
 - related/linked land uses (1)
 - restaurants are relatively scattered (1)
 - but are not present in main shopping area (1)
 - mixed entertainment areas tend to be in south east (1)
 - parking area, open space, any valid zone/use can be referred to.

Comment may relate to reasons for zones e.g. relating to land values and bid rent, size of site, available, cumulative attraction;

Or extent to which zones are mutually exclusive, contain dominant or mixed land use; or extent to which boundaries could be drawn.

1 per undeveloped point; 1+1 per developed point.
Maximum 6 for description; minimum 2 for comment.

(8 marks)

- (b) (i) Figure 9(a) shows a small number of often very large units, especially on west side of Paradise Street, size is more variable on eastern side. The most prestigious function is that of the hotel whilst others indicate that this is part of the edge (frame) of CBD with transport terminal of the bus station, multi-storey car park, radio station, meeting house and a number of vacant buildings.

Figures 9(b) and 9(c) reinforce this impression with taller buildings on

west being of pre-cast concrete 1970s style redevelopment, large not aesthetically pleasing. Buildings on eastern side are lower in height, generally brick built but again only of average quality.

The environment is one which allows free traffic access and there are many buses (owing to the proximity of the bus station) which detracts from a pleasant CBD environment in 21st century due to noise, air pollution and potential conflicts with pedestrians, cars.

It is clear that current situation does not match the purpose indicated in the proposals, as it is rundown rather than prestigious, outdated and of at best mediocre quality, unlikely to attract business or institutions as evidenced by number of vacant outlets present.

- Level 1** Describe features of the area, probably reliant on either 9(a) or 9(b)/(c) and will see these resources separately. Description relatively generalised. **(1-3 marks)**
- Level 2** Begins to target information to question. Perceives link between 9(a) and 9(b)/(c), some reference to specific evidence. Tentative/implicit evaluation. **(4-6 marks)**
- Level 3** Clearly targets information to purpose. Links meaningfully 9(a) and 9(b)/(c). Reference to specific features. Explicit, clear evaluation using evidence given. **(7-8 marks)**

- (ii) Re-urbanisation is the process whereby people return (1) to the city centre/inner areas of the city (1) having previously moved away to the suburbs or rural urban fringe. (1)
Gentrification is at times a related process where old derelict properties (1) in the inner city working class areas (1) are improved (1) for wealthier new inhabitants (1) who may therefore represent the re-urbanisation process. (1)

Can allow example marks

- 4×1 maximum 3 on either re-urbanisation or gentrification. Distinction must be made clear otherwise maximum 3. **(4 marks)**

- (iii) Classify land use (1) according to purpose, e.g. transport services residential, leisure. Allow up to 2 for valid groups / then colour code (1)
Either maps on same scale side by side. (1)
Or by using an overlay. (1)
1 mark minimum for consideration of **changing** land use other than just land use. **(4 marks)**

- (iv) Consequences should clearly relate to:
- Changes in land use and quality: large, modern leisure facilities, flagship department stores instead of multi-storey car parks, bus stations.
 - Changes in the environment: Paradise Street to become tree lined a wide avenue rather than a congested thoroughfare.
 - Economic changes; clearly area designed to attract prime companies, anchor stores, much more prestigious, raise image of area and city itself, creating multiplier effect attracting others.
 - Social changes; no current residential population whereas new development means land use on east side of Paradise Street becomes apartments, so an attempt being made to return population to central areas and create more vibrant community instead of a ‘dead’ heart.
- Such developments should raise profile, prestige of Liverpool, making it fulfil aim of achieving status as leading European city.
- Level 1** Describe features shown on figure 9(d), refers to aspects of land use and environment. Offers specific evidence or may be generalised. May generally see changes e.g. some housing present. **(1-4 marks)**
- Level 2** Clearly considers changes in land use and/or environment. Evidence referred to in support. Begins to consider either economic or social implications which can be derived from changes. **(5-7 marks)**
- Level 3** Clearly targets information. Purposeful reference made to changing land use/environment with reference to evidence. Considers implications of such changes economically, socially and perceives city wide importance rather than noting impact on Paradise Street area only. **(8-10 marks)**
- (c) (i) Any small scale aim is valid.
1 mark for basic statement, 1 additional mark for elaboration. **(2 marks)**
- (ii) If no aim in (c)(i) – max 4. **6 marks)**