

Examiners' Report
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GCE Geography 6GEO3 01

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Introduction

This year's Unit 3 Contested Planet examination was sat under slightly different circumstances to previous years, due to the removal of the January exams. This meant that the pre-release information was available for longer. Overall, it was hard to determine a discernable impact of this change beyond the sense that the structure of the 15 mark essay question answers in Section A was perhaps a little weaker than in the past. Candidates chose all of the Section A questions in good numbers, with the approximate percentage popularity shown below:

Question 1: Energy Security = 29%

Question 2: Water Conflicts = 26%

Question 3: Biodiversity under Threat = 14%

Question 4: Superpower Geographies = 18%

Question 5: The Technological Fix? = 13%

Overall, the vast majority of candidates perform well on this examination paper. As in the past, timing issues were relatively uncommon.

Most candidates produced full answers and there were many excellent responses.

Specific comments on Section A

As is always the case, there were some very high quality answers in Section A and the average quality of response is good. Many answers demonstrate a good command of physical, human and political geography and many candidates use contemporary events and changes to support their work, as well as well-known examples and case studies. There are some areas centres may wish to focus on when preparing for future assessments:

- The words economic, social, environmental and political are commonly used in questions: the word political is the least well understood – it relates to governance, decision making and the exercise of power.
- Cause and consequence are often not fully understood. For instance Question 4(a) was a question about the consequences of the growth in middle class numbers and spending in the BRIC countries – in others words the impacts of the growth, not the reasons why growth is occurring (the causes).
- There is confusion over the meaning of supply versus demand within both Water Conflicts and Energy Security.
- In the 10 mark data stimulus questions there is a tendency to focus on only certain parts of the Figures, examples include 'the pink bits' on Figure 3 but not the 'green bits', China and India on Figure 4 but not Brazil and Russia, the first 2 columns of data on Figure 5, but not the last 2 columns – this leads to partial answers.
- Level 3 and Level 4 marks in the 15 mark questions are only accessible if candidates can show that they are assessing, examining or evaluating (depending on the command word). Failure to do this i.e. by only describing and explaining, limits marks to a maximum of 8 in most cases. The development of evaluation skills and evaluative writing style is thus crucial to candidates aiming for a high grade.

Section A

Question 1: Energy Security

Question 1 (a)

This question asked candidates to consider different projections for future oil production and explain why there is uncertainty over future production projections. A good understanding of the projections on Figure 1 was shown by most of the candidates. Some spent too long describing the graph rather than considering the reasons for uncertainty. In addition, the question was not asking candidates to explain past production trends which side-tracked some candidates. In most cases there was some understanding of the physical factors that might affect future production. This often focused on the difficulty of extracting technically difficult reserves and the inaccessibility of some reserves. There was less focus on the nature of currently known reserves in terms of their physical size and the reliability of data on reserves. A number of candidates considered the difficulty of determining the ownership of reserves in some areas such as the Arctic and the difficulty of deciding to exploit these versus protecting areas for conservation purposes. Economic factors were often considered in terms of the costs of exploiting remaining reserves and the effect of this on the price of oil – this was often considered in relation to rising oil prices and the argument that as prices rise, previously uneconomic reserves would be exploited thus increasing supply. Fewer candidates considered the equation from the perspective of rising demand from the BRIC (and other economies) or indeed the possibility that a move towards other forms of energy might reduce the demand for oil and delay its 'peak'. The 3 projections on Figure 1 were usually mentioned, but rarely used in detail within answers. Answers which tackled the reasons for uncertainty head-on were less common than might have been expected.

This is an example of a Level 3 response to Question 1(a).

1a) First of all peak oil is at the point when oil production is at its highest, after that point production will start to decline causing many energy security problems.

A physical factor that can create uncertainty is that no one knows how much oil there actually is that we can extract. This is because ~~the~~ people can only guess how much there is e.g. supposed to be 90 billion ^(30% of underground) barrels of oil in the arctic but we won't know the actual amount till we extract it all.

Also figure 1 shows 3 different futures "no peak", "plateau oil" and "peak oil". There are 3 projections because there are many different opinions, no one knows if we will find new reserves in time meaning production will fall.

Also we don't know how effective the alternate oil will be e.g. Tar Sand, again an estimate of 180 billion barrels in Canada but we won't know till we have got it all. At the moment Canada is producing 3.5 million barrels from tar sands, only problem with this is that a lot of energy and fuel goes into getting this into a useable state.

Another factor is the oil may be out of reach of ~~our~~ ^{current} technology at the moment e.g. the oil might be under the

Sea but just too far down to get to at the moment and with current prices may not be a viable option. But with prices on the rise and demand still increasing this will most likely be a problem in the future as technology is always getting better and always making it cheaper.

Another economic factor to the uncertainty is that a country might not have enough money to pay for the extraction of the oil because it is still developing and spending money elsewhere, so it might be there but is not going to be extracted any time soon.

Another economic factor is that OPEC who produce 36 million barrels daily (need to produce 60 million by 2030) might not be telling the truth about how much oil they have left so they can put up the prices.

In conclusion there are many reasons why we don't know when oil production will be in the future. There might be massive reserves that we don't know about we just need to find them.



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Examiner Comments

This answer makes some reference to the scenarios shown on Figure 1, and provides some range of reasons including the issue of remaining reserves, the useable oil available from unconventional sources and some economic issues that contribute to uncertainty. The issues could be explained in more depth.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

The answer above has a good range of reasons/explanations, but less depth. Getting this balance right is very important.

Question 1 (b)

Most answers demonstrated a sound understanding of the pros and cons of a range of renewables and many examples were used to illustrate these. They included the Three Gorges Dam, various UK onshore and offshore wind farms and examples of solar schemes. A very good range of renewable energy resources was used, which included types often referred to as recyclable i.e. biofuels and nuclear. In most cases 'energy' was considered in very general terms only, as were 'fossil fuels'. This meant that while many answers developed a cogent argument very few linked specific fossil fuels to the specific renewables that might replace them. This aspect of the question was important as in many cases there is a specific link. Examples include HEP in China providing baseload electricity generation that could be provided by coal, or biofuels in the USA and Brazil replacing oil based fuels for transport. Most candidates lacked this direct link. That said, many candidates provided convincing reasons as to why fossil fuels are unlikely to be fully replaced any time soon. These included cost issues, public perception (e.g. over nuclear power), physical constraints and reliability issues. In some cases it was argued that cheap fossil fuels, especially fracked gas, were likely to delay a renewable future because people would choose a cheap energy dense fossil fuel over a costly, controversial renewable. Some very good answers considered the different situations in fossil fuel hungry NICs and BRICs versus the drive towards renewables in countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

This is an example of a Level 4 response to Question 1(b).

B) Renewable energy is resources of energy which can be replaced over human times e.g. wind. However it is debatable whether fossil nuclear energy can be included as some of our waste can be reused.

Renewable energy has started to make significant contributions to energy sources with major investment going into the sector to make contribution towards the national grids. With our domestic fossil fuels starting to dry up in many countries the need to look for domestic energy is increasing as many countries want to be energy secure. Countries such as Germany has been investing heavily in the renewable energy sector which has recently made 31% of Germany power needed. This does suggest that renewable energy can replace fossil fuels for energy when a country puts all of their weight behind renewable energy.

Further on, Britain has been pushing for offshore wind to ~~might~~ make a contribution to Britain's energy security ~~and~~ with the aim to make a third of the ~~power~~ ^{Britain's power} used to be produced from offshore wind. Britain ~~long~~ ^{used to} use oil from the North Sea to supply Britain but with

that running dry the need to produce domestic power is greater than ~~ever~~ ^{ever} as suppliers of fossil fuels such as ~~from~~ ^{from} Russia have shown to be a ~~unreliable~~ ^{unreliable} producers e.g. Ukraine in 2006 when oil supplies were cut off ~~for 3 days~~.

However there is still a big push to keep using fossil fuels which could prevent renewable energy from replacing fossil fuels. In America there has been a big push for fracking, where gas is cracked from out of shale rock. This has led to gas prices dropping by as much as 83% in price and is bringing energy prices down. Even with renewable costs dropping, it would be difficult to compete and is leading to America having a 'dash for gas' with America increasing their reliance on fossil fuels.

Also, many countries ~~have~~ ^{have} been using a lot more coal due to a drop in price. Poland, Australia and America are exporters recording an increase of coal to countries at cheap prices. This is also leading to renewable energy being unable to compete on cheap prices. Added to the fact that China's consumption has doubled since 1990 and is building the equivalent of two coal fired power stations a week. Coal looks unlikely to

go away ~~to the~~ ~~sub~~ as a future energy source.

In summary, renewable energy could replace fossil fuels as the main energy source: which is shown in Germany. However, with fossil fuel ^{prices} costs of coal and gas ~~to~~ ^{groups such as} ~~fracking~~ renewable energy looks unlikely to be able to compete with such low costs. This suggests the economics of fossil fuels could prevent the uptake of renewable energy.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an evaluative answer. It is set within the context of fossil fuels, and uses a number of countries (Germany, UK) to illustrate how and how far renewables might replace fossil fuels. It includes the counter-argument that fracking reduces the likelihood of fossil fuels being replaced any time soon. The conclusion shows a good understanding of the issues.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Answers which consider an argument from several different perspectives, supported by examples, generally score high marks.

Question 2: Water Conflicts

Question 2 (a)

The general standard of response to the resource was good and there was a clear understanding of the processes involved in the hydrological cycle from many candidates. Many answers used terminology effectively such as infiltration, interception and surface runoff. Aspects of Figure 2 which were usually not considered included the role of fossil groundwater and the fact that it is not a renewable resource. Often when this was mentioned it was confused with biological fossils. Few candidates picked up on the "but falling" comment about Area A on Figure 2 which might have been related to changing climate.

Some candidates related Areas A and B to real areas, although not always successfully. A minority still consider the equator to be hot and dry i.e. a desert. In addition the terms drought and arid /aridity were often confused. Most were able to explain the differences in renewable water availability well, using a range of information on Figure 2 that related to rock type, groundwater stores, runoff, evaporation rates and the rainfall. Area A was often considered to be an area similar to the SW United States and B the UK. Occasionally candidates drifted into human factors which were not part of the question.

This is an example of a Level 2 answer to Question 2 (a).

a) In area A there are a variety of physical factors which ~~influences~~ influences water availability.

Area A shows that they have sparse amounts of ground water available, this means that they have few reserves underground of fresh water. They ~~also~~ also have only 500mm of rainfall a year on average and high temperatures, this means that water is easily evaporated off the ground surface before it has a chance to enter the water cycle, particularly because they have thin soil and sparse vegetation to intercept water. Area A also has granite bedrock, which is impermeable, this means that water cannot permeate so it is evaporated off the surface, also aquifers can't be formed as a store of water.

In area B, there is also a variety of physical factors that influence the availability of water, such as the ~~to~~ higher average rainfall.

and lower average temperature of only 12°C, this means that there is less evaporation of surface water so it can enter the water cycle. There are also forests which means that water is intercepted and deep soils mean that it is absorbed so it can be stored. The bedrock is sandstone meaning that it is permeable and water can be absorbed so less is lost through evaporation. There is also a large amount of ground water ~~meaning~~ which increases the amount of water available, and also because of the sandstone and high average rainfall, the groundwater will be replenished so it can be used again.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This answer uses some good water cycle terminology and makes reference to Areas A and B on Figure 2, although the terminology could be more extensive. While it shows sound understanding it lacks depth on processes and tends to reverse what it says about Area A when considering Area B.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Key terminology is very important, especially when it relates to a physical geography topic and the meaning of terminology is precise.

Question 2 (b)

This question was popular but did have two distinct parts to it, namely economic development and environmental concerns. A large number of candidates were able to equate economic development to an increase in demand for water for agriculture, industry and domestic uses. This was often related to economic growth in China, other BRICs or areas such as California or Nevada. Some contrasted demand in countries at different levels of development in terms of the balance from agriculture, industry and domestic sources. The increasing use of various water-heavy domestic appliances was well documented (UK a frequent exemplar) along with recreational uses (California), irrigated farming (various exemplars) and industry.

The environmental concerns part of the question was rarely done well, and in many cases was either misinterpreted or effectively ignored. Many answers provided detailed descriptions of how demand for water had led to environmental problems and used the usual examples of the Three Gorges Dam, Salton Sea and Aral Sea. However, this was not the focus of the question which required candidates to show how environmental concerns influence water demand. Many were actually explaining how environmental problems were reducing water supply. There was a general tendency to write extensively but unselectively on the usual suspect case studies, rather than be selective and apply knowledge and understanding to the question. Desalination was sometimes argued as a way of solving the 'demand' problem but it was rarely used successfully in the context of this question. A small number of candidates did move beyond the environmental impacts path and began to consider how environmental concerns and worries about biodiversity and sustainability of water supplies had led to water metering, use of grey water or more intermediate technology approaches to water conservation in the developing world. This was really the key to unlocking the full meaning of the question. The best answers tended to argue that at high levels of economic development (and water demand) attention tends to turn to water conservation and demand is reduced because of concern for the environment.

This is an answer to Question 2 (b) which scored maximum marks.

b) Economic development and environmental concerns can influence water demand to a certain extent, having different effects in different locations.

On the one hand, economic development influences water demand in China, but Northern China experiences a shortage of water, but Southern China experiences a surplus of supply. However, the most populous and economically active regions are in the North, meaning demand for water is risen due to economic development. The Chinese government has planned a South-North water transfer project, which will divert 45bn cubic meters a year to Northern provinces, ^(via 3 canals linking the 4 major rivers) fuelling Beijing, Shanghai + Tianjin which are the three main economic power houses. This is evidence that demand for water is fuelled by economic development, as without this vital resource, progress in industry and domestic quality of life could not be achieved.

However, environmental concerns appear to not have an effect on demand in China. Despite the fact that 80% of China's rivers no longer support fish, China's demand for water has not faltered. Therefore, the environment suffers further as demand continues to increase and concerns are not addressed. Evidence of this is seen in China, as although the economy could overtake the US by 2016; the Yellow River, one of China's 4 major rivers, only flows for 165 days a year due to overextraction.

~~Additionally, economic~~ On the other hand, economic development may not influence water demand to a large extent in other locations. In Australia, the Murray-Darling Basin supplies water for the largest agricultural region in the country. Although economic development of the agricultural industry in this region is important, water demand has been influenced as resources have become more scarce. The Snowy Mountains Scheme which consists of 16 dams and 7 power stations in the basin has significantly reduced flow. The Australian population have recognised the issue of increased water scarcity and pressure has been put on the Australian government to take a top down approach on water conservation, in addition to bottom-up individuals being ~~rather~~ conscientious about sustainable use. ~~therefore~~ The consequence of sustainable use may be that Australian economic development may not be so great, meaning that economic development has not influenced a rise in water demand in this case.

However, it is the environmental concerns of overextraction that have influenced water demand in this case. The lobbyist pressure groups campaigning to increase water conservation and therefore reduce demand have arisen due to damage to the environment. ~~Direct~~ Overextraction in the basin has caused erosion and a decline in water quality; high salinity is harming wildlife such as freshwater fish; these are the concerns that have triggered a change in demand to more sustainable use in Australia. Therefore, the environmental concerns have influenced water demand.

Overall, both economic development ~~& water damage~~ + environmental concerns can influence water demand, but the ~~very~~ combination of priorities differs depending on the location. In emerging economies such as China, environmental concerns take a backseat and water demand grows with economic progress. However, in more developed locations, such as Australia, the environment and its protection has had a large influence on demand. In the future, if water supplies are to be sustained and available for years to come, a happy medium ~~between~~ balancing the economy + the environment must be achieved so that neither suffers greatly. If not, a situation of extreme water scarcity and conflict may arise.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The strength of this answer is that it approaches the question from different sides, arguing that economic development has strongly influenced water demand in China and that environmental concerns have no discernable influence. For Australia, the argument is that a desire to conserve water is more important. This is a well supported answer with a good conclusion that relates closely to the question asked.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

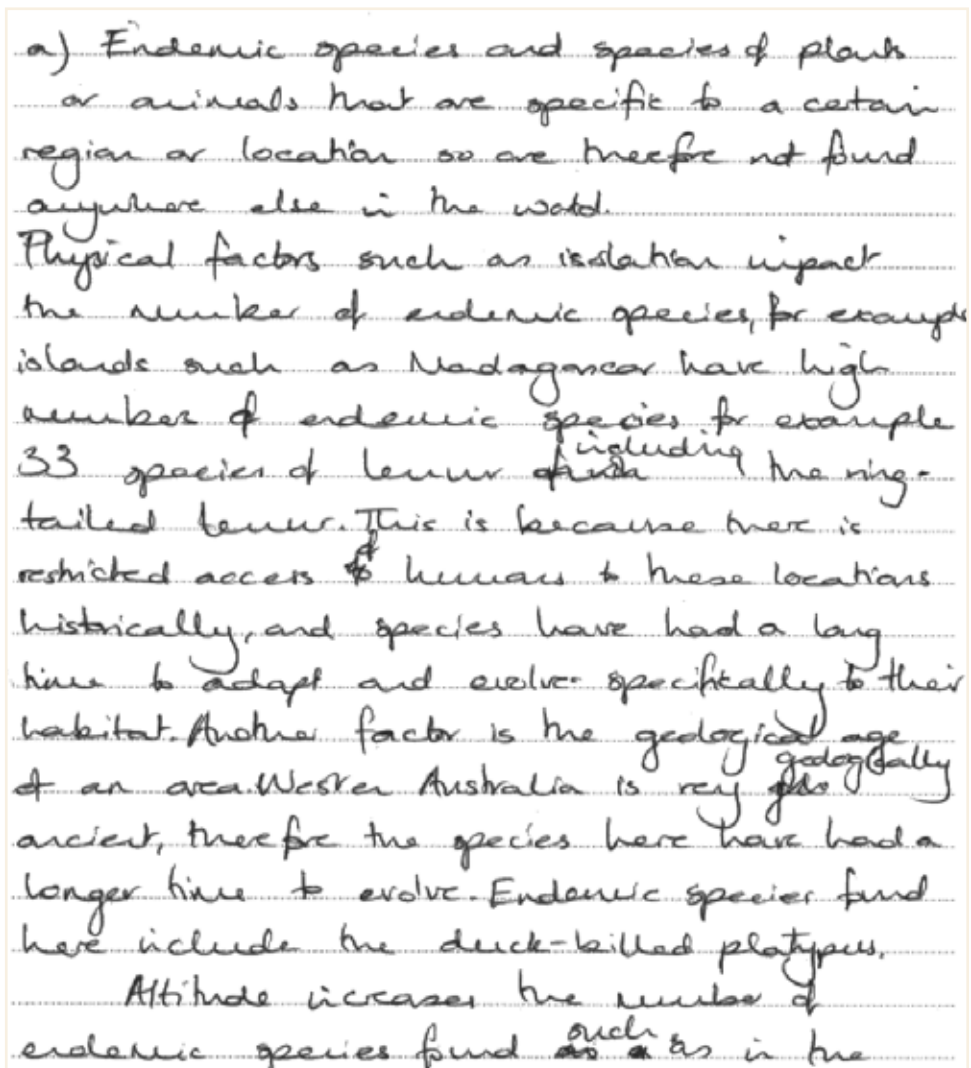
The case studies in the answer shown here are well-chosen – ill-fitting case studies such as the Aral Sea have been avoided. Be selective.

Question 3: Biodiversity under Threat

Question 3 (a)

Answers to this question tended to fall into one of two camps. Many candidates understood the concept of endemism and began their answers with a definition of it and then moved on to identify isolation as a key factor and the role evolution plays in producing unique species. Other answers interpreted Figure 3 as being more generally about biodiversity, and thus these answers tended to explain why levels of biodiversity vary. This is a much more general approach, and led to a focus on limiting factors more than specific factors that promote or reduce endemism. That said, candidates often considered a range of physical factors including islands/isolation, climate, deforestation, alien species and others. Many candidates made little reference directly to Figure 3 and when they did there were some misunderstandings such as the idea that Madagascar is 'untouched' by human activity due to its isolated island status. Human factors were usually considered in detail and included deforestation, pollution, climate change and agriculture – although again these often related more generally to biodiversity loss rather than endemic species. Alien invasive species were perhaps the factor most often considered in detail and related to endemism specifically. In many cases the choice to do this question seemed to be a positive one and most answers were successful.

This is a Level 3 answer to Question 3 (a).



a) Endemic species are species of plants or animals that are specific to a certain region or location so are therefore not found anywhere else in the world.

Physical factors such as isolation impact the number of endemic species, for example islands such as Madagascar have high numbers of endemic species for example 33 species of lemur ^{including} the ring-tailed lemur. This is because there is restricted access ~~to~~ humans to these locations historically, and species have had a long time to adapt and evolve specifically to their habitat. Another factor is the geological age of an area. Western Australia is very ^{geologically} ancient, therefore the species here have had a longer time to evolve. Endemic species found here include the duck-billed platypus.

Altitude increases the number of endemic species found ^{such} as in the

Himalayas. As the altitude increases, the habitat will alter, therefore creating ecology zones.

Climate plays a role in the number of endemic species. ^{for} as example, equatorial regions both marine and terrestrial as figure 3 show high numbers of endemic species. The increased climate ^{at the equator is a} results of higher light intensities, which increases fixation of carbon and increases the rate of nutrient cycling therefore a greater number of species are able to ^{inhabit} these areas such as the ~~gorilla~~ ^{silverback} gorilla of Rwanda.

Human influences on the number of endemic species often act ^{to decrease} opposing to biodiversity. Mangrove swamps are areas of high biodiversity, however due to climate change these are threatened by extreme weather and ^{sea} ~~high~~ level rise. It can be argued that climate change is a result of anthropogenic activity as the 2013 IPCC report suggests that they are 95% certain that humans are the dominant cause of global warming. As mangroves have a high

level of biodiversity it follows that there should be a high number of endemic species as seen in the Sri Lankan mangrove swamps. Human induced climate change may decrease this in the future. The introduction of alien species for example can reduce the number of endemic species, for example the introduction of the cane toad in Australia. This has since out competed the native monitor lizard species, thus reducing the number of endemic species.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This answer has a good understanding of endemism, and whilst there is some drift into more general biodiversity the focus on endemism is enough to keep it in Level 3. The terminology used is good and the range of explanations – both human and physical – is sound. Some examples are used to support the reasons given.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This answer has a simple but logical structure: a definition of endemism, physical factors and then human factors – logical and effective.

Question 3(b)

This question was, on the face of it, quite straightforward but for some candidates it turned out to be less successful than might have been expected. A key element of the question was that answers needed to relate to one global ecosystem. Many did not, because they:

- Considered more than one i.e. rainforests and coral reefs
- Considered only one place – usually Daintree
- Named something which is not a global ecosystem e.g. oceans or forests.

This issue is a recurring one, which severely limits candidate marks.

Answers tended to fall into one of two camps. More generalist answers considered issues such as tourism and fishing, high numbers of species and the use of ecosystems (especially tropical rainforest) economically in terms of their value when destroyed for logging and farmland. These answers often lacked place-specific support and were vague on cultural value and environmental value. Stronger answers tended to have a clear structure and considered regulating, supporting and provisioning services and related these to the economic, cultural and environmental key words in the question. Economic value often went beyond basic logging and tourism to highlight the values to the pharmaceutical industry, surgery, cancer and heart disease and to the range of available forest products. With environmental values ecosystem role in climate regulation / carbon sink was highlighted but better candidates went further to look at flood control, water supply and nutrient stores. Cultural values was perhaps less well done, many candidates mentioned indigenous tribes but struggled beyond that. This question cried out for a conclusion which made a judgement about which of the 'values' considered was most important. Many argued for global environmental value as the key one, although many candidates did not provide a summative statement of this sort.

This is a Level 3 answer to Question 3(b).

b) coral reefs have been described as the sea's rainforest as have high levels of biodiversity. Coral reefs value changes with different peoples opinion.

coral reefs have a number of provisioning roles, which increases their value. Coral reefs provide food for locals and indigenous people but also provide fish for commercial fishing. The far East coral reef provides 1 billion people with food in Asia. Also coral reefs provide algae and sponges which can be used to treat some cancers and bacterial infections.

Coral reefs also play a regulating role. Coral reefs can provide shoreline protection as can break up strength of waves and storms. In St. Lucia, 50% of its coast is protected by coral reefs, which saved the country £50m each year as reduced damages to homes and buildings near the shore. Also coral reefs ensure water quality. Coral reefs clean water and remove microbes which ensures safe water for fish.

In addition coral reefs play a cultural role. Coral reefs can bring tourism to a country, which will help boost local economies. In St. Lucia, tourism from coral reefs bring \$160m a year which makes up 33% of their GDP. Tourists spend money snorkelling and going on boat rides. In addition, coral reefs attract people for recreation and spiritual reasons, and which increases their cultural value. Furthermore, people come to coral reefs to paint, which is another reason why its cultural value has increased.

Coral reefs also play a supporting role. Coral reefs provide 25% of all sea life. This shows that coral reefs are important as provide large amount of food for humans and other animals. This suggests that coral reefs are the base of all food webs and chains, showing its environmental value.

To conclude, The value of coral reefs may change from person to person depending on their views. However, they do play a vital role, economically, culturally and environmentally. Coral reefs bring large amount of money to a country which shows its economic value. Also coral reefs play a role culturally as a place for recreation, spiritual, season and hobbies. This shows coral reefs are high in value cultural. In terms of environmental value, coral reefs have high value. This is because they are the base in a number of food chains and can act as a natural barriers from large damaging waves. In all coral reefs value is high but can be subject to personal opinion.



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Examiner Comments

This answer is about coral reefs, and it has some structure. It covers provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting roles. There is some example support e.g. St Lucia although this lacks depth. The conclusion is fair, but it fails to explain how value varies from person to person and the relative importance of different values is glossed over.



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Examiner Tip

Do not be afraid of making a clear judgement at the end of an answer – the quality of your argument is being marked, not the nature of the judgement you make.

Question 4: Superpower Geographies

Question 4 (a)

Of all of the 10 mark questions in Section A, this one tended to be the one which suffered most from description of the graph rather than explanations of the impacts of the trends shown. There was also some misinterpretation of Figure 4 with some candidates claiming the increase in middle class spending in Brazil was 'tiny' whereas in fact it doubles between 2010 and 2030. Most candidates understood that increases in middle class spending would have positive impacts on quality of life for people and linked this to China in particular, and to a lesser degree India. Issues such as better housing, health care, education and fewer manual jobs were considered. Stronger answers could also see the other side of the coin (the word 'impact' in the question implies positive and negative) and considered issues such as rising obesity and inequality. Social polarisation and the growing gap between the rich and poor within the country or gap between urban (more middle class) and rural areas was debated by some candidates. A similar consideration was given to environmental impacts with many considering rising resource consumption, energy demand and water uses and the impact of this on air and water quality. Better answers argued that the increases in India and China were so large that a global environmental impact was likely. Few considered the positive i.e. that a larger, wealthier and better educated middle class might begin to consider the environmental impact of economic development and start trying to reduce it. A characteristic of a Level 3 answer was to give at least some consideration to different countries, rather than consider the four together. Although popular, this question was not always done well. Many answers really just explained the recent rise of the BRICs and it was almost by accident that within these answers there were some impacts on people and the environment.

This is a Level 2 answer to Question 4(a).

4a) Using fig 4 + kn. suggest impact on people + env of growth in middle class numbers + spending.

China's middle class spending is expected to rise the most by 2020, then be the second largest in 2030. This is likely to increase the quality of life for its people. This is because by this time their economy is likely to be completely free market, and this means they will have freedom to buy any product they want with. Furthermore, current middle class spending is low in China as there is huge wealth & inequality, however as its economy diversifies into the service sector the opportunities for people are likely to increase massively, meaning more equality to increase their incomes and less poverty.

India is also expected to see an increase in its middle class spending. This will affect it ~~greatly~~ greatly as much of its population live that is middle income currently live in urban slums and face a poor quality

of life. This increase in spending will be able to buy their goods that will improve their health and ~~the~~ ~~of~~ ~~not~~ material living standards.

The overall size of the increase is likely to have a very large negative impact on the environment. This is because as people have ~~so~~ income levels they have not had before, and when they were previously ~~poor~~ ~~low~~ ~~income~~ ~~income~~ income, they spend their money on ~~that~~ ~~many~~ manufactured goods. These usually involve energy intensive processes in production. This will result in higher pollution levels, which could ~~cause~~ ~~negate~~ contribute to climate change. Furthermore, as people in India and China's incomes increase they will demand better quality housing, ~~which~~ ~~will~~ ~~as~~ their previous quality was poor. This will probably include construction on previously "green" areas, impacting the ~~eco~~ environment negatively as biodiversity is lost.



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Examiner Comments

This answer has the skeleton in place but needs to add more depth to move up the mark scheme. It refers to Figure 4 directly, and makes some general points about jobs and quality of life in India and China, plus some points about environmental consequences. It is a little vague, mentioning pollution but not going on to consider water or air pollution specifically.



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Examiner Tip

Many answers have the bones of a good answer, but just lack examples and reference to specifics. This is one of the aspects of an answer required for marks in the top level.

Question 4 (b)

Many candidates enjoyed answering this question, and there does seem to be an appetite for geopolitics despite the fact that it is by its very nature, a complex topic. There were many good answers. At the weaker end some candidates did not really grasp the difference between direct and indirect power and 'hedged their bets' – they considered some aspects of power but used the terms direct and indirect interchangeably. These answers were rare. A certain type of answer which was common was to provide a narrative from around 1800 to the present day. These varied enormously in the accuracy of their historical geography. Some did focus on power shifts but many simply provided a very detailed timeline which failed to get at the focus of the question. Many answers – the majority – were able to argue more or less successfully that direct power was important in the past and indirect power is important today. These answers considered neo-colonialism as well as past direct colonial control. They showed sound understanding. Neo-colonialism was often considered in relation to Ghana in the recent past, and China today. At the top end some answers were genuinely sophisticated and argued that in fact direct power has never really gone away and remains important. The Russia/Ukraine situation provided a good way to access this discussion but the role of the USA in recent conflicts was often considered. Some answers even argued that indirect or 'soft' power was as important as 'hard' in the colonial era. These answers engaged in a genuine and interesting discussion. Many examiners commented that the chronologies provided by candidates were a little short on accuracy.

This is an example of a Level 4 answer to Question 4(b).

b) In the last century there was a monumental shift in superpower status from countries such as Britain and its Empire & and the Soviet Union over to the United States and arguably China. With this change there has been a switch from direct influence such as colonisation to indirect influence such as cultural hegemony.

In the first half of the century there was considerable imbalance between direct and indirect influence with direct influence ~~at~~ the key to maintaining superpower status. This is exemplified by examining the British Empire which at its peak had control of 1/4 of the world's population and land area. This was achieved by direct influence based on the discovery and sea power of the royal navy which provided a link between Britain and its colonies. Evidence of the direct influence is that British culture, politico and economic needs dominated colonies although democracy only existed in Britain itself. The

balance was such ^{towards} in favour of direct influence because the lack of technology meant that Britain had to have men on the ground and a real presence in order to maintain control and know what was going on. André Gunde Frank's dependency theory also ^{shows} explains Britain's direct influence, exploiting the raw materials of colonies keeping them dependent and subservient e.g. Uganda cotton and Indian tea.

This reliance on direct influence is also evident in the USSR's dominance of Eastern Europe after World War Two as it relied on military presence and military coups to ensure control. However, the situation in Eastern Europe highlights the shift in balance from direct to indirect influence as the rise in technology and renewed attitudes towards military after WW2 meant that direct influence was condemned by emerging organisations such as the United Nations and after the Soviet bloc fell in the late 1990s. Today it could be argued that the USSR still has indirect influence as seen over the recent Ukraine incident ^{where Russia has say.}

As a result of these shifts - pro independence movements in colonies and demand for freedom in Eastern Europe - the balance between direct and indirect ^{influence} ~~change~~ has significantly changed in the present day. Indirect ~~the~~ influence is now much more common place and signs of direct influence such as the US in Iraq or Russian troops in Ukraine is internationally condemned. Instead, powers maintain influence through ^{indirect} mechanisms such as cultural hegemony in particular the United States with the 'McDonaldization' phenomenon where they have used globalisation to spread western ideas and cultural trends. Further indirect influence is seen through neo-colonialism e.g. China in Africa. This ~~shows~~

clearly the shift from direct influence as seen in the British Empire to more indirect power as Chinese interests are economic rather than territorial based. Membership to organisations such as the UN, G8, IMF and Davos group also allows superpowers to have indirect influence as they can have the large share of the say on global economic and political policy and veto power in the UN means decisions can be made in these countries but influence interest.

Thus, it is clear that the balance of direct and indirect change has completely been altered in the last century due to changed attitudes on ^{the} military and political freedoms.



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Examiner Comments

This is another answer that uses good terminology. It has a clear structure too. It is focused on changing power, and the balance between direct and indirect power and shows good understanding of theory as well as specific examples of powerful countries. Its weakness is the conclusion, which lacks development and reference back to the evidence used in the main body of the answer.



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Examiner Tip

For the 15 mark essays in Section A, always try to include a brief but meaningful conclusion.

Question 5: The Technological Fix?

Question 5(a)

Generally this question was well answered, candidates were able to analyse the patterns shown and could account for the variations in data using factors such as age, development level, infrastructure, physical factors and politics. However, there was a tendency to ignore the age data by some candidates and hence only provide an understanding for part of Figure 5. The majority focused on the USA, China and Pakistan with personal and national wealth and education as the main reasons given for the differences. Better candidates had full coverage of the resource looking also at censorship in China and Egypt, religious and cultural influences in Pakistan along with unsuitable terrain for landlines and the danger of laying cables in a war zone with landmines. The concept of leapfrogging to mobiles was explained by many. With censorship, some candidates could discuss the issues with Google in China, recent unrest in Egypt and the Taliban in Pakistan. There was thus a generally sound understanding of the reasons for the variations shown. Weaker answers tended to focus on wealth only and had a simplistic North v South view of the data in Figure 5 – despite the data not supporting this type of interpretation. There were some anomalies in the data, such as 85% mobile phone ownership in the USA compared to 93% in China, and a high 18% of over 50s using social networking in Egypt. These were only very rarely considered.

This is an example of a Level 2 answer to Question 5(a).

a) Plan

- intro
 - what tech fix is
 - places with most + ~~least~~ ^{least} of each
- Main
 - social
 - economic -
 - political
 - environmental
 - physical
- concl.

The technological fix is the expectation of people that the continued development of technology will help the world to tackle new problems as they arise. China, surprisingly, has the highest percentage of people owning a mobile phone whereas Pakistan has the lowest. The USA has the highest percentage of people with internet access as well as the highest percentage of people in two age groups using internet social networking sites. Pakistan has the lowes

percentage in these two groups.

One reason for this could be the country's level of development. The USA is an MEDC with a stronger economy than Pakistan which is an LEDC. This would mean that ~~the~~ the poor population in LEDCs cannot afford to buy mobile phones or computers/laptops which are required for the use of internet. Another reason is that due to LEDCs poor economies they cannot afford to install network towers as they are costly to construct, maintain and manage, resulting in poor signal and therefore no opportunity to buy mobile phones.

LEDCs such as Pakistan often lack electricity supplies which makes it hard to charge mobile phone batteries or plug in laptops. This means there is no point in the poor in LEDCs such as Pakistan to buy mobile phones as they will not be able to use them.

The reason for a high percentage of people

using internet social networking sites in the USA is firstly due to the high percentage of people with access to internet. ~~and~~ Many people in MEDCs also have a disposable income and are therefore able to spend more money on ~~luxury~~ luxuries such as internet and social networking. They have already got access to basic necessities such as sanitation, food and water whereas ^{many} people in places like Egypt and Pakistan still lack these basic needs so their small daily income has to be spent on those rather than mobile phones or internet.



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Examiner Comments

This answer is Level 2, but only just. It begins by describing the data in Figure 5, but without actually quoting it. The main reason given for the differences is level of development, although there is some reference to lack of infrastructure in Pakistan. The development level reason is repeated again when considering internet access – so the answer lacks a range of explanations. The age data on Figure 5 is not considered at all.



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Examiner Tip

Answers cannot be narrow, whether in terms of data use when referring to a Figure or the reasons provided.

Question 5(b)

Most answers to this question did focus, at least in part, on farming technology although any type of technology could be considered and answers did not need to focus on farming. As in the past, a number of candidates considered only very broad, generalised types of technology such as cars, 'phones, tractors and the internet. This led to rather vague answers in terms of impacts. Better answers chose specific types of technology such as the Green Revolution, GM crops, specific medical advances or energy generation technologies. Overall, there was perhaps a better understanding of what technology is and more attempts to define it at the start of an answer. The specific farming technologies included were often understood well and many made the argument that advances in farming technology had brought undoubted benefits to people but questioned their environmental credentials. Thus many answers did consider the 'extent' element of the question and answers were a little more discursive than in the past. Some answers drifted into geo-engineering technologies which are largely hypothetical and therefore the impacts can only be guessed at. Some answers did fall into the 'everything I know about' a range of fairly randomly selected technologies and these answers tended to lack a focus on the question.

Answers which consider an argument from several different perspectives, supported by examples, generally score high marks.

This is an example of a Level 3 answer to Question 5(b).

5) Technology is any tools, services or innovations that allows humans to better adapt to their environment and ^{overcome} ~~solve~~ any problems they may face. Technology is good energy use that humans are good.

The Green revolution is an example of how technology has had not only positive impacts on people and the environment, but also negative impacts. The Green revolution has shown a new way in which technology can be used to increase crop production through a number of methods including pesticides and herbicides. The Green revolution has had positive impacts on people because it has increased crop production and therefore helped to increase trade so more crops are available to be sold. Furthermore, it has made life easier for farmers because they can now spray insecticides etc onto the crops without damaging them. Although, they have also had a negative impact on people. The equipment needed to grow these particular HYV crops is very expensive and some farmers cannot afford it, leaving them behind.

Secondly, the farming process is now mainly done by machines leaving many people unemployed. The crops are also having negative environmental impacts as the increased use of ~~pesticides~~ pesticides is being taken by sugar running to lakes and rivers and polluting the water sources.

Another example of a much smaller scale technology which has had positive impacts on people and the environment is the use of magic stones in Burkina Faso. Diquettes, or a line of stones, are laid upon the ~~edges~~ ^{edges} of sloping farmland to try and prevent a much larger run off and soil erosion. This is an example of appropriate technology for the area. This farming method is bringing positive impacts to the people because it has helped improve their farms. With less soil erosion and water being better retained, crop production has improved, and crops can be grown for longer throughout the year, allowing the farmer to make a better profit. In addition, this method is having positive environmental impacts because it is increasing the depth of soil, areas with the magic stones have seen soil depth increase by 19cm. More water is being retained in the soil which also helps with the biodiversity of the area. Overall, the magic stones in Burkina Faso have brought only positive impacts to the people and the environment.

In conclusion, it can be seen how both the types of technology have presented positive impacts for people and the environment, but negative impacts can also be seen for the Green Revolution, showing some technologies can have negative externalities.



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Examiner Comments

This answer is not sophisticated, but it does answer the question in a structured way. It shows what can be achieved in a relatively short amount of time. Technology is defined, then 2 examples are used – the Green Revolution and intermediate technology. These are well chosen because they contrast so the danger of saying the same thing twice is reduced. Positive and negative impacts on people and the environment are considered in both cases, and there is a clear but brief conclusion and some evaluation at the end of the case study sections.



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Examiner Tip

This answer shows that a good mark can be achieved by 'keeping it simple' as long as this includes answering the question asked directly and not drifting into marginal or even irrelevant examples and case studies.

Overall comments on Section B Issues Analysis: East African Development

The Issues Analysis focused on development in East Africa, a region that seemed fairly familiar to many candidates. Answers generally avoided 'Africa' stereotypes, perhaps because the data in Figures 2 and 3 made it very clear what stage of development the three countries concerned were at. There was evidence of good preparation and most candidates knew their way around the Resource Booklet and could use it reasonably effectively in the exam. There was evidence of wider research, most often this related to terrorism and conflict in the region which is an ongoing issue with some relevant events happening during the pre-release period. These were often used to support answers in an effective way. There was less evidence of these news events causing candidates to be side-tracked than in the past. The overall quality of answers was good, although there was perhaps some evidence of question anticipation in Question 6(a) which did lead some candidates astray. Most wrote three full answers, but as in the past a minority struggled with timing and it tended to be Question 6(c) which suffered. A few candidates skipped (b) and went straight to (c). The pre-release was available for a longer period this time, but candidates still need to make sure their preparation is thorough:

- Ensure candidates know the resource booklet well before they enter the exam; time should not be spent in the exam looking for the right resources to refer to.
- Ensure candidates understand the sequence of the resource booklet; it is usually organised into sections either with sub-headings or by topic, and questions normally focus on one section (with links to others).
- Prepare synoptic ideas by researching using the websites provided (and others), thinking about the relevance of models, concepts and theories, considering parallel and contrasting examples from other parts of the world, and linking to concepts and content in other AS and A2 units.
- Consider the wider geography of the region in terms of development, physical features, culture etc.

Question 6

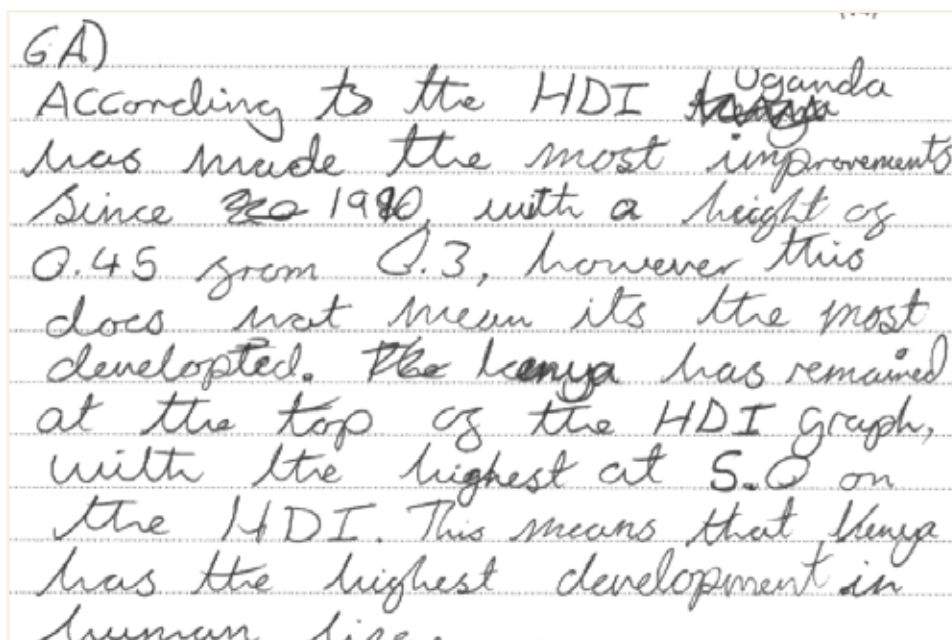
Question 6 (a)

Virtually all responses were a comparison, with very few candidates providing only a description. The most popular approach was to compare by indicator, with better candidates starting with HDI trends, then looking in more depth at the individual social indicators in Figures 3 and 4 and moving on to economic indicators in Figures 5 - 7. A minority structured their answer country by country which often led to a less comparative answer.

One issue, perhaps a result of attempting to pre-judge the question, was that many candidates attempted to explain the development trends as well as compare them. This was not the question asked. Detailed explanations tended to cause candidates to write very long answers and get rather bogged down, this perhaps then contributed to them running out of time for part (c).

Perhaps the key to a successful answer was selecting the most relevant data from the Resource Booklet. As the question focused on development progress, it was important to decide what development means. Most considered it to mean economic and social progress, with some answers broadening this out to consider political progress. The data provided on HDI, development indicators (Figure 3) and the MDG were perhaps the most useful. Change in economic structure (Figure 5) was also often considered. Beyond this, the data on debt and corruption was less useful and when this was used it tended to be poorly related to the question of development progress. Successful answers often spotted that Kenya has in some ways gone backwards in terms of human health and this was commented on. Many answers argued that Uganda had made the most progress. The strongest answers often differentiated between social and economic progress and argued that the answer was therefore a rather complicated one. A characteristic of a strong answer was to provide a comparative overview at the end of the answer. This question does show the importance of selecting the most useful data to include in an answer, as well as recognising the subtle differences embedded in some data sets e.g. Figure 3.

This is an example of a Level 2 response to Question 6(a).



6A)
According to the HDI ~~graph~~ ^{Uganda} has made the most improvements since ~~20~~ 1990, with a height of 0.45 from 0.3, however this does not mean it's the most developed. ~~The~~ Kenya has remained at the top of the HDI graph, with the highest at 5.0 on the HDI. This means that Kenya has the highest development in human life.

Since 1990 Kenya has had the highest debt out of the 3 african nations with the highest

in 1990 at 7.1 billion dollars, and grew to 8.4 billion dollars. But Tanzania has had the largest growth in debt with \$6.5 trillion in 1990 to the highest now with \$8.6 Trillion. Uganda has made the most progress of debt as it's only risen by \$0.4 trillion since 1990, however the word progress is used loosely as it's debt has still grown.

Uganda has also made the greatest improvement its debt has 0.1% interest where as the others are higher. Tanzania has made the greatest improvement as Debt as GDP, with a 127% decrease, this shows the most progress out of the three.

It also has the greatest government spending, which could explain its good progress in the human development index.

In figure five Kenya has the greatest use in services, which means they are more dependant

On tourism, where a Tanzania
has made the great on industry
meaning the Country will have
a better economy as manufacturing
creates economic grow,
After evaluating the evidence
I believe Tanzania has made
the greatest progress since 1990.



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Examiner Comments

This answer begins by comparing HDI data in the three countries and quotes some data. It then compares the debt situation in the three countries in detail and moves on to economic structure. This is an example of selecting partially relevant data, and omitting more relevant data i.e. the socio-economic data in Figure 3 is not included in the answer.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates need to think carefully about which data to use in their answer, there is no hard and fast rule here but some information is clearly more relevant to some questions.

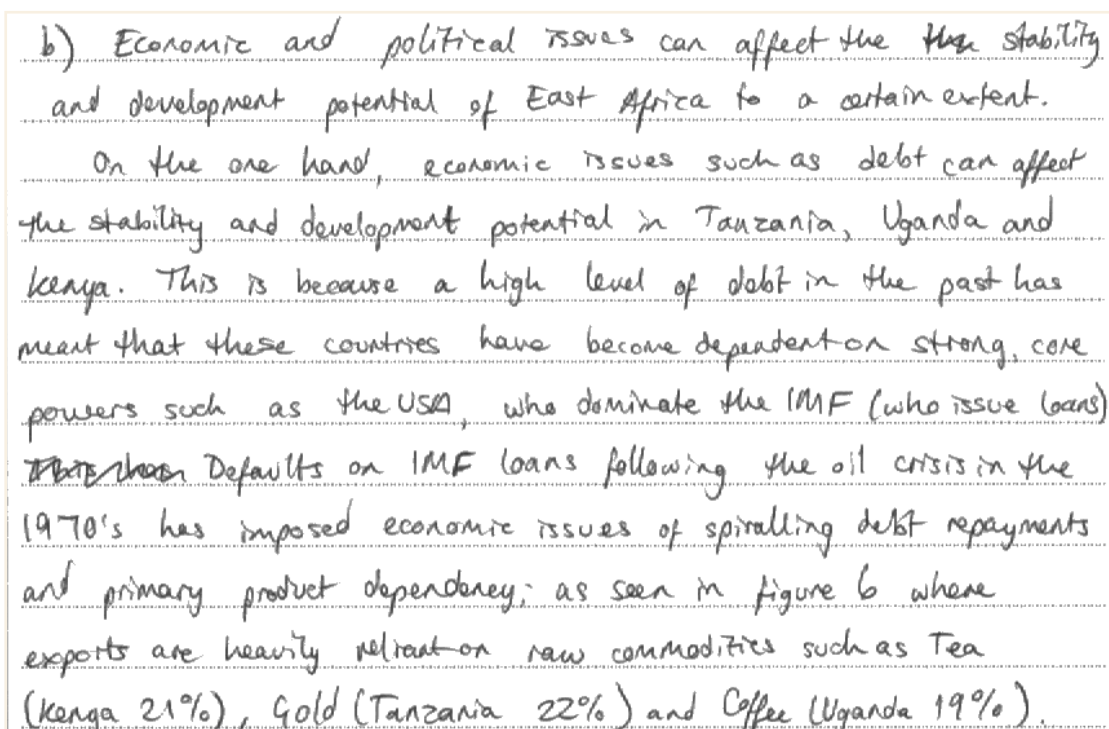
Question 6 (b)

This proved to be quite a demanding question, and perhaps the weakest of the three sub-questions overall. The inclusion of 'political' did mean the question required some thought. Most answers divided their time, in a more or less balanced way, between economic and political issues.

Debt was often considered, with generally good understanding shown on HIPC and other debt issues. Some candidates compared the debt situations between the three countries. There was good understanding of commodity / primary product export dependency and how this would lower the value added component of the region's economies. Other African countries such as Ghana and Nigeria were sometimes considered in a discussion of neo-colonial relations and economic issues.

A broad weakness was a lack of explanations of how political problems affect development. Most candidates referred to corruption and democracy data but far fewer linked this to deterring FDI or siphoning of aid so that it was not used effectively. Many answers made relevant and synoptic links to recent terrorist attacks and refugee issues, although again more explanation was needed as to the effect on these on development potential beyond putting off tourists. Wider links referred to several theories of development such as Frank's, Core-Periphery, Dependency & World Systems and Rostow. Better candidates didn't just mention them but applied them to the data. Very good answers broadened the question out, to synoptically consider issues beyond the economic and political. There was sometimes consideration of physical barriers to development e.g. Uganda's landlocked status or the difficulties of accessing remote and mountainous interior regions. Although rare, some very strong answers considered that the data analysed for Question 6(a) pointed to the fact that despite barriers to development and evident instability the three countries had made development progress so perhaps they were less significant than might first appear. Many candidates considered the political issues of corruption and terrorism as being the key to future economic prosperity and that development would stall unless these could somehow be overcome. Overall, many potentially good answers were weakened by a lack of link between the issues they correctly identified as important and how these caused a reduction in development potential and stability.

This is an example of a Level 4 answer to Question 6(b).



b) Economic and political issues can affect the ~~the~~ stability and development potential of East Africa to a certain extent.

On the one hand, economic issues such as debt can affect the stability and development potential in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. This is because a high level of debt in the past has meant that these countries have become dependent on strong, core powers such as the USA, who dominate the IMF (who issue loans) ~~therefore~~ Defaults on IMF loans following the oil crisis in the 1970's has imposed economic issues of spiralling debt repayments and primary product dependency; as seen in figure 6 where exports are heavily reliant on raw commodities such as Tea (Kenya 21%), Gold (Tanzania 22%) and Coffee (Uganda 19%).

This has influenced development potential because debt has resulted in a lack of government spending ~~on~~ on healthcare + education meaning a low skilled, impoverished and unhealthy population that have a low HDI relative to the rest of the world.

However, economic issues such as debt may not have influenced development potential. This is because, in Kenya, despite its qualification for HIPC, the LAPSSET project has the ability to attract rapid FDI, meaning the region can develop despite the absence of public spending. In Uganda and Tanzania, the economic burden of debt has been reduced under the HIPC debt relief initiative, meaning that the economic issue has been reduced. Although, in these countries although the debt burden ~~has~~^{is} less of an issue, political instability due to a lack of democracy and corruption may hinder development potential and stability.

Political issues such as corruption can hinder development potential and stability. Kenya experienced political disputes in 2007/08 ~~over~~ over the elections and ~~Uganda~~ the Ugandan economy was damaged by Idi Amin's military coup in 1971. Political instability can hinder development potential as it discourages FDI and trade, making East African countries less attractive trading partners and therefore hindering development.

However, politics may not be the only factor that affects ^{the} stability of the East African region. Various terrorist attacks linked to ethnolinguistic conflicts ~~and~~ have occurred, such as the Westgate shopping mall attack in Kenya in 2013. Also, proxy conflicts due to superpower presence in these countries can result in instability, such as the 1998 bomb attacks on US embassies in Nairobi that were blamed on ~~Al-Qaeda~~ Al-Qaeda. Therefore, other factors ~~such as~~ other than politics could be considered more important in hindering stability + development.

Overall, there are a range of economic and political issues that can affect both the stability and development potential in East Africa. ~~However, these issues can be addressed~~ Issues such as debt overlap with politics, and collaboratively affect stability and development potential. However, as economic issues are addressed with initiatives such as HIPC, politics and corruption become increasingly important in ~~East~~ influencing the stability and development potential in East Africa.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a very evaluative answer, which considers the extent to which both economic and political issues affect development potential. It considers a range of issues and is synoptic. In some cases political and economic issues are linked, and there is a strong conclusion that judges that political issues are the most important, because economic issues are already being addressed.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Balance is very important in answers to questions with 2 or more key words, such as 'political and economic'.

Question 6(c)

As the last part of the question, and the paper, this suffered from a lack of time for a number of candidates. Nevertheless, it was answered successfully by many. A number of responses were unbalanced and focused on LAPSET far more than the EAF. Most covered both at least partially. LAPSET was often considered in some detail and both opportunities and risks were included. Environmental risks were often included and there was some evidence of synoptic research into these issues. The opportunities considered were mostly economic and these were outlined in detail by many candidates. There was a very obvious synoptic link to the EU with regard to the EAF and many responses considered the risks of a shared currency in relation to the 2008 financial crisis in the Euro region and its impacts. Some answers argued that LAPSET may only really benefit Kenya and risked creating a core-periphery trap with Kenya drawing in human and physical resources from the wider region, to the detriment of the weaker partners.

Perhaps lacking from many answers was an overall judgement. Although rare, some answers nailed their colours to the mast and argued that the huge sums of money involved would be better spent on bottom-up development (and provided synoptic examples of this) given the obvious needs of the population shown in Figures 2, 3 and 5. The involvement of China and other sources of FDI were considered in detail by some. The EAF was often argued to be simply too risky. This question did require a judgement but too many candidates ended by blandly stating that both projects had opportunities and risks.

This answer to Question 6(c) scored full marks.

③ evaluate potential opportunities and risks of developing LAPSET and creating EAF.

There are many ^{of} opportunities ~~that~~ developing LAPSET, the main ones being the ^{development of} infrastructure across the country which will link Kenya's main port Lamu to the centre of the country, and the capital Nairobi, and to Ethiopia and South Sudan which opens trade potential for Kenya internationally with border countries and globally with the port of Lamu. LAPSET will enable economic spread where the whole country can develop economically due to the infrastructure links. The oil pipeline can not only provide income but also provide fuel for many Kenyan communities. These new links have the potential to get Kenya into Rostow's "take off" stage in development and it is big projects like LAPSET that can thrust a country into major social, political and ^{mainly} economic development.

However there are risks. A pipeline could attract oil thieves as a pipeline in Nigeria has done, who will steal oil from the pipes and sell it for their own gain. As the pipeline spreads across the whole country it would be impossible to provide security for every part of the pipeline. The theft of oil can damage the infrastructure but also lose the country oil and therefore money and profits. Lamu is known for its 'unsprilt' environment but heavy works to build road, rail and pipelines could bring major damage to the environment

there. Particularly at risk are the mangroves that provide wildlife with habitats but also the population with fish to eat. Destroying this could lead to a lack of food for local people. Another issue with central infrastructure is that the peripheral communities on the outskirts of the country may not benefit at all. A similar case is the HS2 project in the UK which plans to connect major cities to improve economic growth but although the taxpayer funds the project not everyone benefits. Particularly those on the periphery, unlike in Cornwall who won't have access to the HS2. Similar issues could arise with the LAPPSET Project.

The EAC has positives as it brings east African countries together which it helps promote development. Already the EAC have a Lake Victoria project in place which enables Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya to work together and communicate over fishing industries. This communication allows better pricing and reduces competition, both of which can inspire both social and economic development. Going one step further and forming an EAF would enhance ties between countries and improve relationships and lead to bigger and more advantageous strategies like the Lake Victoria scheme. The EAF countries would share currency and have a single capital city and tourist visa. In effect the countries would become one, much like the USSR and the Soviet Union. This grouping would encourage

development and TNC's could be attracted. Already there has been interest from TNC's and in Tanzania new gold mines are opening, TNC's are interested in Uganda's agriculture as on the equator growing conditions are very good and in Kenya capital Nairobi, Nestle have set up a factory as the workforce there is very good. An EAF could further enhance ties with TNC's and development could grow massively.

However the main problem here is that as part of the EAC only 23% of member states have actually made payments to the shared budget. If countries do not have the funds or don't feel it worthwhile to fund a shared budget so countries can work together there is not enough commitment for a full EAF. Also political tensions such as Uganda declaring Rwanda as a 'hostile nation' in 2000's further increases the risk of an EAF not existing or going completely wrong.

To conclude both LAPSET and an EAF have huge opportunity to allow countries in east Africa to develop but at the moment the money isn't there ~~isn't~~ and due to corruption and ongoing conflicts it is unlikely that these plans will ever go ahead and completed. Even if they are put into practice there is not enough commitment or government backing for ~~cost~~ complete development to be achieved at the moment.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Both LAPSETT and the EAC / EAF are considered in detail in terms of opportunities and risks and good use is made of the Resource Booklet. The answer is synoptic, including reference to the Rostow model, Nigeria, HS2 and Lake Victoria – all of this shows the breadth of the candidate's understanding. The answer identifies the significance of some risks, and makes a clear judgement.



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Examiner Tip

Being synoptic means using some information not in the Resource Booklet in support of an argument – it does not need to be very extensive as long as it is relevant and carefully chosen.

Paper Summary

There were many good answers to the questions on this summer's Unit 3 Contested Planet paper in both Section A and B. Performance was similar to past series, although the structure of answers (which are essentially essays) was perhaps less strong than in the past. The following points might be considered going forward to 2015:

- Although it is very tempting to try and spot questions in Section B, this is a dangerous game that leads to confused candidates and weak answers.
- Command words such as assess, evaluate, discuss and to what extent require a judgement – sitting on the fence produces insipid answers.
- Case studies shoe-horned into the 10 mark Section A questions usually merely divert attention from explanations of the data shown in the Figure, which is the focus of the question.
- The Water Conflicts question particularly continues to suffer from 'case study overload' i.e. unselective, write-all-I-know-about, poorly applied case studies. In the worse examples the case studies chosen are not relevant to the question at all.
- It is very important that candidates, especially ones who struggle with timing anyway, do not become side-tracked by one of the 10 mark (a) questions in Section A. Some candidates write 5 or 6 sides as their answer to one of these questions – almost invariably they run out of time.
- As has been said before, often a brief summative paragraph using evaluative language would be enough to lift some out of Level 2 and into Level 3 in the 15 mark (b) questions in Section A.
- Planning all three sub-questions to Section B before starting is a useful idea, as it allows candidates time to decide which data 'best fits' which sub-questions.

Grade Boundaries

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

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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