

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced GCE

GEOGRAPHY A

2686

Investigative Skills

Tuesday

13 JUNE 2006

Afternoon

1 hour 30 minutes

An insert is enclosed with this question paper.

Additional materials:

4 page answer booklet

8 page answer booklet

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, Centre number and Candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer paper/booklet.
- Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Write your answers in blue or black ink.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- You should use your 1000 word Report in answering questions in Section A and then attach it to your answer paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 60.
- You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication where an answer requires a piece of extended writing.
- Even where not specifically asked for, credit will be given for sketch maps, diagrams and examples of places you have studied, provided they illustrate your answer.

This question paper consists of 3 printed pages, 1 blank page and an Insert.

Section A

Answer **one** question only from this section.
You must base your answer on your 1000 word Report.

- A1 (a)** Justify your choice of data presentation methods in your investigation and suggest alternative methods you might have used. [15]
- (b)** In the context of your investigative study, discuss the view that statistical analysis is an essential part of geographical investigation. [15]
- A2 (a)** Explain how considerations of scale influenced the methods of data collection and data analysis used in your investigation. [15]
- (b)** Discuss the view that, in geographical investigation, the real world is always more complex than theory. [15]
- A3 (a)** Comment on the accuracy and suitability of the sampling strategy used in your investigation. [15]
- (b)** Discuss the extent to which the conclusions of your investigation were consistent with your expectations. [15]

Section B

Answer **one** question only from this section.

- B1** Study Fig. 1 (Insert) 2001 parish populations and population densities and Fig. 2 map of parishes in north-east Norfolk.
- (a) Outline the main characteristics of dot maps. [4]
 - (b) Describe and explain the steps you would follow to construct a dot map to show the distribution of population by parish in north-east Norfolk. [13]
 - (c) Assess critically the value of dot maps compared to other statistical maps for representing the distribution of population at a parish scale in areas such as north-east Norfolk. [13]
- B2** Study Figs. 3a, 3b and 4 which show Keighley town centre. Keighley is a town in West Yorkshire with a population of around 60,000. In a student investigation, data on the geographical pattern of shopping in the centre were obtained by questionnaire survey through street interviews. The results of the questionnaire survey are shown in Fig. 5.
- (a) Outline **two** requirements of an effective questionnaire designed for completion through street interviews. [4]
 - (b) Examine the problems of obtaining representative samples of shoppers through street interviews in town centres such as the one shown in Figs. 3a, 3b and 4. [13]
 - (c) Explain the main features of the Chi-squared test and assess critically the suitability of the test for analysing the data in Fig. 5. [13]
- B3** Fig. 6 is an extract of a land use map of part of the Vale of York. The geology of the area comprises Magnesian Limestone, Permian Marl and Triassic Sandstone rocks (Fig. 7). It is assumed that geology has an influence on land use in the area covered by Fig. 6.
- (a) Outline the main characteristics of stratified sampling. [4]
 - (b) Using the resources in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7 only, describe and explain how you would obtain a **stratified random sample** of land use in this area to reflect the influence of geology. [13]
 - (b) Assess the value of a stratified sampling method in this example, compared to alternative methods of spatial sampling. [13]

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