



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Geography 3037 Short Course *Specification B*

3037/F **Foundation Tier**

Report on the Examination

2007 examination - June series

Further copies of this Report are available to download from the AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2007 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

COPYRIGHT

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered centres for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

3037/F – Foundation Tier

Although the number of entries for this component makes it difficult to make any meaningful comment, it was felt that the standard this year was considerably better than in previous years. There was evidence of place knowledge and of a better grasp of examination technique. One question which was particularly pleasing was 2(a)(ii). While it was possibly centre specific, there was also evidence that the candidates appreciated the need to do more than simply lift random facts and figures from the table. There was an attempt to generalise, backed up by specific examples and to point to any exceptions to the pattern.

Question 1

Candidates appeared to have a reasonable appreciation of glacial landforms but there was some confusion over what constituted a glacial process. Frost shattering, a form of physical weathering, was often quoted as an example of a glacial erosion process. Ground and terminal moraines were sometimes confused in the cloze exercise on the formation of the ribbon lake. A surprisingly large number of candidates felt that wind turbines are able to produce more electricity than a thermal power station. The use of the statistics on inner city Leicester was done quite well. Map reading was generally of a good standard, although for some reason quite a number of candidates referred to the name of Appleford in (d)(i) rather than the village itself and therefore were one grid square out in their 4 figure reference. The weakest part of (d)(iii) was the recognition of the road pattern associated with modern suburban developments. Where candidates appreciated what 'commuting' entailed there were some good answers. On the other hand some candidates appeared to have no idea about this topic.

Question 2

Considering how regularly questions like (a)(i) appear on Specification B papers, it was disappointing that more candidates are still unable to correctly name the main Costas and resorts in the tourist areas of Mediterranean Spain. In part (iii) the growth of package holidays and cheaper holidays were the most popular choices. Most candidates could get one mark under each but failed to develop their answers sufficiently to explain how these economic factors impacted on the growth of tourism in Spain. Rotterdam-Europoort was the most popular of the conurbations chosen although there were some good answers on Paris and Northern Italy. Examination technique was important in this section as there were centres where the candidates merely lifted the information from the boxes, whereas others recognised that they had to use the information and add to it.

Question 3

The weakest answers featured in this section of the paper. Candidates were able to describe what was happening on the photograph but many failed to appreciate what was meant by *physical* inputs in (a)(ii). The tropical monsoon climate continued to cause difficulties and very few candidates answered the cloze exercise completely correctly. Many failed to score at all, which is disappointing because this is a question that comes up most years in some form or another and it must play a significant part in the teaching on this topic. The true/false question also proved quite difficult. Many candidates believed that the Ganges delta is in India and as usual tributaries and distributaries were confused. The relief of Japan was not well known, beyond the basic idea of a mountainous interior and a coastal plain. Remarkably, despite relief being defined in the question, many candidates had no idea what this fundamental geographical concept meant.

Question 4

Apart from those candidates, who were preoccupied by the various benefits of owning a cow, the concept of long-term aid was quite well understood. Question (a)(iv) produced some better answers than have been seen in the past. In addition to the Vietnam dykes there were some

interesting references to special cooking stoves. Although not a development project in the strict sense of the phrase, this interpretation was considered to be acceptable in terms of the question. The section on the use of non-renewable fossil fuels and their possible impact on environmental concerns such as the Greenhouse Effect and global warming were generally well answered.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the results statistics page of the AQA website at www.aqa.org.uk/over/stat.html