



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Geography 3037 Short Course *Specification B*

Foundation Tier

Report on the Examination

2008 examination - June series

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3037 Foundation Tier

As in previous years the entry for this component was very small. The pattern of entry appears to have changed in that there seems to be fewer much less able candidates. This had the result that the vast majority of candidates were able to show positive achievement in their answers. This was reflected in their knowledge of place specific details and their mastery of geographical skills, including map reading.

Question 1

Candidates coped fairly well with the definition of the geographical terms listed; the only one which caused any kind of difficulty was 'distributary'. Candidates did not understand what was meant by a physical factor in their answers to 1(b)(i). The most common answer was the existence of the canal. Blackburn was a popular choice of urban area in (b)(ii) although there were some other appropriate choices used. Answers gained credit whether they considered growth from a historical or modern perspective. Centres should ensure that when dealing with this topic, in common with the other required case studies, they should include some specific location details such as names of suburbs, industries etc. The industrial system diagram was completed correctly by the majority of candidates. The map reading section 1(d) was well answered with most candidates showing a mastery of the appropriate skills. They were able to recognise many of the contour patterns representing glacial landforms.

Question 2

For some reason a large number of candidates felt that the core of the EU was typified by having a high infant mortality rate. The concept of 'in and out migration' caused some difficulty. Centres should recognise that when an example of a location is required, as in part 2(a)(ii), a country is too large a scale. Candidates should recognise that the word 'area' suggests that a small scale location is required. Part 2(b) did not cause any difficulty. The effects of the growth of tourism on the economy of Mediterranean Spain resulted in some good answers, although less able candidates tended to restrict themselves to 'jobs' and 'money'. Centres should always encourage their candidates not to use simple statements but to concentrate on producing linked statements. The answers to the planning issue in the chosen EU conurbation was centre specific with some good answers but there were others where the candidates did not show any real understanding or knowledge of this topic.

Question 3

Part 3(a) proved a good discriminator. The weakest answers were concerned with the average temperature experienced in the Ganges basin in the summer. Foundation Tier candidates find an understanding of the mechanics of the Indian Monsoon difficult. It is disappointing how many candidates managed to correctly identify the position of the high and low pressure areas when completing boxes X and Y, but then showed the wind blowing from low to high pressure. The lack of understanding was most obviously seen in the answers to 3(b)(iii). Candidates confused wind and pressure. Candidates who understood what is meant by 'physical features' could make an attempt to explain the distribution of population in Japan but there were many candidates who did not appear to understand the difference between human and physical features.

Question 3

Most candidates completed the graph correctly, although centres should encourage candidates to use as sharp a pencil as possible when completing the bar. Question 4(a)(iii) proved quite difficult for the candidates as many of them confused causes and effects. There was a tendency for some vague generalisations in the answers to 4(a)(iv) but those candidates who

named a specific area, like eastern England or the Ganges Delta, where able to produce more specific answers. In the final question only the most able candidates were able to show an understanding of sustainable development in their answers. The answers consisted of details of long term aid projects without any attempt to show how they would impact on either the environment or future generations.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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