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Examiners' Report January 2011

GCSE Geography 5GA1F 01

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Introduction

This paper contains two sections. The first section tests the candidates understanding and application of geographical skills through map and atlas work. The second section tests their knowledge of climate change and sustainable development. This was the second series for this paper and on the whole an improvement was seen in candidate responses.

Question 1 (a) (ii)




This question was very well received with majority of the candidates achieving full marks. They were expected to make use of the map key with reference to the Tourist Information section which the vast majority of candidates did.

(ii) Ross-on-Wye is a town which many tourists visit.

Use the OS map extract to complete the table with **two** tourist facilities and their symbols.

One has been done for you.

(2)

Tourist Facility	Symbol
Car park	
information centre	
Camp site	

(b) Look again at the OS map extract.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate provided both the tourist facility and the symbol correctly and received 2 marks.

Question 1 (b) (ii)

A number of the candidates found this question challenging and a range of responses were given. Anything that referred to houses being together would have received credit.

A nucleated

B scattered

C dispersed

D random

(ii) Justify your answer to part b(i).

The shape is nucleated because all the buildings in that area are clustered around one point. (1)



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Examiner Comments

This candidate understands the term nucleated.

A nucleated

B scattered

C dispersed

D random

(ii) Justify your answer to part b(i).

Because there is a small area which has houses grouped closely together on it. (1)



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Examiner Comments

This candidate, although they have not mentioned around a crossroads, they understand that in a nucleated settlement the houses are close together and therefore receive the mark.

Question 1 (b) (iii) 1

The majority of candidates could achieve the mark on this question.

Question 1 (b) (iii) 2

The majority of candidates could achieve the mark on this question.

Question 1 (b) (iii) 3

The majority of candidates could achieve the mark on this question.

Question 1 (b) (iii) 4

The majority of candidates could achieve the mark on this question.

Question 1 (c) (i) 1

Candidates found the identification of this feature challenging many gave the answer as Sellack Marsh.

Question 1 (c) (i) 2

Many of the candidates were able to give the correct answer for this box.

Question 1ci3

Many of the candidates were able to give the correct answer for this box.

Question 1 (c) (i) 4

Candidates found the identification of this feature challenging. Many gave the answer as triangulation pillar.

Question 1 (c) (ii)

On the whole this question was well received by the candidates with the majority of them scoring both marks.

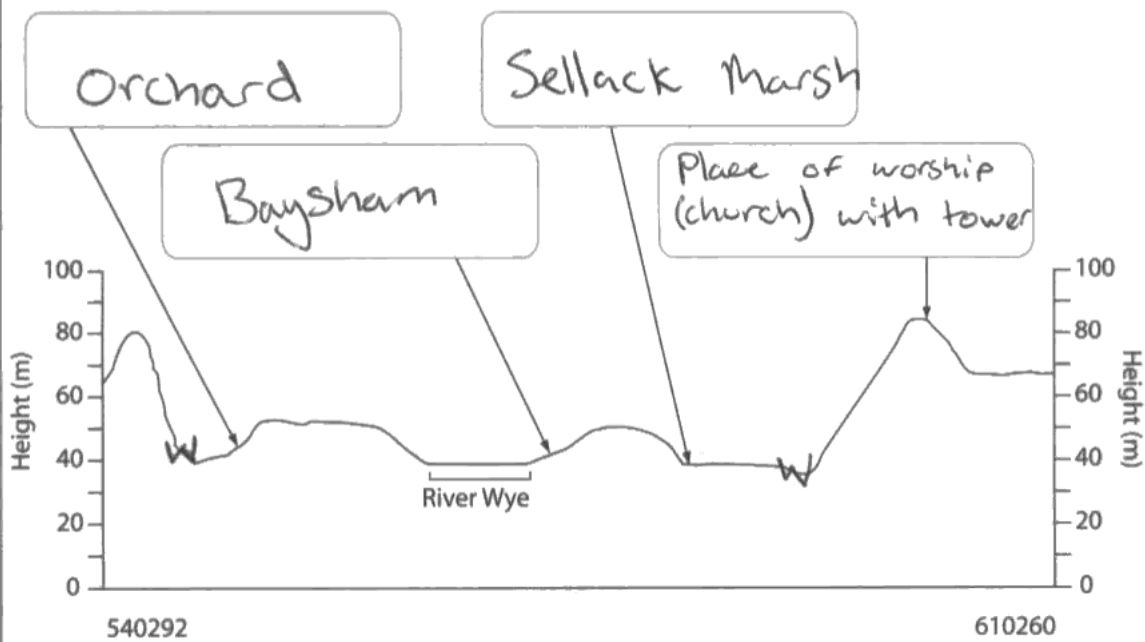


Figure 1b

(ii) The cross-section crosses the River Wye in three places.

One of these places is shown in Figure 1b.

Mark with a **W** on Figure 1b, the other **two** places where the cross-section crosses the River Wye.



Both of the inserted 'W's are just creditable on this response.

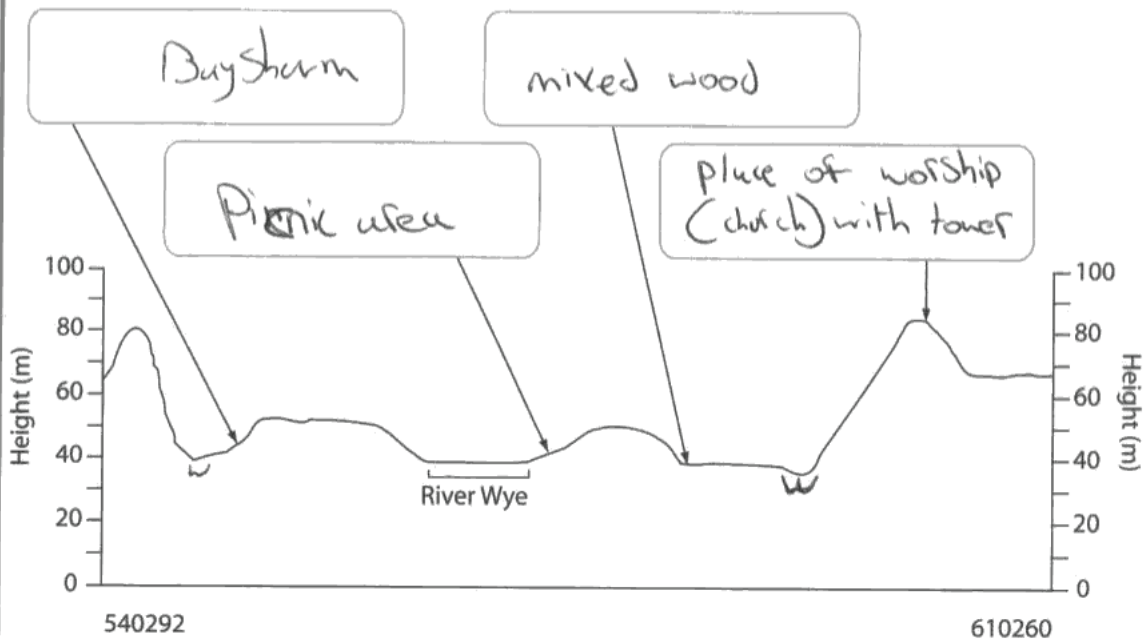


Figure 1b

(ii) The cross-section crosses the River Wye in three places.

One of these places is shown in Figure 1b.

Mark with a **W** on Figure 1b, the other **two** places where the cross-section crosses the River Wye.



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Examiner Comments

Although they are small and below the line of the cross-section both of these would have received credit.

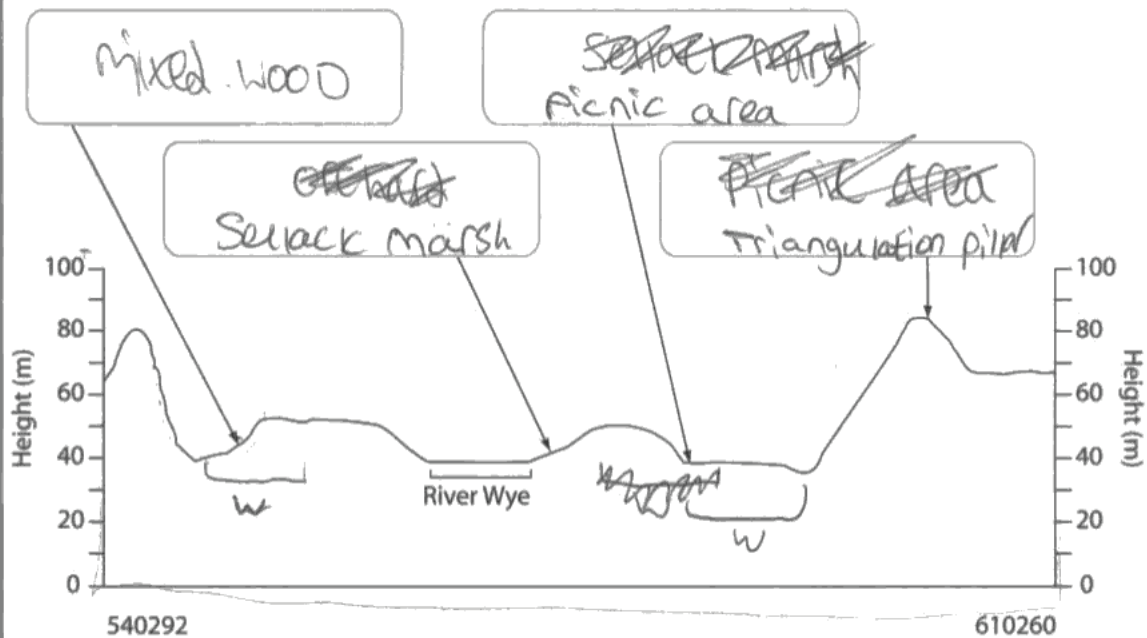


Figure 1b

(ii) The cross-section crosses the River Wye in three places.

One of these places is shown in Figure 1b.

Mark with a **W** on Figure 1b, the other **two** places where the cross-section crosses the River Wye.



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Examiner Comments

Although these are marked on as a bracket. It was felt that the candidate was mirroring how the paper had displayed the river. Therefore this answer received credit.

Question 2 (a)

This question was well received by the candidates with the majority of them scoring full marks. Candidates must ensure that their graphs are neatly and accurately completed.

2 (a) Look at Figure 2a.

It shows an incomplete graph of average annual rainfall for Plymouth.

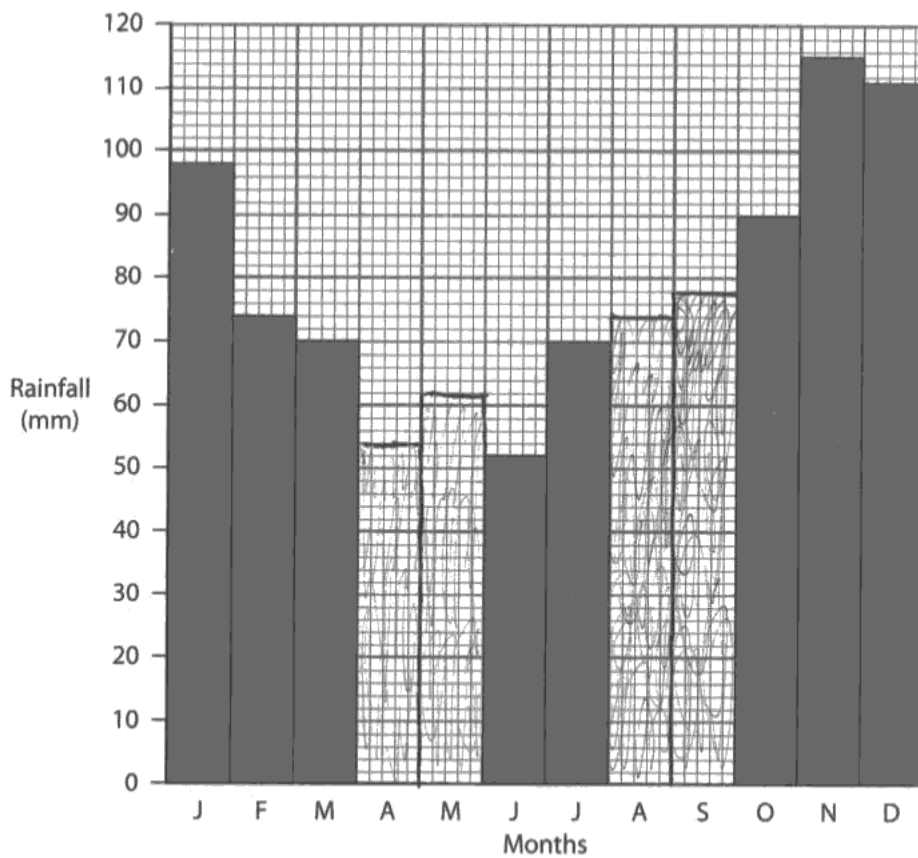


Figure 2a

Complete the rainfall graph for Plymouth with the information in the table below.

(2)

Month	Rainfall (mm)
April	54
May	62
August	74
September	78



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Examiner Comments

Accurately drawn columns which are shaded in. The columns did not have to be shaded to receive credit.

2 (a) Look at Figure 2a.

It shows an incomplete graph of average annual rainfall for Plymouth.

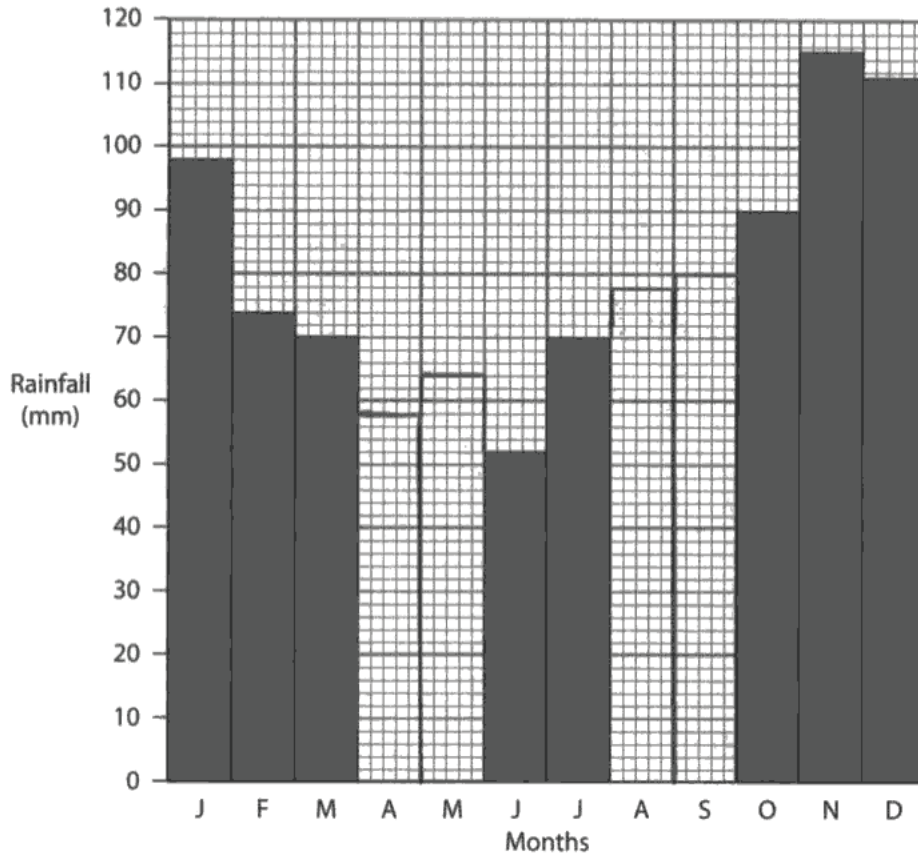


Figure 2a

Complete the rainfall graph for Plymouth with the information in the table below.

(2)

Month	Rainfall (mm)
April	54
May	62
August	74
September	78



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Examiner Comments

This candidate has incorrectly represented the data. Greater care needs to be taken when reading the information to be plotted.

2 (a) Look at Figure 2a.

It shows an incomplete graph of average annual rainfall for Plymouth.

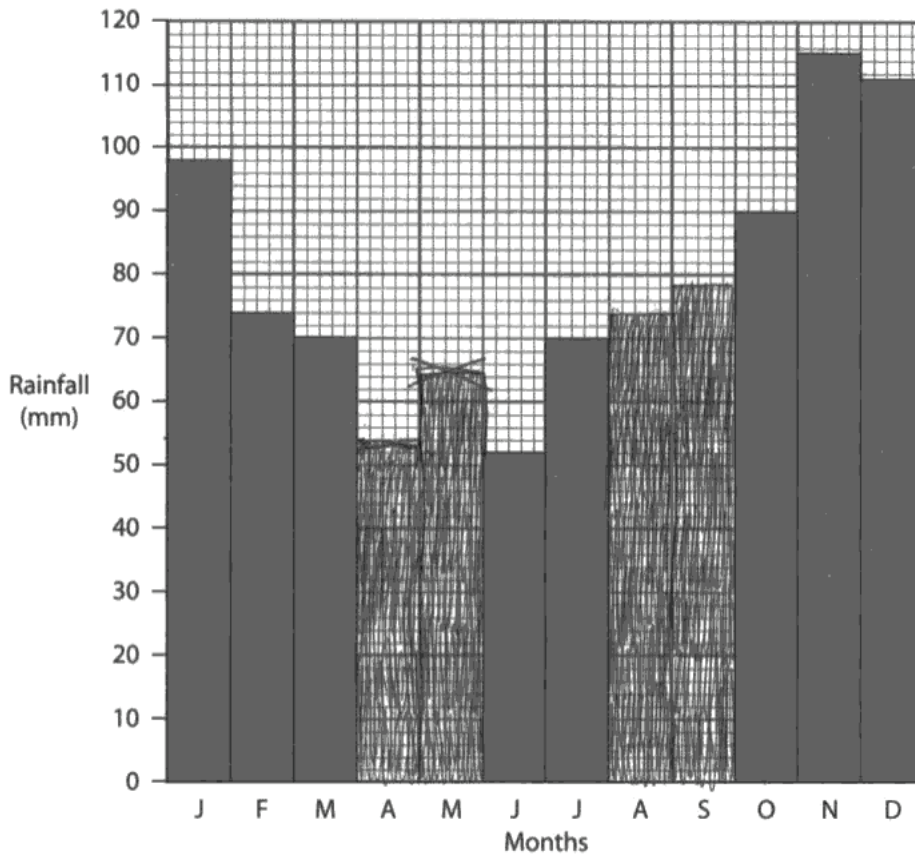


Figure 2a

Complete the rainfall graph for Plymouth with the information in the table below.

(2)

Month	Rainfall (mm)
April	54
May	62
August	74
September	78



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Examiner Comments

Due to the crossing out on the second column it is very difficult to see the line that the candidates wants the examiner to credit.



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Examiner Tip

Always make sure that your graphs are neatly and accurately drawn.

Question 2 (b)

This question was very well received by the candidates. Many were able to describe the pattern and provide data scoring maximum marks.

(b) Look at Figure 2b.

It shows the average annual rainfall of Great Britain.

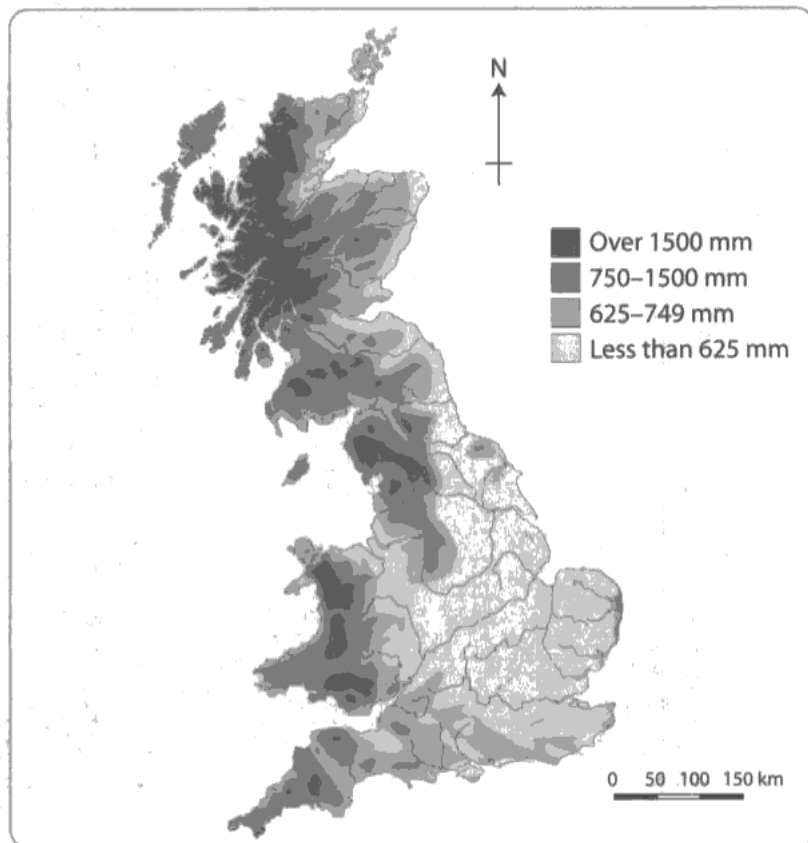


Figure 2b

Describe the distribution of rainfall shown in Figure 2b.

Use data in your answer.

(4)

There is more rainfall in the east of Great Britain than there is in the west. Scotland has the most rainfall with ~~about~~ over 1500mm of rain is most of Scotland. England has the least amount of rainfall with less than 625mm of rainfall covering most of ~~Britain~~ England. Wales has the middle amount of rainfall with ~~at~~ 750-1500mm overing most of Wales. The north also has the ~~most amount of~~ ^{more} rainfall than the South.



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Examiner Comments

A good description of the pattern with data included, maximum marks achieved.

In the west of ~~Engla~~ Great Britain there is rain fall up from 749mm - 1500mm + more. The East is Dry and less than 625mm. The North-west is the worst place for rainfall in Great Britain as it is over 1500mm.



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Examiner Comments

This response has three simple statements and data which is worth 4 marks.

Question 2 (d)

The answers to this question were a vast improvement to the answers in the summer. The majority of candidates were able to gain one if not both marks and showing a good understanding of GIS.

(d) The maps in Figure 2b and Figure 2c could have been created using GIS.

State **two** advantages of using GIS compared to looking at the maps separately.

(2)

Advantage 1

Using GIS is quicker than looking at the maps separately

Advantage 2

It is less complicated and easier to use.



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Examiner Comments

The marks were awarded for it being quicker. The second statement repeats itself but is worthy of the second mark for the idea of it being easier to understand.

(d) The maps in Figure 2b and Figure 2c could have been created using GIS.

State **two** advantages of using GIS compared to looking at the maps separately.

(2)

Advantage 1

GIS allows us to compare the same maps at once.

Advantage 2

GIS allows us to create a 3D image to prove this.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate gains one mark for the comparison comment but nothing for the statement about a 3D image as this is not correct.

Question 3 (d)

This question posed a number of problems for some of the candidates. The most common error was to drift into the effects of burning fossil fuels rather than answering the question which asks how fossil fuels cause an increase in CO₂ emissions.

(d) Describe how fossil fuels have caused this increase in CO₂ emissions.

(4)
Fossil fuels let of CO₂ which heats the planet up and this is caused by use day to day actions like for example cars, public transport and factories but ~~it~~ without these things there would be less jobs and could not travel from countrys to other ones.



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Examiner Comments

This response receives one mark for the comment about releasing carbon dioxide but doesn't really address the idea of increasing emissions.

(d) Describe how fossil fuels have caused this increase in CO₂ emissions.

(4)

When fossil fuels are burn they release CO₂ so the more that is burnt the more is produced. So for example Asia is ~~but~~ build there economy and becoming a M.E.D.C. and they are ~~have~~ making more and more power every year and more cars, planes, power stations are being used and these create CO₂ so the more ~~is used the more~~ fossil fuel is used the more CO₂ is created.



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Examiner Comments

This response received credit for burning, releasing and the idea of the increasing emissions from certain countries as they develop.

Question 3 (e) 1

The majority of candidates could achieve the mark on this question.

Question 3 (e) 2

Candidates found this word challenging many gave the answer as cooler.

Question 3 (e) 3

The majority of candidates could achieve the mark on this question.

Question 3 (e) 4

Candidates found this word challenging giving a variety of answers.

Question 3 (e) 5

Candidates found this word challenging. Many gave the answer as warmer.

Question 4 (a) (iii)

This question was not well received by the candidates many simply repeated the information off the Figure adding, 'this will save energy'. This would only receive a mark for the first time that it was mentioned.

(iii) Outline how the centre is sustainable in its use of energy.

(5)

The Haylor visitor Centre is sustainable in its use of energy by having a insulated roof this does not let cold air in or hot air out ~~at~~ so it uses less heating and their hand dryers use less energy so they dont use as much electricity.



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Examiner Comments

This response gives two good pieces of information on how the centre is sustainable but only lifts one statement off the Figure.

(iii) Outline how the centre is sustainable in its use of energy.

(5)

Cutting down on the power the hand dryers use and using skylights instead of artificial electrical lights is saving on electricity. Turning on heaters when temperature drops below below 3°C and Insulating roof with sleeps wood is sustainable because wood will never run out due to farmers farming sleep. Timber can be degraded and burned to compost. These are sustainable because they are only using enough power that is needed and not too much to save electricity and saving for the future also 3°C is not using much as there is already heat and it is renewably insulated.



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Examiner Comments

A great response with a number of lifts from the Figure which are in fact explained even though the question only asks the candidates to outline the ways.

(iii) Outline how the centre is sustainable in its use of energy.

(5)

The heater will only go if it drops below
3°C, which doesn't happen very often.

The light solar power, and the walls are
made from timber. Water is collected
from rain, which goes to the ~~the~~ toilet.



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Examiner Comments

This response simply lifts from the Figure and receives the nominated two marks.

Question 4 (b)

This question was not well received by the candidates. A number wrote about effects and included some interesting examples. However, very few were seen that answered the question on management initiatives which included examples.

* (b) Outline the management initiatives used in rainforest areas where resources have been extracted.

Use examples in your answer.

(6)

The things that we could use in the rain forest areas are things like when people cut down trees, like if you cut down 3 you should plant one for every three which means that you are helping the environment and some of the trees you replant should be fruit trees so the local people can use them so that they can be fed and have food for their families, and as people go through the rainforest ~~to~~ and they come across local people they could plant crops so that the local people could sell some of the crops they grow or they could use the crops to feed their families, they could also build paths through the rainforest so that people don't need to use cars or any vehicles, they could use the trees when they cut them down to

give to the local people so that we could build things for them so they and when the people finish extracting local people could use that area to use if they think that their old one was used to minerals could have a settlement there as well

(Total for Question 4 = 13 marks)



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Examiner Comments

A number of very general comments are made in this response which restricts it to Level 1.

*(b) Outline the management initiatives used in rainforest areas where resources have been extracted.

Use examples in your answer.

The initiatives of company's ^{like Texaco} that ⁽⁶⁾ extract resources from ^{the} rainforest in places like Ecuador, ~~are~~ ^{is} only to make profit as ~~the~~ spilled oil has caused higher rates of cancer in poor local people. ^{but Texaco does nothing about it} The rainforest is also being cut down by large companies which causes higher levels of CO₂, because trees absorb CO₂, and less land for animals and sustainable ^{local} people to live in. Another example of this is Papua New Guinea where companies make palm oil but won't let their workers even eat the crops as this might damage the companies profit.

In Ecuador 40% of the nations profit is from this exporting of goods but very little of this reaches the workers and most of it just helps the economies of the country's where the company's are based. This



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Examiner Comments

This response deals with the effects of resource extraction not the management initiatives that have been introduced.

Paper Summary

The performance was better than in the Summer 2010 series but candidates are still not performing well on Section A which is the section that relates to geographical skills. Centres are encouraged to refer to the skills checklist that is available on the Edexcel website. This provides a list of the skills that will be examined during the life of the Specification. Candidates performance on Section B was much better with the majority of them showing a good knowledge of climate change and sustainable development. Although their knowledge of examples for the last levels marked question was very poor.

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