

# ResultsPlus

## Examiners' Report January 2011

### GCSE Geography 5GA1H 01

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## Introduction

This paper contains two sections. The first section tests the candidates ability to apply 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)(i)(1)

The majority of the candidates were able to identify the river. This was a great improvement on a similar question in the June 2010 paper.

### Question 1(a)(i)(2)

A surprising number of the candidates identified the incorrect road namely the B4243 and the B4260. This seems to indicate that they were confused about the direction that the photograph was taken.

### Question 1(a)(ii)

The majority of the candidates scored well on this question. The question refers to Ross-on-Wye. Candidates who used tourist information that was a great distance from Ross did not gain credit.

(ii) Ross-on-Wye is a town which many tourists visit.  
State **two** pieces of map evidence to justify this statement. (2)

At ~~577196~~ 577196 there is a visitor centre which is justified by the area intended for tourists.  
At 596245 there is an information centre which is helpful for people who don't know the area well i.e. tourists.

(b) Study Figure 1b and the OS map extract.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate provides two good pieces of evidence but also explains their relevance which was not required to gain the marks. 2 marks were awarded.

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

State **two** pieces of map evidence to justify this statement.

(2)

There is camp site and recreation site at 607245. and there is a view point at 597240.



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Examiner Comments

This example scored 2 marks. Map evidence is given of two tourist attractions, grid references are also provided although not requested by the question.

**Question 1(b)(i)**

Candidates found this question quite challenging. Many scored only 1 or 2 marks. The most common mistake was identifying the Triangulation Pillar instead of the Church with a Tower for letter T. The Triangulation Pillar was not on the line of the cross-section.

(i) What is the land use/feature found at R, S and T in Figure 1b?

(3)

letter	land use/feature
R	Camp Site
S	<del>Triangulation Pillar</del> Picnic Site
T	<del>Triangulation Pillar</del> Triangular Pillar



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Examiner Comments

A number of candidates identified the camp site that was on the west bank of the river rather than the orchard. This candidate also identified the Triangulation Pillar rather than the church with a tower.



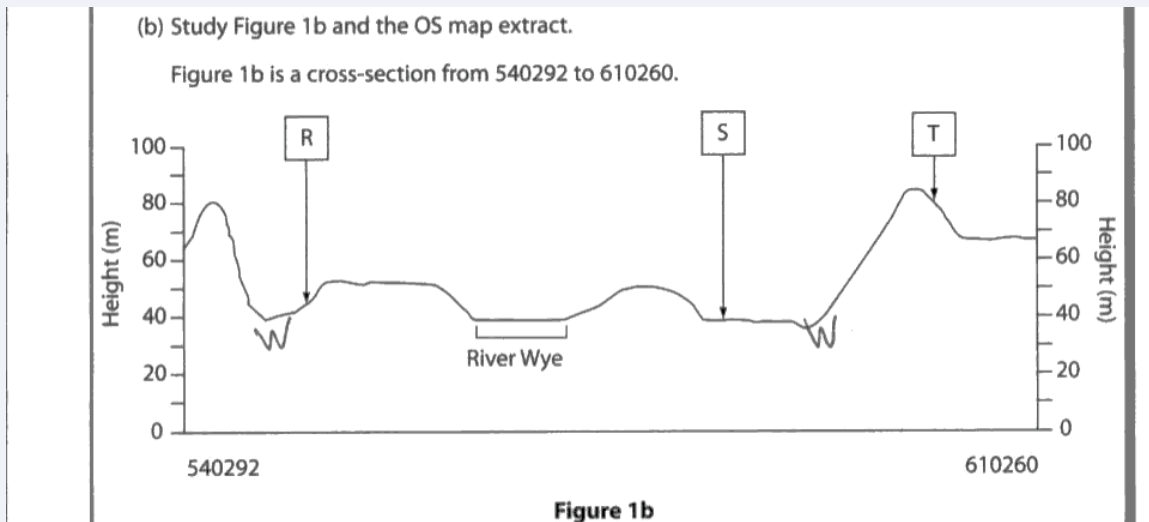
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Examiner Tip

Candidates should draw the line of the cross-section in pencil on their maps this will help them to identify the correct features.

**Question 1(b)(ii)**

This proved to be an equally challenging question. Candidates did not recognise that the dips in the line of the cross-section were for the valley of the River Wye and had been put there to help them.



(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

Both places where the cross-section crosses the River Wye have been accurately located.



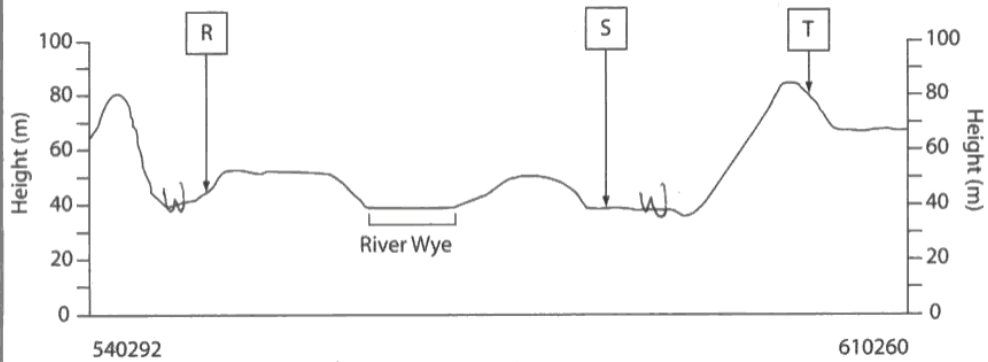
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Examiner Tip

Ensure that the examiner can clearly see where you have placed your 'W'.

(b) Study Figure 1b and the OS map extract.

Figure 1b is a cross-section from 540292 to 610260.



(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.



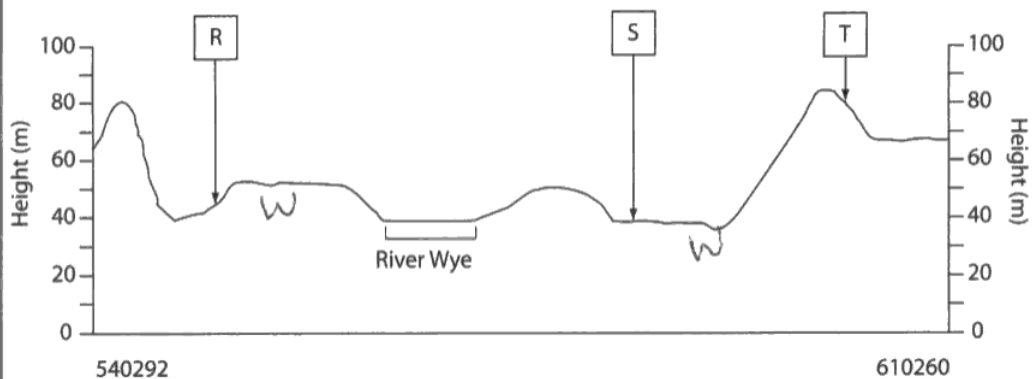
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Examiner Comments

The 'W' to the right hand side of the cross-section would not receive credit as it is on the floodplain not the river valley.

(b) Study Figure 1b and the OS map extract.

Figure 1b is a cross-section from 540292 to 610260.



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

One of these places is shown in Figure 1b.

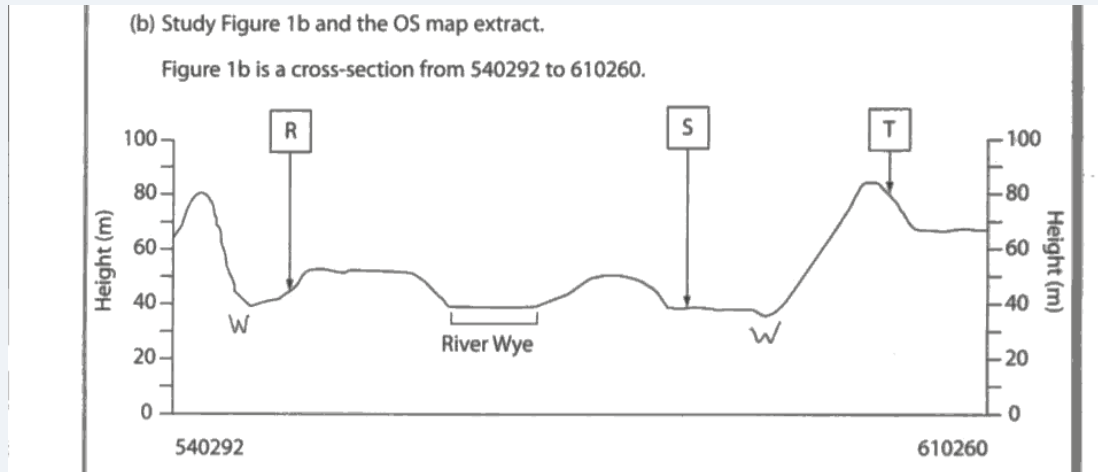
Mark with a **W** on Figure 1b, the other **two** places where the cross-section crosses the River Wye.



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Examiner Comments

The 'W' to the right of the cross-section would receive credit because part of it is in the river valley. The 'W' to the left would not as it is a long way out.



(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

Even though these 'W's are well below the line they would still both gain credit.

**Question 1(b)(iii)**

The majority of candidates were able to gain the mark. A range of heights were allowed.

### Question 1(c)

This question was not well received by the candidates. Many of them only scoring 1 or 2 marks. They found it difficult to recognise the contour lines a fair number stating that the village was on flat land. Most candidates picked up their marks by correctly identifying the shape.

(c) Look again at the OS map extract.

Find King's Cople in grid square 5628 and grid square 5629.

Describe the site and shape of King's Cople.

(4)  
King's Cople is a small rather nucleated town. It only really has a few minor roads running through it, a telephone box and a church with a spire. There is also a tiny wood which is a mixed wood and a large orchard. King's Cople is located on flat land (not on a hill) and is found in the north-west corner of the map.



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Examiner Comments

This is a typical response. The candidate correctly identifies that the settlement is nucleated but then starts to describe the features of the area rather than describing the site and shape.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should focus on the key words in the question in this case site and shape.



(c) Look again at the OS map extract.

Find King's Cagle in grid square 5628 and grid square 5629.

Describe the site and shape of King's Cagle.

(4)

King's Cagle is quite flat land with the highest point 50 metres. There is a Wind Turbine there. There are not many roads or buildings, but there is a Church nearby. It is reasonably near to the river Wye.



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### Examiner Comments

This candidate has not recognised the slope and provides an incorrect height for the village. They then go on to describe the features of the village rather than the site and shape. Statements such as 'near to the River Wye' did not receive credit.

(c) Look again at the OS map extract.

Find King's Cagle in grid square 5628 and grid square 5629.

Describe the site and shape of King's Cagle.

(4)

King's Cagle is a nucleated town because we can see that the town sticks towards the centre of the ~~road~~ <sup>town</sup>, rather than being linear and sticking close to a main road. King's Cagle is found on a hill that is 70 metres high at the most. It is ~~300~~ in the bend of the River Wye.



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### Examiner Comments

This candidate has correctly described the shape. They have recognised that the village is on a hill but provides an incorrect height. They also gained a mark for mentioning the bend in the River Wye. Therefore this candidate gained 3 of the available 4 marks.

(c) Look again at the OS map extract.

Find King's Cuple in grid square 5628 and grid square 5629.

Describe the site and shape of King's Cuple.

(4)

king's cuple is relatively high up at about 82 m. The area is nucleated around the crossroads which runs through the area and there are some orchard tree's growing around it. There is a wind turbine nearby and the River Wye runs around the area. Nearby there is a Church with a spire and housing which is clustered all in the one area. The area is based on a hill and is much higher up than the surrounding ground.

Total for Question 1 = 14 marks



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This candidate scored the maximum 4 marks. They have accurately described the site and shape. They have included some irrelevant information but this is ignored by the examiner.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

If site and shape are requested there is no need to mention any of the features in the settlement such as the churches or the land use in the area.

### Question 2(a)

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

(a) Describe the distribution of rainfall shown in Figure 2a.

Use data in your answer.

(5)

The north west of the UK receives the most ~~of~~ rainfall - over 1500mm. ~~Area~~ Smaller areas in the midlands and west Wales also receives large amounts of rainfall - 1500mm. The East and South of the UK appears to get the least with less than 625mm. Scotland is covered with a large majority of areas receiving between 625 - 1500mm of ~~rain~~ annual rainfall. The south of the country ~~is~~ is the driest with only small areas of Cornwall and Devon receiving 625-749mm.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This candidate clearly describes the pattern of rainfall in the UK. They give information on the areas which receive the most and the least rainfall and provide accurate data.

(a) Describe the distribution of rainfall shown in Figure 2a.

Use data in your answer.

(5)

The distribution of rainfall is that towards the North-west the rainfall reached up to over 1500 mm especially in Scotland compared to the South of Great Britain for example London in the South that receives LESS than 25 mm of rain a year. Also the eastern side is also quite dry as well. This is most likely due to mountains that exceed up to 20-500 metres for example the Grampian mts. Rain fall relief from the mts in the north ~~and~~ add to the rain.

(b) Relief affects the amount of rainfall received by different parts of the UK



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This candidate has provided data on the amount of rainfall received by different areas but does not give an overall pattern. They explain why the areas receive that amount of rainfall. This is not required as the command word is describe.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Read the question carefully and respond to the command word that is in the question.

**Question 2(b)**

This question was well received by the candidates with many scoring maximum marks. They were able to relate the rainfall maps to the relief maps with considerable accuracy.

(b) Relief affects the amount of rainfall received by different parts of the UK.

Outline how.

**Only** use evidence from Figure 2a and Figure 2b in your answer.

(4)

The North of Great Britain (Scotland) has higher relief because of mountains (201-500m) so it has more rainfall (over 1500mm). The southern part of Britain has a lower relief (below 100m) so there is less rainfall. Higher places (eg Scotland) get more rainfall, while lower places (eg London) get less rainfall.



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Examiner Comments

An excellent response the candidate has linked the higher rainfall totals with the higher relief and supplied data. Maximum marks awarded.

(b) Relief affects the amount of rainfall received by different parts of the UK.

Outline how.

**Only** use evidence from Figure 2a and Figure 2b in your answer.

(4)

The higher the land means that there is more rainfall. In the South East where it is below 100m there is less than 625mm. In the North West highlands where the peak is over 500m the rainfall is over 1500mm. Areas like the Cambria Mountains 201-500m get between 700-1500mm but sometimes over 1500mm.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This candidate again refers to the height of the land in different areas of the UK and provides data.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

If evidence or data is requested candidates must ensure that it is provided otherwise marks will be missed.

**Question 2(c)**

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.

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

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

(2)

° GIS lets you see separate images at the same time, overlaying each other which makes it easier to compare.

• GIS is more accurate as it is computerised.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate clearly understands GIS. They have supplied a number of creditworthy comments. They refer to 'overlying', 'easier to compare', and accuracy.

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

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

(2)

GIS is more accurate and can give us more data. It can supply the data onto one diagram instead of two.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate refers to greater accuracy but doesn't quite make the point about overlaying of the data. They refer to 'one diagram instead of two' which isn't quite the same.

### Question 3(a)

Candidates found this question quite challenging. They had difficulties in accurately reading the combined line graph. A range of answers were given to this question including the correct one.

### Question 3(b)

Candidates had problems reading the information off the line graph; a range of answers were given.

### Question 3(c)

Candidates scored well on this question although a number lost the mark because they gave the answer - petrol or similar.

### 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

(d) Outline how fossil fuels have caused the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

(4)

As we burn fossil fuels for useage  
we are letting of dangerous gasses  
into the atmosphere adding to CO<sub>2</sub>  
emmissions



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Examiner Comments

This candidate received one mark for the reference to the burning of fossil fuels.



When fossil fuels are burned (eg coal, oil) they release greenhouse gases (eg carbon dioxide). The particles in the gases go into the atmosphere and absorb <sup>and trap</sup> heat radiation from the sun. This increases the overall temperature of the earth. With more people (9 billion people in 2050) more people would be wanting to use cars, and cars burn fossil fuels.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate receives credit for the reference to the burning of fossil fuels; they also gain a mark for naming a fossil fuel. Their third mark is for reference to the increase in the use of cars related to world population growth. They receive no credit for how fossil fuels cause climate to change.

When fossil fuels are burned Greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere including CO<sub>2</sub>. Every year 5000 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> is released into the atmosphere by power stations, vehicles & factories. Also developing countries like China use a lot of CO<sub>2</sub>. In China 75% of their power is produced by coal.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate gained full marks. They refer to the burning of fossil fuels and how that is increasing in certain countries. They also supply data to support their claim.

fossil fuels, contain many green house gasses in them, mainly carbon dioxide. Fossil (fuel) examples are coal, oil and natural gas. When fossil fuels are burnt they release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, making the Earth warmer, and so increasing global warming. Because of how they produce carbon dioxide, the habitats of polar bears are shrinking, and causes threats to low-lying regions - bangladesh.

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Examiner Comments

This candidate scored two marks for the examples of fossil fuels and the reference to them being burnt. They then go off the point discussing the effect of fossil fuels on the environment for which they receive no credit.

**Question 3(e)**

On the whole this question was well received with the majority of the candidates receiving 3 or 4 marks. There was some confusion with CFCs and a number of the candidates were confused over volcanic eruptions. They commented that the earth was warmer due to the heat being trapped rather than the correct answer which is that the heat is kept out and therefore the earth is cooler.

(e) Explain **two** other causes of climate change since the last ice age.

(4)

Methane increased. Methane is 20 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>. As the population of rice growing countries increased more rice is farmed which releases methane. Solar output energy changes, a 1% difference can heat up the earth by 0.5-1°C. ~~It can also~~ it can also cool the earth down. In 1645-1715 there was a decrease in sun spot activity which may have been the cause of a little ice age.

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Examiner Comments

This is an excellent response which discussed how methane and solar output have caused climate to change.

- As more countries industrialise and become richer, the demand for meat is higher, so more animals are reared. Methane is released as part of cow's and sheep's digestive systems, in belching and excretion. Rice paddy fields also release methane, (a green house gas). ~~Natural~~ ~~disturbances~~ also cause climate change. For example volcanic eruptions. The ash particles and water vapour form a fog which can ~~be~~ block out sun light (radiation) to cause colder climates.

(Total for Question 3 = 11 marks)



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### Examiner Comments

This candidate has actually provided three causes rather than the required two. The answer on methane relating to cows easily scores 2 marks. The other answer worth two marks is the one relating to volcanic eruptions. Although the information on rice paddies comes before it in the response, the examiner would have ignored this part of the answer and credited the information on volcanic eruptions.



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### Examiner Tip

If two causes are requested only two should be in the response.

(4)  
CFC's which are greenhouse gases have created a hole in the ozone layer which protects the earth from the Sun ultra-violet rays which will increase the temperature on earth.

Methane which is produced during rice production is 20x more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>. It traps the Sun's rays and absorbs it thus not reflecting it back and making the earth warmer.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This candidate has used CFCs as a cause of climate change. CFCs are causing a hole in the ozone layer but this is not a cause of climate change. Therefore, this response would receive 2 marks for the section on methane which is correct.

An increase in the human population has increased climate change because a western diet eats meat (cows) which produce methane this is a greenhouse gas that contributes majority to climate change, and rice paddies also produce methane whilst growing. Also orbital geometry which is the earth's natural climate change has contributed because the earth's orbit changes from circular to ellipse and back every <sup>million?</sup> 100,000 years this changes the climate of the earth depending on the orbit shape when elliptical the winters are cold and summers hot, so this also effects the world and climate change.

(Total for Question 3 = 11 marks)



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

An excellent response from a candidate who clearly understands the causes of climate change.

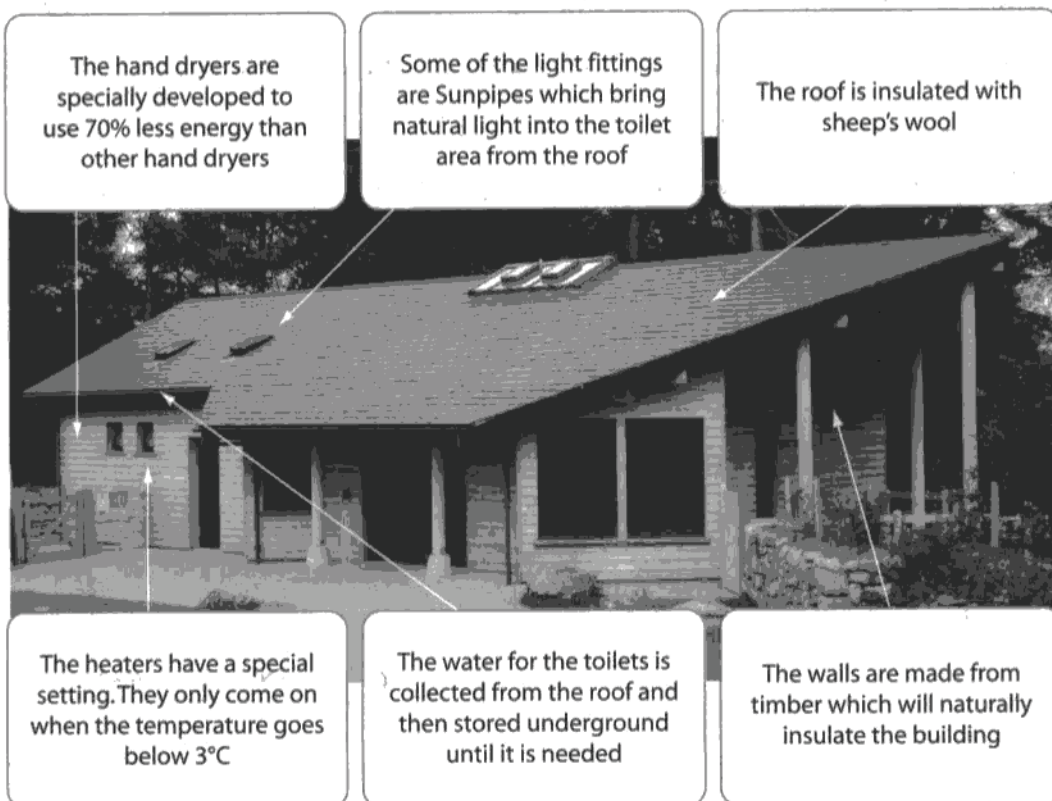
**Question 4(a)(i)**

On the whole this question was well received with the majority of the candidates achieving the mark.

4 (a) Study Figure 4.

It shows Haytor Visitor Centre in Dartmoor National Park.

It is a tourist facility that has been made more sustainable.

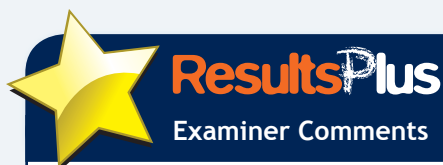


**Figure 4**

(i) What is sustainable development?

(1)

Sustainable development is the needs that benefit us but do not compromise the needs of future generations to come.



This candidate is a little muddled in their first sentence but has convinced the examiner in the second part that they know what sustainable development is and receives the mark.

**Question 4(a)(ii)**

This question was not well received. Candidates seemed to not understand what was expected of them. 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.

(ii) Outline how the centre is sustainable in its use of energy and water. (4)

The center uses special light fittings which bring natural light in to the toilet as a result energy does not need to be used to light a bulb.

The center also uses water which is collected from the roof and which could be used for the toilets.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate receives 2 marks, 1 for the lift from the diagram and the other for the comment about artificial lights not being used.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

When presented with this type of question candidates are expected to use the information from the diagram and add to it from their own knowledge.

(ii) Outline how the centre is sustainable in its use of energy and water. (4)

The center uses special light fittings which bring natural light in to the toilet as a result energy does not need to be used to light a bulb.

The center also uses water which is collected from the roof and which could be used for the toilets.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This candidate has simply repeated the information off the diagram and therefore only received the 1 mark that was available for this type of response.

- Using natural sunlight means less energy (electrical) is used, so less fossil fuels used to provide light for the center. This means more fossil fuels available to future generations and less greenhouse gases released.  
 - Collecting water means less has to be piped in. This water will also not have been cleaned chemically, which means less chance of pollution.  
 - The insulation ~~is~~ means no chemically made wool (less energy) so less electrical heating, as the heaters only come on when it is cold.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This candidate has lifted information from the diagram and used their own knowledge of sustainability producing a response worth the maximum 4 marks.



The centre is sustainable in its use of energy and water as it collects water from the rain to use a toilet water instead of wasting 5 litres of normal water to flush a toilet. It helps save energy as it uses natural light instead of electric lights which helps cut down the cost of running the centre as well.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate provides 1 lift and two additional pieces of information receiving 3 marks.

### Question 4(a)(iii)

For the most part this question was well received. Candidates used a variety of companies. However, they had to provide specific detail if they were to receive maximum marks.

(iii) Dartmoor National Park Authority is one large organisation that is being more sustainable.

Explain the policies **one other** large organisation has developed to make it more sustainable.

(3)

Nokia wants people to recycle their phones. 50% of phone users change their phone every year & 44% of those are left in drawers. Nokia wants to recycle because 100% of phones can be recycled. If every phone user recycled 1 phone it would save 240000 raw materials.



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Examiner Comments

A very common response. Many candidates used Nokia as their chosen organisation and received full marks.

Asda has also made there company more sustainable as they used to fill wasteland 4 times a week with their waste plastic and now they are sending it to be recycled and not filling up huge landfills.



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Examiner Comments

This is another common example. Many candidates used Asda however this response does not have the detail to receive the full 3 marks.

**Question 4(b)**

This question was found to be quite challenging by some of the candidates. There were a number of candidates who wrote about the effects of rainforest destruction not the management initiatives. Other candidates were too descriptive in their answers. For the top of level 3 the response must contain a range of specific examples and explanation.

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

Use examples in your answer.

(6)

Rainforests are becoming more sustainable. The majority of rainforests are refusing to allow companies to construct within that area - this has happened in the French Guiana when they refused to allow ~~so~~ a Canadian company IAMGOLD build a mine in the area due to a recent survey the government had taken out.

Also in the Costa Rican rainforest they have turned it into a tourist attraction by building zipwires and other things within that area so they can make more money through ecotourism; in Madagascar they sent out a team of researchers to search for new fragrances, 40 new aromas were found and sold. They then used the profits on government and preserving the rainforest.

Also local farmers are being <sup>encouraged</sup> encouraged and paid by government to set up farms and ranches in other areas instead of in the rainforest.



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Examiner Comments

This response draws on a number of examples to explain the management initiatives in the rainforest. It received 5 marks rather than 6 because it lacks explanation of the management initiatives.

Some companies which cut down trees for paper replant trees for everyone they have cut down. This allows for sustainable development. A company who does this is Andrex (toilet paper). If areas which have been cleared are fertile enough, the space could be reused and allowed a farm to be built. The free land could then be used for farm animals to produce meat and poultry. Companies which need cocoa beans for chocolate could hire locals from the area to work. It would be cheap labour but the people get money so they can survive, an example of this can be Fairtrade.

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Examiner Comments

This response does not really deal with the question. There is a reference to Andrex but this would have to be developed further to achieve level 2. Therefore, a lack of specifics and explanation limits this response to level 1.

In 2001 a Swiss company went to Madagascar to survey the fragrance they could find in the rainforest. They found 40 new fragrances and ~~anything~~ <sup>profits</sup> that was sold. Local communities got a quantity of. In some rainforests like Costa Rica they have ecotourism, through the forest there is tourist attractions such as zipwires but are not damaging. ~~also~~ In other places you are not allowed to cut down trees as this will effect the environment, wildlife and communities.

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Examiner Comments

This response mentions two examples but does not really give any detail on the second one referring simply to Costa Rica, not where in Costa Rica this is occurring. There is no explanation, therefore this response would achieve the bottom of level 2.

In the oriente, East of Ecuador there is 13 million hectares of land. It is home to 95,000 indigenous people. Since 1973 it has been ~~used~~ for oil extraction with companies such as Texaco using it. This natural resource extraction is bad for the environment, with 6 million tonnes of ~~the~~ toxic waste being produced daily. In the local areas cancers and abnormalities ~~are~~ are a result of the contamination. The oil extraction hasn't benefited the local population as there is still high levels of poverty and unemployment. It has been estimated that there is only 10-20 years of oil left in the rainforest area. There is no benefit as the profits from the oil extraction would only be able to pay a fifth of Ecuador's debt.

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Examiner Comments

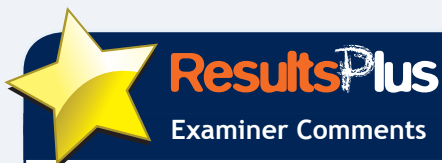
This response received no credit as it deals with the effects of resource extraction not the management initiatives.

In Madagascar, a Swiss company found over 40 aromas in the rainforest, they then shared the profits with the locals.

In Venezuela they banned permits to ~~mine~~ mine for gold and diamonds from 2008 ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~for~~ because it was not needed and better for the locals and the environment, as they already had oil extraction. However, due to this, illegal miners have been attacking the locals.

In Bolivia they received 25 million pounds in exchange for carbon credits because of the project in the rainforest Noel Kempff.

In Costa Rica they introduced zip wires and trails as part of the ecotourism.



This response has a number of creditable examples. However, it was kept at 5 marks because the management initiatives are not well explained.

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.



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