



Examiners' Report June 2015

GCSE Geography B 5GB3F 01

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Introduction

This was second year of this style of geographical decision making paper, formerly and still informally known as a decision making exercise. Without a pre-released booklet the test for candidates was to absorb information from the resource booklet about a clearly defined set of geographical concepts and contexts before moving on to make a choice about the best way of moving forward. They can draw on knowledge and understanding gathered from both of the other exam units and use a grasp of fairly generic concepts based around sustainability but also other themes. The most important skill is the ability to deconstruct questions successfully, which includes the comprehension of the key terms. To be precise it is obviously helpful to know what constitutes an 'economic' reason or a 'social' cause and above all, to understand that almost all decisions are going to be compromises and that there will always be some who benefit more than others and always some who do not benefit at all. Other skills that are likely to be tested in future include the description of patterns, trends and distribution especially, but not exclusively, from maps. Once again as much practice as possible is clearly helpful. Having practised on last year's paper and, perhaps, the Iceland sample paper many candidates produced much more sophisticated arguments in their extended answers to Question 4.

Question 1 (b) (i)

The very uneven distribution of urban settlements was explicable using a variety of the resources, especially the maps, and candidates had been led towards several possible answers relating to both climate and water resources in general. A minority made the connection effectively but many became diverted by other factors.

This response scored 2 marks.

(b) Study Figures 1a and	d 1b.			
(i) Outline one reas	on for the distri	bution of urban se	ettlements.	4-1
-T =13			2 ((2)
ineve	ave	more	Set	Elaments
towards	the	eust	of by	e Ogallala
uquiter.	U	ce to	the	high
prec	Ptatio	<u>()</u>		V





Always develop points when asked to 'outline' for two marks.

This response was awarded 1 mark.

(b) Study Figures 1a and 1b.

(i) Outline **one** reason for the distribution of urban settlements.

(2)

Most of the whom settlements are in the cooler points and points that have good precipitation



This makes the point about rainfall although rather clumsily - 'good'? The other point is invalid and is a second reason.

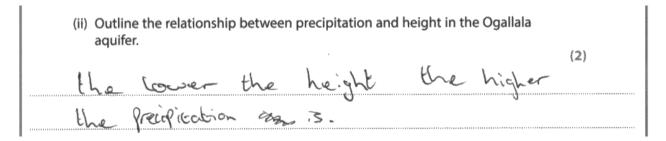


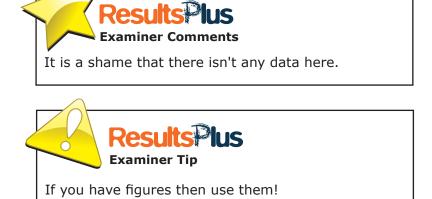
If asked for \mbox{one} reason there is nothing to be gained by offering two.

Question 1 (b) (ii)

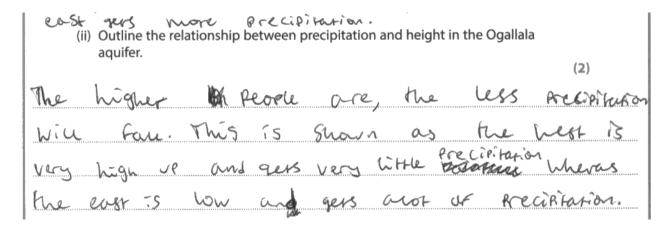
This was much better answered than Question 1(b)(i) with the unusual, but very clear relationship, being understood by most candidates although not enough of them added any detail by way of the use of data to add a second mark.

This answer scored 1 mark.





This response was awarded both marks.







Maps have scales and compass points - try to use one or both in your answers.

Question 1 (b) (iii)

As with many other questions clues for this were in the Resource Booklet. All that was required from candidates was some attention to that booklet and an understanding of the question. It was disappointing that a minority of candidates found the reference to mountains acting as a barrier and the 'rain shadow' effect which was specifically mentioned.

This response scored 1 mark.

(iii) Suggest one reason for this relationship.	relationship.	
It rains less in bar land areas.		
because of the rain shadow affect.		
	111111111111111111111111111111111111111	
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	



The shadow effect is here but not the cause of that shadow.



Make sure that explanations are clear - in this case, why is there a shadow?

Question 1 (c)

Once again clues abounded in the booklet and those that found them managed better on this question, than on its predecessor, to make sense of that impact linking reduced rain (or increased temperature) to a shrinking aquifer. Some of the answers suggested that they had only a tenuous grasp of what aquifer water might actually be but it didn't inhibit them here.

This answer was awarded both marks.

(c) Describe the possible impact of future climate change on the aquifer. (2)
the possible impact is that rainfall
were reduce measure so theres
Less ground water. However there
Will be an increcse in temperature over that area.



This is a simply stated but effective response.



Make sure the focus is on the question as in this example.

(c) Describe the possible impact of future climate change on the aquifer.	
	(2)
The 'Rody Mondain's of the west act as a barrow is weather green, leaving an insocrat at the disappearing in	is this
Ust century.	



The consequence is correct but the cause is only partially here and isn't related to climate change so only one mark.

Question 1 (d)

The most popular choice was Nebraska but not all answers could provide a very satisfactory logic for their choice. As the mark scheme suggests the key ideas here, in reality, are likely to be the possible alternative water sources through higher rainfall and more available river water reducing dependency and the level of demand. But it is also possible to argue that dependency is also a function of an excess of water availability in the aquifer leading to greater use and so, arguably, higher dependency which is the line that the Nebraska 'gang' often chose to take.

All 3 marks were awarded here.

(d) Study Figure 1c which shows the size and thickness of the aquifer in 8 states. Use Figure 1c and also Figures 1a and 1b.	
Identify one state that is likely to use the Ogallala aquifer for a large part of its water supply.	
Explain your choice.	
Chosen state Nebrosa Ka	(3)
Webragka is to the north of the ad ist.	
where there is the largest amounted us	iter,
Nelevaska has senen cettlements, with an	ourel
20,000 people to supply with waters ear	h.
Nebruske also has the most preightation	out .
(Total for Question 1 = 16 n	narks)
I the 8 states. This means that the area of the	le
aguiter is most reliable as it is recharged!	none
Sten.	



This is a strong response with both supply and demand tackled effectively. It has the logic that they have a lot, so they use a lot as well as needing a lot!



This is a good example of a well-organised answer.

This answer, on the other hand, did not score any marks.

(d) Study Figure 1c which shows the size and thickness of the aquifer in 8 states. Use Figure 1c and also Figures 1a and 1b.

Identify one state that is likely to use the Ogallala aquifer for a large part of its water supply.

Explain your choice.

(3)

Chosen state Control Nebraska

This state has a large much preupitation a very high average cunnod preupitation reaching 800 mm. This is likely to be used because they had not have much space to store all the water, causing the water to he wrighted back into the riser. The climate is moderate, its not to not or to cold, its very mild in temperature.



This lacks the logic of the previous example and drifts off into irrelevance.

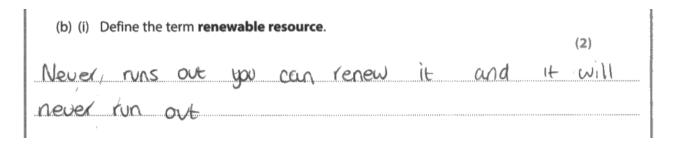


Try to stick to the point by referring back to the question.

Question 2 (b) (i)

This was well answered and provided a decent platform for later answers. Candidates usually obtained their second mark through offering a reasonable example.

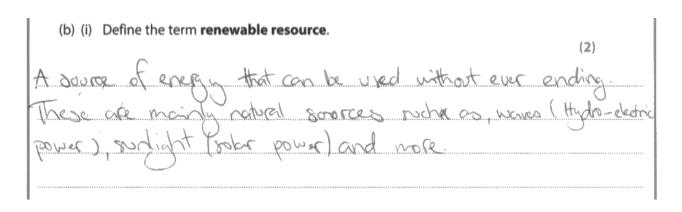
This response gained 1 mark.







This response scored both marks.





Question 2 (b) (ii)

This too was reasonably well answered but many candidates seemed reluctant to develop their point. 'It will run out' was the common starting point which simply needed some data or perhaps a qualification to pick up the second mark. Too many marks were lost across the paper by candidates' failure to take account of the mark tariff. Constant reminders that it is imperative to say two things if two marks are available would appear to be the message to candidates; this is not an original message but one for which candidates at this level need particular coaching.

1 mark was awarded for this answer.

(ii) Given current rates of water use, outline one reason why the Ogallala aquifer is not a renewable resource.

(2)

Ogallala is not a renewable

resource because it needs to have water and aquirer are run through water and that

Could reduce causera aquirer to dissapan



The candidate has the idea that it might disappear but doesn't know why.



The clue here is 'Given current rates of water use...' Questions are designed to help candidates think about the relevance of their answers. What are the current rates of water use compared with recharging rates?

This answer scored 2 marks.

(ii) Given current rates of water use, outline **one** reason why the Ogallala aquifer is **not** a renewable resource.

(2)

The water that has been sourced from the aquifer is well above the amount that should be used so that it can be filled up and kept on using and so it will eventually no out meaning it cannot be used again so it is not renewable

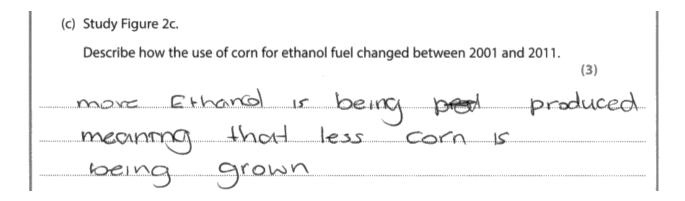


By contrast this answer developed the idea of supply and demand.

Question 2 (c)

This wasn't an easy graph because it showed cumulative data so it clearly discriminated effectively with some candidates reading the levels of corn produced for ethanol fuel as starting at about 1.6 billion tonnes and ending at 2.4 billion. Thus they usually described that as an increase for which they were rewarded but nothing much else could be credited. Those that started with a production of about 0.2 billion tonnes were in a much stronger position to describe changes and trends over the years.

1 mark was awarded for this answer.





A very general idea is offered here but it is not developed.



When faced by a resource with figures involved than use the figures in your answer.

This answer was awarded 2 marks.

(c) Study Figure 2c.

Describe how the use of corn for ethanol fuel changed between 2001 and 2011.

(3)

The use of corn used for ethanol (uel between 2001 It was at 2010 has increased on 8 Buyion of Corn being used for ethanol fuel whereas in 2011 1.3 buyion to one of free carn uses being used for fuel



Increase is noted and appropriate data is added - it is a shame that a little more isn't squeezed out of it.

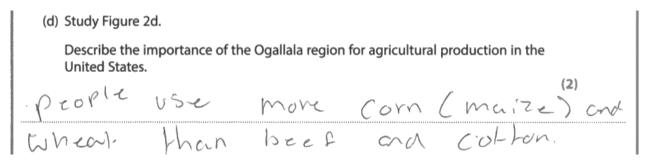


There were three marks for this question - it's worth thinking about where the marks might be awarded. Is the increase constant?

Question 2 (d)

This, like so many other questions, really relied on candidates being able to use the Resource Booklet effectively and add something to the general idea of it being 'very important' for which they were credited. Sadly many didn't add anything, sometimes lapsing into explanation or simply failing to trawl the booklet effectively for the data.

This answer was not awarded any marks.





This is a curious response that seems to miss the point.



Read questions carefully and note the key words.

1 mark was awarded here.

(d) Study Figure 2d.

Describe the importance of the Ogallala region for agricultural production in the United States.

(2)

The Ogallala is extremely important because it has a high percentage of agricultural production in the USA





Question 2 (e)

This was answered well by a decently sized minority of candidates who, for the most part, concentrated on the role of ethanol as a biofuel and the growth of the feedlots. The significance of US governments was only very rarely spotted, perhaps (although this is speculation) because the word subsidy was not understood. It goes without saying that the Resource Booklet offered a good deal of data and detail with which to amplify points.

This answer was awarded 4 marks.

(e) Outline two reasons why corn has become such an important crop in the region. (4)
1 Corn Can be turned into exhause
her which can be used to
no cas in the US & meaning
a renewable resource is useen
2 Corn is constanty used to feed carrie
or hunger in exhact/brower. Also, 25 million
lonnes of for would feed 100 million
People for a year and so is a easy produce



This is an answer with two basic ideas, both of which are developed. The second idea is rather scrambled but gets a general idea of increase for feedlots before getting distracted.

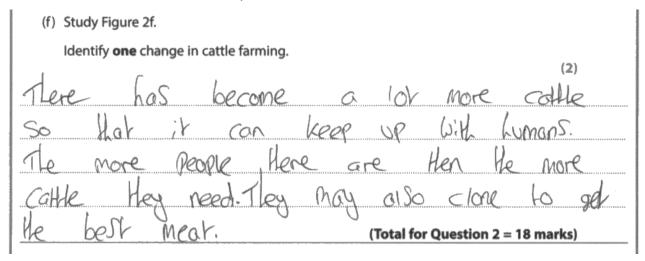


Try to keep the ideas simple and don't throw in other ideas.

Question 2 (f)

This was very poorly answered or not answered at all. The question has three possible answers all of which can be taken from the booklet but those who had not taken in the significance of irrigation clearly hadn't appreciated the link between crops and feedlots and the concurrent decline of rangeland. This was unexpected.

No marks were awarded for this response.



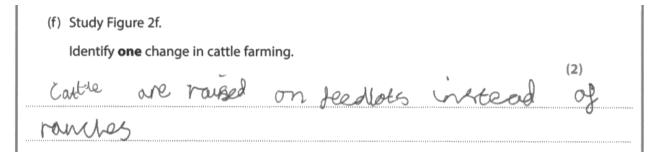


It isn't clear whether there are more cattle and the question does not ask for a reason so there is nothing to credit here.



Use the information offered - you don't have to look beyond it for your 'facts' in this type of examination.

This response was awarded both marks.





This is a simple but effective answer.

Question 3 (b) (i)

Those that understood the meaning of the keyword 'economic' answered this effectively with nearly 40% reaching 3 marks or better by linking jobs and income to attitudes. Some, however, hit the economic target by a spray gun approach and thus included many other factors which limited the creditworthiness of their responses. Some were at sea with the word and had little of value to offer.

Here, the answer scored 2 marks.

(b) People living in the Ogallala aquifer region have different views about the use of the aquifer.
(i) Describe two economic reasons why people have different views.
1 Because the either most in that
industers and repose to write
to opporturity thate in front of them-
which gives them money
They are an enjoymment about
and come about the land to the
Taking their Jobs away so they lose
money



The focus is correctly an economic one but the development of the reason(s) is not here and the answer, which could be readily turned into a 4/4 response falls short. So the concept is understood but the evidence is missing.



Use the booklet - there are names and details to use to illustrate your answers.

No marks could be awarded for this answer.

(b) People living in the Ogallala aquifer region have different views about the use of the aquifer.

(i) Describe two economic reasons why people have different views.

People believe it is the only

2 people believe it 15 taking



There are several issues with this but above all it isn't clear what 'it' might be. With a little explanation there might be an idea here.



Writing an exam answer isn't like having a casual conversation - you need to make it clear what you mean.

Question 3 (b) (ii)

Once again, the quality of the answer depended on understanding what 'social' meant. Despite the speech 'bubbles' on the Section 3 resource far too many candidates either repeated something about 'economics' or simply left the question alone altogether.

No marks were awarded here.

(ii) Describe one social reason why people have different views. (2)
are social bein & he use of he land. The use of
agifes does not ture into consideration Mose Such
as ranchers and people running to car buisness
This my give lun less opportunity to do her
Jobs one hen will voose her honer, Mo
also news that population will fall as hels people with
Went to we neve. (Total for Question 3 = 7 marks)



This is an example of a candidate who had no real grasp of the meaning of 'social'.



Learn your key terms!

Only 1 mark was awarded for this response.

(ii) Describe one social reason why people have different views. (2) because people have different my opinion because of white very we and what kind of backeymund very how come grown,



This has a decent basic idea but, sadly and surprisingly, the candidate fails to illustrate it.

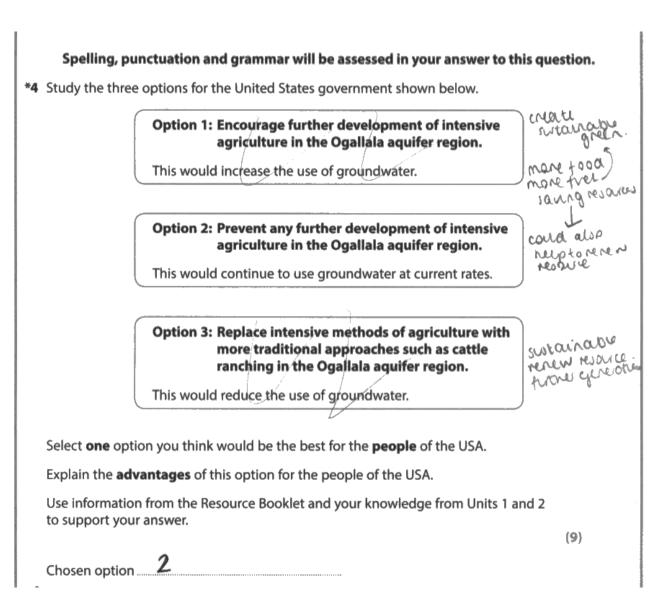


Always offer examples and/or data if you can. Usually it will be rewarded.

Question 4

With a tariff of 9 marks to which the possible 3 marks of SPaG could be added this final question carried a little under a quarter of the total marks available. Thus it was very pleasing to see that so many centres had obviously trained candidates well in making sure that they at least allowed enough time to answer it. There were many fewer incomplete responses or even answers that showed the signs of having been rushed. It was also gratifying that most responded to the command phrase 'Explain the advantages' admirably; even when their actual logic let them down they at least gave it a go and some even chose to cover the weaknesses of the other options just to reinforce their choice. This was not an obligation but was a useful line of argument. Perhaps the weakest element in most responses was a tendency to pay too little attention to the 'people of the USA'. Most wrote generally about the economy of the region rather than exploring the possible tensions between national and local interests. There are clear opportunities here for practice as Units 1 and 2 are delivered suggesting that students always investigate the unevenness of positive and negative impacts. Occasional 'mini' exercises might help reinforce the need for clear deconstruction of this type of question. Conceptually the vast majority of 16-year-olds have no difficulty at all with the idea of uneven impacts but they can lose their nerve when trying to express it – it is in this area that most practice is needed.

This response scored 8 marks plus 2 for SPaG.



One advantage of preventing futher development is that the ground water may begin to rever well there would be no herease of its we this good for the people of the lith as feit would sistainability, as helping to proudle for. fiture generations tone our advantage is that although further developments prevented, there is alre intensivo agricuture. This is good for the UM people as there was district production of corn. This corn at figure 20, 1/2 can when Cooking come production intoctator conscionatingly y an alternative for etranol trel. Ethanol free less portitants car feel, say it produces a rerevable sources it also preserves some of produs causes HOW TONE RAILBARNON BY BREATthe WA population and contributions warming crop production farming Eson coutle intensive ranching giving more tood sources Hu said millions tennes af coin would felei 100 million people far a year

Aprinerease of intersive taining se con kenefit the WA's population as the amount of coin sed in export production could increose meaning bonesses would gan more platitio from trade. This con also benefit the canting ccenamically as it could herease trade upon the KK WA leading to more important to garde aguje to more import. facts their water; prevention of firme deneraphens will help preserve to againala resources meaning one population saw benefit from Their water revource. Querall, I have chosen aprior 2 to be the best most advantageous for the USA people os outproven it still remains to se where agrife, unbout it al people would reversely striggre, and it helps to oning in income to the local people. Attruishmentally, me wand is being wed effectively to produce the highest yield of food production People may benefit from further restrictions as ix underns ery time danage to the environment environment coursed by methone from cattle. This can create a better environment and con

Also restrictions reduce the amount of widing ones mined by deferentation, meaning no more open space or forestry is rost from the growing agriculture industry. As This was helps the renders to retain their land from corporational bilding.



This is a strong and well-focused response that addresses the question directly and draws on the resource booklet effectively.



Keep using the words in the question - it will keep you focused.

This answer was awarded 4 marks plus 2 for SPaG.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in your answer to this question.

*4 Study the three options for the United States government shown below.

Option 1: Encourage further development of intensive agriculture in the Ogallala aquifer region.

This would increase the use of groundwater.

Option 2: Prevent any further development of intensive agriculture in the Ogallala aquifer region.

This would continue to use groundwater at current rates.

Option 3: Replace intensive methods of agriculture with more traditional approaches such as cattle ranching in the Ogallala aquifer region.

This would reduce the use of groundwater.

Select one option you think would be the best for the people of the USA.

Explain the advantages of this option for the people of the USA.

Chosen option Option 3.

animano. COWS

Use information from the Resource Booklet and your knowledge from Units 1 and 2 to support your answer.

(9)

they are using so that the agruper can recover.

Ithink that they should make pure that encourage more traditional approaches to cattle farming as their is less land becoming damaged and the Ogallala agruper regron has the perfect land to do cattle remembry however this may also cause problems as there may be a decrease in the production of corn coaden which most farmers feed their

I believe that Ophon 1 isn't suitable because the eand will become destroyed and people who use in that regren well have to move because their and will soil will be come inferrile hard to grow crops on and but however, the UST will benefit as they are increasing - production of coin and nor big corporations can't come in and takes Some of the American's water so that it leads to the US be coming more deprived as they went benefits from the resource as there were decrease in the amoun g produent 8 15 n' b suitable believe Ophon i believe they should goundwater being used so e u don't have to workry Me land di 3 appearing after centrary and giving from damage before



This would appear to be a relatively unusual example of a candidate who ran out of time.



Leave at least 15 minutes for this final question.

Paper Summary

The structure of these papers is predictable as are the questions insofar as the skills that they are likely to test. These can be mapped into the teaching of both of the other units so that they become second nature or at least not quite such a surprise as they appear to be for some candidates. Whilst there have been significant improvements in the ability of students to tackle the final evaluative question it is fair to say that the skills have not made such marked progress. Ironically it is map skills that seem the most stubbornly slow to improve perhaps reflecting the satnav revolution in the same way that it is alleged that calculators eroded mental arithmetic skills many years ago or text messaging damages grammatical skills. However, it is also notable that the interpretation of photographs is also weak which, in this age of Instagram and Snapchat, might seem counter-intuitive. For most candidates the photographs on this paper were either ignored or misunderstood. Geographers are multi-skilled but it doesn't come without a certain amount of training and practice; all the more so at foundation level.

So based on their performance on this paper, candidates are particularly advised to:

- practice their map skills
- practice the interpretation of photographs
- read the questions very carefully and, revise all key terms.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx





