

Examiners' Report November 2008

GCE

IGCSE Geography (4370)

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Mark Scheme that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

November 2008

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Ltd 2008

Contents

1.	Paper 1F Report	5
2.	Paper 2H Report	9
3.	Paper 03 Report	13
4.	Paper 04 Report	15
5.	Statistics	17

4370 IGCSE Geography

Paper 1F

Examiners' Report November 2008

General Comments

The examination attracted a small but larger entry than in previous Novembers and generated a reasonable spread of marks. There were a few strong scripts showing a full range of answered question parts and a respectable level of knowledge and understanding. Most candidates appeared to find the paper reasonably accessible and accumulated creditable total marks.

Question 1: Water

This was one of the lower scoring questions. Surprisingly few candidates got (a)(i) entirely correct though most identified the correct date in (a)(ii). (a)(iii) scored marks on most scripts though low to mid-range marks were typical. Very few candidates appreciated the idea of a second heavy rain spell on to saturated ground in 1., the term, relief and its significance for trapping rainwater in 2. and the impact of impermeable urban surfaces for run-off in 3. The request to describe a hydrograph polarised the scores in (b) with maximum and zero marks in evidence.

Question 2: Hazards

This question scored better than question 1 and was for some candidates their highest scoring answer. Most started well and grasped the distinction between economic and human tested in (a)(i). (a)(ii) and (iii) generally saw candidates answering correctly. (b) tended to generate weaker responses weaker responses to 1. but a better level of understanding in 2. Few responses to 1. contained any real reference to cyclone formation; the best responses included passing references to energy, evaporation and clouds. Valid reasons for greater LEDC damage were offered by most in 2. (c) scored well for a closing part though some candidates' answers did contain a degree of overlap with their response to (b)2.

Question 3: Production

There was evidence that the substantial stimulus-data was reasonably well used by the candidates. 2000 kms was correctly identified by most candidates in (a)(i) though (a)(ii) did see some confusion over whether the 500 kms was by land or by more direct route. (b)(i) and (ii) were generally well answered with candidates achieving decent scores. Part (iii), however, saw only the better candidates able to develop factors into explicit statements of advantage. Level 2 (3-4 marks) responses to (c) were rare. The primary request was for an industry and relatively few were able to oblige. Some scripts contained either blank part (c)s or responses that failed to answer the question set.

Question 4: Development

As has become usual, this unit scored relatively low. Parts (a)(i)-(iii) generally generated the correct responses and the concept of a widening gap was generally grasped by candidates in (a)(v). However, (a)(iv), (b)(i) and (b)(ii) created problems for the majority of candidates. There were some valid interpretations in (a)(iv) but many merely repeated the data in words. Disappointingly, few defined GDP properly in (b)(i) or hit the right link and line of argument in (b)(ii). Part (c), however, was often the best answered part of the question. Many candidates came up with valid government actions with some developing them in the context of a named country.

Question 5: Migration

This was again, a higher scoring question. Parts (a)(i) and (ii) were generally answered correctly, and most were able to clarify the concept of illegality as it applies to immigrants in (a)(iii). (a)(iv) was almost always well answered though surprisingly, (b)(i) and (ii) whilst yielding many respectable marks, did cause some confusion. Answers often failed to draw the clear distinction between push and pull. Intermingled answers without a well-developed example were not untypical. Part (c) differentiated well with most scripts answering along the right lines. There were some good answers covering population growth, extra spending and the filling of dirty jobs with cheap labour.

Question 6: Urban Environments

This tended to be poorly answered. Most started well enough with (a)(i) but appeared to miss the information at the foot of Figure 6 so were unable to offer evidence in response to question (a)(ii). Ghetto was rarely offered in (a)(iii) and the explanation of a valid CBD feature in (b)(ii) was frequently wanting. Very few candidates were able to offer a creditable answer to (c). The better answers offered shanty town improvement schemes but script blanks were a more common examining experience.

Question 7: Fragile Environments

This was by far the most popular of the three Section B optional questions. It also tended to produce fairly strong total marks. Candidates often started well by knowing two valid reasons for forest clearance in (a)(i). 2-3 marks were typical totals for (a)(ii). The concept of soil erosion was generally familiar and pleasingly defined by most candidates. However, there were few scoring responses in (a)(iv) with most candidates repeating their answers to (a)(i). Part (b) produced a range of responses and discriminated well. Most gained some credit but vague and unrelated comments were typical. Almost all candidates knew of carbon-reduction measures and the Kyoto Protocol was frequently offered in (c). Small-scale generic suggestions were also often made, including using cars less.

Question 8: Globalisation

This was the least popular choice in Section B. Parts (a)(i)-(iv) were invariably answered correctly though the request in (a)(v) for three distinctive reasons proved to be beyond most candidates; most did, however, succeed in offering at least one valid reason. Most candidates produced a clear Japanese advantage in (a)(vi). Ecotourism seemed to have been well learnt and (b)(i) was well answered. (b)(ii) generated more modest performances. Responses tended to be vague and lacked specificity. Detailed case-study type knowledge was virtually absent.

Question 9: Human Welfare

Few candidates took this option but those that did scored reasonably well. Part (a) posed no real difficulties though few calculated the life expectancy difference in (ii). Most candidates were able to appreciate the rationale for classifying countries as LEDCs and MEDCs, and to offer alternative valid development indicators. In (b)(i) the significance of satisfactory in water quality terms was frequently missed; water supply was generally seen in quantitative terms. Part (b)(ii) was reasonably well answered with the basic concept of rural poverty being grasped by the majority. Responses to (b)(iii) tended to be weak. Very few were able to make any valid suggestion as to the cause of the urban deterioration.

4370 IGCSE Geography

Paper 2H

Examiners' Report November 2008

General Comments

The entry whilst small was larger than in previous Novembers and larger than that for paper 1F. Performance was highly polarised with a number of very strong scripts as well as some very weak ones for whom paper 1F may have been more appropriate. These weaker scripts were often incomplete, made poor use of the stimulus-data and lacked the detailed knowledge and technical understanding that one would expect of the entry for this paper. The understanding of process evident on the better scripts was highly commendable. Some candidates did achieve mid-range quality on their scripts as a whole.

Question 1: Water

This proved to be a respectably answered question with candidates having considerable success on parts (a)(i) to (a)(iii). The unusual nature of the rainfall and the Sheffield's proneness to flooding were broadly recognised by the candidates. Maximum marks on (a)(i) and (a)(iii) was not common but most achieved 1-2 marks per part. Part (a)(iv) was, however, disappointingly answered with surprisingly few identifying the saturated soil from the 14 June as a key factor in the flooding on the 22 June. Many well-drawn and suitably annotated hydrographs were produced for (b), and strong answers were also a feature of part (c). Urban flood defence schemes were generally well known; many scripts referred to the workings of actual named examples.

Question 2: Hazards

This was one of the higher scoring questions as is the usual pattern for this paper. Candidates tended to start well on (a)(i) but most had some difficulty achieving more than 1-2 marks on (a)(ii). Few were able to go beyond high sea temperatures. Part (b), however, was invariably well answered with knowledge of the hindrance brought by storms to tropical LEDCs being good. Some candidates overlapped their answers to (b) and (c) though most scored respectably on both parts. Part (d) proved to be familiar ground for most candidates, and this was reflected in the generally higher than average scores for a final question part.

Question 3: Production

This question was on the whole, not particularly well done. Parts (a) and (b)(i) were tackled reasonably well though (b)(ii) produced far too few high scores. It was common to merely extract information from Figure 3 and not to interpret and use it to answer the question set. As on paper 1F, candidates tended to get off to a bad start on (c) by rarely naming a high-tech industry. The rest of the question was a real challenge when the naming was of a place rather than of an industry. Part (d) proved to be a highly effective differentiator with responses ranging from very limited to reasoned accounts as to the importance of other factors to modern manufacturing.

Question 4: Development

Development generally proves to be a challenging unit and this examination was no exception. Candidates tended to start positively by making good use of the data in Figure 4 to answer parts (a)(i) and (ii) quite well. Most candidates were able to gain credit from their efforts to define GDP but found (b)(ii) very challenging. Few candidates gained maximum marks and there were limited numbers able to demonstrate just one valid linkage between variables. Part (c) produced better geographical knowledge and understanding but (d) was again weak. Only the better candidates showed a clear distinction between the two spatial contexts of a growing region and a divided country. When valid problems were raised they tended to be vague and unsubstantiated.

Question 5: Migration

As is usual Migration was well answered. Most scored the opening mark in (a)(i) though the adjective 'illegal' was not always clarified. (a)(ii) was a straightforward task for almost all candidates though not all addressed the three aspects of the migration necessary to gain maximum marks. Part (b) was generally well answered with candidates showing good understanding of the push and pull process. Part (c) tended to be equally well answered with a range of benefits from willing, cheap labour to dietary diversity being offered. There was no shortage of examples in the responses to both (b) and (c). Part (d) discriminated well with only better candidates dealing with both tangible disadvantages and the concept of weighing these against benefits. A wide spread of marks was generated.

Question 6: Urban Environments

The scores for this question were a little disappointing. Ghettos and the cycle of deprivation did not seem to be familiar topics to the candidature. Consequently, parts (a)(iii), (b)(i) and (b)(ii) generated very low scores. Ghettos were confused with shanty towns or slums and their link with ethnicity was rarely made. Shanty towns were frequently used in (c) as areas of social deprivation, usually in an unnamed city. Top quality responses referring, for instance, to an infrastructure improvement project in the named inner city area of a named MEDC city were far too few. (a)(i) and (ii) tended not to pose problems for the candidates, as surprisingly did part (d). This part differentiated effectively with a pleasing appreciation of the unease present in many cosmopolitan and racially mixed cities. Causes and named examples were frequently present in the responses.

Question 7: Fragile Environments

The overwhelmingly popular question in the optional Section B of the paper. Part (a) scored well on almost all scripts with candidates showing good understanding of the soil erosion-desertification process. The nature of drought and its link to this process was also frequently known as was the role of a stronger greenhouse effect as the likely cause of global warming. Responses to both parts of (c) were again, very sound with many candidates being very familiar with the Kyoto Protocol and linked or other local, small-scale initiatives in (c)(i), and able to write at some length about the emerging and future consequences of rising average global temperature.

Question 8: Globalisation

There were few answers to this question. Those that there were tended to be weak on foreign direct investment (FDI) despite the presence of Figure 8; scores to (a)(i), (ii) and (iii) were often modest though features of transnational companies (TNCs) requested by (a)(iv) were generally known. Ecotourism was better understood as a topic with part (b) scoring more highly than part (a). The final question part in particular on the case for ecotourism rather than mass tourism ((b)(iii)) was pleasingly well answered with the concept of sustainable development looming large in most responses.

Question 9: Human Welfare

This was a more popular choice than question 8 but tended to mark lower than question 7. Part (a) posed few real difficulties for the candidates who were well briefed on life expectancy and its influences, and capable of identifying MEDCs and justifying their choice. Part (b) posed greater problems, especially (b)(ii) where not all suggested rural-to-urban migration and the consequent urban population increase as the likely explanation. (b)(iii) discriminated well as an answer but some candidates whilst being able to suggest other welfare problems such as schooling, crime and public transport failed to address the issue of their management.

4370 IGCSE Geography

Paper 03

Examiners' Report November 2008

General comments

While the majority of the November 2008 cohort was entered for Paper 3, the practical paper, there was a larger entry for Paper 4 (coursework) than has been the case in recent November series. Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable range of geographical skills, while those entered for Paper 4 tended to be more secure with both skills and geographical concepts.

Paper 3 proved to be accessible to those entered for the Foundation Tier, whilst a few Higher Tier candidates achieved very high marks. The majority of candidates, as in previous series, were prepared for the demands of questions 1 and 2, but the majority of answers to question 3 (fieldwork) were disappointing.

Questions 1 and 2

Both these questions required the candidates to use a variety of resources and geographical skills. The majority of candidates appeared to be more familiar with the skills required for Question 2 and therefore found this question more accessible.

Question 1

The basic map reading and graph construction presented few problems and enabled most candidates to make a confident start to the paper. Most were then able to accurately complete and label the pie graph but a surprising minority found this task difficult. The candidates were then asked to discuss the impacts of the regeneration scheme in central Taunton on the CBD and on the out-of-town shopping centre located near the M5. The majority used information from the resources without any additional development to explain the perceived impacts in the CBD, and repeated the same information when referring to the out-of-town shopping centre, severely limiting their marks for this section.

Question 2

In common with previous examination series, Question 2 resulted in a slightly wider spread of marks than Question 1. The first sections proved to be accessible, with some very accurate plotting of the population distribution of Sri Lanka and clear descriptions of the completed map. The bar graph of population growth was similarly accurately completed. The candidates found describing and explaining the changes in water quality along the Kelani river more complex, with the majority limiting their responses to level one as they simply copied information from the resource, without noticing that controlling factors such as the degree of urbanisation and the type of pollution had varied.

Question 3

This question, as in the past, enables candidates to demonstrate the skills and knowledge obtained when carrying out their own field work investigations. Although there were examples where the work was geographically relevant, in particular some excellent river studies, there were several incidences where the fieldwork carried out was unsuitable. Candidates are unlikely to obtain high marks for this question if the investigation has been limited to how much is spent in a supermarket or the number of boys/girls in a class. The candidates were consequently severely limited when discussing their data collection and the methods used to ensure that it was as fair and unbiased as possible. Centres are strongly advised to refer to the fieldwork section of the Teacher's Guide when selecting investigations.

4370 IGCSE Geography

Paper 04

Examiners' Report November 2008

The coursework option attracted a relatively large entry, as fewer candidates than usual were entered for the written alternative Paper 3.

Administration

Centres are to be thanked for sending the work in simple light weight folders, without the use of plastic wallets, which greatly assisted the moderation process. Most centres are to be thanked for their detailed annotation of the candidate's work, which again assisted the moderation process. Most aspects of the submitted work were accurately marked. However, there was a tendency for centres to be overgenerous with higher marks and somewhat harsh with lowered marks, and consequently some adjustment was necessary. There were incidences of centres using the Individual Candidate Record Sheets intended for GCSE Geography rather than IGCSE. This led to marks being altered for all criteria, usually to the detriment of the candidates concerned.

Candidates' performance

General Comments

The choices of topic were all geographically relevant and there were some pleasing examples of candidates being encouraged to select topics which they found interesting. This choice, however, meant that some candidates investigated very extensive geographical questions or areas and consequently were challenged by the amount of data collected.

Criterion 1 - Introduction and Aims

It is essential that candidates have a clear aim and develop questions or hypotheses relating to their coursework. It was pleasing to see that the majority of candidates had been encouraged to set out their aims/predictions in a clear format:-

- 1. I predict that many people join the informal sector because they want to be self employed.*
- 2. I predict that many people prefer the informal sector because in some cases it is more profitable than the formal sector.*
- 3. I predict that many people work in the informal sector because it has no educational requirements.*

When the data is collected as a group exercise, it is essential that an effective sequence of the investigation is established to reach the highest level for this criterion. Most studies were well located and a number contained detailed location maps.

Criterion 2 - Data Collection

Much of the submitted work had a strong emphasis on primary data collection, allowing candidates to use a variety of data collection methods. There were examples of some very detailed discussion about the problems encountered during data collection:-

Since people in the informal sector were not educated, questions have to be easy and straight forward. For example, in relation to my hypothesis that the informal sector is popular because of the availability of raw materials, I simply asked whether raw materials were easy to get and whether they were cheap.

There was, however, relatively little information about the actual methods used to collect the data, and sampling strategies were not considered.

Criterion 3 - Data Presentation

In general, candidates used a limited variety of data presentation techniques. These included bar graphs, tables and some very well annotated photographs and many candidates demonstrated considerable proficiency in ICT. However, a greater variety of appropriate methods and some attempt at an original method of presentation, such as graphs and annotated photographs on a base map, would enable more candidates to reach level three for this criterion.

Criterion 4 - Analysis and Conclusions

Most candidates commented on their data to some extent, but this tended to be descriptive in nature. The lack of quantitative discussion prevented a number of candidates from reaching the higher levels for this criterion. In some cases, the small number of people interviewed when carrying out questionnaires was a considerable limitation to the validity of the conclusions made, but the candidates failed to comment on this. Most candidates were able to offer some concluding comments; the more focused candidates returning to their original hypothesis or question.

Criterion 5 - Planning and Organisation

The majority of work was very logically organised, with some extremely high standards of presentation. The best studies tended to integrate maps and diagrams into the text:-

Table 3 and figure 4 show evidence of my decision

4370 IGCSE Geography

Statistics November 2008

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grading option 1: 03 Written Alternative
1F Written Paper

Grade	Max. Mark	C	D	E	F	G
Overall Subject Grade Boundaries		51	43	36	29	22

Grading option 2: 04 Coursework
1F Written Paper

Grade	Max. Mark	C	D	E	F	G
Overall Subject Grade Boundaries		51	44	37	30	23

Grading Option 3: 03 Written Alternative
2H Written Paper

Grade	Max. Mark	*	A	B	C	D	E
Overall Subject Grade Boundaries		67	59	51	44	36	32

Grading Option 4: 04 Coursework
2H Written Paper

Grade	Max. Mark	*	A	B	C	D	E
Overall Subject Grade Boundaries		68	60	52	45	37	33

Grades per paper

Grade	Max. Mark	*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Overall Subject Grade Boundaries	03	60	40		32	26		14	
	04	60	44		33	27		15	
	1F	110			55			34	
	2H	150		86		63	52		

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467
Fax 01623 450481

Email publications@linneydirect.com

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel.com/quals

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH