

Principal Examiner Feedback November 2009

GCSE

iGCSE Geography (4370) Paper 03

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Unit 4370 Paper 03

General comments

The skills based paper, offered as a written alternative to coursework, was well received by both centre and candidates. As in the past the majority of the cohort was entered for Paper 3 which is common to both Foundation and Higher tiers. The candidates were able to demonstrate a wide range of geographical skills although there were some surprising short comings in sections of the paper. All the candidates were able to complete the paper with in the allocated time allocation.

The paper proved to be accessible to the foundation candidates whilst those entered for the higher tier were able to achieve high marks. The majority of candidates were well prepared for questions one and two, but there remain a number of centres who select topics with little geographical relevance for question three and consequently limited their candidates' performance.

Questions 1 & 2

Both these questions required the candidates to use a variety of resources and geographical skills. The candidates appeared to find both these questions equally accessible.

Q1

The first sections of this question (1a and 1b (i)) allowed the candidates to make a sound start to the paper although a few appeared to be confused by compass directions. The graphs (question 1b (ii) and (iii)) were generally accurately plotted but candidates found it difficult to describe the patterns that they had plotted in response to question 1b (iv). Candidates should be encouraged to use specific data and to comment on anomalies in addition to describing the overall trends shown. Few candidates achieved higher than level two for question 1c. The following extract is taken from a typical level two answer where the candidate notices links between the sets of data but fails to consider the positions of the data collection sites on the map.

...as the river progresses downstream the velocity increases and the long axis of the bed load decreases. This is brought about by the increase of water from tributaries and the decrease of the long axis is brought about by attrition and corrosion.

Q2

The early sections of question two posed few problems for the majority of candidates, however a surprisingly large number were unable to complete the pie chart (question 2a (iii)). While most candidates were able to provided labels or a simple annotation to the photograph in question 2b (i) a relatively small number where able to expand their ideas into full annotations.

Question 2b (ii) required candidates to use information from more than one resource. A large number unfortunately restricted themselves to level one as they simply lifted information from one or more of the resources.

Ambleside might experience traffic congestion because people visiting because of the attractive town and scenery. Ambleside is a city where people see a good job and come to work.

Question 2c also required the use of a number of resources. However, the candidates provided more focused responses and were able to provide arguments to support or reject the conclusion, as shown by the extract below:

More than 50% of those visiting Ambleside come because of its attractive scenery and therefore most of the services are for tourists, In figure 2d we are shown that the town has many hotels and guest houses - these are mainly for tourists, The shops sell boots and climbing equipment which is, again, to be used mainly by tourists.

Q3

There continues to be an increase in the number of centres who carefully prepare candidates for this question by providing them with geographically relevant fieldwork opportunities. Such candidates were able to give clear and detailed aims;

*To measure the width and depth of Bride's Pool River
To investigate the relationships between river depth and width at different locations along the river.*

A number of candidates described how they collected data rather than giving an outline of the data they collected to for fill the aims stated in 3a (i). Although some excellent maps incorporating titles, scales, compass points, locational detail such as place names in addition to the positions of the data collection sites, were seen for 3b(i), many candidates appeared to have problems when asked to locate the location of their fieldwork.

A few candidates gave excellent reasons for the selection of places to collect data, mentioning factors such as safety, sampling strategies and the importance of the selected locations:

There is sufficient supply of tourists interviewees on this street so I will be able to collect a suitably large number of replies which will make my study valid.

The candidates who provided clear aims in section (a) were usually able to provide a sound summary of their conclusions. The candidates who had little actual fieldwork experience or who had studied a non geographical topic were unlikely to obtain more than level one for this section

Most candidates were able to gain at least one mark for 3c (iii) by suggestion some improvement to their fieldwork:

We could ask more people

Relatively few, however, were able to explain how the ideas suggested would improve the work or the validity of their conclusions.

IGCSE Geography 4370 Statistics

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	100	52	45	38	31	24

Grading Option 2: 04 Coursework
1F Written Paper

Grade	Max. Mark	C	D	E	F	G
Overall Subject Grade Boundaries	100	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	100	70	62	54	46	38	34

Grading Option 4: 04 Coursework
2H Written Paper

Grade	Max. Mark	*	A	B	C	D	E
Overall Subject Grade Boundaries	100	69	61	53	45	37	33

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