GEOGRAPHY (BRUNEI)

GCE Ordinary Level

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Paper 2230/01
Multiple Choice
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Question Number	Key	Question Number	Key
1	*C*	21	*B*
2	C	22	B
3	B	23	B
4	D	24	C
5	C	25	D
6	B	26	D
7	B	27	B
8	C	28	D
9	C	29	B
10	D	30	B
11	C	31	D
12	C	32	C
13	C	33	B
14	C	34	C
15	D	35	B
16	C	36	D
17	D	37	D
18	D	38	A
19	B	39	A
20	D	40	B

General comments

The mean score of the 939 candidates was 24 out of a possible 40 marks, equivalent to 60%. The standard deviation was 5.174. The best score of 38 was achieved by three candidates and no candidate scored fewer than 6 marks.

Questions which candidates generally found easy were **1**, **2**, **4**, **8**, **11**, **13**, **14**, **16**, **18**, **19**, **21**, **25**, **29**, **33** and **40**.

Questions which candidates generally found difficult were **6**, **7**, **20** and **24**.

Comments on specific questions

Question 6

The choice of option **D** by so many candidates suggests that the characteristics they identified were those of the northern road rather than the Highway. There was perhaps a language difficulty.

Question 7

As in previous years the calculation of gradient presented difficulties. Since heights were given in feet, it was preferable to use imperial units for the road distance. Thus, there is a rise of 25 feet over a distance of 6600 feet, i.e. 1/260. The low discrimination suggests that mathematical rather than geographical skills alone were being tested.

Question 20

The groynes have the effect of checking the movement by longshore drift along the beach of sediment removed elsewhere by erosion. Material is piled up between the groynes assymetrically due to the direction of wave approach shown. The large number of candidates choosing option **C** may not have studied the key carefully.

Question 24

The only explanation for the poor performance in this question is that candidates of all abilities were unfamiliar with its content. The uniform conditions of high temperature and rainfall throughout the year allow trees to shed their leaves at any time and to grow others within a very short time. Ground litter decomposes rapidly in such conditions.

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Paper 2230/02
Paper 2
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General comments

A wide distribution of marks on this paper reflected performances by candidates of contrasting abilities. At the top end of the mark distribution, scripts were excellent with candidates demonstrating a sound knowledge and understanding of the concepts assessed. They also revealed a good appreciation of skills in analysing data from resource materials included within questions. These scripts contrasted with many where candidates experienced difficulties in coping with the demands of questions selected. Often the quality of these responses was further handicapped by problems revealed by a number of candidates in interpreting and writing English. The general standard of English was, however, better than in many of the corresponding May/June examinations for this paper in former years. On the whole scripts were well presented with questions and their components carefully labelled.

Responses to resource materials provided within questions varied considerably. For example in **Question 1**, Fig. 1A was not generally successfully labelled, whereas the drawing of the 20 centimetres per second isoline and shading of the part of the river channel with a flow greater than 40 centimetres per second were frequently accurate on Fig. 1B. Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 were often well used when candidates opted for **Questions 2**, **3** and **11** respectively. More precision could have been displayed by candidates in answering **Question 2 (a)** when they were required to comment on weather instruments A, B and C shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 3 likewise could have been used more effectively in formulating responses in all parts of **Question 5**. Very limited use was made of the outline maps of Brunei and East Malaysia provided in the Insert. Candidates should be aware of the possibilities provided for using these maps as aids to location, etc. If they are used, candidates should indicate to which question the annotations relate.

The wording of **Question 7 (a)(v)** required candidates to answer this part question by adding notes to Fig. 4 to describe the features of a tropical rain forest. In effect many chose to ignore this directive and responded by producing verbal accounts only. These candidates in consequence lost marks, not through lack of knowledge but by failing to follow the command words used in the question. Marks could not be awarded for such presentations because it was not evident as to which parts of the forest structure descriptive details applied. It is important that candidates carefully note command words used in questions and respond accordingly. All too often descriptions replaced explanations and vice versa. The use made of sub marks in gauging the level of response to individual part questions is improving as is the adherence to the general paper rubric of only answering four questions in total. One particular problem which was evident in this examination was the reluctance of many candidates to ignore the stipulation that reference to Brunei and East Malaysia was not permitted in **Question 6 (b)**. Heavy type emphasised this instruction but candidates insisted on presenting irrelevant details from the home region.

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It was mentioned in the corresponding reports on the May/June examination in recent years that candidates in general were showing an increasing awareness of various aspects of the geography of Brunei. Some very useful references were again made in **Questions 3** and **4** to agriculture and tourism in the country. By contrast, opportunity was not taken in **Question 9 (b)** to demonstrate an appreciation of factors influencing the distribution of population along the coastline and around the lower courses of rivers. The importance of detailed case studies has been stressed in previous reports on this examination. Some part questions required reference to be made to particular examples which candidates have studied in detail to illustrate various concepts included within the syllabus. Whilst some very good references were made in **Question 5 (a)** to a chosen illustration of a manufacturing industry located in Monsoon Asia, excluding Brunei and East Malaysia, most answers were very superficial with a sparsity of real details. On the other hand, some good references were made in **Question 11 (b)** to factors influencing birth rates and fertility rates in various parts of Asia.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Mention has already been made in the General Comments of this Report on the frequent failure of many candidates to correctly label the boxes provided on Fig. 1A. Process names of 'erosion' and 'deposition' substituted for the river and valley features shown at I and II on the diagram. The valley sides or bluffs were infrequently recognised. In fact the only feature named accurately by a number of candidates was IV - an ox bow lake. Part **(a)(ii)** was generally satisfactory showing a reasonable understanding of river flow characteristics. Part **(b)** was not often attempted by candidates. Those with a good appreciation of the mechanics of river flow associated with meanders did, however, perform very satisfactorily in this part question. In **(c)** the ox bow lake (IV) was invariably better attempted than the levee (III). The answer to this part question lacked consistency.

Question 2

In **(a)(i)** weather instrument A was well recognised and explained. Some candidates did, however, confuse this weather instrument with a seismometer used to measure the intensity of earthquake waves. Weather instruments B and C were not always correctly named and their uses not always correctly given in **(a)(ii)**. Descriptions in **(a)(iii)** and explanatory statements as to their uses were better. In **(b)** candidates revealed a sound appreciation of the data presented (Table 1) and effectively commented on the main features of the climate at the Bruneian weather station shown. Reasoning in **(b)(ii)** was very weak.

Question 3

Candidates were familiar with explanations as to why the amount of land used for farming in Brunei is small, why farming is not a popular occupation and why much of the country's food is imported. However, few were sufficiently disciplined to produce the relevant information in the appropriate section of **(a)**. There was also a good deal of repetition amongst the three sections of **(a)**. There was a notable lack of information about measures to improve farming and food production in Brunei in **(b)**. Candidates were more concerned with describing why each of the measures stated could improve farming and food production rather than focussing on the question set, namely, 'how each of these measures is improving farming and food production'.

Question 4

In **(a)** there seemed to be a general confusion over the term 'natural environment'. Indeed many ignored this aspect of the question, merely concentrating upon features of the human environment - cultural and other attractions. Rarely was mention made of forest parks, National Parks, named beaches, climatic advantages, etc. Apart from commenting on the International Airport at Bandar Seri Begawan few details were forthcoming on 'accessibility' as a factor encouraging the growth of tourism. Candidates might have mentioned the growth of cheaper flights using larger planes, air routes linking with the region, water and road communications. The phrase included within the question 'greater prosperity in the developed world' was not often appreciated. Instead of commenting on the growth in leisure time, greater affluence, advertising, the development of package holidays and long distance holidays, candidates often interpreted this factor as applying to Brunei, trying to justify why it might be classified as a developed country. Part **(b)(i)** was very well answered. On the other hand, **(b)(ii)** was not understood. Candidates did not appear to be familiar with such factors as the provision of more

attractions if countries worked together as well as the more economic use of transport and the development of package holidays. Good understanding was shown in **(c)(i)** when candidates explained why eco-tourism needs to be carefully controlled. In **(c)(ii)** the 'advantages of Temburong' was frequently interpreted as the advantages to Temburong.

Question 5

Specific locations in **(a)(i)** were weak. These were often stated in very general terms such as country names rather than regions or cities. The industry was not always named as requested. On scripts where the centre and named industry was not specific, answers to the remainder of **(a)** were weak. Where candidates could quote from a detailed case study responses were very good. Good knowledge was given in both parts of **(b)** and candidates in general had a useful understanding of the problems caused by industrial pollution in both parts of **(c)**.

Question 6

In the General Comments of this Report it was stated that many candidates omitted to respond to the directive 'excluding Brunei and East Malaysia'. In consequence many marks were lost on a large number of scripts. Part **(a)(i)** concerned with the general importance of fishing in most countries of Monsoon Asia was well answered. The term 'fishing grounds' was not always understood in **(a)(ii)**. When candidates focussed on a relevant named country such as Japan in **(b)** some useful answers were seen, with good details in all four sections. A very good response was evident in **(c)** where candidates made valiant attempts to both account for and suggest remedies for the problem of 'overfishing'.

Question 7

A popular question and in part successfully attempted. Parts **(a)(i)** and **(ii)** were well answered with good use being made of Fig. 4. Descriptions in **(a)(iii)** and **(iv)** were also successfully attempted. It was **(a)(v)** which proved disappointing for reasons already outlined in the General Comments of this Report. Part **(b)** was poorly attempted. In the question candidates were advised to refer to the climatic details illustrated in Table 1 in **Question 2 (b)(i)**. What most candidates did was to describe this data without relating it to tropical rain forest. Part **(c)** was very well attempted. Here candidates successfully referred to increased run-off and the silting of rivers causing flooding. Soil erosion was related to the loss of roots holding the soil, less interception, high intensity of rainfall, high surface run-off resulting in gulleying and sheet wash.

Question 8

The graph was usually correctly completed in **(a)(i)** but the relationship shown by the graph, namely, that the higher the population density the higher the proportion of small farms was rarely given in **(a)(ii)**. Good reasoning characterised many of the answers to **(b)** as to why the government of Indonesia encouraged transmigration. Good use was again made of the resource material provided. Reasoning in **(c)** varied from the very thorough to the superficial, depending upon the ability of candidates to apply knowledge gained to the situation presented in the question. Most candidates could account for the problems associated with the rapid growth in major cities of the developing world, such as Jakarta in **(d)(i)**. Difficulties in resolving these problems were often well mentioned in **(d)(ii)**.

Question 9

This was probably the most unpopular question on the paper. Responses to **(a)** were weak with very few candidates appearing to understand the characteristics of spits and mangrove swamps. Part **(b)** was also poorly attempted. With a sub mark of 9 it was anticipated that a reasonable amount of detail would be produced. Instead answers to this part question were both too brief and rather superficial.

Question 10

It was hoped that in **(a)(i)** candidates would refer either to a major city they had studied such as Bandar Seri Begawan, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore City, etc. or to a town with which they were familiar such as their home town. A number of candidates failed to name a town or city naming a country instead. In **(a)(ii)** the level of detail presented was dependent upon the effectiveness of the choice made in **(a)(i)**. Responses here were very general and lacking in the elaboration required. In **(b)(i)** there was confusion between the entire town or city and the CBD. Better candidates could identify the main features of a CBD in **(b)(ii)** and account for problems experienced in this urban region in **(b)(iii)**. Some useful information on attempts made to reduce the impact of some of these problems such as measures adopted to combat traffic congestion. Useful references were often made to Singapore City to illustrate these.

Question 11

This question was well answered by a number of candidates. The word 'trends' in **(a)(i)** confused many however. Good detail was often provided to explain the general decline in recent times of death rate and annual population growth rate in **(a)(ii)**. The former being the most successfully attempted. Some very useful references were made in **(b)(i)** to population policies in both China and Singapore. Good knowledge was also displayed in **(b)(ii)** in accounting for high birth and fertility rates in parts of southern Asia. The advantages and problems of population trends in developed countries were successfully stated in **(c)**. Here candidates made very positive use of trends outlined in the data provided in Table 4.