

## 2018 Preliminary Exams H2 Geography Paper 1 Marking Guide

All essays to be marked according to these generic level descriptors:

### A H2 Generic Level Descriptors for 12m SEQ sub-part (a)

Level	Marks	Descriptors
4	10–12	Response is consistently analytical and comprises purposeful explanations. Response addresses the question fully using accurate and detailed knowledge. Depth of relevant knowledge and understanding is evident throughout. Response is coherent and use of terminology is accurate throughout.
3	7–9	Response is analytical and explanatory rather than descriptive. There is a clear focus on the question. Response demonstrates relevant knowledge and understanding. The response is coherent and the use of terminology is mostly accurate.
2	4–6	Response includes analysis and explanation but is generally dominated by description. Response reflects understanding of the question and is generally relevant. Some parts of the response may be unclear. Use of terminology is limited.
1	1–3	Response lacks focus on the question. Response is generally fragmentary and lacks a clear structure and organisation. There may be many unsupported, brief or incomplete assertions and/or arguments with some inaccurate use of terminology.
0	0	No creditworthy response.

**Note:** The assessment involves qualitative rather than quantitative evaluation. Judgements on the level to be awarded to an answer will be based on the principle of 'best fit' determined by the descriptors within each level.

### B H2 Generic Level Descriptors for 20m SEQ sub-part (b)

Level	Marks	Descriptors
5	17–20	Response is perceptive, logical and has strong evaluative elements. Evaluation is relevant and comprehensive. Strong evidence of synoptic thinking where knowledge from different topics is synthesised purposefully. Response fully addresses the demands of the question and features detailed and accurate knowledge reflecting depth of understanding of the subject content. The argument or discussion is coherent and well supported by relevant material. Use of terminology is accurate.
4	13–16	Response displays a sound evaluative element. There is some evidence of synoptic thinking through synthesising knowledge from different topics. Response is generally focussed on the demands of the question and features accurate knowledge, reflecting depth of understanding of the subject content. The argument or discussion is coherent and supported by relevant material. Use of terminology is accurate and appropriate.
3	9–12	Response is broadly evaluative rather than descriptive. Response addresses the question and features accurate knowledge, reflecting some understanding of the subject content. Argument or discussion is mainly coherent and supported by material which is largely relevant. Use of terminology is relevant and mostly accurate.
2	5–8	Response is largely descriptive. Response attempts to provide an argument to address the question. The weakest responses in this level may lack balance and/or depth. Response structure is broadly coherent but may lack clarity. Some lapses in use of terminology though generally accurate.
1	1–4	Response lacks focus on the question and may be largely irrelevant to it. Response is fragmentary and lacks clarity. There may also be unsupported assertions and/or arguments with limited or no use of relevant terminology.
0	0	No creditworthy response.

**Note:** The assessment involves qualitative rather than quantitative evaluation. Judgements on the level to be awarded to an answer will be based on the principle of 'best fit' determined by the descriptors within each level.

**Section A – Tropical Environments**  
Answer **one** question from this section.

- 1 (a) Explain how and why the flows in a drainage basin differ in tropical rainforest (Af) and sub-tropical steppe (BSh) climates.** [12]

Indicative content:

- Candidates to show understanding in the differences in characteristics of the various flows and stores in Af and BSh as their rainfall and temperature patterns differ. Factors such as soil, geology and vegetation can also be discussed.
- Higher level responses will acknowledge the temporal aspect of how the flows change in the year and able to use the water balance equation to illustrate how flows can vary.

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 12m SEQ sub-part (a)*

- (b) To what extent do you agree that sediment regime is the dominant factor in influencing channel patterns?** [20]

Indicative content:

- Candidates to make the links that sediment regime (load size and volume) can influence the channel patterns, braided and meandering along the river's long profile
- There is a need to consider other factors (external and internal) such as climate, vegetation cover, channel discharge, which can influence channel pattern, i.e. at the different formation stages.
- Higher level responses should apply a set of clear criteria to assess the factors involved, e.g. scale, temporal, in the different contexts of how channel patterns are formed.

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 20m SEQ sub-part (b)*

- 2 (a) Explain the role of climate in causing mass movements in the tropics.** [12]

Indicative content:

- Candidates to show understanding of the different climatic characteristics in the humid and dry tropics accounting for different processes thus leading to different types of mass movement.
- Humid tropics would be dominated by chemical and biochemical weathering and dry tropics would be largely physical weathering
- Hence humid tropics would have mass movement that have higher water content, higher speed and failed landmass of smaller rock particles such as landslide, mudflow, slump, in contrast, dry tropics would have mass movement that have lower water content, higher speed (due to size of failed landmass) such as rockslide, rockfall and soil creep.
- Higher level responses will acknowledge the spatial variations in tropics and how it can influence mass movements.

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 12m SEQ sub-part (a)*

- (b) **‘The issue of deforestation can only be resolved with international action.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?** [20]

**Indicative content:**

- Candidates to show understanding of the various strategies to resolve deforestation at the different levels: global, regional and local
- There is a need to address international action as it is the given content in the question and discuss the relevance and limitation of the strategy and evaluate its importance at the global platform
- Higher level responses should look at other strategies at varying scales to have an integrated approach to resolve deforestation.

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 20m SEQ sub-part (b)*

**Section B – Development, Economy and Environment**

Answer **one** question from this section.

- 3 (a) **With reference to countries at low levels of development, explain bottom-up approach to development.** [12]

**Indicative content:**

- Bottom-up or 'grassroots' development is the opposite of a top-down approach in which government imposes development schemes on people.
- Its values include listening to local people to discover their needs and views, collaborating with local leaders and using existing community structures to facilitate action.
- Many bottom-up initiatives have a bespoke character and are not simply rolled out or transferred from another context.
- Many are small scale. The emphasis is usually on improving quality of life and/or standard of living for ordinary people.
- Bottom-up development is often the work of NGOs in collaboration with local government.
- A higher level response consists of a well-focused and carefully directed explanation of bottom-up approaches from more than one country at a low level of development. Responses should reveal insights of the character and nature of bottom-up development in countries at low level of development. In this context, the response should draw relationships between the strategies employed by the community and the outcomes achieved.
- E.g. to utilize WaterAid in Nepal, self-help housing in Cali, Columbia and improving sanitation in Orangi Project, Pakistan

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 12m SEQ sub-part (a)*

- (b) **‘The New International Division of Labour (NIDL) is primarily driven by the quest for low cost labour.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement?** [20]

**Indicative content:**

- Responses should be able to discuss the importance of low cost labour as a driving force for NIDL. In addition, they need to critically evaluate

the role of other factors such as government incentives, lack of government regulations for labour and environment, cost of operations and access to suppliers/raw materials.

- A higher level response could make use of examples to illustrate the interplay of the various factors that led to NIDL. It could also include a discussion of the relative influence of specific factors in relation to the examples used. There is a recognition that NIDL of specific industries can vary based on decisions of firms.
- Possible links to other topics include 2.2 Extractive industries, 3.1 Sustainable development

Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 20m SEQ sub-part (b)

**4 (a) Explain David Harvey's perspective on the relationship between population and resources. [12]**

Indicative content:

- The idea of spatial fix was derived by Harvey to reconstruct Marx's theory of the geography of capitalist accumulation.
- This derived term was used by Harvey to describe capitalism's insatiable drive to resolve its inner crisis tendencies by geographical expansion and geographical restructuring.
- For him, the reproduction and reconfiguration of space are central to the understanding of resource appraisal and the valuation of environment in capital accumulation
- Harvey aimed to show that a) capitalism could not survive without being geographically expansionary (and thus perpetually seeing out 'spatial fixes' for its problems: b) major innovation in transport and communication technologies were necessary conditions for that expansion to occur; c) the modes of geographical expansion depended on whether it was the search for markets, fresh labour powers, resources or fresh opportunities to invest in new production facilities that was at stake
- Through his aims above, Harvey asserts that there is a strong connection between the overaccumulation of capital (based on Marx's 1<sup>st</sup> contradiction of capitalism) and how the 'spatial fix' gets pursued-impinging the valuation of resources and environment of societies today.
- Higher level responses can make reference to empirical examples to depict Harvey's perspective (E.g. China pursuing spatial fix through investments in Africa) and relate to how this impinges on the relationship between population and resources

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 12m SEQ sub-part (a)*

**(b) Discuss the reasons for the underperformance of resource-rich countries. [20]**

Indicative content:

- Responses should include a discussion of factors which can explain the performance of resource-rich countries. Candidates should also consider the extent of usefulness of the 'resource-curse' thesis in explaining the

underperformance of resource rich countries. There should be the recognition of factors other than those accounted for by the thesis that are relevant to the examples used. Reasons are provided as to why certain factors are deemed more influential than others.

- A higher level response could be to assess the factors in relation to empirical data drawn from different resource-rich countries that are underperforming
- Possible links to other topics include reference to the management of tropical deforestation (Topic 1.2), influence of TNCs (Topic 2.1), responses to climate change that limits resource exploitation (Topic 3.1).

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 20m SEQ sub-part (b)*

### **Section C – Sustainable Development**

Answer **one** question from this section.

- 5 (a) Explain the political challenges in attaining sustainable development in countries at low levels of development. [12]**

**Indicative content:**

- Candidates to explain the political challenges in attaining sustainable development (SD) such as lack of global consensus on the concept of SD, inadequate participation and contribution in existing international legal instruments and agreements, lack of political commitment, shortcomings of policies.
- Higher responses will draw out the characteristics of countries at low levels of development and make the links to political challenges.

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 12m SEQ sub-part (a)*

- (b) ‘Hydropower is the most sustainable alternative energy source.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement? [20]**

**Indicative content:**

- Responses should assess the risks and benefits of hydropower and at least one other alternative energy source (i.e. nuclear energy), and come to a reasoned conclusion on which alternative energy source is the best.
- Higher level responses would apply a set of clear criteria to determine what makes a “best” alternative – e.g. extent of environmental impact, cost-effectiveness, input-output ratio, safety – and thus evaluate the truth of the given statement in current contexts.

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 20m SEQ sub-part (b)*

- 6 (a) Explain the concept of ecological footprint with reference to cities at high levels of development. [12]**

**Indicative content:**

- Candidates should be able to explain the concept of ecological footprint which is a quantitative assessment of all the biophysical resources needed to support the consumption of particular groups of people, a country, or city, for example, in terms of the raw materials and energy used to extract, produce and transport manufactured

goods and for their disposal. It is typically expressed in terms of hectares of biologically productive area (of world average productivity) that are required to support that activity.

- Ecological footprint of cities show variations at different levels of development. London's ecological footprint for instance is estimated to be 125 times its actual size and in Calgary, Canada estimated footprint is a high of 9.8 hectares. City-based consumers and industries based in wealthy nations have the capacity to draw resources from far beyond their immediate regions and have increasingly appropriated the carrying capacity of rural regions in other nations, with little apparent regard for the environmental impact of their actions.
- Therefore due to increased waste generation as well as resource consumption, cities in developed countries tend to have a larger ecological footprint.
- A higher level response could draw on examples of cities at high levels of development and analyse/weigh the causal factors behind these variations and include spatial variations

*Levels marked using H2 generic level descriptors for 12m SEQ sub-part (a)*

**(b) 'The key to managing waste in cities sustainably is to reduce waste generation.' To what extent do you agree with this view? [20]**

Indicative content:

- Candidates should be able to develop an argument related to the view presented in the question and use BPs to support the argument rather than to evaluate strategies alone.
- Answers should draw on cities at different levels of development to analyse the effectiveness of strategies. Reference should be drawn to context of cities to depict why waste management is a central concern in achieving sustainability
- Link must be made to concepts of sustainability (Long term feasibility, achieving a balance between social, economic and environmental aspects etc)
- A higher level response would look at the spatial variations when managing waste sustainably and challenges faced as cities at different levels of development are likely to face differing issues/concerns.

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**END OF PAPER**