Answering Essay Questions (Level Descriptor Questions)

Introduction
- State the stand - agree/disagree to a 'large extent' or 'small extent', never to 'some extent' or 'a certain extent'
- Briefly state the points you want to include in the body of the essay

Body paragraph 1
- **Write in the PEEL format**
    - State your **Point** (factor)
    - **Explain** how the factor is related to the question
    - Give a named **example** to support your point/factor. Provide a specific example with data and figures
    - **Link** your point back to the question - this shows the examiner you are addressing the question
    - If you are assessing the effectiveness, remember to provide **limitations** of the factor

Body paragraph 2
Using a second factor, repeat the flow of body paragraph 1 (PEEL)

Conclusion
Think about the factor that really makes the difference
Use geographical concepts to help you conclude where possible

Conclusion criteria	Terms to use
Time	Long Term, Short Term
Impact	Long Term, Short Term, Economical, Social, Environmental
Scale	Local, National, Global
Outcome	Positive, Negative
Cost	Cheap, expensive
Effectiveness	Impact of size, Impact on timescale
Stakeholders	Locals, businesses, MNCs

Level	Marks	Generic Level Descriptors
3	7 - 9	Develops arguments that supports both sides of the discussion clearly using a range of points with good elaboration. Examples used demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is derived from a well-reasoned consideration of the arguments.
2	4 - 6	Develops arguments that support one side of the discussion well using one or two points with some elaboration. Example(s) used demonstrate a good understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is well supported by arguments.
1	1 - 3	Arguments are unclear with limited description or may be listed. No examples provided or examples are generic, demonstrating a basic understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is simple, missing or unclear.
0	0	No creditworthy response

"Latitude is the most important factor affecting air temperature across places."
To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.   [9]

Point	● Latitude is a factor affecting air temperature across all locations.
Explain	● At the global scale, temperatures are lower at higher latitudes. ● Due to the Earth's spherical shape, the angle at which the sun's rays strike the Earth's surface (solar angle) varies at different parts of the Earth. ● The higher the latitude, the smaller the solar angle, therefore solar radiation is less direct, is spread over a larger area and is less concentrated, leading to lower temperatures.
Example	● Beijing, China (40ºN of equator) has temperatures averaging 12ºC, which Singapore (1ºN of the equator) has temperatures averaging 29ºC.
Link	● Therefore, latitude is the main factor that determines temperature on a global scale.

Point	● Altitude is a factor affecting air temperature across places with presence of relief/ mountains.
Explain	● At a local scale, temperatures are lower at higher altitude. ● At higher altitudes, air is less dense and air pressure is lower as gravity pulls most of the air molecules towards the ground surface. ● With fewer air molecules, air has a lower ability to absorb and radiate heat, leading to lower temperature.
Example	● Average temperatures at Genting Highlands (altitude of 1700m above sea level) is about 21ºC. ● Average temperatures in the surrounding areas which are at sea level is about 32ºC.
Link	● Therefore, altitude is also a factor that influences temperature, but it acts on a smaller scale.

Point	● Type of surface is a factor that can affect air temperature across places.
Explain	● Dark surfaces (e.g. exposed soil and forests) generally absorb more solar radiation and radiate more heat, resulting in higher temperatures. ● Light-coloured surface (e.g. clouds and snow) generally reflect more solar radiation and radiate less heat, resulting in lower temperatures. ● Urban areas end to have higher temperatures than the surrounding rural areas because: - Urban areas comprise large areas of dark surfaces (e.g. roads) which radiate more heat than forests and water bodies. - Glass-covered skyscrapers reflect sunlight to the ground surface. This increases absorption of solar radiation and heat radiation by ground surfaces.
Example	● Night-time temperatures at Singapore's Central Business District were found to be 2oC warmer than the area near MacRitchie reservoir, which has very dense vegetation.
Link	● Therefore, types of surface is also a factor that influences temperature, but it acts on a smaller scale.

While latitude has a big influence on the temperature of a location on a global scale, altitude and types of surface also play a role in influencing temperature on a local scale. This can be clearly seen when you look at different cities along the same line of latitude and notice the numerous differences in temperature.

'Mitigation strategies are more important than adaptation strategies in building community resilience towards climate change.'

To what extent do you consider this statement to be true? Explain your answer with the use of relevant examples. [9]

Point	● Mitigation strategies refer to efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sinks to slow down climate change. ● An example of mitigation strategies is international agreements.
Explain/ Example	● The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty addressing climate change that is signed by 197 parties. ● The objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions at a level that would prevent irreversible anthropogenic impacts and provide sufficient time for ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change. ● As part of the UNFCCC, greater responsibilities are placed on developed, industrialised countries as they are considered the main source of past and current greenhouse gas emissions. ● Funds and technologies from developed countries are also directed to climate action in developing countries to help them develop renewable energy capabilities. ● In return, developed countries earn the opportunity to trade carbon credits to offset their carbon emissions so as to meet their emission targets. ● The UNFCCC also requires countries to regularly report on their climate change policies and greenhouse gas emissions. ● In 2015, members of the UNFCCC made significant progress as 191 parties signed the Paris Agreement, pledging to develop their own set of targets and measures.
Limitations	• However, international agreements face institutional challenges. • Many countries that are most-at-risk of climate change are often the lowest greenhouse gas emitters, while developed countries who are responsible for the bulk of emissions face the least risk as they often have the adaptive and mitigative capabilities to deal with climate change impacts. • As a result, the commitment to act from different countries will vary. • In addition, change in political leadership in countries may also affect a country's commitment to climate action. • For instance, President Donald Trump announced in 2017 that USA will be withdrawing from the Paris Agreement as he believes that it will be detrimental to the manufacturing economy of his country.

Point	● Adaptation strategies on the hand refer to efforts to adjust to climate change and its effects in order to reduce harm to people, environment and properties. ● An example is structural adaptation strategy.
Explain/ Example	● For example, Singapore has built seawalls along East Coast Park to protect the coastline from sea level rise. ● This helps to prevent the sea from advancing onto the land, thus protecting people, properties and environment. ● Countries such as the Netherlands have also constructed polders to help protect low-lying land. ● Excess water is pumped out from the polders in order to protect communities from sea level rise and floods. ● Water storage tanks are also one of the structural approaches to store excess stormwater during periods of excessive rainfall to prevent flooding in canals and drains. ● For example, the Stamford Detention Tank in Singapore allows excess water to be stored temporarily. ● When sensors detect that water levels in drains have fallen, water from the tanks will be released back into the drains.
Limitations	• However, structural approaches are often costly to build and may have to be enhanced regularly to adapt to the worsening effects of climate change.

Despite the institutional challenges that undermine international agreements, mitigation strategies are still important as they slow down climate change, buying time to develop adaptive technologies. In addition, if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, the effects of climate change will be lessened thereby reducing the scale at which adaptation strategies are implemented.

'Anthropogenic factors are the main cause of climate change.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [9]

Point	● Anthropogenic factors are the main cause of global warming due to deforestation.
Explain	● Deforestation is the loss of forests due to the removal or clearance of trees in forested areas to make products such as paper and building materials. Forests absorb carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, taking in a significant amount of global greenhouse gas emissions. With deforestation, there are fewer trees and other plants to absorb carbon dioxide, leading to an increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Deforestation also exposes soil to sunlight, leading to carbon oxidation whereby carbon dioxide is produced.
Example	● For example, between 2000 and 2010, 52000 square kilometres of forests are cleared every year, leading to an increase in carbon dioxide levels.
Link	● Therefore, anthropogenic factors are the main cause of global warming due to the large amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as well as the clearance of carbon stores like trees and soil.

Point	● Natural factors have a smaller impact on global warming than anthropogenic factors.
Explain	● The sun emits varying amounts of solar radiation due to changes in its magnetic field. During periods of intense solar magnetic activity, the number of sunspots increases, resulting in higher solar radiation. The number of sunspots rises and falls with an approximate 11 year cycle.
Example	● For example, in 2000, the most number of sunspots were observed due to higher solar activity, leading to an increase in global temperatures. When the number of sunspots reached its minimum in 2009, global temperatures were also temporarily lower than global temperatures in the past 20 years.
Link	● However, natural factors have always been present and have not led to a drastic increase in global temperatures. Rather, it is anthropogenic factors that have resulted in an exponential increase in temperatures in the recent years. Therefore, natural factors have a smaller impact on global warming than anthropogenic factors

In conclusion, anthropogenic factors are the main cause of global warming due to the massive amount of deforestation and burning of fossil fuels that have occurred over the recent decades, leading to an exponential increase in global temperatures. Natural factors are not the main cause of global warming as they have always been present and have not led to a massive increase in global temperatures.

'More extreme weather events is the greatest impact of climate change.'

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer using detailed examples. [9]

Point	● More frequent extreme weather events is an impact of climate change.
Explain	● An extreme weather event is a severe and rare weather phenomenon that results in significant economic losses and the loss of lives. Higher temperatures have resulted in greater amounts of water vapour and latent heat in a warmer atmosphere, serving as a driving force for extreme weather events. One type of extreme weather event is the heat wave. Although they are neither visibly destructive nor violent, they are 'silent killers' which can kill many people. When people are subject to extreme heat, vital organs are at risk and death results when the body cannot cool itself down sufficiently. High temperature can deplete the soil moisture leading to widespread crop failures, affecting food supply.
Example	● For example, in August 2003, Europe experienced a heat wave which killed more than 70,000 people.
Link	● More frequent extreme weather events is an impact of climate change that is more severe as it leads to more disastrous consequences on human life and structures

Point	● Another impact of climate change is ocean acidification.
Explain	● Oceans are important natural carbon sinks due to the presence of phytoplanktons which absorb carbon dioxide as they photosynthesise. ● The increase in carbon dioxide emissions leads to oceans absorbing excessive amounts of carbon dioxide. ● This leads to carbonic acids forming in the water, making oceans acidic. ● Carbonic acids dissolve calcium carbonate, which is needed by corals, mussels and oysters to form their skeletons and shells. ● At current rates, coral reefs are eroding faster than new corals can form. ● As coral skeletons shrink, species that depend on them for food, habitat and shelter from predators are negatively affected and may potentially go extinct.
Example	● Average coral cover in the Great Barrier Reef has dropped to about 30% of what it was in the 1960s, in part due to ocean acidification.
Link	• Therefore, ocean acidification negatively affects species that rely on corals for food, habitat, and impacts the marine ecosystem.

To conclude, more frequent extreme weather events is more severe than ocean acidification as they lead to more disastrous consequences on human life and structures. Extreme weather events such as hurricanes, floods, and heatwaves directly threaten human safety, destroy homes, and disrupt economies. Therefore, while ocean acidification presents a threat to marine ecosystems, the immediate and tangible impacts of extreme weather events on human societies causes greater severity in the context of climate change.

"The impacts caused by climate change affects the provisioning ecosystem services more than cultural ecosystem services."

To what extent do you agree with this statement. Explain your answer.   [9]

Point	• One negative impact of climate change is the effects on the provisioning ecosystem services as
Explain	● Due to climate change, it causes ocean temperatures to increase and increase in acidity. This threatens the availability and distribution of aquatic life as they look for cooler waters. Hence, this indirectly affect economic livelihoods of people who depends on fisheries. ● However, places located at higher latitudes may benefit by seeing an increase in fish species migrating polewards due to the cooler waters there.
Example	● For example, in Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia, the water level has declined due to irregular rainfall and high temperature, reducing fish habitats for fish and the availability of fishes.
Link	● The impacts of climate change on provisioning ecosystem services is severe as it affects the environment's ability to provide resources for food production, which can affect people's economic livelihood and food security.

Point	● Next, climate change affects the cultural ecosystem services.
Explain	● This may reduce people's ability to improve their well-being through recreational activities and economic returns from tourism opportunities. Traditional practices such as the storing of food in ice cellars are threatened due to the melting ice, hence cultural ecosystem services may be disrupted. Ice melting has contributed to a rapid decline in the number of sled dogs, which are an important part of their culture, and typically used for travel and hunting. In addition, the sea level rise threatens low-lying islands such as Maldives, which relies heavily on tourism as an economic driver.
Example	With rising sea levels, many parts of Maldives will become uninhabitable to residents and tourists. Corals, which are a huge tourist attraction in Maldives, are affected by coral bleaching brought about by warmer oceans. These can lead to a reduction in tourist revenue as fewer tourists visit the Maldives.
Link	• Hence, climate change affects cultural ecosystem services as it reduces the people's ability to improve their well-being through recreational activities and economic returns from tourism.

In conclusion, the impacts caused by climate change on the provisioning ecosystem services is more severe as the ability for a community to secure an adequate and diverse food supply is fundamental to its well-being and resilience. In contrast, while climate change also affects cultural ecosystem services, the consequences are often indirect and may vary across different regions. Although disruptions to traditional practices and tourism can have cultural and economic implications, the immediate threat to food security makes the impacts on provisioning ecosystem services more severe.

Climate change only affects the provisioning ecosystem services negatively. To what extent do you agree with this statement. Explain your answer.   [9]

Point	• Climate change afferects the provisioning ecosystem negatives as it can reduce agricultural crop yields.
Explain	• More extreme weather events make it difficult for crop yields to survive and food production will be severely affected. • When food production falls, food prices will increase, limiting people's access to food. This will affect the poor most since a larger proportion of their income is spent on food. If people cannot afford to pay for food, this could result in malnutrition and starvation.
Example	• For example a drought in Thailand, 2022 caused dried up reservoirs and barren land.
Link	• This led to many farmers being unable to grow crops, greatly impacting their economic livelihoods.

Point	● Next, climate change affects fish production in both positive and negative ways.
Explain	• Climate change causes ocean temperatures to increase and leads to higher acidity levels. This threatens the availability and distribution of aquatic life as they seek cooler waters. • This affects the economic livelihoods of people who depend on fisheries. • It also affects the food security of a place as fish supplies dwindle. • However, places located at higher latitudes may benefit by seeing an increase in fish species migrating polewards due to the cooler waters there.
Example	• For example, the Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia has experienced declining water levels due to increasing temperatures and unpredictable rainfall. This reduces fish habitats and the availability of fish, threatening the economic livelihoods and food security of Cambodians. • Conversely, fishermen in Portugal have begun to catch new species that were previously found in warmer regions. Hence, fisheries there will be able to catch a more diverse range of seafood.
Link	• Hence, climate change can lead to differing impacts in different countries and tropical areas are likely to be more severely affected by the reduction in fish production.

In conclusion, although climate change may bring some benefits to certain regions, the overall negative impacts on both agricultural and fish production are more significant. The adverse effects on food security, economic livelihoods, and the environment highlight the urgent need for global action to mitigate climate change and support affected communities.

"People only travel for heritage tourism."

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer using detailed examples. [9]

Point	• Firstly, it is true that people for heritage tourism.
Explain	● Tourists participate in activities to experience its culture and learn about its history. ● By experiencing the culture and learning about the history of the place, heritage tourists are able to fulfil their need for unique travel experiences and understand the rich and diverse global cultures outside of their home country.
Example	• The ancient city of Machu Picchu in Peru attracts more than a million tourists every year. Many are attracted to it to learn more about the unique history and culture of the ancient city and its inhabitants.
Link	• Therefore, places with rich history and culture, especially those which have been awarded the UNESCO World Heritage Site status attract tourist for heritage tourism.

Point	● However, people also travel for health tourism.
Explain	● Tourists travel to seek medical care or activities to enhance their physical, mental or spiritual wellness. ● Many health tourists seek medical procedures in these destinations to improve their health as they are relatively cheaper than those in their home countries, have a shorter waiting time and may not be available in their home country. ● These medical procedures may contribute to a greater sense of self-fulfilment as they may improve tourists' well-being and self-esteem. ● Aside from medical procedures, health tourists may participate in activities to relax and enhance their overall health such as yoga retreats and hot-spring tours.
Example	• South Korea received more than two million health tourists in 2018 for cosmetic and non-cosmetic procedures. This is due to South Korea's renowned and advanced medical technologies and services
Link	● Therefore, people travel for medical purpose to enhance their physical, mental or spiritual wellness.

In conclusion, while heritage tourism is a prominent reason for travel, it is not the sole factor driving people to explore new destinations. Factors such as cost and distance significantly influence travel decisions. People often choose destinations based on affordability and proximity, which can make heritage tourism or other types of travel more accessible and appealing. Thus, while heritage tourism is a vital aspect, the overall travel landscape is shaped by a diverse range of motivations including health, cost, and distance, reflecting the complexity of why people choose to travel.

"Increase in disposable income is the main factor affecting one's ability to travel."

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [9]

Point	● Increase in disposable income is the main factor affecting one's ability to travel
Explain	● Disposable income is amount of income left to an individual after taxes have been paid. Growth in income have allowed people to improve their quality of life. ● Rapid economic growth in countries like China and India has enabled increase in disposable income. This has allowed middle income and high income groups to grow and demand to travel further and for longer periods
Example	● In China, as GDP quadrupled, international tourism grew from about nine million departure in 1999, to 154 million departure in 2019.
Link	● However, this is not the only factor affecting one's ability to travel.

Point	● The next factor affecting one's ability to travel is lower transport costs
Explain	● Over the years airfares have significantly dropped especially with the emergence of budget airlines. ● They do this by using fuel efficient planes, reducing fuel costs and by flying to airports with cheaper fees.
Example	● Budget airlines, like Air Asia, offer tickets at significantly lower prices, lowering transport costs, especially for international travel.
Link	● Thus, without lower transport cost, it will make travelling expensive and reduce the demand for one to travel even with a higher disposable income.

Point	● Lastly, another factor affecting one's ability to travel is leisure time
Explain	● When people do not have work commitment, there is time for relaxation. Since 1950s, many DCs and LDCs have enjoyed shorter working weeks, more public holidays and more paid annual leave. This increases availability of leisure time for people to travel.
Example	● In, Australia for example, many employees can exchange paid overtime work for leave. This increases their chances to take longer weekend breaks, allowing them to travel.
Link	● Thus, even with higher disposable income and lower transport cost, one will not have the ability to travel if they do not have the time for it.

In conclusion, while multiple factors influence one's ability to travel, an increase in disposable income stands out as the most significant. Higher disposable income directly enhances individuals' capacity to afford travel expenses, including flights, accommodation, and other costs associated with travel. As disposable income grows, people have more financial freedom to allocate towards travel experiences, enabling them to explore more destinations and extend the duration of their trips. Therefore, while other factors contribute to one's ability to travel, the increase in disposable income is the main factor that outweighs others in determining travel opportunities.

"Tourism brings more economic benefits than environmental harm".

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[9]**

Point	• Tourism brings employment opportunities in both formal and informal sectors due to its labour-intensive nature.
Explain	• Tourism creates a large number and wide range of employment opportunities for people of varying skills in both the tourist generating and destination regions. • Examples include transport such as employment of transport operators and service staff onboard the vehicles. • Other examples include hotel service staff in places of accommodation and also tour guides or staff in amusement parks for leisure activities. • Apart from generating income for individuals and revenue for the country through taxes, tourism can also help to reduce national unemployment. • In addition, revenues earned from tourism allows countries to invest in improving infrastructure and pay for education and health services, increasing the country's standard of living. • If managed well, it can also alleviate poverty by transferring the wealth to poorer regions of the country.
Example	• For example, in 2019, tourism accounted for 330 million formal jobs worldwide representing about 10% of global workforce.
Link	• Therefore, tourism brings about positive economic impacts due to the generation of income and employment opportunities.

Point	• Tourism can also bring great harm to the environment.
Explain	• Travelling by air, sea, or land requires large amounts of fossil fuels to be burned, which generates a significant amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. • Services provided by tourism such as air-conditioned accommodation and catering to the dietary needs of tourists can also contribute to the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that trap heat. • Besides contributing to the enhanced greenhouse effect, gases such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides can also contribute to air pollution and cause respiratory illnesses, such as asthma. • Air pollutants can circulate globally and can have an impact on areas far from their sources.
Example	• A one-way economy class flight from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia produces 30kg of carbon dioxide per passenger, contributing to the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
Link	• Therefore, these environmental impacts can contribute to broader issues, including air pollution and health problems.

Therefore, while tourism brings significant economic benefits, it is crucial to manage and mitigate its environmental impact to ensure that the positive effects outweigh the negative. Sustainable tourism practices are essential to balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship, ensuring that the benefits of tourism do not come at the expense of the planet.

"Local communities are more effective in achieving sustainable tourism than tourists themselves."

Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with examples. [9]

Point	● Local community is one of the key stakeholders involved in sustainable tourism.
Explain	● Local community refers to a group of people living in the same territory. ● Locals have a good knowledge of their environment and needs and can give better feedback or input on tourism related issues when consulted. ● Locals can promote sustainable tourism by participating in decision-making. Hence, decisions made are less likely to harm their natural environment or local culture. ● It prioritizes the participation of the locals and ensures that benefits gained from tourism stay within the local community. increases tourism-related employment and business for locals and as a result raises average income and reduces leakages
Example	● For example, in Candirejo Village, near Borobudor in Central Java, Indonesia, Locals are employed as guides, waiters, cleaners, drivers, hotel staff etc. which tend to pay better than farm jobs.
Limitations	● However, local communities might prioritize economic gains over sustainability. ● For example, in many Balinese villages in Indonesia, traditional dances have been shortened, exaggerated and changed for the entertainment of tourists and the original cultural significance have been lost.

Point	● Tourists can help to achieve sustainable tourism if they are responsible enough to respect both the environment and the local community.
Explain	● They can try to minimize their carbon footprint during holidays by not using water or electricity excessively to avoid depleting resources and hence damaging the environment. ● Tourists can also choose to behave in a manner which is respectful to the local communities.
Example	● For example, in the Tiger Tops Elephant Camp in Nepal, an ethnical elephant camp, elephants can walk around freely, allowing tourists to observe them in their natural state. The revenue generated is used for conservation and upkeep of the animals. ● For example, tourists to Bali, Indonesia, should be mindful that they have to dress modestly when visiting religious sites.
Limitations	● Some sustainable tourism options may be out of their budget. This may be due to the costs required to ensure the tourism experiences are sustainable, such as fees to conserve the environment. ● The lack of clear information may also confuse tourists on the sustainable choices available.

In conclusion, the role of local communities is not more important than tourists. Both are as important.   Locals have good knowledge of their environment and can advise on conservation issues. Tourists must be responsible enough to heed such advice and respect the locals and their environment during their trips. As both parties work together, it is easier to achieve sustainable tourism.

"Compared to community-based tourism, ecotourism is the most effective in achieving sustainable tourism development."

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.   [9]

Point	● Community-based tourism (CBT) is a type of innovative small-scale tourism experience that is managed by local communities that is effective in achieving sustainable tourismn development.
Explain	● CBT encourage local community to participate in decision-making on tourism development in their community. ● Locals are employed as guides, waiters, cleaners, drivers, hotel staff etc. which tend to pay better than farm jobs. Local communities can suggest cultural and nature-based experiences that can be developed without disrespecting the heritage and damaging the local environment. This ensures that locals continue to support and be involved in the tourism industry, and the environment continues to thrive and attract tourists, thus ensuring sustainable tourism development. ● Revenue generated from tourism can be directed to community projects such as funding schools and clinics. ● This can increase the social well-being of the local community as they receive better education and healthcare.
Example	● For instance, through traditional homestays in the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, tourists can live with a local host family, and participate in the daily activities related to local cultures and traditions. ● This would motivate the locals to preserve their heritage and environment, which can then continue to draw tourists into the area, thus ensuring sustainable tourism development.
Limitations	● Often, local communities lack some of the necessary skills and finances to further develop the local tourism industry. ● They may also lack the finances to start tourism related businesses.

Point	● Ecotourism is a form of sustainable tourism that often takes place in natural areas which are scenic and allows for tourists to experience nature.
Explain	● For ecotourism, tours take place within natural areas for tourists to experience and interact with nature. ● This increases tourists' knowledge and appreciation of nature, which can encourage tourists to take action to conserve and minimise damage to the environment. This ensures environmental sustainability. ● Tourism revenue is channelled into the conservation of the natural environment such as by hiring local park rangers. ● Park rangers ensure that laws set up to protect the environment are adhered to so that damage to the environment is minimised, and thus ensuring environmental sustainability.

Example	• For instance, in Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, only a limited number of visitors is allowed in the park on any given day to minimise disturbances to the wildlife. • Tourists are required to pay an entrance fee of USD$100 when visiting the park, and the revenue earned is used to fund conservation projects.
Limitations	• Ecotourism does not work when ecotours are overwhelmingly popular with tourists. • When ecotourism sites become very popular, the presence of many tourists interacting with nature may destroy the very environment they seek to protect.

In comparison, while community-based tourism contribute to sustainable tourism development, ecotourism offers a more comprehensive approach. Community-based tourism emphasizes close interactions between tourists and host communities, fostering cultural exchange and economic benefits, but may have limited impact on broader environmental conservation efforts. In contrast, ecotourism operates across scales, connecting local actions with global environmental awareness, and addressing both local well-being and broader sustainability concerns through responsible travel and ecological preservation.

'All tourist destinations will experience decline.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [9]

Point	● It is true that some tourism destinations will experience decline.
Explain	● As tourist destination may become more popular, more man-made attractions would be built to attract more tourists. ● This leads to a rapid increase in tourists, which then lead to the destination not being able to cope with the numbers, causing negative environmental impacts such as pollution. ● Natural attractions like forests may also be destroyed. Over time, the destination would become less attractive to tourists and begin to decline.
Example	● For instance, in Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, only a limited number of visitors is allowed in the park on any given day to minimise disturbances to the wildlife. ● Tourists are required to pay an entrance fee of USD$100 when visiting the park, and the revenue earned is used to fund conservation projects.
Link	● Therefore, without proper management and conservation efforts, popular destinations can face decline due to the negative impacts of increased tourism and environmental degradation.

Point	● However, some destinations may avoid a decline if plans are put in place by the government to ensure it stays attractive.
Explain	● Strategic investment and management can help maintain and even enhance a destination's appeal. Effective planning and the development of new attractions can keep destinations attractive and prevent them from declining.
Example	● For example, the Singapore Zoo did not decline as it received investment from the government to develop new attractions like River Safari, which opened in 2014 and many others being planned. The new attractions are also widely advertised. ● As more developing countries open to tourism, it is likely that more tourist destinations will resemble Blackpool rather than the Singapore Zoo. This is because destinations in these countries are likely to suffer a lack of resources to plan and avoid decline like the Singapore Zoo.
Link	● Thus, destinations that receive adequate investment and strategic planning are better positioned to avoid decline and remain attractive to tourists.

In conclusion, while some tourism destinations may experience decline due to increased visitor numbers and environmental stress, proactive sustainable management and strategic investment can mitigate these effects. Therefore, it is crucial for tourism destinations to balance growth with sustainable practices to ensure long-term attractiveness and viability.

Study Figs. 1 and 2, which show tourists' opinion on making a connection to culture and local communities, and cost of sustainable traveling.

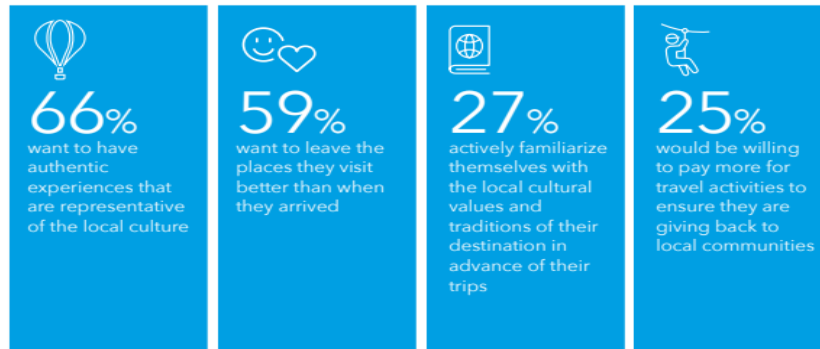**Connection to culture and local communities**

Fig 1

Cost of Sustainable Traveling

Fig 2

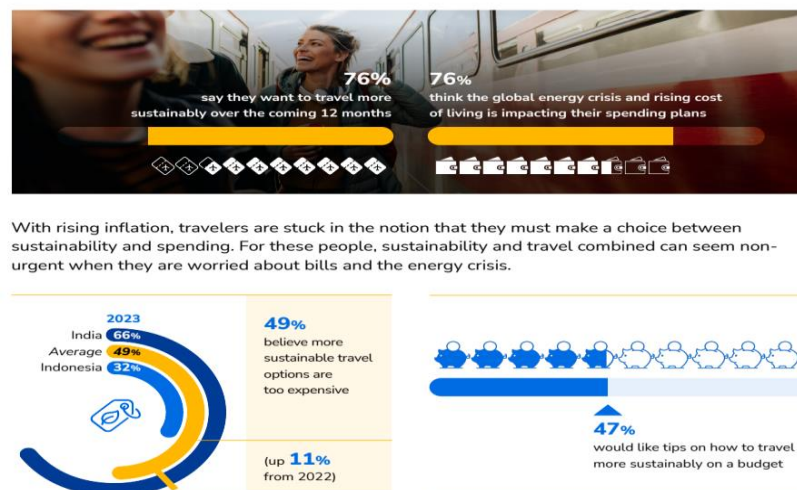**'Tourists has the biggest influence on the sustainable development of tourism in a country.'**

With reference to Figs. 1 and 2, to what extent do you consider this statement to be true? Explain your answer. **[9]**

I agree to a large extent with the statement.

Tourists' choices and behaviours can influence the type of tourism products and services offered in a destination. If tourists develop a genuine interest in the tourist destination and seek to enhance its environment, culture, and economy by demanding eco-friendly accommodations and sustainable activities, businesses are more likely to respond by providing such options. With reference to Fig. 2.2, 59% of tourists surveyed want to leave the place they visit better than when

they arrived. By having this mentality, tourists can choose tours or services which prioritise sustainable tourism and channel their spending towards environmental conservation. An example could be a sea turtle volunteering conservation programme in Costa Rica whereby tourist can help care for injured sea turtles and theirs nests to protect them from poachers. However, sustainable tourism options may be over the budget for some tourists. As mentioned in Fig. 2.3, 49% of tourists surveyed believe that more sustainable travel options are too expensive. And indeed, cost of being in sustainable tour could be more expensive as it includes spending being channelled to the local communities or in conservation of a protected sanctuary. Moreover, to make a choice of between sustainable traveling and cost, some may choose the latter due to rising inflation and high cost of living.

On the other hand, sustainable tourism in a country is also dependent on other stakeholders such as the government. Government agencies and local authorities play a crucial role in shaping the regulatory environment for tourism. They can establish policies and guidelines that promote sustainable practices and ensure compliance with environmental and social standards. This can be seen in the example of the conservation of Sentosa, of which the local authority, Singapore Tourism Board (STB), brought in different stakeholders to develop a series of plans to enable the island to become more sustainable. These stakeholders plan to conserve Sentosa's rich heritage, protecting the island's biodiversity and achieving carbon-neutral status by 2030. However, it is also important to note that poor governance can also led to government prioritising economic development over environmental and social aspects of sustainability. This could be seen in the case of Mount Everest which receives hundreds of tourists, but poor enforcement of waste disposal was mismanaged leading to the increasing pollution of the mountain. Therefore, it is important to note that a strong governance is needed to ensure a sustainable tourism development in the long run.

In conclusion, the sustainable development of tourism requires a collaborative effort involving tourists, governments, local communities, businesses, and various other stakeholders. Each stakeholder has a unique role to play, and their combined efforts are essential for achieving truly sustainable tourism. In the example of Quicksilver cruises in Australia who specialises in sustainable tours of the Great Barrier Reef, their sustainable tours rely on inputs from the planning authorities. Relying solely on tourists' influence without considering the actions of other stakeholders would not lead to holistic and long-lasting sustainable development in a country. It is important for stakeholders to come to a common understandings, measurements and priorities in the negotiation process.

Study Figs. 3 and 4, which show the countries most at risk from climate change and the share of carbon dioxide emissions in 2020 by country.
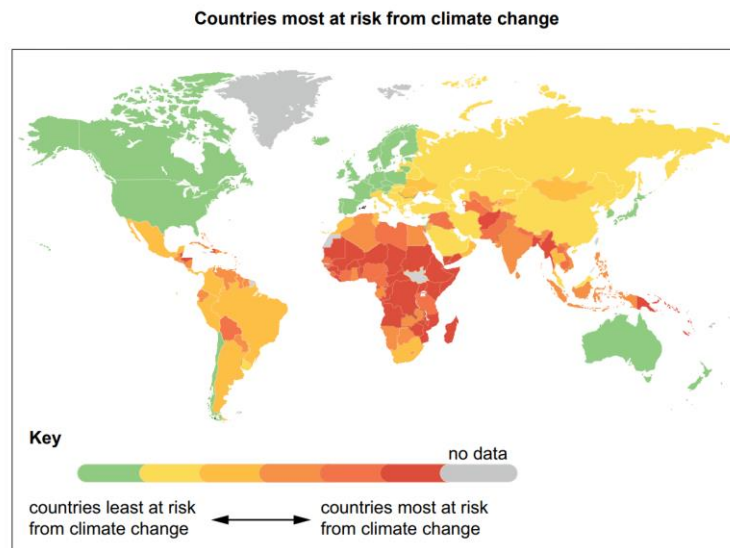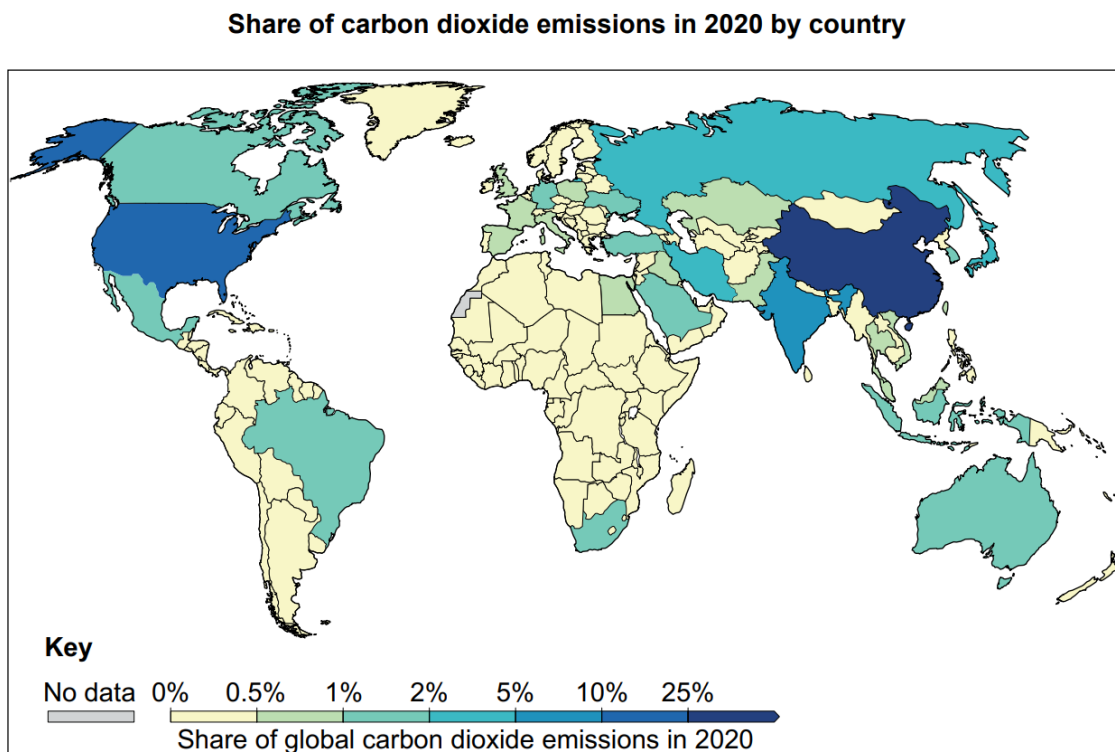

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

'International agreements will slow down climate change more effectively than national and local initiatives.'

With reference to Figs. 3 and 4, to what extent do you consider this statement to be true? Explain your answer. [9]

I agree with the statement to a small extent. Climate action can be at the international level or at the national and local levels. To slow down climate change, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase the carbon sinks. Although international agreements can help, national and local initiatives are more effective.

International agreements are rarely successful. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol failed to reduce emissions. Most countries did not meet the targets set and many countries did not participate including major emitters of carbon dioxide like China and India. Also, countries which are major carbon dioxide emitters may not be the most at risk from climate change, which may affect their willingness to make commitments for international agreements. For example, USA is a major carbon dioxide emitter but amongst the least at risk from climate change. The USA has never fully committed to international agreements including the Kyoto Protocol and 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. In fact, it withdrew from the latter in 2020.

National and local initiatives can be more effective. Although there are countries which do not commit to targets in international agreements, there are many countries which implement national initiatives to tackle climate change. Singapore recently launched its Green Plan 2030, which sets out clear targets to achieve by the year 2030 in areas such clean energy, public transport use and green spaces. There are also local initiatives in many American cities despite its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. These cities pledged to reduce emissions in their cities through initiatives such as investing in clean energy and encouraging use of electric vehicles. For example, Portland became the first US city to put out a plan to reduce carbon emissions in 1993 by promoting public transport and bicycling among other initiatives.

Although national and local initiatives seem to have more concrete efforts than the vague targets in international agreements, an earlier concern is that their impact is limited to the few cities or countries who take the bold step. Fast forward today where sustainable development has become a top-of-mind priority for national and local governments, businesses and communities, the collective impact of national and local initiatives will surely outpace international agreements. I agree with the statement to a small extent.