

Levels of Response for Physical Geog Essays

○ **Level 1: 0 – 7 marks**

- Usually means material is inadequate, incomplete, inaccurate and/or irrelevant
- No diagrams or weak diagrams
- No models to give theoretical basis for answer
- No examples so answers comprise generalizations
- Lack of qualification of claims – very simplistic sweeping statements which overlook exceptions to the rule
- Disorganised answer; poor paragraphing
- Limited attempt, if any, at evaluation
- Poor command of technical terms and use of English is marred by grammatical and spelling errors

○ **Level 2: 8 – 12 marks**

- Shows answer is avoiding the mistakes of Level 1 and deserves to pass but there are still inadequacies that prevent it from going up to level three
- While answer may be relevant, it may still be fairly limited in coverage
- Models may be discussed but in a cursory way
- Some use of diagrams
- Examples are mentioned but not developed adequately
- Some attempt at evaluation
- Better command of technical terms and the English language

○ **Level 3: 13 – 16 marks**

- Effectively addresses all parts of the question and refers to key words of questions i.e. answer is focused on question
- There is an effective introduction, good development of key points
- Well-structured answer – well-organised in paragraphs – one point in one paragraph
- Very good range of points – effectively meeting question requirements
- Effective use of examples/case-studies and covering a range, for eg from developed and developing countries
- Effective use of well-annotated diagrams to help minimize text
- Able to evaluate effectively – see positive as well as negative aspects of whatever is being assessed.
- Has depth as well as width of coverage of issues
- Excellent command of language

Levels of response for human geography essay questions

Level 3

The answer will examine all major aspects of the question from various points of view and have a complex understanding of the main concepts. It will be focused on the question. Individual points will be developed and qualified and there will be detailed supporting evidence ranging from specific data to named specific examples at a local scale. There will be a coherent and logical structure to the argument with good English, correct use of geographical terms and paragraphing. There will be a degree of proportion and judgment about the relative strengths of the arguments. The essay will be summed up with an evaluation based on the prior discussion and supported by appropriate evidence

Level 2

The answer will examine a number of aspects of the question, and have a sound understanding of the main concepts. It is likely to look at arguments from opposing points of view. It will mostly be relevant. Some arguments will be carried further and there will be considerable use of supporting evidence. The discussion will have a clear structure, paragraphing and use of geographical terms. An attempt may be made to single out and emphasise some of the arguments and there should be some attempt to evaluate the discussion towards the end of the essay

Level 1

The answer will examine only a limited number of aspects of the question, diverge from the topic under discussion or merely give background descriptive information. The concepts may be misunderstood. Some answers at this Level may be very short. Most points will be brief and simplified and supporting evidence will either be generalised or entirely absent. The discussion may be difficult to follow and ideas not be systematically arranged into paragraphs and sequenced. Appropriate geographical language will not be used. It is unlikely that judgments will be made about the importance of various arguments, and there to be an evaluation or if there is it will be very superficial