Examiners' Report

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GCE Geography 5GA1H 01

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Introduction

This unit examines candidates ability to apply their geographical skills and to answer knowledge based questions on Global Challenges. A large proportion of the candidates did not score well on the first two questions which tested map and graphical skills. Most candidates scored more highly on the knowledge based global challenge questions. Centres are reminded that there is a skills list provided on the Edexcel website and that candidates will be expected to be competent in the range of skills that are listed.

Question 1

This question required candidates to be able to relate a photograph to the map. Many found this skill challenging giving the answer of Amble for a1 and Warkworth for aii.

Question 1(b)

This question required candidates to recognise features on a photograph and relate them to the map requiring the same skills as question 1(a).

A large number of the candidates simple answered church, in the first box, which indicated that they had not referred to the key. Church with spire was accepted although is not strictly how it was written in the key.

Identification of the bridge proved problematic to a number of the candidates although many achieved the mark through identifying the road.

Surprisingly a number of candidates could not identify the road at the bottom of the photograph.

Question 1(c)

Questions which ask for a 'distribution' to be described are notorious for being poorly answered and this was no exception. Very few candidates acquired full marks

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In this example the candidate's opening statement describes the general pattern. The candidate then becomes more specific and discusses actual areas of woodland.

(c) Describe the distribution of woodland shown on the map.

Use map evidence in your answer.

(4)

the distribution of woodland on the map is dispersed all around the map, larger amounts of woodland are located towards the South end of the map. the majority of the wood in the South Coniferous wood wood also the majority of the wood on the map is Coniferous. There is also Forestry Commission land in the south west of the map.

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To describe a distribution candidates should start with a general comment something like – 'much of the woodland on the map is found in the river valleys'

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The candidate again starts with a general statement about the distribution of woodland on the map. There are then a number of specific points about particular areas of woodland.

(c) Describe the distribution of woodland shown on the map.

Use map evidence in your answer.

(4)

The ~~woodbery~~ woodland is ~~distributed~~ distribuyted ~~thought~~ throught the map in ~~See~~ small areas in 15.02 there is a large area od coiniferous trees it is also Forestry commission land. A lake called Swarland burn ~~run~~ run through a section of this wood. The woods is Situated mostly around small or large lakes, in 21.03 we see the mixed wood following the river along. In the map the wooded area is sparsely spread but thicker along rivers and lakes

Question 1(d)

A number of candidates did not read this question properly giving kilometres and metres such as 9.6km when the question clearly states that the answer should be given to the nearest kilometre.

Question 1(e)

Candidates found this question very challenging. Many were able to plot the route of the road but did not appear to know how to complete the rest of the map. Many simply writing on the map where the features were instead of using the key as instructed. This is a skill that needs to be practiced as it is part of the Specification.

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In this example the candidate accurately located the road and the other required features. However, the location of the lighthouse is too far south of the actual point to achieve the mark.

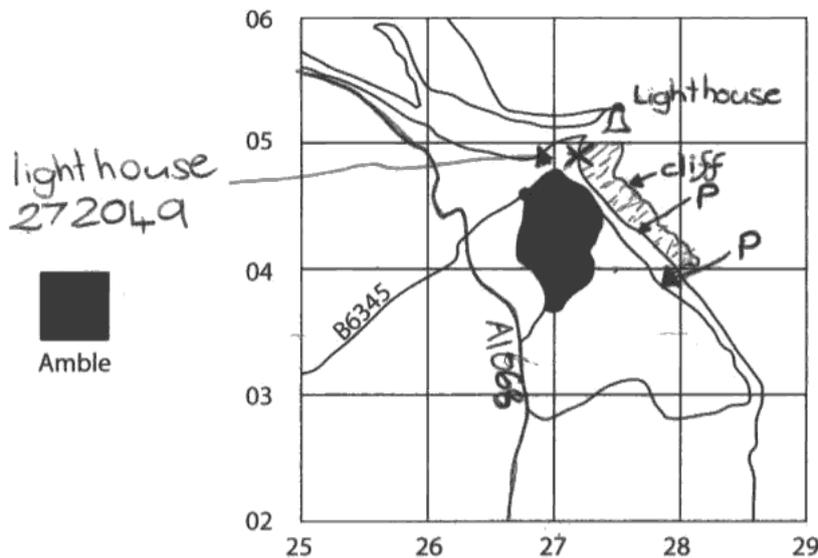(e) Study the OS map extract of Warkworth and Amble and Figure 1b.

Figure 1b

(i) Mark the following onto Figure 1b.

Use the key on the OS map to help you.

(4)

1. Two tourist information features

2. Two water features

3. The route of the A1068.

(ii) Study Photograph C in the Resource Booklet.

The photograph was taken at grid reference 272049.

Mark with an **X** on Figure 1b the location of the lighthouse shown on Photograph C.

(1)

Question 2(a)(i)

The majority of candidates achieved full marks on this question although a few muddled the ages.

Question 2(a)(ii)

Candidates did well on this question with many including the required data. Many did not discuss the structure as a whole. This is a skill which should be developed as this question required them to comment on the age structure not simply describe the age structure.

Question 2(b)(i)

This question proved problematic for candidates to achieve the three marks. Many had little to no understanding of the principle of layering and of GIS, without the stimuli this would have been a poorly answered question.

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This candidate describes what layering is and states two advantages of layering information.

(i) Describe what is meant by layering information.

You may use Figure 2b to help you.

(3)

layering information is when a map
snows you different sets of data and
Statistics Statistics but it splits them all
up so you can see them all clearer.
Is allows you to choose what data you
want for each map.

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Examiner Comments

This answer achieved full marks. The candidate states what GIS maps are, describes their uses and states their advantages.

(i) Describe what is meant by layering information.

You may use Figure 2b to help you.

(3)

GIS maps & are usually computer generated images layered on top of each other. Images portraing a map with major roads and physical geography is the base and other images including street patterns, then location of buildings 2nd locations of schools would be placed on top. Then you can see correlation between street patterns and school locations etc

Question 2(b)(ii)

Generally most candidates could suggest a reasonable group of people that would use this information.

Question 3(a)(i)

A well answered question with the majority of candidates attaining the mark.

Question 3(a)(ii)

A well answered question with the majority of candidates attaining the mark.

Question 3(a)(iii)

A good discriminator with most candidates achieving two out of the three available marks. Candidates displayed a good knowledge of the causes of the increase in methane gas.

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This was the most common accurate response. Candidates discussed the increase in western style diets and therefore the presence of more cows. Other common answers developed the point about increasing populations in China and India and their reliance on rice which releases methane when grown.

(iii) There has been an increase in the amount of methane being released into the atmosphere.

Suggest reasons why.

(3)

because there has been an increase in Western style diets therefore more ~~cow~~ animals, cows sheep etc. have to be and ~~slaught~~ slaughtered produced to be consumed by humans. Also there has been an increase in the amount of rice production in countries of poverty, also due to climate change, more droughts are occurring which also produces methane.

Question 3(a)(iv)

Candidates all too often were confused by the greenhouse effect and the ozone layer. Most candidates were able to make reasonable salient points about gasses being released into the atmosphere and then the confusion would begin. Better candidates had clear clarity of greenhouse gasses and the greenhouse effect.

Question 3(a)(v)

Many candidates could outline the negative effects of climate change on the environment but appeared to either not appreciate that they needed to use specific examples or they did not know any. The ones that had learnt their examples wrote excellent answer to this question.

Question 4(a)(i)

Well answered by the majority of candidates.

Question 4(a)(ii)

A large number of the candidates either did not read the question properly or do not know the difference between a continent and a country because a very common answer was 'Malaysia'.

Question 4(a)(iii)

Many candidates did not have the required detail of examples to attain above 2 marks on this 4 mark question. They were able to outline the problems of resource extraction but could not illustrate this with examples.

Question 4(b)

Many candidates were able to write about two schemes usually 'Park and Ride' and 'Congestion Charging' although their answers were often too general restricting their marks on many occasions to level 2. the good candidates were able to discuss at least two schemes and give specific details of how the operated. Candidates rarely explained the management, the better candidates simply describing the schemes with specific detail.

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Raw boundary mark	50	35	31	27	23	20	18	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	45	0

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