

CAIE Geography Pre-U

1A: Hot Arid and Semi-Arid Environments Exam Structure and Tips



The Exam

Length and marks

Paper 1 is **1 hour and 30 minutes** and contains **50 marks**.

Question structure

For paper 1, you need to **answer two questions**, one question from section A and one from section B.

Each question **contains three parts**.

- One **4 mark question**
- One **6 mark question**
- A choice between **two 15 mark questions**.

The **4 mark question** usually uses a **source**, for example, a map, graph or photograph. You will have to use this to answer a question about the source, for example, identifying patterns or describing changes. This should be **one concise paragraph**.

The **6 mark question** extends from the 4 mark question. For example, if you had to describe a pattern for the 4 mark you will most likely have to explain the pattern for the 6 mark. You should use a few examples in this question to support your points. This should be either **one long paragraph or two moderate length paragraphs**.

The 15 mark question gives you a choice of two questions. This is the question where you will be able to go in **depth into your knowledge** and views and use examples, case studies and statistics that you have learnt. The questions will often be **'discuss', 'evaluate'** or a **'to what extent'** question so you should give both sides of the argument and really analyse the question.

Using the structure **PEACE** often helps to structure the 15 mark questions.

Make your **point**, give **evidence/examples**, give an **A grade explanation**, **criticise** and then **evaluate**. Within the 15 marker, you can also use diagrams to aid your explanation or argument as long as they are well integrated into the text and annotated.

General mark schemes

For the 6 marker, in order to achieve the top level, you need to:

- Give clear, detailed authoritative **knowledge and understanding** of the question.
- Use a wide range of **specific examples**.
- Discuss with reasoned **analysis, evaluation and assessment**.
- Be able to give a **well-balanced argument**, make **valid points** which are well supported with **relevant concise evidence**.

For the 15 marker, in order to achieve the top level, you need to:

- Show detailed and accurate **knowledge** and clear, high order **understanding** of the content of the subject.



- Use **relevant and accurate examples** which are used effectively.
- **Organise clearly**, use **good English** and use accurate **geographical terminology**.
- Be fully focused on the **specific demands of the question**.
- **Analyse** thoroughly and show a critical approach to **evaluation** and give appropriate application of **concepts and theories**.
- Write a conclusion which is **logical** and **well founded on the evidence and argument** that you have given.

Revision

If you are stuck on how to revise, here is a suggestion about how to go about it. First read through the **detailed notes and case studies**, making sure that you understand everything. Watching **videos**, especially for formations or processes might be useful. Then keep going over the **flashcards**, learning statistics, definitions and points. Doing this over a long period of time is best rather than cramming it in close to your test or exam.

Doing some **extra reading** is also useful. It can help to give you a wider understanding of the topic that isn't covered in the detailed notes as well as giving more specific examples that you might find easier to remember and include in answering questions. There are plenty of these linked in each topic.

Make sure to also **practise doing questions** and ask your teacher to mark them. Make sure you get feedback and understand where you went wrong and where you can improve. You can also go and rewrite or re-draft your answer, improving on where you went wrong. As this is a relatively new specification, there are not that many questions. If you run out you can write your own questions using the previous questions as bases.

