CAIE Geography Pre-U

Paper 3

Exam Structure and Tips

The Exam

Length and marks

Paper 3 is the longest paper of **2 hours and 45 minutes**. Paper 3 is worth **105 marks**. Each topic is worth **20 marks** and the **synoptic question is worth 25 marks**.

Question structure

Paper 3 contains **5 questions**, 4 of which are **separate topics** and 1 is the **synoptic question**.
- You need to answer 2 questions from section A and 2 from section B.
- Each question contains four parts, a **2 marker, 4 marker, 5 marker and a 9 marker**.

The **2 mark question** is normally either to write down a **definition** or to **state** or name two issues, hazards or indices.

The **4 mark question** usually uses a **source** such as a map, graph or photograph which you have to use to **describe** something.

The **5 mark question** usually extends from this and is usually an **explain** question.

The **9 mark question** is a **discuss or an assess** question where you can use examples and case studies to put forward an argument.

General mark schemes

For the 5 marker, in order to achieve the top level, you need to:
- Give a **detailed, thorough and accurate appreciation** of the question.
- Clear **explanation**.

For the 9 marker, in order to achieve the top level, you need to:
- Clear, detailed authoritative **knowledge** and **understanding**.
- Use a wide range of specific **examples**.
- Able to discuss the question with reasoned **analysis, assessment and evaluation**.
- Provide a **well-balanced argument** that has valid points which are well supported with relevant concise **evidence**.

For the 25 marker, in order to achieve the top level, you need to:
- Give wide-ranging, accurate and detailed **knowledge** and a clear and high order of **understanding** of the subject content.
- Give relevant, detailed and accurate **examples** which are used effectively.
- **Organise** the essay in a clear and logical way, use good English, and use **geographical terminology** accurately.
- Use well annotated and executed **diagrams/sketch maps** if applicable which are fully integrated within the text.
- **Analyse and critically evaluate** and give appropriate application of concepts and theories.

- Write a **conclusion** which shows **high level insight** and is **logical** and **well founded on the evidence given and the argument** you have put forward.

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.