

CAIE Geography Pre-U

3C: Synoptic Question

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 25 marks.

Question structure

The synoptic question of paper 3 is worth **25 marks** and there is a **choice of three questions**. It brings in all the topics you have done from paper 3. One question is usually focused on hazards, one focused on issues and one takes into account both.

At least one of the questions that is asked will say 'With reference to an area you have studied'. This means that you need to know a case study that is able to span all the topics you have studied.

Although this question might seem daunting at first, it is a great way for you to really link all you have learnt, not just from this paper but also other knowledge you know from other papers that can link.

These questions are normally very broad and so you normally have a lot of freedom to use only the information you have to make your argument. Using the structure **PEACE** often helps to structure the 25 markers. Make your **point**, give **evidence/examples**, give an **A grade explanation**, **criticise** and then **evaluate**.

General mark scheme

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.

