



Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY

9696/31

Paper 3 Advanced Physical Geography Options

May/June 2025

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)
Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **four** questions in total:
Answer questions from **two** options.
For **each** option, follow the instructions inside on which questions to answer.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Sketch maps and diagrams should be drawn whenever they serve to illustrate an answer.
- You should make reference to appropriate examples studied in the field or the classroom, even where such examples are not specifically requested by the question.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

2

Answer questions from **two** different options.

Tropical environments

If answering this option, answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 1 Fig. 1.1 shows a transect (A–B) showing the depth of weathered granite in northern Nigeria.
- (a) Describe variations in the depth of weathered granite shown in Fig. 1.1. [4]
- (b) Suggest **two** reasons for the variations you described in (a). [6]
- 2 Using a case study of **either** a rainforest ecosystem **or** a savanna ecosystem, evaluate attempted solutions to the problems of its sustainable management. [20]
- 3 'Humid tropical and seasonally humid tropical environments have similar diurnal variations in their climates.'
- How far do you agree with this statement? [20]

Coastal environments

If answering this option, answer Question 4 and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

- 4 Fig. 4.1 shows changes to East Head spit, Sussex, UK, 1786–2005.
- (a) Describe changes to the **position** of East Head spit shown in Fig. 4.1. [4]
- (b) Suggest reasons for the changes you described in (a). [6]
- 5 To what extent do sediment sources and characteristics vary in coastal environments? [20]
- 6 Assess the effectiveness of hard engineering and soft engineering in sustainably managing a stretch or stretches of coastline. [20]

Hazardous environments

If answering this option, answer Question 7 and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

- 7** Fig. 7.1 shows the frequency of Atlantic hurricanes, 1920–2020.
- (a) Compare the pattern of major hurricane frequency with the pattern of non-major hurricane frequency shown in Fig. 7.1. [4]
- (b) Suggest reasons for the variation in hurricane frequency shown in Fig. 7.1. [6]
- 8** Assess the effectiveness of different methods of managing volcanic hazards. [20]
- 9** 'Human activity is the most significant cause of mass movements.'
- How far do you agree with this view? [20]

Hot arid and semi-arid environments

If answering this option, answer Question 10 and **either** Question 11 **or** Question 12.

- 10** Fig. 10.1 is a photograph which shows a hot arid landscape in Egypt.
- (a) Describe the main physical features of the landscape shown in Fig. 10.1. [4]
- (b) Suggest how water influenced the shaping of the landscape shown in Fig. 10.1. [6]
- 11** Evaluate the role of human factors and natural factors in the process of desertification. [20]
- 12** To what extent is aridity caused by pressure and wind systems? [20]

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