



# Mark Scheme (Final)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced  
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Paper 01

Unit 4: Researching Geography

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## General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

## Using the Mark Scheme

Examiners should look for qualities to reward rather than faults to penalise. This does NOT mean giving credit for incorrect or inadequate answers, but it does mean allowing candidates to be rewarded for answers showing correct application of principles and knowledge. Examiners should therefore read carefully and consider every response: even if it is not what is expected it may be worthy of credit.

The mark scheme gives examiners:

- an idea of the types of response expected
- how individual marks are to be awarded
- the total mark for each question
- examples of responses that should NOT receive credit.

/ means that the responses are alternatives and either answer should receive full credit.

( ) means that a phrase/word is not essential for the award of the mark, but helps the examiner to get the sense of the expected answer.

Phrases/words in **bold** indicate that the meaning of the phrase or the actual word is **essential** to the answer.

ecf/TE/cq (error carried forward) means that a wrong answer given in an earlier part of a question is used correctly in answer to a later part of the same question.

Candidates must make their meaning clear to the examiner to gain the mark. Make sure that the answer makes sense. Do not give credit for correct words/phrases which are put together in a meaningless manner. Answers must be in the correct context.

## Quality of Written Communication

Questions which involve the writing of continuous prose will expect candidates to:

- write legibly, with accurate use of spelling, grammar and punctuation in order to make the meaning clear
- select and use a form and style of writing appropriate to purpose and to complex subject matter
- organise information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary when appropriate.

Full marks will be awarded if the candidate has demonstrated the above abilities. Questions where QWC is likely to be particularly important are indicated (QWC) in the mark scheme, but this does not preclude others.

Question 1 - 'With effective **governance most tectonic disasters are avoidable.**' Discuss.

- Research the many reasons why natural hazards have variable impacts.
- Research a range of tectonic hazards to examine the reasons why some countries and communities are more vulnerable than others.

#### Indicative content

The focus of this title is the capacity of governance to reduce the impacts of natural hazards and limits to that capacity.

The framework chosen may be one or more of the following.

1. Type of tectonic hazard - one section on earthquakes of varying magnitudes, one on volcanic eruptions, one on tsunamis
  2. Scale of hazard and disaster - case-study led using various measurements of intensity/scale mapped against measurements of scale of disaster and the impact on people and property.
- Organised by methods of mitigation and adaptation as well as the role of governance in hazard management, planning and post-disaster management.

Key analytical points may include:

- The severity of a disaster depends on both the physical nature of the extreme event and the socio-economic structure of the human populations affected by the event- thus socio-economic variables will have a critical impact on the scale of disasters. Good governance should ensure that the vulnerability of populations is limited
- However different social and economic geographies will result in different impacts in that *different people, even within the same region, have different vulnerability to natural hazards*. Wealth is one of the most important human factors in vulnerability. The poor are less able to afford housing and other infrastructure that can withstand extreme events. They are less able to purchase resources needed for disaster response and are less likely to have insurance policies that can contribute. The relationship between governance and a populations vulnerability is complex - in LIDCs governance may be weak simply because there are limited resources available rather than a failure of will.
- Education is another important factor in hazard impacts. With education, we can learn how to avoid or reduce many impacts. When populations are literate, then written messages can be used to spread word about hazards in general or about specific disasters. Even without literacy, it is possible to educate a population about hazards in order to help it reduce its vulnerability. important for natural disasters.
- However, some disasters are so unexpected and so large as to overwhelm even the most sophisticated systems of mitigation and adaptation

In summary

- The criteria of what constitutes good governance needs to be deconstructed and due attention needs to be paid to both inequalities and the magnitude of the hazard.

Case studies used are likely to include:

1. Iceland - Eyjafjallajökull
2. Haiti
3. Mount St. Helens
4. Great Sichuan earthquake 2008
5. Loma Prieta/San Francisco  
Asian, Japanese and Chilean tsunami events.

Question 2 - **‘Global food security is totally dependent on international trade.’**  
Discuss.

- Research the varied physical and human causes of global food insecurity.
- Research a range of locations to examine the impact of international trade on food supply and food security.

#### Indicative content

The focus of this title is the methods of increasing food security and, particularly how significant trade is in these processes.

The framework chosen may be by the following.

- Different causes of food insecurity across a range of countries at different stages of development including population growth, inappropriate farming techniques, soil erosion and longer-term climate change.
- **A ‘case-study’ approach by area/region with different examples** illustrating constraining trends in food insecurity.

Key analytical points may include:

- A key issue to be resolved here is what constitutes food insecurity and how it might be measured in order to facilitate a reasonable comparison - some may extend this to investigate the meaningfulness of the role of trade in the question and more especially the local variations e.g rural/urban contrast in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia.
- Food (in)security is measured in a number of ways; one of the most useful is the FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) survey which consists of eight questions designed to assess the adequacy of an **individual’s access to food**. In 2017 27% of the world population were food insecure, roughly half of the people in low income developing countries with 10% in high-income countries.
- Food supply has increased, and food is increasingly traded internationally although this is dominated by larger-scale industrial agriculture. Food prices are often fixed in monopsonistic markets controlled by local food corporations. Large producers have been guilty of dumping subsidised (over)production reducing farm incomes and food security.
- 2017, Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest prevalence of food insecurity (55 percent) and severe food insecurity (28 percent), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (32 percent food insecure and 12 percent severely food insecure), and South Asia (30 percent and 13 percent). For the most part these regions are dominated by subsistence agriculture.
- However global trends, at least until 2020 present a more complex picture; for example, 10% of adults lived in households classified as

marginally food insecure. These figures rose sharply in 2020 precipitated by the Covid-19 crisis which has had significant impacts on both supply and food costs.

- **Agencies and NGO's** in the UK (the Trussell Trust) and other developed countries suggest a rising trend in food insecurity reflecting growing inequalities in developed countries unrelated to food supply issues. These trends are unrelated to international trade.

In summary:

- The impact of trade is positive for food supply but the impact on food security is best described as highly contentious quite apart from its negative impact on the environment.

Case studies are likely to include:

- Food insecurity in the Sahel and south Asia
- Food insecurity in the UK/USA
- International trade in coffee, cocoa, wheat etc.
- Land purchases in Africa undermining national food supply
- Rising population/income in India and China
- Urban/rural contrasts in south Asia



Question 3 - Evaluate the view that the degree of cultural diversity depends mainly on the attitudes and policies of governments.

- Research the reasons why cultural diversity varies both within countries and between them.
- Research a range of locations to explore the impacts of governments and other players on cultural diversity.

#### Indicative content

The focus of this title is the role of government in either promoting or attacking cultural diversity, and how important these policies and attitudes might be.

The framework chosen may be by the following.

1. Case studies of different societies/places with contrasting levels of cultural diversity and different types of governance.
2. By level of development and/or urban/rural contrasts within countries.
3. Some might take a theoretical approach - hyperglobalisers both positive and negative, sceptics, transformationalists.

Key analytical points

- **‘Cultural diversity’ needs to** be deconstructed to allow some assessment of how the variations can be measured, as does the role of government both in its direct and its indirect interaction with traditional cultures.
- Countries with larger populations are likely to have more cultural diversity notwithstanding governance. Nonetheless highly centralised states have along history of establishing a dominant culture through language rules, educational systems and, occasionally, genocide of traditional cultures - history of the young **USA, attitudes to Aborigines in Australia, sovietisation of the ‘stans.**
- Issues may arise over the nature of those processes which will differ at both national and local level - the growth of connections allowing the spread of dominant cultures through Americanisation and/or the movement of people that leads to greater ethnic diversity which may bring with it greater diversity. Differences in governance are likely to be critical.
- **The rise of ‘nationalism’ in Europe also emphasises the role of the state and the** redefinition of national characteristics and the renaissance of exceptionalism - this can be seen
- Assimilation can lead to a loss of cultural diversity as local distinctive communities lose their language e.g. Koreans in Japan, Italians in the US - in these cases greater connectedness may lead to decline in diversity and has little directly to do with governance.
- There are significant rural/urban contrasts in many countries especially those **with poor internal ‘connectedness’.** Nonetheless it is simplistic to assume that remote communities are largely homogenous e.g. cultural diversity in Afghan villages.

- Indigenous cultures are always changed by levels of globalisation are obviously driven by government attitudes to migration.

In summary

- Government has a critical role **but it isn't the only factor nor necessarily the most** important, especially in societies that are democratic and pay attention to human rights *de facto* as well as *de jure*.

Case studies used are likely to include:

1. Japan
2. European integration
3. Ukraine
4. Iceland
5. London/Singapore
6. Afghanistan
7. Amish communities.

Question 4 - **‘Economic growth inevitably leads to a reduction in health risks.’**  
Discuss.

- Research the reasons why health risks vary at a range of scales from global to local.
- Research a range of locations to investigate the relationship between economic development and health risks.

Indicative content

The focus of this title is the relationship between economic development and the level of health risks

The framework chosen may be by the following.

1. Different causes of health risk including economic factors, environmental factors (including air and water pollution) socio-economic status, poverty and geographic factors such as climate **to establish the ‘greatest’ challenge**
2. Case-study led report based on levels of development from HIC through to LIDCs

Key analytical points

- Health risk can be expressed in two dimensions - geographic extent and threat to individuals which needs identifying in order to address how it varies spatially and temporally.
- **The best, indirect, measures are probably life expectancy and DALY’s which will broadly support the positive link with economic development.**
- The simple relationship between health risk and economic development is that higher levels of spending on public health and preventive medicine are likely to result in lower health risks in more economically developed countries - this is largely supported by the positive correlation between GDP per capita and life expectancy.
- Many of the reports are likely to be focussed on the spread of Covid-19 and the many travel restrictions imposed in the attempts to manage its impact - that complex.
- However, this needs considerable qualification to acknowledge the very wide disparities within countries and the misleading nature of mean GDP as a measure of economic development. Thus, variation within countries is often more significant than variations between them.
- There are clearly some health risks that are less clearly directly related to income than the spread of viruses; these include obesity, heart disease and possibly some environmentally induced increases in cancers. The growth of meat based diets in emerging countries may also have a negative affect on mortality rates although that trend is not yet clear.
- Richer fear the potential financial burden of unhealthy populations migrating from the developing world. What are less appreciated are the risks that high-income countries may export to other parts of the world through products such as

tobacco and fast food and, more indirectly, macroeconomic policies affecting foreign direct investment and debt burdens.

In summary

- In recent times economic growth is associated with growing inequalities so the relationship is more complex than the title suggests - **it certainly isn't inevitable** for all countries or, more importantly for all members of any given population.

Case studies used are likely to include:

1. USA and UK
2. India and/or China rural/urban contrasts
3. **Urban inequalities through London 'life on the line' material**
4. Cuba to show role of governance

