Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1)

Geography B

Paper 3: People and Environment Issues

– Making Geographical Decisions

Sample assessment material for first teaching September 2016

Resource Booklet

Paper Reference

1GB0/03

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Section A

People and the biosphere

The issue: resource conflicts in the rainforest of Peru

- Recently, the economy of Peru has been growing rapidly at around 6% GDP per year.
- The richer urban population have higher living standards than the rural poor, many of whom live in the rainforest.
- The Peruvian government needs to exploit its natural resources such as copper, gold, timber, oil and gas.
- Most of these resources are found in the rainforest regions such as the Madre de Dios. This remote region has extremely high levels of biodiversity.

Introduction

- With a land area of 1,280,000 km² Peru is the third largest country in South America, after Brazil and Argentina.
- It can be roughly divided into three; the coastal strip, the Andes mountain region and Amazonian rainforest region, the largest and most remote of the three.
- About 50% of the 30 million population live on the coastal strip, including Lima, the capital city, nearly 40% live in the Andes whilst only 13% live in the Amazonian region
- Matching its varied landscapes it is also ethnically diverse.
- Nearly 40% are indigenous Americans (Amerindians) mostly belonging to the Quechua or Aymara people, whose ancestors controlled the vast Inca Empire.
- There are also significant numbers of Afro-Peruvians, the descendants of the slaves brought to Peru whilst under Spanish colonial control.
- Although only 15% of the population are European in origin they are by far the wealthiest and politically most powerful.

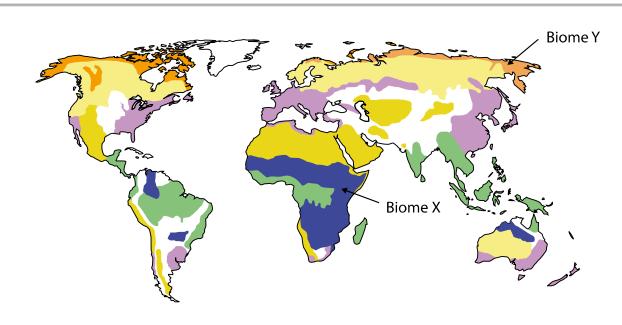


Figure 1
A map of biomes

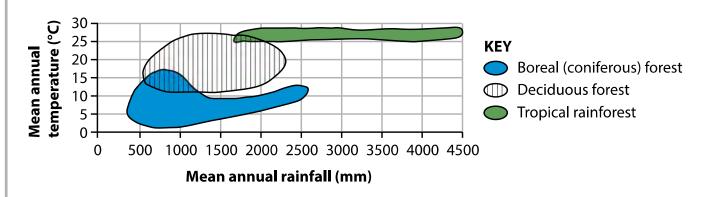


Figure 2

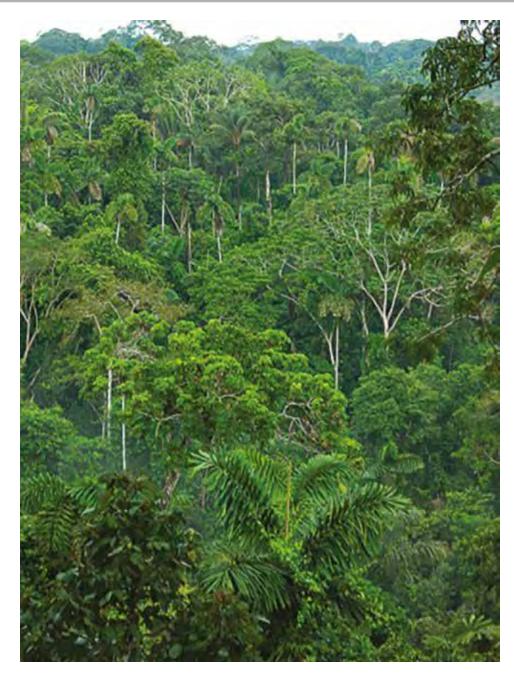
The climate range of selected biomes

Section B Forests under threat



Figure 3

The location of the Madre de Dios in Peru



(Source: © Greg Roden/D K Images)

Figure 4

The rainforest in Madre de Dios

Section C

Consuming energy resources

Peru - Factfile

Population:

- Population >30 million
- Population growth rate = 1% per year
- 77% urban, 23% rural
- <13% live in the Amazonian region
- Life expectancy is 73 in Peru as whole although 66 in the Amazonian region

Economy:	Year 2000	Year 2014
GDP per capita (per head)	\$5 500	\$11 000
People living in poverty	40%	25%
Access to electricity	70%	90%

Figure 5
A factfile for Peru

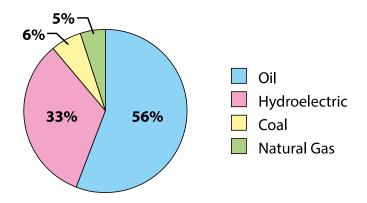
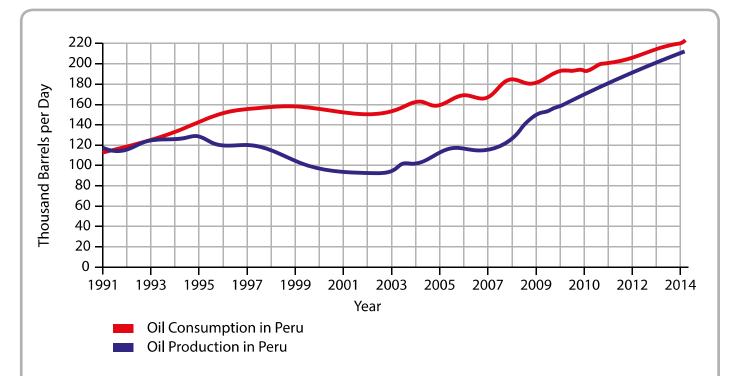
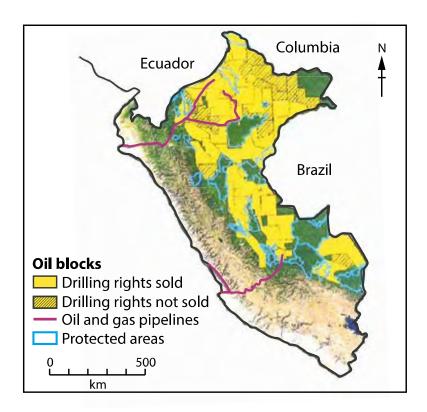


Figure 6
Energy consumption in Peru (2015)



- Peru needs to be more energy secure. Currently it relies on imports of oil to cope with the growing consumption as the country develops.
- The Peruvian government has sold drilling rights for 80% of the rainforest to both Peruvian companies and foreign TNCs for oil and gas development.
- Peruvian reserves are of medium cost to exploit, less costly than shale oil or deep sea oil, but more expensive than some Middle East locations.
- Although Peru is estimated to contain only 1% of the world's oil reserves there has been a good success rate so far in finding oil and TNCs see Peru as a good country to do business with.

Figure 7
Peru's oil production and consumption 1991–2014



- 85% of the blocks overlap with land owned by the indigenous Indian communities.
- Some 40% of blocks overlap with Cultural Reserves, especially set aside to preserve the indigenous Indian way of life.
- 10% overlap with areas protected for their environmental quality and high biodiversity value. These areas have significant potential for ecotourism.

Figure 8

Peru's potential for increasing oil production



Figure 9

The impacts of oil and gas development on the rainforest

Peruvian government	'Oil and gas are vital resources and will bring benefits to all our people.'	
Indian indigenous communities	'We only have the rights to surface land, not to what's underneath. All we have got is contamination of our water supplies.'	
Environmental pressure groups, e.g. WWF	'They have even stopped making Environmental Impact Surveys compulsory. The scale and pace of development is increasing and it has an appalling effect on this pristine, high value environment.'	
TNCs such as Hunt Oil (USA)	'We are ethical companies with a green code of conduct. Oil spills are exceedingly rare as we take all necessary precautions.'	
New settlers in the Amazon	'We moved from the Andes mountains to get a better life. We need to clear the forest for crops such as sugar and biofuels.'	
NGOs such as FENAMAD (a local group)	'We want local Indian communities to establish sustainable management of logging, develop ecotourism and provide sustainable energy supplies from mini HEP and solar power.'	

Figure 10

Conflicting views about development in the rainforest

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