

Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY

9696/03

Paper 3 Global Environments

For examination from 2027

SPECIMEN PAPER

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** topics.
For **each** topic, 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.
- Draw sketch maps and diagrams where needed in your answers.

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.

Answer questions from **two** different topics.

Tropical environments

Answer the first question and one other question.

- 1 Figure 1.1 shows the average warm episode effects of El Niño on the climate, December–February.
- (a) Compare the average warm episode effects of El Niño on the climate of different **tropical areas** shown in Figure 1.1. [4]
- (b) Describe the main characteristics of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). [6]

EITHER

- 2 Assess the role of climate in the development of the vegetation characteristics of savanna ecosystems. Use examples to support your answer. [20]

OR

- 3 Use **one** detailed specific example to evaluate the strategies used to manage the threats facing **either** the rainforest ecosystem **or** the savanna ecosystem. [20]

Coastal environments

Answer the first question and one other question.

- 4 Figure 4.1 shows a model of a coastal sand dune system.
- (a) Describe the characteristics of the coastal sand dune system from A to B shown in Figure 4.1. [3]
- (b) Explain the formation and development of coastal sand dune systems. [7]

EITHER

- 5 ‘Some threats to coral reefs are greater than others.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples to support your answer. [20]

OR

- 6 ‘Wave refraction is the most important factor in the formation of coastal landforms.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples to support your answer. [20]

Hazardous environments

Answer the first question and one other question.

7 Figure 7.1 shows the global distribution of volcanoes.

(a) Describe the global distribution of volcanoes shown in Figure 7.1. [4]

(b) Explain why volcanoes are not found at all types of tectonic plate boundary. [6]

EITHER

8 'Flooding is the most significant hazard from tropical cyclones (cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons).'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples to support your answer. [20]

OR

9 'Climatic factors are the main influence on the location and spread of wildfires.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples to support your answer. [20]

Arid environments

Answer the first question and one other question.

10 Figure 10.1 is a photograph which shows landforms in Death Valley, USA.

(a) Describe the main landforms shown in Figure 10.1. [4]

(b) Explain the role of water in the formation of **two** of the landforms you described in **10(a)**. [6]

EITHER

11 Assess the extent to which desertification is caused by physical factors. Use examples to support your answer. [20]

OR

12 'Salt crystal growth is the most important weathering process in hot arid and hot semi-arid environments.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples to support your answer. [20]

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Copyright acknowledgements

- Question 1, Figure 1.1 © Oscar Rojas, NRC (FAO) Yanyun Li, EST (FAO) Renato Cumani, NRL (FAO). 2014. *Understanding the drought impact of El Niño on the global agricultural areas: An assessment using FAO's Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)*. www.fao.org/3/i4251e/i4251e.pdf.
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- Question 10, Figure 10.1 © Marli Miller; Geologic Time Pics; www.geologypics.com

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