

OCR Report to Centres

June 2013

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This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

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General Certificate of Secondary Education

Geography B (J385)

OCR REPORT TO CENTRES

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Overview

General Comments

Many centres built on the experience of previous years and are now becoming more familiar with the specification. Centres have become more confident in applying the controlled assessment regulations on levels of control where they had to produce work on new tasks for the Fieldwork Focus provided by the awarding organisation rather than their own fieldwork titles. Note that these tasks will change each year and centres need to be aware that the titles correspond to the year of submission, which may not be the same as when the task is undertaken.

It is also worth reminding centres again that the unit being assessed by the SDME will change annually and the future themes for this assessment have been published by the awarding organisation. In 2014 the SDME will be tested by examination with no pre-release information. There will not be the opportunity to enter candidates for B561 in January 2014 as the assessment becomes linear with all examinations taken at the end of the course. Centres may still enter candidates at either the foundation or higher tier of entry; this may be different from their tier of entry for the Key Geographical Themes examination.

The Key Geographical Themes examination is still the most familiar assessment component. Candidates from most centres were well-prepared for the examination, obeying the question paper rubric and using case studies which they had learned in class. Centres are reminded that the case studies on both higher and foundation papers are marked using levels criteria. To access the top level, answers need to be developed, comprehensive in covering all parts of the question, and place-specific.

The varied nature of the assessments allowed all candidates to demonstrate their strengths and there were many excellent examples of high-calibre geography. Many centres have obviously put a great amount of time and effort into preparing their candidates and they are to be commended on this.

Teachers are advised to study the reports of the various assessment components carefully as they give many pointers to how candidates may improve their chances of success. The reports are based on the comments of examiners and moderators who were responsible for judging the work of candidates.

B561/01 Sustainable Decision Making Exercise (Foundation Tier)

General Comments

This paper successfully produced a wide range of results across the candidate profile. Few candidates achieved scores above 35 possibly indicating that few candidates who would have been better entered at higher level were dropped to foundation this year, which is very positive. The majority of candidates could answer all the questions and there were few rubric errors. Those candidates who failed to answer some sections of the paper tended to do so because they were unable to, rather than through any misinterpretation of the paper's requirements.

The quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar is becoming increasingly worrying. Key terms are often incorrectly spelt, even when they could be copied from the resource booklet, for example a large number of candidates gave 'volcanoe' as the singular of volcanoes. Place names were incorrectly spelt and the lack of use of capital letters and full stops, along with very poor handwriting, often makes the candidates' work difficult to read and, therefore, to mark. The lack of general understanding and knowledge of global geography and levels of development was another area that was highlighted by examiners as an area for concern.

Centres need to remind their invigilation teams that there is no need to supply candidates with additional sheets as there are sufficient extra pages included within the answer booklet. Candidates need to be reminded to clearly label any additional work they do with the correct question numbers.

Candidates are still struggling to access the higher levels on longer answer questions by not fully explaining their answers in enough detail, by not using information from the resource book to back up their answers and by not showing a wider understanding of the topic area, shown by a lack of background knowledge. It will be important from this point onwards, with no pre-release materials, that the subject area being examined in the DME is thoroughly taught in order for the students to have a clear understanding of that subject as relying on the resource booklet will not be enough to allow students to achieve well in the exam.

Comments on individual questions

- 1 Most candidates achieved full marks on this question.
 - (a) Almost all candidates achieved the mark for this question.
 - (b) Many of the responses seen gave a resource statement and a simple explanation to achieve both marks on the question. Where candidates scored zero or only 1 mark they often failed to make use of the resource and at times mixed up reasons and explanations, or gave both but they were contradictory.
- 2 The majority of candidates scored 4 or more on this question.
 - (a) Only a small number of candidates gave an incorrect response, often where the candidate gave the name of the earthquake rather than the magnitude.
 - (b) (i) The majority of candidates used the resource booklet to collect the evidence needed to respond to the question correctly. Errors seen were the reversal of the correct order and, in a small number of cases, the wrong earthquakes were quoted.

- (b) (ii)** Almost all candidates gave the correct response.
- (c)** Good responses to this question immediately stated that Indonesia was an LEDC and then went on to focus on the cost of buildings, particularly materials and construction, often with comparisons to Japan. Building density and building codes were mentioned much less frequently as were measures to stop the escalation of costs. The most common error was to state that Indonesia was an MEDC, which candidates often then developed by reference to earthquake proof buildings reducing the cost.

3 Most candidates scored at least 3 marks on this question.

(a) Most candidates scored both marks on this question. The most common error seen for this question was writing all possible answers between the two boxes.

(a) The best responses to this question referred to earthquake drills and other training with development. Earthquake proofing in various ways was also often mentioned and often developed with examples. Many candidates wrongly suggested that earthquakes could be predicted, that warnings could be given and that people could be evacuated from the area before the earthquake occurred – answers that were more suited to a different type of hazard.

(b) This question was, generally, poorly answered, with candidates failing to comprehend the requirement of immediate response. Aid was often given as a stand-alone answer for one mark. Good responses were able to indicate the requirement for shelter/clean water and provisions as a priority.

4 The majority of candidates scored Level 2 - 3 marks as they were able to describe the difference between the building codes of the different countries and link this to the number of deaths. The very best answers were able to show that there were a number of reasons for the differences in death rate. These included not only the building codes, but also the time of day the earthquakes occurred, the level of development of the countries and their ability to cope with the aftermath of the earthquake.

5 The varying nature of the decision section of these papers is still causing some difficulty to students. The pre-release material allows teachers to try to predict the likely nature of the questions in the section and candidates show evidence of trying to fit the answers they've prepared to the questions in the exam, rather than using a broad knowledge of the topic area, information from all of the resource book and case study exemplars to help to develop their answers to the questions actually asked. This will obviously be less of an issue going forward.

(a) The best answers focused on the actual example used (San Francisco) and gave their responses in relation to an MEDC/highly populated urban area. In general answers were brief and related to saving lives. The majority of candidates scored Level 2 - 3 marks. The poorest answers tried to give disadvantages of other options as advantages of their chosen option.

For Option 1 good answers recognised that services would remain viable, allowing their use after the quake and allowing more rapid response by emergency services into the areas most affected by the quake.

For Option 2 good answers understood that, as less buildings would be damaged, the death rate would be lower and the cost of the quake would be lower.

For Option 3 good answers focused on the fact that by having knowledge of what to do after a quake, would keep people calm, causing less panic; would mean that people would have supplies and shelter and that these would lead to less deaths.

- (b)** The majority of candidates scored at least one mark on this question. Cost was most frequently given as a disadvantage, but it was disappointing to see so few candidates able to develop their answers. Again advantages of other options were given as disadvantages of the chosen option.
- (c)** The majority of candidates were able to score at least three marks on this question with at least one developed advantage.
- (d)** Many candidates had difficulty in answering this question as it was different from any other previous 5(d) question. The most common error was to interpret *only one option* as *Option 1*. In the best answers candidates were able to recognise that one option does not cover all the issues caused by a large quake, that by carrying out all 3 options, death rates and damage cost would be reduced and recovery times would be shorter.

B561/02 Sustainable Decision Making Exercise (Higher Tier)

General Comments

There was evidence of good preparation for the examination and candidates of all abilities were able to access the resources with good use being made of them especially for questions 2 and 4. Candidates do gain more credit when they adapt the resource materials to support their answers rather than copying directly from them. The rubric was followed with few errors. The full range of marks was seen and there were very few instances where candidates made no attempt to answer a question. The majority of candidates completed the paper with little evidence that they were short of time. The majority of candidates responded to all the bullet points in question 5. Many candidates were able to use their own research and gain credit in their answers in questions 2, 3(b) and 4. Candidates should be reminded that developing one or two ideas will gain more credit than stating a range of ideas on level response questions such as question 5. For questions 2 and 4 which asked “to what extent” candidates need to be reminded to state the degree or otherwise of any link and add supporting evidence either from the resource, if asked, or from their own knowledge.

The standard of written work was good overall and acceptable for the weaker candidates. Candidates need to be encouraged to use paragraphs in their answers. Most candidates showed a good understanding of the subject matter and were able to use appropriate geographical terminology with understanding. Examples of this were seen in questions 3(a) and 5. Candidates need to be reminded to read the wording of the questions carefully so they understand the demands of individual questions particularly for question 5.

Comments on Individual Questions

- 1 Most candidates scored 3 or 4 marks for this question. The majority of candidates responded well to the command word “explain” and were able to give developed ideas in response to the stimulus material. The most common ideas were that people continued to live in areas of tectonic risk because “soils were fertile so good for growing crops and making money” or “they have lived in the area all their lives and moving would mean having to leave behind family and friends”.
- 2 Most candidates scored 5 or 6 marks at level 3 for this question. Candidates were able to identify the extent to which there was a link between magnitude and cost of damage, give supporting evidence from the resource and identify an anomaly or suggest a different causal factor other than magnitude. Many stated that the data showed a general trend that the greater the magnitude the greater the cost of damage. Those candidates that saw no link between the two and gave data supporting this were also credited. The most common causal factors that candidates identified related to level of development and amount of infrastructure. However, these were not always clearly explained as there was an apparent lack of basic geographical knowledge of some of the countries in the resource. For example some candidates explained that the \$0 cost of damage after earthquakes in Alaska and the Kuril Islands was because both had earthquake-proof structures. A small minority of candidates scored 1 or 2 marks when they gave a simple description of the data in the resource. A small minority of candidates referred to deaths rather than magnitude in their answers.
- 3(a) The majority of candidates gave a very clear definition of the term “emergency response” referring to immediacy or types of emergency services in their answer. Fewer candidates were given credit for their definition of the term “monitoring” as they used the same term

within their answer. Others used vague ideas such as “watching the earthquake” or “keeping an eye on” which gained no credit.

- 3(b)** Many candidates scored well on this question recognising that levels of development and wealth were the key to why countries responded differently to earthquakes. Other factors such as the frequency of earthquakes, characteristics of the area affected and effectiveness of governments were also cited. Ideas were generally developed beyond a simple reason. Candidates that repeated their idea(s) for differences between countries could not be given double credit for example “MEDCs have well-prepared emergency services and respond quicker whilst LEDCs have poorer emergency services and take longer to respond”.
- 4** Most candidates adapted material from the resources, compared the three case studies and linked the number of deaths to the number of collapsed buildings so were credited at level 2 between 4 and 6 marks. Candidates who went on to explain that other factors could also have contributed to the number of deaths scored 7 or 8 marks. Ideas included level of development, how well equipped rescue teams were, weather conditions, secondary effects such as fires and quality of medical care. A minority of candidates repeated material from the resources and were credited between 1 and 3 marks at level 1.
- 5** Most candidates covered the bullet points in their answer so ensuring they covered all parts of the question although there was a minority who did ignore the final one. Option two was the most popular choice followed by one and three. Too many answers followed formats from previous questions such as advantages and disadvantages of their chosen option or views of different stakeholders which this question did not require. Too many answers gave all the reasons why their chosen option was best although the question did not require this. The best answers used comparative language to give reasons why their option was better than the other two in terms of economic and social sustainability. The most common sustainability comparisons were, too often, simple points relating to costs and lives saved. Answers credited at the higher levels included ideas such as “Option 2 is better than Option 3 because although people were being made aware of the risks of earthquakes and how to prepare, if buildings, including those housing the emergency services, were not earthquake proofed/ they would still collapse/people would be killed and injured/medical response would be slower/so death toll could increase”. “Option 2 is better than Option 1 because if all building were being made earthquake proof/ none of the important facilities need to be moved and rebuilt elsewhere/which would be cheaper in the long term/facilities could be accessed by the community/jobs kept within the locality/quality of healthcare safeguarded”.

Some candidates referred to environmental sustainability in their answer which the question did not require. Some candidates gave details about all the different ways buildings can be re enforced which gained no credit. Most candidates recognised that their chosen option would work better with either one or two of the others but did not always develop their ideas. Those who did stated that, by using all three options, then lives could be saved and building damage and hence costs kept to a minimum.

B562 Geographical Enquiry

Administration

Administration by centres has improved with many centres submitting their marks well in advance of the 15th of May deadline. Only a few centres made errors on the MS1 forms and nearly all sent the CCS160 form promptly. The majority of centres completed assessment grids fully and included appropriate annotation of the form and candidates work indicating where credit was given. Only a few centres included their instruction sheets for candidates for the two components. This is to be recommended along with candidates indicating their word counts.

Moderation

The Enquiry involves centres selecting one Fieldwork Focus title from four and a choice of 18 titles for the Geographical Investigation. The Fieldwork Focus titles were all selected but the majority were Coasts, or Population and Settlements. The vast majority of centres split the title into several appropriate key questions and this provided a focus for primary data collection, analysis, evaluation and making substantiated conclusions. Most centres selected one title for their candidates to research in the Geographical Investigation. The favourites were Energy, the Olympics and World Heritage Sites. There were some centres who allowed a free choice or one from four titles. The vast majority of candidates chose to write a research report, only a few produced power-points, booklet/posters or even an oral interview.

Some centres provided some sources for their candidates, the vast majority allowed candidates access to the internet for their research which was recorded in a diary. The vast majority of centres used ICT extensively in both their fieldwork and reports for research and presentation of their work.

The standard of marking was much better this year as one would expect centres to have responded to the reports provided by moderators last June. It was obvious that centres had attended INSET and fully understood the requirements of controlled assessment. There were fewer adjustments in a downward direction and only a few in an upward direction. The reasons for these changes were many and are mentioned below.

The **Fieldwork Focus** on the whole was marked closely to match the assessment criteria. Centres that did not do this did not split the title into key questions, provide a methodology table, collect sufficient primary data or present it in a variety of graphs. Some also did not give sufficient detail and reasoning in their analysis and conclusions. There were some examples of excellent integrated use of maps and photographs to locate study areas. This certainly did set the scene and gave a sense of place. Some centres did refer well to theories such as the Bradshaw model and discussed the wider context of their study. There were many examples of candidates analysing their findings in depth. There were some excellent examples of students who had combined maps, photographs, graphs and their analysis on one page. They also made substantiated conclusions and realistic evaluations. Some, however, did have some over-use of tables or textboxes to try and reduce the word count.

The **Geographical Investigation** was also marked more closely to match the assessment criteria. Some centres did encourage their candidates to write a thought shower to help them identify key questions and give their report a logical structure. The majority of centres continued to insist on a research diary and the best had candidates acknowledging sources and evaluating their validity. They also acknowledged images directly and linked them to their bibliography. Very few centres had candidates who failed to acknowledge their sources and made no mention of stakeholders. However, many did provide excellent tables or speech bubbles to show stakeholder views. They also analysed these views and tried to explain them. High level

candidates made substantiated conclusions, looked to the future where appropriate, expressed their own opinions and had researched sources extensively.

In both assessments one common problem continues to be the word count which in some centres was significantly exceeded. This meant that their work lacked focus, precision and succinctness and centres need to ensure that students are aware of this failing. The over-use of tables and text boxes needs to be avoided.

Overall there continues to be an improvement in the quality of the work produced and it was very encouraging to see candidates enthusiastically take the opportunities offered and demonstrate high levels of ICT skills. They showed initiative, imagination and independence at a high level. Once again it was also encouraging to moderate complete pieces of work, even from weaker candidates, where they had attempted all elements of the assessment.

The future loss of the Geographical investigation and the increase in word limit to 2000 for the Fieldwork Focus needs to be noted. It is obviously important that centres realise this and look at the new assessment grid. A major requirement will be the need to set out expectations and to collect more primary data in the field.

B563/01 Key Geographical themes (Foundation Tier)

General Comments

Successful candidates for the 2013 examination:

- followed the rubric to read, select, and answered their best three questions.
- understood exam specific command words, such as describe, explain, suggest.
- had a good grasp of geographical terms and Specification specific vocabulary.
- showed accurate and detailed case study knowledge recall.
- adapted and applied their case study knowledge to the requirements of the question.
- had clear, legible handwriting, with good spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Substantial rubric error was noticed by many examiners this year. It appears that candidates chose to do additional questions within their allocated time or may be directed to do so if they finish early. Most common were candidates attempting Questions 1 and 2 and/or Questions 3 and 4. Few candidates have the stamina to attempt all six questions and those attempting Questions 5 and 6 were rare. Some candidates will purposefully cross out the answers to a rubric error question that they do not wish to be marked which is helpful but they should stick to the rubric anyway.

Previous reports have covered the issue of rubric error and the best use of candidates' time in this examination. Changes to the examination mean that rubric error will not be possible for the 2014 examination however there may be an issue for centres regarding less able or motivated candidates who find they have substantial amounts of time remaining after completing their answers.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar were assessed specifically this year in a way that replaced the embedded quality of written communication criteria of previous years. Additional marks were awarded for SPaG for only the case study part of each question.

In preparing candidates for the 2014 examination, centres need to be mindful of even more significant changes.

- There will be three compulsory questions, one to assess each Specification Theme. (Natural Hazards will be assessed via the SDME examination in June 2014)
- Each question will have a total of 30 marks, with an additional 3 for SPaG.
- Each case study sub-question will have a total mark of 9, with Level 3 marks ranging from 7-9.
- The time allocated for the examination will be 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Advice and suggestions for preparing candidates from the 2011 and 2102 Reports remain equally valid for the 2014 examination.

Question selection success criteria should still be practised and shared. In the 2014 examination candidates should be encouraged to close read all three compulsory questions and then begin by answering their strongest questions first. Candidates should be familiar with commonly used command words, such as describe and explain, and how they indicate the thinking required for a successful response. They should be encouraged to look for and underline command words during the examination. Short, sharp, focused answers should be given to the skills questions. Some candidates will write a full sentence answer when only a name or number is needed.

Candidates should be aware of the two types of four mark questions. For open questions which do not require a specified number of responses, four basic ideas can achieve full marks. Three marks could be achieved for one idea that is developed with additional detail or clear explanation. In addition candidates can gain four marks for two developed responses and/or three marks for a well-developed response and a basic idea.

By contrast, for questions which specify two responses, each idea must be developed with detail to gain full marks. Candidates could highlight the word ‘two’ for such questions.

Candidates should be aware of the requirements of the nine mark case study question. A relevant example is needed, with correct, detailed information given for each section of the question. Accurate place-specific detail is needed to secure full marks. Place-specific detail could be additional place names linked to the example given and/or additional location information or data relevant to the example and the required content.

In addition to the nine mark case study question, there will always be a two mark knowledge recall question. This will usually involve the definition of a key geographical term, such as *adult literacy* in Question 6. Candidates can underline key geographical words in these and four mark questions. Specification Theme key word glossaries are useful for developing and reinforcing understanding of the meanings.

Most pertinent for the 2104 examination will be the wider coverage of a range of sub- themes for each compulsory question. Candidates will also need to revise all their case study examples within each Specification Theme. Time and thought will need to be given as to which example best suits the requirements of the case study question.

Comments on Individual Questions

Section A: Rivers and Coasts

- 1 This focused on river flooding and featured a map of the Zambezi River basin with information about flood impact and a photograph of the effects of flooding in rural Mozambique. The case study was an example of a river landform and how it changes over time.

Question 1 was twice as popular with candidates although the overall performance was very similar on both questions. However a marked difference was noted in case study responses. Coastal landforms were of a higher quality than the River landforms. Question 2(f) was the second highest scoring case study after Question 4(f).

Most candidates were able to interpret the Zambezi River Basin map and information to score two or three marks for part (a). The incorrect answer of seven countries was given by 40% of candidates for (a) (i); presumably they did not include Tanzania in their calculations.

‘River basin’ is an example of Specification specific vocabulary which occurs three times in Theme 1a. However, only a very small number of candidates were able to define this term correctly. More successful was the identification of a ‘lake’ as a store in the river basin system.

Question 1(c) was speculative and designed to stretch the more able candidates by requiring them to apply their knowledge and understanding of flood impact factors to an unfamiliar context. Many candidates explained some possible causes of flooding without focusing on the need to differentiate between the countries within the Zambezi river basin. Some made comparisons between LEDCs and MEDCs. Basic responses used the Resource to comment on the river network or the presence of large lakes. More able

candidates were able to suggest and explain other physical factors such as relief and levels of rainfall. They also considered human factors such as population density and variations in flood defences.

Question 1(d) was well-answered by most candidates. Responses covered primary and secondary effects of flooding often given in the context on an LEDC. Destruction of homes and homelessness, impact on farming and food shortages were the most common ideas.

Question 1(e) saw confusion with coasts knowledge for some candidates. Concrete sea walls and wooden groynes were incorrectly given as methods to reduce river flooding. Successful answers included channel modification, levees and dams to control or restrict flood waters. Sandbags, more permanent barriers and houses on stilts were also given as methods to protect property. A few candidates mentioned afforestation, restricted floodplain development and early warning schemes as more holistic management methods.

The best case study answers chose waterfalls. They included a detailed sketch or sketches showing a clear vertical drop and often valid detail such as a band of hard rock on top of softer rock. The best diagrams also had labelled key features such as a plunge pool and rock overhang. Coverage of processes was less convincing with basic ideas about erosion and the collapse of the overhang, leading to the retreat of the waterfall. Few candidates included detail about the actual processes of erosion, such as abrasion or the term undercutting.

Responses which focused on meanders were also successful although there was confusion about where the processes of erosion and deposition occur and the resulting features, such as a river cliff or point bar. Explanations of how meanders become ox-bow lakes were also weak.

Many candidates were not able to name a river valley and there was a dearth of place-specific detail. Examples which did achieve full marks had named landforms, such as High Force on the River Tees and/or detail about specific rock types such as Whinstone for High Force. Weaker responses had vague ideas about V-shaped valleys being eroded to make them deeper.

Just over a third of candidates attempting Question 1 failed to score any marks for the case study. Some declined to attempt the question, others gave coastal landforms as their example and others tried to apply their knowledge of the Boscastle flood.

- 2** Question 2 featured a map showing the possible impact of coastal erosion in Counties along the coastline of California and information about a proposed beach replenishment scheme at Surfers' Point in California. The case study was a coastal landform and how it changes over time. Most candidates were able to interpret the California Coastline map and information to score all three marks for part (a).

Like Question 1(c), Question 2(c) was also speculative and designed to test the more able candidates. Some candidates were able to apply their knowledge and understanding of factors which affect coastal erosion rates to the context of some Californian Counties having more property at risk than others. Their responses covered ideas about the value of property linked to expensive beach houses and tourist developments such as hotels and other human factors such as variations in coastal defences. Physical factors were also considered such as differences in rock type and types of coastal landscape. Many candidates struggled to gain marks and wrote in very general terms about coastal erosion. Over one third of candidates were unable to identify a coastal erosion process. The most common errors were linked to deposition or transport. Some candidates also gave

landforms for their answers and some cited destructive and constructive waves. Abrasion and hydraulic action were the most common correct ideas.

A wide range of responses were noted for Question 2(d). A few candidates recognised that the Surfers' Point scheme is an example of beach replenishment in the context of soft engineering. They then applied their knowledge to the example given with a clear focus on the management of coastal erosion. The most able commented on the sustainability of beach replenishment. Some answers covered the increase in beach size being linked to tourism and increased business. Lower scoring answers focused on the re-location of the car park, being safer from flooding/erosion and missed the coastal management context.

Although fewer in number, the case study responses for Question 2(f) were of a higher quality than those given for river landforms with twice as many candidates gaining Level 3 marks. Most answers were focused on changes to a coastal headland caused by erosion. Cliff, cave, arch, stack and stump were the individual landform examples usually given as part of the classic sequence of change. Coverage of processes was generally more accurate, with comments on how the landform was created or changed and some detail about specific erosion processes, such as hydraulic action. Less successful were responses linked to deposition and transport such as spit formation. Labelled sketches were accurate but explanations of how longshore drift operates to create a spit were weaker. Weak level 1 responses had very basic ideas about cliff erosion or beach formation.

As with Question 1(f), there was a dearth of place-specific detail here, although more candidates were able to name a coastal area and then the specific landform. Old Harry Rocks on the Dorset coast was the most common example given.

Section B: Natural Hazards

Both questions were equal in popularity. However performance on Question 4 was higher than on Question 3. Question 4 was the highest scoring question in the examination. Performance on Question 3 was similar to Questions 1 and 2.

- 3** This featured a map showing food shortages in East Africa in 2011. A series of questions linked to severe drought followed. The case study was a climatic hazard event in an MEDC, with a focus on the impact and natural conditions which caused the hazard. Most candidates were able to interpret the map to score three marks in question (a). Part (i) proved the most challenging with Somalia given as an incorrect answer by some.

The majority of candidates gained one mark by referring to the amount of rainfall in their definition of drought, with over 40% gaining two marks with reference to a time period. A third of candidates failed to achieve marks as they focused on the consequences of drought and failed to include rainfall in their answers.

Most candidates were able to give one or two basic ideas for (c). A third of candidates was able to develop at least one idea to gain three or four marks. Most common were references to disease from drinking contaminated water. Some candidates made use of the resource by linking drought to crop failure and famine. A few candidates also gave a lack of water supply/conservation methods in LEDCs as a cause of higher death rates.

A third of candidates failed to attempt (d) or gain any marks. Low scoring responses were characterised by vague ideas about global warming. Wasteful uses of water, such as hose pipes for gardens were also common basic responses.

For (e) most candidates wrote about the benefits of increased water supply and restricting water use as opposed to describing associated methods. A few candidates made reference to wells and reservoirs for supply and hose pipe bans for restrictions.

The majority of candidates gained level 2 marks for their climatic hazard event case study, although only ten percent achieved Level 3 marks. The best responses focused on Hurricane Katrina and often included accurate detail/data about the impact. Less secure were the explanations of the natural conditions, although some candidates were aware of high sea temperatures as the trigger for tropical storm formation. Less successful case studies included drought in Australia and the UK. Impact information tended to be very general and accurate explanations of the natural conditions that cause a severe drought were every rare.

- 4 Question 4 began with a map showing plate boundaries in the ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’. Questions about earthquakes followed. The case study was a tectonic hazard event in an LEDC with the focus on impact and how people could prepare for future hazards.

For (a) most candidates were able to read the map to gain three marks. Part (iii) giving the correct direction of a plate movement was the most challenging.

A wide range of correct responses was noted for (b). Fewer than half the candidates scored both marks for converging/diverging or destructive/constructive. Just over one third of candidates failed to attempt this question or gain any marks.

Overall candidates’ diagrams and explanations showed a good understanding of how plate movements cause earthquakes. Some accurate cross-section diagrams were given for subduction zones, whilst map views showed conservative margins. The idea of friction building up as plates got stuck was well understood, with sudden movement/release triggering the earthquake. Only five percent of candidates failed to attempt this question or score any marks.

Hindsight reveals that candidates were able to apply similar ideas about earthquake preparation and readiness to score marks in (d) and (e). This partly explains the higher performance on Question 4 compared to other questions. Most common were references to buildings, with some excellent detail about MEDC design features and retro-fitting. Earthquake drills and home survival kits also featured. The absence of these measures in LEDCs due to lack of money/investment provided developed ideas for (d). A large number of candidates also gave incorrect ideas about earthquake prediction in their answers to both (d) and (e).

Smart candidates were able to utilise their knowledge of earthquake preparation to tackle the second part of the case study question. However, detailed knowledge of a correct example made question (f) the highest scoring case study question in the examination. Just over one third of candidates scored level 3 marks, with many giving place-specific detail/data about the impact of their chosen example. The most common responses were LEDC earthquakes with Haiti being the most frequent. Sichuan and Kashmir also featured strongly with some good coverage of the Gujarat earthquake as well. Some excellent detail also featured in volcanic eruption examples especially for Nevado del Ruiz and Montserrat. Very few candidates limited their marks by giving MEDC case study examples.

Section C: Economic Development

- 5 Question 5 used an OS map extract to show the location of Cambridge Science Park as an example of a quaternary economic activity. Questions followed about employment structure and MNCs operating in LEDCs. The case study was an example of an economic activity which had damaged the physical environment.

Ordnance Survey map reading skills continue to be a challenge for some Foundation candidates. Most candidates were able to identify the correct A road for question (a) (i) and the correct direction for (a) (iii) however only 43% of candidates were able to use the scale to give the correct area covered Cambridge Science Park for part (ii).

Responses to (b) revealed a lack of understanding of this example of quaternary industry and its location factors. Some candidates thought that Cambridge Science park was a tourist attraction or linked to school visits, in spite of the guiding preamble to the question. Basic answers were linked to edge of city location and communications. Few candidates wrote about the links with Cambridge University for prestige, research and development

Most candidates were able to give two correct examples of jobs in the tertiary sector for (c) (i). Some candidates missed out on marks as they gave places of work rather than jobs. Question (c) (ii) was the lowest scoring four mark question in the examination. Some candidates managed basic responses linked to changes in technology and migration of industry to LEDCs to explain the relative decline of the secondary sector, leading to more employment in the tertiary sector in MEDCs. Few made any connections with the provision of a range of service linked to being a more developed country. Incorrect ideas focused on higher pay, better conditions and higher qualifications needed for tertiary jobs.

Most candidates scored marks for question (d). The common responses were linked to cheaper labour costs and resources. Some also developed their ideas about fewer restrictions and government incentives to attract MNCs to locate in LEDCs. Some candidates misread the question and explained good and/or bad points of MNC investment for LEDCs.

The case study did yield some interesting, contemporary examples of economic activities that have damaged the physical environment. Most centred around the operations of MNCs in LEDC locations and included: the Pearl River Delta in China; Coca Cola in India; forestry and mining in the Amazon; Shell in Nigeria; Nike in Vietnam (and other South East Asian countries) and BP in the Gulf of Mexico. Credible ideas about environmental damage covered the impact of pollution on water courses, vegetation, wildlife habitats and wildlife. Few responses had clear, relevant descriptions of the given economic activity beyond basic ideas about manufacturing and/or resource exploitation. One third of candidates who attempted Question 5 failed to attempt the case study or gain any marks. Question 5(e) was the second lowest performing case study question in the examination.

- 6** This question featured a line graph showing changes over time in the Human Development Index and a Water Aid poster showing the benefits of clean water in Nepal. Following questions about development measures and aid, the case study was an example of an economic activity in an LEDC and its location factors.

Most candidates were able to read the line graph to score two marks for questions (a) (i) and (ii). The thinking required for part (iii) was more challenging with slightly fewer candidates gaining the third mark.

One third of candidates could not give a correct definition of adult literacy for question (b). Most were able to make the link with reading and writing. Fewer candidates secured the second mark by either defining the term 'adult' or stating the rate was given as a percentage.

Question (c) was well-answered with most candidates stating that both measures would increase due to improved health and wealth. Some candidates gave developed reasons without clearly stating that the measure would increase. Some candidates misread the question and gave definitions of life expectancy and car ownership.

For (d) some candidates misinterpreted the command word 'explain'. They gave detailed descriptions of the uses of clean water shown in the resource instead of explaining the benefits. The most common correct ideas were linked to improved health, with some developed responses about water-borne diseases. Improved hygiene, less time spent collecting water and rising income due to increased crop yields were also given as benefits.

Most candidates have showed some understanding of problems associated with MEDC aid to LEDCs in question (e). The most common responses were about dependency and debt linked to tied aid. Other ideas were about the mismatch between aid and people's needs and the manipulation of aid by corrupt governments. Some candidates developed their responses well with valid ideas about sustainability of aid.

For Question 6(f) some candidates used a known aid project as their case study example. Water aid, Goat aid, Tree aid, Send a Cow and Computer aid were prevalent examples. These responses were given credit if they made a link to economic activity, for example the production of milk for sale. However the location factors given were weak. Examiners did note that some candidates did give more appropriate answers based on MNCs in LEDCs. The most common examples were Nike in Vietnam and China, Coca Cola in India and some interesting accounts of Apple/Foxconn in China. As with question 5(e) descriptions of the actual economic activity were very limited. Location factors were also weak with cheap labour costs being the most common idea given.

B563/02 Key Geographical themes (Higher Tier)

General Comments

The paper allowed widespread differentiation. There were many excellent answers in which candidates demonstrated a thorough grasp of geographical principles and a detailed knowledge of place-specific case studies to support their argument. However, it was suggested by examiners that some centres might be entering candidates for the higher tier who may be better suited to the foundation paper. A strong characteristic of weaker candidates is vagueness in many of their answers, especially where case study knowledge is required. If candidates are to reach level 3 in case study sections there is a requirement that their answer is place-specific in addition to being comprehensive. A good way to test this requirement is for candidates to read their answer and 'cover up' the name of the case study. A suitable answer about a particular place or event will be recognisable through the detailed references being made.

Where case studies were on familiar topics candidates scored well. Most candidates selected appropriate case studies which they had learned in detail. This included some weaker candidates for whom the case studies were the best answers. For some candidates the challenge was to select the appropriate detail to use in answering the specific question. Weaker candidates sometimes decided to write all they knew about the case study, whether it was relevant or not. Relevant place detail is often the main differentiating factor between level 2 and level 3 case studies. Although there is a limited number of case study topics, the focus of each case study will vary from year to year. It is worth noting that some case study examples may be better than others to answer questions with a different focus, for example where there is a focus on environmental management or hazard preparation.

Examiners felt that some weaker candidates did not understand what was required in some questions because they did not take notice of key words such as 'distribution' (Question 2) and location (Question 5), or they did not heed key instructions such as 'Explain why this plan is sustainable' (Question 2).

Particular areas of examination technique which candidates must practise are as follows. Centres should give their candidates the opportunity to revise and apply basic map interpretation skills which they have learned. There are opportunities in each question for candidates to develop answers, and in some questions they are instructed to do so. Candidates need to consider how they might do this when the opportunities arise.

Question 2 was more popular than Question 1. Question 4 was more popular than Question 3 and Question 6 was more popular than Question 5. There was limited evidence that candidates had evaluated questions before starting to answer them or made rough plans for their answers. Candidates are advised to read through the whole paper before they begin their answers in order to pick out their best-known topics to start with. Also they should plan their answer in order to check relevance to the question before it is too late.

Some candidates infringed the rubric requirement, usually by answering more than three questions. This examination was the first time that examiners commented on the number of candidates who answered two questions in one section and then crossed out one answer. This suggests that candidates need to read the questions carefully before deciding which question they prefer to answer. Time management was not a major issue for candidates who completed all their answers. Some candidates lost marks by misreading or misinterpreting sections and consequently writing irrelevant answers. For example, they chose a tectonic hazard case study in question 3, or they described how their chosen economic activity affected people not the environment in Question 5, or they chose a case study from an MEDC in question 4.

The introduction of SPAG was not a major issue as most candidates were able to meet the high performance criteria in their case study answer. Where candidates omitted a case study or wrote very little their SPAG mark reflected this.

Although the examination system is perpetual it must be remembered that in each year the examination is a unique experience for that group of candidates. Consequently the following advice may be useful to candidates about to embark on their final preparation for their 2014 examination, based on the revised specification.

- Answer all three questions, there is no choice of question.
- Read each question carefully.
- Pay particular attention to key words which are often emboldened, also 'command' words and words which set the context or scale of the answer.
- Be prepared for changes of topic within the general question focus.
- Do not repeat the same answer in different sections - such answers do not gain double credit.
- Be precise when using information from maps, graphs and diagrams.
- Relate questions to examples and identify appropriate case studies which have been learned.
- Learn the details of case studies to give them authenticity.
- Use the number of marks available for a section as a guide to the number of points needed.
- Develop ideas and extend answers in order to increase the marks which can be awarded.
- Re-read and check the answers if there is time at the end of the examination.

Comments on Individual Questions

- 1(a)** Many candidates were unable to define the term 'river basin' accurately. Answers were often vague and often missed the key idea of drainage of a specific area. Where candidates did explain this basic idea many did not develop it with any detail of key elements such as tributaries or watershed. A common confusion was with flood plain and candidates explaining how it was the area flooded by a river.
- (b)** This question was well-answered with most candidates interpreting the data on the map well. Many candidates scored full marks.
- (c)** The question differentiated well with some candidates making excellent suggestions about the varying impacts of flooding within the river basin. The best answers contain comparative statements about different factors. Common suggestions were variations in the number of rivers, presence of flood warnings and management systems, and numbers of people living on the flood plain. Weaker candidates showed misconceptions about the Zambezi basin which made some ideas irrelevant. They did not realise that all countries in the river basin are LEDCs and so made contrasts between situations in MEDCs and LEDCs. They referred to the Zambezi basin as one country where there were serious impacts rather than seeing the differences between countries within the river basin.
- (d)** The question was well-answered by most candidates who recognised potential problems of flooding in the area of Mozambique shown on the photograph. The two most commonly described effects were that farmland would be ruined or crops destroyed or livestock killed which could reduce the availability of food to eat or sell, and that houses would be destroyed leaving people homeless. Other ideas suggested were the possibility of disease through the floodwater lying on the land and difficulties to transport in the area. A small number of candidates wrongly focused their answers on ways to reduce the impact of flooding.

- (e) Most candidates obeyed the instruction to describe one method and different methods were used as the focus of answers. The most popular methods were levees, a dam, to deepen the river channel, and to plant trees. Many candidates developed their answer with more detail about how their chosen method would help to reduce the impact of flooding by controlling the river. Answers were generally weaker on considering the sustainability of the method. The most common suggestion was about cost with many candidates simply saying that their chosen method would be 'cheap to do'. There was little explanation of how their method might be environmentally sustainable, for example afforestation, or socially sustainable, for example protecting villages situated on the flood plain.
- (f) The most successful case studies often focused on a waterfall. Candidates were able to explain the formation process and how the feature might change further in the future. There were some well-drawn diagrams of waterfall formation, with the best answers containing details of rock type and height of the waterfall. The most common example used was High Force on the River Tees. Many answers gave good sequential explanations of the formation of a river feature but lacked any place-specific detail about the feature. This was particularly the case where candidates chose lowland river features such as a meander or ox-bow lake. Answers were generally better on explaining the change over time than on describing the landform. Descriptions were often best shown in the diagram or could be interpreted from the explanation, for example by reference to the steep-sided gorge or meander being cut off from the river by deposition.

The most popular rivers chosen were the Tees, Clyde and Severn. Notable errors were that some candidates wrote about all landforms on their chosen river, starting with the source and finishing at the mouth. Occasionally candidates focused on flooding in their chosen river valley and methods of flood management. Some candidates mixed up erosion and deposition processes in meander formation.

- 2(a) Most candidates correctly named a process of coastal erosion, with hydraulic action being the most common. They then described the method in sufficient detail to score the second mark. Some candidates incorrectly wrote about longshore drift or freeze-thaw weathering.
- (b) Many candidates found the question to be challenging. They struggled to focus on distribution rather than just describing location and found the map difficult to interpret. The best answers identified the location of the two groups of Counties and gave examples of named Counties within each group. A number of mistakes were made in answering this question. Some candidates made errors in using compass directions, sometimes confusing east and west. Candidates just listed the Counties rather than identifying them as part of a group. Some answers were too weak to credit such as 'they are located along the coast'. Candidates used poor or non-geographical terminology in their description, terms like 'half way up' or 'bottom of the map' were not accurate geographical answers. Some candidates misunderstood the question and suggested reasons for the location of the Counties rather than describing their distribution. Finally a number of candidates referred to countries rather than Counties which became a greater problem in their answer to the next section.
- (c) Where candidates misinterpreted the map as showing countries not Counties of California, they sometimes compounded this error by suggesting reasons that related to LEDCs and MEDCs, such as lack of funding for coastal protection. In contrast better candidates made sensible suggestions about differences in property values for different reasons, differences in geology or rock types found in different areas, or the importance of developments along the coast such as industry or tourism. Candidates were not expected to know the precise reasons for the differences in value of buildings at risk but to apply their understanding to an unfamiliar context.

- (d)** Answers varied in quality and relevance as candidates sometimes struggled to interpret the coastal management plan. The starting point to most successful answers was to state that the bike path and car parks had been moved further away from the sea. They continued by explaining how beach replenishment had increased the size of the beach and consequently it could absorb more of the wave energy. The answers then went on to explain how this affected sustainability in terms of cost, protection or enhancement of tourist facilities, and environmental protection or opportunities for new habitats. However, many candidates did not develop their ideas on sustainability and gave simplistic answers such as 'the scheme was sustainable because it protected the coast' or 'increasing the size of the beach was good for the environment'. The weakest answers merely described what was shown in the resource with no consideration of sustainability.
- (e)** Most candidates correctly described one method of coastal protection, with a sea wall, groynes, rip-raps and gabions being the most popular methods chosen. Many candidates explain how their chosen method would protect the coast either from the power of the waves or from the effects of longshore drift. A common mistake was made by candidates who stated that groynes would stop longshore drift, rather than limit its effects. A small number of candidates wrote about managed retreat which was not accepted as it does not protect the coast. Some candidates included details of how sustainable their chosen method was, which was not asked for in the question.
- (f)** There were many excellent case studies which focused on specific areas of coastline, most notably Dorset, Holderness and Flamborough Head. Candidates described named features such as the Old Harry Rocks and Lulworth Cove and drew detailed diagrams of these features, containing place-specific information such as rock types. Many answers gave good sequential explanations of the formation of a coastal feature but lacked any place-specific detail about the feature. This was particularly true where candidates explained the changes to a sequence of features leading to the formation of a stump. The best answers explained the process of formation and how the feature might change further in the future. The formation of depositional landforms, notably a spit, was generally not as well explained, as there was more confusion and inaccuracy about how longshore drift helped to form the feature. Often these answers went into human management of the coast which was not required by the question. Occasionally candidates named inappropriate coastal areas for the features which they described and so could not achieve the highest level.
- 3(a)** The question was well-answered by many candidates who recognised the spatial pattern shown by the map. Candidates usually stated that Somalia was worst affected and better answers described the general distribution of most and least affected areas. Many descriptions used the key effectively. Weaker candidates mixed up east and west in their description and some referred to variations across the whole of Africa, not recognising that the map showed only a small part of the continent. A small number of candidates simply listed the different levels of food shortage rather than describing their geographical distribution.
- (b)** Most explanations were accurate and scored two marks. Weaker answers referred to drought being a lack of water rather than a lack of rainfall or did not include the idea that it lasts for an extended period of time.
- (c)** Many answers focused on human activities in LEDCs which was acceptable, but ideas taken from MEDCs were also valid. The most frequent suggestions were overgrazing or overcultivation, deforestation and wastage of water. The idea of wastage was developed by various examples. Some candidates focused both suggestions on this idea but could only score two marks. Some candidates suggested what could be done to reduce drought, which was not what the question required. Weaker answers suggested that water should be collected but did not say how this could be done.

- (d) Answers varied in relevance and detail. The best candidates showed good knowledge of small-scale methods such as drip irrigation, building bunds, using ‘magic stones’ and digging wells. These were often described in detail with an explanation of how they worked to reduce the effects of drought. Another popular answer was to grow drought-resistant crops but many candidates did not explain how this would reduce the effect of drought. Some candidates did not relate their ideas to farming in LEDCs and so suggested impractical ideas such as building large-scale irrigation systems or desalination plants. The weakest answers showed little understanding of the problems caused by drought. Answers such as ‘move nearer to a river’, ‘grow crops inside’, ‘keep fewer livestock’ or ‘grow crops at a different time of the year’ were not accepted.
- (e) Many different reasons were suggested for the varying impact of drought. Common suggestions focused on water storage, restrictions on water use, financial ability of MEDCs to import water if required, and the reliance on farming in LEDCs which makes the impact of drought more severe. Some candidates focused too much on differences in health care and emergency aid which did not take into account that effective management and storage of water would make these unnecessary. A common mistake made by weaker candidates was to repeat the opposite ideas from the point of view of an LEDC and MEDC.
- (f) Hurricane Katrina was the case study chosen by many candidates. They could explain the impacts in detail, often with place-specific ideas about New Orleans. The causes of the cyclone were usually generic in terms of sea temperature, ocean depth, wind speeds and conditions at the origin of the storm, but many contained relevant statistics. The best answers focused these conditions on the area where Katrina began and commented on its track towards the Gulf Coast of the USA. A less popular choice was drought in Australia. Many candidates knew less detail about the conditions which caused the hazard, but there were some excellent explanations of El Nino and its contribution to causing the drought. A small number of candidates focused their answer on a climatic hazard in an LEDC which meant they could not attain the highest level of marks. Few candidates chose a tectonic hazard.
- 4(a)(i)** To score marks on this question candidates first had to realise that the ocean trenches were on plate boundaries. Weaker candidates described their location on land masses, on plates, in countries or continents. The best answers included reference to destructive boundaries and named particular boundaries where trenches are located, such as the Aleutian trench on the boundary between the Pacific and North American plates.
- (a)(ii)** Most candidates correctly identified the two types of plate boundary. A small number of candidates incorrectly identified the convergent or destructive boundary as a collision boundary.
- (b) Many candidates gave a clear explanation of the sequence of processes which occur at a conservative plate boundary. Many used a diagram to support their ideas and some candidates scored full marks by annotating their diagram well. A minority of candidates explained the processes taking place at a destructive or constructive boundary.
- (c) Most candidates explained why it was safe to live in an earthquake-prone area in an MEDC. They supported this decision based on factors such as the presence of earthquake-resistant buildings, planning to react to an earthquake, education about measures to take following an earthquake and better prepared emergency services. Better candidates recognised both sides of the issue and said that it was safe because many buildings had been strengthened to withstand an earthquake but not totally safe because earthquakes are unpredictable. Many candidates gave details of measures taken to strengthen buildings in major cities located in earthquake zones. The main error in candidates’ answers was the assumption that an earthquake can be predicted and therefore a warning could be issued which would allow evacuation of the area at risk.

- (d)** Many candidates answered this question well. They compared volcanic eruptions and earthquakes to explain the generally lesser impact of eruptions. The most common reasons suggested were that volcanic eruptions affected a smaller area, and they could be monitored and predicted which would allow possible evacuation from areas at risk. Ironically some candidates contrasted this situation with earthquakes where no prediction was possible, thus contradicting their answer to the previous section. Many candidates showed detailed knowledge of monitoring techniques. Weaker candidates repeated the same idea for a volcanic eruption and an earthquake, for example that volcanoes affected a small area whilst earthquakes affected a larger area. A number of candidates suggested that impacts from a volcano may be positive, which is correct but did not answer the question.
- (e)** A variety of case studies was used, the most popular being the volcano at Nevado Del Ruiz, and Haiti, Sichuan and Kashmir for earthquakes. The case studies had been well-learned and contained place detail, often in the form of statistics. However, better answers led with the statistic and then developed the idea, for example ‘the earthquake destroyed one thousand homes and so many people were left without shelter in the freezing temperatures’. Most candidates described impacts more confidently than suggesting why it might be difficult to prepare for a future hazard. Many of these ideas were generic such as ‘not enough money’ or ‘homes were poorly constructed in the LEDC’. The issue of earthquake prediction again caused confusion for some candidates. They stated that countries could not make preparations for possible future earthquakes because they could not afford equipment to predict a future earthquake. Other candidates made the point correctly that it was difficult to prepare for because it is not possible to predict earthquakes.
- 5(a)** Candidates varied in their abilities to use the OS map extract. The best answers were accurate and precise in describing the location of the Science Park. They measured distances and used compass directions from specific features to locate the Park. However, many candidates did not show this level of expertise. Many answers referred to the Science Park being ‘near to Cambridge’ or ‘next to open fields’ or ‘near houses’ which were too vague to credit. Other weaknesses included not referring to the number of the road which has been identified. Examiners were puzzled to read answers that said the Science Park was next to the A470 as this road is not on the map extract. However, it is the example of a road number used in the key. Such a misunderstanding suggests that candidates have little experience of using OS map extracts. A number of candidates suggested explanations for the location of the Science Park which was not asked for in the question.
- (b)** Most candidates had some knowledge of what a quaternary industry is. They usually gained credit for reference to research and development of new products or by saying that such industries involved high technology practices. Relatively few candidates referred to information provision which is another key characteristic of quaternary industry.
- (c)** There were many good reasons suggested which showed that candidates had interpreted information on the OS map. The most popular suggested reasons were that ‘the Science Park is near the university which can provide a regular source of highly skilled workers’, and that ‘it is well located with major road links for movement of workers and goods’. Weaker candidates gave answers such as ‘it is near roads for good access’. A number of candidates explained why Science Parks generally are good places to set up business without any specific reference to Cambridge Science Park. Some candidates thought that the Science Park was an entertainment area similar to a theme park and so explained why it would be good for a day out.
- (d)** Many candidates found this to be a difficult question and possibly one they had not thought much about in class. Answers about similarities between the two sectors were more informed than those about differences. The most popular similarities which were

considered were labour supply or workers, and transport links or access. Candidates recognised how both these factors would be important in the same way for different types of industry. Correct answers which identified differences often included some contrast between footloose quaternary industries and secondary industries which were tied to a specific factor such as a raw material or specialised site. However, such detailed answers were quite rare. Most answers were opposites such as ‘secondary industries need raw materials but quaternary industries don’t’.

- (e) Most candidates were more knowledgeable and seemed more confident on this question which focused on multinational companies. The key factor which was emphasised by many candidates was the attraction of a labour supply. This idea was developed to refer to workers being cheaper, in large supply, skilled, willing to learn new skills, and would work for long hours. Better candidates also suggested other attractions such as lower taxes, government incentives and access to raw materials. The best answers also explained how MNCs would change location as such advantages became more attractive in other countries.
 - (f) A variety of case studies was offered from different countries. Popular case studies included the Pearl River Delta area of China, the Carajas mine in Brazil, a Coca Cola factory in India, a BP oil field in the Gulf of Mexico, quarrying in the Peak District and tourism in a variety of locations. Many of these case studies included place detail. Most detail usually came about the causes of the environmental damage or conflict. Weaker answers were generic in describing air or water pollution which could have referred to primary or secondary industry anywhere. Conflict management was usually less well-explained. For example in the Pearl River Delta, which was the most popular case study, there was little evidence that some candidates knew if any management measures had been introduced. Better candidates referred to local and national government plans and regulations to lessen air pollution or clean up water pollution. Weaker answers frequently included description of the economic activity and why it was located there. Answer by weaker candidates referred to pollution which was unspecified. These answers also contained irrelevant material about the effects of the economic activity on people rather than the natural environment.
- 6(a)** Most candidates used the information on the graph to make comparisons between Nepal and the World. They compared change over time as well as noting differences in specific years. The best answers included accurate data interpreted from the graph. Weaker candidates did not make comparisons but described the two areas separately, and some included reference to South Asia which was not asked for in the question.
- (b) Most candidates gave clear definitions of life expectancy. An omission by some candidates was reference to the ‘average’.
 - (c) The quality of answer varied considerably. Some candidates took the approach of stating whether the indicator was high or low in countries at different levels of economic development, e.g. ‘the birth rate is generally higher in LEDCs’, and then explained why this would be the case. Other candidates took a more open view that the birth rate varies between countries at different levels of economic development because of factors such as access to contraception. The most commonly chosen indicators were birth rate and infant mortality. Candidates generally found more difficulty in explaining variation in car ownership and internet access, usually explaining the difference by reference to how rich the country or individuals in the country were. A common mistake was candidates explaining what the factor was, which was not required by the question.
 - (d) Candidates generally made good use of ideas shown in the Water Aid poster to suggest a number of benefits of access to clean water. Although weaker candidates just described what the poster showed, most were able to explain how benefits such as clean water to

drink and wash food and clothes would help people to have a healthier life, free from disease. The focus on disease became repetitive in some answers as it was linked to each picture in turn. The other principle benefits which candidates suggested were that the time saved by not having to collect water could be used more profitably, and that more or better crops could be grown reducing malnutrition.

- (e) Many different ideas were used to explain why some aid may not be sustainable. The main reasons suggested were the possibility of debt in the receiving country, the aid given may be inappropriate to the needs of the receiving country, the aid is tied to a further agreement which may not benefit the receiving country, corrupt government officials may prevent aid getting to the people in most need, and some aid is only a short-term solution. Some candidates used a specific example of an aid project to show how it was not sustainable. Many candidates also commented on how aid may create dependency but some candidates could not explain the resulting problem. An error in the answer of weaker candidates was the opinion that aid would be unsustainable for MEDCs who could not afford to keep giving aid to LEDCs.
- (f) A variety of different economic activities in a range of countries was used for this case study. Popular examples were Nike in Vietnam, Coca Cola in India, Dyson in Malaysia, tourism in Kenya and palm oil in Borneo. Where candidates chose a multinational company it was not always clear what the economic activity was; such is the power of the MNC that it becomes the economic activity. The answer of Nike in Vietnam was accepted when examiners saw a reference to clothing manufacture or a factory in the answer. Generally candidates described the effects of the economic activity on local people better than how they explained why it was located there. The main location factors which were suggested were cheap and plentiful labour, relaxed health and safety laws, and access to raw materials. Positive and negative effects on local people were suggested, depending on the economic activity chosen. MNCs proved to be good examples for describing how they affect local people. A common error was that candidates wrote about effects on the economy or political regime of the whole country, especially in reference to MNCs. A small number of candidates wrote about all types of economic activity in a country rather than focusing on one particular example.

A significant number of candidates focused their example on an aid project. Answers which focused on an aid project, rather than emergency aid, were credited up to level 2, providing the example referred to factors influencing the location of the aid project and the effects of the aid project in the local area. Popular aid projects which met these criteria were Water Aid in Mali, Goat Aid in a named African country and various other projects established in LEDCs. Answers which focused on an aid project were usually more detailed about its effects on local people but many candidates could not explain in detail why the project was located there. Suggestions were simple such as 'people are poor and need water' or 'the aid project helps local farmers to get more water'.

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