OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA

GCSE (9–1)

Candidate Style Answers

GEOGRAPHY A (GEOGRAPHICAL THEMES)

J383
For first teaching in 2016

J383/03 Geographical Skills

Version 1

Contents

Introduction

This resource comprises student answers from the Sample Question Paper for J383 Component 03 http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/207280-unit-j383-03-geographical-skills-sample-assessment-material.pdf

The sample answers in this resource have been extracted from original candidate work to maintain their authenticity. They are supported by examiner commentary. Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

Whilst a senior examiner has provided a possible level for each Assessment Objective when marking these answers, in a live series the mark a response would get depends on the whole process of standardisation, which considers the big picture of the year's scripts. Therefore the level awarded here should be considered to be only an estimation of what would be awarded.

How levels and marks correspond to grade boundaries depends on the Awarding process that happens after all/most of the scripts are marked and depends on a number of factors, including candidate performance across the board. Details of this process can be found here: http://ocr.org.uk/Images/142042-marking-and-grading-assuring-ocr-s-accuracy.pdf.

Section A – Geographical Skills
Question 2(d)(iv)

2   (d)   (iv)   Study the extract below.

> **Future renewable energy projects in Bradford's District:**
>
> **Wind turbines** could have a large role in the District's energy supply. The Ovenden Moor 'Repower' scheme will probably generate 49,000MWh* yearly from nine new planned turbines.
>
> **Solar power** is already being used by the Council, with more solar projects planned. It is also a relatively simple technology to install across the Bradford council buildings, with a long lifetime and small costs to keep it working.
>
> **Biomass boilers** offer a more sustainable choice than gas for heating buildings. This is an option that the Council and the District's 200 schools should like.
>
> **Hydro-electric power (HEP)** projects in Bradford's District could create 14,000MWh of power every year.
>
> **Adapted Extract from 'Bradford Power: 2020 and beyond'**
>
> ***MWh = megawatts per hour**

Assess how population increase in the city of Bradford could affect the demand for renewable energy projects, such as those outlined in the extract.   **[6]**

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

An increase in population in the City of Bradford could cause the demand to increase for renewable energy projects. Wind turbines could provide a huge role in the District's energy supply and the population will benefit from a clean source of energy and the job creation in engineering to the region in order to manufacture the turbines. Solar projects will be ideal to the majority of households since maintenance costs are low so energy bills are either reduced or eliminated and the positives benefits to the environment also coincides with the fact that households will be obliged to earn less

credits or rebates. However, demand could decrease, for example with wind turbines, they produce noise pollution and ruin landscapes as well as hydro electric dams required to be constructed - removing habitats and destroying the natural landscape [6]

Examiner commentary

The criteria for this level requires a candidate to not only show well developed ideas about population increase and renewable energy, but also to apply their understanding to analyse how the City of Bradford's population increase could affect the renewable energy projects. The increase in population linked to increased demand is clearly stated at the beginning. The candidate also suggests why some of the energy projects may be better than others by stating that solar panels would be popular because of their low maintenance, but the wind turbines would be in lower demand given the noise pollution they make. It is clear that the candidate is bringing in information from other parts of the course which is required for Level 3.

Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

Less wind turbines will need to be build to build houses instead to fill the growing population. Solar pannel will need to be filled on many newly built houses which will cause great demand for them and jobs for them to be filled. Same goes to biomass boilers and more need to be built and resources to power them. HEP project will take up a lot of room in the city which will deceases the space for houses and other sources to be built. Overall I think the biggest priorety should be the building of solar pannels and biomass boilers. [6]

Examiner commentary

This answer meets the Level 2 criteria for a reasonable understanding of the concept of population growth. The candidate makes reference to the idea that more space will be needed for houses instead of using it for wind turbines. They also suggest that some of the projects, like the HEP project, would take up too much space for the city. Whilst there are many good ideas in this, it is not developed enough to reach Level 3.

Exemplar 3 (Level 1)

As Cities like Bradford are Attempting to become mac environmentally friendly when it comes to energy the demand for renewable energy sorces will soar. This is due to the population increase as thee area mot people using energy.

[6]

Examiner commentary

This is an example of simple statements which demonstrate a basic understanding of the issue. Simply put, the candidate links an increase in population with an increase in the demand for energy. The candidate really needs to add more detail to their answer in the form of development, or synoptic links.

Question 3(e)*

3 (e)* 'Cities in the UK face challenges which are less serious than cities in LIDCs or EDCs.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? **[8]**

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

I would argue that both cities in the UK and those in LIDCs or EDCs face challenges, however those that face LIDCs and EDCs are more serious, the reasons for which I will outline below.

Both UK cities and those in LIDCs face challenges to do with housing, however in the UK this is to do with affordable housing, whereas this is to do with informal settlement (shown by a score of 3 for Lagos, Nigeria - an LIDC) for LIDCs and EDCs. These informal settlements form around megacities such as Lagos due to mass migration - the people are drawn by hopes of work, but this leads to these informal settlements around the edges of the city, which have poor sanitation and a lack of clean water. Conversely, the UK's issues of ~~affordable~~ a lack of affordable housing is due to the growing population and less houses to accommodate them, resulting in the houses remaining able to be sold for higher prices. I believe that the challenges faced by EDCs and LIDCs are more serious though, as they can affect more people and can be fatal (if there is bad hygiene and lack of resources).

Another issue for LIDCs is electricity supply. Lagos, Nigeria suffers 'many challenges' (a '3' in the table) to do with this, whereas London, UK fares 'few challenges' (a '0' in the table). The lack of infrastructure in LIDCs and EDCs means many people don't get any or have an unreliable supply of electricity. Such countries may find it hard to harness electricity from primary energy sources as they don't have the money to extract them or other countries have already extracted them. ~~Con~~ the UK does not face many challenges to do with electricity supply - it has numerous power stations in which it generates* either its own resources (e.g. oil from North Sea) or ~~th~~ imported (from predominantly Europe).

electricity using

In conclusion, although the UK faces challenges like affordable housing, these are in no way comparable to those faced by LIDCs or EDCs, for example ~~Lagos~~ Nigeria, which has much higher scores in the table on the attached page*, indicating that they face more challenges (and of more severity.)

*on average

Examiner commentary

This is an exceptionally well-crafted answer that is comfortably Level 3. Unlike the Level 2 example, it is very clearly structured and shows well developed ideas, a clear understanding of the places discussed and synoptic thinking drawing on a number of aspects of the course. The argument is logically structured and sustained throughout. An answer of this length is not necessary to achieve a Level 3, and so candidates should be encouraged to keep to time when practising exam questions.

Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

I thoroughly agree with the statement because the UK dosn't have to face some of the extremly serere challenges that LIDC's and EDC's have to face. The UK has challenges like ageing population, immigration inflows and pollution increase. Where as LIDC's have to deal with disease, poor housing, poor sewage and high levels of unemployment. The challenges the UK faces are no where near as serious as the LIDC's and EDC's. The UK has sustainable healthcare, education and a steady enconomic growth rate. Overall I think this statement is correct and UK faces less serious challenges than cities in LIDC's or EDC's [8]

There are also many squatter settlement in the cities of LIDC's and EDC's on line cities in the UK.

Examiner commentary

This answer fits into Level 2 because it demonstrates a reasonable understanding of the challenges. The candidate has listed some of the issues affecting the UK, such as an ageing population, as well as those which are more commonly found in LIDCs like poor housing and squatter settlements. There is an attempt to justify the very clear opening opinion statements by comparing the seriousness of the challenges faced in LIDCs and demonstrating how the UK faces them. The candidate could have strengthened the answer by thinking about the structure and using paragraphs to help the flow of the argument.

Exemplar 3 (Level 1)

Cities in UK faces challenges that are less serious than lower income developed countrys because most cities with households are modern and roads are straight where in LIDC there are natural hazards, earthquakes and other disasters that reck the roads and houses. There are cracks and splits of material in the areas of LIDC. More stores, shops are located in city of UK.

Examiner commentary

Level 1 requires a basic understanding of challenges in cities and the candidate does this by suggesting that households in the UK are modern whereas those in LIDCs face natural disasters which can destroy them. Given that there are no detailed links as the synopticity in this question comes from discussion of the UK challenges and LIDC / EDC challenges, there is nothing to elevate it to Level 2. The candidate could have strengthened their answer by stating whether they agreed with the statement or not.

Section B – Geographical Fieldwork

Fig. 2 – GIS (Geographical Information System) maps with information about Bradford
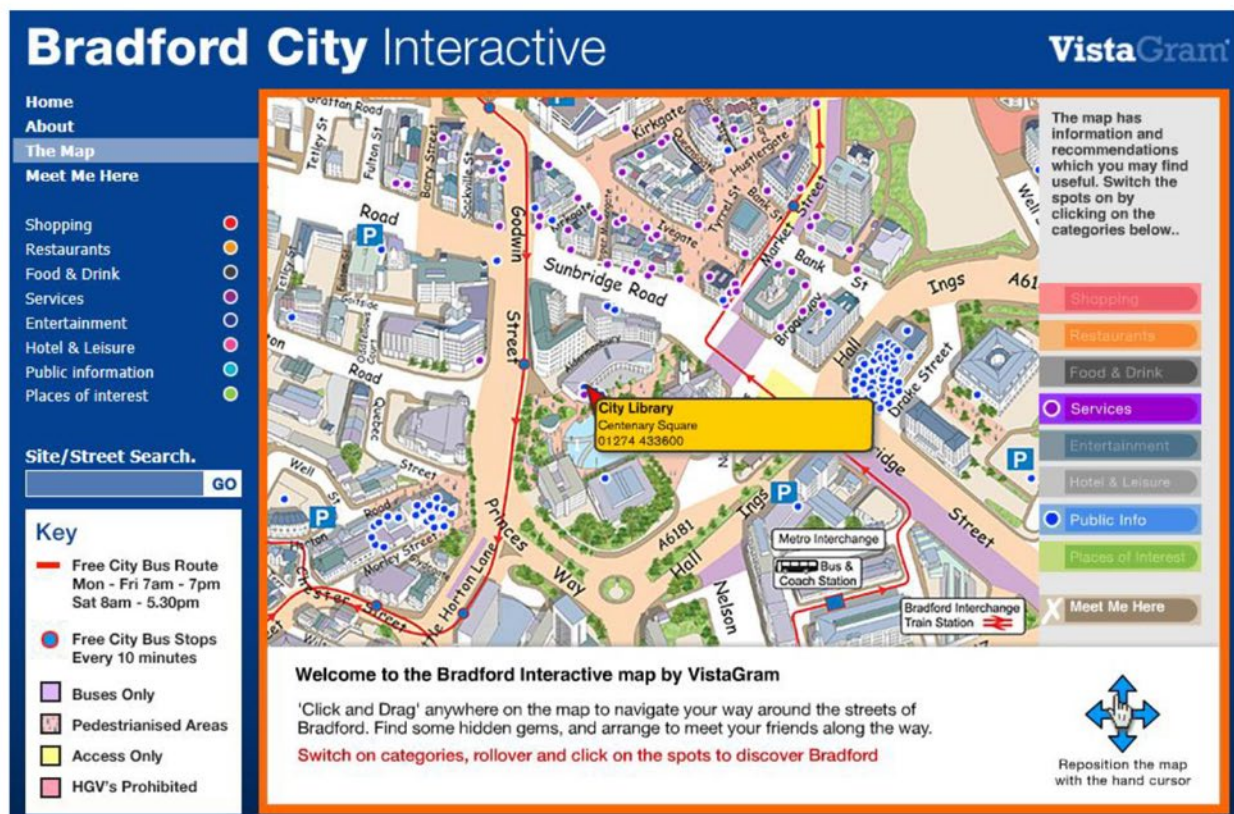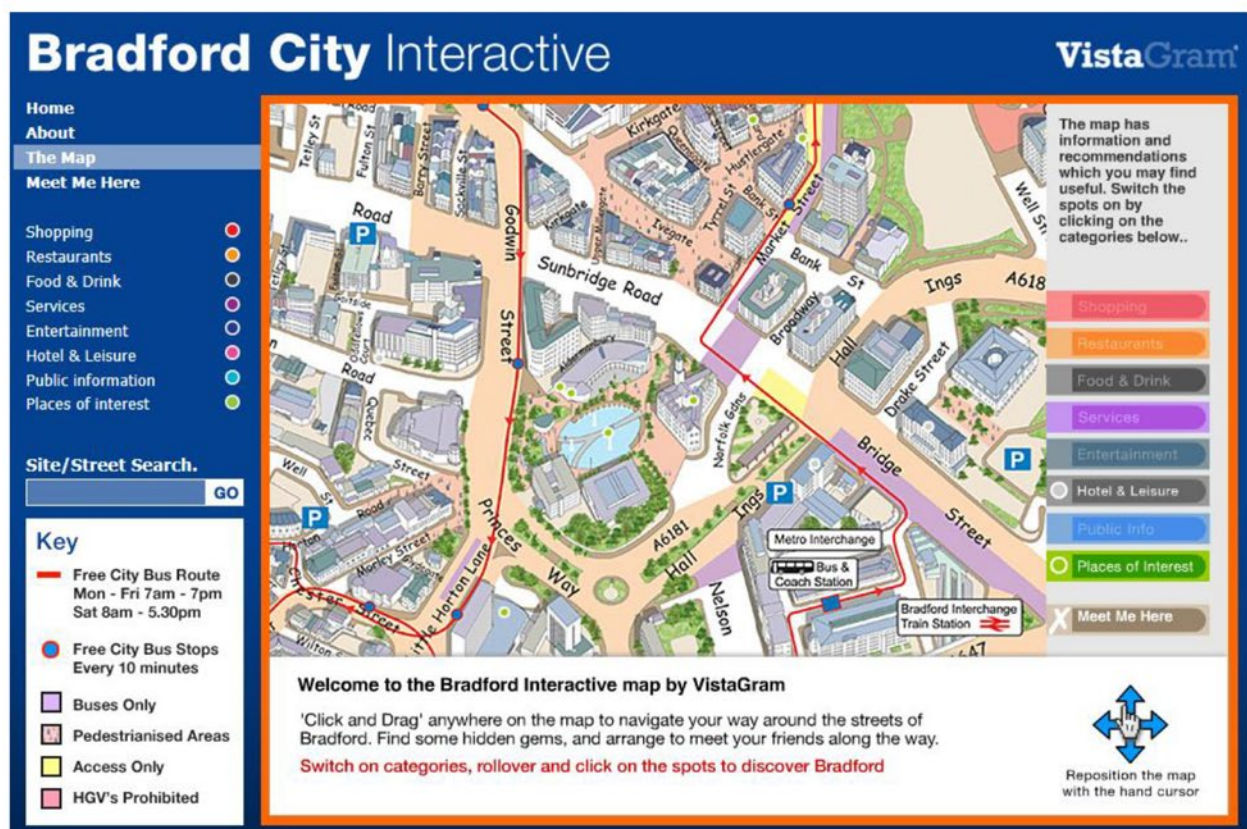
Question 4(c)

4   (c)   Refer back to **Fig. 2** in the separate Resource Booklet.

The students conducted a traffic count at a series of 20 sites in the area shown in **Fig. 2**, GIS maps with information about Bradford.

Traffic was counted for five minutes at each site.

The results for four of the sites are shown in the table below.

Site/ Traffic type	Cars/Taxis	Buses/Coaches	Motorbikes	Lorries	Total
Hall Ings	67	4	0	2	73
Princes Way	181	4	1	6	192
Bridge St	102	14	1	2	119
Market St	32	2	0	1	35

Describe **one way** this data might be presented in a fieldwork investigation and explain why you have selected this data presentation method.   **[6]**

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

This data could be presented in a locational bar graph of Bradford city. I think this is the best way to display the results because it shows you accurately where each site/traffic type is compared to local buildings and compared to one another. This makes it easier to see make conclusions as to why people have chose to park in this particular area. Furthermore, it makes it easy to compare data between each area as bar graphs are very easy to read. It will also give an accurate reading due to being so easy to interpret.

[6]

Examiner commentary

This answer does enough to get into Level 3 because of the well-developed ideas. Locational bar charts are an excellent choice of data presentation for this data and the candidate has picked up on the fact that it allows the reader to see where the data has been collected. They highlight that the bar graphs are easy to interpret and locating them makes it easier to compare the data and make conclusions.

Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

~~In a~~ This could be presented in a pie chart, with a key at the side colour co-ordinated to the type of vehicle (eg. red for cars/taxies or blue for lorries). & Along the x axis, it would be ~~a~~ labelled in the site / traffic type. I ~~I~~ have selected this data presentation method because it would be clear to understand, and it would be easier to see the difference between vehicle and ~~the~~ which site / traffic type had to most ~~traffic~~ vehicles at one time. [6]

Examiner commentary

The candidates answer demonstrates reasonable description of the data presentation with some developed ideas. The candidate has given examples of the colour coding to illustrate the point. The explanation for the choice, is reasonable as it details that it would be easier to see differences.

Exemplar 3 (Level 1)

This could be Presented as a bar chart because on the bottom you could have the name of the veicals and on the side have the numbers I have selected this because it is the most simpilist graph to do and easyest to read the results OFF it

[6]

Examiner commentary

This answer is a strong Level 1 and shows how simple statements can be effectively used, particularly by weaker candidates. The candidate suggests an appropriate data presentation method, stating that it is the simplest type and therefore easy to read the results. This demonstrates a basic description but is not detailed enough to achieve Level 2.

Question 4(d)*

4   (d)* Study the tables and graphs below which display the results of their questionnaire asked to local residents.

Table 1: Time of the day which congestion is more prominent

Time	Frequency	Percentage
6am – 8am	15	9.6
8am – 10am	72	46.2
10am – 12pm	3	1.9
12pm – 2pm	9	5.8
2pm – 4pm	3	1.9
4pm -6pm	54	34.6
Total	156	100

Table 2: Causes of traffic congestion in the study area

Causes of traffic congestion	Frequency	Percentage
Too narrow road	42	26.9
Vehicle breakdown	12	7.7
Loading and off-loading of goods and passengers on the road	54	34.6
Indiscriminate Parking	12	7.7
On-street trading	12	7.7
Lack of a bus terminal	20	12.8
Other	4	2.6
Total	156	100

Graph 1: Days of the week in which congestion is most prominent

Traffic flow over one week
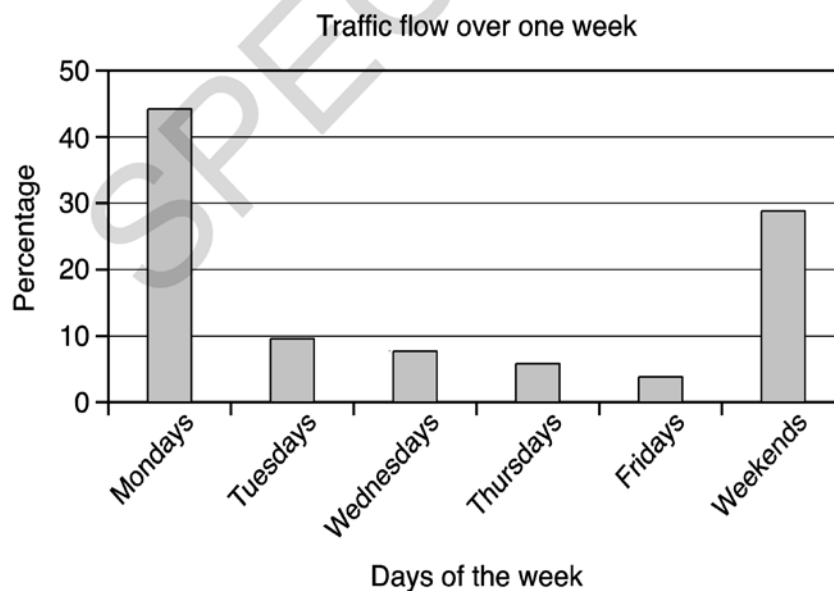
Suggest a conclusion that the students' might reach for the enquiry question 'How do patterns of congestion vary in Bradford?'. Analyse the evidence from the information provided to explain how you have reached that conclusion.   **[8]**

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

In Bradford, the pattern of congestion is often dependent on the time of the day and which day, as well as various causes in worsening the traffic congestion. From the questionnaire asked to the local residents, the students gathered that the majority of traffic congestion is during the rush hour time periods (8am - 10am and 4pm - 6pm) when adults and children are collectively going to work and school causing 80.8% of congestion to be during these hours. During the day the personal prominence of traffic congestion dramatically decreases to only 4.9% between 2pm and 4pm. Causes, such as loading and off loading goods and passengers, strengthen the traffic congestion and cause it to

✶ at 34.6% become worse✶ especially only during rush hour, because people are constantly being dropped off. When this happens, the too narrow roads causing 26.9% of congestion, as drivers are unable to overtake the stationary vehicle worsening the delayed traffic times and tailbacks. ✓

As well as this, the congestion in Bradford is also impact on which day of the week it is. The majority of traffic flow is on the Monday at roughly 45% when adults and children are returning to work and school after the weekend. The traffic flow of vehicle users will most likely cause a congestion as a result of narrow roads, off loading and lack of bus terminals, but also more likely on between 8am - 10am and 4pm - 6pm. During the week, traffic flow is fairly low at around an average of 7%, suggesting that the pattern of congestion in Bradford is situated around the weekend and Monday.

Overall, the pattern of congestion in Bradford is during high traffic volume in the rush hour time periods causing 80.8% of traffic primarily on Monday and the weekend when either there is no school nor work or when people are returning to their usual weekly activities. The narrow roads, coinciding with the large number of loading and off-loading are the

two prime factors causing 61.5% of traffic congestion in the real area.

Examiner commentary

This is a very thorough answer which demonstrates very well the well-developed ideas required for Level 3. There is a thorough analysis throughout, backed up by data and information provided from the resource. The structure is clear and logical which allows the argument to flow and for a clear justification for the conclusion to be presented. It is worth noting that this answer is very long, and candidates should not feel that they need to write this much to achieve the top marks.

SPaG – High Performance – this answer clearly shows that the candidate can spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy. The use of grammar, including paragraphs, help the flow and meaning of the work.

Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

- Traffic flow is worst on Mondays and weekends.
- The causes were mainly people loading goods on ther road as well as narrow roads, both of which are caused by similar things
- The traffic is worst at the times when people are going to and from work, 8am -10am (46.2%) and 4pm -6pm (34.6%).

Examiner commentary

On the face of it this answer is very short, but it does do enough to cross the threshold into Level 2. There is a good structure with a clear opening conclusion, supported by causes from the data and backed up with statistics from the information provided. Obviously, the analysis is very short, hampered by the use of bullet points from the candidate. This prevents them from elaborating and fully developing their ideas to reach the top of the level. However, it is better than missing out the question entirely due to time constraints.

SPaG – Threshold Performance – the use of bullet points prevents the candidate from demonstrating their command of language and grammar. There are no specialist terms so it does not move out of the threshold.

Exemplar 3 (Level 1)

Within table one the pattern of the congestion is shown by the times of day people find congestion more prominent, the highest value is between 8am and 10am. In table 2 it's show by when people have been asked causes of traffic congestion in the study area the highest value corresponds with the statement loading and off-loading goods and passengers on the road and the total is 54. lastly the graph shows which days of the week the most congestion occurs and it is shown that on Mondays and on the weekend congestion is more prominent

[8]

Examiner commentary

The answer contains simple ideas with reference to the table that most congestion on Monday and the weekend with loading and unloading being a primary cause. When referring to the data, such as the highest values of congestion being between 8am and 10am, the candidates could have improved their answer by quoting data from the table. There is not enough structure in the answer, which could have been aided by the use of paragraphs rather than a length of prose.

SPaG – Threshold Performance – the spelling in this answer is generally good, but it does not use a good range of specialist terms, nor could it be described as considerable accuracy.

Question 5(b)

5   You will have taken part in fieldwork in a **physical geography** environment as part of your studies. Examples might include a river or a coastal area.

(b)   Evaluate to what extent **one** method you used to collect your primary fieldwork data was a success.

[6]

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

We measured the pH 12 times at varied distances inland from the shoreline on the Psammosere Studland Heath, Dorset. We used a stratified belt transect and used a pH meter that we put into a mixture of deionised water and the soil from the quadrant.

To some extent the method was successful because we got a general trend that the pH of the soil nearer the sea that suggests our results had a certain level of reliability. However, to a large extent it wasn't. Furthermore, our results were more acidic and than expected and this matches further research that taught us that Sand Dunes in this region have higher acidity levels, which matched our results.

However, to a large extent it wasn't successful because although our higher acidic results, match further research, the results are too acidic to be accurate, illustrating that our pH meter was not calibrated properly, or we did not have the correct quantities of soil and water as we simply measured it using a spatula and our eye. Also we got several anomalies suggesting furthermore a lack of accuracy * Therefore it is too a too.

Therefore it is to a low extent that the method of collecting the pH of the soil was successful, as although it gave me an understanding of how the pH of the soil got more acidic as we moved away from the coast we lacked accuracy in the data which is vital for our results in telling us which soil pH certain plants thrive in.

* and this may have been due to changing conditions of rainfall, wind speeds or human interference that affected the pH of the soil.

Examiner commentary

This is a very detailed answer which meets the criteria for a thorough evaluation. The method is clearly explained and there is a decent judgement of the pros and cons of the effectiveness of the method. The structure and use of paragraphs helps to drive the argument, and the points are well-developed by the added explanation given. An answer of this length is not necessary to achieve a Level 3, and so candidates should be encouraged to keep to time when practising exam questions.

Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

We used a ~~table to show~~ meter ruler to find the depth of the river along 4 different stages. This was a ~~so~~ success as it was easy to read the ~~heigns~~ depth of which the water was, with Stage 3 being the highest. ~~No~~ We did this 3 times for each Stage and calculated the average so to get a more ~~accur~~ accurate results, then displayed this in a table. However, all the results ~~was in our group~~ ~~were~~ were slightly different as we all measure slightly different areas of the river, therefore it is not being 100% accurate. To make it more accurate, we could ~~of~~ ~~got~~ got the ~~spres~~ averages depth once as a whole group.

[6]

Examiner commentary

The candidate has included a detailed explanation of the method they used to collect data on their field trip. There is clear rationale as to the method, and there's also a reasonable estimation of why the method was not entirely accurate. The answer includes a basic judgement of its success and suggests how it could be improved.

Exemplar 3 (Level 1)

> We measured the rivers velocity by taking an average of how long it took a certain object to travel ~~down~~ a a certain distance. This worked as we got accurate results because we took an average. Yet, a lot of times the object got stuck so human intervention was required meaning the object was not as results were not as accurate as they could have been
>
> [6]

Examiner commentary

There is a basic evaluation of the data collection with the idea that taking an average improved the reliability. There is also acknowledgement that some intervention was required which identifies a negative of the method. To reach the next level, more detail would be required about the method to justify it being considered a reasonable evaluation.

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