

**GCSE (9–1)**

*Candidate Style Answers*

# ***GEOGRAPHY A*** ***(GEOGRAPHICAL THEMES)***

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**J383**

For first teaching in 2016

**J383/02 – The world around us**

Version 1

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# Introduction

This resource comprises student answers from the Sample Question Paper for J383 Component 02 <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/207279-unit-j383-02-the-world-around-us-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 – Ecosystems of the Planet

## Question 1(e)\*

1 (e)\* 'Tropical rainforests experience greater threats to their biodiversity than coral reefs.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

[8]

### Exemplar 1 (Level 2)

Biodiversity is the amount of species living in a certain area. Tropical rainforests face threats to their biodiversity from many things, most of them are to do with destroying the creatures' habitats. Farming and logging both involve destroying large areas of trees to get space and if people want to live there, they have to do the same. Also hunting is a major problem in the rainforests as lots of animals are very valuable or are killed for bushmeat.

Coral reefs' biodiversity is also under threat. Tourism destroys a lot of the reef as tourists break the coral by standing or dropping anchors on it. Also tourists use a lot of sunscreen which harms the coral and their boats release harmful chemicals into the water. The main threat to coral reefs' biodiversity, however, is Global warming. This is very hard to stop and a temperature rise of just  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$  could wipe out 97% of the coral, meaning that the fish cannot live there <sup>safely</sup> anymore.

Overall, I think that coral reefs face a greater threat to their biodiversity. I think this is because global warming is so hard to stop and just a  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperature rise could kill 97% of the coral. This means that Scientists have predicted that coral reefs could become extinct by 2030.

[8]

## Examiner commentary

This is a clear and logically structured answer. Developed ideas are given for threats to the biodiversity of tropical rainforests and coral reefs (AO2). For tropical rainforests the activities of farming, logging and hunting are clearly linked to the destruction of habitats and species thereby reducing biodiversity. Examples of tourism related impacts are covered for coral reefs, along with their impact on water quality and coral. The impact of global warming is also considered with information about the devastating affect that temperature rises would have on the coral. Both accounts show thorough understanding of the threats to biodiversity (AO2).

The judgement is clear and involves the repetition of evidence given regarding the threats to coral reefs, with a credible prediction of the possible extinction of this ecosystem (AO3). However the judgement lacks information about the comparative scale of threat or severity for tropical rainforest biodiversity. Furthermore there is a lack of comparative analysis of the threats for the first element of the AO3 criteria.

The understanding of the threats to the biodiversity of tropical rainforests and coral reefs is thorough for AO2 for Level 3. However the lack of comparative analysis of these threats and the lack of judgement evidence for AO3 mean that the answer is at Level 2.

The answer would be improved by including evidence to explicitly compare the extent or scale of the threats. This evidence could also be used to develop the judgement. This would provide well developed ideas for AO3 and meet the full requirements for Level 3.



## Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

Some people would agree with this argument as the rainforest experiences logging, ~~poaching~~ and ~~wild fires~~ so that the animals in the rainforest are going to become extinct as ~~forest becomes smaller~~ and ~~food becomes scarcer~~. ~~the rest of the forest gets smaller~~. They would also argue that the ~~all~~ poaching is killing the animals directly and thus threatening the biodiversity of Rainforest.

Others would argue that coral reefs are more important as global warming is affecting the coral reefs more <sup>(10% in 100 years)</sup> than the rainforests. Also as 25% of all marine species rely on coral for food, making ground or a home when they die at the ~~same~~ effect will be devastating.

I believe that coral reefs are more threatened as scientists say that coral reefs will be practically extinct by 2030 whereas ~~1~~ rainforests are decreasing by ~~0.2~~ 0.2 → 0.15% per year which is much slower. Also more management strategies are in place for rainforests and so their biodiversity will be better protected. [8]

## Examiner commentary

This answer shows a reasonable understanding of threats to the biodiversity of both ecosystems (AO2), with a clear comparison (AO3) embedded within the concluding judgement (AO3). Developed ideas about logging and poaching are identified as threats to the size of rainforest and the animals that live there. The impact of global warming is covered for coral reefs, linked to the dependence of marine species on the coral reef for food and habitats. The answer also states that the threat from global warming has a greater impact on coral reefs (AO3). The judgement compares the scale of threat with some data given to support the conclusion (AO3). The idea about management strategies could be valid but has no supporting evidence. The answer meets the criteria for Level 2.

To improve the answer well-developed ideas are needed for level 3, with additional sources of threats, such as tourism, and more detailed evidence about how the threats affect the biodiversity of both ecosystems. This would support a well-developed comparative analysis of the scale and impact of the threats for AO3. This evidence would also support a thorough judgement regarding the extent of the threats to both ecosystems (AO3). This would enable the response to meet the requirements for Level 3.

## Exemplar 3 (Level 1)

I agree with this statement because there is deforestation  
destroying homes for plants and Animals but  
this also having an effect on coral reefs because  
even the slightest physical contact with a person can  
destroy the reef. In the past there has been oil  
leaks in the areas of forests causing the trees to catch  
on fire killing ~~the~~ plants and Animals in the area.  
This also happens in coral reefs because the passing  
ships pollute oil into the sea causing the coral to  
'bleach' and turn white killing the reef and the fish.

[8]

## Examiner commentary

This answer contains basic ideas about threats to the biodiversity of both ecosystems (AO2). A basic judgement is given at the start of the answer (AO3). Deforestation is given as a threat to plant and animal habitats and this is compared to the more sensitive nature of corals reefs and the impact of minimal contact with humans. The impact of oil pollution is also compared although the link to coral bleaching is incorrect. These statements show elements of a comparative analysis for AO3. This could be seen to meet part of the requirements for Level 2. However all the ideas given are simple and the link between oil pollution and coral bleaching is incorrect. Therefore the answer meets the requirements of Level 1.

The answer would be improved by adding more detailed coverage of a wider range of threats to the biodiversity of both ecosystems. Accurate information comparing the scale or severity of the threats is also needed to support the comparative analysis and judgement.

## Section B – People of the Planet

### Question 2(c)\*

2 (c)\* Examine how far migration influences the growth and character of cities in LIDCs or EDCs.

Use case study knowledge in your answer.

[12]

 Spelling, punctuation and grammar and the use of specialist terminology [3]

#### Exemplar 1 (Level 4)

~~Major~~ Rural to urban migration in Lagos mostly influences its growth and character. ~~Lagos~~ the population of Lagos ~~overall~~ in Nigeria is increasing by ~~800~~ people / hour most of whom have migrated from rural surrounding areas in search of better prospects. Most migrants however end up in informal settlements such as Makoko which is home to 250,000 people. The settlement of Makoko sits under the main bridge into Lagos so has a vast influence on <sup>perceived</sup> the character of the city. International migration from ~~near~~ neighbouring countries such as Benin and Togo also drives the development of these informal settlements. ~~However~~

However, international migration to Lagos from around the world is ~~perhaps~~ the key influence on the growth and character of the city. Rich migrants from across the globe ~~are~~ arriving in Lagos drives the development



of high price housing such as Banana Island and the new development Eko Atlantic where a m<sup>2</sup> of land is approximated to sell for roughly \$5,000. Furthermore, the creation of these expensive developments creates a massive housing deficit: ~~per affordable housing especially~~ a total of 20 million units per year across Nigeria. This deficit - especially for economic housing - drives the development of informal settlements such as Makoko.

Lagos houses 9,000 millionaires from around the globe and this large influx of wealth has boosted the development of the 'Nollywood' film industry centered in Lagos which is the third largest in the world (behind Bollywood and Hollywood). The multiracial background of the wealthy migrants has also sparked the development of Japanese sushi restaurants and bars in the capital city of Nigeria! ~~These towns~~ All these expensive developments are fuelled by the large disposal income of mostly international migrants.

## Examiner commentary

This answer shows comprehensive understanding of the concept of migration (AO2), with rural-urban and international migration exemplified and linked to the growth of the city of Lagos in Nigeria. Understanding of the growth of cities is also comprehensive with reference to population increase, housing developments, economic activities and cultural change.

There is comprehensive knowledge of how different types of migration have affected the growth and character of Lagos (AO1). Rural-urban migration and migration from neighbouring countries are linked to the growth of informal settlements such as Makoko. More detailed knowledge is given for how the influx of wealthier migrants from further afield has led to the development of expensive residential areas and the city's film and entertainment industry. These ideas also have an element of evaluation as they mention the importance of migration in influencing either the growth or character of Lagos (AO3).

The answer is well structured with relevant evidence given to support the points being made. There is a range of relevant place-specific detail including named places within Lagos; countries of origin for migrants and data for population growth rates and property prices. The data has been checked and is credible. The section about a national housing deficit is slightly inaccurate and not clearly linked to the city of Lagos.

Comprehensive understanding of the concepts of migration and city growth and character (AO2) and comprehensive knowledge of how migration has influenced the growth and character of Lagos (AO1). Although the answer lacks an explicit conclusion, for how far migration has influenced the growth and character of the city (AO3), this is alluded to with ideas about international migration from around the world being a key influence; how the influx of wealthier migrants has boosted the development of the 'Nollywood' film industry and how the prominent location of Makoko has a 'vast influence' on the perceived character of the city. The answer meets the requirements of Level 4.

The answer could be improved with concluding comments summarising how far different types of migration have influenced the growth and character of Lagos. Although this is not required as valid evaluation ideas are embedded within the answer.

SPaG: The answer demonstrates all the criteria for high performance. Spelling and punctuation are almost faultless. There is a range of grammatically correct sentences of different lengths, which communicate ideas clearly. A wide range of specialist terms are used effectively, linked to the concepts of migration and city growth and character. There are some interesting phrases and connectives used although the candidate does over use the phrase 'drives the development'. The SPaG mark is 3.



## Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

In Lagos, Nigeria, many migrants both from rural parts of Nigeria, and bordering countries such as Benin, Togo, and Niger, move to Lagos, yet as many migrants ~~move~~ do not have high amounts of money to buy adequate houses or there aren't enough houses being built (only 6000 houses were built in a 10 year period in Lagos, enough for 3 days' worth of migrants), this means that the migrants have to make do with slums in Lagos such as ~~Makoko~~ Makoko. Makoko is a large ~~slum~~ ~~slum~~ covering 3 km<sup>2</sup> worth of land. Migration into Lagos causes this to occur and therefore it is one of the results of migration. Migrants have also increased the demand for more rich suburbs and districts ~~in~~ in Lagos, such as Banana Island and Eko Atlantic, where houses cost in excess of £2 million. This shows one of the more positive impacts of migration.

In my opinion, migration causes both poor slums and rich districts to emerge in large cities and conurbations. However, in EDCs and LDCs, it is more common for slums to emerge.

## Examiner commentary

The answer shows a reasonable understanding of the concept of international migration from both rural areas and neighbouring countries (AO2). There is reasonable understanding of city growth with reference to contrasting housing areas and the increased demand for housing.

Reasonable knowledge is shown linking the poverty of many migrants to the development of slum areas such as Makoko (AO1). There is also information about richer suburbs but this is not coherently linked to the type of migrants moving to Lagos.

There is a reasonable evaluation of how migration causes poor and rich areas to emerge in cities with a judgement that the development of slum areas will be more common in EDCs and LIDCs (AO3). There are additional ideas about migrants having to move to slums and also increasing the demand for richer suburbs. However these are simple ideas which although exemplified, do not have any further explanation.

The information given is relevant but there is limited structure with key ideas hidden within the content or not being

exemplified clearly. There are named details within the answer such as neighbouring countries and named places within Lagos. Data is given for the scale of growth and migration but this is not clearly expressed. The answer meets the criteria for Level 2.

The answer would be improved by coherently linking the development of slum areas wealthier residential suburbs to the types of migrants moving into Lagos. These ideas could also strengthen the final evaluation of how far migration is a key factor. Well-developed ideas about the character of Makoko and Banana Island would also help the response to reach Level 3.

SPaG: The answer demonstrates the criteria for intermediate performance. Spellings are accurate and sentences are grammatically correct. Punctuation is accurate although the opening sentence is eight lines long. There are some specialist terms linked to migration and urban morphology, but there could be more key words for different types of migration and characteristic areas of LIDC cities. The SPaG mark is 2.



## Exemplar 3 (Level 2)

Migration influences a city in many ways. In Lagos, Nigeria it caused many problems and issues but also had its benefits also.

The increase in population from immigration and also by rural-urban migration changes the character of the city as many who come in are poor, leading to the expansions of illegal settlements like in Makoko and a high demand for housing.

On one hand this benefits the city as the area becomes more diverse with different cultures and people occupying certain areas leading to an increase in economy. On the other hand it has several repercussions as on the growth of the city.

Management of crime becomes more difficult. The increasing number of people doing <sup>small crimes like</sup> illegal litter picking, along with the increase in larger crimes such as armed robbery, especially of those coming from the cars trapped in congestion meaning that the law becomes very loose and corrupt, damaging the growth of the city.

Furthermore, the increase in poor people living in slums and the new expensive buildings of the Eko Atlantic housing region has meant there is more inequality.

in the city and a greater ~~political~~ political divide which may lead to more illegal activity, even riots.

Additionally with over ~~for~~ 1 million new residents in Lagos thousands of tonnes of waste is produced, especially from plastic bottles which are required because only bottled water is safe to drink, leading to increased disposal/dumping of waste and more illegal litterpicking which can damage the character of a city in a large way.

In conclusion, whilst there are some benefits of migration on the growth of the city, the fact that many of the migrants are poor leads to more waste, an increase in informal settlements, a greater political divide and more inequality which all hinder the development <sup>and character</sup> of a city.

[12]

## Examiner commentary

This is a structured answer which makes general points about migration and city growth linked to the city of Lagos. There is also a clear evaluation in the concluding paragraph and there are a range of valid comments linking migration to the growth of illegal settlements, diverse culture, rising crime and social inequality (AO3). There is some reasonable detail about crime, pollution and social inequality (AO1) but these are not clearly linked to migration or the city's growth. With the exception of two valid named areas of Lagos and some unconvincing data about waste and new residents there is a lack of place specific detail for Lagos. The information is of a general nature and could apply to any large LIDC city. This would also apply to the evaluation and judgement given in the concluding paragraph. The range of evaluative ideas about the impact of migration take the answer into Level 2.

To improve the answer there needs to be a more detailed account of the different types of migration linked to how cities grow. These points need to be clearly exemplified with accurate and relevant place specific detail about the city's growth and the character of rich and poor parts of Lagos. This would provide well-developed ideas to meet the criteria for Level 3.

SPaG: This is well written answer which demonstrates the criteria for high performance. Sentences are well constructed and grammatically correct. Spellings and punctuation are almost faultless. The answer is well organised with good use of connectives to introduce the paragraphs. Whilst the answer lacks place-specific detail for the city of Lagos, a good range of specialist terms are applied to ideas about migration and urban change and character. The SPaG mark is 3.



## Section C – Environmental threats to our Planet

### Question 3(f)

#### 3 (f) CASE STUDY – Drought caused by El Niño/La Niña

Drought studied: .....

Explain how El Niño/La Niña leads to drought in your case study area

[6]

#### Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

The phenomenon El Niño led to drought in Australia's Murray basin due to several factors. One is the shifting of the trade winds which normally ~~are~~ are easterly changing to westerly winds. This meant cold dry air sank over Australia preventing any evaporation and rain and the hot moist air over South America. Another is the change in temperature of the water, normally the ocean on Australia's coast is warm which allows for evaporation however during El Niño the waters become cold. So the water particles do not have the energy to evaporate.

## Examiner commentary

This is a concise answer which is clearly focused on the demands of the question. The opening sentence links El Niño to drought in the case study area of Australia. There is thorough understanding of the concept of El Niño (AO2) with reference to changes in the prevailing trade wind direction from easterly to westerly. The answer also covers changes in the sea temperatures from warm to cold in the case study area. Use of the key word 'normally' reinforces the idea of change. Both change ideas are coherently linked to conditions which led to drought in Australia. This shows thorough knowledge for AO1. Sinking cold, dry air is linked to the prevention of evaporation and rain. Furthermore the answer states that the colder waters off the coast of Australia also

inhibited evaporation. Thorough understanding of El Niño (AO2) and thorough knowledge of how this led to drought conditions in the case study area (AO1) meet the criteria for Level 3. The amount of place specific detail determines where in the level the candidates answer would be placed.

Additional place-specific detail would improve this answer. The Pacific Ocean could be included for the coverage of El Niño or reference to the duration of the 'Big Dry' could be given to support the case study area information.



## Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

Before El Niño occurs conditions are very different. Westerly trade winds bring warm moist air to the West coast of Australia. There is a shallow thermocline meaning there is cold upwelling (of the coast of Peru) meaning warm moist air rises, cools and condenses of the West coast of Australia. During El Niño, these trade winds cease, or sometimes reverse. This means the thermocline levels out, there is no cold water upwelling and the warmer waters are off the coast of Peru (6 to 8°C warmer). Therefore Western Australia experienced drought (The Big Dry 2002-09) as it experienced 25% less rainfall as the cooler waters\* meant there was less water rising, cooling and condensing and therefore experienced drought.

Total: 125

\* of the coast of Western Australia

## Examiner commentary

This answer begins with a long preamble about normal conditions prior to El Niño. The brief statement that the trade winds cease or are reversed, in conjunction with the preamble, shows a reasonable understanding of the concept of El Niño (AO2). The case study area is identified as Australia and there are relevant ideas about cooler waters off the coast meaning that less air was rising, cooling and condensing, leading to drought (AO1). Accurate information about the years of the 'Big Dry' would constitute place-specific detail, although the 25% less rainfall idea is incorrect. The answer shows reasonable understanding

of El Niño (AO2) with reasonable knowledge of how this led to drought in Australia (AO1) to meet the criteria for Level 2.

The answer could be improved by replacing the opening preamble about normal conditions with a detailed coverage of the conditions which apply to El Niño with clear ideas about the change in the trade winds and ocean currents for AO2. Detail is needed for AO1 about descending air bringing dry weather conditions over eastern Australia. Place specific details need to be accurate to secure higher credit within the level.

## Exemplar 3 (Level 1)

Q7. El Niño and La Nina caused the East coast of Australia to have large droughts in 2002-2009 called the big dry. Not only did this have an effect on the East coast it had a huge effect on the water supply of the whole country. This is due to the South East of Australia being home to the Murray Darling Basin which holds 75% of Australia's domestic water and 40% of agriculture water. This was due largely to El Niño and as there was an impact of 25% water supply on the country. This meant immediate plans had to be put in place to stabilise the countries water supply. This was the Murray darling basin plan which kept control of Australia's water in a 10-year plan. An example of this was car washing was banned and there was a 4-minute limit on showers.

There were also local support from charities such as Aussie helpers which supplied food and help to farmers across the south east of Australia. A large part of this was due to the effects of El Niño due to the sudden change in climate.

### Examiner commentary

This answer demonstrates how a candidate can provide detailed and accurate case study information that does not meet the requirements of the question. There are correct ideas about the duration of, impact of and responses to the 'Big Dry' drought in Australia. However, none of this information shows an understanding of the concept of El Niño (AO2), or how this led to drought conditions in the case study area (AO1). The named example of Australia would gain credit at the bottom of Level 1.

Highlighting the command word 'explain' and the link 'led to drought' would help this candidate to focus on relevant knowledge and understanding to gain higher marks



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