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GCSE (9–1)

Candidate Style Answers

GEOGRAPHY B (GEOGRAPHY FOR ENQUIRING MINDS)

J384
For first teaching in 2016

J384/01 - Our Natural World

Version 1

Contents

Introduction

This resource comprises student answers from the Sample Question Paper for J384 Component 01 http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/207281-unit-j384-01-our-natural-world-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 – Global Hazards
Question 1(d)

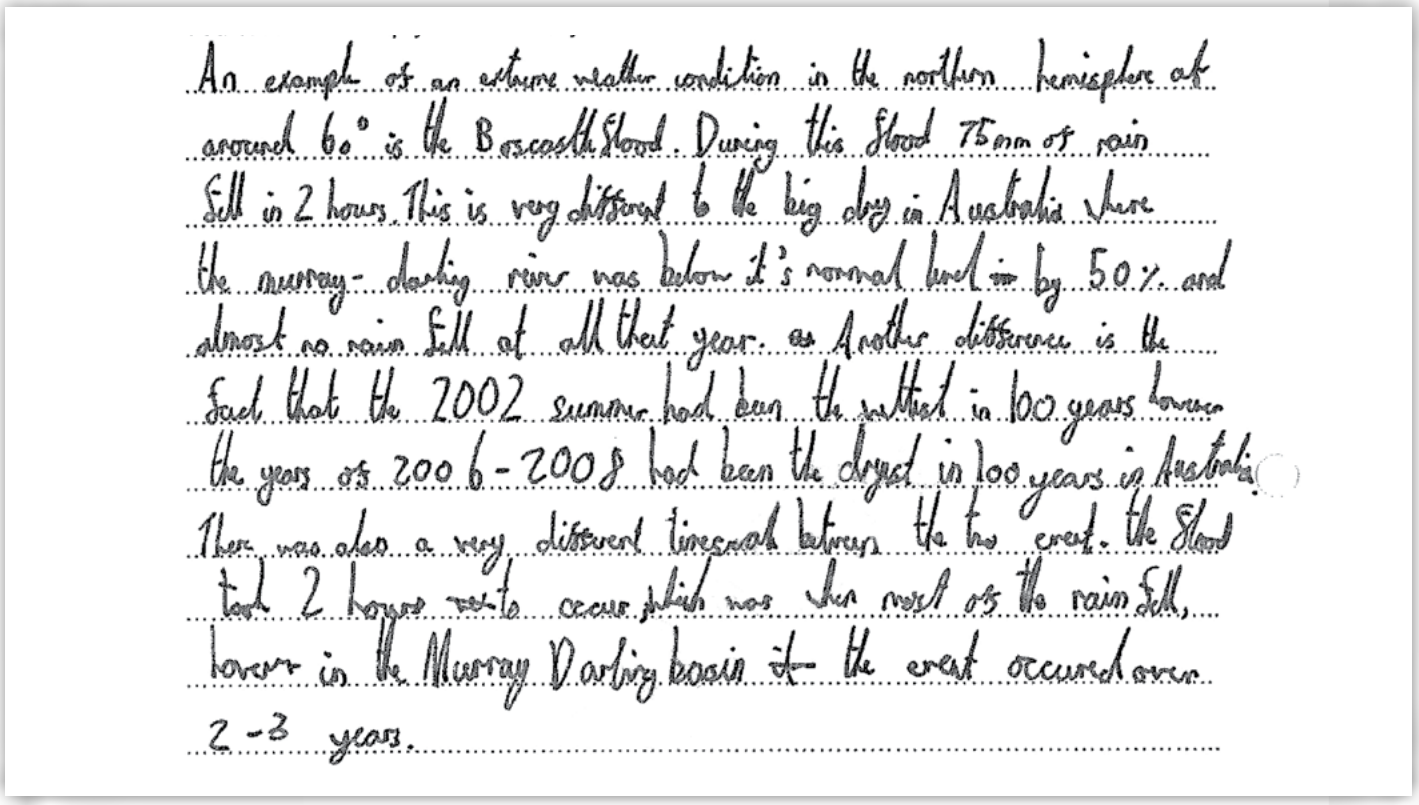
(d) Extreme weather conditions vary in contrasting countries.

Discuss the differences in extreme weather conditions in contrasting countries.

You should develop your ideas fully.

[6]

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

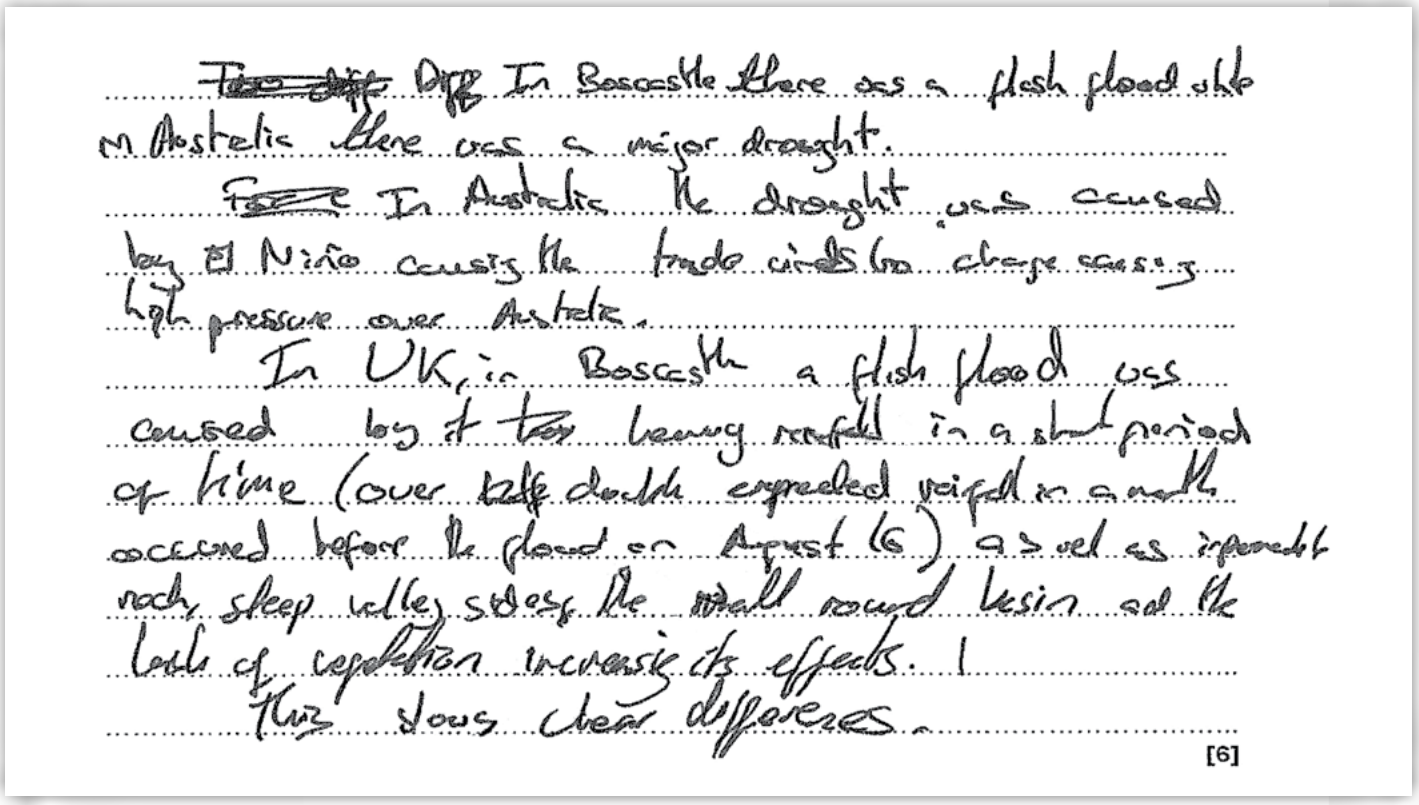


An example of an extreme weather condition in the northern hemisphere at around 60° is the Boscastle flood. During this flood 75mm of rain fell in 2 hours. This is very different to the big dry in Australia where the murray-darling river was below it's normal level by 50% and almost no rain fell at all that year. Another difference is the fact that the 2002 summer had been the wettest in 100 years however the years of 2006-2008 had been the driest in 100 years in Australia. There was also a very different timescale between the two event. the flood took 2 hours to occur which was the most of the rain fell, however in the Murray Darling basin it the event occured over 2-3 years.

Examiner commentary

The candidate has chosen two accurate and contrasting countries that are appropriate to this question through their choice of the UK and Australia. All the details that are provided relate to appropriate extreme climatic events, the Boscastle Flood and the Big Dry, linking to rain or its absence. The candidate provides accurate details about locations, showing that they have a clear understanding of the extreme climate found in both locations that they selected. There are explicit comparisons between the data, using phrases such as, the big difference and different timescales. This is much better exam technique than writing about each location discreetly and only providing implicit links between the two extremes. The candidate, not only discusses the amount of rain, but makes the observation about the time taken for each extreme to occur, observing that the Boscastle flood was a short term and the Big Dry was long term. This level of comparison elevates the answer to the higher levels and helping to improve the level of development within the answer. Level 3 awarded.

Exemplar 2 (Level 1)



Diff In Boscastle there was a flash flood while in Australia there was a major drought.

In Australia the drought was caused by El Niño causing the trade winds to change causing high pressure over Australia.

In UK, in Boscastle a flash flood was caused by a ~~two~~ heavy rainfall in a short period of time (over ~~half~~ double expected rainfall in a month occured before the flood on August 16) as well as impermeable rock, steep valley sides, the small round basin and the lack of vegetation increasing its effects.

Thus shows clear differences.

[6]

Examiner commentary

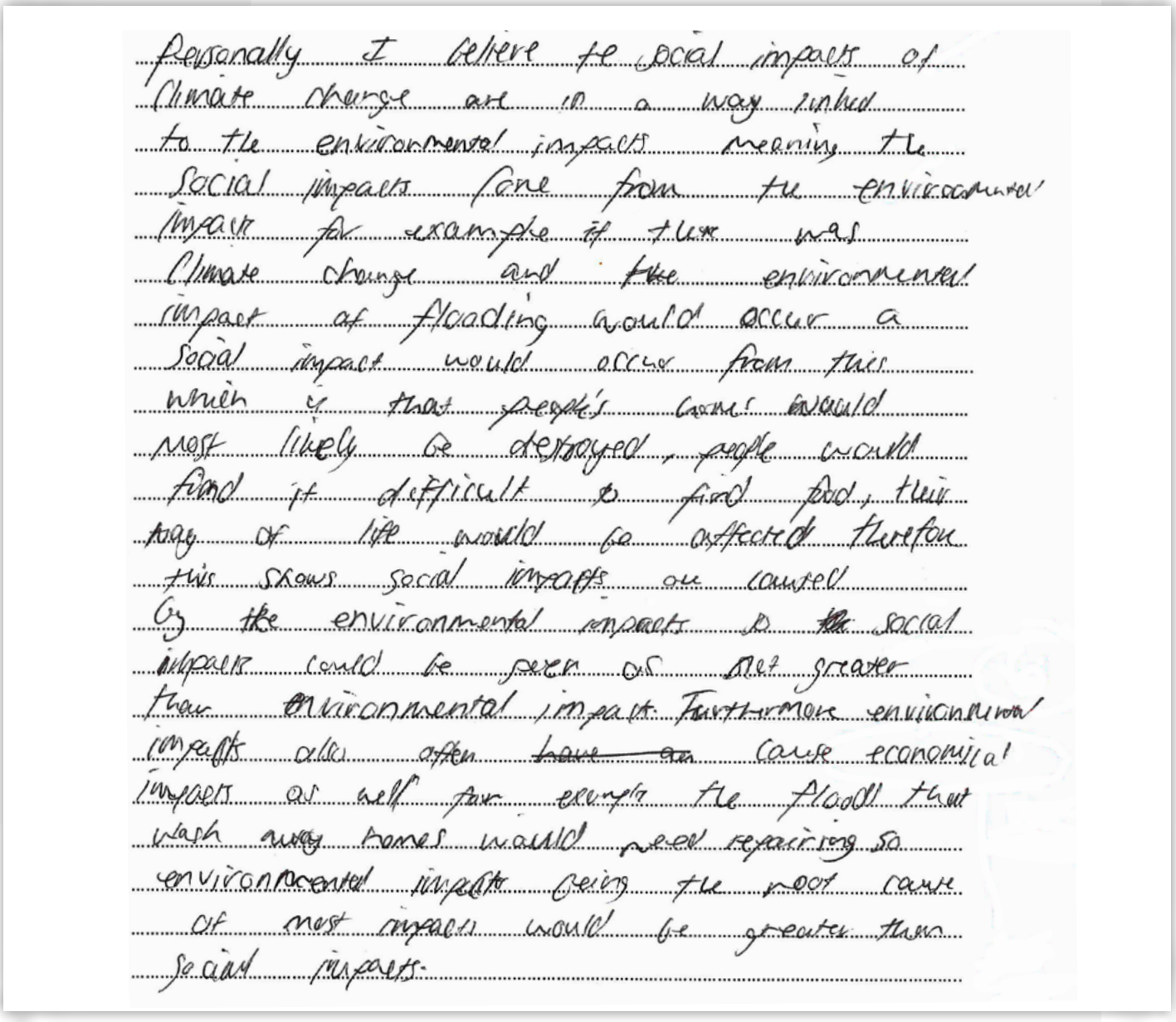
This answer could be considered to be Level 1. There is some appropriate information concerning the causes of droughts in Australia, but this is not developed, so cannot be awarded more than Level 1. The use of climate data might be one method to help the candidate show-case their understanding. The UK example mainly explains why the flood happened, using phrases such as steep valley sides and vegetation, which cannot be considered to be extreme weather. Although these factors are correct, it is important that the candidate avoids adding irrelevant details that do not answer the question directly. There is some reference to rainfall, highlighting the double expected rainfall in a month, but there is no direct comparison to rainfall in Australia. There are a few implied comparisons but writing a separate paragraph on each place makes this more difficult and the candidate could consider using a better structure to help improve their answer. The main issue with the candidate response is the lack of focus on extreme weather conditions and therefore not answering the question set.

Section A – Changing Climate
Question 2(c)*

(c)* Assess whether the social impacts of climate change experienced in the UK in the 21st century are greater than the environmental impacts.

[8]

Exemplar 1 (Level 2)



Personally I believe the social impacts of climate change are in a way linked to the environmental impacts meaning the social impacts come from the environmental impact for example if there was climate change and the environmental impact of flooding would occur a social impact would occur from this which is that people's home would most likely be destroyed, people would find it difficult to find food, their way of life would be affected therefore this shows social impacts are caused by the environmental impacts so the social impacts could be seen as the greater than environmental impact. Furthermore environmental impacts also often ~~have an~~ cause economical impacts as well for example the flood that wash away homes would need rescuing so environmental impacts being the root cause of most impacts would be greater than social impacts.

Examiner commentary

This is a Level 2 answer. The candidate makes a bold assertion at the start and then there are some developed ideas that link flooding (environmental) to the loss of people's home (social). The answer also includes some statements which may not apply to the UK in the 21st century such as "difficult to find food" and "way of life affected". Examples that pertain to the UK such as insurance premiums would help to make the answer clearer and help it reach Level 3. The final part deals with economic consequences and does not add any extra development to the overall answer. The candidate makes some implicit analytical statements in the first part of their answer where they link social and environmental factors and suggest that social factors are a result of environmental factors.

Section A – Distinctive Landscapes
Question 3(d)

(d) CASE STUDY – a river basin in the UK.

Name of river basin in the UK:

Explain how human activity has influenced the geomorphic processes in this landscape.

[6]

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

Eden Basin.

Humas have performed Channel management. This is the diversion of water into artificial channels created by men. The channels increase the speed that water flows at, giving water momentum and changing the natural flow of water. The speed of water flow, prevents deposition of sediment from occuring and so sediment is not deposited on floodplain which in turn prevents meanders from forming due to the lack of deposition of sediment. Vertical erosion is also prevented as channel floors are constructed from concrete which is a hard rock resistant to erosion, this steps V-shape valleys from being formed hence distorting the natural formations.

Furthermore, humas have constructed flood barriers designed to contain the water to prevent flooding in areas near to river. Flood barriers are very high and hence prevent lateral erosion from taking place. Also sediment deposition is also prevented, so the current of water cannot deposit sediment in floodplains. which is unatural and stops the formation of meanders.

Examiner commentary

A Level 3 answer – the candidate has identified a case study that they have studied and the human activity that has occurred along a stretch of that river. The candidate has shown a thorough understanding of how human activity has influenced the geomorphic processes for example stopping vertical erosion prevents the formation of v shaped valleys. This demonstrates that they have thorough knowledge of the geomorphic processes that occur in the river. The answer also refers to the process of deposition and demonstrates thorough understanding of the impact of artificial channels on it. They show that human activity has significantly reduced the impact of deposition by increasing the velocity of the water. This clearly shows that they have detailed understanding of how human activity is affecting the landscape and have been able to develop the link between them fully. The argument is well constructed and follows a logical narrative in both paragraphs, using geographical language with fluency and purpose. The place specific detailed would need to be developed to reach the top of the level.

Exemplar 2 (Level 2)

river nice

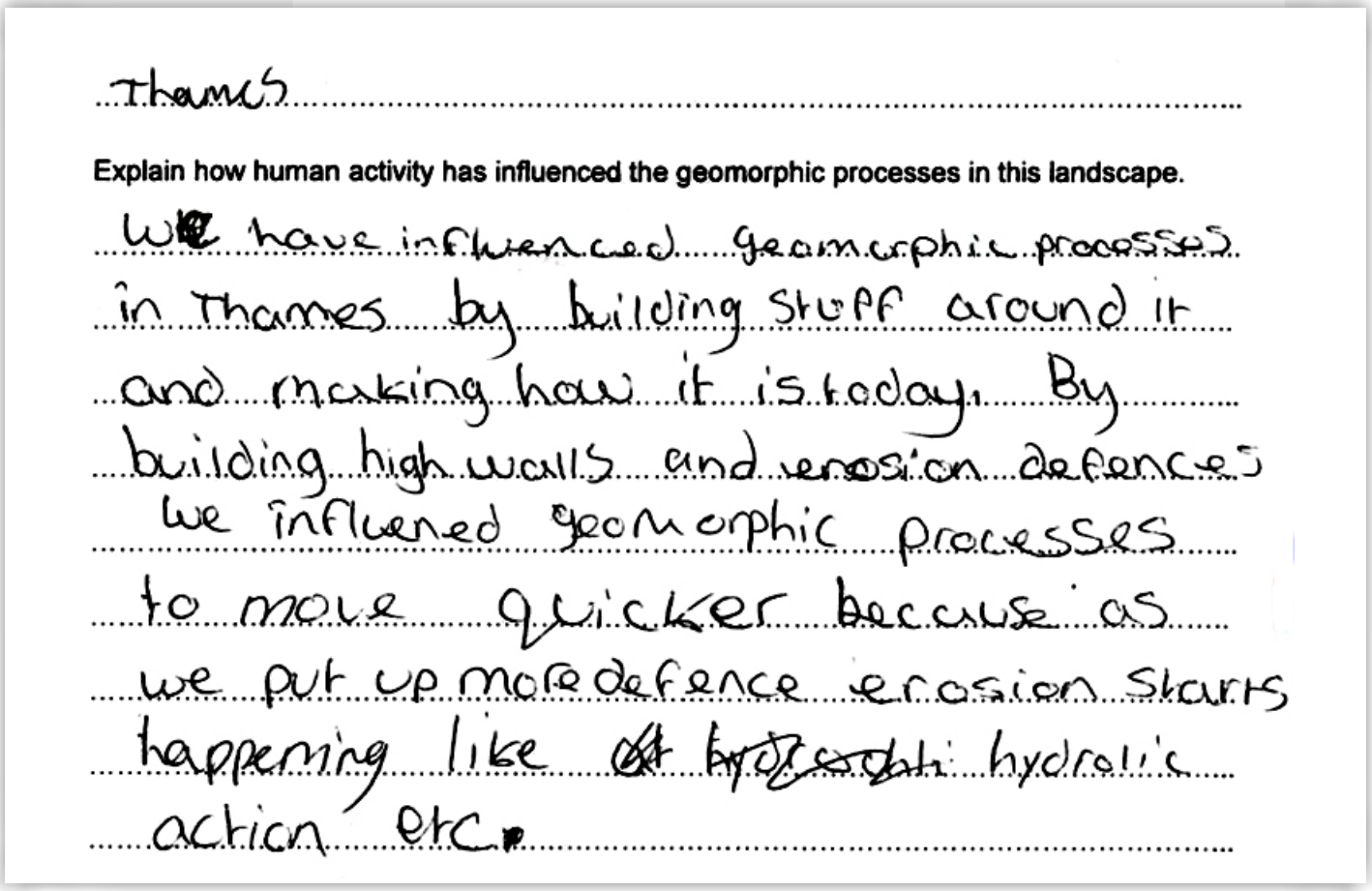
Explain how human activity has influenced the geomorphic processes in this landscape.

Industry has influenced the geomorphic processes in this landscape as buildings being built around the area forces their to be concrete on the side of the river, this distinguishes the river from having meanders as erosion cannot occur on the sides however the current in the river increases and the river begins to get more steep. An alternate source of human activity could be planting over around the river basin, this influences the geomorphic process as the plants take water from the river

Examiner commentary

A Level 2 answer. The candidate provides a case study that is suitable and appropriate to answer the question. There are two human activities that are identified, adding concrete to the side of the river and planting around the river basin. There is then a reasonable explanation of how one activity affects geomorphic processes stating that "erosion cannot occur" and further developing the idea with a link to velocity and gradient. The second activity is not as well expressed and more detail on the role of trees in the drainage basin needed to be further developed.

Exemplar 3 (Level 1)



Thames

Explain how human activity has influenced the geomorphic processes in this landscape.

We have influenced geamorphic processes in thames by building stuff around it and making how it is today. By building high walls and erosion defences we influened geomorphic processes to move quicker because as we put up more defence erosion starts happening like ~~of by~~ hydrolic action etc.

Examiner commentary

The question asks the candidate to identify a case study of a river basin that they have studied, outline the human activities that have occurred on a stretch of the river before explaining how human activity has influenced the geomorphic processes. In this answer the case study that has been identified is appropriate. The answer should focus on human activity, such as management, to focus the candidate more clearly on specific examples helping to avoid words like "stuff" and "high walls". The final part of the answer makes an attempt to link to geomorphic processes, but it feels like the candidate does not fully understand the concepts. Walls should not cause processes to "move quicker" and putting up defences shouldn't cause erosion to start happening. Level 1 achieved.

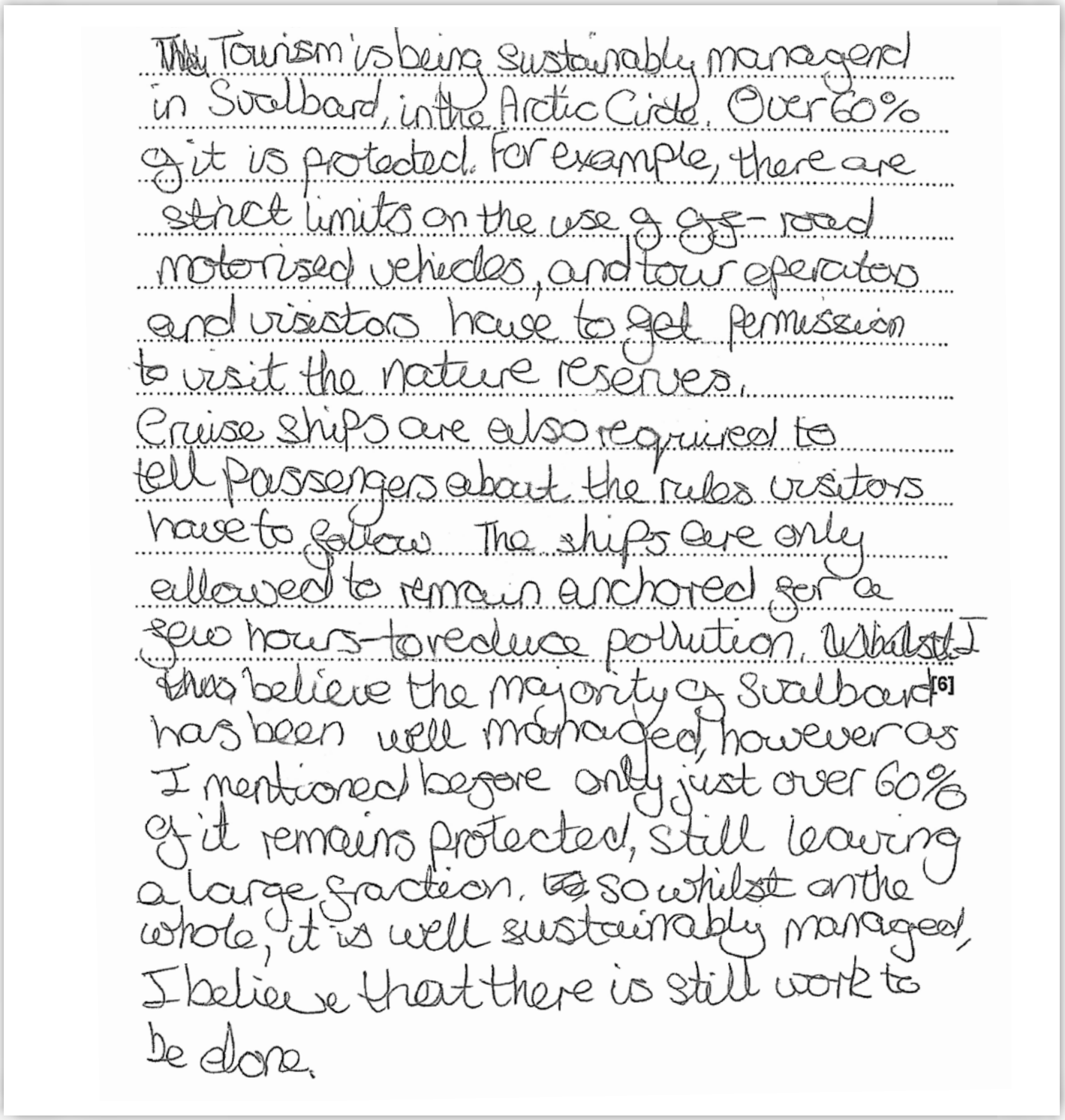
Section A – Sustaining Ecosystems
Question 4(d)

(d) CASE STUDY – a small scale example of sustainable management in either the Arctic or Antarctic.

Evaluate the success of **one** small scale example of sustainable management in either the Arctic or Antarctic.

[6]

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)



Tourism is being sustainably managed in Svalbard, in the Arctic Circle. Over 60% of it is protected. For example, there are strict limits on the use of off-road motorised vehicles, and tour operators and visitors have to get permission to visit the nature reserves. Cruise ships are also required to tell passengers about the rules visitors have to follow. The ships are only allowed to remain anchored for a few hours to reduce pollution. Whilst I do believe the majority of Svalbard has been well managed, however as I mentioned before only just over 60% of it remains protected, still leaving a large fraction. So whilst on the whole, it is well sustainably managed, I believe that there is still work to be done.

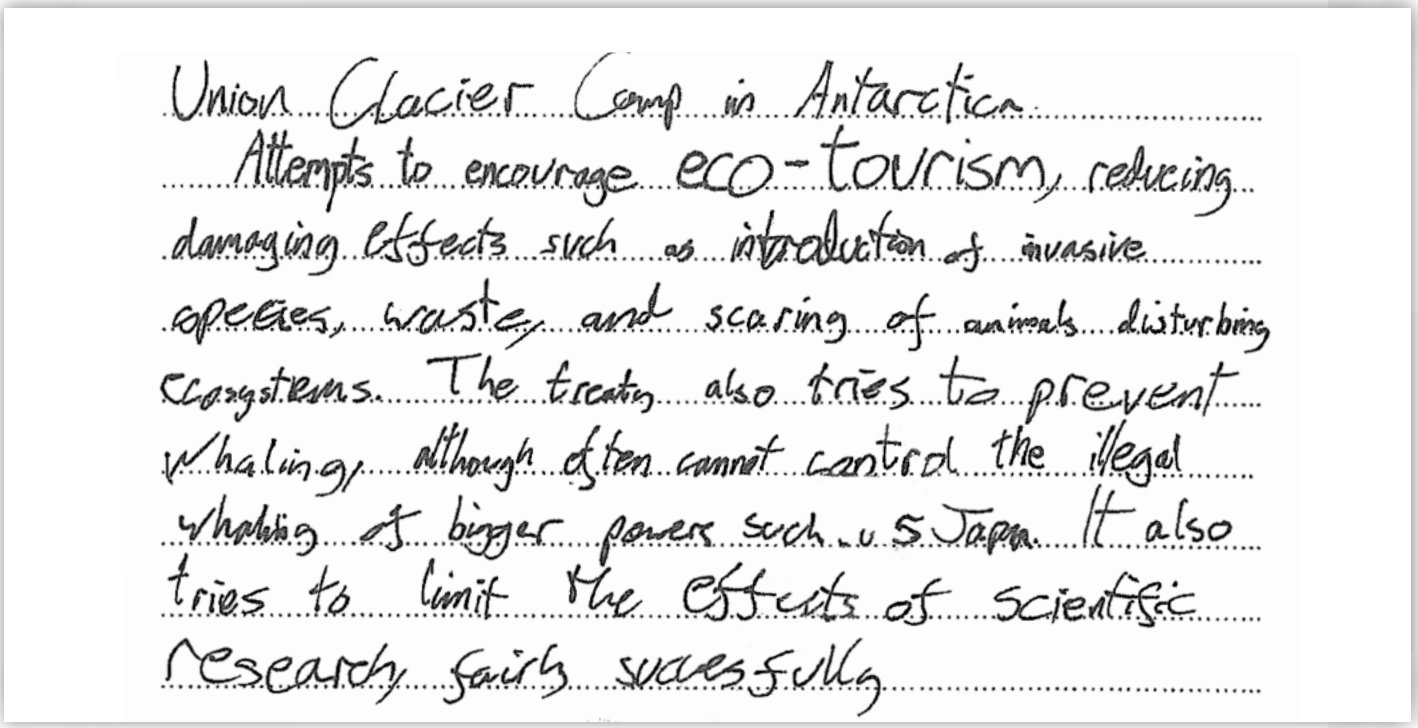
[6]

Examiner commentary

The question is a designated case study question so will need place specific facts from the examples that the candidate has studied. The appropriate nature of the place specific detail will depend on the examples that have been used, intertwined with the evaluation of the success of the scheme, highlighting where the scheme may have been successful or unsuccessful. There is no need for it to be a balanced answer, but it is unlikely that a scheme has been totally successful or totally unsuccessful.

This is a Level 3 answer. The candidate has used one example of place specific detail that applies only to Svalbard and then given other statements that are applicable to a range of cold locations. There are areas in this section where more place specific detail could be added such as where the cruise ships dock or the names of some of the nature reserves. The candidate comes to a nuanced conclusion about the success identifying that the measures that are being taken are being successful but do not cover the whole of the island. Conclusions are not necessary but can help aid the quality of evaluation.

Exemplar 2 (Level 1)



Union Glacier Camp in Antarctica.
Attempts to encourage eco-tourism, reducing damaging effects such as introduction of invasive species, waste, and scaring of animals disturbing ecosystems. The treaty also tries to prevent whaling, although often cannot control the illegal whaling of bigger powers such as Japan. It also tries to limit the effects of scientific research, fairly successfully.

Examiner commentary

This is a Level 1 answer. There is an appropriate example using the Union Glacier Camp with some basic knowledge of sustainable management methods which reduce the impact of tourists. None of this information is developed and reads like a list. This is a technique that is it best to try and avoid. There is also reference to a treaty, but it is left for the examiner to assume that they are referring to the Antarctic Treaty. There is some attempt to evaluate the level of success but this is a little misguided and demonstrates some misunderstandings, for instance, Japan's whaling is illegal and the Antarctic Treaty is not aiming to limit the quality of scientific research.

Section B - Physical Geography Fieldwork
Question 5(d)*

(d)* **Figs 5, 6 and 7** in the separate Resource Booklet (http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/207281-unit-j384-01-our-natural-world-sample-assessment-material.pdf) show information from a GCSE geography student's fieldwork investigation.

Using evidence from **Figs 5, 6 and 7**, write a conclusion to the question for investigation "*Does the process of longshore drift occur at Sheringham?*" Develop your answer.

[8]

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

Exemplar 1 (Level 3)

Using the information gathered in figure 6 and 7, it is clear that the process of longshore drift is occuring at Sherringham. Just by glancing at the graph it is obvious that the east side of the groyne contains less sediment than the west side of the gorge. On the east side, for example, the ~~distance~~ depth from the top of the groyne 12 metres away from the start of the groyne is around 1.25m. However, on the West side of the groyne, the same distance from the start of it, there is only a depth of 0.55 m from the top of the groyne. This unequal balance between the two (of around 70cm) shows that LSD is occuring from the East to the West. Clearly, more sediment is on the West as the amount of groyne visible is very small compared to that on the East. This evidently shows that LSD is happening.

Examiner commentary

The question asks for two different elements to be completed. The first part is to use evidence from the resources to analyse the data. The candidate then needs to select relevant data from the resources to write a conclusion and use the data as supporting evidence.

In the candidate's answer they are able to make a clear decision about whether or not longshore drift is occurring, and they clarify the direction that it is moving in the later part of the answer. The candidate then extracted appropriate information from the resources to show that they understand the concept underlying the fieldwork idea and that the build-up of sand on one side of a groyne shows longshore drift in action. The candidate has also made some calculations taking the depth of sand on one side of the groyne away from the other to further reinforce the conclusion that they had come to.

To improve the answer, the candidate could also have referred to the photo provided, showing the waves have come further up the beach on one side compared to the other. Level 3 awarded.

Exemplar 2 (Level 1)

The process of longshore drift does occur in Sheringham. The movement of sediment horizontally along a beach occurs and is proven by the data displayed in Figure 7. There is more sediment on the East side of the groyne at every

Examiner commentary

The answer is Level 1. It correctly identifies that longshore drift is occurring but misidentifies which side of the groyne the sediment is building up. The figure clearly displays the distance to the top of the sediment and the candidate has not realised the significance of this. The middle statement is correct but does not really add any extra detail that is not included in the rest of the answer and would not gain any extra credit. It appears that the candidate did not have enough time to fully answer the question and this seems to have limited the quality of the answer provided.

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