

Mark Scheme (Results) January 2010

GCE

GCE Geography (6GE03)
Paper 01 Contested Planet

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.

Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

General Guidance on Marking

All candidates must receive the same treatment.

Examiners should look for qualities to reward rather than faults to penalise. This does NOT mean giving credit for incorrect or inadequate answers, but it does mean allowing candidates to be rewarded for answers showing correct application of principles and knowledge.

Examiners should therefore read carefully and consider every response: even if it is not what is expected it may be worthy of credit.

Candidates must make their meaning clear to the examiner to gain the mark. Make sure that the answer makes sense. Do not give credit for correct words/phrases which are put together in a meaningless manner. Answers must be in the correct context.

Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the Team Leader must be consulted.

Using the mark scheme

The mark scheme gives:

- an idea of the types of response expected
- how individual marks are to be awarded
- the total mark for each question
- examples of responses that should NOT receive credit.

Quality of Written Communication

Questions which involve the writing of continuous prose will expect candidates to:

- show clarity of expression
- construct and present coherent arguments
- demonstrate an effective use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Full marks will be awarded if the candidate has demonstrated the above abilities.

Questions where QWC is likely to be particularly important are indicated "QWC" in the mark scheme BUT this does not preclude others.

Question Number	Question
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1a	(a) Explain why oil exploration in the areas shown could lead to high economic and environmental costs.(10)
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Indicative content	
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Economic

- Potentially high costs of extraction and supply due to technical difficulties
- Positive - high prices lead to better returns of difficult areas
- Possibility of peak oil approaching, plus the 'easy' areas have generally been discovered; some areas could be economically marginal due to extraction costs and variability in oil price.
- Disputed areas such as the Arctic could lead to political conflict, with associated economic costs

Environmental

- Some areas are fragile and ecosystems are sensitive to human impact e.g. the Arctic tundra and Peruvian Amazon.
- Extraction from oil shales and tars sands, plus heavy oil, is energy intensive; could raise CO2 emissions even before fuel is used
- Possibility of spills in marine areas, especially as technology is new; could lead to damage to the sea bed and even impacts on areas that have yet to be ecologically explored.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. Descriptive response, uses the Figure but lacks explanations; unbalanced; general ideas only. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-7	Structure is satisfactory. Some explanations but unbalanced on eco/env; some specifics and a range of reasons but not always in depth. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	8-10	Structure is good. Balanced across eco/env with specific details to back up explanations. Good range and links to real world. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare

Question Number	Question
1b	(b) Assess the relative importance of named players in the global supply of energy. (15)

Indicative content

Players could include TNCs , OPEC, governments, consumers and others.

- TNCs are responsible for exploration, and production (sometimes gov owned e.g. oil and gas companies) so have a key role in securing supplies now and in the future; their investment today ensures future supply - they may not always make wise decisions e.g. the over-pumping of Saudi fields. Refining might be mentioned as a possible supply bottleneck.
- OPEC, the oil cartel, has a key role in determining price by managing supply in its member countries - this has led to price shocks in the past, as well as periods of very low prices.
- Governments have a role through the tax system, drilling and exploration licences and national policies on oil and fuel availability. R&D spending on alternative technology.
- Consumers have some influence over price and therefore the supply/ demand balance, although this is likely to be relatively minor. The public may turn against certain energy developments such as nuclear and wind (NIMBY)

The response may focus on oil, but can focus on any range of energy types.

There are other players, and discussion of these should be credited.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. Mentions a few players in a very generalised way without mention of their role. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory Descriptive account with some range of players and their activities, but less clarity on role in supply. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Structure is good. Range of players and likely to contain specific examples, some discussion of role and some attempt to assess. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare.
Level 4	13-15	Carefully structured. Detailed range of players, and likely to be exemplified; clear on role and lay compare; does assess i.e. which are the most important. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.

Question Number	Question
2a	(a) Explain how physical and human factors have contributed to the variation in water scarcity shown. (10)
Indicative content	
Physical:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate plays a role, as some areas (North Africa, Middle East) have arid and semi-arid climate which limit supply. • Areas without water scarcity are mostly equatorial and temperate areas with high rainfall. • Rivers may be ephemeral due to highly seasonal rainfall. • Groundwater supplies may be low in some areas due to unfavourable geology. • Future scarcity might result from climate change (and / or human factors). Accept climate change as physical or human if explained. 	
Human	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of economic scarcity are largely a result of poverty i.e. the least developing countries where water supplies are not developed even though water is plentiful (equatorial, monsoon) • Lack of government investment • Over abstraction may have led to water scarcity or may do in the future. 	

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. General comments only, tends to describe and unclear on physical and human. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-7	Structure is satisfactory. Human and physical factors but may be unbalanced or not fully clear on these; refers to Figure and has some range of explanations. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	8-10	Structure is good. Detailed and balanced coverage of human and physical with good linkage to the figure. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare

Question Number	Question
2b	(b) Using named examples, assess the contribution of large scale water management projects in increasing water security. (15)

Indicative content

Expect a range of examples including large dams (Three Gorges, Aswan, Hoover) and transfer schemes (China south north, Colorado, Spain). In good answers there should be some detail provided in support. In good answers, credit the inclusion of other types of schemes (intermediate tech etc.) if it is argued that large schemes are not the best way to increase security. There will be some definition of sustainability from good candidates.

- On the positive side large schemes have the potential to impact on a large number of people, increasing their supply security
- They may be the only option in some locations.
- Costs are often very high, with question marks over longevity (siltation).
- There may be a 'robbing peter to pay paul' situation with water diversion.
- Schemes often have a wide range of social, cultural and environmental impacts
- What worked in the past may not work today e.g. the low levels of lake mead today compared to when it was constructed.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. Generalised comments, likely to describe a few schemes without reference to water security. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory. Some range of examples used with some details, tends to be descriptive with some links to water security. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Structure is good. Range of examples of used some and details; begins to assess to contribution. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare.
Level 4	13-15	Carefully structured. Range of detailed examples, good linkage to security with genuine assessment of contribution. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.

Question Number	Question
3a	(a) Explain how human activities have contributed to the condition of ecosystem goods and services. (10)
	Indicative content
	Humans have had a range of impact on ecosystem services: Very degraded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overfishing has exhausted some fisheries completely and some animals have been over hunted to extinction, to the resource has disappeared. Wood from forests has suffered a similar fate. • Water resources have been depleted and polluted reducing supply. • Ecosystem's regulation of climate has been degraded by deforestation and in addition erosion has risen as soils are not longer stabilised by vegetation; there is a link to flooding and landslide hazards. Partly degraded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deforestation has occurred reducing the health of forests a degrading the resource base. • This has had knock on consequences for forests as flood regulators. • Pollution of water bodies and interference with natural flow regimes have increased the prevalence of water borne diseases. Improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming has enhanced food production from ecosystems, by modifying them. Good candidates might comment that this is a questionable 'improvement'. Structure could be by goods / services or nature of human impact

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. A few general ideas, may focus on one area e.g. climate. Largely ignores good and services and degree of degradation. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-7	Structure is satisfactory. Some range of ideas and explanations with some reference to resources and regulation, may use some examples. Links to both goods and services. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	8-10	Structured response linked to resources and regulation and likely to use examples / places to illustrate how human activity has led to the condition shown. Balance across goods and services. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare

Question Number**Question**

3b

(b) Using named examples, evaluate the success of global actions designed to protect biodiversity (15)**Indicative content**

There are a range of examples that might be used, the focus should be global. There is some flexibility if a local example is used to illustrate a global action or strategy.

- Global treaties such as CITES which are deigned to protect endangered species from trade, but which require monitoring and policing which may be costly and ineffective.
- Initiatives relating to managed or sustainable forest such as the FSC mark which are effective if consumers and producers buy into their aims.
- Genetic banks such as on Svalbard, although these could be seem as an acceptance that other methods do not work; Zoos and their international breeding programmes fall into the same category.
- Efforts to preserve particular species such as the whale and the IWC, although not every one signs up and the system is open to abuse e.g. by Japan.
- Accept Kyoto but only if it is convincing related to biodiversity.
- Global management strategies such as UNESCO biosphere reserves and the CBD and BAP although they can be costly to implement.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. A few examples or general ideas described only. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory. Some examples used in a descriptive account of what the actions do, rather than their success. Some details. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Structure is good. Some range of examples and some detail which begins to evaluate but not in depth. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare.
Level 4	13-15	Carefully structured. A range of detailed examples with a genuine evaluation of success. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.

Question Number	Question
4a	(a) Using information in Figure 4, and your own knowledge, explain why it is difficult to measure development. (10)

Indicative content

Some discussion of what development is might be expected, and the fact that it has different strands e.g. social versus economic. The Figure shows that a country's position on the development ladder varies depending on which indicator of development is used.

- Some measures are highly economic such as income per capita (this is raw income, not PPP income) -some might say this places the 4 countries in a 'traditional' order.
- PC GDP takes no account of income distribution, hence the low ranking of the USA for income equality; Kenya appears 'fairer' than its economic development might suggest. Some might comment that this measure seems to cluster the 4 countries together, even though they are clearly very different in reality.
- HDI, as an index, might be expected to be more accurate although it does measure social indicators - Brazil comes out well using this measure.

Credit the use of other measures and indexes to compare to the examples shown, such as the freedom index and ideas relating to the environment.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. Reliant on the figure; a few general comments relating to different positions; descriptive. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-7	Structure is satisfactory. Some range of ideas largely explaining the difference in the Figure and suggesting why some measures may be better than others. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	8-10	Structure is good. Range of ideas, including own, linked to the figure and own knowledge e.g. brings in ideas not shown. Good understanding of the difficulties. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare

Question Number	Question
4b	(b) Evaluate the role of different global organisations in narrowing the development gap (15)

Indicative content

A wide range of examples (they must be global) could be used including:

- The WTO and its role in free trade - promoting economic growth via trade; WTO could be seen as helping to narrow the gap or not going far enough (Doha talks).
- TNCs and their role in FDI; could be seen as positive but also exploitative.
- The WB and IMF have a role in lending money for development and promoting economic liberalisation - debt could be seen as a result, although debt relief is the other side of the argument. SAPs and PRSP might be mentioned as either promoting development or hurting the poor.
- Accept NGOs if they are global i.e. Fair Trade and Live 8 etc.
- The UN MDG might be discussed.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. A few generalised examples used relating to vague concepts such as debt etc. poorly linked to narrowing the gap. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory. Several examples used with occasional details ; focus is what organisations do rather than linked to narrowing the gap. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Structure is good. Range of examples of organisations with some details and some linkage to the gap; begins to see both sides. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare.
Level 4	13-15	Carefully structured. Detailed range of organisations and balanced assessment of their role in narrowing the gap; sees both sides. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.

Question Number	Question
5a	(a) Using information on Figure 5 and your own knowledge explain how farming technologies might have different consequences for human and ecosystem wellbeing. (10)

Indicative content

Organic

- Trumpeted as the healthy option of for humans as they shun pesticides and antibiotics in favour of organic inputs; unlikely to be able to produce high enough yields to support population
- Environmentally, should encourage biodiversity and co-existence of farming with nature.

GM

- Question marks over the possible human health effects, although some see GM as the saviour of world food security.
- Debate about environmental impact especially gene transference to natural ecosystems

Hydroponic

- Very heavy resource consumption, some would say too heavy as energy intensity it likely to lead to indirect environmental impacts; on the other hand water use if very low due to drip fed systems; water preservation could be linked to improved human wellbeing by conserving sources for other uses

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. A few general comments on impacts, very unbalanced and may not be filly correct e.g. relating to GM Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-7	Structure is satisfactory. Some balance across the three farming types or impacts on ecosystems and human, but not both; range of consequences with some detail. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	8-10	Structure is good. Balanced across both parts i.e. consequences and farm systems; good detail and understanding. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare

Question Number

Question

5b

(b) Evaluate the contribution technology might make to tackling global environmental problems such as land degradation and global warming.

(15)

Indicative content

There are several approaches that might be taken.

- Large scale technological fixes have been proposed to deal with issues like global warming. These geo-engineering approaches are very costly and not proven - they often do not reduce pollution at all but simply prevent heat coming through the atmosphere.
- Technology might be used to adapt to a new climate such as sea walls and a range of coastal protection measures; new crops could be engineered to cope with new climates
- Technology could used for mitigation, for instance alternative energy sources of CCS.
- Appropriate technology used for developing nations to help adapt to changed climate or other environmental change.

Accept a wide range of possible examples and approaches; other global environmental problems might be mentioned.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. A few generalised ideas on how technology might help. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory. Some ideas and examples but without a clear structure; some details are given but descriptive. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Some structure and range of ideas / examples, and some evaluation of the contribution. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare.
Level 4	13-15	Carefully structured account which uses a range of ideas and examples and evaluates in depth. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.

**Question Question
Number**

6a . (a) Explain the factors that have led to rapid economic growth in the small Gulf States.(12)

Indicative content

- Geographical position is one factor, as a potential hub between Europe and the rapidly growing economies of Asia (China, India); the area is well placed. Investment in hotels and offices have allowed the area to become a base as well as a transit point.
- Huge oil wealth (sovereign wealth funds) have given the region the means to invest in key infrastructure projects, especially airports and ports, to take advantages of its position.
- Global airlines have been created which have grown rapidly to provide the necessary transport links - again linked to oil wealth, and especially since 2006 and the rising price of oil and gas.
- There has been a policy of promoting the region through globally significant events such as the F1 grand prix and Doha trade talks, and world beating buildings.
- Government has invested in education, and especially higher education to create a skilled workforce; companies are attracted by this and free trade zones (FDI).
- Migration and labour supply is crucial, and this has been assisted by globalisation. The availability of cheap, south Asian labour fuels the infrastructure boom.
- Alliances with the USA have been central in helping the Gulf States develop and gain access to markets.

Synoptic linkages

Unit 1 migration

Unit 1 globalisation

Unit 4 economics and trade linked to superpower growth

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. A few ideas about why the area has grown, but narrow and fails to see links between different aspects. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory. Some range of ideas, that go beyond simple oil wealth and make some comments about wider geography and possibly globalisation. Some reference to wider links. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Structure is good. Wide range of ideas and themes which are linked to each other; sustained case. Synoptic links present. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.

**Question Question
Number**

6b (b) Evaluate the possible environmental consequences of continued rapid urban and economic development in the small Gulf States. (14)

Indicative content

The small gulf states already have very high ecological footprints and these are likely to rise further as development continues.

- Energy is very cheap and arguably used in a wasteful way; the area could be come a significant greenhouse gas contributor if growth continues on its present path. The climate demands air conditioning is used almost everywhere which is very energy intensive. Local air pollution is poor with consequences for environmental health.
- The area is not especially biodiverse but it is fragile; there are particular concerns about construction of the offshore islands and their impact on marine ecosystems
- The area is one of water scarcity and this may lead to groundwater mining and increased desalination, with consequences for emissions. Urban growth demands huge amounts of water and resources, almost all of which has to be imported.
- As the region is a global transport hub with rapidly growing airlines, there are implications for fossil fuel use.
- Good candidates might spot early attempts to be more conservation conscious such as Masdar City.

Synoptic linkages

Unit 1 world cities

Unit 1 globalisation and its consequences

Unit 3 water

Unit 3 energy

Unit3 biodiversity

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. A few ideas relating to the environment but narrow and lacking development. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory. Some use of the resources and some range fo ideas linked to growth. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Structure is good. Good range of environmental impacts linked to economic growth and cities / urbanisation; some details and begins to evaluate. Some reference to wider links. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare.

Level 4	13-14	Carefully structured. Detailed use of resources and a good range of issues covered in depth; detailed evaluation that leads towards judgements. Strong Synoptic links. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.
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Number Question

6c Question (c) Explain how the growing economic power of the small Gulf States could lead to social and political tension within the region and beyond. (14)

Indicative content

Within the region there are tensions over a range of issues:

- The use of cheap migrant labour from south Asia is seen as exploitative, and raises human rights issues.
- The political system of the gulf states may seem unfair to long term migrants who may increasingly want the right to vote., and influence decision making
- There are possible cultural tensions between an increasingly 'western' economy within a traditional Arab society.
- Women may feel they should benefit more, and have more say.
- Despite economic growth, some states lag behind such as Iraq and there may be tensions and jealousy
- Cultural differences, even within the broader Muslim group, still lead to conflict for instance in Iraq. In the wider region the issues of Israel and Palestine, and between the three main groups in Iraq (Sunni, Shiite, Kurd) are not resolved.
- Other superpowers have 'taken sides' which has created long term tensions with Iran.
- The area is likely to become even more important for oil and gas reserves in the future which could become an increasing source of tension as companies and countries look to secure supplies.

Synoptic linkages

Unit 3 energy

Unit 3 superpowers

Unit 1 migration

Unit 4 Cultural Geography

Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 1	1-4	Structure is poor or absent. Some general ideas on conflicts and problems only. Explanations are over simplified and lack clarity. Geographical terminology is rarely used with accuracy. There are frequent grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 2	5-8	Structure is satisfactory. Some range of ideas which do relate to tensions and problems; may be unbalanced and focus on one or two areas. Effective use of the resources. Explanations are clear, but there are areas of less clarity. Geographical terminology is used with some accuracy. There are some grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.
Level 3	9-12	Structure is good. Addresses both social and political aspects with some range of detail and examples of tensions. Some reference to wider links. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are rare.
Level 4	13-14	Carefully structured. Detailed response with a good balance between social

		and political tensions, backed up by strong real world knowledge. Strong Synoptic links. Explanations are always clear. Geographical terminology is used with accuracy. Grammar, punctuation and spelling errors are very rare.
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