

Candidates' Performance

Paper 1 Section A

There were 40 multiple-choice questions in this paper. The average number of questions answered correctly by candidates was 24. The overall performance of the candidates was similar to that in previous years. Six questions in which distractors were more popular than the key have been selected for further discussion.

In Item 3, the most popular answer was Option B. Candidates choosing option B likely calculated the average gradient of the section of Hospital Road using the straight line distance between the two spot heights instead of the actual length of the road.

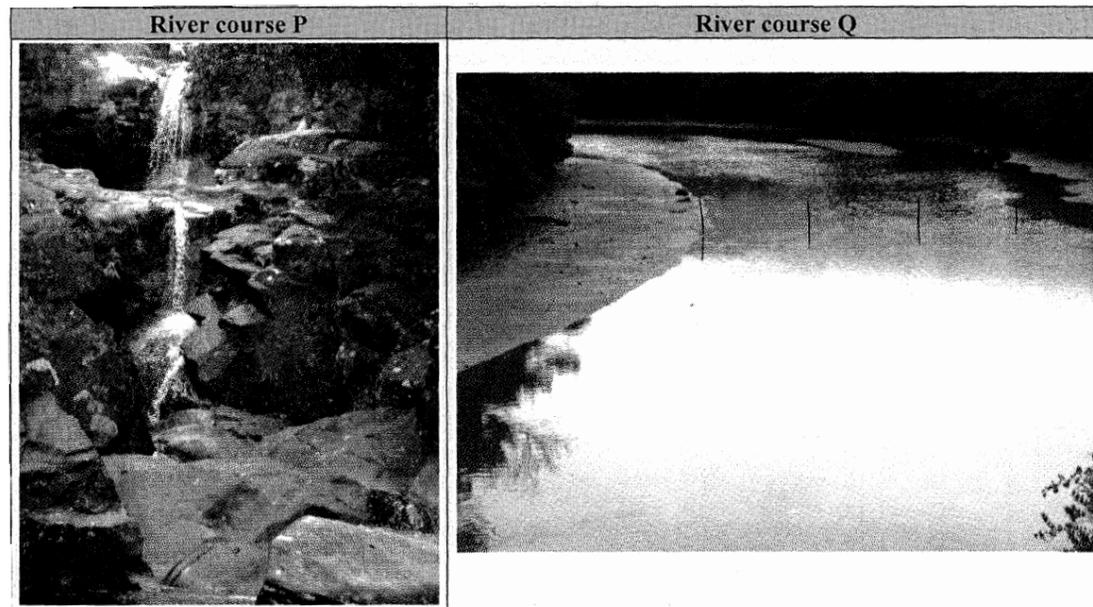
- Q.3 Which of the following is the average gradient of the section of Hospital Road from spot height 22.3 (467127) to spot height 69.1 (475121)?
- | | | |
|-----|------|-------|
| A. | 1:7 | (14%) |
| B. | 1:10 | (49%) |
| *C. | 1:13 | (33%) |
| D. | 1:16 | (4%) |

In Item 9, the most popular answer was Option A. Candidates who chose Option A might have overlooked the evidence related to intrusive vulcanicity discovered in the Himalayan region, e.g. hot springs and geothermal power.

- Q.9 Which of the following tectonic processes have occurred in the Himalayan region?
- (1) folding
(2) faulting
(3) vulcanicity
- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| A. | (1) and (2) only | (52%) |
| B. | (1) and (3) only | (22%) |
| C. | (2) and (3) only | (3%) |
| *D. | (1), (2) and (3) | (23%) |

In Item 16, the most popular answer was Option D. These candidates might have thought that the steeper channel gradient of river course P will lead to higher erosive power but rather it should be the larger discharge as shown in the photograph of river course Q which results in higher erosive power.

Q.16 Refer to the photographs of river courses P and Q below.



Which of the following descriptions of river courses P and Q are correct?

	River course P	River course Q
(1) Channel gradient	steeper	gentler
(2) Particle size of load	larger	smaller
(3) Erosive power	higher	lower

- *A. (1) and (2) only (19%)
- B. (1) and (3) only (22%)
- C. (2) and (3) only (1%)
- D. (1), (2) and (3) (58%)

In Item 19, the most popular answer was Option D. Candidates who chose Option D might have misinterpreted the 'material-oriented' food processing industry as 'market-oriented'.

Q.19 Which of the following is a market-oriented industry?

- A. textile (9%)
- B. aluminium smelting (6%)
- *C. automobile manufacturing (25%)
- D. food processing (60%)

In Item 28, the most popular answer was Option B. However, crop rotation is not a measure to tackle *climatic constraints* but a means for soil conservation.

Q.28 Which of the following are measures farmers in Southern California use to tackle climatic constraints?

- (1) irrigation
- (2) dry farming
- (3) crop rotation

- *A. (1) and (2) only (20%)
- B. (1) and (3) only (61%)
- C. (2) and (3) only (4%)
- D. (1), (2) and (3) (15%)

In Item 29, candidates who chose Option D might not be familiar with the definition of intensive farming and therefore believed that it was a characteristic of the agricultural activity shown in the photograph.

Q.29 Refer to the photograph below.



Which of the following are characteristics of the agricultural activity shown in the above photograph?

- (1) arable farming
- (2) intensive farming
- (3) commercial farming

- A. (1) and (2) only (4%)
- *B. (1) and (3) only (40%)
- C. (2) and (3) only (13%)
- D. (1), (2) and (3) (43%)

Paper 1 Section B

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
1. (a) (i)	69	Good. Most candidates were able to describe the spatial distribution of major volcanoes in the Pacific region. Some candidates were able to state the location of a few volcanoes away from plate boundaries, e.g. at hot spots. However, some candidates described the spatial distribution of all volcanoes in Figure 1a rather than those in the Pacific region as specified in the question.
(ii)		Good. Many candidates were able to compare the formation of volcanoes X and Y. They tended to be better at identifying the differences between the two volcanoes than their similarities. Some candidates confused 'magma' and 'lava' when explaining the formation of volcanoes.
(b) (i)		Good. Most candidates were able to describe the negative impact brought about by the eruption of volcano X with reference to Figure 1b. However, some candidates simply copied information from the question.
(ii)		Good. Most candidates were able to explain how technology may have reduced the damage brought about by volcanic eruptions. However, some candidates were not able to quote examples of relevant technology.
(iii)		Good. Most candidates were able to state the opportunities and risks brought about by volcano Y. However, some candidates gave answers unrelated to volcano Y, such as rich minerals, fertile soil. Some candidates simply copied the information from Figure 1c as their answers.
2. (a)	35	Satisfactory. Many candidates were able to identify different land uses. However, some candidates misinterpreted the meaning of conventional signs and gave incorrect examples of land uses, e.g. a church as recreational land use.
(b) (i)		Fair. Most candidates simply recited common urban problems, e.g. land use conflict, old buildings, poor living environment, etc. Some candidates might not have studied the photograph carefully enough and therefore gave irrelevant answers.
(ii)		Satisfactory. Many candidates were able to explain how redevelopment may solve the urban problems in area X. However, some of their answers could have been more comprehensive if they did not focus solely on explaining particular aspects of redevelopment, such as building design.
(c) (i)		Good. Candidates were generally able to identify revitalisation as the urban renewal strategy.
(ii)		Fair. Most candidates were able to explain the merits of revitalisation. They were able to state the economic benefits of revitalisation in general. However, some candidates confused 'revitalisation' and 'rehabilitation'.
(d)		Poor. Many candidates did not have a clear concept of rehabilitation. They were not able to distinguish 'rehabilitation' and 'redevelopment'. Some candidates thought that moving residents out was necessary for rehabilitation. Explaining the demerits of rehabilitation should be in-depth.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
3. (a) (i)	64	Fair. Most candidates were able to describe the climatic characteristics of the Sahel region. However, not all of them were able to explain in geographical terms such as annual mean temperature, winter offshore wind, etc. Only some candidates were able to explain the distribution of annual rainfall with reference to prevailing winds.
(ii)		Fair. Some candidates were able to explain how nomadic herding adapts to the climatic characteristics of the Sahel region. However, some of them did not refer to Photograph 3c when answering.
(b)		Poor. Many candidates were not able to explain how a population increase in the Sahel region has led to a shortage of food. Some candidates focused on other socio-economic factors, such as insufficient capital, low education level, wars, etc.
(c)		Fair. Some candidates gave appropriate reasons for and against the argument of growing cash crops to solve the food shortage problem. However, some candidates confused 'food crop' and 'cash crop' and misstated that the growing of cash crops could increase food supply directly.
4. (a) (i)	33	Fair. Some candidates were not able to identify the atmospheric radiation in Figure 4a correctly.
(ii)		Fair. Many candidates confused 'solar radiation' and 'terrestrial radiation'. Few candidates were able to explain the radiation transfer processes in the atmosphere.
(b)		Satisfactory. Most candidates were able to explain how the changes in forest areas and fossil fuel consumption have increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations and global temperatures with reference to the data provided. Some candidates described the changes in the data but did not explain their relationships.
(c) (i)		Good. Most candidates were able to categorise different countries according to the levels of economic development. However, some candidates were not able to explain the effectiveness of reducing carbon dioxide emissions among different countries with reference to their total and per capita emissions.
(ii)		Satisfactory. Many candidates were able to discuss whether the more developed or less developed countries should bear a greater responsibility in alleviating global warming. However, some candidates simply copied the information provided or repeated the answers in (c) (i).

Paper 1 Section C

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
5	16	<p>Fair.</p> <p>In the first part of the question, many candidates were only able to describe briefly the physical factors affecting the removal of beach materials in Hong Kong. Some candidates confused 'swash' and 'backwash', thus giving irrelevant answers. Moreover, many candidates were not able to adequately explain the relationship between longshore drift and the removal of beach materials. Only a few candidates were able to state how the nature of beach materials would affect their removal.</p> <p>In the second part of the question, many candidates showed insufficient knowledge of beach nourishment. Some candidates mistook beach cleaning for beach nourishment.</p>
6	48	<p>Fair.</p> <p>In the first part of the question, many candidates were able to explain the characteristics of the global locational distribution of the IT industry. Many candidates were also able to distinguish the multi-point production mode of the IT industry in the more developed and less developed countries.</p> <p>In the second part of the question, a majority of the answers were superficial. Many candidates simply listed the factors for the development of the IT industry instead of discussing how the US government may expand the development of the IT industry in its own country. Many candidates neglected the role of the government in affecting industrial location.</p>
7	36	<p>Fair.</p> <p>In the first part of the question, most candidates were able to describe the differences in nutrient storage in the biomass, litter and soil. However, explanations on the flow of nutrients among the three storage compartments should be more detailed. Some candidates confused 'nutrient cycle' and 'energy flow', as well as 'food chain' and 'trophic levels'.</p> <p>In the second part of the question, some candidates misinterpreted plantation as shifting cultivation or cattle ranching. Some of them overlooked the fact that plantation would simplify the biomass. Some gave incorrect answers such as more trees would be grown in a plantation.</p>

- Candidates should be more familiar with the factors affecting industrial location, especially government policies.
- Candidates should bear in mind that geographical issues change with time and those who only rely on textbook knowledge may not be up to date with the most current issues, which will be covered in the public examination. Teachers are also reminded to keep abreast of the most current geographical issues into their teaching.

General comments and recommendations

- Candidates should interpret the questions with care and study the information provided in detail. They should utilise the information provided to formulate their own answers, not simply copy figures and parts of the question as their answers.
- Candidates should master the skills of map reading, especially paying attention to the use of conventional signs.

Paper 2 Section D

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
1. (a) (i)	32	Excellent. A large number of the candidates were able to identify the geological hazard.
(ii)		Good. Most candidates were able to explain how the characteristics of rock brought about the occurrence of the geological hazard.
(b)		Satisfactory. Most candidates were able to state the factors that accelerated the occurrence of the geological hazard. However, some candidates did not mention the increase in pore water pressure induced by heavy rain when explaining the influences of climatic factors.
(c) (i)		Fair. Only a small number of candidates were able to state the two mitigation measures correctly. However, most of them were able to explain the respective roles of these measures in reducing shear stress and increasing shear strength on slopes.
(ii)		Poor. Most candidates were not able to apply relevant geographical concepts to explain the real situation. They did not understand the constraints of these measures thoroughly.
2. (a) (i)	36	Good. A large number of the candidates were able to compare the temperature patterns of Hong Kong and city X correctly. However, some candidates did not make the comparison by referring to appropriate temperature characteristics, such as the annual range of temperature, mean annual temperature, annual maximum and minimum temperatures, etc.
(ii)		Excellent. Most candidates were able to explain the differences in temperature patterns of the two cities clearly. A detailed explanation of the temperature pattern of city X is needed to obtain full marks in this part of the question.
(b) (i)		Good. Most candidates were able to identify the weather system correctly.
(ii)		Satisfactory. Most candidates were able to describe the changes in weather conditions over the two days. However, some candidates did not have a correct concept of the formation of a cold front when explaining the changes in weather.
(iii)		Poor. Many candidates were not able to forecast the weather conditions. They failed to identify the weather conditions associated with anticyclone after the passage of the cold front.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
3. (a) (i)	13	Good. Most candidates were able to describe the percentage changes of public transport passengers. However, some of them overlooked the fluctuations in the percentages of passengers of franchised buses.
(ii)		Fair. Most candidates explained the increasing percentages of railway passengers in general terms. However, they should apply the concepts of logistics and transport in their answers.
(b) (i)		Poor. Most candidates were not able to adequately describe the distribution pattern.
(ii)		Poor. Candidates had limited knowledge of the location of MTR stations. They should have a thorough understanding of the problems at the interchange station at Admiralty for a better performance in this part of the question.
(iii)		Poor. Candidates did not have a thorough understanding of the concept of railway transport and related problems.
(c)		Poor. Candidates had limited knowledge of the transport strategy 'According Priority to Railways' and were unable to comment on it using the concepts of logistics and transport.
4. (a)	19	Good. Most candidates were able to describe the distribution pattern of river water quality.
(b) (i)		Satisfactory. Most candidates were able to make good use of the information provided to account for the differences in river water quality in Zhaoqing and Dongguan.
(ii)		Fair. Most candidates provided only a brief account of the socio-economic impact brought about by the river water quality in the two cities.
(c) (i)		Poor. Candidates did not have a thorough understanding of the operation of sewage treatment plant.
(ii)		Poor. Candidates did not make use of the information provided nor related geographical concepts in their discussion.

Paper 2 Section E

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
5	42	<p>Satisfactory.</p> <p>In the first part of the question, candidates with good performance were able to relate the characteristics of volcanic rocks with their formation processes and nature of lava systematically. However, some candidates confused 'volcanic rocks' and 'plutonic rocks' while some misinterpreted 'volcanic rocks' as 'igneous rocks'.</p> <p>In the second part of the question, candidates should point out the nature of volcanic rocks in terms of their structure, mineral composition and resistance to weathering and erosion. They should then relate the formation of specific landscapes to the nature of the rocks and illustrate them with examples in Hong Kong. Besides stating the relative importance of volcanic rocks in shaping the physical landscape of Hong Kong, candidates with better performance were also able to mention the importance of other rock types as well as physical and human factors.</p>
6	20	<p>Satisfactory.</p> <p>In the first part of the question, candidates with higher abilities were able to describe and explain the climatic characteristics of northwestern China systematically. However, most candidates did not quote relevant examples and climatic data in their answers. Besides temperature, candidates should also mention other weather elements, such as precipitation, wind and relative humidity, when describing the climatic characteristics. In general, this part of the question was well-attempted.</p> <p>In the second part of the question, most candidates were able to explain briefly the relative importance of climate in causing severe sandstorms in northwestern China. Candidates with better performance were also able to explain other reasons, such as overgrazing and over-cultivation.</p>
7	11	<p>Poor.</p> <p>In the first part of the question, candidates should explain the favourable factors that turned Hong Kong into a 'regional logistics hub'. Most candidates, however, wrongly explained the favourable factors for the development of the logistics industry in Hong Kong. Candidates should have a thorough understanding of relevant concepts in this topic.</p> <p>In the second part of the question, candidates showed very limited knowledge of the role of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in enhancing cooperation or creating competition between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province in the logistics industry. Candidates should also use appropriate examples for illustration.</p>

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
8	28	<p>Fair.</p> <p>In the first part of the question, candidates with better performance were able to give a detailed account of the changes in industrial patterns in the Zhujiang Delta Region in the last decade. In contrast, candidates with lower abilities focused on the industrial development in the 1980s and 1990s which was irrelevant to this question. Providing relevant examples of industries and their distribution patterns were essential in this part of the question.</p> <p>In the second part of the question, candidates who performed better were able to explain the importance of the quality of human resources in the industrial development of the Zhujiang Delta Region, such as the need of well-educated personnel for research and development. However, most candidates gave only fragmented explanations of the role of human resources in industrial development, neglecting the importance of management and professional knowledge.</p>

General comments and recommendations

1. Candidates should study the questions, especially those from 'types of rocks', carefully to avoid giving wrong answers because they may have overlooked key geographical terminology.
2. Candidates should interpret the data and information provided in the questions carefully. They should also apply geographical knowledge and concepts to specific situations or cases in the questions.
3. Candidates should organise their ideas systematically and logically. They should also provide relevant examples to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts and spatial location of the cases.
4. In the short essay questions, candidates should put forward concrete arguments and state their stands clearly and logically. They should avoid giving vague and ambiguous descriptions, arguments and conclusions.
5. Candidates should have a solid foundation in 'developing Hong Kong into a regional logistics hub'. In addition, they should study and analyse current issues thoroughly. Teachers are recommended to incorporate relevant issues in their teaching appropriately.

Acknowledgements

Material from the following publications has been used in question papers in this volume:

- 廣東省淨水設備協會 污水處理廠照片
廣東東莞謝崗污水處理廠二期試運行 處理率可達 90%
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Is it about to blow? Deep cracks spotted near Iceland's largest volcano as it displays signs of a possible eruption ... and hundreds of daredevil tourists line up to visit
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