Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY	**9696/21**
Paper 2 Core Human Geography	**May/June 2025**
	1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)
                          Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS
● Answer **four** questions in total:
         Section A: answer **all** questions.
         Section B: answer **one** question.
● Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
● Sketch maps and diagrams should be drawn whenever they serve to illustrate an answer.

INFORMATION
● The total mark for this paper is 60.
● The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
● The insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.

LICs = low income countries.
MICs = middle income countries.
HICs = high income countries.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

[Turn over

Section A

Answer **all** questions in this section. All questions are worth 10 marks.

Population

1   Fig. 1.1 shows the percentage of the population aged 0–14 years, 15–64 years, and 65 years and over, for selected countries and the world, in 2023.

    (a) Using Fig. 1.1:

        (i) state the country with the population structure that is most similar to the world's population structure [1]

        (ii) calculate the percentage of the population aged 15–64 years old for the USA. Show your working. [2]

    (b) Using Fig. 1.1, compare the dependency issues for Italy and Laos. [3]

    (c) Suggest why the dependency ratio may **not** be an accurate indicator of the percentage of the working population in a country. [4]

Migration/Settlement dynamics

2   Table 2.1 shows the top ten sources of international migrants into Brazil, an MIC in South America, in 2020.

    (a) Describe the pattern of international migrants into Brazil shown in Table 2.1. [4]

    (b) Suggest how the characteristics of international migrants arriving from HICs may differ from the characteristics of international migrants arriving from LICs. [2]

    (c) Explain why most international migrants settle in the major cities of receiving/destination countries. [4]

Population/Migration/Settlement dynamics

3   Fig. 3.1 shows the population of three rural settlements in an HIC in 2001, 2011 and 2021.

    (a) Compare the population changes for the rural settlements shown in Fig. 3.1. [4]

    (b) Suggest **two** reasons for the change in the population for settlement A between 2011 and 2021. [2]

    (c) Explain why rural settlements that are **not** near to any town or city might decline in population. [4]

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section. All questions are worth 30 marks.

Population

4 **(a)** **(i)** Outline the concept of 'overpopulation'. [3]

    (ii) Explain why optimum population is difficult to achieve. [4]

  (b) With the aid of examples, explain the difficulties for an area caused by underpopulation. [8]

  (c) 'A decrease in the birth rate will lead to economic decline in many HICs.'

    With the aid of examples, how far do you agree with this statement? [15]

Migration

5 **(a)** Describe the causes of forced (involuntary) international migration. [7]

  (b) With the aid of examples, explain why international migration has increased in recent years. [8]

  (c) With the aid of examples, how far do you agree that it is difficult for governments to manage international migration? [15]

Settlement dynamics

6 For your chosen case study of providing power infrastructure **or** transport infrastructure for a named city:

  (a) Outline why the power infrastructure **or** transport infrastructure needed to be improved. [7]

  (b) Explain the challenges of improving the infrastructure. [8]

  (c) Evaluate the success of the attempted strategies used to improve the infrastructure. [15]

4

BLANK PAGE