



Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY

9696/23

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.

Section A

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

Population

1 Table 1.1 shows population data for South America, 1960–2020.

(a) Using Table 1.1:

- (i) state a decade which had the highest population growth rate [1]
- (ii) calculate the change in life expectancy between 1960 and 2020. Show your working. [2]

(b) Using the data in Table 1.1, suggest why the population growth rate in South America is likely to be slower in the future. [2]

(c) Explain why an increase in life expectancy can cause problems for a government. [5]

Population/Migration/Settlement dynamics

2 Fig. 2.1 shows rural population change in Spain, an HIC in Europe, 2007–2021.

(a) Using Fig. 2.1:

- (i) state the year in which population change was the greatest [1]
- (ii) calculate the mean (average) rate of population change. Show your working. [3]

(b) Suggest **two** reasons why there has been out-migration from rural areas in HICs. [2]

(c) Suggest why rural population may increase in the future in HICs. [4]

Settlement dynamics

3 Fig. 3.1 shows major cities in western Africa.

(a) Describe the distribution of the major cities shown in Fig. 3.1. [4]

(b) Suggest **two** reasons for the distribution shown in Fig. 3.1. [2]

(c) Explain why having only one major city in a country can be a disadvantage. [4]

Section B

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

Population

4 (a) (i) Outline the concept of 'optimum population'. [3]

(ii) Explain why it is difficult to measure the optimum population of an area. [4]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain the challenges of increasing the level of food security in an area. [8]

(c) With the aid of examples, assess the view that population growth will always exceed the supply of local resources. [15]

Migration/Settlement dynamics

5 (a) Describe the causes of intra-urban migration (within the same urban area). [7]

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

(c) With the aid of examples, to what extent is it difficult for governments to manage **urban to rural** migration? [15]

Population/Migration/Settlement dynamics

6 (a) (i) Compare the process of 'counterurbanisation' with the process of 're-urbanisation'. [4]

(ii) Suggest **three** problems for an urban area experiencing re-urbanisation. [3]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain why urban renewal occurs. [8]

(c) With the aid of examples, assess the extent to which it is possible for governments to manage urban areas. [15]

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