



Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY

9696/31

Paper 3 Advanced Physical Geography Options

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:
Answer questions from **two** options.
For **each** option, follow the instructions inside on which questions to answer.
- 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.
- You should make reference to appropriate examples studied in the field or the classroom, even where such examples are not specifically requested by the question.

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.

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

Answer questions from **two** different options.

Tropical environments

If answering this option, answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

- 1 Fig. 1.1 shows a transect (A–B) showing the depth of weathered granite in northern Nigeria.
 - (a) Describe variations in the depth of weathered granite shown in Fig. 1.1. [4]
 - (b) Suggest **two** reasons for the variations you described in (a). [6]
- 2 Using a case study of **either** a rainforest ecosystem **or** a savanna ecosystem, evaluate attempted solutions to the problems of its sustainable management. [20]
- 3 ‘Humid tropical and seasonally humid tropical environments have similar diurnal variations in their climates.’
How far do you agree with this statement? [20]

Coastal environments

If answering this option, answer Question 4 and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

- 4 Fig. 4.1 shows changes to East Head spit, Sussex, UK, 1786–2005.
 - (a) Describe changes to the **position** of East Head spit shown in Fig. 4.1. [4]
 - (b) Suggest reasons for the changes you described in (a). [6]
- 5 To what extent do sediment sources and characteristics vary in coastal environments? [20]
- 6 Assess the effectiveness of hard engineering and soft engineering in sustainably managing a stretch or stretches of coastline. [20]

Hazardous environments

If answering this option, answer Question 7 and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

7 Fig. 7.1 shows the frequency of Atlantic hurricanes, 1920–2020.

(a) Compare the pattern of major hurricane frequency with the pattern of non-major hurricane frequency shown in Fig. 7.1. [4]

(b) Suggest reasons for the variation in hurricane frequency shown in Fig. 7.1. [6]

8 Assess the effectiveness of different methods of managing volcanic hazards. [20]

9 ‘Human activity is the most significant cause of mass movements.’
How far do you agree with this view? [20]

Hot arid and semi-arid environments

If answering this option, answer Question 10 and **either** Question 11 **or** Question 12.

10 Fig. 10.1 is a photograph which shows a hot arid landscape in Egypt.

(a) Describe the main physical features of the landscape shown in Fig. 10.1. [4]

(b) Suggest how water influenced the shaping of the landscape shown in Fig. 10.1. [6]

11 Evaluate the role of human factors and natural factors in the process of desertification. [20]

12 To what extent is aridity caused by pressure and wind systems? [20]

BLANK PAGE

The boundaries and names shown, the designations used and the presentation of material on any maps contained in this question paper/insert do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by Cambridge Assessment International Education concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area or any of its authorities, or of the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.