

# WJEC GCSE Geography

Approved by Qualifications Wales

## Sample Assessment Materials

Unit 1: Our Physical and Human World

Teaching from 2025

For award from 2027

Version 2 - September 2025





# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Version	Description	Page number
2	Q5a Map 3 Title: Illegal changed to Irregular	14
	Q5a Question wording: Illegally changed to irregularly	14
	Q5b Question wording: ‘to the UK removed’	15
	Q5c Question wording: Illegal changed to Irregular	16
	Q5a Mark Scheme: Illegal changed to irregular in question wording	34
	Q5b Mark Scheme: ‘to the UK’ removed from question wording and adjustments made to indicative content and band descriptors as a result	34-35
	Q5c Mark Scheme: Illegal changed to Irregular in question wording	36
	Q5e Mark Scheme: Illegal changed to irregular in answer descriptions	39

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SAMPLE

Surname	Centre number	Candidate number
First name(s)		0



**GCSE**  
**3140U10-1**

**Geography – Unit 1**  
**Our Physical and Human World**

**1 hour 30 minutes**  
**SAMPLE ASSESSMENT**  
**MATERIALS**

**Additional materials**

A ruler and a calculator.

**Instructions to candidates**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do **not** use gel pen or correction fluid.

You may use a pencil for graphs and diagrams only.

Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

Answer **all** questions.

For examiner's use only		
Question	Maximum mark	Mark awarded
1.	<b>8</b>	
2.	<b>18</b>	
3.	<b>11</b>	
4.	<b>11</b>	
5.	<b>24</b>	
6.	<b>18</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	

Write your answers in the spaces in this booklet. If you need more space, use the additional page(s) at the back of this booklet. Number the question(s) correctly.

**Information for candidates**

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

The total number of marks available is **90**.

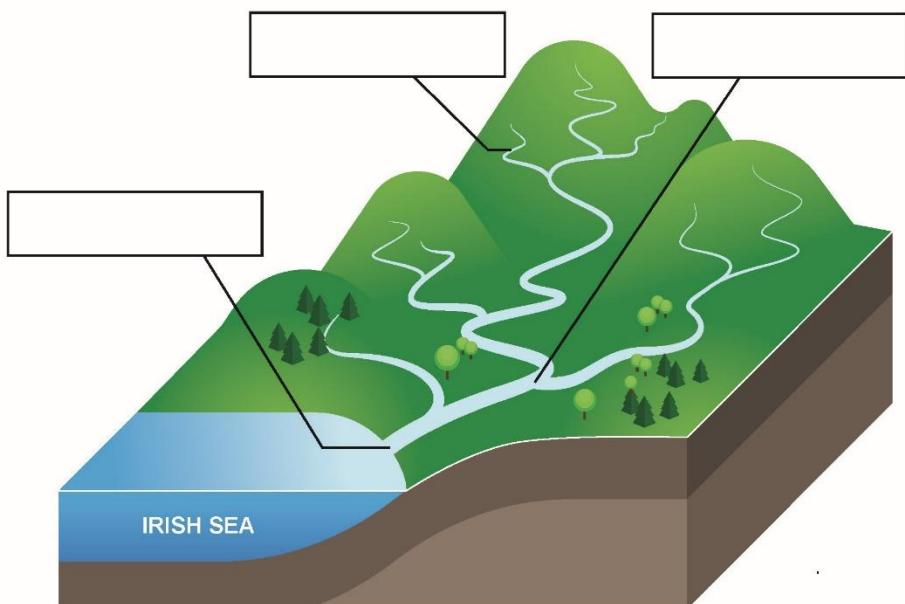
You should think carefully about how you use your time.

Your responses must be clear, accurate and well presented.

Answer all questions.

1.

Diagram 1



Examiner  
only

- (a) Find the correct definition for the term 'drainage basin' below. [1]

Put a tick (✓) next to the correct definition.

	Tick ✓
An area of land drained by a river and its tributaries.	
Where two river channels meet and drain their water into a larger channel.	
A body of water into which many rivers and streams drain their flow.	

- (b) Label Diagram 1 using **three** of the correct terms from the box below: [3]

Mouth	Watershed	Confluence	Tributary	Source
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- (c) Describe **two** reasons why the amount of water in the rivers of a drainage basin is usually higher in winter than in summer.

[4] Examiner only

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**2. Table 1: Peak Discharge Data for the River Severn at Abermule, Mid-Wales**

Examiner  
only

Adapted from: National River Flow Archive ([NRFA Station Peak Flow Data for 54014 - Severn at Abermule \(ceh.ac.uk\)](https://nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/station/54014))

Peak discharge is the highest amount of water flowing past a certain point in a river at a certain time for one year. It is measured in cubic metres per second (cumecs or m<sup>3</sup>/s). The peak discharge has been ranked since 1968, with 1 being the highest and 54 the lowest.

Date of Peak Discharge	Peak Discharge (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Rank since 1968 (/54)
9 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	201	24
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2013	195	26
12 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	188	28
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	253	10
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	358	3
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	137	48
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018	205	21
14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	224	15
16 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	324	5
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	294	7
20 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	398	2

- (a) Calculate the median figure for Peak Discharge for the River Severn at Abermule between 2012 and 2022. [2]

Show your working.

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- (b) Suggest **two** trends shown by the data in Table 1.

[4]

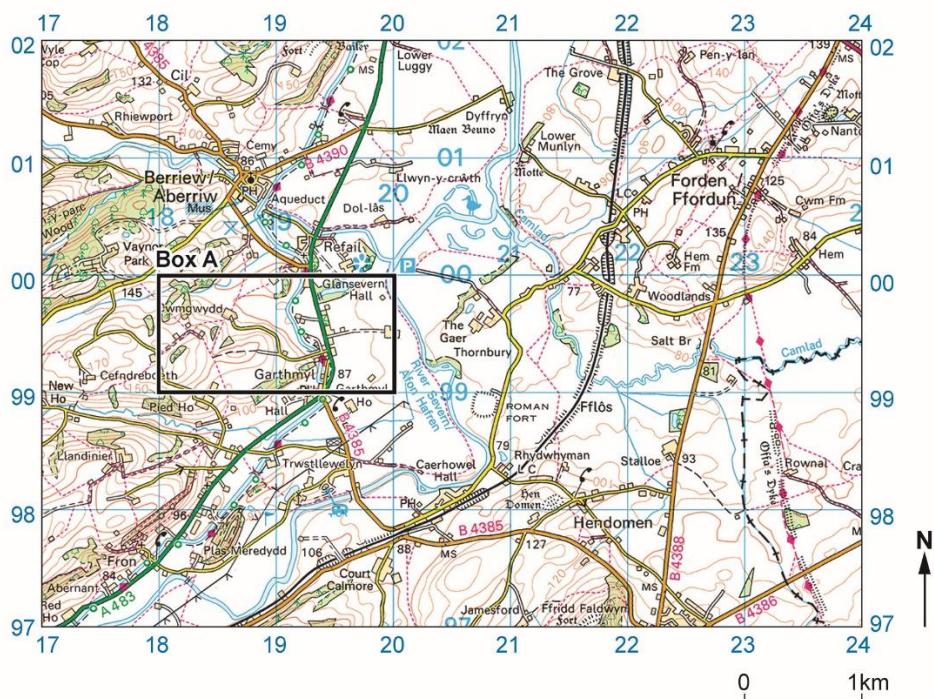
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**Photograph 1: Aerial view of the River Severn near Berriew, Mid-Wales**  
(Alamy ID: D1HXWY)



- (c) Identify the river landform A in photograph 1 by ticking (✓) the correct landform [1] from the list below.

	Tick ✓
Meander	
River cliff	
Floodplain	

**Map 1: The Valley of the River Severn between Newtown and Welshpool, Mid-Wales**

- (d) Calculate the straight-line distance on Map 1 between the church in Berriew and the church in Forden. [2]  
Show your working.
- .....  
.....  
.....

- (e) Tick (✓) the correct four figure grid reference from the box below for the nature reserve between Berriew and Forden on Map 1. [1]

	Tick (✓)
20 01	
20 02	
00 01	
20 00	
21 00	

- (f) Discuss the relief in Box A on Map 1 (18 99 and 19 99). Use evidence from the [3] map to support your answer.

Examiner  
only

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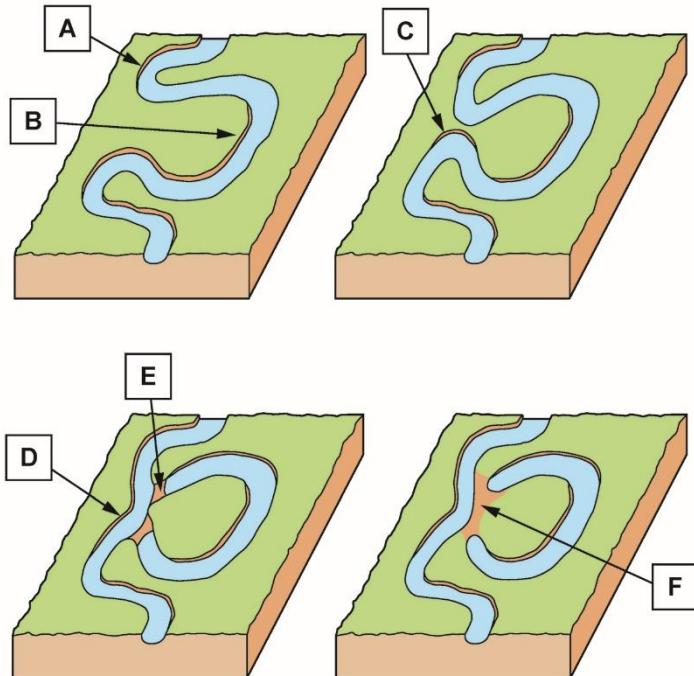
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- (g) The grid box referred to in Question 2 (e) Map 1 contains meanders and oxbow lakes on the River Severn. Meanders on the River Severn are also shown in Photograph 1.  
The stages in the formation of oxbow lakes are shown in Diagram 2 below.

[5]

Examiner  
only

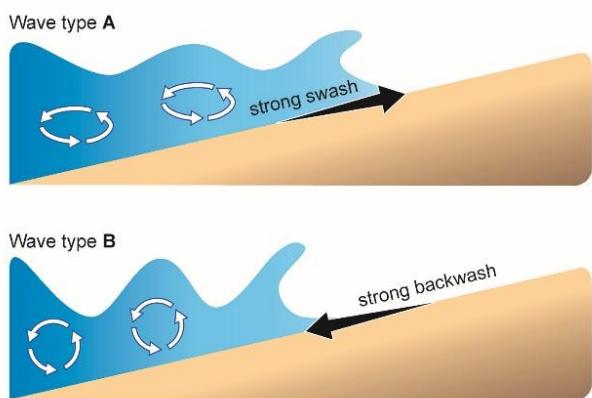
**Diagram 2: Oxbow Lake Formation**



The following statements explain the formation of an oxbow lake and are represented with a letter A to F on diagram 2 above.

Complete the table by matching each statement from the table to a letter on Diagram 2. **A** has been completed for you.

	Letter
Water flows slowly on the inside bend of the meander.	
Continuous lateral erosion causes the neck of the meander to become increasingly narrow.	
Deposition occurs in this low energy environment and a slip off slope is formed that begins to block the channel.	
In times of high discharge, the neck of the meander cuts through from each side	
Water flows quickly on the outside bend of a meander. Lateral erosion (hydraulic action) occurs in high energy conditions creating a river cliff.	<b>A</b>
Eventually the deposition will build up and block the channel, isolating the meander loop to form an oxbow lake.	

**3. Diagram 3: Wave types A and B (source [www.i-study.co.uk](http://www.i-study.co.uk))**

- (a) Name the **two** wave types **A** and **B** in Diagram 3.

[2]

A. ....

B. ....

- (b) Waves help to move beach sediments along the coastline by the process of longshore drift. [3]

Describe the process of longshore drift.

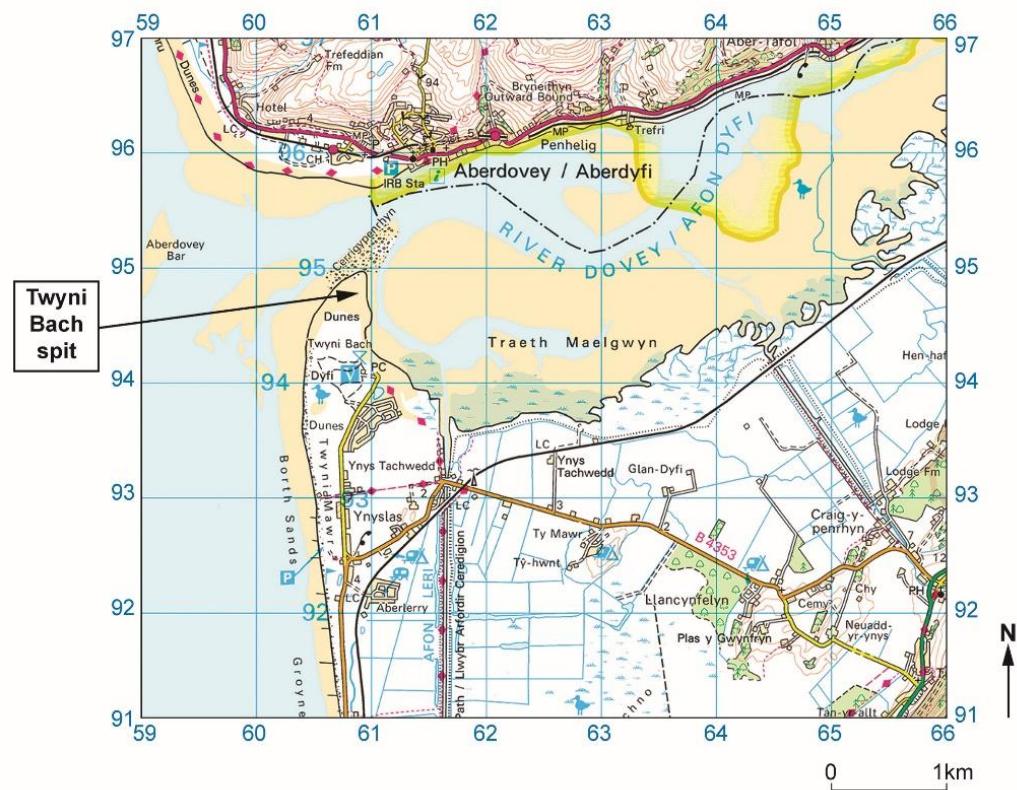
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**Photograph 2: Twyni Bach spit, Ynyslas, Mid-Wales**

Examiner  
only



**Map 2: Ordnance Survey Map showing Twyni Bach spit and surrounding area.**



- (c) Twyni Bach spit is shown in Photograph 2 and is labelled on Map 2.

[6]

Examiner  
only

Describe how a spit is formed.

**4. Photograph 3: Groynes on Borth Beach**(Source: [www.geograph.org](http://www.geograph.org))**Photograph 4: Boulder Reef defences under construction on Borth Beach**

(Alamy ID: C3CGF7)

- (a) Groynes are marked on Map 2 in grid box 6091 and shown on Borth beach in Photograph 3. Boulder Reefs are shown on Photograph 4 being constructed on Borth beach. Both defences are examples of hard engineering methods that are used to protect coastlines around the UK from beach erosion and flooding. [3]

Outline how **one** hard engineering method could work to protect villages like Borth.

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- (b) ‘Many people think that hard defences are the only method that should be used [8] when protecting settlements along the coastline of Wales and the UK.’

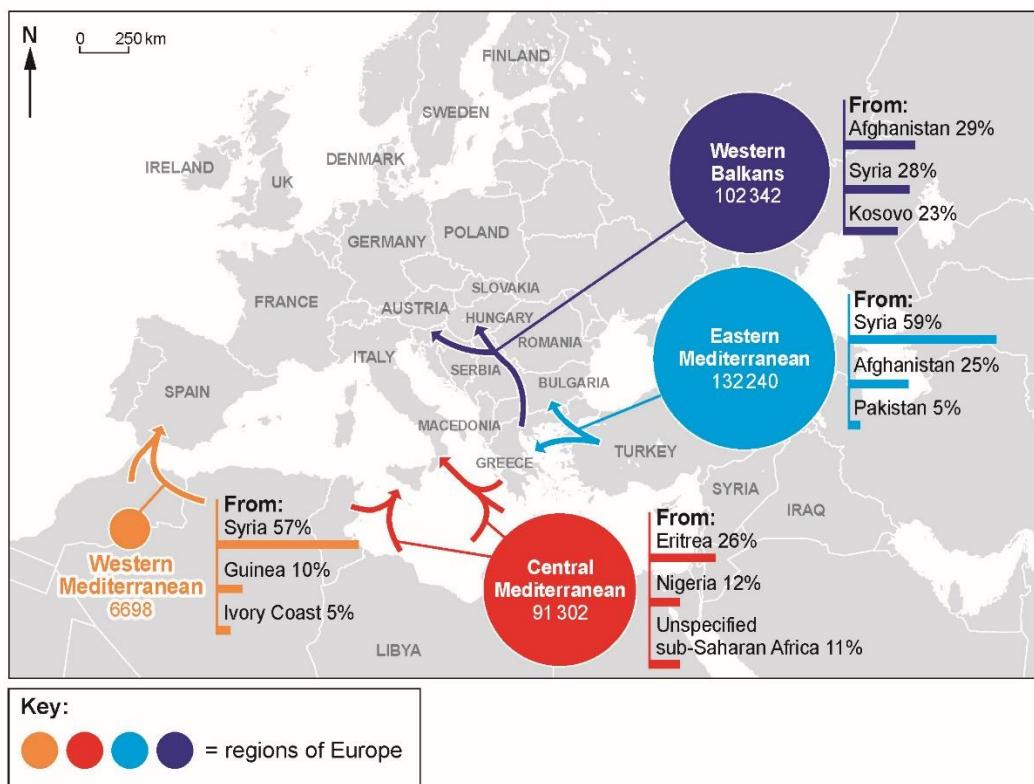
Examiner  
only

Assess how far you agree with this view.

You may refer to resources in this paper and your own studies in your answer.



**5. Map 3: Detections of Irregular Border Crossings on Main European Migration Routes, January to June 2015**



- (a) Study Map 3 carefully. [3]  
Using the map, identify the **three** countries that provided the highest percentages of migrants irregularly crossing borders into Europe during January to June 2015.

Country 1:

.....  
.....

Country 2:

.....  
.....

Country 3:

.....  
.....

- (b) There are many different reasons for international migration.  
Outline possible push and pull factors associated with international migration.  
Use examples in your answer.

[6]

Examiner  
only

- (c) Assess why Map 3 may not be a fully reliable source of information on irregular border crossings and migration into Europe in 2015. [3]

Examiner  
only

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- (d) Discuss impacts of international migration on **one** named source country and **one** named host country you have studied. [8]

Name of source country:

(e) Describe **one** named strategy to manage migration.

[4]

Examiner  
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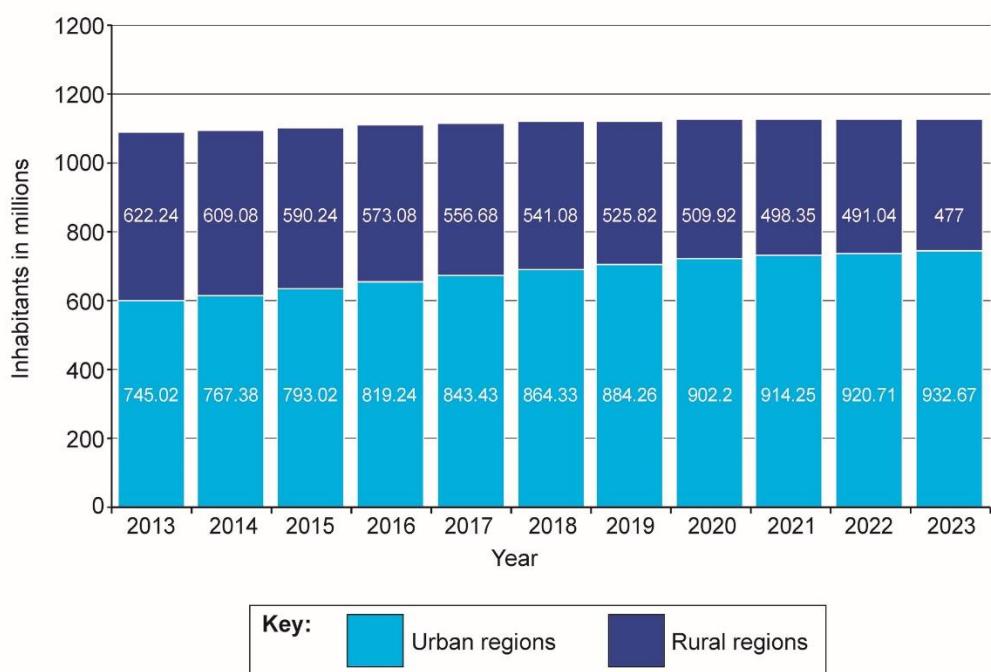
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6. Graph 1: Urban and Rural Population Change in China 2013-2023 (source: [www.statista.com](http://www.statista.com))



- (a) Calculate the increase in urban population in China between 2013 and 2023. [2]  
Show your working.

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- (b) China has many megacities. [1]  
Define the term 'megacity'.

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(c) Give **four** features a city must have if it is to be classed as a global city.

[4]

Examiner  
only

- .....
- .....
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- .....

(d) One consequence of the growth of cities around the world is that, in some cities, [5] many residents find housing in informal settlements.

Name **five** key features of a typical informal settlement.

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

- (e) Discuss responses to problems caused by urbanisation in **one** global city you have studied. [6] Examiner only

Examiner  
only

Name of global city:

1

Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question number(s) in the left-hand margin.

## **MARK SCHEME**

### **Guidance for examiners**

#### **Generic marking principles**

- Marks awarded are always whole marks (not half marks, or other fractions).
- Answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.
- Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).
- Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

#### **Positive marking**

It should be remembered that candidates are writing under examination conditions and credit should be given for what the candidate writes, rather than adopting the approach of penalising candidates for any omissions. It should be possible for a very good response to achieve full marks and a very poor one to achieve zero marks. Marks should not be deducted for a less than perfect answer if it satisfies the criteria of the mark scheme.

For questions that are objective or points-based, the mark scheme should be applied precisely. Marks should be awarded as indicated and no further subdivision made.

Mark schemes often list points which may be included in candidates' answers. The list is not exhaustive. The inclusion of '*Credit any other valid response.*' (or similar instruction) within mark schemes allows for the possible variation in candidates' responses. Credit should be given according to the accuracy and relevance of candidates' answers.

Appropriate terminology is reflected in exemplar responses in mark schemes. However, unless there is a specific requirement within a question, candidates may be awarded marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.

#### **Banded mark schemes**

For band marked questions mark schemes are in two parts; the indicative content and the assessment grid.

The indicative content suggests the range of points and issues which may be included in candidates' answers. It can be used to assess the quality of the candidate's response. As noted above, indicative content is not intended to be exhaustive and candidates do not have to include all the indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

However, to reach the highest level of the mark scheme a candidate must meet the requirements of the highest mark band. Where a response is not creditworthy, that is, it contains nothing of any significance to the mark scheme, or where no response has been provided, no marks should be awarded.

The marking of banded mark questions should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate's response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.

Examiners should first read and annotate the candidate's answer to pick out the evidence that is being assessed in that question. The mark scheme can then be applied. This is done as a two-stage process.

### **Stage 1 – Deciding on the band**

Beginning at the lowest band, examiners should look at the candidate's answer and check whether it matches the descriptors for that band. If the descriptors at the lowest band are satisfied, examiners should move up to the next band and repeat this process for each band until the descriptors most closely matches the work.

### **Stage 2 – Deciding on the mark**

Having determined the appropriate band, deciding on the mark within a band will be made on the basis of a 'best fit' procedure, weaknesses in some areas being compensated for by strengths in others.

Examiners should use the full range of marks available to them. Marking should be positive, rewarding achievement rather than penalising failure or omissions. The awarding of marks must be directly related to the marking criteria, and all responses must be marked according to the banded levels provided for each question.

Standardising material that has already been awarded a mark will be provided during standardising and this should be used as a reference material when assessing work. Examiners are reminded of the need to revisit the standardising material as they apply the mark scheme in order to confirm that the band and the mark allocated is appropriate to the work submitted.

This mark scheme instructs examiners to look for and reward valid alternatives where indicative content is suggested for an answer. This is not a checklist for expected content in an answer, or set out as a 'model answer', as responses must be marked in the banded levels of response provided for each question. Where a candidate provides a response that contains aspects or approaches not included in the indicative content, examiners should use their professional judgement to determine the validity of the response in light of the task and reward as directed by the bands. Candidates are free to choose any approach that is relevant to the set task. Candidates can (and will most likely) incorporate ideas other than those mentioned in the mark scheme.

Question	Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark					
1.	<p>(a) Find the correct definition for the term 'drainage basin' below. Put a tick (✓) next to the correct definition.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An area of land drained by a river and its tributaries.</li> </ul>	1			1					
	<p>(b) Label Diagram 1 using <b>three</b> of the correct terms from the box below:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Mouth</td> <td>Watershed</td> <td>Confluence</td> <td>Tributary</td> <td>Source</td> </tr> </table> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for each correct labelling up to a maximum of <b>three</b> marks:</p>	Mouth	Watershed	Confluence	Tributary	Source		3		3
Mouth	Watershed	Confluence	Tributary	Source						

<p>(c)</p>	<p>Describe <b>two</b> reasons why the amount of water in the rivers of a drainage basin is usually higher in winter than in summer.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for a basic description, up to a maximum of <b>two</b> marks, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less leaves on trees in winter so less interception of rainfall</li> <li>• Less leaves on trees so less transpiration</li> <li>• Precipitation is higher in winter so more water in the rivers</li> <li>• Lower temperatures meaning less evaporation from the ground and other surfaces</li> <li>• Frozen ground so rain water cannot soak into it</li> <li>• Snow is more likely in winter so adds water to the rivers when melting</li> <li>• Winter storms bring more rainfall so more water in the rivers.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>two</b> marks for a more developed description, up to a maximum of <b>four</b> marks for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less leaves on trees in winter so less interception, meaning water gets into the rivers more quickly and increases flow/discharge</li> <li>• Plants and trees have much reduced evapotranspiration meaning roots absorb less water from the soil, so the soil becomes saturated more quickly leading to increased surface runoff</li> <li>• Precipitation is higher in winter so soil becomes saturated more quickly and water enters rivers more quickly</li> <li>• Lower temperatures give frozen ground so less water is available to evaporate from the ground and rivers. Water is not able to soak into frozen ground</li> <li>• Snow is more likely in winter so adds water to rivers when melting, especially if the soil is frozen underneath and infiltration doesn't happen</li> <li>• Winter storms bring more rainfall that leads to rapid infiltration and saturation of the soil, leading to increased overland flow and subsequently more water in the rivers.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p>	4			4
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Question	Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark
2.	<p>(a)</p> <p>Calculate the median figure for Peak Discharge for the River Severn at Abermule between 2012 and 2022.</p> <p>Show your working.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for putting the discharge figures in correct size order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 137, 188, 195, 201, 205, <b>224</b>, 253, 294, 324, 358, 398 Award <b>one</b> mark for identifying the middle value.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>224</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Alternatively,</b></p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:  Number in the sample (<math>n</math>) = 11  Median = <math>\frac{n + 1}{2}</math>  Median = <math>\frac{11 + 1}{2}</math>  Median = 6<sup>th</sup> term</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:  Median = <b>224</b></p>		2		2
	<p>(b)</p> <p>Suggest <b>two</b> trends shown by the data in Table 1.</p> <p><b>N.B.</b> Both peak discharge and rank fluctuate over this timescale.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for each suggested pattern up to a maximum of <b>two</b> marks, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the peak discharge has increased</li> <li>• the rank since 1968 has decreased.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for the use of data for each pattern up to a maximum of <b>two</b> marks, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• calculating how much discharge has increased by 197m<sup>3</sup>/s</li> <li>• calculating the change in ranks of 22 places.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p>		4	4	
	<p>(c)</p> <p>Identify the river landform A in photograph 1 by ticking (✓) the correct landform from the list below.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floodplain</li> </ul>	1			1

	(d)	<p>Calculate the straight-line distance on Map 1 between the church in Berriew and the church in Forden. Show your working.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for identifying the distance is equal to 4 grid squares or measuring the distance accurately as 8cm.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for applying the scale and calculating the distance as 4000m or 4km.</p> <p>N.B. The Scale map is 1:50 000 so every grid square is equal to 1000m, and 2cm on the map = 1km on the ground.</p>		2		2
	(e)	<p>Tick (✓) the correct four figure grid reference from the box below for the nature reserve between Berriew and Forden on Map 1.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 00</li> </ul>		1		1
	(f)	<p>Discuss the relief in Box A on Map 1 (18 99 and 19 99). Use evidence from the map to support your answer.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for discussing that to the west of box A the relief of the land is steep.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for discussing that to the east of box A the relief of the land is flat.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for correctly referring to map evidence, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to the west the contour lines are close together</li> <li>• to the east the contour lines are spaced out.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p>		3		3

	(g) The following statements explain the formation of an oxbow lake and are represented with a letter A to F on diagram 2 above. Complete the table by matching each statement from the table to a letter on Diagram 2. <b>A</b> has been completed for you.	
	Award <b>one</b> mark for each correctly identified statement:	5
	Water flows slowly on the inside bend of the meander.	B
	Continuous lateral erosion causes the neck of the meander to become increasingly narrow.	C
	Deposition occurs in this low energy environment and a slip off slope is formed that begins to block the channel.	E
	In times of high discharge, the neck of the meander cuts through from each side	D
	Water flows quickly on the outside bend of a meander. Lateral erosion (hydraulic action) occurs in high energy conditions creating a river cliff.	A
	Eventually the deposition will build up and block the channel, isolating the meander loop to form an oxbow lake.	F

Question	Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark
3.	<p>(a) Name the two wave types <b>A</b> and <b>B</b> in Diagram 3.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for identifying A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constructive waves.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for identifying B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destructive waves.</li> </ul>	2			2
	<p>(b) Waves help to move beach sediments along the coastline by the process of longshore drift.</p> <p>Describe the process of longshore drift.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for a basic description, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waves approach the beach at an angle and go back straight, moving sediment. The process then repeats itself.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>two</b> marks for a developed description, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waves approach the shore at an angle and push sediment up the beach. Sediment is then taken back into the sea at right angles and the whole process repeats again, moving sediment continuously along the beach.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>three</b> marks for a fully developed description, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waves approach the beach at an angle driven by the prevailing winds/direction of the fetch. The swash carries sediment onto the beach which is then taken back into the sea as the backwash carries it down the beach perpendicular to the shore. The process repeats itself and the sediment is carried along the shore in a diagonal or zig-zag pattern.</li> </ul>	3			3

	(c) Twyni Bach spit is shown in Photograph 2 and is labelled on Map 2.  Describe how a spit is formed.
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### Indicative Content

Answers may refer to:

- Longshore drift transports eroded sediment along the coastline in the direction of the prevailing wind. Where there is a sudden change in direction of the coastline, for example at a river mouth, sediment is carried out to sea where it is deposited. This creates a new strip of land or beach which projects out into the sea and remains attached to the land at one end. This is called a spit.
- In the sheltered water behind a spit, a salt marsh forms. Sometimes a spit has a hooked end as a result of changes in the wind direction. Spits constantly change in shape and size due to erosion from wind and the sea and deposition as longshore drift continues.
- Spits do not extend right across the river mouth as strong river currents carry material out to sea.

Credit any other valid response. Examples of spits may be given e.g. Spurn Head, East Yorkshire or Morfa Harlech in Gwynedd. Do not credit description of longshore drift or reference to bars or tombolos.

Band	AO1
<b>3</b>	<b>5-6 marks</b> A very good description, which demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear knowledge of how a spit is formed</li> <li>• accurately refers to erosion, transportation and deposition</li> <li>• a clear response that is organised and well structured.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>3-4 marks</b> A good description, which demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge of how a spit is formed</li> <li>• some reference to erosion, transportation and deposition</li> <li>• a generally clear and structured response.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<b>1-2 marks</b> A basic description, which demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimal knowledge of how a spit is formed</li> <li>• little or no reference to erosion, transportation and deposition</li> <li>• a lack of clarity in parts, and statements that are linked by a basic structure.</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<b>0 marks</b> Response not creditworthy or not attempted.

Question	Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark
4. (a)	<p>Outline how <b>one</b> hard engineering method could work to protect villages like Borth.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for stating an appropriate hard engineering method, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groynes are a low wall or barrier on a beach built at right angles to sea.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for outlining their purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groynes are able to block sediment being carried along the shore by longshore drift, causing the beach to build up/stay in place.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for suggesting how they protect villages like Borth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groynes keep the material on the beach, so wave energy is absorbed on the beach and is kept away from the village. The beach then continues to attract visitors to villages like Borth and protects the income they bring.</li> </ul> <p>N.B. Other methods chosen could include sea walls, rip-rap, revetments and gabions.</p>	3			3

(b)

'Many people think that hard defences are the only method that should be used when protecting settlements along the coastline of Wales and the UK.'

Assess how far you agree with this view.

You may refer to resources in this paper and your own studies in your answer.

### Indicative Content

This is an evaluative question. Answer must comment on the strength and weaknesses of both hard and soft engineering strategies before reaching a conclusion/opinion in relation to the statement.

Hard strategies include:

- Sea Walls
- Rip Rap
- Gabions
- Revetments
- Groynes.

All provide protection for key locations and reflect wave energy away from areas that need protection. Groynes help build up a beach to absorb wave power and slow down erosion. All these are expensive to build, however, and require constant maintenance. They can also look ugly e.g. concrete sea walls in well-known coastal locations. Wave energy is also transferred elsewhere on the coast, with erosion as a consequence.

Soft engineering strategies include:

- beach nourishment
- sand dune stabilisation
- managed retreat.

These involve working with the sea and providing chances for wave energy to be absorbed or low value land to be flooded to save high value land. Beach nourishment and sand dune stabilisation need constant attention however and sometimes may work in line with hard defences anyway. Managed retreat can be controversial e.g. people who own properties in land that is not being protected can be affected.

Examples will include a range of locations across Wales and the UK. For example, some candidates may use Borth in Ceredigion, whereas some may use Mappleton on the Holderness Coast in East Yorkshire. Give credit for specific references and detail from these locations e.g. groynes, rip-rap boulders and beach replenishment in Borth as seen in the paper, or reference to the boulder walls and rock groyne at Mappleton and the knock-on effects they have had further south in villages like Great Cowden.

Credit any other valid response.

**N.B** The answer can argue for hard or soft defences, a mix of the two or none at all. Credit can be given for all approaches as long as 'how far do you agree' is addressed at the end.

<b>Band</b>	<b>AO3</b>
<b>4</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7-8 marks</b></p> <p>An excellent assessment, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• detailed knowledge and understanding of how hard defences are used to protect settlements along the coastline of Wales and the UK</li> <li>• a balanced and coherent argument considering the pros and cons of each hard and soft defence discussed</li> <li>• the use of detailed examples which draw on information from different hard and soft defences to back up argument</li> <li>• ‘how far do you agree’ is clearly addressed</li> <li>• a clear response that has purpose, is organised and well structured.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5-6 marks</b></p> <p>A good assessment, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sound knowledge and understanding of how hard defences are used to protect settlements along the coastline of Wales and the UK</li> <li>• a balanced argument considering the pros and cons of each hard and soft defence discussed</li> <li>• the use of examples which draw on information from different hard and soft defences to back up argument</li> <li>• ‘how far do you agree’ is addressed</li> <li>• a clear response that is organised and well structured.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3-4 marks</b></p> <p>A basic assessment, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some knowledge and understanding of how hard defences are used to protect settlements along the coastline of Wales and the UK</li> <li>• an imbalanced argument</li> <li>• partial use of examples which draw on information from different hard and soft defences to back up argument</li> <li>• ‘how far do you agree’ may not be or only partially be addressed</li> <li>• a generally clear and structured response.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-2 marks</b></p> <p>A limited assessment, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimal knowledge and understanding of how hard defences are used to protect settlements along the coastline of Wales and the UK</li> <li>• a one-sided argument</li> <li>• no use of examples</li> <li>• ‘how far do you agree’ is not addressed</li> <li>• a lack of clarity in parts, and statements that are linked by a basic structure.</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>Response not creditworthy or not attempted.</p>

Question	Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark
5	(a) Using the map, identify the <b>three</b> countries that provided the highest percentages of migrants irregularly crossing borders into Europe during January to June 2015.				
	Award <b>one</b> mark, up to a maximum of <b>three</b> marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syria</li> <li>• Afghanistan</li> <li>• Eritrea.</li> </ul>		3		3
	(b) There are many different reasons for international migration. Outline possible push and pull factors associated with international migration. Use examples in your answer.				

### Indicative Content

Content could include a range of push and pull factors and be drawn from economic, social, environmental and political angles.

Pull factors could include:

- joining family already in the host country
- seeking safety from environmental disasters
- seeing the host country as a perceived safe haven from political persecution
- seeking better paid employment than in the source country
- freedom of movement between countries e.g. around the EU.

Push factors could include:

- escaping war/civil unrest
- high unemployment/low paid jobs e.g. in agriculture and manufacturing in source country
- family and friends have already migrated
- environmental refugees fleeing from flooding, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes
- impacts of climate change (e.g. famine and/or drought, sea level rise, wild fires and extreme heat).

Examples could come from a wide range of countries e.g. Mexicans migrating to the USA, Polish migration to the UK or Syrian migration to Turkey. Examples could also come from conflicts at the time of study e.g. Ukrainian migrants to the UK and other European countries in 2025, or be historic in nature e.g. migration from Commonwealth countries to the UK after World War 2.

Examples will likely contain push and pull factors and credit should be given for defining these within the answer.

Credit any other valid response.

<b>Band</b>	<b>AO1</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>5-6 marks</b></p> <p>A very good outline, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear knowledge of possible push and pull factors associated with international migration</li> <li>• relevant use of examples</li> <li>• a clear and balanced response that is organised and well structured.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>3-4 marks</b></p> <p>A good outline, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge of possible push and pull factors associated with international migration</li> <li>• some appropriate use of examples</li> <li>• a generally clear, balanced and structured response.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>1-2 marks</b></p> <p>A basic outline, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimal knowledge of possible push and pull factors associated with international migration</li> <li>• no use of examples</li> <li>• a lack of balance and clarity in parts, and statements that are linked by a basic structure.</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<p><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>Response not creditworthy or not attempted.</p>

Question	Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark
5.	<p>(c) Assess why Map 3 may not be a fully reliable source of information on irregular border crossings and migration into Europe in 2015.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for a basic assessment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The map only shows regions, not specific countries where border crossings occur.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>two</b> marks for a developed assessment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The map shows regions, not specific countries where border crossings occur. The map also shows irregular crossing detection, so this is not a full figure as many crossings go undetected and migrants are not recorded.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>three</b> marks for a fully developed assessment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The map shows regions, not specific countries where border crossings occur. The map also shows irregular crossing detection, so this is not a full figure as many crossings go undetected and migrants are not recorded. One origin of migrants is given as 'Unspecified sub-Saharan Africa' so questions must be asked about which countries this actually involves.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p> <p>N.B. Do not credit date of the map as the question asks about that specific year, so the map being out of date is not relevant in this context.</p>			3	3

(d)	Discuss impacts of international migration on <b>one</b> named source country and <b>one</b> named host country you have studied
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### Indicative Content

Impacts selected should be appropriate to the countries selected.

Impacts could include:

- spread and appreciation of other cultures in the host country
- money sent home in remittances to families in the home country
- integration into the host country society creating first- and second-generation families
- population density and unemployment in the source country is reduced
- host country receives skilled migrants to fill key positions e.g. healthcare professionals, and migrants willing to do low paid, menial jobs so a range of employment is available
- migrants who return home are often more skilled, experienced and talented
- reduces labour shortages in the host country
- segregation/discrimination/racism/alienation of migrants in the host country often occurs
- use of detention centres often keeping migrants in poor, prison like conditions
- highly skilled migrants often end up in low paid jobs not suited to the knowledge and skills they can offer the host country
- high risk of death and disease during the migration journey
- brain drain from the source country
- increased pressure on housing, services and amenities in the host country
- break up of families in the source country if some family members migrate and some stay at home.

Examples could vary but might include Mexicans to the USA, Polish (and other EU) migrants to the UK since 2004, African, Caribbean & Asian Migrants to Europe (historical and present day) or a recent environmental example e.g. Haitians to the USA (Florida) after the 2010 earthquake.

Band	AO2
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7-8 marks</b></p> <p>An excellent discussion, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• detailed knowledge and understanding of impacts of international migration</li> <li>• balance and coherence</li> <li>• the use of detailed examples which draw on information from different impacts</li> <li>• a clear response that has purpose, is organised and well structured.</li> </ul>
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5-6 marks</b></p> <p>A good discussion, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sound knowledge and understanding of impacts of international migration</li> <li>• balance</li> <li>• the use of examples which draw on information from different impacts</li> <li>• a clear response that is organised and well structured.</li> </ul>
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3-4 marks</b></p> <p>A basic discussion, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some knowledge and understanding of impacts of international migration</li> <li>• imbalance</li> <li>• partial use of examples which draw on information from different impacts</li> <li>• a generally clear and structured response.</li> </ul>

<b>1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-2 marks</b></p> <p>A limited discussion, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimal knowledge and understanding of impacts of international migration</li> <li>• a one-sided viewpoint</li> <li>• no use of examples</li> <li>• a lack of clarity in parts, and statements that are linked by a basic structure.</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>Response not creditworthy or not attempted.</p>

Question		Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark	
5.	(e)	<p>Describe <b>one</b> named strategy to manage migration.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for naming a strategy, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• border patrols and/or physical barriers</li> <li>• detention centres and repatriation</li> <li>• UK points-based migration system.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for a basic description, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a physical barrier consisting of walls and fences on the border between USA and Mexico. This is patrolled by Border Officials.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>two</b> marks for a developed description, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a series of walls and fences built along the USA/Mexico border designed to curb the flow of migrants trying to enter the USA. These barriers are patrolled by Border Officials from both countries. Irregular migrants, when intercepted, are repatriated to their country of origin or held in detention centres until their right to remain in the USA is decided.</li> </ul> <p>Award <b>three</b> marks for a fully developed description, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently around 700 miles of walls and fences along the 1950km USA/Mexico border. Mountainous terrain and rivers mean that walls or fences are not always needed on other parts of the border. The barriers have official crossing points where migrants with visas can enter both countries but are otherwise patrolled by Border Officials from both countries aiming to intercept and send back irregular migrants. In some places double or triple walls/fences are used to as a further deterrent to migrants trying to cross. Migrants who do cross and are caught are repatriated to their countries of origin in Central and South America or held in migrant detention centres whilst their claims are processed.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p> <p>N.B. Country examples are not required in the answer but will likely be given if one strategy is outlined in full.</p>	4				4

Question	Answer	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total Mark
6.	<p>(a) Calculate the increase in urban population in China between 2013 and 2023. Show your working.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>(2023) 932.67 - (2013) 745.02</math></li> </ul> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 187.65 million.</li> </ul>		2		2
	<p>(b) China has many megacities. Define the term 'megacity'.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A city with more than 10 million people.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p>	1			1
	<p>(c) Give <b>four</b> features a city must have if it is to be classed as a global city.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for each feature, up to a maximum of <b>four</b> marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• centre for business and trade e.g. MNC headquarters/major port</li> <li>• centre for global communication networks</li> <li>• cultural/sporting significance e.g. Bollywood in Mumbai, Millennium Stadium in Cardiff</li> <li>• international airport/transport hub</li> <li>• international financial centre</li> <li>• universities with international students.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p>	4			4
	<p>(d) One consequence of the growth of cities around the world is that, in some cities, many residents find housing in informal settlements. Name <b>five</b> key features of a typical informal settlement.</p> <p>Award <b>one</b> mark for each feature, up to a maximum of <b>five</b> marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very high population density</li> <li>• built on poor quality, marginal land not belonging to house owners</li> <li>• high crime rates/gangs/poor security</li> <li>• narrow/no roads with poor transport links</li> <li>• overcrowding</li> <li>• poor quality buildings</li> <li>• poor sanitation and health</li> <li>• self-help schemes to improve housing</li> <li>• sense of togetherness and local pride.</li> </ul> <p>Credit any other valid response.</p>	5			5

	(e) Discuss responses to problems caused by urbanisation in <b>one</b> global city you have studied.
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### Indicative Content

Answers should be clearly set in the context of one global city and make specific reference to responses to the problems caused by urbanisation in that city. As this global city may come from all parts of the world and countries at different levels of development, a wide range of answers may be seen.

Responses to problems caused by rapid urbanisation in a LIC/NIC global city e.g. informal settlements, traffic congestion, high crime rates, overcrowding and homelessness, vulnerability to climate change impacts :

- Clearance of settlements to build new developments in Mumbai, causing residents to leave and set up a new informal settlement elsewhere.
- New houses are sometimes provided on better quality land, made from solid materials and with running water, electricity, toilets and security of tenure, as seen in parts of Dharavi, Mumbai. When rebuilding is not possible, current houses are being provided with clean water and toilets, to improve hygiene and reduce the risk of disease.
- City councils are implementing self-help building schemes with building materials provided to make houses stronger, more stable and secure.
- Connection of legal electricity, to avoid issues with illegal connections and the danger they can bring to residents.
- Transport developments to make communications easier, often innovative approaches are taken e.g. the Teleferico gondola in Complexo de Alemao in Rio de Janeiro connecting informal settlements to the city Metro system in order to improve connectivity from informal settlements to city centres. However, the Rio Teleferico Gondola is currently closed due to lack of funds for maintenance.
- Provision of extra Police and crackdowns on gang violence to make residents feel safer, most notably seen in the run-up to the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Though, preference is often given to more visible settlements e.g. the clean ups and crime crackdowns applied to favelas near the airport and Olympic site.
- Tours of informal settlements educate visitors to the problems and allow residents to feel informed of efforts to improve knowledge and awareness of issues they face.
- Dar es Salaam in Tanzania is restricting construction in areas vulnerable to rising sea levels and floods. Families are given rights to buy their homes and then move from informal settlements at risk into safer neighbourhoods with simple housing and basic services e.g. water, toilets and drainage.

Responses to problems caused by urbanisation in a HIC global city e.g. urban sprawl, traffic congestion, loss of green spaces, zones of deprivation & poverty:

- Green belts designated to prevent further urban sprawl into the countryside around cities such as London and Cardiff.
- Urban regeneration to improve derelict/disused areas e.g. Cardiff Bay, London Docklands through building of new houses, flats, industry and leisure facilities.
- Use of brownfield sites over greenfield sites for new developments, linked to the two points above. However, there are additional costs with brownfield development in the UK e.g. costs of pollution clean ups.
- Transport improvements e.g. South Wales Metro train improvements to make better commuting opportunities into Cardiff from the Valleys and surrounding areas, improving air quality and taking

cars off the roads. However, concerns over new housing and transport developments only benefitting city and local residents and not those elsewhere, opening up further divides within Wales.

- Improvements to the amount and nature of urban green spaces e.g. the Gateway linear Park in Cardiff, leading to the new Plasdwr housing development planned with 40% of its area as green space for residents to use. However, there is lack of affordable housing in new developments.
- New York has begun coastal protection schemes on 520 miles of low lying land that was damaged after Hurricane Sandy in 2010. Building codes have been strengthened, flood risk zones identified and hard defences built such as the Rockaway Boardwalk and the East Manhattan flood wall.

Credit any other valid response.

Band	AO2
<b>3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5-6 marks</b></p> <p>A very good discussion, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear knowledge and understanding of responses to problems caused by urbanisation in one named global city</li> <li>• the use of accurate examples which are clearly taken from the named city</li> <li>• a clear response that is organised and well structured.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3-4 marks</b></p> <p>A good discussion, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge and understanding of responses to problems caused by urbanisation in one named global city</li> <li>• partial use of examples which are linked to the named city</li> <li>• a generally clear and structured response.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1-2 marks</b></p> <p>A basic discussion, which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimal knowledge and understanding of responses to problems caused by urbanisation, not necessarily linked to one named global city</li> <li>• no use of examples</li> <li>• a lack of clarity in parts, and statements that are linked by a basic structure.</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>0 marks</b></p> <p>Response not creditworthy or not attempted.</p>

## Mapping of questions to specification content and assessment objectives: Unit 1

Question		Topic and section												Total Marks	AO1 Marks	AO2 Marks	AO3 Marks		
		1.1			1.2			1.3			1.4								
		1.1.1	1.1.2	1.1.3	1.1.4	1.1.5	1.1.6	1.2.1	1.2.2	1.2.3	1.2.4	1.2.5	1.3.1	1.3.2	1.3.3	1.4.1	1.4.2	1.4.3	1.4.4
<b>1</b>	a		1														1	1	
	b			3													3		3
	c		4														4	4	
<b>2</b>	a		2														2		2
	b		4														4		4
	c			1													1	1	
	d				2												2		2
	e				1												1		1
	f				3												3		3
	g		5														5	5	
<b>3</b>	a					2											2	2	
	b					3											3	3	
	c						6										6	6	
<b>4</b>	a							3									3	3	
	b							8									8		8
<b>5</b>	a								3								3		3

	b									6						6	6				
	c									3						3				3	
	d									8						8		8			
	e									4						4	4				
6	a									2						2		2			
	b									1						1	1				
	c									4						4	4				
	d									5						5	5				
	e									6						6		6			
Total marks												90	45	30	15						