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TOP SCHOLAR



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Scholarship 2009 Geography

2.00 pm Saturday 21 November 2009

Time allowed: Three hours

Total marks: 24

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

Pull out the Resource Booklet 93401R from the centre of this booklet.

Carefully read the instructions on page 2 of this booklet.

Answer ALL three questions in this booklet. Each question is worth 8 marks.

If you need more space for any answer, use the page(s) provided at the back of this booklet and clearly number the question.

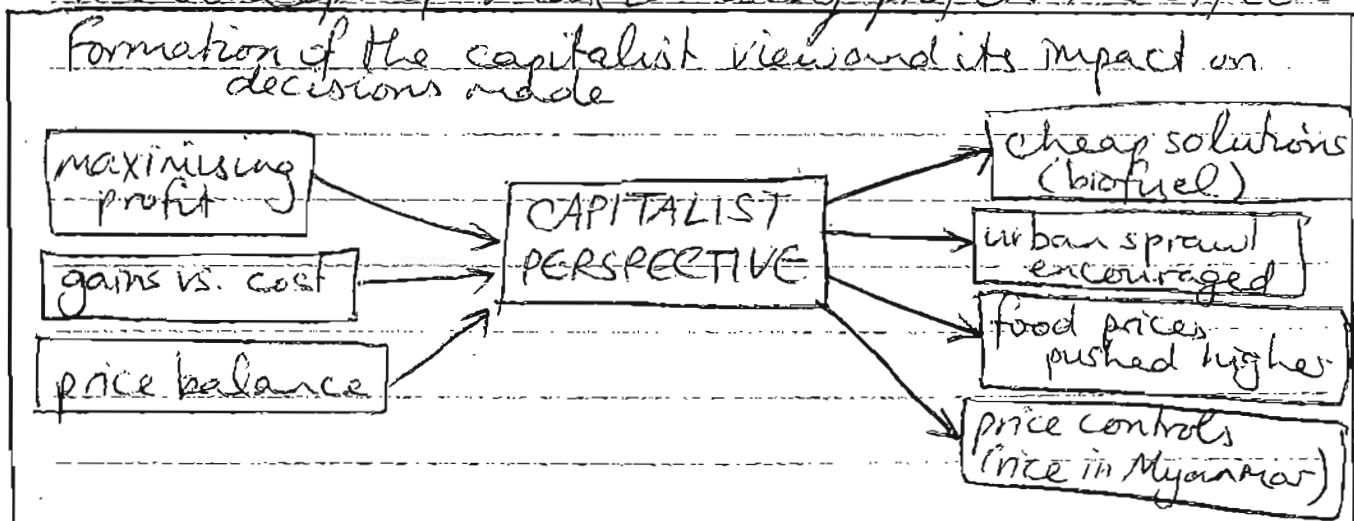
Check that this booklet has pages 2–21 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Begin your essay for **Question One** here:

As a serious event that has had detrimental economic, social, political and environmental effects all around the globe, the 2007-2008 global food crisis understandably generated heated and varied debates and opinions over its causes. Countries, companies, organisations and families were all affected and all bring their perspectives and values into play when forming their view about the causes of the food crisis. Some believe economic decisions by corporations and governments have generated the food crisis, while others consider it the natural result of environmental occurrences and phenomena.

The governmental and corporate ^{effects} ~~viewpoints~~ on the issue are driven by a capitalist perspective. As shown below, ^{the} capitalist view is driven by the concept of maximising profit. The effects formation of the capitalist view and its impact on decisions made



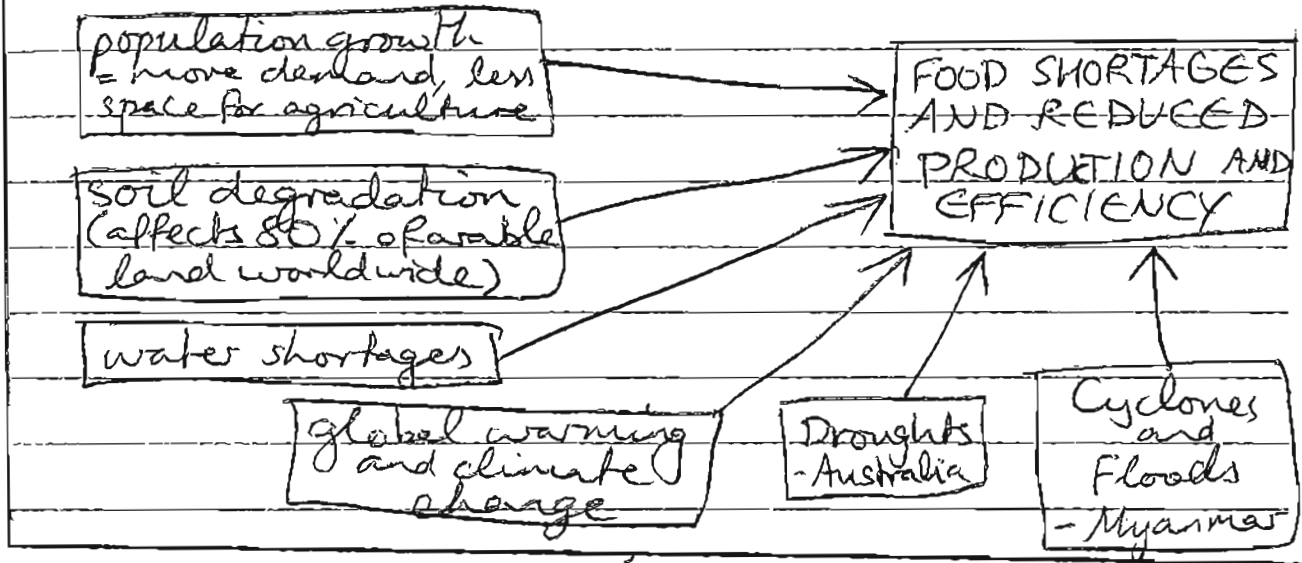
at this have certainly driven fuel prices up

and contributed to the cost of vital staples such as rice ^{and} wheat rising, which has a hugely negative impact on those who rely on these cheap crops to get enough (or even something) to eat. Many poor in underdeveloped places living on as little as 50¢ a day, and even the working class families in China, feel the pinch of economic battles in the stockmarket, and "don't know how long [they] can survive" on decreasing (already meagre) grain rations, or feel that even though they get 3 meals a day their "quality of life is definitely reduced". Those who consider political and economic decisions (such as the conversion of perfectly good food crops to biofuel generation) the main cause of the food crisis believe capitalist views have resulted in the impacts but themselves hold a different view, with more local and environmental perspectives as they try to keep the social fabric and environment of their surroundings together while suffering from the decisions made by others with immense economic and political power.

Those who blame environmental phenomena for the global food crisis are more varied in their views, with those with a firmly capitalist perspective holding the same opinion as someone with an environmental perspective. Many believe a cocktail of natural events have combined to create the

crisis (see below) and as these are tangible and have not been caused by anyone, the belief in their involvement in the creation of the food crisis is greater - no one needs to, or can be, 'blamed' for the unfortunate combination of environment and social needs.

Environmental Factors Involved in the Global Food Crisis



The different opinions about the cause of the global food crisis, from naturally occurring environmental features to economic decisions of corporations and governments, are sparked in the huge numbers of people who have them by their own perspectives - belief in the culpability of environmental phenomena is more likely to be believed to be at least part of the reason for the food crisis, while belief in the detrimental effect of economic decisions on the

1.0.1. of food in poorer nations is felt by

to be due to a capitalist perspective by many who often do not place nearly as much emphasis on the gaining of profits. By bringing their own values and experiences to the table, those forming an opinion will always reveal their perspectives as they judge whether the actions of others have caused this crisis, with ^{its} huge consequences the world over.

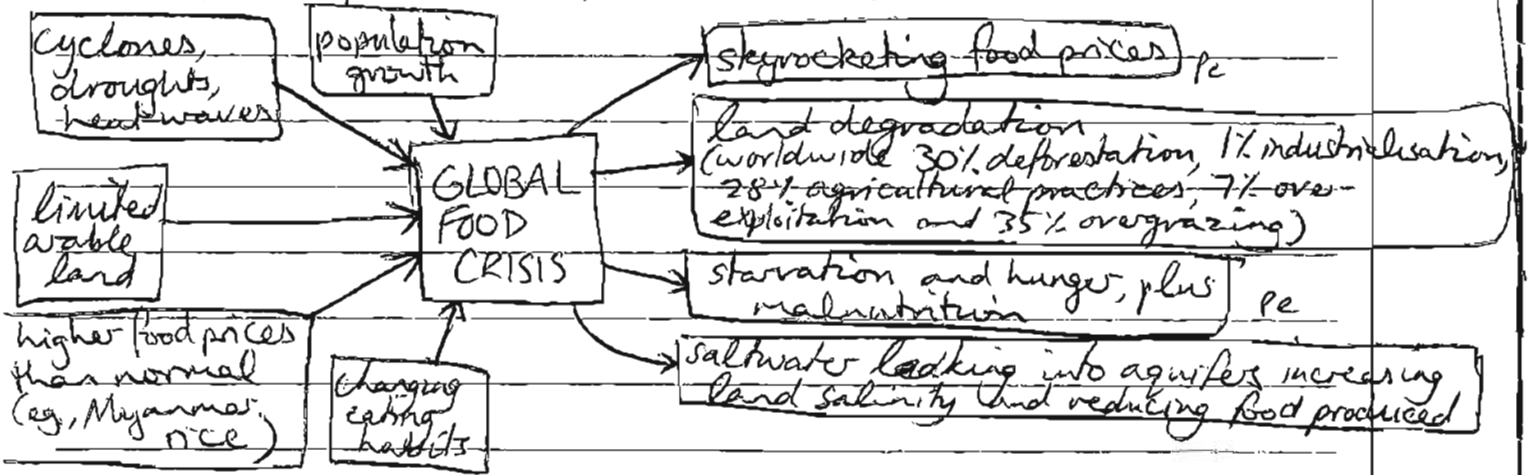
Begin your essay for **Question Two** here:

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Due to its wide-reaching effects spanning many environments, countries and people, the global food crisis has certainly been widely felt by many. Both less developed and more developed countries have felt the pinch of the food crisis, and its ~~eff~~ impacts, resoundingly negative and a great global concern, have ^{already} been felt in a variety of places and by a variety of people.

As shown in the diagram below, the global food crisis has had many impacts on both the world's people and the world's environment.

Effects of (and events that lead to) the Global Food Crisis



The effect it has had on places has not been limited to poorer countries such as African countries, South America and Asia. Better developed countries have also been hit, not buffered as usual by all their benefits such as increased GDP. The food crisis has hit places in both an environmental and a socio-political context. The increase in the cost of oil, vital for many practices taken for granted throughout.

the world, increased and this economic pressure became a political one (increased growth of biofuel crops - 25% of the US's maize crop was used for biofuel in 2007, with 20 more countries planning to produce biofuel and the EU aiming to have biofuel used for 10% of transport). This precedence given to biofuel over vital food crops for other countries (the US exports more than 60% of the world's maize) has resulted in political and social unrest (the schemes are "hopeless" and "make things worse by adding high demand onto already low stocks" according to Prof. Beddington, a government scientific advisor clearly qualified to comment effectively on the issue) ~~and so~~. Political unrest in the form of ~~conflict~~, unrest, protests and violence have ripped through countries such as Ethiopia, Chad, Sudan, the Middle East, and South America, ~~as~~ having a very negative affect on these places as people protest against price hikes. However, there ~~are~~ ^{have} also been many considerable ecological impacts for many countries worldwide due to the food crises. These have predominantly been in the form of land degradation (mainly due to deforestation, agricultural practices and overgrazing which together account for 93% of world soil degradation) ~~and increases in soil salinity either from sea water leaking into coastal aquifers or as a result of rising sea levels~~ and consequent drastic reductions in the crop yield of what is limited and precious land. These effects

combine to cause greatly detrimental effects on places due to the food crisis in terms of both ~~eco~~ political and ecological impacts. ~~These have been devastating in places where people live on 50¢ - \$2 a day and have no other way apart from growing ^{crops} or relying on others to grow crops to get the nutrients they need to~~

The many impacts the food crisis has had on the world's population, while devastating in places where people survive on 50¢ - \$2 a day and rely on growing their own crops, or pulling children from school, to get even a fraction of the nutrients they need to survive, has not been limited to such less-developed nations. The negative effects of the crisis have been felt by all, even Western society (California is struggling to cope with its ~~increas~~ growing number of residents) and more developed countries (China's north areas are stressed for water, and its populace is finding even "normal green vegetables" are more expensive, enough so to force many to reduce consumption). However as always it is the billions of poor who feel the brunt of the food crisis without any help from ^{the} state. They must completely cut out food groups and eat meagre "sorghum sorghum" meals. Without a doubt the women and children are worst affected, with even temporary malnutrition (which is usually permanent in poor countries such as much of Africa & S. America).

scars in terms of their physical growth and intellectual potential" according to Andrew Thorne-Lyman of the World Food Programme, and pregnant women desperately trying to afford enough grain to feed themselves and their soon-born children. Without a doubt the impacts of the food crisis have been devastating for people all around the world, as many struggle to access a vital resource they desperately need but are already permanently short of.

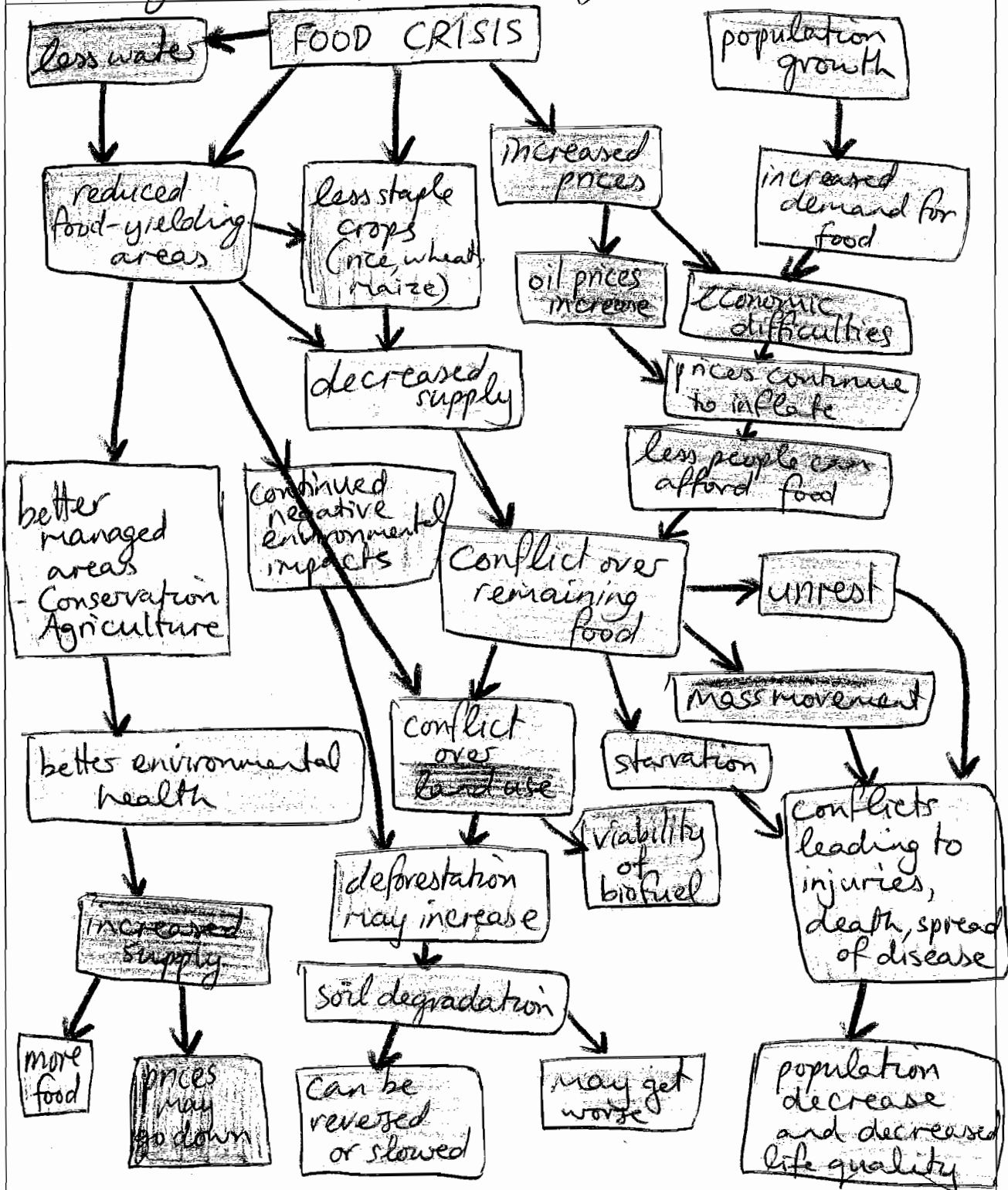
Clearly, when the many facets of ^{the} impact ~~of~~ the global food crisis has caused, are analysed they are severely ~~damaging~~ ~~debilitating~~ debilitating to both places and people the world over. Food price increases for already starving countries and bad agricultural practices in already ~~so~~ environmentally damaged areas, have had hugely destructive impacts on the world's population and ~~is~~ many ^{of its} delicate ecosystems. And unlike other crises, the global food crisis has evidently affected countries all over the world, regardless of their state of development. It ~~has~~ been a truly devastating world event.

has without a doubt

Draw your diagram(s) for Question Three (a) in the box below.

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Title: Long-term consequences of the global ~~food~~ crisis



Key:



environmental
impact/feature



political
~~political~~ or
economic
impact/feature



social impact/
feature

Begin your answer for Question Three (b) here:

Conflict over remaining food, despite its seemingly obvious appearance and results, is the most important effect for geographers to be aware of because of its immense prevalence, and therefore likelihood, in the outcome, as well as the serious situations it creates as well as the importance of the ~~paths~~ steps ~~take~~ that can be taken to avoid it. Conflict over remaining food is ~~an~~ undoubtedly an important geographic issue as it combines natural impacts on the environment with social, political and economic impacts that could all have serious repercussions we must be aware of.

likely to be

Every 'path' taken ~~likely~~ in the future as a consequence of the current food crisis inevitably leads, as shown in my diagram, to conflict over remaining food. The only consequence that has the potential for a positive impact on the globe in the future is the better management of areas, such as the use of Conservation Agriculture, which optimises soil health, reduces degradation in arable land there is left and could save $1,200\text{km}^3$ of water a year by 2030. The impact of better land management is the vital positive effect of better environmental health, which leads to increased food production. This is indescribably valuable in the future, where food resources are almost certainly running out.

resource management and may stimulate the development of policy and practices that may slow the rate of food depletion in the future.

The scope and seriousness of the impacts of conflicts over remaining food immediately demonstrate its significance. The relentlessly negative picture painted of this future, with hugely detrimental ecological effects such as accelerated deforestation and soil degradation, which will further decrease the world's already considerably depleted ability to produce enough food, will hopefully provide the stimulus needed to improve the future situation. The social impacts such as political and social conflict, mass movements and deaths caused by disease, starvation and conflict-injuries must also be considered when evaluating a future course of action to reduce the long term consequences of the global food crisis.

Subsequently, due to the severity of its message for the future of the planet and the revelation of successful strategies able to be taken to avoid it and thus improve the impacts of the global food crisis in terms of environmental health and social conditions, ^{awareness} ~~the significance~~ of conflict over remaining food is clearly ~~more~~ significant for geographers.