

## Criterion A: Knowing and Understanding

This criterion assesses your ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts, facts, and processes.

### How to Answer:

- a) **Define Key Terms** – Ensure that you define all relevant geographical terms in your response.
- b) **Use Specific Examples** – Support your answers with real-world examples, case studies, and geographical data.
- c) **Explain Concepts Clearly** – Show understanding of processes such as urbanization, climate change, globalization, etc.
- d) **Use Geographical Terminology** – Use appropriate vocabulary like "population density," "sustainability," "economic disparity," etc.

### Example Question & Response:

**Question:** Explain how urbanization affects different economic sectors.

**Answer:** Urbanization refers to the increasing population in urban areas due to migration and natural growth. This impacts different economic sectors by shifting employment from primary industries (farming, fishing) to secondary (manufacturing) and tertiary (services). For example, in India, urbanization has led to a decline in agriculture as more people seek employment in IT and service industries in cities like Bangalore.

## Criterion B: Investigating

This criterion evaluates your ability to conduct research, develop research questions, and use sources effectively.

### How to Answer:

- a) **Formulate a Clear Research Question** – If the task requires an investigation, ensure your question is specific and focused. The question should be narrow, mention the location, time and key terms from the SOI, need to be address through the research question. Key terms from the SOI need not be replicated in the RQ but they need to be addressed to the RQ.
- b) **Use Reliable Sources** – Reference books, academic articles, government reports, or GIS data.
- c) **Collect and Interpret Data** – Use maps, graphs, and statistics to support findings.

- d) Follow a Logical Structure** – Introduction, methodology, findings, analysis, and conclusion.

**Example Task:**

Investigate the impact of tourism on coastal environments.

Response Structure:

**Research Question:** How has mass tourism affected the coastal ecosystem of the Maldives?

- **Methodology:** Use satellite images, tourist statistics, and local government reports.
- **Findings:** Increased pollution, coral reef destruction, rising sea levels.
- **Analysis:** Link findings to sustainability and climate change concepts.
- **Conclusion:** Propose solutions like ecotourism and government policies.

## **Criterion C: Communicating**

This criterion assesses your ability to present information effectively using various communication methods.

**How to Answer:**

- a) Organize Information Logically** – Use headings, subheadings, and paragraphs.
- b) Use Geographical Tools** – Incorporate maps, graphs, and tables, to support arguments.
- c) Ensure Clarity and Accuracy** – Avoid vague statements and ensure data is correctly represented.
- d) Adapt Your Format** – Use appropriate formats such as reports, presentations, posters, or essays, depending on the task.

**Example Task:**

Create an infographic on the causes and effects of desertification.

- **Title:** Desertification: Causes and Effects
- **Section 1:** Causes – Overgrazing, deforestation, climate change
- **Section 2:** Effects – Loss of arable land, food insecurity, migration
- **Visuals:** Use a world map highlighting affected regions (e.g., Sahel region in Africa).

- **Conclusion:** Suggest solutions like afforestation and sustainable farming.

## Criterion D: Thinking Critically

This criterion evaluates your ability to analyze, evaluate, and reflect on information critically.

### How to Answer:

- Analyze Different Perspectives** – Consider multiple viewpoints, such as economic, environmental, and social impacts.
- Evaluate Sources** – Assess the reliability of sources and data.
- Use Evidence to Support Arguments** – Justify your claims with facts, figures, and case studies.
- Consider Consequences and Solutions** – Discuss long-term and short-term impacts.
- Apply Geographical Theories and Models** – Use theories like the Demographic Transition Model (DTM) or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), GIS.

### Example Question & Response:

**Question:** "Evaluate the effectiveness of international agreements in combating climate change."

#### Answer:

- **Introduction:** Define international agreements (e.g., Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol).
- **Analysis:** Strengths: Global cooperation, commitment to reducing carbon emissions.
- **Weaknesses:** Lack of enforcement, some countries withdraw (e.g., the USA under Trump).
- **Case Study:** Impact of the Paris Agreement on EU emissions.
- **Evaluation:** Agreements are useful but require stronger enforcement mechanisms.
- **Conclusion:** Suggest policies such as carbon taxes and renewable energy investment.

**Few tips to remember:**

- ✓ Practice Writing Concise, Structured Answers. (Time management)
- ✓ Use Case Studies and Examples Wherever Possible.
- ✓ Develop Strong Research and Critical Thinking Skills.
- ✓ Use Visuals to Support Your Arguments in Criterion C.
- ✓ Balance Perspectives in Criterion D to Show Deep Analysis.