Candidates' Performance

The average number of questions answered correctly by candidates was 12 out of the 20 multiple-choice questions. The overall performance of candidates was satisfactory. Five questions in which distractors were more popular than the key have been selected for further discussion.

In Item 2, the most popular answer was Option C. Candidates choosing option C likely calculated the average gradient of the footpath using the straight line distance between the two junctions instead of the actual length of the footpath.

Q.2 Which of the following is the average gradient of this section of the footpath?

A.	1:2.8	(14%)
B.	1:3.2	(26%)
C.	1:4.3	(31%)
*D.	1:4.9	(29%)

In Item 3, the two most popular answers were Options B and C. Candidates who chose either one of these options might not have interpreted the contour lines in detail and overlooked the presence of both concave and convex slopes along the footpath.

Q.3 This section of the footpath passes through _____.

(1) a concave slope
(2) a convex slope
(3) a spur

A.	(1) and (2) only	(14%)
B.	(1) and (3) only	(37%)
C.	(2) and (3) only	(35%)
*D.	(1), (2) and (3)	(14%)

In Item 5, the most popular answer was Option D. Candidates who chose Option D might have overlooked the absence of sea transport facilities along the shore of Tai Po Industrial Estate, thus convenient sea transport is not a favourable condition for its development.

Q.5 Which of the following are the favourable conditions of the area east of easting 09 and north of northing 85 for industrial development?

(1) convenient sea transport
(2) availability of reclaimed land
(3) proximity to public housing estates

    A. (1) and (2) only   (28%)
    B. (1) and (3) only   (12%)
  *C. (2) and (3) only   (26%)
    D. (1), (2) and (3)   (34%)

In Item 12, the two most popular answers were Options A and D. Candidates who chose either option might not have sufficient understanding of the economic structure of Hong Kong in the 1980s when secondary industry was diminishing gradually and the workers were absorbed by the rising tertiary industry. Thus the relocation of manufacturing plants to the Mainland would not lead to a rapid rise in the unemployment rate.

Q.12 Which of the following were the impacts of such a relocation to Hong Kong?

(1) Some factory buildings were left vacant.
(2) There was a rapid rise in the unemployment rate.
(3) There was renewal in industrial areas.

    A. (1) and (2) only   (41%)
  *B. (1) and (3) only   (20%)
    C. (2) and (3) only   (4%)
    D. (1), (2) and (3)   (35%)

In Item 14, the most popular answer was Option D. Candidates who chose Option D might have insufficient understanding of the concept of sustainability. The decrease in building density and height improves the living conditions but reduces the overall population capacity of a city, which is against the principle of sustainable development.

Q.14 Which of the following practices help Hong Kong to be a sustainable city?

(1) treatment of sewage
(2) use of green energy
(3) lowering of building density and height

  *A. (1) and (2) only
    B. (1) and (3) only   (45%)
    C. (2) and (3) only   (1%)
    D. (1), (2) and (3)   (6%)
                                (48%)

Question Number	Performance in General
1. (a)	Good. Most candidates stated some merits and demerits of using the assessment form. However, many answers did not make direct references to data collection, such as 'table form could facilitate comparison or interpretation of data'. The majority of candidates stated 'subjective' as the major demerit and only some of them were able to elaborate on it.
(b)	Satisfactory. Candidates generally showed a basic understanding of the principles of selecting field study sites. They referred to the information provided and stated some drawbacks of the method of selecting field study sites, such as limited coverage, inadequate or no samples of some land uses, etc. However, many of them failed to express their ideas precisely. Some candidates identified correctly the sampling method. However, quite a number of candidates revealed inadequate understanding of sampling. Many candidates failed to comment on the merits and demerits of the sampling method. Some candidates showed incorrect concepts of sampling such as not understanding the differences between quota, stratified and systematic sampling, or stating 'unequal samples chosen for each land use' as a demerit.
(c)	Poor. The majority of candidates misinterpreted the question. Quite a number of candidates worked on the scores of field study sites in the question and compared them to prove the hypothesis instead of describing how to process and utilise the data collected. Candidates often showed inadequate understanding of data processing and many of them lacked the concepts of grouping and summarising data. Candidates generally failed to express their ideas in a precise and systematic way.
(d)	Poor. Candidates generally provided fragmented answers of improving data collection instead of redesigning a comprehensive data collection method. Although quite a large number of candidates suggested questionnaires or instruments for measurement, the majority of them failed to differentiate 'validity' and 'reliability' of a field study and only stated they could both be raised in general. Most candidates based their answers on the demerits they mentioned in (a) and (b) and suggested some minor modifications of the data collection method, such as increasing the sample size, improving the scale of scoring in the assessment form, etc. Some candidates repeatedly described and explained similar procedures of data collection using different instruments which was irrelevant. Some candidates overlooked the phrase 'of the field study' stated clearly in the question and suggested collecting secondary data from government departments, etc.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
2. (a)	13	Good. Most candidates correctly identified the meander though some did not spell the geographical term correctly. Many candidates drew diagrams showing clearly the changing river course of meander with correct annotations. However, some candidates misunderstood 'annotated' and wrote long paragraphs of explanation. Quite a number of candidates incorrectly notated the river banks with 'convex' and 'concave' instead of 'inner' and 'outer' respectively. They should note that 'convex' and 'concave' refer to the shape of the slope at the river bank after fluvial erosion and deposition. In the formation of meander which was stated in this question, they should indicate the 'inner' and 'outer' banks where different fluvial processes took place.
(b) (i)		Fair. Candidates were generally able to explain the impacts of flooding on the human environment, such as potential lives and economic losses to the settlements, transport and farmland nearby. However, most candidates overlooked the physical environment and seldom explained why the site was a flood prone area that required river management. Although some candidates stated the joining of tributaries as a cause of flooding, they quoted the small tributaries near site P as the map evidence and did not consider the size of the catchment area of streams.
(ii)		Poor. Most candidates failed to identify the river management strategy shown in the photograph, including the straightening of river channel and setting up of gabions. Many candidates identified the gabions as a 'stone wall' or mistook them as an 'embankment' or 'river dyke', thereby failing to accurately explain its function and instead put forward some irrelevant explanations, such as 'to enlarge the capacity of river' or 'to prevent overspill of river water', etc. Many candidates mistook the trees and plants in the photograph as part of the river management strategy. They confused 'fluvial erosion' with 'soil erosion' and explained how to prevent soil erosion with the planting of trees and plants.
(iii)		Poor. A large number of candidates did not properly answer the question. Some of them compared the pros and cons of the management strategies adopted while others compared the physical and human settings at the two sites. Some candidates just wrote about the pros and cons of channelisation. Although the cost and effectiveness of the two management strategies were discussed by some candidates, their arguments were often superficial and general. To adequately answer the question, candidates should quote appropriate information from the map extract and discuss in greater depth why a management strategy requiring a higher cost would not be preferable at site P or why the adverse impacts of the strategy on biodiversity and visual pollution were more important at site P than site Q.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
3. (a)	51	Good. Most candidates referred to the information in Figure 3a, such as coal mines, iron ores, rivers and railways, etc., to describe the geographical location of the two iron and steel plants. However, many candidates showed only a general understanding of the locational factors of iron and steel plants. They explained the location of the plant in Urumqi by referring to factors such as raw materials, energy resources and transport. They performed less satisfactorily when explaining the location of the plant in Shanghai. Although the majority of candidates noted the coastal location of Shanghai, some of them failed to explain the importance of cheap water transport for importing bulky and heavy raw materials and exporting iron and steel products. They instead focused on some minor factors, such as water for cooling, reclaimed land available for further expansion, etc. Some candidates did not refer to the information provided but instead wrote about some locational factors, such as strategic reason or government policy.
(b) (i)		Good. Most candidates showed a basic understanding of the location of the IT industry and correctly identified 'multi-point production' as the mode of production. However, a large number of candidates failed to describe precisely the characteristics of multi-point production. They described only the distribution of different production units as shown in Figure 3b. Some candidates confused 'multi-point production' and 'multi-national cooperation' or 'front shop, back factory'.
(ii)		Good. Most candidates explained the general advantages of setting up headquarters and R & D centres in more developed regions and outsourcing production to less developed regions. However, most candidates showed only a general understanding of multi-point production. They explained cheap labour as a factor of outsourcing the assembling. Very few candidates noted the IT products required assembling of some high-end components that required more advance technology and skills in production. Some candidates put forward farfetched explanations of multi-point production, such as 'outsourcing to different time zones to achieve round-the-clock production'. Candidates were also generally weak in their knowledge of the agglomeration of IT industries in more developed regions.
(c)		Poor. Most candidates lacked basic understanding of the nature of industries. They failed to differentiate 'processing industries' and 'fabricating industries' and to give a sound discussion with reference to the different nature of the production processes. Thus their arguments were in general weak or irrelevant, stating for example that 'iron and steel industries do not require headquarters or R & D centres'. Some candidates described the factors affecting the location of iron and steel plants, e.g. bulky and heavy raw materials and products, industrial inertia, etc. However, only a very small number of candidates were able to explain clearly whether these factors affected the adoption of 'multi-point production' or not. Some candidates incorrectly described the iron and steel industry as labour-intensive or low-tech. Finally, the conclusion made by many candidates were ambiguous and without a clear stance.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
4. (a) (i)	84	Good. The majority of candidates correctly identified the agricultural activity of area X. However, quite a number of candidates did not spell 'nomadic herding' correctly. Some candidates confused 'nomadic herding' with 'livestock ranching'. Candidates generally described some characteristics of nomadic herding but some candidates described the migrating path of the nomads in the Sahel region instead. Some candidates might have thought that all traditional or primitive farming types were labour intensive and therefore considered nomadic herding as a type of 'intensive' farming.
(ii)		Good. Most candidates were able to identify water shortage as the major constraint to food production in area X and describe the physical environment of the Sahel region. However, quite a number of them did not explain the relationship between these physical conditions, such as high temperature or poor soil and the low agricultural productivity in area X. Rather than making specific reference to the photograph in Figure 4a for the human settings of area X, many candidates wrote about human causes of famine, such as civil war, overpopulation and overgrazing, etc.
(b) (i)		Fair. Although the majority of candidates stated the construction of the reservoir and irrigation system as the major factor for the higher agricultural output of area Y, only a few of them were able to explain how irrigation or a stable water supply might help increase the agricultural output. Some candidates wrongly described the irrigation system as a 'lake' and 'river'. Some candidates did not refer to the information provided and simply quoted information from textbooks to explain how agricultural technology, such as precision farming, drip irrigation or the application of chemical fertilisers, etc., might help increase agricultural output.
(ii)		Poor. Most candidates did not interpret the question correctly. The majority of them discussed the pros and cons or the limitations of building infrastructure such as dams and aqueducts, or the adoption of 'irrigation system' instead of the arable farming system of area Y. Many candidates did not answer the statement, 'if the agricultural system of area Y were adopted' in the question. They wrote about the general limitations of using farming technology in the less developed countries, such as lack of technology, corrupted government, etc. Some candidates discussed the problems of using biotechnology or precision farming which were irrelevant. Candidates' arguments were weak and some were unreasonable, such as 'farmers in the less developed countries do not know how to make use of reservoir and aqueduct'. The conclusions given by many candidates were either contradictory or ambiguous.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
5. (a)	52	Good. Most candidates described the general characteristics of vegetation in a tropical rainforest. However, many candidates confused 'plants' and 'vegetation' and described the characteristics of plants, such as buttress roots, waxy leaves, etc. which were irrelevant. Candidates should refer to Photograph 5b when answering the question and note the difference between vegetation and plants. Most candidates described the climatic characteristics of tropical rainforests. However, some of them failed to give a logical explanation of the relationship between hot and wet climate and the vegetation characteristics.
(b) (i)		Satisfactory. Most candidates correctly described the decreasing of nutrients in storage X. Some candidates explained the impacts of transporting cattle from the ranch to the market. However, candidates generally did not apply the concept of inputs and outputs in a system to explain the direct impact of deforestation on the reduction of nutrients stored in the biomass. They described and explained only the impact of deforestation on lowering litter and soil nutrients which eventually reduces the nutrients in storage X.
(ii)		Satisfactory. Candidates generally explained the diminishing nutrients in soil by referring to decreasing litter and increasing soil erosion. Many candidates stated the compaction of soil after a long period of trampling by cattle. However, many of them put forward illogical explanations, such as 'lowering of infiltration rate causes an increased nutrient loss by leaching'.
(c)		Poor. Many candidates did not fully understand the question. Quite a number of candidates' discussion were irrelevant, such as the pros and cons of ecotourism or some general problems encountered in developing ecotourism in less developed countries. Only a small number of candidates discussed both the difficulties and problems of abandoning the cattle ranch and restoring it to a tropical rainforest. Candidates often discussed the importance of economic return from the cattle ranch or the time required for the regeneration of a tropical rainforest. However, their arguments were general and superficial and did not refer to the information provided. Many candidates stated contradictory arguments and provided ambiguous conclusions.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
6	48	**Fair.** In the first part of the question, most candidates were able to describe and explain the occurrence of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions along convergent plate boundaries. Some candidates included geographical terms such as 'slab pull' in their answers. However, candidates commonly showed a general understanding of plate tectonics only. Quite a number of candidates failed to explain the relationship between plate subduction and volcanic eruptions. Candidates also commonly confused 'mantle' and 'magma'. Other common misconceptions included 'earthquakes were induced by breaking of plates', 'pressure release caused breaking of rocks', 'volcanic eruptions occurred when two continental plates converged', etc. The majority of candidates tended to list many examples of plate boundaries, volcanoes and incidences of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. However, few were able to use these examples properly in their answers. Some examples they provided were not located at the convergent plate boundaries, e.g. Hawaii, Iceland, etc. In the second part of the question, most candidates provided superficial and brief discussions. Many candidates described the general principles of land use zoning in reducing loss caused by the two tectonic hazards. However, quite a number of candidates wrongly interpreted land use zoning as to 'provide evacuation route or space' or 'relocate people from hazard prone areas'. Few candidates were able to explain clearly how to apply land use zoning in hazard prone areas facing both volcanic eruption and earthquake. Many candidates briefly stated 'fixed locations of volcanoes', 'unpredicted location of epicentres' or 'dispersion of seismic waves' as the factors affecting the effectiveness of land use zoning. Instead, they should compare the nature and scale of the two tectonic hazards and the corresponding land use zoning plans in order to evaluate the effectiveness of these plans in reducing loss. Many candidates discussed the importance of other preventive measures, e.g. monitoring and warning systems, hazards drills, etc., which did not help much to compare the effectiveness of land use zoning in reducing loss between the two tectonic hazards.
7	22	**Poor.** In the first part of the question, candidates generally showed limited knowledge of the causes and process of urban decay. Most candidates failed to account for the urban decay in the old urban areas in Hong Kong. They either simply described the characteristics of urban decay, such as old and shabby buildings, lack of open space and facilities, etc.; or the urban problems, such as pollution and housing problems. Candidates often quoted some urban areas as examples of urban decay in their answers but most failed to elaborate these examples properly. Some candidates incorrectly stated 'gentrification' as a cause of urban decay. In the second part of the question, most candidates showed some knowledge of urban renewal strategies. However, few candidates applied the concepts of 'sustainable city' in their discussions. They often wrote about the pros and cons of redevelopment and other urban renewal strategies rather than made a sound judgement of 'whether or not' redevelopment is the most appropriate strategy with reference to the situation of old urban areas in Hong Kong.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
8	29	Fair. In the first part of the question, most candidates described and explained the general factors that caused increasing greenhouse gas emissions. However, they did not refer to the global population, economy, trade and development of technology 'since the 1950s' in their explanations. Many candidates listed the types of greenhouses gases and their sources. However, they should also explain the increasing trend of their emissions. In the second part of the question, candidates generally lacked a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of using technology to alleviate global warming. Thus, the scope of their discussions, which mainly consisted of the development of alternative energy, was often very narrow. Many candidates listed the examples of alternative energy and stated the pros and cons of their usage, instead of discussing whether such energy could help slow down the rising trend of greenhouse gas emissions. Few candidates discussed the use of various energy saving technologies and the technologies to capture greenhouse gases or to reduce their emissions. Some candidates quoted technologies that only indirectly affected the emissions, e.g. precision farming. Some candidates confused 'pollutants' and 'greenhouse gases' while they discussed the use of electric or hybrid vehicles. Candidates in general failed to consider the factors other than technology, such as consumption patterns, that might also offset the effectiveness of employing technology. Some candidates put forward superficial arguments, such as a lack of capital and technology in less developed countries. Many candidates did not have a clear stance in their conclusions.

General comments and recommendations

1. Candidates should interpret the question as a whole and avoid focusing only on some 'key' words.

2. Candidates showed improvements in answering the fieldwork-based question and generally demonstrated some basic knowledge of data collection. However, they could further improve their performance by critically asking themselves 'how' and 'why' a field study was to be carried out, so that they could understand thoroughly the methodology of fieldwork investigation, which could not be achieved by memorising notes and model answers of fieldwork-based questions.

3. Candidates demonstrated inadequate knowledge and understanding of some basic concepts, such as the nature of industries, locational factors, multi-point production, arable farming system, vegetation, urban decay, etc. They should acquire geographical concepts through issue enquiries or case studies. Candidates should grasp the most essential basic geographical concepts rather than memorising vast amount of factual information of cases and examples.

4. Candidates should demonstrate understanding of geographical concepts and issues in answering questions. They should describe and explain various interactions and interrelationship logically, precisely and systematically instead of putting fragmented or non-coherent points together.

5. Candidates should study geographical issues in a holistic way. They should avoid memorising minor factors and trivial facts excessively which will not help them to have a comprehensive understanding of the issues.

6. Candidates should apply geographical knowledge and concepts in their discussions. They should avoid giving brief and superficial arguments that are based on 'common sense' or 'stereotyped ideas'. They should also avoid giving ambiguous or contradictory conclusions to questions that require them to state their stance clearly.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
1. (a)	39	Fair. Most candidates were able to identify measure Q and explain how the measure enhances slope stability. However, only a small number of candidates were able to identify measure P and correctly explain its functions.
(b)		Fair. Some candidates were able to explain the occurrence of the natural hazard in relation to climate. Some candidates failed to distinguish the difference between climate and weather. Some candidates also failed to explain how climate induces chemical weathering. Only a small number of candidates were able to explain how relief affected the occurrence of the hazard.
(c)		Poor. Many candidates failed to explain the triggering cause of the natural hazard with reference to the information in Table 1d. Some candidates wrote answers irrelevant to Table 1d, such as human factors. Only a small number of candidates were able to explain the impact of downpours in two consecutive days.
(d)		Fair. Many candidates failed to explain the functions of a debris barrier/ check dam. Hence, they failed to explain why this measure was more suitable to be adopted. Not many candidates were able to explain the different measures adopted on natural slopes and man-made slopes. Only a small number of candidates were able to discuss whether measure Q may replace measure P according to the suitability of the site, scale of the hazard, nature of the slope and cost-effectiveness of the measure.
2. (a) (i)	25	Excellent. Most candidate were able to identify the planetary winds shown in Figure 2a.
(ii)		Good. Most candidates were able to explain the formation of planetary wind X with reference to pressure gradient force and the Coriolis force. However, some candidates did not recognise that planetary wind X from the southern hemisphere will be deflected from left to right when it crosses the equator in July. Some candidates wrote lengthy explanation of the formation of the equatorial low and sub-tropical high pressure belts which was irrelevant.
(b)		Good. Many candidates were able to illustrate the formation of the East Asian summer monsoon with reference to the pressure pattern on the Asian landmass and the Pacific Ocean. However, some answers did not refer to Figures 2a and 2b but consisted of content from textbook, such as the monsoon system related to Australia and the Indian Ocean.
(c)		Good. Most candidates were able to provide a clear description and explanation of the changes in wind direction and wind speed on 27 and 31 July. However, some candidates only demonstrated knowledge of tropical cyclones and did not attempt to interpret the information provided.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
3. (a)	10	Good. Most candidates were able to compare correctly the changes in passenger percentages between railways and franchised buses from 2002 to 2018. However, only a small number of candidates were able to state that 2010 was the turning point of such changes.
(b) (i)		Good. Most candidates were able to explain the merits of railway transport in terms of its efficiency, punctuality and passenger carrying capacity.
(ii)		Fair. Some candidates overlooked the focus of the question on how the development of railway network affected the changes in passenger percentages. Relevant concepts, such as 'density' and 'coverage', etc., were absent in their answers.
(c)		Good. Most candidates were able to identify the problem illustrated in Table 3c.
(d) (i)		Excellent. Most candidates were able to describe correctly the changes in franchised bus routes from 2002 to 2018 shown in Table 3d.
(ii)		Fair. Many candidates did not understand clearly the increase of franchised bus routes as a 'long-term public transport strategy'. They simply described the functions of franchised buses in general. Only a small number of candidates were able to discuss whether the increase of franchised bus routes is a long-term public transport strategy using the information from Tables 3c and 3d. Some candidates listed only the benefits of railway transport without referring to the question.
4. (a) (i)	26	Good. Most candidates were able to compare the changes of different air pollution indicators in the Zhujiang Delta Region from 2006 to 2018. However, only some candidates were able to describe the changes in the pH value of rainwater.
(ii)		Good. Many candidates were able to describe the changes in the fuel consumption pattern in the Zhujiang Delta Region from 2006 to 2018 by referring to the information in Figure 4b.
(iii)		Satisfactory. Most candidates were able to describe and explain the relationship between the consumption pattern of fossil fuels and the amount of air pollutants in the Zhujiang Delta Region. However, some candidates repeatedly explained such relationship with renewable energy which was irrelevant.
(iv)		Fair. Many candidates did not understand clearly 'pH value', 'acidity' and 'acid rain'. Some candidates mistook higher pH value as higher acidity. Some candidates described only the formation of acid rain and failed to explain how the changes in the fuel consumption pattern lowered the acidity of rainwater.
(b)		Fair. Many candidates knew little about the nature of different types of industry. They described briefly the change of industrial types but failed to explain how high-polluting industries and low-polluting industries affected the air quality in the region.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
5	34	Satisfactory. In the first part of the question, most candidates described and explained correctly the formation of clastic sedimentary rocks with sedimentation, compaction, cementation and lithification. Some candidates further explained the formation of different types of sedimentary rocks, such as conglomerates, sandstones, siltstones and shales. However, some candidates focused too much on describing the denudation processes while the explanation of the formation of clastic sedimentary rocks was too brief. Some candidates listed the characteristics of clastic sedimentary rocks without mentioning their formation. In the second part of the question, many candidates knew little about the landforms in the northeastern part of Hong Kong. Only a small number of candidates were able to explain how sedimentary rocks shaped the landforms in the northeastern part of Hong Kong with reference to the difference in rock resistance, using examples such as conglomerates in Pat Sin Leng and shales in Ping Chau. A small number of candidates mixed up the landforms of igneous rocks and sedimentary rocks. Some candidates described the formation of coastal landforms without relating them to sedimentary rocks. A small number of candidates described the characteristics, such as colours, of sedimentary rocks which were irrelevant.
6	32	Satisfactory. In the first part of the question, many candidates stated correctly several physical factors favouring the occurrence of sandstorms, such as dry climate, strong wind and abundance of sand. Few candidates were able to explain the formation of strong wind, such as anticyclones and the convergence of two air masses to form turbulence uplifting the sand in North China. Some candidates simply wrote lengthy explanation of drought in North China without mentioning other factors. Some candidates lacked relevant locational examples in their answers. A few candidates mentioned human factors which were irrelevant. In the second part of the question, many candidates were able to state the merits of the shelter forest programme to reduce wind speed and to bind loose soil. Some candidates mentioned the impact of the programme on water cycle and micro-climate without detailed explanation. Some candidates mentioned the lack of capital and prolonged implementation as limitations of the programme but did not consider the appropriate scale.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
7	7	Poor. In the first part of the question, many candidates understood little about regional air transportation hubs and so failed to explain the advantages of the Hong Kong International Airport as one of them. Some candidates wrongly stated the increase in air passengers might bring economic development to Hong Kong. Only a small number of candidates were able to explain how convenient and massive cargo transport could help maintain the advantages of the Hong Kong International Airport as a regional air transportation hub. In the second part of the question, some candidates stated that despite a reduction of flight delays on completion of the third runway, this might not help much to maintain the advantages of the Hong Kong International Airport as a regional air transportation hub. Only a small number of candidates mentioned the possible rise in competition among airports in the Zhujiang Delta Region with the completion of the third runway.
8	26	Satisfactory. In the first part of the question, most candidates listed correctly the physical conditions in the Zhujiang Delta Region, such as hot and wet climate, low and flat relief, presence of river and fertile soil, etc. However, some candidates failed to explain how these physical conditions favour agricultural development, such as the types of crops grown and the number of crops in a year. Some candidates failed to provide relevant locational examples in their answers. In the second part of the question, most candidates were able to state the negative impacts of rapid urbanisation on agricultural development in the region since the 1990s, such as declining importance of agriculture, labour shortage and environmental pollution, etc. Many candidates were also able to mention its positive impacts, such as commercialisation and specialisation of agriculture. However, some candidates elaborated their discussions to industrialisation and government policies which were irrelevant.

General comments and recommendations

1. Candidates should consolidate their knowledge of weather and climate, such as planetary winds and monsoon system.

2. Candidates should enhance their geographical knowledge from the news and Internet rather than rely solely on textbooks.

3. Candidates should enrich their geographical knowledge of local areas, the Mainland and the world.

4. Candidates should study the questions, especially the stems of the questions carefully. They should also pay particular attention to key geographical terminologies.

5. Candidates should interpret the data and information provided in the questions carefully. They should also apply relevant geographical knowledge and concepts to specific situations or cases in the questions.

6. Candidates should organise their ideas systematically and logically. They should also provide relevant examples to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts and spatial location of the cases.

7. In the short essay questions, candidates should put forward concrete arguments and state their stance clearly and logically. They should give clear and definite descriptions, arguments and conclusions in their answers.