



Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY

9696/21

Paper 2 Core Human Geography

May/June 2025

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)
Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **four** questions in total:
Section A: answer **all** questions.
Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Sketch maps and diagrams should be drawn whenever they serve to illustrate an answer.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.

LICs = low income countries.

MICs = middle income countries.

HICs = high income countries.

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

2

Section A

Answer **all** questions in this section. All questions are worth 10 marks.

Population

- 1 Fig. 1.1 shows the percentage of the population aged 0–14 years, 15–64 years, and 65 years and over, for selected countries and the world, in 2023.
- (a) Using Fig. 1.1:
- (i) state the country with the population structure that is most similar to the world's population structure [1]
 - (ii) calculate the percentage of the population aged 15–64 years old for the USA. Show your working. [2]
- (b) Using Fig. 1.1, compare the dependency issues for Italy and Laos. [3]
- (c) Suggest why the dependency ratio may **not** be an accurate indicator of the percentage of the working population in a country. [4]

Migration/Settlement dynamics

- 2 Table 2.1 shows the top ten sources of international migrants into Brazil, an MIC in South America, in 2020.
- (a) Describe the pattern of international migrants into Brazil shown in Table 2.1. [4]
 - (b) Suggest how the characteristics of international migrants arriving from HICs may differ from the characteristics of international migrants arriving from LICs. [2]
 - (c) Explain why most international migrants settle in the major cities of receiving/destination countries. [4]

Population/Migration/Settlement dynamics

- 3 Fig. 3.1 shows the population of three rural settlements in an HIC in 2001, 2011 and 2021.
- (a) Compare the population changes for the rural settlements shown in Fig. 3.1. [4]
 - (b) Suggest **two** reasons for the change in the population for settlement A between 2011 and 2021. [2]
 - (c) Explain why rural settlements that are **not** near to any town or city might decline in population. [4]

3

Section B

Answer **one** question from this section. All questions are worth 30 marks.

Population

- 4 (a) (i) Outline the concept of 'overpopulation'. [3]
- (ii) Explain why optimum population is difficult to achieve. [4]
- (b) With the aid of examples, explain the difficulties for an area caused by underpopulation. [8]
- (c) 'A decrease in the birth rate will lead to economic decline in many HICs.'
- With the aid of examples, how far do you agree with this statement? [15]

Migration

- 5 (a) Describe the causes of forced (involuntary) international migration. [7]
- (b) With the aid of examples, explain why international migration has increased in recent years. [8]
- (c) With the aid of examples, how far do you agree that it is difficult for governments to manage international migration? [15]

Settlement dynamics

- 6 For your chosen case study of providing power infrastructure **or** transport infrastructure for a named city:
- (a) Outline why the power infrastructure **or** transport infrastructure needed to be improved. [7]
- (b) Explain the challenges of improving the infrastructure. [8]
- (c) Evaluate the success of the attempted strategies used to improve the infrastructure. [15]

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