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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY **9696/21**

Paper 2 Core Human Geography **October/November 2025**

1 hour 30 minutes

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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.

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Section A

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

Population

1 Fig. 1.1 shows the crude birth rate for the world, 1950–2020 and estimated to 2100.

(a) Using Fig. 1.1:

(i) state the crude birth rate in 2020 [1]

(ii) describe the main changes in crude birth rate from 1950 to 2100. [3]

(b) Suggest **two** reasons why birth rates are high in some countries. [2]

(c) Explain why a government may want to increase the birth rate of their country. [4]

Migration

2 Fig. 2.1 shows the number of international migrants in each continent from 1990 to 2020.

(a) Compare the changes in the number of international migrants shown in Fig. 2.1. [4]

(b) Explain **one** reason for international migration. [2]

(c) Explain the economic advantages of international migration for receiving/destination areas. [4]

Settlement dynamics

3 Fig. 3.1 is a photograph which shows the skyline railway in Bangkok, Thailand, an MIC in Asia.

(a) Using Fig. 3.1, suggest the challenges of building the railway. [4]

(b) Suggest **two** environmental advantages of the railway shown in Fig. 3.1. [2]

(c) Explain how the use of land in urban areas is affected by competition for space (spatial competition). [4]

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Section B

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

Population

4 **(a)** **(i)** Define the term 'dependency ratio'. [3]

(ii) Outline **two** factors which cause an ageing population structure. [4]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain the challenges for the government of a country with an ageing population structure. [8]

(c) With the aid of examples, assess the extent to which economic development is the main factor affecting life expectancy. [15]

Migration/Settlement dynamics

5 **(a)** Describe how age influences patterns of migration. [7]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain the pull factors of rural areas which cause internal migration in HICs. [8]

(c) 'Urban to rural migration brings disadvantages to rural areas in HICs.'

With the aid of examples, how far do you agree with this statement? [15]

Settlement dynamics

6 **(a)** Describe the main characteristics of the central business district (CBD) of urban areas. [7]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain the factors causing change in central business districts (CBDs) of urban areas. [8]

(c) With the aid of examples, assess the extent to which the operation of the housing market is the main cause of residential segregation. [15]

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