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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY **9696/23**

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

1 hour 30 minutes

5161426678

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.

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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 relationship between life expectancy and healthcare expenditure per capita, by country, in 2019.

(a) Describe the relationship shown in Fig. 1.1. [4]

(b) Suggest how life expectancy may influence birth rates in a country. [2]

(c) Explain how **two** environmental factors contribute to low life expectancy in a country. [4]

Migration

2 Fig. 2.1 shows changes in natural increase and net migration for HICs, 1950–2050 (estimated from 2020).

(a) Compare the changes in natural increase and net migration shown in Fig. 2.1. [4]

(b) Explain **one** pull factor for international migration to HICs. [2]

(c) Explain the economic disadvantages of international out-migration for source areas. [4]

Settlement dynamics

3 Fig. 3.1 shows the percentage of urban population living in poor housing conditions, by country, in 2022.

(a) Describe the pattern shown in Fig. 3.1. [4]

(b) Suggest **two** problems for residents in shanty towns (squatter settlements). [2]

(c) Explain **two** challenges for governments of managing shanty towns (squatter settlements). [4]

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Section B

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

Population

4 **(a)** Describe how the structure of the population influences the dependency ratio for a country. [7]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain the role of constraints in relation to sustaining population. [8]

(c) 'Underpopulation is easier to manage for a government than overpopulation.'

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

Migration/Settlement dynamics

5 **(a)** **(i)** Define the term 'refugee'. [3]

(ii) Explain **two** barriers to refugee flows. [4]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain the push factors which cause rural to urban migration in LICs/MICs. [8]

(c) With the aid of examples, assess the extent to which rural to urban migration in LICs/MICs causes problems in **urban** areas. [15]

Settlement dynamics

6 **(a)** Describe how competition for space (spatial competition) leads to functional zonation in urban areas. [7]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain the role of planning in the location of activities in urban areas. [8]

(c) 'A globalised financial sector is the most important factor in defining a world city.'

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

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