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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY **9696/32**

Paper 3 Advanced Physical Geography Options **October/November 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:
  - Answer questions from **two** options.
  - For **each** option, follow the instructions inside on which questions to answer.
- 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.
- You should make reference to appropriate examples studied in the field or the classroom, even where such examples are not specifically requested by the question.

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.

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

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Answer questions from **two** different options.

Tropical environments

If answering this option, answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Fig. 1.1 shows a nutrient cycle for a seasonally humid tropical (savanna) ecosystem.

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

(b) Explain the nutrient cycle shown in Fig. 1.1. [6]

2 'The vegetation characteristics of seasonally humid tropical (savanna) ecosystems are more varied than the vegetation characteristics of humid tropical (rainforest) ecosystems.'

How far do you agree with this statement? [20]

3 Assess the extent to which annual and diurnal variations in temperature differ between humid tropical environments and seasonally humid tropical environments. [20]

Coastal environments

If answering this option, answer Question 4 and **either** Question 5 **or** Question 6.

4 Fig. 4.1 is a photograph which shows a coastal landscape at Duncansby Head, Scotland, UK.

(a) Describe the characteristics of **four** physical features of the coastal landscape shown in Fig. 4.1. [4]

(b) Explain the formation of the landform labelled A in Fig. 4.1. [6]

5 'Swash processes are the main influence on the cross-section (profile) and plan of beaches.'

How far do you agree with this statement? [20]

6 Assess the extent to which management strategies may reduce the threats to coral reefs. [20]

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Hazardous environments

If answering this option, answer Question 7 and **either** Question 8 **or** Question 9.

7 Fig. 7.1 shows the total duration of earth tremors at Popocatépetl volcano, Mexico, August–December 2021.

(a) Describe the pattern of earth tremors shown in Fig. 7.1. [4]

(b) Explain **two** ways volcanic eruptions may be predicted. [6]

8 'Tsunamis are the greatest hazard associated with earthquakes.'

How far do you agree with this statement? [20]

9 With reference to a case study of a hazardous environment, evaluate the attempted or possible solutions to the problems of sustainable management. [20]

Hot arid and semi-arid environments

If answering this option, answer Question 10 and **either** Question 11 **or** Question 12.

10 Fig. 10.1 shows annual precipitation anomalies for the semi-arid region of the Sahel, Africa, 1915–2015.

(a) Describe the pattern of annual precipitation anomalies shown in Fig. 10.1. [4]

(b) Explain how a lack of precipitation might lead to desertification. [6]

11 'Extreme temperatures are the main influence on plant adaptation in hot arid and semi-arid environments.'

How far do you agree with this statement? [20]

12 Assess the extent to which erosion by water action is more important in the formation of some characteristic landforms than others in hot arid and semi-arid environments. [20]

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