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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY **9696/33**

Paper 3 Advanced Physical Geography Options **October/November 2025**

1 hour 30 minutes

6983304885

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 the extent of tree cover loss in Madagascar, 2001–22.

(a) Describe the distribution of tree cover loss shown in Fig. 1.1. [4]

(b) Explain how the loss of tree cover affects the nutrient cycle in tropical rainforest ecosystems. [6]

2 'The plant communities of seasonally humid tropical (savanna) ecosystems are affected more by human activity than the plant communities of humid tropical (rainforest) ecosystems.'

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

3 Assess the extent to which the characteristics of granite landforms of tropical environments are the result of deep weathering. [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 coastal sand dunes at Sefton, northern England, UK.

(a) Describe the main features of the coastal sand dunes shown in Fig. 4.1. [4]

(b) Explain the formation of coastal sand dunes. [6]

5 'Wave energy is the main factor in the formation of caves, arches and stacks.'

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

6 With reference to a case study of a stretch or stretches of coastline, assess the extent to which hard engineering has been an effective solution to the problems of sustainable management. [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 magnitude and frequency of earthquakes recorded in the Philippines, 17 February 2021.

(a) Describe the distributions of the magnitude **and** frequency of earthquakes shown in Fig. 7.1. [4]

(b) Explain how the magnitude **and** frequency of earthquakes influences the impact of earthquakes. [6]

8 To what extent is hazard mapping the most effective way of managing mass movement hazards? [20]

9 Assess the relative importance of sea-surface temperature in the formation and development of large-scale atmospheric disturbances (cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons). [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 the global distribution of hot semi-arid environments.

(a) Describe the global distribution of hot semi-arid environments shown in Fig. 10.1. [4]

(b) Suggest why the area labelled X in Fig. 10.1 is a hot semi-arid environment. [6]

11 Assess the evidence for past climate change in hot arid and semi-arid environments. [20]

12 'Wind action is the main cause of desertification in semi-arid environments.'

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

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