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CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

GEOGRAPHY **9696/31**

Paper 3 Advanced Physical Geography Options **May/June 2026**

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 Figure 1.1 is a photograph which shows a karst landscape in Viet Nam.

(a) Describe the main features of the karst landscape shown in Figure 1.1. [4]

(b) Suggest how the features of the karst landscape you described in **1(a)** have formed. [6]

2 Assess the extent to which there are differences between the plant communities of humid tropical (rainforest) ecosystems and seasonally humid tropical (savanna) ecosystems. [20]

3 Using a case study, evaluate the attempted solutions to the threats to the sustainable management of **either** the rainforest ecosystem **or** the savanna ecosystem. [20]

Coastal environments

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

4 Figure 4.1 shows wave height at a location on the coast of south-west France, March–April 2010.

(a) Describe the main variations in wave height shown in Figure 4.1. [4]

(b) Suggest reasons for the variations in wave height you described in **4(a)**. [6]

5 'Beaches vary in their profile and plan **only** because of differences in their sediment.'

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

6 Evaluate the effectiveness of strategies used to manage 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 Figure 7.1 shows slope profiles at a location in Asia before and after mass movement processes.

(a) Compare the slope profiles before and after mass movement processes shown in Figure 7.1. [4]

(b) Suggest how mass movement processes caused the changes to the slope profile shown in Figure 7.1. [6]

8 Assess the extent to which impacts of earthquakes on lives and property depend on their magnitude. [20]

9 'The processes causing the formation and development of large-scale atmospheric disturbances (cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons) and small-scale atmospheric disturbances (tornadoes) are the same.'

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

Hot arid and semi-arid environments

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

10 Figure 10.1 shows a cross-sectional diagram of a landscape in a hot arid environment.

(a) Describe the main features of the cross-section of the landscape shown in Figure 10.1. [4]

(b) Explain the formation of an alluvial fan. [6]

11 'The problems of sustainable management **cannot** be solved.'

Using a case study of **either** a hot arid environment **or** a semi-arid environment, how far do you agree with this statement? [20]

12 To what extent is latitude the main cause of differences between the climatic characteristics of hot arid environments and semi-arid environments? [20]

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