GradeMax



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE In Bangladesh Studies (4BN1) Paper 02 The landscape, people, and economy of Bangladesh

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Question Number	Answer	Mark
1(a)(i)	AO3 (1 mark) D - Sylhet (1) The answer cannot be A (in the 1472-1700 category), B (in the 2201-2700 category), or C (In the 3201-3700 category).	**(1)**

Question Number	Answer	Mark
1(a)(ii)	AO3 (1 mark) Award 1 mark for a suitable reason. • (Southwest) Monsoon • Western Disturbances • Changes in air pressure • Changes to land and water temperature • Moisture level of the wind • Climate change / global warming Accept any other appropriate response.	**(1)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
1(b)	AO1 (2 marks) Award 1 mark for each suitable process. • Ablation/loss of ice and water/ice or snow melting • Sublimation • Accumulation • Calving • (Glacial) deposition • (Glacial) erosion or named process such as plucking, abrasion or erosion by glacial meltwater. Accept any other appropriate response.	**(2)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
1(c)	AO1 (1 mark)/AO2 (2 marks) Award 1 mark for an initial point of description of location with a further 2 marks related to a reason provided. • Sundarbans mangrove forests are found in south-west Bangladesh (1) as saline water is found there (1) which mangrove trees grow in (1). • Mangrove forests are found on the delta of the Ganges/Brahmaputra/Meghna rivers (1) where the rivers meets the sea (1) creating rich sediments (1). • Located in tropical/sub-tropical latitudes (1) which provide warm water (1) to sustain mangrove trees (1). • Reduced coverage on the coastline (1) due to deforestation (1) as wood used for fuel (1). • Mangroves planted along the coastline (1) as they can provide more coastal protection (1) reducing the impact of storm surges (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	**(3)**

Question number	Answer	Mark

1(d)	AO2 (2 marks)/AO3 (2 marks)
	
	Award 1 mark for each suitable environmental impact, with a further mark for development up to a maximum of 2 marks for each response. Only **two** responses should be credited.
	
	Candidates may focus both impacts on one of the resources shown or on more than one.
	
	• Water
	  ○ Building dams can lead to flooding of some areas (1) which may damage the habitat of the flooded area (1).
	  ○ Creation of dams to store water can trap silt (1) which leads to less fertile soils further downstream (1).
		(4)

	○ Dams can block fish migrations (1) which can reduce the biodiversity of other areas in the river (1). • Coal ○ Can cause water contamination (1) as heavy metals leak into groundwater (1). ○ Can lead to removal of vegetation (1) which removes habitats for local wildlife (1). ○ Burning coal leads to CO2 emissions (1) which contribute to climate change (1). • Fish ○ Overfishing (1) can deplete stocks of fish (1) ○ Creation of some fish farms can lead to deforestation/removal of vegetation (1) which can damage habitats for other species (1). ○ Waste from fish feed can pollute the water (1) which can reduce the water quality/affect other wildlife (1). • Wood ○ Deforestation (1) which can lead to biodiversity/habitat loss (1). ○ Removal of trees means less CO2 is being absorbed (1) which can contribute to climate change (1). ○ Removal of trees for logging can lead to soil erosion (1) as roots no longer bind the soil (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	

Question number	Indicative content
1(e)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material indicated as relevant. Other relevant material not suggested below must also be credited. Candidates may use diagrams to support their answer although this is not a requirement. **Indicative content**

		○ Bangladesh lies at the junction of three plates: the Indian plate, the Eurasian plate and the Burmese plate. ○ The Indian plate is moving northeast with the Eurasian plate. This collision contributed to the creation of the Himalayan mountains. There are active faults on this boundary such as the Dauki fault in northern Bangladesh (at one point it is only 20km from Dhaka). The Indian plate moves around 4-6cm per year. ○ The Burmese plate pushes west against the Indian plate. The Indian plate subducts beneath the Burmese plate. Here the rocks fold and buckle to form the hills and valleys of the Burma Arc. ○ Active tectonic faults can cause earthquakes. Although large earthquakes are rare in modern history the active fault means that a larger earthquake could occur. ○ Some of the earthquakes candidates may refer to: ▪ 1997: Chittagong, 6.7 on the Richter scale killing 10 and injuring 100. ▪ 1999: Just off Cox's Bazar. Around 4.0 on Richter scale, destroying around 200 houses ▪ 2003: Rangamati. 5.7 on the Richter scale killing 3 and injuring 25. ○ Bangladesh is also at risk of tsunami caused by earthquakes taking place under the ocean. In 2004 an earthquake on the boundary between the Indian and Burmese plate (near Sumatra not Bangladesh), 9.1 on the Richter scale was felt in Bangladesh. It created a tsunami which devastated many coastlines in southeast Asia. Bangladesh coastal sediments absorbed much of the incoming tidal wave.
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	• Demonstrates limited understanding of concepts, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) • Demonstrates unsustained links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3–4	• Demonstrates partial understanding of concepts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1)

		• Demonstrates some links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are partially developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5-6	• Demonstrates thorough understanding of concepts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) • Demonstrates sustained links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are developed. (AO2)

Question number	Indicative content
1(f)	AO2 (4 marks)/AO3 (4 marks) The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material indicated as relevant. Other relevant material not suggested below must be credited. The command word 'Assess' requires candidates to consider a number of factors and give a reasoned explanation of the factor or factors felt to be the most important. **Indicative Content** Context: • Bangladesh relies largely on natural gas and other fossil fuels and biofuels for its energy, but with a growing proportion of renewable energy (around 3.3% of total consumption in 2019). • There is a capacity of renewable energy of around 579 mega-watts (MW), including on-grid and off-grid installations. • The majority of renewable energy is generated by solar power (around 59.5%), as well as hydropower (39.7%) and biomass/biogas (0.8%). • Bangladesh's National Energy Action Plan aims for 40 giga-watts (GW) to be installed by 2041. • In Bangladesh around one quarter of the rural populations do not have access to electricity. **Benefits** • Overall: o Producing more renewable energy would allow greater energy security and potentially reduce the amount of energy that has to be imported. Around 17% of energy is imported (mainly Liquified Natural Gas -LNG) which affects the balance of trade.

	○ The National Renewable Energy laboratory has identified there is over 20,000km2 of land where there are high wind speeds which would be suitable for wind power generation which could potentially generate over 30,000 MW. ○ Investment in the renewable energy sector could contribute to economic development, creating additional skilled jobs and therefore potentially improving quality of life. • Solar: ○ Small scale solar systems provide electricity for more than 4 million households. Solar panels have been improving the lives of rural communities, with solar power irrigation pumps improving crop yields. Off grid solar power systems allow families and small businesses to remain active after dark. ○ There is room for large solar farms such as the one in Mongla which has the capacity to generate 1000MW. • Hydroelectric: ○ There is only one hydroelectric power plant in Bangladesh located at the Kaptai dam, with the potential to generate 230MW. ○ In addition to producing energy the dam plays a significant role in flood management for the areas downstream. **Drawbacks** Overall: • Grid infrastructure is not evenly distributed across the country so it makes it difficult to create new installations nationwide. Even the UN has projected that there is around 10% that cannot be connected to the grid so would need to rely on off-grid solutions. • Requires high level of investment needed. Solar: • There is not a constant supply of energy as it is dependent on sunlight conditions. Reduced efficiency in times of monsoons when they are also prone to damage or not able to charge the battery due to heavy rainfall/flooding. • While there has been a lot of support from international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the off grid solar panels, these are still very expensive. And if parts need replacing this is not always affordable to communities where they are installed.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2">Hydroelectric:
Dams like the Kaptai dam require huge levels of investment and can also have a range of environmental impacts, such as flooding of areas upstream as part of construction.
While Bangladesh has lots of rivers, many of them do not have a high enough flow rate. This limits many of Bangladesh's rivers to only small scale micro-hydropower plants.
Points of assessment
Candidates are likely to make their assessment around whether the costs of installation outweigh the long-term benefits in terms of reduced environmental impact and energy security.
Basic assessment would be likely to make a judgement about whether renewable energy should be exploited further or not.
More in-depth assessment is likely to make a judgement with links to specific ideas that have been introduced earlier in the response, and attempt to provide a balanced argument.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level</td><td>Mark</td><td>Descriptor</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>0</td><td>No rewardable material</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level 1</td><td>1–3</td><td>• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of concepts and the interrelationship between places, environments and processes. (AO2)
• An unbalanced or incomplete argument that provides limited consideration of factors, leading to judgements and a final conclusion that are not supported by evidence. (AO3)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level 2</td><td>4–6</td><td>• Demonstrates elements of understanding of concepts and the interrelationship between places, environments and processes. (AO2)
• An imbalanced argument that provides some consideration of factors, leading to judgements and a final conclusion that are partially supported by evidence. (AO3)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Level 3</td><td>7–8</td><td>Demonstrates accurate understanding of concepts and the interrelationship between places, environments and processes. (AO2)
• A balanced, well-developed argument that provides thorough consideration of factors, leading to judgements and a final conclusion that are well supported by evidence. (AO3)</td></tr>
</table>

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(a)(i)	AO3 (1 mark) B new irrigation technology (1) The answer cannot be A, C, and D as these are not factors that could have caused changes in Aman rice production.	**(1)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(a)(ii)	AO3 (1 mark) Award 1 mark for a suitable crop. • Jute • Wheat • Potatoes • Tea • Sugar cane • Maize • Oil seeds/mustard • Boro rice/Aus Rice/IR8 rice. Do not accept rice on its own. Accept any other suitable response.	**(1)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(b)	AO1 (2 marks) Award 1 mark for each suitable characteristic. • Produce goods in small scale (1). • Often produced within households (1). • Often involved high proportion of women (1). • Goods often produced by hand/ without electricity (1). • May use local materials e.g. jute (1). • Can involve simple tools (1). • Can involve artistic skills (1). • Can involve low wages (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	**(2)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(c)	AO1 (1 mark)/AO2 (2 marks) Award 1 mark for suitable impact and 2 further marks for expansion, up to a maximum of 3 marks. Only credit one impact. • Factories emit greenhouse gases (1) from burning fossil fuels (1) which can contribute to climate change (1). • Water pollution (1) as chemicals from factory processes can lead into water supplies (1) killing wildlife/leading to eutrophication (1). • Air pollution (1) as some factory processes can emit particulates (1) which can lead to reduced air quality/affect local biodiversity (1). • Waste products from manufacturing may end up in landfill (1) which can lead to land pollution (1) and emission of more greenhouse gases (1). • Building of new industrial sites (and the transport connections) may cause deforestation (1) which	**(3)**

	disrupts ecosystems (1) and may lead to loss of biodiversity (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(d)	AO2 (2 marks)/AO3 (2 marks) Award 1 mark for each suitable factor, with a further mark for explanation, up to a maximum of 2 marks. Only two challenges should be credited. • High population density in cities (such as Dhaka) (1) which can provide suitable demand for products (1). • Sufficient transport networks (1) that can provide necessary links for workers and for those involved in the transport industry (1). • Availability of local labour (1) to provide informal services such as rickshaw drivers (1) • River network (1) to provide route for boat transportation for goods or people (1). • Availability of water (1) required for cooling/manufacturing process (1). • Availability of electricity supply (1) as this is typically more reliable in urban areas (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	**(4)**

Question number	Indicative content
2(e)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material indicated as relevant. Other relevant material suggests below must also be credited. **Indicative content**

	• Bangladesh has made significant progress in improving the lives of women in recent decades. Maternal mortality rates and fertility rates are declining. • Greater access to education and healthcare services have contributed to a decline in fertility rates. This allows women to make decisions about pursuing careers and having a family. This can reduce the economic burden of a rapidly growing population, but can also ensure women have the opportunity to be economically active. • There are growing proportions of girls attending school. As more girls become educated it should open up more opportunities in the workforce. The female labour force participation rate is 36%. • Women's participation in employment has increased which is important for reducing unemployment rates, and contributing to economic development; although this is often limited to low paying sectors, and the informal economy. A global gender gap report shows a gap of 88% between the number of men and women in managerial positions. Bringing more women into the formal economy would allow them to contribute more to the country through taxes which could support economic development. • The success of the Readymade Garments (RMG) sector where about 80% of employees are women has demonstrated the important role of women in the workforce. Around 3 million women are employed in this sector which is an important source for exports. • Gender equality is strongly associated with supporting reductions in extreme poverty, as identified by the Sustainable Development Goals.

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	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	• Demonstrates limited understanding of concepts, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) • Demonstrates unsustained links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are not developed. (AO2)
Level 2	3–4	• Demonstrates partial understanding of concepts, which are mostly accurate and relevant. (AO1) • Demonstrates some links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are partially developed. (AO2)
Level 3	5–6	• Demonstrates thorough understanding of concepts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1)

		• Demonstrates sustained links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are developed. (AO2)

Question number	Indicative content
2(f)	AO2 (4 marks)/AO3 (4 marks) The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material indicated as relevant. Other relevant material suggests below must also be credited. The command word 'Assess' requires candidates to consider a number of factors and give a reasoned explanation of the factor or factors felt to be the most important. **Indicative content** Positive Impacts: • Can bring increased foreign investment into Bangladesh from transnational corporations (TNCs), which can improve not only services but technology and infrastructure too, which in turn can improve quality of life for the people of Bangladesh. Increased investment from TNCs can provide a range of more highly skilled employment and training opportunities, therefore increasing the potential to increase family income and career progression opportunities. / • Increased access to communications technology can allow people to access working opportunities from around the world, creating job opportunities which can support improved quality of life. • Greater connections with other countries through globalisation processes can foster greater awareness of what is happening in other places around the world, and can introduce new elements of global culture to Bangladesh including the ideas, experiences and lifestyles of other people and culture, for example, food, fashion, retail cultures which may impact on economic activities. Negative impacts: • Some impacts of globalisation, such as the increased investment through TNCs do not always benefit the host country the most. New transport connections focused on freight for example rather than people. Often a substantial

		proportion of TNCs' profits are sent back to the country where their headquarters is located, therefore not necessarily generating income which will benefit the people of Bangladesh directly. • Exposure to TNCs which may be located in Bangladesh due to lower wage costs, and so workers may feel exploited. TNCs often require highly skilled workers, sometimes these are imported from other countries, therefore not benefitting local workers. • Some TNCs have been accused of not adhering to health and safety standards which have put workers at risk (e.g. Rana Plaza factory collapse). Demand from some countries for fast fashion at low cost has led to the creation of low wage work in countries like Bangladesh. • Exposure to global cultures through greater connectivity via the internet/social media, and increasing presence of global brands in the marketplace may erode local cultures.
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material
Level 1	1–3	• Demonstrates isolated elements of understanding of concepts and the interrelationship between places, environments and processes. (AO2) • An unbalanced or incomplete argument that provides limited consideration of factors, leading to judgements and a final conclusion that are not supported by evidence. (AO3)
Level 2	4–6	• Demonstrates elements of understanding of concepts and the interrelationship between places, environments and processes. (AO2) • An imbalanced argument that provides some consideration of factors, leading to judgements and a final conclusion that are partially supported by evidence. (AO3)
Level	Mark	Descriptor
Level 3	7–8	• Demonstrates accurate understanding of concepts and the interrelationship between places, environments and processes. (AO2) • A balanced, well-developed argument that provides thorough consideration of factors, leading to judgements and a final conclusion that are well supported by evidence. (AO3)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(a)(i)	AO3 (1 mark) C 2,000 (1) Cannot be A (2012), B (no year for 1,500), D (2020).	**(1)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(a)(ii)	AO3 (1 mark) Award 1 mark for correct answer. • 2,500 – 400 = US$2,100.	**(1)**

Question Number	Answer	Mark
3(b)	AO1 (2 marks) Award 2 marks for suitable factors. • Increase in access to health care (1) • Advances in healthcare and medicine (1) • Improved diet or nutrition / better food security (1) • Increase in access to education / increase in literacy rate (1) • Improved living conditions (1) • Improved access to clean drinking water (1) Accept any other suitable response.	**(2)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(c)	AO1 (1 mark)/AO2 (2 marks). Award 1 mark for identification of a change in population structure and a 2 further marks for explanation or development, up to a maximum of 3 marks. • Ageing rural population (1) caused by loss of young skilled population (1) leaving fewer people to conduct work in agricultural jobs in rural areas (1). • Lack of young workers (1) due to rural-urban migrations (1) often means investment for many services does not reach rural areas as it is concentrated in urban areas (1). • Rural to urban migration leading to young people moving away from rural areas (1) means that this leaves older people behind (1) and may not have appropriate support to access healthcare or other services (1). • May lead to the breakdown of multigeneration households (1) as younger generations move for work (1) sometimes leaving the rural areas (1). Accept any other appropriate response.	**(3)**

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(d)	AO2 (2 marks)/AO3 (2 marks) Award 1 mark for each suitable challenge identified, with a further mark for explanation, up to a maximum of 2 marks. • Congestion (1) due to rapid growth of additional vehicles being used. (1) • Air pollution (1) caused by vehicles running on fossil fuels. (1) • Rapid population growth (1) which can lead to competition for services. (1) • Development of informal settlements (1) due to lack of sufficient new housing. (1) • Lack of space to accommodate all the new housing (1) which means areas can become overcrowded. (1) Accept any other appropriate response.	**(4)**

Question number	Indicative content
3(e)	AO1 (3 marks)/AO2 (3 marks) The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material indicated as relevant. Other relevant material suggests below must also be credited. **Indicative content** • The population density of Bangaldesh is around 1,265 people per sq metre. However this varies significantly across the country from 83 people per square kilometre in Rangamati district in to 23,234 people per square kilometre in Dhaka. • Population densities are highest in the regions around Dhaka in the centre of the country and Chattogram towards the south east. These districts include some of the largest cities from which their districts get their name. • South west coastal areas typically have densities from 250-750 people per square km, while northern and western districts tend to have densities with between 750-1249 people

	per sq km. South eastern coastal areas are extremely high around Chittagong but away from the coast the south east has some of the lowest population densities often below 250 people per sq km. • Relief: Much of Bangladesh is a low-lying country, however there are areas with changing relief such as the Chittagong hills in the south-east, the low hills of Sylhet in the northeast, and highlands in the north. These areas of high elevation are less suitable for settlement growth. Low lying lands in large proportions of the country along floodplains have made these areas accessible. • Fertility of soil: Around 75% of Bangladesh is classified as flood plain which means there is a lot of fertile land for agriculture which leads to higher population densities. • Climate: north-western areas of Bangladesh have been experiencing drought for several decades which has discouraged population growth, due to difficulties in producing crops.	
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
Level 1	1–2	• Demonstrates limited understanding of concepts, some of which may be inaccurate or irrelevant. (AO1) • Demonstrates unsustained links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are not developed. (AO2)
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Level 3	5–6	• Demonstrates thorough understanding of concepts, which are accurate and relevant. (AO1) • Demonstrates sustained links to the conceptual focus of the question, which are developed. (AO2)

Question number	Indicative content
3(f)	AO2 (4 marks)/AO3 (4 marks) The indicative content below is not prescriptive and candidates are not required to include all the material indicated as relevant. Other relevant material not suggested below must be credited. The command word 'Evaluate' requires the candidate to come to a conclusion/judgement which needs to be supported with an evidence-balanced argument. **Indicative Content** **Context** • Climate change has the potential to have significant impacts on Bangladesh including changing rainfall patterns, increased coastal and river flooding, sea level rise (potentially 0.4-1.5m on the coast by 2100), as well as more extreme weather events. • Different impacts are being experienced, and are predicted for different areas, and therefore varied adaptation and mitigation strategies are being used. • According to the World Bank the effects of climate change are likely to include, many of which are already being experienced: o South, Southwest and Southeast coastal regions at risk from more severe tropical cyclones, sea level rise and saline intrusion. o Northwest potentially more prone to drought o Northeast likely to experience delayed rainfall in addition greater flooding. o Central areas along major flood plains at risk from greater flooding, in particular flash flooding. **Mitigation & Adaptation** • The Climate Change Action plan has 6 elements 1) food security, social protection and health 2) comprehensive disaster management 3) infrastructure 4) research and knowledge management 5) mitigation and low carbon development and 6) capacity building and institutional strengthening. • Bangladesh has invested more than $10 billion in climate change actions from enhancing resilience capacity for local communities, to increasing capacity of government agencies

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2">to respond to emergencies, as well as strengthening of river embankments and coastal polders.
• More specific examples may be discussed such as rice researchers developing salt-tolerant varieties for farmers in low lying coastal areas where salt water is intruding.

Points of evaluation may include:
• Bangladesh's national climate change strategy and action plan is important to coordinate activity across the country and ensure a wide range of stakeholders are involved beyond individual households and local communities. Bangladesh has successfully brought climate change to the forefront of many activities and integrated it into many developments taking place in the country which should enable greater resilience than if it was only taking place at the local level.
• International community needs to address the causes of climate change and change behaviours to reduce the potential future impacts of climate change as these mitigation and adaptation strategies are not enough to reduce much of the damage that is taking place.</td></tr>
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• A balanced, well-developed argument that provides thorough consideration of factors, leading to judgements and a final conclusion that are well supported by evidence. (AO3)</td></tr>
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