GCSE (9-1) Geography
Understanding the sample assessment materials

eduqas
Part of WJEC

New Assessment Objectives

AO	Requirement	weighting
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments and different scales.	15%
AO2	Demonstrate geographical understanding of: 2.1) concepts and how they are used in relation to places, environments and processes; 2.2) the inter-relationships between places, environments and processes.	25%
AO3	Apply knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues and to make judgements.	35%
AO4	Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.	25%

Command words for AO1

AO1 requires candidates to demonstrate knowledge (but not understanding) of locations, places, processes and environments at different scales. Questions that target **recall of knowledge** might use one of the following command words:

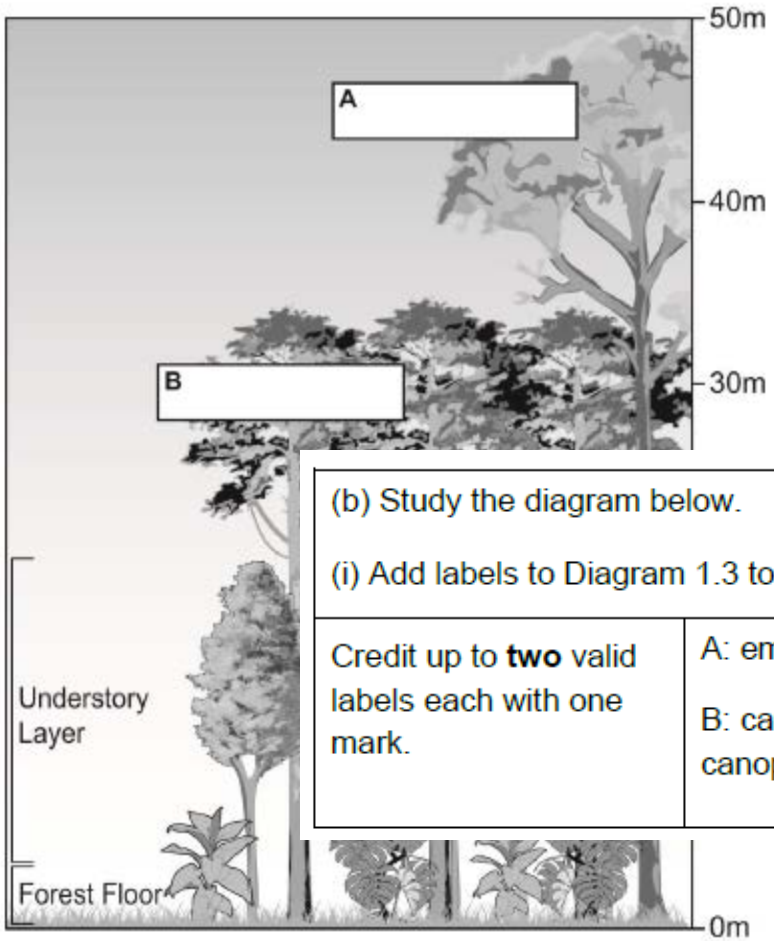
- Describe…
- Give…
- Define…
- Outline…
- Name …

15% of the overall assessment = 36 marks

To consider … which of these commands would suit lower tariff questions and which would be used with questions that have a higher tariff?

AO1

Diagram 1.3 The structure of the tropical rainforest



(b) Study the diagram below. (i) Add labels to Diagram 1.3 to name the layers in boxes A and B.		AO1	AO2.1	AO2.2	AO3	AO4	Total
Credit up to **two** valid labels each with one mark.	A: emergent / emergent layer (1) B: canopy / canopy layer / continuous canopy (1)	2					**2**

(i) Add labels to Diagram 1.3 to name the layers in boxes A and B. [2]

Geography A
Component 2

AO1

Definitions assess AO1

(i) Tick (✓) the correct definition of a biome from the three available in the table. [1]

	Tick (✓)
A *biome* is a large area named after the dominant type of vegetation found at sea level.	
A *biome* is a unique region where different climates can be found from north to south across the globe.	
A *biome* is a global land area that is characterised by the plants, animals and climate in that area.	

Geography B
Component 1

AO1

There are some AO1 questions with a 4 mark tariff

Describe the location of **one** shanty town in one global city located in the economically developing world. [4]

(b) The migration of people into Ugandan cities has led to the growth of informal settlements or shanty towns. (i) Describe the location of one shanty town in one global city located in the economically developing world.		AO1	AO2.1	AO2.2	AO3	AO4	Total
Credit up to **four** valid statements, each for one mark. Reserve one mark for name of city. ompass and scribe ately.	The answer will depend on the choice of the city. The following is for illustration only: Kibera is in Nairobi (1) This shanty town is less than 3km (1) to the south (1) of the city centre (1). It is located next to a railway line (1)	4					**4**

What are the implications for the teaching of case studies?

Geography A Component 1

AO2

AO2 requires candidates to demonstrate geographical understanding of **concepts** and **inter-relationship**s in relation to places, environments and processes.

Suitable command words might be:

- Explain why …
- Suggest why …
- Give **one** reason for …
- Compare…

25% of the overall assessment = 60 marks

AO2

‘Explain why’ questions are more likely to have a tariff of 6

(ii) Explain why deforestation can alter the movement of water through a tropical drainage basin. [6]

This question assesses understanding of inter-relationships between process and the environment.

(v) Explain why multi-national companies like L’Oréal open factories in countries such as Indonesia and Mexico. [6]

This question assesses the concept of industrial location factors for TNCs.

Geography A
Component 1

AO2

6 mark questions use banded mark schemes. Apply the process of best fit to choose the band

Explain why deforestation can alter the movement of water through a tropical drainage basin [6]

Geography A Component 2

This question assesses AO2.2, the interconnection between human activity and the environment (in this case the flow of water through the tropical drainage basin).

Use the descriptors below, working upwards from the lowest band.

Band	Marks	Descriptor
3	5-6	Consequences of deforestation are substantiated by detailed and elaborated understanding of drainage basin flows (supported by correct terminology). Responses may show breadth or depth.
2	3-4	Deforestation is linked to understanding of drainage basin flows which demonstrates breadth of understanding.
1	1-2	Simple, valid statements demonstrate basic understanding of drainage basin flows. The ideas are not elaborated.
	0	Award 0 marks if the answer is incorrect or wholly irrelevant

Responses should link the impacts of deforestation to changes in hydrological cycle such as:

- rates of interception will fall so soil erosion may increase and local rivers may become choked with sediment leading to flooding
- transpiration will be reduced so humidity will be reduced and local rainfall patterns may change over time.

AO3

Apply knowledge and understanding (in a new context) to:

- Interpret (which means to ascribe meaning to information)
- Analyse (which means to find connections/patterns and provide chains of reasoning)
- Evaluate (which means appraising) issues or synthesising (drawing together) information
- Make judgements or decisions

35% of the overall assessment = 84 marks

Assessment of AO3 requires higher order cognitive skills so these questions will provide greater stretch and challenge. **In summary:**

- Each component has some AO3 questions.
- Each theme ends with an 8 mark AO3 question.
- Component 3 ends with a high tariff AO3 question.
- Over the three components as a whole there will be a general balance between the elements of interpret, analyse, evaluate and make judgements.

Engaging students in the enquiry process will provide essential preparation for the assessment.

AO3

Low tariff questions may ask students to **ascribe** meaning to a resource, such as a photograph

State what data could be collected about flows in each place. [2]

Component 3

(a) Study Photographs 1.1 and 1.2. They show two places where data could be collected about flows.

Photograph 1.1

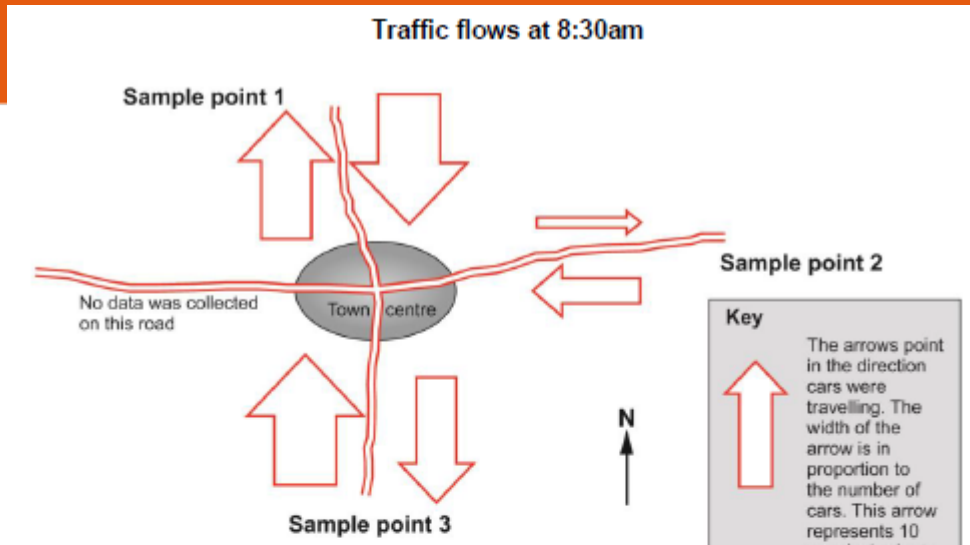
Photograph 1.2

Photo A: Andy Owen, Photo B: Bob Digby

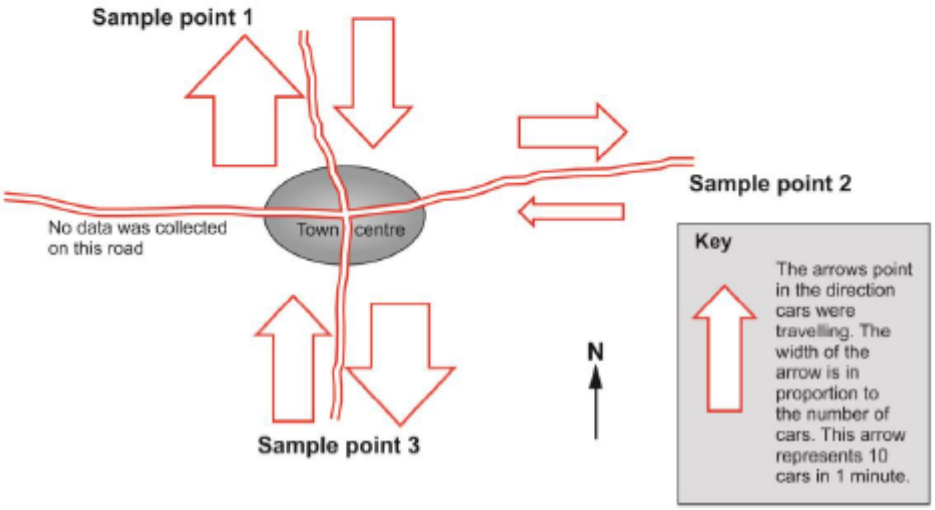
State what data could be collected about flows in each place. [2]

AO3

… or **analyse** patterns in a resource to come to conclusions.



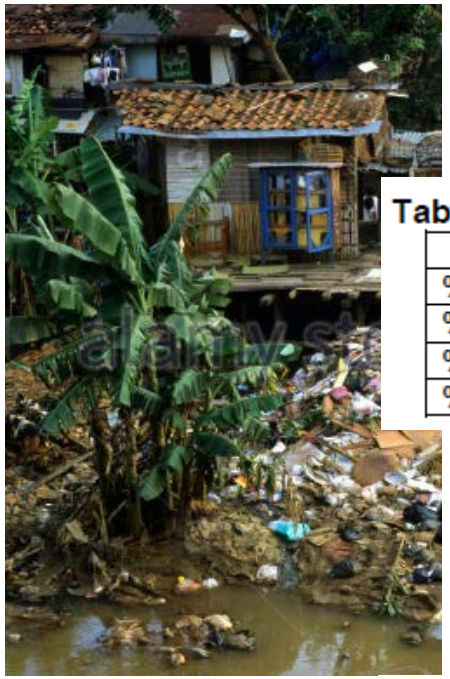
Study the patterns shown on **both** maps on page 3 of the separate Resource Folder. What **conclusion(s)** can you reach? [4]



Component 3

AO3

All higher tariff questions (8 or more marks) assess AO3. Several 8 mark questions require candidates to follow a decision making chain.



Step 1 Interpret a resource

Step 2 analyse some information

Table 1.6 Access to services within the informal settlement of Jembatan Besi

	1975	2015
% of residents with access to safe drinking water through stand pipes	1	10
% of residents with access to legal electricity supplies	10	50
% of residents with access to the main city sewer network	0	0
% of residents with access to formal city waste collection services	0	30

Step 3 Synthesise or appraise the novel situation in light of their wider geographical understanding

Step 4 Make a decision and justify it.

Geography B
Component 1

'The challenges faced in the informal settlement of Jembatan Besi are the same as those found in every global city'.
Give reasons to support why you agree or disagree with the statement. [8 + 4]

Implications for teaching and learning

Less focus on learning facts related to case studies.
More emphasis on
- Analysis
- Appraisal
- Making decisions
- Justifying them

Suitable ways to target this AO with your own students might be to use the following openings when posing questions of your own:

1. Analyse the impacts on …
2. Weigh up the advantages / disadvantages of …
3. Discuss the points of view of …
4. What are the limitations of?
5. To what extent do you agree?
6. Which is the best option?
7. Justify your decision / choice.
8. What are the costs and benefits?
9. How might things change in the future?
10. What might be the consequence?
11. What ought to happen …?
12. Who should…?

AO4

Select, adapt and use a variety of techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings

25% of the overall assessment = 60 marks

Assessment of AO4 will include some questions on mathematical / statistical techniques that will provide greater stretch and challenge. **In summary:**

- Each component has some AO4 questions.
- Over the three components as a whole there will be a greater emphasis on the **use of** techniques rather than selecting and adapting.

See Appendix A of the specification for the full list of mathematical and statistical techniques

AO4

Some questions will require candidates to **select** a suitable technique

Geography B
Component 1

Map 2.3

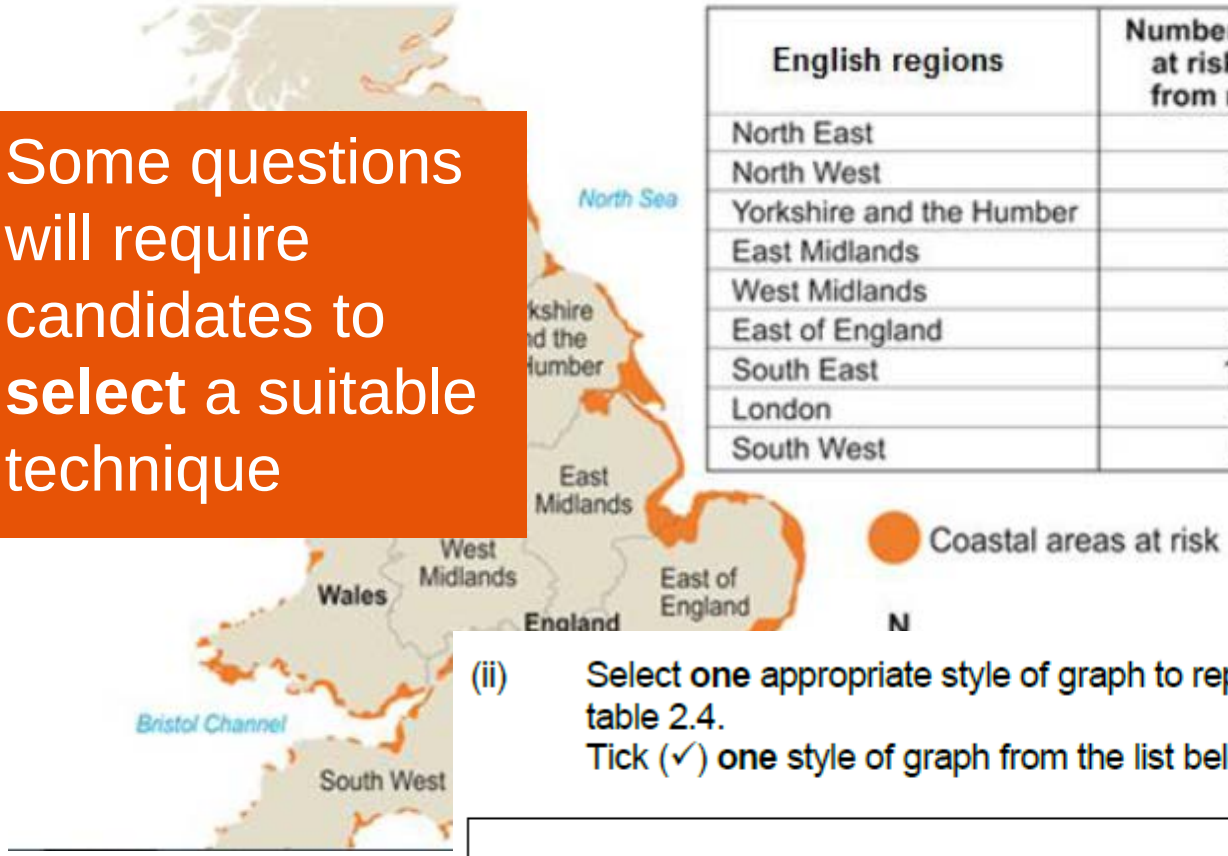


Table 2.4

English regions	Number of properties at risk of flooding from rivers or sea
North East	19 167
North West	28 941
Yorkshire and the Humber	65 380
East Midlands	81 096
West Midlands	19 173
East of England	33 050
South East	111 356
London	40 412
South West	89 178

(ii) Select **one** appropriate style of graph to represent the data shown in table 2.4. [1]
Tick (✓) **one** style of graph from the list below.

	Tick (✓)
One scatter graph showing a line of best fit	
A series of block graphs, one for each location in table 2.4	
A series of pie charts, one for each location in table 2.4	

AO4

Some questions will require candidates to **adapt** a technique

(b) The students used a bi-polar technique to record how they felt about different parts of Newham. Part of their draft survey is given in Table 2.3 below.

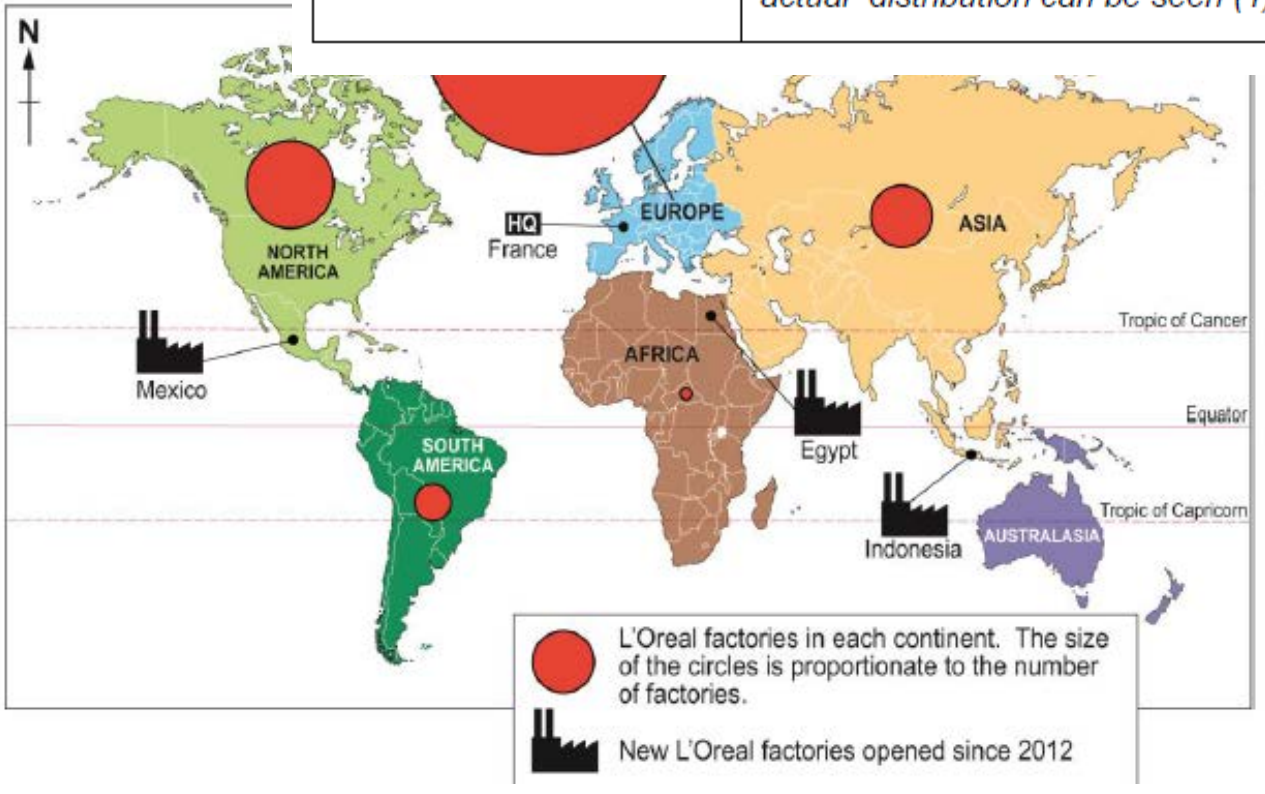
Table 2.3 Draft bi-polar survey

The area would be safe at night	+5	+4	+3	+2	+1	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	The area could be unsafe at night
Neighbours look out for one another											Neighbours keep themselves to themselves

Component 3

(i) Add **two** more pairs of bi-polar statements to Table 2.3 that you could use to investigate **access to services** in a study of inequality. [2]

(b) Study the map below. L'Oréal is a global company, or multi-national company (MNC), with employees in 130 different countries. L'Oréal manufactures cosmetics (such as hair colouring). Describe **one** way that Map 2.1 could be adapted to more clearly show the distribution of L'Oreal factories.		AO1	AO2.1	AO2.2	AO3	AO4	Total
Credit one valid statement for one mark and its elaboration with a further mark.	Provide a scale for the proportional circles (1) *so that the actual number per continent may be read from the map (1)* Show the information as a dot distribution map (1) *so that density / actual distribution can be seen (1)*					2	**2**



adapt a technique

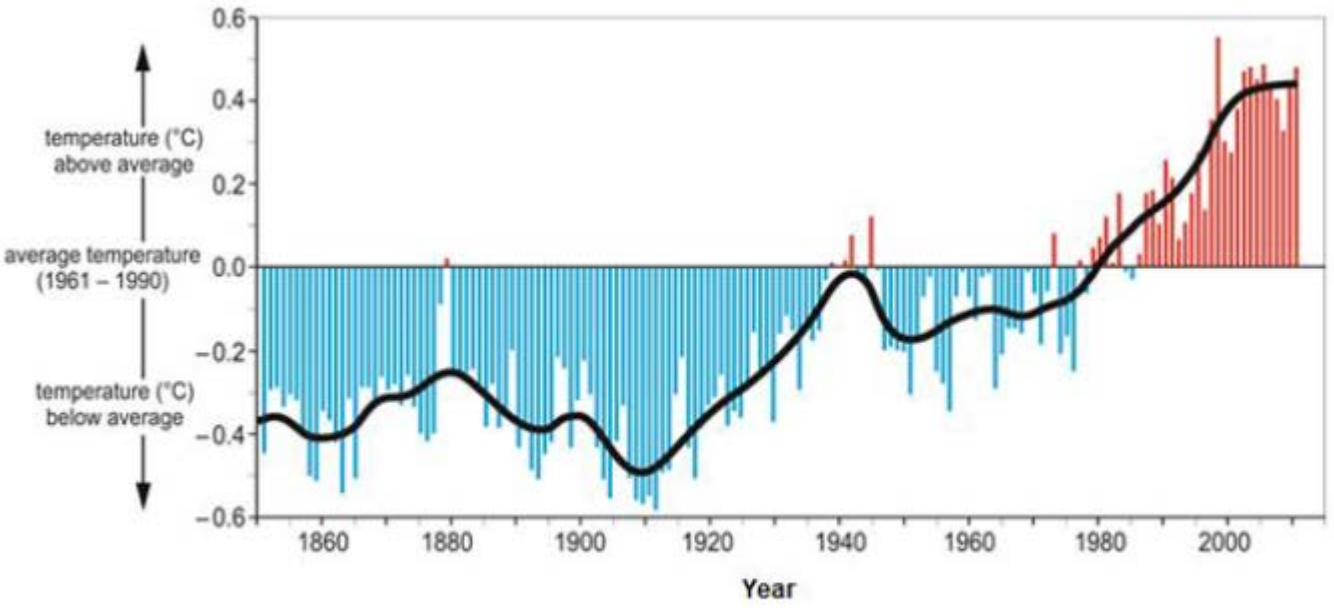
Geography A
Component 2

AO4

Most questions will require candidates to **use** a technique

Geography B
Component 1

Graph 2.2 Average global land surface temperatures

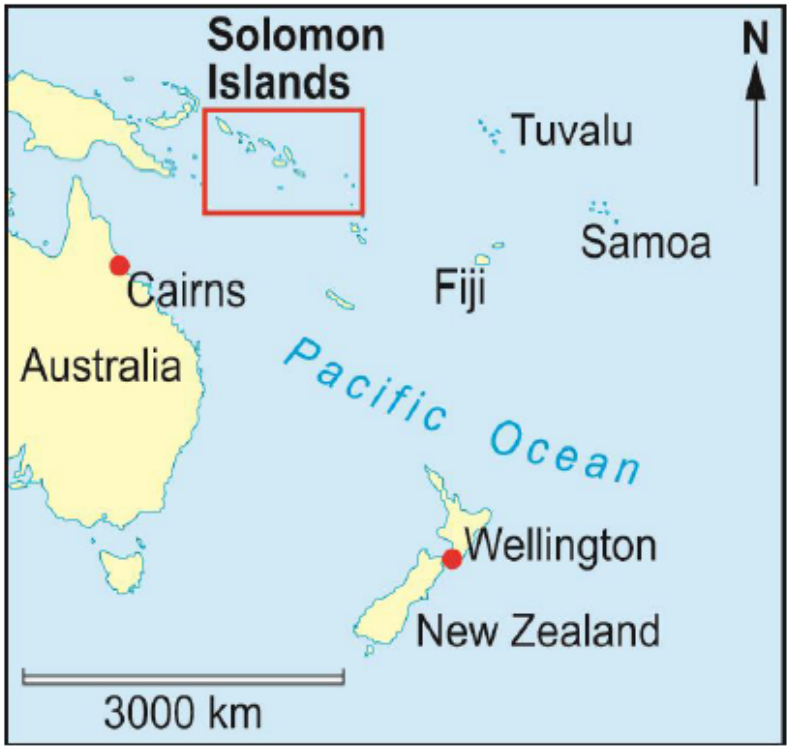


Describe the changes in average global land surface temperatures since 1850. Use figures from graph 2.2 in your answer. [3]

AO4

Most questions will require candidates to **use** a technique

Map 3.1 The location of the Solomon Islands



Geography A Component 1

Use Map 3.1. Give the distance and direction to the centre of the Solomon Islands from Wellington, New Zealand. Underline each correct answer. [2]

Distance:	2900km	3900km	4900km
Direction:	NNW	SSE	WNW

AO4

The list of techniques includes some mathematical processing that may seem more demanding

(ii) The students decided to use their bi-polar technique at 15 survey sites around Newham. At each site they recorded the views of 10 people. The raw values for three of their sites are shown in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 The raw bi-polar scores for three of the 15 sites

	The scores given by 10 different people									
Site A	+5	+4	+3	-1	+4	+2	+5	+1	-1	-1
Site B	+3	-2	-4	-1	-1	-3	+1	-3	-5	-4
Site C	+4	+1	+2	+1	+2	+2	+3	+1	-1	+3

Which of these three sites had the highest mean score and which site had the largest range of scores? Show your working in the space below. [4]

Component 3

AO4

Some questions will require candidates to **use** a suitable technique

Other questions will require candidates to **select** a suitable technique

Geography A Component 1

Table 2.1 Selected urban/rural data for Uganda

	Urban	Rural
Population (millions)	6.6	32.3
Literacy rate	87%	66%
Access to safe drinking water	91%	64%

(i) How many million people (to two decimal places) have access to safe drinking water in rural areas of Uganda? Show your working. [2]

Answer: ..... million

(ii) Select (✓) **one** appropriate technique to represent the literacy rate data for urban and rural areas of Uganda from the list below

	Tick (✓)
A block graph	
A pair of pie charts	
A pair of proportional pie charts where the size of the circle is in proportion to the population	

Explain why your selected technique is more appropriate than the others. [4]

AO weightings In Geography A

	Component 1			Component 2			Component 3	
	Q1	Q2	Q3/4	Q1	Q2	Q3/4	Parts A&B	Part C
AO1	8	8	2	8	8	2	0	0
AO2	10	10	4	10	10	4	0	12
AO3	8	8	8	8	8	8	24	12
AO4	8	8	2	8	8	2	12	12
Totals	34	34	16	34	34	16	36	36
Total	84 (35%)			84 (35%)			72 (30%)	

AO weightings for Geography B

	Component 1			Component 2		Component 3	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Parts A & B	Part C	Parts A & B	Part C
AO1	8	8	8	12	0	0	0
AO2	8	8	8	24	0	0	12
AO3	8	8	8	12	12	24	12
AO4	8	8	8	12	0	12	12
Totals	32	32	32	60	12	36	36
Totals	96 (40%)			72 (30%)		72 (30%)	

Any questions?

Contact GCSE Geography Subject Officer:

Paul Evans

paul.evans@eduqas.co.uk

Follow on Twitter:

@eduqas

Visit the website:

www.eduqas.co.uk

wjec cbac

eduqas Part of WJEC