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Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level
In Geography (WGE01)
Unit 1: Global Challenges

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Question 1ai

This question asked candidates to define the term 'natural disaster'. A significant number of candidates struggled to define this term with many instead describing it as hazards that were naturally occurring. It is recommended that teachers regularly test candidates on key terms throughout their course of study. Correct responses should have referenced either the realisation of the hazard (as in the example below) or the number of deaths e.g. the UN definition.

1 (a) (i) Define the term 'natural disaster'.

realisation of the hazard (natural hazard) and ⁽¹⁾ its
harm.

This candidate response scored 1 mark.

Question 1aii

Candidates were asked to describe the trends in global economic losses from extreme weather hazards between 1972 and 2018. The majority of candidates gained full marks recognising two key trends from the figure.

Study Figure 1 in the Resource Booklet.

(ii) Describe the trends in global economic losses due to extreme weather disasters between 1972 and 2018.

In figure 1, from the year 1972 till 1992 the ^{global} economic losses are below
20 US \$ billion, it has risen above 20 billion in the year 1990. After the
year 2004 a massive spike in global economic loss, jumping from 20 billion
to 120 billion. It has jumped 100 billion in 4 years. (2)

This candidate response scored 2 marks. 1 mark is awarded for recognising that economic losses remained low, followed by 1 mark for the overall increase.

Question 1aiii

Candidates were asked to suggest one reason for the trends in global economic losses since 2000. The majority of candidates successfully secured at least one mark here. The most common response focused upon the role of climate change leading to increasing frequency or strength of weather disasters. A small number of candidates focused solely on the economic and suggested answers that focused on economic crashes, without recognising that the question was responding to the trends in extreme weather events.

(iii) Suggest **one** reason for the trend in global economic losses since 2000.

(2)

One reason for the trend is global warming. For example, the melting of the arctic ice increased the sea level, which led to more frequent flooding in especially lower lying land.

This candidate response gained 1 mark. They are awarded 1 mark for the idea of global warming. However, no mark is gained for the rest of the sentence as the melting of Arctic ice is not appropriate to the timeframe of the question.

Question 1b

This question asked candidates to explain how the disaster risk equation helps to explain the impacts of earthquakes. On the whole this question was not answered well by candidates as although the majority of candidates could reference the equation they were not able to apply this to the question.

(b) Explain how the disaster risk equation helps to explain the impacts of earthquakes.

(4)

Disaster risk model is risk equals to hazards times vulnerability and both divided by capacity. If the magnitude of earthquake is high, reaches Mw 8-9, then the risk of having disaster will higher with high destructive energy from primary & secondary waves. More energy released. And if vulnerability is long, the risk is also high. For example houses are poorly constructed and people are uneducated with evacuation knowledge. Then with earthquake, houses will be broken. People lose their asset and place to live. And if people with lack of education, so even with sign to promote evacuation. They would go home and grab asset. With high capacity, can reduce the risk brought by above. Like government subsidised seismic building, this leads to lower economic loss. And people are educated with food by NGOs, these people will have awareness to build in pre-quake time.

This response was awarded the full 4 marks available. The candidate outlines what the disaster risk equation is (1), then focuses on the implications for high magnitude earthquakes (1). The candidate then addresses the vulnerability of the population by outlining in what form this might take e.g. poorly constructed buildings or uneducated population (1). Finally, the response focuses upon capacity to cope and the development of aseismic buildings (1).

Question 1c

There was variability in terms of quality of response for this question. The best responses were able to articulate clear reasons how monitoring and prediction technology can reduce the impacts of some tectonic disasters. Candidates in these responses focused on including specific named examples and how they could be monitored for example. These candidates could also exemplify through this named example to show the contrast. The weakest responses tended to be generic, providing basic ideas e.g. disasters on a whole can or cannot be predicted. These answers tended to remain within level 1.

(c) Explain how monitoring and prediction can help manage the impacts of some tectonic disasters.

(6)

Tectonic disasters include volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis. Earthquakes can hardly be predicted on when and where will happen and when they're, people have at the best few minutes to react. When an earthquake hits though, scientists can expect a tsunami if the focus of the earthquake is in open sea. People have more time to react to a tsunami than an earthquake therefore. Satellite images can show the direction of the tsunami and this helps to alert the areas that are in danger. Volcanic eruptions are the ones that are easier to monitor. Scientists can measure the magma activity inside a volcano to see how active it is and also they can make predictions based on the data collected to be able to know when it's dangerous and they should warn people to move away.

(Total for Question 1 = 15 marks)

This candidate response scored Level 3, 5 marks. The candidate explores a range of different tectonic hazards discussing if and how they can be predicted and monitored. The response shows accurate and relevant geographical knowledge and understanding throughout and addresses a broad range of geographical ideas. To gain full marks the candidate could have applied the disasters explored to named examples to give context to the response.

Question 2aii

For this question candidates were asked to describe the distribution of people in South America predicted to be affected by rising sea levels by 2100. Most candidates recognised that the northern half of South America was predicted to be most affected, particularly Brazil.

(ii) Describe the distribution of people in South America predicted to be affected by rising sea level by 2100.

(2)

The area most affected is in the east (Brazil) with 1 - 9.999 million people affected. The least affected are landlocked countries, so no access to coast.

This candidate response scored 2 marks. One mark is awarded for recognising that the east (Brazil) is most affected the second mark is awarded for the least being landlocked countries.

Question 2aiii

Candidates were asked to suggest one reason why some coastlines are especially at risk from sea level rise. A number of candidates simply stated that this was because they were on the coast, whereas the question focused upon why some coastlines i.e. not all were at greater risk. The most common response was candidates recognising that those that were low-lying or below sea-level had the greatest risk.

(iii) Suggest one reason why some coastlines are especially at risk from sea level rise.

(2)

Some coastlines, eg, the Philippines, are at risk the most because the coast is low lying making it easier for them to flood due to sea level rise.

This candidate response scored 2 marks. One mark was awarded for recognising that the Philippines coastline is low-lying, the second mark for linking this issue with them being easier to flood due to sea level rise.

Question 2b

This question required candidates to explain two reasons why future global warming projections are uncertain. The majority of candidates secured two of the four marks available. Weaker answers struggled to explain each reason given in order to achieve the second mark available.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why projections of future global warming are uncertain. (4)

1 population growth is uncertain. Just in 1950 the world population was 2.5 billion, yet in 2022 it hit 8 billion.

The future of the population is unknown, this future global warming trends are uncertain. ^{As if population keeps increasing, so will the} CO₂ emissions, ^{so might emission levels.} yet if the population ^{stabilizes} so might emission levels.

2 people don't know if our mitigation strategies will work. Carbon taxing, recycling, reusable energy are all methods people use to reduce the risk of climate change, ^{yet} it is uncertain if they will be enough to stop global warming.

This candidate response scored 4 marks. 1 mark for population growth is uncertain. They gain the 2nd mark for the exemplification given of how population has changed rapidly over time. The second reason given of mitigation strategies secures the 3rd mark, with the extension idea of the role of reusable energy and if this is enough to stop global warming, awarded the final mark.

Question 2c

This question was poorly answered by the majority of the candidates who responded by discussing why governments on a whole would or would not be successful at mitigating climate change. The question asked focused upon government actions, so candidates were expected to outline named government actions e.g. carbon taxation and why this had or had not been successful.

(c) Explain why some government actions to mitigate carbon emissions have been more successful than others.

(6)

It depends on the view point on each government, and the ability to implement ~~emissions~~ regulations. Some governments in developed countries (eg. Scandinavian countries) view global warming as a serious problem and have the money to mitigate carbon emissions, having success in doing so (eg by passing green taxes). It also depends on the country's resources. For example America has passed on some regulations but due to their reliance on fossil fuels and oil, they refused to agree to the Paris agreement, so the success of mitigation of each country also depends on their willingness. In Asia (eg. Bangladesh/India) they have planted mangrove trees to prevent flooding from rising sea levels (eg. Myanmar) in ~~megadeltas~~ which also contribute to ~~carbon sinks~~.

(Total for Question 2 = 15 marks)

This candidate response scored level 2, 5 marks. The candidate covers a range of government actions i.e. green taxes, regulations on fossil fuels. There is also clear discussion of why particular countries are able to take these approaches. For full marks the candidate needed to be clearer regarding why some countries have not been successful.

Question 3a ii

This question asked candidates to suggest one reason for the change in rankings of brand values as shown in the figure. The majority of candidates recognised the rising brand values of technology TNCs such as Samsung and the decline in dominance of the USA brands such as Coca Cola.

(ii) Suggest a reason for **one** change in the rankings shown in Figure 3.

(2)

Coca Cola (USA) fell out of the top 5 global brand rankings by 2020 due to the increase in technological brands such as Samsung because of the overall increase in the use of technology worldwide and increased globalisation.

This candidate response scored 2 marks. One mark for identifying a reason for the change in rankings i.e. increase in technological brands, the second mark was awarded for the extended explanation of increased use of technology linked to Samsung as the example.

Question 3a iii

In this question candidates were asked suggest one way in which global consumers have benefitted from the growth of global brands. The majority of candidates answered this question well, focusing on products being cheaper or greater variety of products. A small minority suggested more than one way and therefore did not gain credit as the second mark was awarded for an extension point.

(iii) Suggest **one** way in which global consumers have benefitted from the growth of global brands.

(2)

global consumers have benefitted from the growth of global brands, as they are able to make profit, as more products are being produced and sold internationally.

This candidate response scored 0 marks. The benefits outlined in the candidate response are for the companies, not the consumers as the question directs and therefore is not answering the question.

Question 3b

This question was answered well by candidates with most candidates able to secure at least two marks of the four available. Most commonly candidates discussed the problems arising from being landlocked and how this created the issue of relying on neighbouring countries to access global trade networks. In addition, the example of politically isolated countries such as North Korea were also explored. A common misconception seen was the idea that developing countries have no resources to trade with and therefore this is why they are poorly connected, this should be addressed by teachers when exploring this part of the specification.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why some developing countries are poorly connected to the wider global economy.

(4)

1. Developing countries such as North Korea may be politically shut off from the rest of the world. This means that it has no connection to the global economy as it does not import or export any products.

2. Other countries

This candidate was awarded 1 mark. Credit was awarded for the idea that North Korea is politically shut off. However, the second sentence outlining that there is no connection to the global economy is inaccurate as it fails to consider the trading agreements between North Korea and China for example.

Question 3c

Candidates showed a mixed performance with this question focusing on transport developments in the 19th and 20th Century. The weaker responses tended to describe transport today i.e. aircraft being used for trade and for holidays, demonstrating isolated elements of geographical knowledge, features of a Level 1 response. Stronger responses clearly distinguished the difference between the 19th and 20th Century in terms of transport developments and the impact these had had on contributing to a shrinking world.

(6)

In 19th century the transport of goods was done by a horse and a cart, then they invented the steam engine which sped up the process but not by much, telephones and telegraphs got invented which sped up the letter sending and communication; then closer to 20th century air jets, phones and containerisation happened which sped up the process of moving from one place to another by just putting all your belongings into a container and then sending it overseas. The phones sped up communication, texting someone takes seconds and they will receive the message. flights became faster and cheaper airlines appeared like EasyJet. This all made everything way cheaper than it was in 19th century.

This candidate response scored level 2, 4 marks. The candidate demonstrates a clear understanding of transport developments through the centuries but keeps drifting into communication technology which is not part of the question. Therefore, the response is mostly relevant, a Level 2 descriptor.

Question 4aii

Candidates on the whole obtained two out of the four marks available. The majority of candidates struggled to suggest how rising affluence could lead to water shortages i.e. increased use of modern water heavy appliances such as dishwashers etc.

- (ii) Suggest how rising population and rising affluence could cause water shortages.

(4)

Rising population

rising population means more density of people so more quantity is needed of water for each person. This would create pressure in aquifers or even in sectors of agriculture and healthcare.

Rising affluence

Sectors such as agriculture water is needed, more people means more food needed, again, this could create food shortages as the area where this is happening was not aware of it.

This candidate response scored 2 marks. These were awarded for the candidate suggesting that rising population leads to more quantity of water needed for each person (1) and then the creation of pressure on aquifers (1). Nothing is given for the response for rising affluence, as the candidate response does not directly link to affluence.

Question 4b

The question asked candidates to explain how resource demands for cities affect rural areas surrounding them. The majority of candidates recognised the increased demand for resources could lead to urban areas being prioritised. However, candidates struggled to extend their ideas in order to pick up the full marks available.

(b) Explain how the resource demands of cities affect the rural areas surrounding them.

(4)

Cities often rely on surrounding rural area for products obtained through farming such as wheat and vegetables, however as cities grow and population increases, resource demands also increase. This leads to stress put on farmers to produce more crops, which can ~~be~~^{lead} to the use of pesticides, which harm the environment, as a way to increase crop production along with soil degradation and lack of minerals in the soil from over-farming.

This candidate response scored 4 marks. The candidate articulates what resources are required by the cities (1). The demand for food is then explored with the use of pesticides (1) leading to soil degradation (1) due to lack of minerals in the soil from over farming (1). Technically the candidate has explored only one way, however each point has been extended and quantified allowing them to pick up all the marks available.

Question 4c

Candidates struggled to respond to the question focus on attitudes towards migration. Instead the majority of candidates discussed the benefits and negatives of immigration. These were valid but needed to be explored through considering how these impacts would affect the attitudes of the host nation for example.

(c) Explain why there are both positive and negative attitudes towards immigration.

(6)

Immigration has both advantages and disadvantages and for both the host and the source country. Immigration allows an increase of workers in the host country, which means more ones are being payed, so the economy is being boosted. immigrants often take jobs that people don't want such as seasonal jobs, this also means they can be payed cheaper which government and employers see as a good thing. However, people often ^{can have} ~~are~~ more negative attitudes towards immigration because they can see them as taking their jobs and houses ^{and} resources such as food and water also need to be shared with more people. Furthermore language barriers or different cultural beliefs can cause tension and conflict within a country, increasing the risk of xenophobia towards immigrants. For example if muslims moved to a predominantly christian country.

This candidate response was awarded Level 3, 6 marks. Here the candidate explores a range of positive and negative attitudes towards immigration, with a particular focus on which key player would hold them e.g. employers and governments seeing immigration as positive due to the economic boost. The response is concise taking up only the allocated line space, but explores a range of attitudes and the response is relevant throughout.

Question 5a

Candidates were required to suggest reasons why there was different attitudes to climate change in Figure 5. The weaker responses struggled to interpret the resource, instead either describing the trends or simply ignoring the resource completely. Candidates were expected to apply their knowledge of climate change and the human and potentially physical processes to the named countries shown. Candidates were not expected to have studied the specific countries shown on the resource, hence the command word of suggest looked for application.

The best responses, used the figure to explore a range of reasons why the USA for example had the highest percentage of the population who believed the climate was not changing, or why India or the Philippines viewed humans as responsible.

5 Study Figure 5 in the Resource Booklet.

(a) Suggest possible reasons for the different attitudes to climate change.

(10)

In countries like India, Philippines and UAE, most of the people believe that the climate is changing and that human activity is mainly responsible (72% - 56%).

This may be because these countries have experienced directly climate change, especially the Philippines which is a vulnerable country with low-lying coastal areas ^(flooding) where the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather conditions and natural hazards from climate change already occur. So, these countries ~~are~~ that are polluting countries through manufacturing lots of products, shipping them, having many flights (UAE: Dubai - global hub) have proof to believe that the climate is changing and people are responsible for it.

In China, USA and Norway a large proportion believes that climate is changing but other factors together with human activity are responsible. This may be because climate change is very uncertain and different models for it exist, not giving people a clear indication of what is causing it and how much people are affecting it. So different people may believe different models. It also

depends on the view of the government about it. USA is the ~~only~~ one with highest rate of the countries believing that the climate is changing but human activity is not responsible or all or that the climate is not changing. For an oil-reliant and oil based country like the USA, the economic ~~benefit~~ ^{benefits} are more important to the government than environmental costs, giving to its people the impression also that people are not responsible for climate change, or that there is no climate change. This is seen as the USA did not agree on the Paris agreement and is not willing to mitigate against climate change. However, for every country it also depends on the level of education of the people, as poorer developing countries ~~eg. India~~ ~~eg. India~~ (eg. Lagos) may not educate its people on climate change.

This candidate response was scored Level 3, 10 marks. The candidate demonstrates sound use of the figure to explore a range of countries. Plausible suggestions are given to explain the variations in attitudes between the countries. The candidate demonstrates a good level of knowledge (A01) e.g. USA not agreeing to the Paris agreement and this was well applied (A02) to consider how this could have impacted the attitudes shown. Whilst the candidate's approach to the question i.e. full explanation of key idea (UAE: Dubai – global hub) could have been fully developed, the candidate demonstrates accurate and relevant knowledge throughout. The response also applies knowledge in a logical manner, allowing them to make connections between this knowledge and the figure.

Question 5b

There was considerable variability in the level of responses that candidates wrote in response to this question. At the top end, candidates explored the role that development played in the human and economic impacts of disasters. Some also recognised that there were other factors that led to these differences e.g. magnitude and governance. At the bottom end candidates struggled to distinguish between human and economic impacts, instead describing largely generic impacts of hazards. Candidates should be encouraged to apply named examples and contexts to questions such as these in order to access top band marks.

(b) To what extent are differences in the human and economic impacts of disasters caused by variations in levels of development?

(20)

A disaster is an occurring natural hazard event which causes extreme and harsh impacts on an area, this ~~may~~ includes earthquakes, tsunamis, etc. However, the impacts of a disaster can be ~~different~~ vary depending on the level of development of an area.

~~For example,~~ high income countries can afford highly effective protection measures, such as building early warning systems and hazard-proof buildings (steel-frame structures, shock absorbers, etc). These ^{methods} ~~decrease~~ ^{lower} the vulnerability of the people that live in the area, as they can be warned before-hand in order to evacuate, and also ^{as} ~~are~~ buildings are less likely to collapse and cause death and injury.*

~~And~~ Another protection measure is educating children on the impacts of hazards and ~~what~~ what to do when one occurs; this allows them to be more prepared, ^{and} ~~thereby~~ ^{also} reducing their vulnerability and ^{the} ~~the~~ intensity of the impacts.

* ~~Less~~ ^{Less} collapsing of buildings also lowers the economic impacts of the hazard, as less damage is needed to repair.

On the other hand, low income countries are generally unable to afford the protection measures stated, causing the impacts of a hazard to be more extreme. For example, the Philippines experienced a deadly earthquake in 2014 which resulted in many deaths and injuries. Important infrastructure collapsed, as well as homes, leading to mass homelessness; this caused an economic crisis.

However, in ~~some~~^{rare} cases, the level of development does not have a significant effect on the intensity of the impact, ^{as} some natural hazard events are too extreme that ~~it~~^{they} causes ~~mass~~ destruction to even a highly developed and protected area. An example of this is Hurricane Katrina; even though the event occurred in the USA - a developed country that had ^{many} protection measures built - it still caused mass destruction, including hundreds of deaths ^{and} it was classified as a natural disaster. Also, some natural hazards, such as earthquakes, cannot be predicted. A higher population size also causes ~~the~~^{more} people ~~to be more~~ vulnerable people; impacts are therefore more extreme which is not caused by ~~low levels~~ a low level of development. Some areas, ~~which~~ are located in high risk areas; for example, countries within the Sahel region - including

Sudan and Niger - are experiencing drought to extreme levels where people are suffering from famine and are forced to migrate, and areas near the coast that have temperatures over 27°C ; these areas are at risk of sea level rise, and extreme tropical storms.

Although some factors are uncontrollable, ~~and~~ for example, areas with higher populations are more at risk whether or not they are developed or not, I believe human and economic impacts of disasters are less extreme in areas of high development - due to protection measures that can be afforded, such as ~~good~~ education and early warning systems.

This candidate response scored Level 3, 14 marks. The candidate explores how development can lead to variations in economic and human impacts of disasters. They also recognise that other factors, in this case intensity, the lack of ability to predict, could also play a significant role in the impacts faced. The response does not reach Level 4, as the examples used are not fully developed and are instead just placed within the response without explanation, this results in a largely unsupported argument.

Question 6a

A number of candidates fell into a description of the changes in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rather than suggesting plausible reasons as the question dictated. Better responses applied their understanding of FDI and used this to explore reasons such as China's Special Economic Zone for its dominance in FDI in both 2010 and 2020.

6 Study Figure 6 in the Resource Booklet.

(a) Suggest possible reasons for the changes in FDI between 2010 and 2020.

(10)

Foreign Direct Investment refers to nations investing in a different country or TNCs operating in less developed nations.

To begin with, in 2010 China and USA were on top of the list and still remain there now since they are known as the top investors worldwide.

However, as shown in Figure 6, Germany was experiencing FDI \$66 billion in 2010 whereas it now experiences only \$35 billion. This might be because of the rapid development experienced by the country the last 10 years which has allowed the country to be profitable without FDI being the first factor.

In addition, Saudi Arabia was experiencing \$29 billion FDI in 2010 but is now not in the top 10 countries since the foreign ~~investments~~ ~~investor~~ Saudi Arabia is known for the natural production of oil and gas. Therefore, the fact that it is now longer part of the top 10 countries can be seen as they choose to operate independently with the 100% of the profit being gained by the government or other local businesses ~~ensuring~~ that extract oil.

Lastly, Canada was not in the top 10 countries in 2010 but is now the ninth one ~~receiving~~ ^{receiving} \$23 billion FDI. This might be due to how they experienced an extremely rapid economic growth in the past 10 years allowing the nation to attract more business from the US into operating there and therefore ~~also~~ receive high FDI.

This candidate scored, Level 2 – 7 marks. The response covers some range of the resource and suggests plausible reasons for both Saudi Arabia and Canada. However, the candidate should have recognised that overall FDI had declined and suggest reasons for this appropriate to the timeframe shown.

Question 6b

Candidates performed poorly on this question with candidates providing largely generic responses which lacked detailed explanation or applied use of named examples or case studies. In some responses the responses also lacked balance with candidates heavily exploring either challenges or benefits, this led to unsubstantiated conclusions.

(b) Assess the extent to which rapid urban growth in developing or emerging cities creates more challenges than benefits.

(20)

When internal migrants arrive the city, it is difficult to find cheap, affordable housing, meaning many migrants live in slums where living conditions are horrible and many diseases spread such as cholera or typhoid. This will saturate the sanitary ~~to~~ system putting pressure in health and education, increasing the city's costs. Many migrants work in the informal sector, where ~~not~~ taxes are paid, meaning an increase of costs but not an increase in revenues. Many cities have huge congestion traffic jams and new ^{traffic} plans and ~~infrastructure~~ ~~infrastructure~~ infrastructure can't be made if slums ~~are~~ are in illegal terrain. There is also an increase in costs as more public transport is required but this can help congestion problems. There are some benefits, as demand for workers is quickly supplied as the workforce ^{base} increases ~~creating~~ creating jobs and wealth, and the city becomes more globalised as there is a higher cultural-diversity although this may generate conflicts/tensions between locals and migrants. Radical groups can surge in this context, even more is ~~the~~ crime levels go up as internal workers can't obtain the enough income to live. This means an increase in security costs (police) for the city.

Water and ~~be~~ renewable ~~energy~~ energy supply may be difficult, as construction pace can't keep up with population growth. Furthermore pollution levels can cause lung cancer and more respiratory diseases, ~~put~~ putting even more pressure to the health system. High urbanised terrain can increase surface runoff and increase the chance of flooding. Overall, this rapid growth creates more challenges than benefits.

This candidate scored Level 2, 10 marks. This is a typical top Level 2 response. The response explores a range of challenges and benefits but these tend to be superficial. In addition, they are not explored within the context of any named cities which would be expected in a 20-mark question. This results in a conclusion that is generic, as the impacts could be applied to a wider range of contexts but this is a missed opportunity by the candidate.

