NSW Education Standards Authority

2023 HSC Geography Marking Guidelines

Section I

Multiple-choice Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	C
2	D
3	D
4	B
5	A
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	D
10	B
11	B
12	A
13	D
14	B
15	B
16	C
17	B
18	A
19	D
20	C

Section II

Question 21 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides correct answer	1

Sample answer:

100 – (5 + 46) = 49%

Question 21 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• Correctly plots the point on the ternary graph	1

Sample answer:

KEY
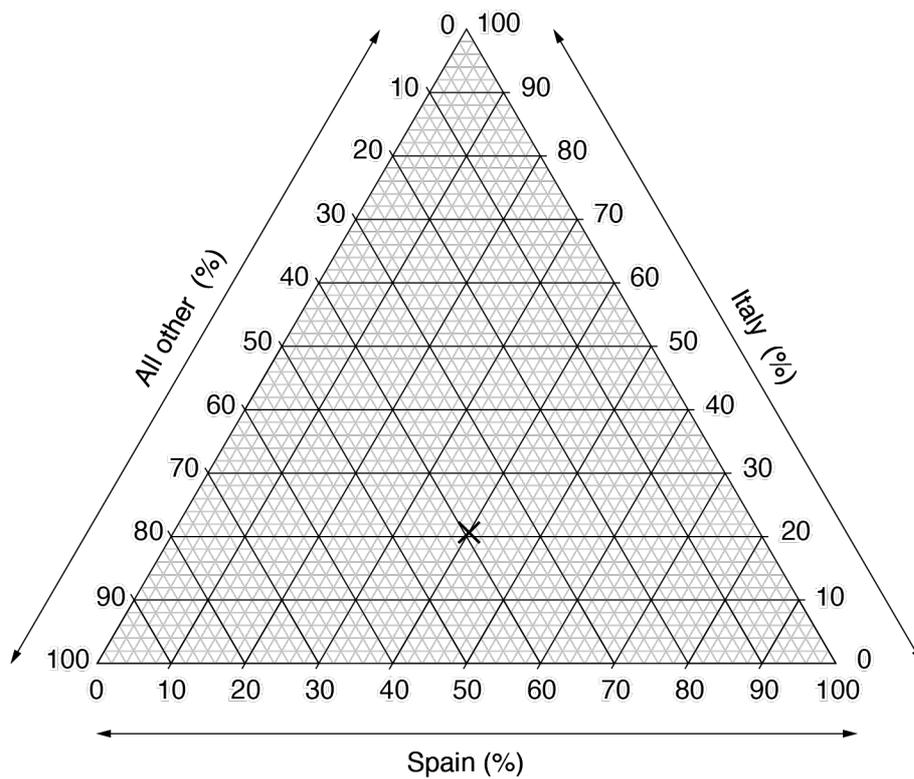
Olive oil	✕

Question 22 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• Explains ONE change in a global economic activity	3
• Outlines ONE change in a global economic activity	2
• Shows a basic understanding of change in a global economic activity	1

Sample answer:

Global economic activity: viticulture

Climate change has led to a change in seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns resulting in viticulturists using different grape varieties. Cooler climate wine regions are diversifying crops to integrate more red wine varieties such as shiraz and merlot which respond well to higher sugar production.

Question 22 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• Indicates the main features of a local economic enterprise	2
• Provides some relevant information about an economic enterprise	1

Sample answer:

Local economic enterprise: Tamburlaine Organic Wines (TOW)

Tamburlaine is an organic winery located in the Hunter Valley. They grow grapes without the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers and make wine from it. They sell at the cellar door and online.

Question 22 (c)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a detailed discussion of the sustainability-focus of the economic enterprise named in (b) and its consumers • Makes relevant references to the statement	6
• Provides a discussion of the sustainability-focus of an economic enterprise	5
• Demonstrates a sound understanding of the sustainability of an economic enterprise	4
• Outlines the sustainability of an economic enterprise	2–3
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

This statement strongly represents TOW. They use organic farming practices to produce all of their wine, and this is a key selling point to their consumers. They use sustainable practices such as companion planting to ensure strong crops. They have also reduced their energy consumption by 50%, and carbon offset through a third party. This has been criticised as green washing by some. Similarly, TOW could be accused of using sustainability as a marketing play to draw in consumers, however, during fieldwork to TOW, the commitment of their staff to sustainability was quite clear.

Question 23 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of how biophysical interactions result in ONE ecosystem's unique characteristics	5
• Demonstrates a thorough understanding of how biophysical interactions result in ONE ecosystem's unique characteristic(s)	4
• Demonstrates a sound understanding of how biophysical interactions result in ecosystem characteristic(s) OR • Describes biophysical interactions in ONE ecosystem	3
• Shows some understanding of how biophysical interactions result in ecosystem characteristic(s) OR • Outlines biophysical interactions in ecosystem(s)	2
• Provides some relevant information about biophysical interactions OR an ecosystem's characteristics	1

Sample answer:

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) has a range of climate and geomorphic habitats, leading to unique biodiversity with 1600 species of fish. Hydrological processes result in 600 species of coral, a uniquely high number, due to different reefs being exposed to varying wave action. For example, barrier reefs are exposed to more energetic wave conditions which benefit harder, slower growing corals.

Question 23 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates an extensive understanding of how ONE management strategy influences ecosystem resilience	6
• Demonstrates a sound understanding of how ONE management strategy influences ecosystem resilience	5
• Demonstrates some understanding of how ONE management strategy influences ecosystem resilience	4
• Outlines a management strategy and/or makes an attempt to link to ecosystem resilience	2–3
• Provides some relevant information on ecosystems	1

Sample answer:

Zoning on the GBR allows selected human activities to take place such as commercial fishing in certain areas. This trade off to human interests means that the majority of the reef can be commercial fishing free, allowing, for example, fish populations in the majority of the reef to bounce back from impacts and also to repopulate struggling areas. Another example are areas for preservation, some allowing scientific work there and some not even that. It is good that scientists are not allowed in some areas – as this shows that everyone needs to sacrifice for the resilience of the reef.

Question 24 (a)

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates understanding of why most mega cities are located in the developing world	2
• Provides some relevant information about the location of mega cities	1

Sample answer:

Most mega cities are located in the developing world as they are within poorer countries with higher birth rates and rapid rural to urban migration.

Question 24 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a detailed discussion of the similarities and/or differences of ONE challenge in TWO mega cities in the developing world	4
• Outlines ONE challenge in TWO mega cities in the developing world	3
• Outlines ONE challenge in ONE mega city in the developing world	2
• Provides some relevant information about mega cities	1

Sample answer:

Both Mumbai and Lagos are affected by the challenge of housing their populations. 66% of people in Mumbai live in slums. Lagos is similar, with 70% of its population living in slums. Some areas of slums in Mumbai are more dense than those of Lagos, however both have poor conditions with a lack of electricity and running water.

Question 24 (c)

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a detailed explanation of how urban dynamics result in spatial patterns of advantage and disadvantage in ONE large city from the developed world • Integrates reference to the quote	5
• Provides most features of an explanation of how urban dynamics result in spatial patterns of advantage and/or disadvantage in ONE large city from the developed world • References the quote	4
• Outlines the urban dynamics resulting in spatial patterns of advantage and/or disadvantage in ONE large city of the developed world	3
• Outlines spatial patterns of advantage and/or disadvantage in ONE large city	2
• Makes general statements about ONE large city	1

Sample answer:

The original suburbs of Sydney, close to established transport and employment opportunities, are in high demand, favouring the wealthy. Urban renewal can also drive the patterns of advantage and disadvantage. Within suburbs near the inner city, such as Barangaroo, urban renewal causes areas to become more expensive, favouring the wealthy. Poorer people are pushed out to the newly suburbanised edges of Sydney where they can be disadvantaged in their opportunities.

Question 25

Criteria	Marks
• Provides a detailed explanation of how the trend shown in the graph positively affects ONE topic	5
• Provides most features of an explanation of how the trend shown in the graph positively affects ONE topic	4
• Makes some connection between the trend shown in the graph and ONE topic	3
• Outlines a trend shown in the graph OR • Outlines ONE relevant area of a geography topic	2
• Provides some relevant information	1

Sample answer:

Topic: Ecosystems at risk

Increasing technological advances have led to more efficient contemporary ecosystem management strategies. For example, in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) robots can inject brine into Crown of Thorns starfish to protect coral. This can improve kill rates of Crown of Thorn starfish and improve accessibility to dangerous parts of the reef. Technology advances have also led to increased drone use in ecosystem management. They are used to monitor coral bleaching in real time, providing more accurate models to be used in management of the GBR.

Section III

Question 26

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of economic activity • Provides a comprehensive discussion of the impacts of economic activity in a global context • Integrates relevant case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a sustained, logical and cohesive response using appropriate geographical information, terms and concepts	17–20
• Demonstrates well-developed knowledge and understanding of economic activity • Provides a discussion of the impacts of economic activity in a global context • Refers to relevant case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a logical response using appropriate geographical information and terms	13–16
• Demonstrates a sound understanding of economic activity • Provides a description of the impacts of economic activity in a global context • Refers to case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a structured response using appropriate geographical information	9–12
• Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of economic activity • Provides an outline of the impacts of economic activity in a global context • May refer to case studies, illustrative examples and/or the Stimulus Booklet • Uses some geographical information	5–8
• Demonstrates a basic understanding of economic activity	1–4

Answers could include:

- Integration of stimulus booklet material such as: olive oil industry revenue, health benefits, carbon footprint
- Information about the olive oil industry and another economic activity such as: viticulture, tourism, agriculture, textiles, information technologies, retailing or financial and business services
- Identification of issues and provision of points for and/or against positive and negative impacts, such as:
  – Economic – revenue, employment
  – Social – health benefits, employment, tradition and culture
  – Environmental – carbon footprint, water usage, sustainability initiatives.

Question 27

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of world cities • Provides a comprehensive analysis of the character of world cities • Integrates relevant case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a sustained, logical and cohesive response using appropriate geographical information, terms and concepts	17–20
• Demonstrates well-developed knowledge and understanding of world cities • Provides an analysis of the character of world cities • Refers to relevant case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a logical response using appropriate geographical information and terms	13–16
• Demonstrates a sound understanding of world cities • Provides a description of the character of world cities • Refers to case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a structured response using appropriate geographical information	9–12
• Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of urban places • Provides an outline of the character of urban places • May refer to case studies, illustrative examples and/or the Stimulus Booklet • Uses some geographical information	5–8
• Demonstrates a basic understanding of urban places	1–4

Answers could include:

• Integration of stimulus booklet material such as: economic, cultural, architecture, sporting elements of New York City
• Information about character of world cities, such as:
  – TNC headquarters, clusters of advanced business services, major stock markets
  – World famous cultural institutions, major sporting arenas
  – Significant developments in modernity
• Drawing out and relating implications, such as:
  – Lead decision making in business, investment, entertainment, politics
  – Economic, cultural and other role modeling
  – World entertainment and sporting spectacles
  – Dominance of world cities over other urban places
  – Dependence of other urban places on world cities.

Question 28

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge and understanding of ecosystems • Makes well-informed judgements about negative human impacts on ecosystems • Integrates relevant case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a sustained, logical and cohesive response using appropriate geographical information, terms and concepts	17–20
• Demonstrates well-developed knowledge and understanding of ecosystems • Makes judgements about negative human impacts on ecosystems • Refers to relevant case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a logical response using appropriate geographical information and terms	13–16
• Demonstrates a sound understanding of ecosystems • Attempts to make a judgement(s) about negative human impacts on ecosystems • Refers to case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate • Presents a structured response using appropriate geographical information	9–12
• Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of ecosystems • Provides an outline of human impacts and/or ecosystems • May refer to case studies, illustrative examples and/or the Stimulus Booklet • Uses some geographical information	5–8
• Demonstrates a basic understanding of ecosystems	1–4

Answers could include:

- Integration of stimulus booklet material such as: forest loss and gain, global land cover changes
- Information about ecosystems such as: coastal dunes, freshwater wetlands, coral reefs, alpine areas, rainforests
- Judgement of human impacts using criteria such as: biodiversity, inter-generational equity, intra-generational equity, precautionary principle
  - Negative impacts to forests and wild grassland and shrub land cover as a result of agricultural activity and urban development (Source *I*)
  - Positive impacts to forests include reduced tropical forest loss and temperate forest gain
  - Humans have significantly impacted biodiversity through long-term reduced wild grasslands and shrubs, however, with some recovery linked to management
  - A reducing level of human impact based on an increased focus on inter-generational equity.

2023 HSC Geography
Mapping Grid

Section I

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
1	1	Type of graph	H10
2	1	Sociocultural factor	H1
3	1	Source analysis	H11
4	1	Concepts	H4
5	1	Ecosystem management and protection	H1
6	1	Diagram interpretation	H1
7	1	Culture of place	H3
8	1	Bearing photo was taken	H10
9	1	Urban dynamics	H3
10	1	Density	H10
11	1	Elevation	H10
12	1	Speed distance time	H11
13	1	Gradient	H11
14	1	Land use ratio	H11
15	1	Net change	H10
16	1	Graph calculation	H11
17	1	Latitude / longitude	H10
18	1	Direction	H10
19	1	Scale of aerial photograph	H11
20	1	Graph interpretation	H12

Section II

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
21 (a)	1	Completing a table	H10
21 (b)	1	Plotting items on a ternary graph	H10
22 (a)	3	How change in the global economic activity impacts the local economic enterprise	H4
22 (b)	2	The nature of the local economic enterprise	H4
22 (c)	6	Sustainability of economic enterprise	H5
23 (a)	5	Biophysical interactions that result in one ecosystem's unique characteristics	H12
23 (b)	6	Ecosystem management strategies	H2
24 (a)	2	Nature of mega cities	H1
24 (b)	4	Challenges of living in mega cities	H6
24 (c)	5	Spatial patterns of advantage and disadvantage in one large city from the developed world	H3
25	5	Geographic trends	H1

Section III

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
26	20	Ecosystems at risk	H5, H12, H13
27	20	Urban places	H1, H12, H13
28	20	People and economic activity	H2, H12, H13