

COMMAND(s)

Evaluate To what extent Assess Discuss

DESCRIPTION

Make an informed judgement
Consider different points of view
Come to a clear conclusion

TYPICAL TARIFF

4 marks
6 marks
9 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO3 – application of knowledge and/or evaluation
Usually assessed alongside AO1, AO2 and AO4 in different combinations

EXAMPLE

Always refer back to the question throughout your answer using words from the question, eg important, significant, useful.

'The physical environment is an important resource for the tourism industry in Bali'
Use **Figure 2** and your own understanding to **discuss** this statement.

Link in ideas from **the figure** to get higher marks.

Use **evidence** from examples, case studies or fieldwork.
Make sure you link it back to the question.

Think about **both sides** to the argument. Consider the issue and weigh up your opinion.

[6 marks,
AO2 and AO3]

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

PLAN AND STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWER, EG

- Open with your judgement.
- Make multiple points to support your argument.
- Develop your answer by answering 'how' and 'why'.
- Make a counter-argument if needed.
- Use evidence from examples, case studies or fieldwork, linking it back to the question.
- Link in ideas from the figure to get higher marks.
- Finish with a clear conclusion, emphasising your judgement.

USE THE RIGHT LANGUAGE

- Extend your ideas using phrases like 'because...', 'this means that...', 'this leads to..', 'as a result...'
- Compare arguments if needed, using phrases like 'however...', 'on the other hand...', 'whereas...'
- Evaluate using adjectives and adverbs, eg 'this is extremely important...', 'this shows how it is much less effective than...', 'I agree strongly with...'



COMMAND(s)

Identify Name, State Give, Define

DESCRIPTION

Name or otherwise characterise
Express in clear terms
Produce an answer from recall
State the meaning of a term

TYPICAL TARIFF

1 mark
2 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO1 – demonstrate knowledge
AO2 – demonstrate understanding
Sometimes **AO3/AO4** if there's a stimulus or geographical skill needed

EXAMPLE

Two different **ideas** are needed for the 2 marks

Know your geographical **terminology**

Identify two data collection techniques that could be used to carry out a geographical fieldwork investigation in one of the areas shown.

[2 marks, AO4]

These are low-mark questions, so keep answers **short and focused**

Reference the **stimulus** in your answer

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

FOCUS YOUR ANSWER

- Keep answers short and focused.
- Refer to the stimulus if there's one.
- Know key geographical terms and use them.
- Give only the number of answers the question asks for.

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COMMAND(S)

Explain Outline Suggest

DESCRIPTION

Lots of questions use these commands but in different ways

Propose an idea/ideas

Set out characteristic(s)

Give reasons

Say why or how

TYPICAL TARIFF

1 marks 4 marks

2 marks 6 marks

3 marks 9 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO1 – demonstrate knowledge

AO2 – demonstrate understanding

AO3 – application of knowledge and/or evaluation

AO4 – geographical and fieldwork skills

EXAMPLE

Using phrases such as 'this leads to...' will address the **'how'**

Look out for **how many elements** the question has and address them all to reach the higher marks

Explain how the increasing use of fossil fuels and changes in agriculture may have contributed to global changes in temperature.

This is one of the **most common** command words and is used in many different ways

Use key **geographic terms** in your answer

[4 marks,
AO1 and AO2]

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

PLAN AND STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWER



- Keep your answers to 1, 2 and 3-mark questions short and focused.
- Depending on the question, consider 'what', 'why' and 'how' to develop answers for 4, 6 and 9-mark questions. Evaluate if needed.
- Refer to the figure if there's one.
- Look for how many elements the question has and address them.

USE THE RIGHT LANGUAGE



- Use key geographical terms to show knowledge.
- Use the language of the question in your answer.
- Extend your ideas using phrases like 'because...', 'this means that...', 'this leads to..', 'as a result...'
- Make your references to the figure explicit and relevant eg. 'I can see... in Figure 1... which shows that...'



COMMAND(s)

Describe

DESCRIPTION

Set out characteristics

Say what something is, is like, or appears like

TYPICAL TARIFF

1 mark

2 marks

4 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO1 – demonstrate knowledge

AO2 – demonstrate understanding

AO4 – geographical and fieldwork skills

EXAMPLE

Use **adjectives**, eg 'increasing/decreasing', 'largest/smallest', 'highest/lowest'

Using Figure 4, **describe** the track of Hurricane Irma between 6 September 2017 and 12 September 2017.

[4 marks, AO4]

Link in ideas from **the figure** to get higher marks

Spot the **geographical terms** in the question and use them in your answer

Read the instructions carefully and **focus your answer** on the question specifics

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

UNDERSTANDING THE QUESTION

- Develop answers for 4-mark questions.
- A 2-mark question, usually requiring two ideas, will be allocated a mark for each idea.
- A 2-mark question, usually requiring one idea, will require a development to be made.
- Know geographical key terms and use them in your answer.



GRAPHS, MAPS AND PHOTO STIMULUS



- Look for trends and patterns.
- Use adjectives, eg 'increasing/decreasing', 'largest/smallest', 'highest/lowest'.
- If there is an anomaly, comment on it.
- Use place names and compass directions with maps.
- Use units on a graph.
- Refer to specific features of photos and diagrams.



COMMAND(s)

Justify

DESCRIPTION

Support a case with evidence – give detailed reasons for an idea

TYPICAL TARIFF

3 marks

9 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO1 – demonstrate knowledge

AO2 – demonstrate understanding

AO3 – application of knowledge and/or evaluation

EXAMPLE

Only include **as many** ideas as the question asks

Know the **fieldwork enquiry strands**

Justify one primary data collection method used in relation to the aim(s) of your physical geography enquiry.

[3 marks, AO3]

Include 'what' but **focus on 'why'** in your answer

Check whether it's asking for **human** or **physical** geography

Link the **methods** to the **aims**

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

FOCUS ON 'WHY'

- Write about why you think or did something.
- Use 'because' to develop answers, eg 'I think/know this because...', 'We did this because...'

9-MARK QUESTIONS

Here are some ways you can answer 9-mark questions:

- If the question asks if you agree/disagree, start your answer with your opinion.



- Arguments can be one-sided or balanced.
- Make multiple points to support your argument.
- Link in ideas from the figure if there's one.
- Extend your ideas using phrases like 'because...', 'this means that...', 'this leads to..', 'as a result...'
- Use evidence from examples, case studies or fieldwork, linking it back to the question
- Finish with a clear conclusion, emphasising your judgement.



COMMAND(S)

Compare

DESCRIPTION

Identify similarities and differences

TYPICAL TARIFF

1 mark
2 marks
3 marks
4 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO4 – test geographical and fieldwork skills
Sometimes **AO1/AO2/AO3**

EXAMPLE

Use related **geographical terms**, eg 'correlation' and 'anomalies'

Compare the relationship between distance from source and depth of river for the two rivers in Figure 9.

Say what is **similar** and **different**

Link the sources together in paragraphs, don't write about them separately

Link in ideas from the **figure** to get higher marks

Develop answers for 4-mark questions

[4marks, AO3 and AO4]

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

USE THE RIGHT LANGUAGE

- Make links between the two sources.
 - ✗ 'X is high and Y is low' – this is two separate descriptions, not a comparison.
 - ✓ 'X is high **whereas** Y is low'.
 - ✓ 'X is **higher** than Y'.
- Use phrases such as 'whereas', 'similarly', 'compared to', or adjectives like 'higher/lower', 'larger/smaller', 'stronger/weaker'.
 - ✓ 'X is **5 times higher** than Y'.
- Include evidence from stimulus to support comparisons if asked.
 - Write about similarities and differences.
 - If there's an anomaly, comment on it.



COMMAND(s)

Calculate

DESCRIPTION

Work out the value of something

TYPICAL TARIFF

1 mark

2 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO4 – geographical and fieldwork skills

EXAMPLE

The table is the **answer space**

Use a **calculator** to check accuracy

Only calculate **specifically** what the question asks

Complete the table (Figure 7) by **calculating** the interquartile range for River B.

Know your **geographical skills**

[1 mark, AO4]

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

READ THE QUESTION CAREFULLY

- Don't miss these questions as there's no written answer space.
- Only calculate what the question asks.
- Look for the instructions in the question about rounding to significant figures.
- Give units in your answer if they're not provided in the answer space.



BE PREPARED

- Revise the geographical skills.
- Take your calculator into the exam.



COMMAND(s)

Complete Draw Label

DESCRIPTION

Finish the task by adding given information

Sketch a map or diagram

Add specific names or detail to a stimulus

TYPICAL TARIFF

1 mark

2 marks

3 marks

TYPICAL AO

AO3 – application of knowledge/understanding

AO4 – geographical and fieldwork skills

EXAMPLE

Know geographical
key terms

Complete the isoline for 100 pedestrians shown on Figure 8.

Be familiar with the **different uses of 'complete'**, eg completing tables, graphs, maps or cloze tasks

The figure is the **answer space**

[1 mark, AO4]

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

TAKE CARE

- Don't miss these questions as there's no written answer space.
- Connect labels directly to the feature of the stimulus.
- Use a ruler for lines of best fit (though sometimes a curved line is needed)
- Use a ruler when completing diagrams like pie charts and bar charts.

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