

A-level ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 7447/2

Paper 2

Mark scheme

June 2022

Version: 1.1 Final Mark Scheme



Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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Level of response marking instructions

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Qu	Part	Ма	rking guidance	Comments		Total marks	АО
01							AO1 1a
	Tern	n	D	escription			
	Rew	ilding	Management to allow a processes/biodiversity	habitat to re-establish natu	ıral	1	
	Nich	e	The role a species has	in an ecosystem		1	
	Plag	ioclimax	Habitat where human a ecosystem from develo	ctivity has prevented the ping		1	
	Biolo	ogical dor	Habitat that connects periodividuals to move between			1	
	Gene pool All genetic traits/variation of gene of a population		1				
					Total =	5	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
02	1	energy per unit area/ volume/ ma	SS	1	AO1 1a

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
02	2	Any two natural <u>processes</u> that open e.g. photosynthesis, respiration, evaluation of wind		2	AO2

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
02	3	 One mark for low energy dense ree.g. renewable energy resources/ nan promoting natural nitrogen fixation 	ned example	1	AO2
		One mark for an explanation of home.g. • reduce the use of fossil fuels/ no interest of the process of the pro	·	1	
			Total =	5	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
03	1	Three from:		3	AO1 1b
		1. to reduce the spread of disease 2. to control pests/ reduce predation 3. to reduce predation of prey specie 4. to reduce competition for resource 5. to maintain a healthy population 6. to reduce damage to habitat/ prop 7. to reduce hybridization 8. to reduce (perceived) danger to he [R: overpopulation without impact] [R: Killing for sport/entertainment/for	es/grazing es with other species perty uman life		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
03	2		8750 x 0.95 or 8750/100 x 95 8750 - (8750 x 0.05)	1	AO2
			8312.5 rounded to whole fox		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
03	3	One mark from:		2	AO2
		high fecundity			
		high birth rates			
		reach sexual maturity quickly			
		disperse over wide areas			
		One mark from:			
		(therefore) populations increase of mortality	quickly/ recover from high		
		evidence from graph of rate of income.	crease		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
03	4	Two marks for named reason (r)		4	AO2
		 Two marks for linked explanation (e) an increase prey/ food/ breeding site (r) reduced (intraspecific) competition/ reduced density dependent limiting factors/ increased carrying capacity (e) 			
		decrease in fox predators (r)reduced density dependent lin	miting factors/ decreased mortality (e)		
		decrease disease (r)reduced density dependent lir	miting factors/ decreased mortality (e)		
		 mild winter (r) reduced density independent to less extreme conditions (e) 	limiting factor/ fewer deaths due		
		• immigration (r)			
		 (culling reduced) population be from population at carrying ca 	elow carrying capacity/ movement apacity (e)		
		culling less effective than exp	ected (r)		
		 avoidance of traps/people culling/ culling more difficult in a lower population density (e) 			
		[A where reasons and explanation have been given reversed]			
			Total =	10	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
04	1	One mark for how a named net de	esign reduced bycatch:		AO1 1b
		e.g.		1	
		 escape panels/ turtle excluder de increased mesh size allows small mesh shape maintains size of hol noise/ light devices act as deterre biodegradable nets reduce ghost One mark for how a named fishing e.g.	er fish to escape e allowing escape ents fishing	1	AO1 1b
		 purse seining catches single shoat longline uses specific hook shape pole and line use specific hook shoet shellfish traps have specific trap sometime of sonar to target single specific 	s/bait ape/bait/ can be returned quickly hapes/bait t see catch		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
04	2	One mark for calculation of bycatch One mark for evaluative statement about bycatch		1	
		One mark for calculation of shrimp		1	
		One mark for evaluative statement about sh	One mark for evaluative statement about shrimp		
		Bycatch calculation 1 mark from:			AO3 1b
		1. ratio of bycatch: shrimp TN ratio 6.78:1 and NN ratio 7.25:1 (or shrimp: bycatch TN 0.15:1 and NN 0.14:1)	TN: 14498 / 2139 NN: 11588 / 1599		=2
		2. bycatch per litre per trawl TN 0.62 kg and NN net 0.74 kg	TN: 14498 / (52 × 450) NN: 11588 / (78 × 200)		AO3 1c
		3. % bycatch of TN net is 87.14% and NN is 87.87% (converse - TN 12.9% and NN 12.1% is shrimp)	TN:14498/ (2139 + 1449 NN:11588/ (1599 + 1158		=2
		4. by-catch per trawl TN: 278.81 kg and NN 148.56 kg	TN: 14498/ 52 NN: 11588 /78		
		Bycatch statement 1 mark from:			
		5. new net results in greater bycatch for the same amount of shrimp/ ratio/ %/ per litre per trawl/ if nets were the same size	Accept converse		
		6. new net results in less bycatch per trawl however does not account for net size			
		Calculation of shrimp 1 mark from:	TN: 2139/ (2139+ 14498)	x 100	
		7. shrimp catch per litre per trawl of TN 0.09 kg and NN 0.10 kg	NN: 1599/ (1599+ 11588)		
		8. shrimp catch per trawl TN 41 kg and NN 20.5 kg/ 21 kg	TN: 2139/ 52 NN: 599/ 78		
		Shrimp statement 1 mark from:			
		9. NN catches more shrimp per litre per trawl			
		NN catches less shrimp per trawl therefore increased number of trawls leads to more habitat damage/embodied energy			
		Must be explicit about units in evaluation			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
04	3	One mark for variable (V)		2	AO2
		One mark for linked explanation (E)		
		 duration of trawl (V) longer trawls may catch more (E) speed of boat (V) faster speeds may catch more (E) time of year (V) change in populations with seaso time of day (V) change in catch numbers with da location/depth trawled (V) different numbers of catch in different same size area trawled (V) large area may catch more (E) 	n (E) ytime (E)		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments		Total marks	АО
04	4	Two from:			2	AO1 1b
		 (population decline due to) overfise ghost fishing (from discarded equelent habitat damage/ named eg (from increased sediment disturbance/ food web impact, eg reduction of species/removal of predator [R any reference to by-catch] [R destruction of the seabed] 	ipment) direct contact with nets) turbidity			
				Total =	10	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
05	1	[A: 63.788, 63.8]	(370 / 5800 × 1000 = 63.793) [A: 63.788 if 370/ 400 = 0.925, then 68.96 × 0.925] [R: 63.80 which is a rounding error from 63.793] (370 × 255 000 / 5800 = 16 267.24) or (63.7931 × 255 = 16 267.24)	1	AO3 1a
		[A : 16266 -16269] [A : 16280] Allow full marks for the correct answer without working	[A : 16280 if 255000/5800 = rounded to 44]		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
05	2	One mark for named remote sens	ing technique from:	1	AO2
		Satellite imagery			
		Aircraft imagery			
		Remotely Operated Vehicles (Remotely Operated Vehicles)	OVs)/ drones		
		[A : cameras/ CCTV]			
		R any technique that does not allow for population eg thermal imaging]			
		One mark for linked explanation f	rom:	1	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
05	3	One from: • increase sample area/ targeted lo • increase sample size • multiple readings taken • repeat in different seasons	ocations where penguins live	1	AO3 1c

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
05	4	disturbance to wildlife / erosion 2. shoe covers/ sterilisation/ prote introduction of disease/ non-na 3. visitors with guides only to rest 4. removal of waste to prevent co 5. treatment of sewage before dis 6. no mining/ resource exploitatio pollution 7. no military use/ weapons testin abiotic environment 8. restrictions on fishing/ monitoric exploitation/ food chain impacts 9. all activities subject to Environment damage 10. named methods to control reduce global climate change/ 11. control of ODS/CFCs to reduce global climate change/ 12. freedom of scientific investing impacts/ conservation Allow two marks for named proteg Antarctic Treaty (1959)/ Ma CCALMS (The Convention Marine Living Resources) (ore/ areas visited/ boats to prevent ective clothing/ no dogs to reduce tive species rict disturbance/ raise awareness ntamination/ pollution scharge into the sea to prevent pollution in to prevent habitat destruction/ ag to prevent damage to biotic and ang of fish populations to reduce oversemental Impact Analysis to mitigate greenhouse gas concentrations to named impact duce Antarctic ozone depletion/ reduce wildlife igation to increase understanding of protocol/ organisation: addid Protocol (1998/1991) on the Conservation of Antarctic (1982) ciation of Antarctica Tour Operators)	5	AO1 1a = 2 AO1 1b = 3
			Total =	10	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
06	1	production of genetically identic reproduction	cal offspring/clones/asexual	1	AO1 1a

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
06	2	nitrate concentration has no im	pact on growth	1	AO3 1a

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
06	3	 Four from: mass/height at the start and er biomass/ height gained or grow control of named variable mean (of 500 plants grown in er standard deviation/ statistical to named statistical test 	vth <u>rate</u>	4	AO3 1a = 3 AO3 1b = 1

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО	
06	4	Two from: • all plants have same pests		2	AO2	
		 specific pesticides make pest or 	control easier, increasing yield			
		 increased risk of pest infestat OR 	increased risk of pest infestation, greater risk of yield loss			
		 specific pesticides make dise 	specific pesticides make disease control easier, increasing yield			
			, , , , ,			
		 all plants have the same nutri specific fertilisers may be use or increased competition for the fertility may reduce yields 				
		OR				
		 all plants have similar toleran condition 	ce to named abiotic conditions			
		 easier to control for optimum yields 	easier to control for optimum conditions e.g. soil pH for higher			
		= -	ironmental change, reduced yield			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
06	5	One mark for stated method: One mark for named trait:			AO1 1b
		 genetic modification/transgenics/ gene editing/ selective breeding (or description of method) 			
		named trait (to increase yield) e.g. pest resistance, drought resistance, frost resistance, salinity tolerance		1	
			Total =	10	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
07	1	One from: • increased (dissolved) metals • increased sediment/ turbidity • increased salinity		1	AO2

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
07	2	Up to two marks for more suitable Up to two marks for less suitable		3	AO2
		More suitable: • within species range of tolerance • reduced competition for adapted section for adapted	etion of metals e eleton/ reduces calcium uptake hairs, gills, gametes, synthesis		
		Credit reference to range of tolera solubility only once	ance/ food web impacts/ metals		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
07	3	One from:		1	AO1 1b
		 universal indicator and colour cha using a calibrated pH meter. [R: litmus paper] 	art		
			Total =	5	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
08	1	Two from:		2	AO1 1a
		 regular/ moderate precipitation/ w no major temperature extremes/ winters (not very cold) distinct/ four seasons moderate humidity [R low temperature fluctuations, low [R reference to canopy microclimate 	mild summers (not very hot)/ mild v seasonal fluctuation]		

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
08	2	One mark for named biotic factor One mark for linked explanation eg • leaf litter/ faeces • increases nutrient content/ DOM • worm activity/ burrowing/ foraging increases aeration/ infiltration/ dra • root action • increases aeration in soil • detritivores/ decomposers/ bacter increases nutrients • tree roots/ OM • Increases aggregation of soil	ı and shelter building ainage	1 1	AO2

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
08	3	Four from: • random/systematic sampling • (same) time of day/weather condition • (same) distance above the ground • at least ten measurements at each • repeated measurements at each • using a calibrated thermometer	d h site	4	AO3 1a

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
08	4	Two from: • wind speed • cloud cover • humidity		2	AO2
		[A: named human activity]			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
08	5	16 (0.7)1 (0.1)44.5 (sum)		1	AO2
		All three needed for one mark			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
08	6	 U₂ value (8.5) is below the critical (reject the null hypothesis) there i 		2	AO3 1b
		[R reference to U₁ value]			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments		Total marks	АО
08	7	Two from: • (initial) increase in infiltration • (long-term) reduced infiltration ca • increased surface runoff • reduced interception • reduced evapotranspiration/trans • increased evaporation (from ground) [A: increased sedimentation of riversely	piration nd)		2	AO2
				Total =	15	

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	АО
09	1	One mark for:		1	AO1 1b
		deflects solar radiation/solar wind			
		[R: blocks]		1	
		One mark from:			
		reducing erosion of the atmosphe			
		reducing named impact of radiation	on.		
		[R: UV radiation]			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
09	2	• 1.1° and 10 970	Stage 1 24.5 – 23.4 = 1.1° and 10 900 + 70 = 10 970 years	1	AO2
		• 12 964.5 / 13000 ecf	Stage 2 10 970 / 1.1 years per ° 23.4 – 22.1 = 1.3° 9972.73 × 1.3 = 12 964.5 or 1.1/10970 = 0.00010027 1.3/0.00010027= 12965.5 years (or 1.3/1 x10 ⁻⁴ = 13000)	1	
		• 15 000 ecf If answer is 15000 but has not factored in 10900 + 70 then max 2	Stage 3 2020 + 12 964.5 = and to two significant figures or 23934 - 10970 + 2020 = 14984 to two significant figures	1	
		Allow ecf from step 1 and 2			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
09	3	greater temperature range.	greater temperature range.		AO2

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
09	4	Indicative content: Historic data • past records based on a lack of technology • may be intermittent (spatially and temporally) Proxy data • dendrochronology – temperature indication • pollen – a climate indicator New techniques • radio isotope composition to date samples • oxygen isotope ratios to estimate past temperatures • air bubble analysis from ice cores • ratio of magnesium to calcium in calcite deposits to estimate temperature • satellite technology – understand ocean currents/orbital/ climatic variations/global/ continuous/large data sets Use of computer modelling/ IT/ Data		9	AO1 1a = 2 AO1 1b = 2 AO2 = 3 AO3 1b = 1 AO3 1c = 1
		 analyse interconnections between variables projections models – range of outcomes (uncertainty) internet/electronic sharing of information 			
			Total =	15	

Examiners are reminded that AO1, AO2 and AO3 are regarded as interdependent. When deciding on a mark all should be considered together using the best fit approach. In doing so, examiners should bear in mind the relative weightings of the assessment objectives. More weight should therefore be given to AO1 than AO2 and AO3.

Level	Marks	Descriptor
3	7–9	A comprehensive response to the question, with the focus sustained. A conclusion is presented in a logical and coherent way, fully supported by relevant judgements. A wide range of knowledge and understanding of natural processes/systems is applied. The answer clearly identifies relationships between environmental issues. Relevant environmental terminology is used consistently and accurately throughout, with no more than minor omissions and errors.
2	4–6	A response to the question which is focused in parts but lacking appropriate depth. A conclusion may be present, supported by some judgements, but it is likely not all will be relevant. A range of knowledge and understanding of natural processes/systems is shown. There is an attempt to apply this to the question, but there may be a few inconsistencies, errors and/or omissions. The answer attempts to identify relationships between environmental issues, with some success. Environmental terminology is used, but not always consistently.
1	1–3	A response to the question which is unbalanced and lacking focus. It is likely to consist of fragmented points that are unrelated. A conclusion may be stated, but it is not supported by any judgments and is likely to be irrelevant. A limited range of knowledge and understanding of natural processes/systems is shown. There is an attempt to apply this to the question, but there are fundamental errors and/or omissions. The answer may attempt to identify relationship between environmental issues, but is rarely successful. Limited environmental terminology is used, and a lack of understanding is evident.
	0	Nothing written worthy of credit.

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO		
10	1	One mark from		2	AO2		
		[A: decrease in 2019-20 due to COV					
		linked environmental impact of re consumption (per capita)	e mark for qualified link to ecological footprint inked environmental impact of resource extraction / production / use / consumption (per capita) decrease carbon dioxide emissions linked to COVID]				

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Commen ts	Total marks	AO
10	2		In 1970, carbon footprint = 5million global hectares In 2019, carbon footprint = 13million global hectares		AO3 1a
		• 8	13 – 5	1	
		• 160%	(8 / 5) × 100	1	
		ecf.			
		[A : 160% with no working for two marks] [A : 160% - 171%]			

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Comments	Total marks	AO
10	3	• E (2010)		1	AO3 1a

Qu	Part	Marking guidance		Comments	Total marks	АО
10	10 4 • 3216.67 (x10 ⁶)		10 ⁶)	(1300 + 10 600 + 3200 + 2900 + 200 + 1100) = 19300 / 6	1	AO2
		• 1351 (x10 ⁶))	42% of 3216.67	1	
		ecf				
		Straight lir 1351on x-a	ne drawn from axis.		1	
		Two marks fo only - 1351	r correct answer			
		Three marks 1351 on x-axi	for vertical line at s			
		[A : any line be 1400]	etween 1300 and			
		[R : plot on x a continue all th	axis line must ne way to the top]			
		3500			* Asia	
		3000	South America		ASIA	
		2500				
Biocapacity 2000 Europe / × 10 ⁶ global		×				
	hectar		Africa America			
		1000				

10 000

Ecological footprint / × 10⁶ global hectares

Qu	Part	Marking guidance	Total marks	АО
10	5	Two from:	2	AO2
		 small (human) population size named habitats eg coral reefs, tropical rainforest (with high productivity) sustainable management of habitats conversion of land with low productivity. [A: a reason why Oceania does not have low biocapacity per capita eg smaller amount of farmland/ farming in extensive] 		
		Total =	10	

Qu	Part		Marking guidance	Total marks	AO	
11	1			25	AO1 = 10 AO2 = 10 AO3 = 5	
	ic area ec ref	Ecological Process	Link to Conservation	1		
3.1.2.3 3.1.2.3.3 3.1.2.3.4		Adaptation to abiotic factors	range of tolerance creating conditions needed to increase desired condition of specie creating conditions with high variation (edge effect) named method, (eg coppicing, controlled burning, manual soil disturbance, flooding, water draining, etc)			
		Adaptation to biotic factors	interdependency/symbiotic relationships synchronicity named examples, (eg pollination, seed dispersal, creation of habitat) food web named method, (eg introduction of species, biological control, removal of predators, vaccination against disease, adding food, etc)			
Ecological Succession 3.1.3.3			different species in different series climax communities often have lower biodiversity then previous series plagioclimax named methods, (eg grazing, mowing, burning, coppicing, pollarding)			
Desired species characteristics breeding hard/so dispers			large gene pool breeding programs hard/soft release dispersal methods/rates use of biological corridors			
3.1.3.4 3.1.2.3.5		Population dynamics	r/k selected species surrounding populations high carrying capacity knowledge of density dependent factors ease of colonisation			
Impact of human activity on species indirect threats indirect threats land use change polluants (pesticides, oil, noise, etc) resource extraction.						
		Total =	25			

Qu	Part	Mark	ing guidance		Total marks	AO	
11	2				25	AO1 = 10 AO2 = 10 AO3 = 5	
-	ic area ec ref	Dynamic equilibriums	Human activities	Sustain	Sustainable human activit		
3.1.2.3.4 3.6.1.3		Global climateTemperature variationsCloud coverAlbedoOcean circulation	Carbon emissionsLand use changeUrbanisationDeforestationPollution rates	captu	Carbon capture/sequestration Legislation		
3.1.2. 3.2.2 3.5.1. 3.5.3. 3.6.1.	.3 .1 .1	Hydrological cycle - Evaporation rates - Precipitation rates - Runoff rates - Water storage - Infiltration/percolation rates - Melting glacial ice/permafrost	 Deforestation Pollution of water courses Ocean acidification Water abstraction/exploitation of aquifers 	 Flood control Erosion control Water treatment Afforestation Permeable urban surfaces Water conservation Inter-basin water transfer 			
3.1.2.2 3.1.2.3 3.1.2.3.4 3.2.4 3.5.3 3.6.4		Ecological systems - Productivity - Photosynthesis rates - Food webs - Energy transfer - Biochemical cycles5	PollutionIncreased forest firesErosion/denudationFertiliser use	- Conservation methods - Reducing pollutants/alternatives - Treatment - Mine site restoration - Recycling - Contour ploughing - Terracing - Long-term cropping - Zero tillage cultivation - Wind breaks			
3.1.2.2 3.1.2.3.4 3.2.3 3.6.3 3.2.5 3.2.5.3 3.2.4.2		Mineral deposits - Geological process - Soil processes	ExtractionHabitat lossSpoil disposalOvergrazingSoil compactionVegetation removal			ing	
			Total =	25			

Level	Marks	Descriptors
_	21–25	A comprehensive response with a clear and sustained focus. Content is accurate and detailed. Relationships are identified, reflecting the holistic nature of environmental science and the answer as a whole is coherent. A wide range of relevant natural processes/systems and environmental issues are described and articulated clearly. These are applied systematically to the question, with clear relevance to the context.
5		Where conclusions are made, these are fully supported by judgements and presented in a logical and coherent way.
		Relevant environmental terminology is used consistently and accurately throughout. If there are errors, these are very minor indeed and not sufficient to detract from the answer.
4	16–20	A response in which the focus is largely sustained, with content that is mainly accurate and detailed. Relationships are identified and the answer is largely coherent. A range of natural processes/systems and environmental issues are described and articulated clearly. In most cases, these are applied appropriately to the question but, in some, it is less clear why they are relevant. Where conclusions are made, these are supported by judgements which are mostly coherent and relevant. Relevant environmental terminology is used consistently and throughout, with no more than minor errors.
3	11–15	A partial response which is focused in parts. The content is mostly accurate but not always detailed. There is an attempt at identifying relationships, but the answer as a whole is not fully coherent. A range of natural processes/systems and environmental issues are described, most are articulated clearly. In some cases, these are applied appropriately to the context but, in most, it is less clear why they are relevant. Where conclusions are made, it is not always clear how they relate to the judgments given and are likely to contain errors. Relevant environmental terminology is used, but not consistently and there may be errors.

2	6–10	An unbalanced response, lacking in focus. The content may be inaccurate and lacking detail. There is some attempt at identifying relationships, but the answer is not coherent. A limited range of natural processes/systems and environmental issues are described but not articulated clearly and likely to contain errors and/or omissions. There is a limited attempt to apply them to the context. Any conclusions are likely to be asserted, with no supporting judgements and fundamental errors. Environmental terminology is used, but not always appropriately and sometimes with clear errors.
1	1–5	Fragmented points, whose relevance to the question and relationships to each other are unclear. A few natural processes/systems and environmental issues are listed, but unlikely to be described and many may be irrelevant. There is no clear attempt to apply them to the context. It is unlikely that a conclusion will be present. There is an attempt to use environmental terminology, but seldom appropriately.
	0	Nothing written worthy of credit.