Geography Paper 3: Issue Evaluation Advice

The Issue Evaluation relates to the booklet that you get before the exam. This will be Section A on Paper 3. This exam is 1hr15mins and has 76 marks available, which works out at 1 minute per mark, including checking and improving time. There are 37 marks allocated for Section A. Paper 3 is worth 30% of your final grade. Section B on Paper 3 is about geographical skills and fieldwork. You will get separate advice about Section B.

**Question format**

There are a range of questions. Here are examples of the mark allocation:

1, 1, 6, 1, 1, 1, 6, 2, 6, 9 &3

1, 1, 1, 6, 6, 2, 6, 2, 9 & 3

2, 6, 2, 2, 1, 6, 6, 9 & 3

**Examples of the type of questions include:**

Sample questions 1 (Urbanisation):

Latitude / longitude

Suggest why…

Complete a choropleth map and interpret

Using figure 4 and your own understanding, discuss…

Interpret a photo

Study figure 5 and use own knowledge, suggest why…

Decision

Sample questions 2 (proposed coal mine):

Describe the changing pattern

Suggest why…

Suggest one reason…

Suggest two reasons…

Map skills

Using figure 2 discuss….

Explain…

Decision

Sample questions 3 (development issues)

Give one reason…

Multiple choice

Evaluate the suitability of the data

Suggest how…

Compare the changes…

Using figure 2 and your own knowledge, discuss…

Give two reasons…

Decision



**9 mark questions – making and justifying a decision**



**Examples of the 9 mark & 3 SPaG questions**







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| --- | --- |
|  | Exam technique advice for the 9 mark question |
| 1 | **Give a wide range of evidence. Don’t just copy the data / quote – you must say something about the information that links it to the question.**e.g. *Figure 2 states that….which means….**Figure 4 states that 24%......which shows…**The local resident in Figure 6 says “This will have a negative impact upon……”…this supports the argument that…..*Don’t quote more than one sentence at a time. Copying out large sections of the booklet will not gain you marks. |
| 2 | **Link the figures together (cross reference).**e.g. *Figure 4 states that…..which means that….this evidence supports the statements in Figure 5 and Figure 6 as…….* |
| 3 | **Categorise information – social, economic, environmental, political.**e.g. *The social impacts of…are…..Whereas the economic impacts are…..In terms of the environmental impacts…..* |
| 4 | **Refer to timescale e.g. short / long term impacts.**e.g. *In the short term it is likely that there will be negative environmental impacts…However in the longer term…..**I think that …..because the longer term social impacts……* |
| 5 | **Refer to different spatial scales e.g. local, regional, national, global.**e.g. *The local impacts of ……are….On a regional scale the impacts are …..However, on national scale the impacts are more positive because…..*Only refer to a global (worldwide) scale if it is relevant. |
| 6 | **Recognise the views of different groups of people.**e.g. *This is a complex situation as different groups of people have differing opinions about……For example local residents are against it because…as are the environmental groups….This contrasts with the developers who think that…..They also agree with the government….* |
| 7 | **If appropriate, use your own knowledge to develop your points.**e.g. *A similar example to this situation was in…..which supports my decision because….* |
| 8 | **Give the advantages of your chosen option and the disadvantages of the other options.**e.g. *I think that option 1 is the best because…..*(several reasons and development are needed). *This option is better than option 2 because…..Furthermore, it is better than option 3 as the disadvantages with this option are….* |
| 9 | **Recognise that your chosen option has some disadvantages and suggest how they could be overcome.**e.g. *Although I think that option 1 is the best, there are some problems with it, for example…..However, these problems could be reduced by…….* |
| 10 | **Give a substantiated conclusion (evidence and judgement).**e.g. T*he main reason why I think that option 1 is the best is …..This is shown in figure 4 and figure 6…..*(quote / data). You may have already given the data / quote in the main section of your decision, but you should select some evidence to refer back to in the conclusion.*There are more points in favour of option 1 and the significance of these arguments is stronger than those supported by the alternatives, for example…..*Or you may argue that: *Although there are fewer points in favour of option 1, the fact that it will lead to….outweighs the disadvantages and means that it is preferred to the other options.* |
| 11 | **Make sure that your decision is linked in detail to the context** i.e. it is relevant and considers the specific issues that are important in that area. |
| 12 | **SPaG marks will be given – use key terms as well as checking SPaG** |

Advice about exam technique for the other questions:

* There is likely to be three 6 mark questions, with the command words of discuss, suggest how / why, explain or compare. These will be marked out of three levels – basic, clear or detailed.
* For the *suggest how / why* questions, make sure that you fully develop your points to explain how something happens. Use phrases like *this means that…which will lead to…this results in….*
* Some questions will state *Using Figure X and your own knowledge / understanding….* Here you must show that you’ve used Figure X by writing: *From Figure X, I can see that….*Your own knowledge / understanding will be shown by writing something that is relevant and goes beyond the information in the booklet.
* Make sure that you are confident at map skills e.g. direction (8 point compass e.g. SW / NE) 4 & 6 figure grid references, measuring distance, interpreting symbols, understanding height / contours and identifying human & physical features.
* If you have a photograph to interpret, then pick out specific features in it and refer to where they are in the photo e.g. *in the top right of the photo, I can see a….in the background / foreground there is …..*
* Carefully complete a map / chart if asked to. Be precise, follow the key & don’t miss this question out! It’s easy to miss if there are not lines to write on.
* Keep an eye on the clock. 37 marks = 37 minutes. Leave time for Section B.