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IGCSE Geography – Session 7 – Natural Environments 7 Mark Questions

In this 40-minute session today, we will be covering the following aspects of your IGCSE Geography Paper Question 2 Settlement – The case study responses:

1. **Recognising which case study to use**
2. **How to structure the 7-mark answer - PEEL**
3. **How the examiner will mark the work**

Ok, so you've already secured **up to 18 marks** over the past few questions in the Natural Environments section. You know that around the corner lies the last hurdle – the 7-mark essay / case study question. This is the point where the examiner is going to test your ability to mix the theory with the place in the world that you studied.

You will have to read the question very carefully to understand which part of the Settlement course it wants you to focus on. *It could be on a river flood that you have studied, coastal management, changing river processes and features deforestation, an earthquake, a volcanic eruption, a tropical storm event, sketch and describe the formation of a river delta, coastal spit etc.*

Note for earthquake or volcanoes, the question can either ask for the causes OR the impacts of the event. For the causes, you NEED to know the tectonics behind the events.

There are also potential questions that might ask you to describe the changing processes and features of a river along its long profile.

This question may well contain **highlighted words**. They are highlighted for a good reason as they tend to be key to answering the question properly.

Very often, the question will only ask you to focus on one part of your case study, not the whole thing. Be careful, as if you stray away from what the question is asking, you won't get any marks. Your response may contain superb Geography but if it isn't what the question is asking you to answer, you are not going to get many marks.

You have about 10 minutes to complete this section before moving on to question 5 or question 6.

P.E.E.L

Before we go any further, you are going to have to learn how to PEEL

Use PEEL to structure your answer to exam questions.

Always write in full sentences.

Point

- Make three points for a 7-mark question.

Explain

- Give reasons for each point.
- Use sentence starters such as 'This is because...'

Evidence

- Include facts and figures from places to back up each point.

Link

- Use signposting language to link your points together, e.g. 'Secondly, ...', or 'However, ...'.
- At the end, write a one sentence 'mini-conclusion' to link your points back to the question

Check out the mark scheme ...

3(c)	<p>Levels marking</p> <p><u>Level 1</u> (1–3 marks) Statements including limited detail which explain the causes of a flood.</p> <p><u>Level 2</u> (4–6 marks) Uses named example</p> <p>Developed statements which explain the causes of a flood.</p> <p>(NB Max 5 if no named or inappropriate example. Credit country names to max.5)</p> <p><u>Level 3</u> (7 marks) Comprehensive and accurate statements including some place specific reference.</p> <p><u>Content Guide:</u> Answers are likely to include the following ideas: Large amount of rainfall Intense rainfall/over short period of time Snow melt Saturation of soil/permeability Deforestation Urbanization Waste in river Dam collapse Lack of/failure of river management etc.</p> <p><u>Place specific reference is likely to consist of:</u> Locational details/named areas around the river, Specific details of flood/date/time/depth Statistical information</p>	7
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So, the correct case study in this case is worth 2 / 7 marks. You can write a very good theoretic account and still score 5 / 7.

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June 2021 – Question 4c

- (c) For a named area of **tropical rainforest** you have studied, describe the **impacts** of deforestation on the **local natural environment**.

Name of area

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4(c)

Levels marking

7

Level 1 (1–3 marks)

Statements including limited detail which describe the impacts of deforestation on the local natural environment.

Level 2 (4–6 marks)

Uses named example.

More developed statements which describe the impacts of deforestation on the local natural environment.

(NB Max 5 if no named or inappropriate example)

Level 3 (7 marks)

Comprehensive and accurate statements including some place specific reference.

Content Guide:

Answers are likely to refer to:

Loss of biodiversity

Loss of habitat

Extinction of species

Impacts on food chain/ecosystems

Soil erosion

Leaching

Increased overland flow

Flooding etc.

Place specific reference is likely to consist of:

Locational details,

Named places

Specific details of loss of species

Statistics etc.

Logging or trees chopped down = 0

Name here

(c) For a named area which you have studied, explain the causes of an earthquake.

Name of area

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Quite a nasty question – how does the mark scheme look?

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	<p>Levels marking</p> <p><u>Level 1</u> (1–3 marks) Statements including limited detail which explain the causes of an earthquake.</p> <p><u>Level 2</u> (4–6 marks) Uses named example Developed or linked statements which explain the causes of an earthquake. (Note: Max 5 if no named or inappropriate example. Credit country names to max.5)</p> <p><u>Level 3</u> (7 marks) Comprehensive and accurate statements including some place specific reference.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px;"><p><u>Content Guide:</u> Answers can refer to conservative or destructive margin: Location on plate boundary Convection currents Plate movement (slide alongside each other/together) Pressure build up friction pressure release Seismic waves/vibrations travel through crust, etc.</p><p><u>Place specific reference is likely to consist of:</u> Locational details/named areas within earthquake zone, Plate names (if not credited for L2) Specific details of earthquake/date/time/magnitude Statistical information</p></div> <p>Note: Conservative margin = 2 × L1 Subduction = L1 Conservative margin where plates slide past each other = L2 The boundary of plates X and Y (plate names must correctly match example) = L2 Subduction of plate X under plate Y (as above)</p> <p>Note: Only credit plate names once as development for L2</p>	7

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Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	<p>Levels marking</p> <p><u>Level 1</u> (1–3 marks) Statements including limited detail which describe the impacts of a tropical storm.</p> <p><u>Level 2</u> (4–6 marks) Uses named example.</p> <p>More developed statements which describe the impacts of a tropical storm. Use of valid statistics (max. 1 × L2).</p> <p>(Note: Max. 5 if no named or inappropriate example)</p> <p><u>Level 3</u> (7 marks) Comprehensive and accurate statements including place specific information.</p> <p><u>Content Guide:</u> Answers are likely to refer to:</p> <p>Death/injury, Damage to homes, Loss of property/possessions, Flooding, Damage to vegetation, Roads/railways blocked, Electricity supply disrupted, Economic impacts, Secondary/long term impacts, etc.</p> <p><u>Place specific reference is likely to consist of:</u></p> <p>Locational details, Specific details of the areas affected, Statistical information e.g. deaths/damage, Name of storm/date, etc.</p>	7