Candidates' Performance

Paper 1

Section A

There are 40 multiple-choice questions in this paper. The average number of questions answered correctly by candidates was 24. The overall performance of the candidates was satisfactory.

The following table lists some weaknesses of this year's candidates:

Question Number	Candidates' Performance
2	Only 32% of candidates chose the key, while 40% wrongly chose C. They could not locate the section of Shan Pui River correctly and thus calculated the wrong area.
5	Only 31% of candidates chose the key, while 37% wrongly chose B. They wrongly identified the grassland at Chu Wong Ling (940866) as vacant land.
29	Only 19% of candidates chose the key, while 46% wrongly chose D. They wrongly identified the multiple cropping shown in the photograph as crop rotation.
37	Only 35% of candidates chose the key, while 46% wrongly chose D. They wrongly related the mass transit system with the lowering of private car ownership ratio.

In conclusion, candidates should:

1. improve their map reading skills;

2. study the information given in the questions in greater detail;

3. improve their understanding on local and global issues; and

4. enhance their basic geographical knowledge.

Paper 1

Section B

Question Number			Popularity %	Performance in General
1.	(a)	(i)	93	Good. Most candidates were able to name the hazard.
		(ii)		Good. Most candidates were able to give detailed explanation on the occurrence of the hazard, though some of them misinterpreted the boundary as constructive or destructive plate boundary.
	(b)	(i)		Good. Most candidates were able to explain the serious damage brought by the hazard to Haiti. However, a small number of candidates just copied the information from Table 1b without any interpretation.
		(ii)		Good. Most candidates were able to explain how technology could have reduced the damage brought by the hazard. However, some candidates only gave measures without emphasis on the role of technology.
	(c)			Good. Most candidates were able to explain the slow progress of reconstruction work though most of the answers only focused on the political situation and did not mention other reasons, e.g. the destruction of infrastructure after the earthquake.
2.	(a)	(i)	11	Poor. Most candidates were not able to identify the conventional signs.
		(ii)		Fair. Candidates did not base on the photograph to give their answers. They identified the urban process as suburbanisation instead of urban encroachment.
		(iii)		Satisfactory. Candidates were able to explain the conditions leading to the urban process. However, a small number of candidates had difficulties in quoting map evidence to support their answers.
		(iv)		Satisfactory. Candidates were able to give relevant answer on the problems that might occur. Some candidates just focused on particular aspects, e.g. land use problems, and could not mention others.
	(b)	(i)		Poor. Candidates were not able to distinguish the difference between site and location.
		(ii)		Poor. Most candidates were not able to discuss how the present infrastructure helps the sustainable development of Hung Shui Kiu.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
3. (a) (i)	66	Good. Most candidates were able to give the correct answers.
(ii)		Fair. Some candidates failed to include both description and explanation in their answers. Some candidates were not able to distinguish a low rainfall from a decrease in rainfall.
(iii)		Fair. Most candidates were able to name Somalia as the country with a greater food shortage problem. However, some candidates were not able to quote evidence from the figure to support their answers or just copied the information from the table.
(b)		Good. Most candidates were able to describe the socio-economic factors leading to the difference in severity of food shortage.
(c) (i)		Fair. Most candidates were only able to mention the negative impact of large-scale mechanised irrigation scheme. No explanation on the positive impact was given.
(ii)		Poor. Most candidates did not have a clear concept of multiple cropping and gave irrelevant answers.
4. (a) (i)	33	Fair. Most candidates were not able to give an explanation in their answers. Only some candidates were able to explain the changes in concentration of the two greenhouse gases respectively.
(ii)		Fair. Some candidates were not able to differentiate short wave radiation from long wave radiation. Some candidates even misunderstood that the increase in temperature was due to the absorption of short wave radiation by the greenhouse gases. Some candidates were not able to relate the increase in the concentration of the two greenhouse gases with the increase in temperature.
(b) (i)		Good. Candidates were able to describe and explain the results of different emission scenarios.
(ii)		Satisfactory. Most candidates were able to explain how inter-governmental cooperation could help to achieve emission scenario Y. However, some candidates just gave the measures adopted by individual governments, e.g. restricting emission from factories, developing public transport network, etc.
(iii)		Fair. Most candidates were only able to list the factors but failed to assess the effectiveness of the measures in inter-governmental cooperation.

Paper 1

Section C

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
5	14	Poor. Candidates overlooked the key word, i.e. lower course. Candidates demonstrated a limited knowledge on the factors leading to flooding in the lower course, such as giving sea water intrusion as an answer. Most candidates were able to give the positive impact of dam construction but could only give a brief account on the negative impact of dams. Few candidates were able to mention other measures that might be effective in tackling floods in the lower course, such as reafforerstation programme.
6	30	Fair. Some candidates were able to describe the mode of production but the explanation on locational pattern of the IT industry was unclear. Some candidates were not able to relate globalisation with the mode of production. The application of geographical knowledge, such as high technological level and favourable government policy was fair.
7	55	Fair. Most candidates were only able to describe the increasing rate of deforestation without detailed explanation. Some candidates only emphasised local factors, e.g. the role of shifting cultivation, without providing detailed explanation on other factors, such as technological advancement. Most candidates recalled answers from textbooks without referring to recent development in the less developed countries, especially Brazil where biofuel, such as sugar cane is grown. Most candidates only gave a superficial answer on the establishment of national parks in conserving the tropical rainforests. Few candidates were able to explain the root of forest destruction as a link to poverty which could not be solved just by the establishment of national parks. Also, candidates seldom mentioned other measures that might help to conserve the forest.

General comments and recommendations

1. Candidates should pay attention to the wording of the question to avoid misinterpretation.

2. Map reading skills, e.g. the use of conventional signs, are generally weak and more practice is needed.

3. Candidates should be more familiar with current issues and not just rely on textbook knowledge.

Paper 2

Section D

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
1. (a) (i)	38	Good. Most candidates were able to identify the rock types.
(ii)		Satisfactory. About half of the candidates were able to compare a few characteristics of the rock types. A minority of the candidates confused the concept of 'characteristics' with that of 'formation' of rocks. Candidates should make the comparison of characteristics in pairs.
(iii)		Fair. Only a small number of candidates were able to describe accurately the distribution of rock types in the figure given. A very high proportion of candidates just gave a simple description and vague location.
(iv)		Poor. The majority of candidates did not understand the term 'annotated diagram' and labels were put separately. Candidates should draw only one annotated diagram as stated in the question.
(b) (i)		Very Good. A high proportion of candidates were able to name the two processes.
(ii)		Fair. Most candidates were able to explain how rock characteristics affect weathering and mass wasting. However, a high proportion of candidates failed to explain how climate controls the denudation processes. Some incorrect answers explained the formation process of spheroidal weathering.
2. (a) (i)	34	Good. The majority of candidates were able to draw the temperature graph correctly. However, candidates should draw only one line graph as stated in the question.
(ii)		Good. A high proportion of candidates were able to contrast the temperature patterns. A small number of candidates failed to use the terms 'annual range of temperature' and 'mean annual temperature'.
(iii)		Satisfactory. Candidates were able to explain the factors leading to the different temperature patterns of the two places. However, a small number of candidates confused the factors controlling temperature pattern with those affecting the rainfall distribution pattern.
(b) (i)		Good. The majority of candidates were able to describe and explain the spatial change of annual rainfall from Urumqi to Jinan.
(ii)		Very Good. A high percentage of candidates were able to state a climatic hazard.
(iii)		Satisfactory. The majority of candidates were able to evaluate the positive effect of afforestation in solving the climatic hazard but about half failed to identify the limitations.

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
3. (a) (i)	12	Excellent. Most candidates were able to give the correct answer.
(ii)		Poor. A great number of candidates failed to describe the spatial distribution of daily traffic clearly.
(iii)		Fair. The majority of candidates were able to identify the transport problem as traffic congestion but they failed to explain the reasons for it.
(b) (i)		Poor. Only a few candidates were able to clearly explain how the Central - Wan Chai Bypass would help to alleviate the problem of congestion.
(ii)		Satisfactory. Over half of the candidates were able to identify the environmental issues. However, they should give a more reasonable explanation of the causes of these issues.
(iii)		Very Poor. Candidates failed to point out the different roles of the Central - Wan Chai Bypass and the proposed MTR link in solving the transport problem.
4. (a) (i)	17	Satisfactory. A high proportion of candidates were able to compare the rate of increase in total industrial production. However, candidates should also compare the proportion of industry in total local economic production.
(ii)		Fair. Candidates should make use of the information given in Table 4a and explain the locational factors of the two cities. A high percentage of candidates were not able to explain why Zhaoqing had a higher rate of industrial growth.
(b) (i)		Satisfactory. A high percentage of candidates understood the change of water quality along the river course but nearly half of them misinterpreted the location of Zhaoqing as situated on the upper course of the Zhujiang.
(ii)		Satisfactory. A high proportion of candidates were able to point out the economic loss. However, about a quarter of the candidates mixed up social cost with economic loss.
(iii)		Good. A high percentage of candidates were able to state the measures. About a quarter of candidates mixed up the term 'sewage treatment plant' with 'water filtering plant'.

Paper 2

Section E

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
5	29	Fair. Only half of the candidates were able to explain the role of water in shaping the denudation processes on the **slopes of Hong Kong**. A large number of candidates confused the concept of 'erosion' with that of 'weathering'. Candidates should provide relevant denudation processes that occurred in Hong Kong. Irrelevant answers, e.g. freeze-thaw action, showed that candidates did not understand the concept thoroughly. The majority of candidates failed to point out the landform features produced by weathering and mass wasting. Relevant geographical terms are needed.
6	20	Satisfactory. About half of the candidates were able to briefly explain the formation of monsoon wind system. However, a minority of candidates mixed up the formation of monsoon wind system with that of planetary wind system. Only a small number of candidates were able to explain the impact of monsoons and other weather systems on the precipitation characteristics in terms of seasonality, intensity and duration. A high proportion of candidates pointed out the impact of typhoon on the precipitation characteristics but missed explaining the impact of other weather systems.
7	30	Fair. A high percentage of candidates were only able to give a vague explanation of the favourable conditions for Hong Kong to develop into a regional logistic hub. They did not have a thorough understanding on the concept of logistics and mixed up passenger transport with cargo transport. Favourable conditions should be explained from a geographical perspective. A very small number of candidates were able to comment correctly on the impact of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge with reference to the long-term logistic development in Hong Kong. Some candidates wrongly stated that the building of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge would worsen traffic congestion in the inner city. All the above reflected a lack of knowledge of logistic development in Hong Kong.
8	20	Satisfactory. A high percentage of candidates were able to describe the changes in farming characteristics of the Zhujiang Delta. However, a high proportion of candidates failed to relate the technological development to the changes in local farming production pattern. They were only able to give a brief account of the technological development. About a quarter of candidates misinterpreted the question as the problems of technological development on the environment'. Candidates were not clear about the concept of 'local farming production pattern'.

General comments and recommendations

1. Candidates should pay attention on the wording of the questions to avoid misinterpretation.

2. Candidates were weak at using annotated diagrams to illustrate their answers. More practice is needed in this aspect of the curriculum.

3. Candidates should learn more about the drawing of climatic graphs. Candidates should understand more about the functions of various statistical methods.

4. Geographical perspectives and specific terms should be applied in all questions. To avoid giving general, superficial and inappropriate explanation, candidates must have an adequate knowledge of the basic concepts.

5. Candidates were weak in explaining or discussing relationship between different concepts. More class discussions and drawing of mind-maps are needed.

6. Candidates should answer the exact number of questions as stated in the instruction to avoid wasting examination time attempting excessive questions.