

a-level exam questions & answers: contemporary urban environments (section c) >

9 mark question #5 (environmental issues)



References:

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This document is available both as a pdf and editable word document – from the [contemporary urban environments topic page](#) - which can be printed.

* synoptic questions involve links between more than one compulsory topics at A-Level. In this case, terminology and knowledge of the compulsory global systems & global governance topic is needed to be able to understand and answer the question as thoroughly as possible.

synoptic question!*

1. For **one** urban area you have studied, to what extent are environmental problems a consequence of globalisation?

Contemporary Urban Environments >> 3.2.3.7 >> Environmental Issues
(Global Systems & Global Governance >> 3.2.1.1 >> Globalisation)

In an exam, you should spend around 12 minutes (15 if extra time) on this question!

[9 marks]

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Extra space:

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writing tips & tricks:

This question requires a good knowledge and application of case studies. I would recommend achieving maximum marks [level 3] by focusing on your most valid case study. The question explicitly says ONE so although you may wish to add more, and although marks won't be deducted, they also won't be gained for this – so you're effectively wasting your time. DON'T FORGET TO ALWAYS READ THE QUESTION [RTQ]!!

Don't forget to follow the PEEL Structure.

1.E. A very short intro **EXPLAINING** the problem or question and stating your opinion. **You must have an opinion** or be capped to limited marks.

2. Follow up with opening paragraph on one side of the argument – make a point, explain, give brief evident through the use of a named example, then **don't forget to link back** to the topic.

3. **Vice versa for 2nd paragraph** – arguing alternate point. They don't have to have equal weight if you agree one side of the argument strongly, but it is useful to show **a broad understanding of others' viewpoints.**

4. It is also crucial to be **concise** yet use a variety of **relevant terminology** and have a few lines concluding your answer.

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mark scheme | 9-mark question #5 (environmental issues)

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Q.:	Sp. Ref.:	Information For Markers:	B'down:	Marks:
5)	3.2.3.7 3.2.3.1	For one urban area you have studied, to what extent are environmental problems a consequence of globalisation? AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of environmental problems in one urban area and knowledge and understanding of the concept of globalisation and the dimensions of globalisation – flows of capital, labour, products, services and information, patterns of production, distribution, and consumption. AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the extent to which environmental problems are the result of globalisation. Mark scheme Level 3 (7–9 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates detailed knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. These underpin the response throughout. AO2 – Applies knowledge and understanding appropriately with detail. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are fully developed with complete relevance. Evaluation is detailed and well supported with appropriate evidence. Level 2 (4–6 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates clear knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. These are mostly relevant though there may be some minor inaccuracy. AO2 – Applies clear knowledge and understanding appropriately. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are evident with some relevance. Evaluation is evident and supported with clear and appropriate evidence. Level 1 (1–3 marks) AO1 – Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of concepts, processes, interactions and change. This offers limited relevance with inaccuracy. AO2 – Applies limited knowledge and understanding. Connections and relationships between different aspects of study are basic with limited relevance. Evaluation is basic and supported with limited appropriate evidence. Notes for answers	AO1=4 AO2=5	9

This question links two different units of the specification, namely contemporary urban environments, and global systems and global governance, and is thus deemed a **synoptic question** for this section.

Students are required to assess the extent to which globalisation (GG) is responsible for environmental problems in one urban area (CUE). Responses will be very much dependent on the urban area chosen. They may take the view that globalisation is not the dominant factor, and this is acceptable as long as they present a valid alternative argument explaining why globalisation is not a factor.

Max Level 1 for generic responses with no identifiable urban area. If more than one urban area included, credit best response.

AO1

- Knowledge and understanding of environmental problems in urban areas. These might include dereliction, waste disposal, lack of green space, traffic congestion, air pollution and water pollution.
- Case-study of one urban area. Understanding of the environmental problems found in the urban area.
- Knowledge and understanding of the concept of globalisation – flows of money, labour and products. Patterns of industrialisation.
- Knowledge and understanding of the issues resulting from globalisation such as unequal flows of money and people, ideas and technology.

AO2

- Evaluation of the extent to which environmental problems in an urban area are the result of globalisation. For example, increased wealth in has led to an increase in waste. Dereliction of many former factories in urban areas in UK occurred as a result of globalisation as much industry was transferred to Asia.
- Analysis of extent to which globalisation results in environmental problems in the urban area studied. For example, Bangalore produces 20 000 tonnes of e-waste a year. This is the result of increased flows of money in the IT sector with firms like Google having bases in the city. 90% of the waste is removed using the informal sector – poor slum dwellers sort the waste but with no regulations this causes further environmental problems as toxic chemicals are released into the environment.
- Responses could consider how unequal flows of money impact on the ability of urban areas to deal with the environmental problem such as waste disposal. Many western cities are now able to export large volumes of their waste each year, reducing their waste problem. Analysis of how globalisation has caused a flow of labour into many cities such as Dhaka in Bangladesh with many global brands locating there. This causes water pollution due to increased dwellers in slums producing sewage.
- Analysis of the extent to which environmental problems are not the result of globalisation. Water pollution in many European cities is the result of old sewage infrastructure and poor waste disposal practice, for example disposal of

		wet wipes and fat disposal into main sewers. Similarly air pollution resulting from traffic congestion is difficult to relate directly to globalisation. • Overall evaluation of the extent to globalisation of money is responsible for environmental problems should reflect whole response but will very much depend on the urban area chosen.		
		Credit any other valid assessment		