

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

9-mark question #2 (pmwcs)

figure question!*



References:

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*in section c only (two from hazards / ecosystems under stress / contemporary urban environments / population and the environment / resource security) you will have to write two 9-mark questions. Sometimes, one of these may involve a figure with imagery or data to analyse, kind of like the 6-mark questions preceding it. A general good rule of thumb is to spend half your time writing about the figure and around half weaving your own knowledge wherever you can!

Part 1: The figures show data pertaining to Sydney, Australia; a city of 6 million people.



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b

Percent Speaking As First Language (%)

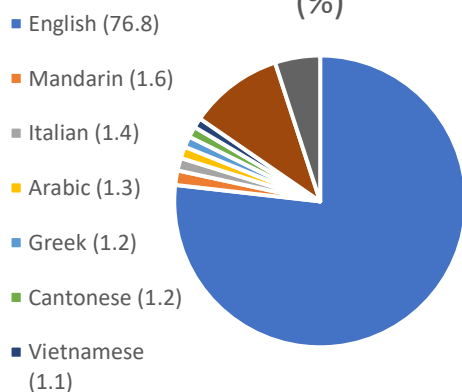


Fig. 1c ^

Employed ('000s)

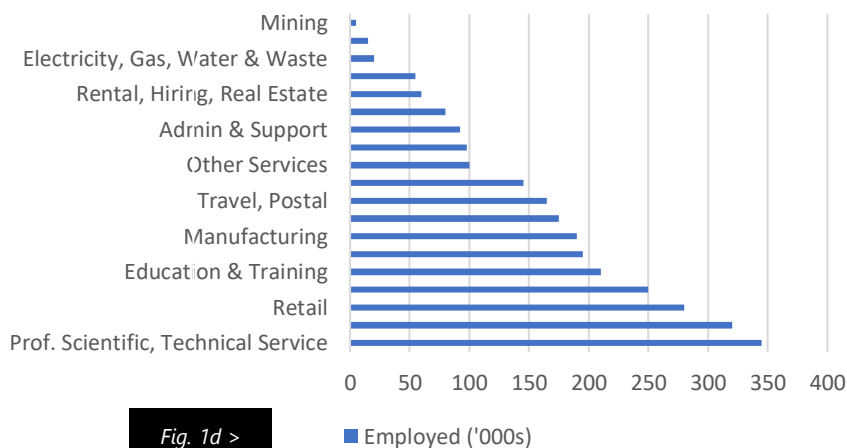


Fig. 1d >

question follows...

Part 2: Question #2

Contemporary Urban Environments >> 3.2.3.3 >> PMWCs

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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mark scheme | 9-mark question #2 (pmwcs)



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Q.:	Sp. Ref.:	Information For Markers:	B'down:	Marks:
5)	3.1.5.6	Using the figure provided and your own knowledge, assess the potential issues associated with managing an event such as this. AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of the concept of a post-modern western city. AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the extent to which the evidence in figure 1 suggests that Sydney fits the concept of a post-modern western city. 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 This question requires knowledge of the concept and characteristics of a post-modern city. Answers should show awareness of the extent to which Sydney fits these characteristics. AO1 Knowledge and understanding of the concept of a post-modern city. The term describes the changes that took	AO1=4 AO2=5	9

place in Western cities in the late twentieth century. It mainly reflects changes in architecture and urban structure but also reflects a change in socio-economic characteristics.

- Understanding of the move away from functional architecture to one that is more an expression of art such as the Guggenheim in Bilbao or the Shard.
- Knowledge of the changes in socio-economic characteristics such as increased ethnic diversity but increased social segregation. Move from mass production of goods to a service sector focusing on knowledge-based industries. Telecommunication industries tend to dominate.
- Knowledge of more fragmented urban forms that characterise post-modern cities – development of edge cities and hi-tech corridors.
- Urban government is dominated by private and public partnerships. Services provided by the market rather than public funding.
- An understanding of the concept of post-modernism. A philosophical movement that is shrouded in uncertainty. It sees modern society as outdated. Post-modernism celebrates greater diversity be it in ethnicity or architecture.

AO2

- Evaluation of the extent to which Sydney fits the overall concept of a post-modern city. It is a western city. The idea is based on US cities such as LA so as with other post-modern cities, it may not fit the concept as well.
- Analysis of the architecture in figures 1a, 1b. Whilst the city's CBD suggests more of a functional landscape, with a predominance of skyscrapers, both suggest ideas of post-modernism through the 1950s Sydney Opera House – among the most well-known buildings in the world.
- There is also evidence of varied architecture within the skyscrapers, with many taking on different shapes and using a variety of materials.
- Analysis of the photographs to consider urban form – the degree of fragmentation is difficult to assess. The city is very clearly bounded by physical constraints of the waterways and coastline surrounding it. The main CBD is fairly concentrated and there is evidence further away is more residential / low rise. This would support the idea of post-modernism.
- Figure 1c suggests fairly limited ethnic diversity, a vast majority (over $\frac{3}{4}$) speak English as a first language, and smaller ethnic groups make up each less than 2% of the total populace. There are many groups with fairly significant representation within this constraint, however.
- Students could argue that using this a measure isn't particularly accurate as it doesn't show cultural and ethnic disparities typical with pmwcs, as well as not considering immigrants whose first language may be English, or 2nd/3rd generations who have assimilated more.
- Analysis of employment data indicates that the service sectors dominate (5 x the number employed in goods producing sectors). Scientific and Technical Service being a tertiary / quaternary field thus fits fairly well with expectations, and very few roles are in industry or agriculture.

		• A legitimate response would be to consider the range of evidence available. It is not possible to judge certain characteristics such as social and economic inequality or government. Planning also can't be considered. Students may also consider the reliability or usefulness of the sources. For example, the photographs are just snapshots of the city so don't give an extensive picture of the architecture. • Overall evaluation may conclude that Sydney certainly displays elements of a post-modern city. This is perhaps most evident in the architecture and urban form. It is limited in ethnic diversity and has a heavily service-based economy. • Credit any other valid assessment		
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