

a-level exam questions & answers:

hazards (section c) >

mark scheme | 20-mark question #2



version stage v1.2, last updated 3.8.21, © Luke Pearson & AQA | geographyportal.co.uk

Q.:	Sp. Ref.:	Information For Markers:	B'down:	Marks:
5)	3.1.5.1 & 3.1.5.7	<p>With reference to a multi-hazardous environment that you have studied, assess the view that the underlying cause(s) leading to the hazards is human activity rather than physical factors.</p> <p>AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of a named multi hazardous environment. Aware of the factors which have contributed to generate the hazards. AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to identify and assess the causes of hazards in multi hazardous environments.</p> <p>Notes for answers</p> <p>The direction of the response largely depends upon the chosen case study of the multi hazardous environment as well as the hazards contained within that location.</p> <p>AO1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study of a multi-hazardous environment beyond the UK to illustrate and analyse the nature of the hazards and the social, economic and environmental risks presented, and how human qualities and responses such as resilience, adaptation, mitigation and management contribute to its continuing human occupation. • Nature, forms and potential impacts of natural hazards (geophysical, atmospheric and hydrological). • Hazard perception and its economic and cultural determinants. Characteristic human responses – fatalism, prediction, adjustment/adaptation, mitigation, management, risk sharing – and their relationship to hazard incidence, intensity, magnitude, distribution and level of development. The Park model of human response to hazards. • The Hazard Management Cycle. <p>AO2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Angeles, USA is considered to be a multi hazard environment though other case studies may feature. Expect to reference to places such as Haiti, The Philippines and Japan. • In Los Angeles, it would be difficult to argue to that all hazards are generated by human activity. As an advanced economy, the city has the economic advantage of being able to manage many of its hazards, though not all are easily manageable or predictable. • Lying close to the San Andreas Fault (with a number of other minor faults in the area such as the Northridge / 	AO1=10 AO2=10	20

		<p>Santa Barbara Fault), the area is prone to significant seismic activity. It is not possible to argue that this root cause is human activity in this regard. However, managing the impact of the hazard is a significant preoccupation and human endeavour in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some may argue that hazard is made more or less dangerous by the extent of management of the hazard. This is a legitimate approach. There are other hazards though which are certainly the product of human activity. • Wildfire periodically affects the Los Angeles basin. Whilst the main cause is the flammability of vegetation as a result of drought and the dry vegetation, human factors certainly exacerbate the issue. Human activity is known to start wildfire and building in areas prone to wildfire inevitably adds to the problem. Expect to see reference to recent events in support eg June '17 four major brush fires struck LA, affecting over 6000 acres of land. It was sparked by a car crash in the San Jacinto mountains. However, it was also fuelled by high temperatures, low humidity and wind gusts of up to 35 mph. This shows that in this case, it was a combination of human and physical factors which created this hazard. <p>Whatever the approach, there should be more than one hazard considered and a clear overarching response to the question.</p>		
--	--	---	--	--

This grid is used by teachers and examiners to decide first your working level, then narrow down to a mark out of 20 for all long answer questions, and the kinds of things they are looking to see in each of these answers.

Marking Level Criteria:

Level/Mark Range	Criteria/Descriptor
TOP LEVEL 4 (16-20 marks – 80+% - typically an A* answer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed evaluative conclusion that is rational and firmly based on knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question. Interpretations are comprehensive, sound and coherent (AO2). • Detailed, coherent and relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding throughout (AO2). • Full evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). • Detailed, highly relevant and appropriate knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments used throughout (AO1). • Full and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change throughout (AO1).
HIGH LEVEL 3 (11-15 marks – 55-75% - B to A grade answer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear evaluative conclusion that is based on knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question. Interpretations are generally clear and support the response in most aspects (AO2). • Generally clear, coherent and relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding (AO2). • Generally clear evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). • Generally clear and relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments (AO1). • Generally clear and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change (AO1)

<p>LOWER LEVEL 2 (6-10 marks – 30-50% - D-C grade answer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some sense of an evaluative conclusion partially based upon knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question (AO2). Interpretations are partial but do support the response in places. • Some partially relevant analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding (AO2). • Some evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). • Some relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments which is partially relevant (AO1). • Some knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change. There may be a few inaccuracies (AO1).
<p>LOW LEVEL 1 (1-5 marks) - <25% - E or below answer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very limited and/or unsupported evaluative conclusion that is loosely based upon knowledge and understanding which is applied to the context of the question (AO2). Interpretation is basic. • Very limited analysis and evaluation in the application of knowledge and understanding. This lacks clarity and coherence (AO2). • Very limited and rarely logical evidence of links between knowledge and understanding to the application of knowledge and understanding in different contexts (AO2). • Very limited relevant knowledge and understanding of place(s) and environments (AO1). • Isolated knowledge and understanding of key concepts, processes and interactions and change. There may be a number of inaccuracies (AO1)
<p>LEVEL 0 (0 marks) – no answer provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing worthy of credit (something has gone ridiculously wrong if you're here!)