

a-level exam questions & answers:

hazards (section c) >

9 mark question #5 (wildfire events)

figure question!*



References:

[Need help? Check out our ultimate guide to A-Level Geography!](#)

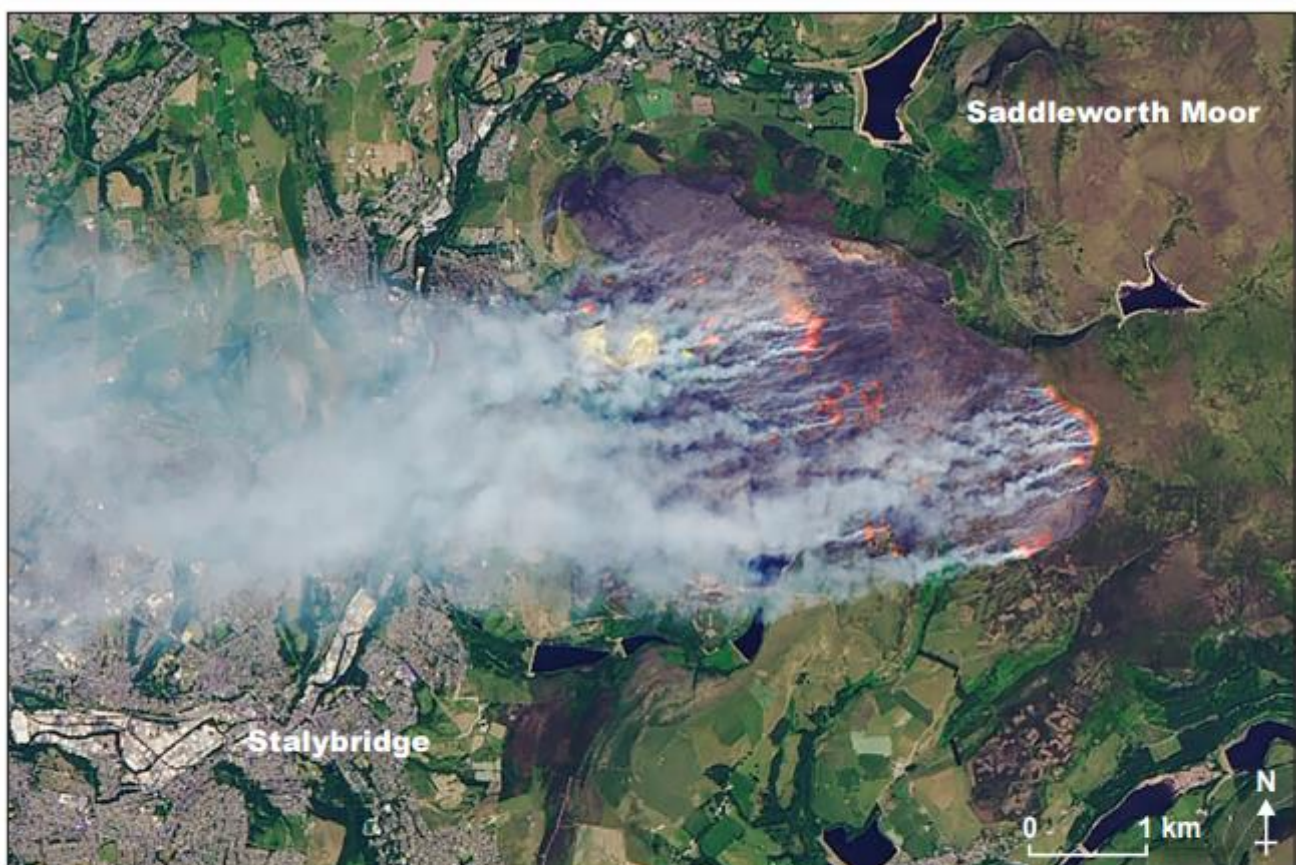
[Access The Mark Schemes Directly Here!](#)

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

*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!

Figure and question provided courtesy of AQA

Part 1: The Figure shows a wildfire on Saddleworth Moor, Greater Manchester, UK, on 27 June 2018.



Note: Saddleworth Moor is an upland area north east of Manchester. The soils are composed of peat. In June 2018, there was a heatwave which was accompanied by virtually no rain and a dry wind for several weeks. Around 150 soldiers and firefighters were called in to tackle the blaze. The blaze lasted for weeks and may have been started deliberately.

question follows

Part 2: Question #5

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

- 5) Using the figure provided and your own knowledge, assess the potential issues associated with managing an event such as this.

Hazards >> 3.1.5.6 >> Fires in nature

I'm an A-Level past paper question!



[9 marks]

This image shows a blank 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.

Extra space:

a-level exam questions & answers:

hazards (section c) >

mark scheme | 9-mark question #5 (wildfire events)



version stage v1.1, last updated 3.8.21, © Luke Pearson & AQA | geographyportal.co.uk

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 cause, impact and management of wildfire. AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to assess the scale of challenge associated with managing an event such as this in such a relatively inaccessible location. Mark scheme <i>Level 3 (7–9 marks)</i> 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. <i>Level 2 (4–6 marks)</i> 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. <i>Level 1 (1–3 marks)</i> 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 • Nature of wildfires. Conditions favouring intense wildfires: vegetation type, fuel characteristics, climate and recent weather and fire behaviour. • Causes of fires: natural and human agency. Impacts: primary/secondary, environmental, social, economic, political. • Short and long-term responses; risk management designed to reduce	AO1=4 AO2=5	9

		the impacts of the hazard through preparedness, mitigation, prevention and adaptation. • Impact and human responses as evidenced by a recent wildfire event. AO2 • The first issue is scale. The area affected is clearly extensive with multiple sources of fire. This requires substantial support from expert firefighters. • Accessibility is another issue. These are upland areas. Getting large and cumbersome equipment up to such relatively remote locations is likely to be extremely challenging. • The weather appears to be presenting another major issue. The lack of rainfall, prolonged heat and very dry conditions means that new fires are likely to start. • Some may recognise that peat is a flammable material. The fact that the underlying soil is composed of peat means that the fire can spread underground making it almost impossible to manage without extensive rainfall. • Evacuation is another issue. In this case the smoke is blowing towards the north of Stalybridge. This will present a major health and safety issue for the local managers. Evacuation may be required particularly for the elderly or infirm. • Communication is another significant challenge for the local managers. Emergency planners will need a communication strategy for local people which remains up-to-date and responsive to the changing dynamic. • Transport issues are likely to emerge particularly where the smoke causes poor visibility or where the fire is close to roads. Any planning is likely to require road closures and re-routing of vehicles. • The apparent deliberate starting of the fire is a major concern. Managing the fire itself is a problem but other arsonists may copy the original offender exacerbating the issue for the local emergency services. Credit any other valid assessment		
--	--	--	--	--