

Cambridge IGCSE™

GEOGRAPHY**0460/21**

Paper 2 Geographical Skills

May/June 2026

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 60

Published

This mark scheme contains the instructions and marking guidance that our examiners used to mark candidate responses for this component.

Before they start marking, examiners complete a standardisation process. They review a range of candidate responses and discuss the mark scheme in detail to agree which answers can and cannot be accepted. Examiners award marks where it is clear that candidate responses have met the requirements of the mark scheme. These requirements may vary between different components or different versions of the same component, depending on the exact requirements of the question and the candidate responses seen during the standardisation process.

Sometimes, our mark schemes may allow marks to be awarded to responses which contain elements that are factually incorrect or for content not covered by the syllabus. We do this in response to the demands of a specific question to support candidates and make sure that our assessments are fair. However, these allowances should not be used as a guide for teaching and learning.

We cannot discuss the mark scheme with schools, and we recommend that schools read the mark scheme together with the assessment material and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

This document consists of **7** printed pages.

General marking principles

All examiners must apply these marking principles when marking candidate responses.

1	Examiners must award marks for each response in line with: • the specific content defined in the mark scheme • the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the level descriptions • the standard of response required as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.
2	Examiners must award whole marks (not half marks, or other fractions).
3	Examiners must award marks positively . This means that: • marks are not deducted for errors or omissions • marks are awarded for correct/valid answers as defined in the mark scheme and also for other valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme referring to your team leader as appropriate • the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar are judged only when the mark scheme indicates that these features are specifically assessed in the question. However, the meaning of all responses must be unambiguous.
4	Examiners must consistently apply the requirements of the mark scheme and any rules for what to do when candidates have not followed instructions correctly.
5	Examiners must use the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme, unless limited by the quality of the candidate responses seen.
6	Examiners must award marks according to the mark scheme and must not award marks with grade thresholds or grade descriptions in mind.

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Correct point
	Incorrect point
	Benefit of doubt given
	Not answered question
	Repetition
	Content of response too vague
	More information required
	Highlighting areas of text
	Open bracket
	Close bracket
	Page or response seen by examiner

Question	Answer	Marks																									
	In Q1(a), (b) and (c) list rule applies – accept only the first answer given																										
1(a)(i)	Interesting natural place/Playa de Nogales/interesting tourist place (magnificent path section = 0)	1																									
1(a)(ii)	Local footpath	1																									
1(a)(iii)	Main road	1																									
1(a)(iv)	Lake	1																									
1(a)(v)	208 m	1																									
1(b)	- Information centre - Viewpoint - Rural tourism house - Very beautiful path (Local) footpath - Lake	3																									
1(c)(i)	3.5 km	1																									
1(c)(ii)	E/ENE	1																									
1(c)(iii)	319823	1																									
1(d)(i)	Track (accept lake)	1																									
1(d)(ii)	Line should meet the right axis at 130 m (accept between 101 and 149 m) i.e. above the 100 m line and below the half way point	1																									
1(e)	- Gently sloping/<u>flatter</u> land/fairly flat (flat = 0) - Low(er) land/relief <u>Close to</u> river/river to west/east of river (access to river = 0) <u>Main</u> road - Road <u>junction</u>/roads connected - Farming land/brushwood/meadows (forest = 0) 1.5–2 km from coast (allow any figure in between) (near coast = 0) (Sheltered) between hills/<u>in a</u> valley	3																									
1(f)	<table><tr><td></td><td>Puntallana</td><td>El Granel</td><td>both of these areas</td><td>neither of these areas</td></tr><tr><td>asphalt track</td><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>church</td><td>✓</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>heliport</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>rural tourism house</td><td></td><td>✓</td><td>✓(BOD)</td><td></td></tr></table>		Puntallana	El Granel	both of these areas	neither of these areas	asphalt track			✓		church	✓				heliport				✓	rural tourism house		✓	✓(BOD)		4
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church	✓																										
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rural tourism house		✓	✓(BOD)																								

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	• USA • Spain • Brazil • India 3 or 4 correct = 2 1 or 2 correct = 1	2
2(b)	• Uneven distribution (random/scattered = 0) • Highest/most in North America (highest in North America and Australasia/Oceania = 1) • Second highest/high/many in Australasia/Oceania • High/many in (western) Europe • Low(est)/least/few in Africa/Middle East/SW Asia/W Asia/S Asia • High/many in NE Asia • Moderate/medium SE Asia/parts of South America/southern Africa (south Africa = 0) • All continents Do not accept: higher/lower	2
2(c)	<u>Advantages (Reserve 1)</u> • (Availability of) Jobs • High(er) wages/income • (Better) healthcare/education • Learn new skills/language • Entertainment/bright lights • Safety/lack of war/conflict/stable government <u>Disadvantages (Reserve 1)</u> • Family separation/loneliness • Shortage of housing/live in informal housing • Low-paid jobs • Exploitation/poor working conditions • Racism/discrimination/conflict (new culture = ^) • Language barrier No double credit for obverse ideas.	4

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	• Inverse relationship/negative correlation • The larger the settlement there are fewer of them • The smaller the settlement there are more of them	1
3(b)(i)	Department store University	2
(ii)	Cambourne more services Melbourn fewer services	1

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)(i)	1: Cambridge shop will have a larger range of goods 5: Melbourn shop will have a smaller threshold population	2
3(c)(ii)	- Less time <u>travelling</u>/close/more convenient/can walk/no need for vehicles - Reduces/low(er) transportation costs - Less <u>air</u> pollution - Less traffic jams - Less fuel burned/saves petrol - Creates demand for (local) jobs/job opportunity - Supports <u>local</u> economy/prevents money flowing out of the community/brings income into the local area - Supports/promotes businesses/ensures they stay open - Familiarity with goods and services offered/buyer and seller/easier to return goods Do not accept: higher quality/cheaper prices	2

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	- wide (base) (wide crater = 0) - low (height) - crater - steep sides - rocky/bare rock/barren (dry = ^) - ash (deposits) - multiple/many peaks/volcanoes/secondary cone(s) - frontal collapse - different coloured <u>rock</u> (soil = 0) (named colours = 0) Do not accept reference to vegetation	4
4(b)(i)	6	1
4(b)(ii)	Bar drawn to 300 and shaded Do not accept crosshatch/dots etc.	1
4(b)(iii)	- Inverse relationship/negative correlation - Higher VEI = lower frequency - Lower VEI = higher frequency - VEI2 = 3500 eruptions <u>and</u> VEI5 = 100 eruptions/VEI8 = 0 eruptions Reserve 1 mark for data.	2

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)(i)	13 °C	1
5(a)(ii)	26 March	1
5(a)(iii)	SSE	1

Question	Answer	Marks																
5(a)(iv)	7.4/7.41 m / s (7 m / s = 0)	1																
5(b)	<table><tr><th>Town A</th><th>Town B</th></tr><tr><td>Colder</td><td>Hotter</td></tr><tr><td>Lower <u>range</u> of temperature</td><td>Higher <u>range</u> of temperature</td></tr><tr><td>Higher <u>wind</u> speeds</td><td>Lower <u>wind</u> speeds</td></tr><tr><td><u>Less</u> variation in wind direction Mainly SSE +</td><td><u>More</u> variation in wind direction Random/no pattern = 0</td></tr><tr><td>Higher <u>range</u> of wind speed</td><td>Lower <u>range</u> of wind speed</td></tr><tr><td><u>More</u> humid</td><td><u>Less</u> humid</td></tr><tr><td>Lower <u>range</u> of humidity</td><td>Higher <u>range</u> of humidity</td></tr></table> Must use comparative language	Town A	Town B	Colder	Hotter	Lower <u>range</u> of temperature	Higher <u>range</u> of temperature	Higher <u>wind</u> speeds	Lower <u>wind</u> speeds	<u>Less</u> variation in wind direction Mainly SSE +	<u>More</u> variation in wind direction Random/no pattern = 0	Higher <u>range</u> of wind speed	Lower <u>range</u> of wind speed	<u>More</u> humid	<u>Less</u> humid	Lower <u>range</u> of humidity	Higher <u>range</u> of humidity	4
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<u>More</u> humid	<u>Less</u> humid																	
Lower <u>range</u> of humidity	Higher <u>range</u> of humidity																	

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)(i)	79%	1
6(a)(ii)	Line drawn correctly at 95% (342°/–18°) (allow 2° tolerance either way) Both sections shaded like the key Must be in correct order	2
6(b)	- Hole in ground dug to <u>below water table</u> - Lined with concrete <u>to prevent</u> water loss/contamination (Turn) winch to lower/raise bucket - Bucket must be submerged/below water level/water table - Water drawn from <u>ground water/aquifer</u> - Well cover <u>to prevent</u> contamination/evaporation Accept contamination only once	3
6(c)	- Quicker to access (efficient/convenient = 0) - Reliable - Less physically demanding/effort/work - Large(r) quantities can be gained - Has been cleaned/purified/filtered/treated/less contamination - Direct to home	2