

Cambridge IGCSE™

GEOGRAPHY**0460/23**

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 **9** 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) list rule applies – only accept the first answer given.		
1(a)(i)	hotel / hostel / <u>guest</u> house Aneto = 0	1
1(a)(ii)	church / Sant Entis <u>Church</u> (Ruined church = 0)	1
1(a)(iii)	<u>paved</u> track	1
1(a)(iv)	village (centre) / buildings / built-up area / residential	1
1(a)(v)	1744	1
1(b)	• information centre • rural tourism house • summer camp • picnic site • footpath / trail / track / (Camins Vius) hiking route Do not accept: hotel, camp site, vegetation, church, archaeological remains	3
1(c)(i)	2.7 (km) (Tolerance 2.6 – 3.25)	1
1(c)(ii)	SSW List rule applies.	1
1(c)(iii)	155 152	1
1(d)	A: main road/N230 B: river / Ribagorçana C: <u>secondary</u> earth track/Camins Vius/CV/hiking route List rule applies Do not accept: paved track / forest	3

Question	Answer		Marks
1(e)	description	explanation	6
	River/tributaries/lake	Water supply / water resources / food supply (fish) Access = 0	
	Forest/trees	Wood <u>to build with</u> / <u>burn</u> / <u>manufacturing</u> / <u>timber</u>	
	Roads / route centre / main road / hiking route	Access / trade / commuting / <u>income</u> from tourism Transport = 0 Easy to travel = ^	
	In valley	Sheltered	
	Farming land / fertile soil	To grow crops / grow food / graze animals / food output Food only = ^	
	Above base of valley / above floodplain	To avoid flooding	
	Meadow land	No need to clear land / forest / cheaper to build	
1 + 1 for each description and explanation No credit for explanation without valid description			

Question	Answer		Marks
2(a)(i)	description	stage	4
	birth rate is falling rapidly and death rate is falling slowly	3	
	high birth rate and high death rate	1	
	birth rate and death rate are both low	4	
	rapidly falling death rate whilst birth rate remains high	2	

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)(ii)	Uneven increase Stage 1: low population increase / low rate of increase less = 0 Stage 1: constant population increase / constant rate of increase Stage 1: total population low / constant Stage 2 / 3: highest population increase / rate of increase Stage 2: increasing population increase / growing rate of increase Stage 2: total population increases rapidly Stage 3: increasing more slowly than in 2 / declining rate of increase Stage 3: total population slow(er) increase Stage 4: increasing more slowly than in 3 / declining rate of increase Stage 4: total population peaks / is high (continues to grow = ^) (increasing the most = 0) Stage 4: population increase stops / increases (very) slowly / slow rate of increase then levels off Accept 'declining rate' only once across stages 3 and 4 MAX 1 mark per stage Do not accept: reference to birth rate/death rate	3
2(b)	Population decrease / negative population growth Birth rate lower than death rate Do not accept: Population growth decreases Population stays constant Birth rate and death rate stay the same	1

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	- uneven pattern - more risk / high(er) along plate boundary / increases towards plate boundary - more risk / high(er) in W / NW / SW / some western states - more risk / high(er) in E / SE (accept middle/centre E) - moderate (risk) in NE - less risk / low(er) in centre / middle - less risk / low(er) in N - less risk / low(er) in (far) S ^ declines inland / towards the east Do not accept: reference to 'some risk', 'no risk', number/magnitude of earthquakes named states	3

Question	Answer	Marks
3(b)(i)	conservative/transform	1
3(b)(ii)	Answers reading clockwise from A A = epicentre B = fault D = seismic waves C = focus 3-4 correct = 2 marks 1-2 correct = 1 mark	2
3(c)	- plates slide past each other / move in opposite / different directions / move in same direction at different speeds - friction / tension / plates get stuck / locked / pressure <u>builds</u> / energy <u>builds</u> - release / movement creates <u>seismic/shock waves/shaking/vibration</u> ^ plates move alongside each other/rub against each other release creates the earthquake Do not accept: move towards/away	2

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)(i)	35 (metres)	1
4(a)(ii)	buttress roots ^ roots	1
4(a)(iii)	- uses trees/trunks to <u>grow up / climb up / for support</u> <u>tall stems / grow up</u> to canopy / sunlight ^ around trees	1

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)(i)	- A is trees/emergent <u>and</u> B shrubs - A is taller/higher/ B is shorter/lower - A is less dense/B is more dense - A has less variety of plants/ B has more variety of plants - A has trunk/thick stem/thick branches <u>and</u> B has no trunk/thin stem/thin branches - A has wider roots / A has buttress roots / roots above ground <u>and</u> B does not - A has smaller leaves/B has larger leaves - A has darker leaves / B has lighter leaves ^ B more lush/green Do not accept: B widespread, A not widely spread drip tips vs no drip tips	4
4(b)(ii)	- availability of light/lack of light on forest floor - exposure to wind	1

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)(i)	Europe	1
5(a)(ii)	North and South America	1
5(a)(iii)	(+) 63 800 000	1
5(b)(i)	- tourist attractions / famous sites / cultural sites / historical sites / natural sites / rivers / waterfalls / mountains / coasts / beach / man-made attractions or named eg Disneyland - have <u>named</u> tourist infrastructure to include airports, roads, ferry terminals/hotels; - marketing / advertising / trending on internet - differences in climate / tropical / hot / warm / snowy climate - countries are safer/have political stability; - countries allow free movement / no visa required - cheaper flights. Accept converse points where applicable ^ good views / scenic beauty places of interest / entertainment / services easy to access invest in infrastructure/accommodation Do not accept: some areas are more developed weather	2

Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)(ii)	• Low paid jobs / workers exploited • Seasonal employment / seasonal unemployment • Money to TNCs / leakage / not to local companies / government • Money needs to be spent on <u>named</u> tourist infrastructure (including repair / maintenance) to include airports/roads/ferry terminals/hotels • Rise in / high taxes (to build/repair/maintain tourist facilities) • Increased prices / inflation / competition for water/food/goods/power • Second homes / lack of housing for locals / locals can't afford • Dependency on tourism so economy vulnerable to fluctuations • Increased cost of keeping environment clean / clearing litter / sewage / protecting cultural / historical sites • Congestion causes delays Only accept economic problems. Each point must have a link to the economy either direct or implied. Do not accept: pressure on healthcare and clinics	3

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)(i)	12	1
6(a)(ii)	Dividing line drawn at 75% Shaded correctly in order of the key If plot line at 37%, credit 1 for shading if crosses are in larger segment	2
6(b)	• Brazil uses more types of energy • Brazil has most renewables <u>and</u> Ghana has most fossil fuel • Brazil more renewables / Ghana less renewables • 87% compared to 34% / 53% more • Ghana more fossil fuels / Brazil less fossil fuels • 66% compared to 11% / 55% more • Brazil more nuclear / Brazil has some/2% nuclear <u>and</u> no nuclear in Ghana Reserve 1 mark for data. Accept 'only' as an alternative to 'less'.	5