Contemporary Themes in Geography: How to succeed in answering 45 mark questions

45 mark questions are questions that require you to **demonstrate knowledge and understanding** of places, environments, concepts, processes, interactions and change at a variety of scales, **apply knowledge and understanding** in different contexts either to analyse or interpret or evaluate geographical issues and information and use a variety of relevant geographical skills to **construct arguments and draw conclusions**.

**AO1: Demonstration of knowledge and understanding (20)**

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| **Band 5** (17-20 marks) | * Demonstrates **wide ranging**, **thorough** and **accurate knowledge** with a high order of **conceptual understanding throughout** the response that is **wholly relevant** to the question. * Demonstrates knowledge and understanding through the use of **wholly appropriate, accurate** and **well-developed examples**. * **Wholly appropriate, accurate** and **relevant** supporting **geographical terminology** is well used. * **Well-directed** and **well-annotated sketch maps / diagrams** are integrated and should be credited. |  |
| **Band 4** (13-16 marks) | * Demonstrates **accurate factual knowledge** and confident understanding of **relevant concepts** and **principles throughout** the response that is **relevant** to the question. * Demonstrates knowledge and understanding through the use of **appropriate, accurate** and **developed examples**. * **Appropriate, accurate** and **relevant geographical terminology** is evident. * **Appropriate, mostly accurate** and **relevant annotated sketch maps** / **diagrams** are included and should be credited. |  |
| **Band 3** (9-12 marks) | * Demonstrates **secure, straightforward knowledge** and **reasonable understanding** of **relevant concepts** and **principles throughout** most of the response that **is mostly relevant** to the question. * Demonstrates knowledge and understanding through the use of **mostly appropriate, mostly accurate** and **developed examples**. * **Mostly appropriate, accurate** and **mostly relevant geographical terminology** is evident but is **variable** in its use. * **Appropriate, basically accurate** and **partial use** of **annotated sketch maps** / **diagrams** are included and should be credited. |  |
| **Band 2** (5-8 marks) | * Demonstrates **some knowledge**, but **limited in scope** with **some inaccuracies; some understanding** **of relevant concepts** and **principles.** * Demonstrates knowledge and understanding through the use **of limited examples**, which are **mostly accurate but un-developed**. * **Limited geographical terminology** is evident, **not all** of which is **appropriate** or **accurate**. * **Basic sketch maps / diagrams** are used but **contain inaccuracies**. Credit should be given when used appropriately. |  |
| **Band 1** (1-4 marks) | * Demonstrates **poor knowledge** with **errors** and **minimal understanding** and linkage to the question. * **No** use of **examples** or, if evident, **lack relevance** to the question asked. * **Geographical terminology** **is rarely used** within the response. |  |

**AO1 tips to upgrade your answer:**

**AO2: Application of knowledge and understanding (20)**

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| **Band 5** (17-20 marks) | * Demonstrates **sophisticated application** of knowledge and understanding either to analyse or interpret or evaluate in order to produce a **full, comprehensive** and **coherent response** that is **supported by wholly appropriate**, **wide ranging** and **relevant evidence**. * Demonstrates application of knowledge and understanding through the **sophisticated merging** of the **connections** between different elements of the question. * Demonstrates application of knowledge and understanding through the **confident application** of the **specialised concepts throughout** the response. |  |
| **Band 4** (13-16 marks) | * Demonstrates **accurate application** of knowledge and understanding either to interpret or analyse or evaluate in order to produce a **coherent response** that is supported **by appropriate evidence**. * Demonstrates application of knowledge and understanding through the **merging** of the **connections** between different elements of the question. * Demonstrates application of knowledge and understanding through the **relevant application** of the **specialised concepts**. |  |
| **Band 3** (9-12 marks) | * Demonstrates **partial application** either to analyse or interpret or evaluate in order to produce a **partial** but **coherent response** that is supported by **mostly appropriate evidence**. * Demonstrates application of knowledge through **partial links** between different elements of the question. * Demonstrates application of knowledge and understanding through the **partial application** of **some specialised concepts.** |  |
| **Band 2** (5-8 marks) | * Demonstrates **limited application** either to analyse or interpret or evaluate in order to produce a **limited response** where most points are **generalised** or **of limited relevance** to the question. * **Limited links** made between different elements of the question. * Demonstrates application of knowledge and understanding through the **limited application** of **some specialised concepts**. |  |
| **Band 1** (1-4 marks) | * Demonstration of **application** either to analyse or interpret or evaluate is **poor**, producing a response which **lacks coherence** and is **unsupported** by appropriate evidence . * **Links** between different elements of the question are **poor**. * Demonstrates application of knowledge and understanding through the **superficial application** of **basic specialised concepts**. |  |

**AO2 tips to upgrade your answer:**

**AO3: Arguments and conclusions (5)**

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| **Band 5** (5 marks) | * The response uses **wholly** **relevant qualitative skills** to produce **well-constructed, coherent,** sophisticated and **logical arguments** and **conclusions**. |  |
| **Band 4** (4 marks) | * The response uses **relevant qualitative skills** to produce **clear, coherent** and **appropriately structured arguments** and **conclusions**. |  |
| **Band 3** (3 marks) | * The response uses **mostly relevant qualitative skills** to produce a **structured response** but where **coherence is variable**. |  |
| **Band 2** (2 marks) | * The response uses **some qualitative skills** to produce a response with **superficial structure**, **with minimal coherence**. |  |
| **Band 1** (1 mark) | * The communication in the response is **incomplete.** |  |

**AO3 tips to upgrade your answer:**

**Total: /45**