

SYNOPTIC PAPER (Unit 6) – Section A (SKILLS)

What skills do you need?

- art of précis (i.e. summarising ideas)
- ability to establish links between resources;
- ability to make links with other parts of the specification (i.e. parts of the syllabus covered in the other units)
- ability to draw logical conclusions from a 'trail' of clues set out in the paper.

And importantly – the ability to interpret and draw inferences from maps, tables, text and diagrams.

Examiners comment from 2004 paper

“It is worth remarking that there was a marked tendency in some centres to answer the questions by means of a series of bullet points, often quoting from the rivers. These tended to score poorly because the:

- points were often lacking in detailed comment and explanation where required
- candidates found it more difficult to state links between points taken from different places within the resources (“a higher level indicator”)

Pointers for successful answers in Section A of the Synoptic Paper (from Teachers Guide)

- Use geographical skills such as maps, diagrams, photographs, text etc. and identify their geographical significance;
- Students should be clear in their answers – avoid ambiguity
- Present data appropriately to illustrate geographical patterns and distributions;
- Use sections of text effectively by selecting and identifying key points and classifying the information presented to support the specific question set;
- Recognise the scale of the location of the question and the scale of the resources provided;
- Recognise the geographical terms used in the question and use appropriate geographical terms in the answer
- Interpret a range of resources and comment on the geographical interrelationships presented by the resources (support your comments with specific evidence from the resources provided)
- Use geographical knowledge to support comments made in each answer
- Appreciate the structure of the question set. Resources will be presented in the order they are to be used – you will be expected to build up your knowledge and understanding as the question progresses – make sure that you use all the resources provided at some stage in your answer
- Remember – the marks awarded for each sub-section will indicate the time and depth of analysis required in each answer.