Revision practice

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Geography · HL

1 Population patterns and development

- population density
- spatial scale

Question 1

What can the density value tell you on its own?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Average population per unit area, not the internal settlement pattern.

Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A national population density hides both crowded cities and sparsely settled mountains. The scale of a map changes the pattern you can see.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

A region has 200,000 residents over 1,000 square kilometres: density = 200 per square kilometre. Map settlement within the region before interpreting that average as a uniform concentration.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Density is not population growth, and a country average does not show inequality within cities. / Explain push and pull factors as interacting conditions rather than universal rules about migrants.

2 Climate vulnerability and resource security

- vulnerability
- resilience

Question 1

Which factor most directly reduces vulnerability in the case?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

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Accessible warning and shelter systems for people at risk.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: Two communities face the same flood depth, but one has warning systems and accessible shelters. The hazard is similar while vulnerability differs.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Compare housing quality, drainage, warning access and household resources before explaining different losses. A flood barrier may reduce exposure locally but transfer water or risk elsewhere, so examine upstream and downstream effects.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

A hazard map alone cannot predict social losses. / Use observed impacts and capacity evidence; distinguish mitigation of climate change from adaptation to its effects.

3 Geographic inquiry and sampling

- fieldwork
- sampling

■ Question 1

Why repeat counts at comparable times?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

To reduce the risk that timing rather than location explains the observed differences.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: You expect pedestrian counts to decline away from a shopping centre. A useful fieldwork design can test the pattern without claiming every street behaves alike.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Count at five measured distances using the same five-minute interval at comparable times. Plot distance against count and examine exceptions. Note weather, junctions and events as competing explanations; keep original records and location evidence.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

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Fieldwork is a supervised inquiry and written report, not a fabricated dataset or desk-only exam. / Teacher approves access and safety; a correlation does not prove distance alone caused the pattern.

4 Networks, development and global risks

- global interaction
- dependency

■ Question 1

Which evidence best identifies a vulnerable supplier?

Available marks: 2.

Worked answer

Dependence on one buyer or route with few affordable alternatives.

■ Question 2

Explain the mechanism or reasoning in this original case: A supply chain connects a local factory to distant consumers. Disruption at one transport node can affect many places unevenly.

Available marks: 4.

Worked answer

Trace a product through suppliers, production, transport and sales. Identify where a port closure delays inputs and who has alternative routes. Compare resilience for a large firm with reserves and a small supplier dependent on one buyer.

- Accurate relevant concept (1)
- Specific evidence from the case (1)
- Connected reasoning (2)

Do not equate connectedness with equal power or equal benefit. / HL synthesis should connect several extension themes and spatial scales, with a reasoned judgement rather than a list.