

Name: _____

Class: _____

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL

ANSWER KEY

HUMANITIES

2260/02

Paper 2 Geography

?? August 2025

1 hour 45 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper

Additional materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, register number, and class on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.

Do **not** use highlighters, glue, correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **three** questions in total.

Section A

Answer Question 1 **and** Question 2.

Section B

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

The Insert contains additional resources referred to in the questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Section A

Answer Question 1 and Question 2.

1 Cluster 1: Geography in Everyday Life

(a) Describe how a sense of place can be developed.

[3]

- A sense of place can be developed when there is repeated encounter with objects and people as this can help us recall the character and features of places that we come across and create meaning and memories for them. [1]
- A sense of place can also be developed when there are significant or memorable events that occur at local landmarks and gathering places. [1] The landmarks also serve symbolic or historical purposes which might be easy for people to remember and associate with their experiences. [1]

Candidates are expected to describe some ways that people can develop a sense of place. Award 1m for any description. Accept all plausible answers.

(b) Explain how traffic and air pollution hazard can negatively affect people living in urban neighbourhoods.

- Traffic hazards can lead to health impacts such as serious injuries when involve in traffic accidents, which may also lead to the loss of life. [1]
- Air pollution hazards may result in negative health impacts as well, such as respiratory infections, heart diseases and lung cancer. [1] Additionally, smaller pollutions such as PM2.5 can also lead to lung function decline and higher risk of asthma in children. [1]

Candidates are expected to explain the impacts that traffic and air pollution hazards may bring. Capped at 2m if candidates only explain either traffic or air pollution hazard. Award 1m for any description. Accept all plausible answers.

(c) Study Fig. 1.1 (Insert), which shows the Community First Responder mobile application used in Singapore.



Fig. 1.1 (Insert)

With reference to Fig 1.1 and other materials you have studied, explain how community resilience can help build a sustainable neighbourhood. [3]

- The Community First Responder App (in Fig. 1.1) and volunteers are important in supporting the government in search and rescue operations, relief work as well as educating the public on simple first aid and basic firefighting. [1]
- When residents actively participate in these projects, it minimizes potential hazards in the neighbourhood as they can better understand the risks and adaption options since they live in the vicinity and communicate these to the authorities. [1]
- Further, residents are encouraged to get to know their neighbours so that they can depend on one another in the event of an emergency. [1]

Candidates are expected to explain how community resilience can help build a sustainable neighbourhood. Award 1m for any explanation. Accept all plausible answers.

- (d) A group of students are investigating if their neighbourhood is socially sustainable. The students collected data using a closed-ended questionnaire survey to collect the views of the residents.

The results of the questions “How long have you stayed in the neighbourhood?” and “What is the average number of neighbourhood events have you attended in a year?” are plotted in the scatter graph in Fig. 1.2.

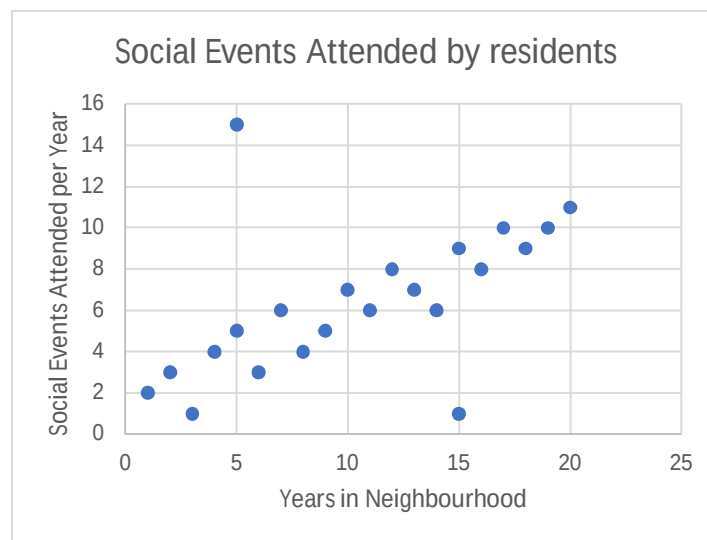


Fig. 1.2

The students concluded that the longer the residents stay in the neighbourhood, the more social events they will attend.

- (i) Evaluate the validity of the students' conclusion. [3]

- The students' conclusion is largely valid. [1]
- This is because most of the data supports this conclusion as there is a positive relationship between the years in neighbourhood and the social events attended per year. For example, those with less than 5 years in the neighbourhood typically attend 5 or less events per year, while those with more than 15 years living in the neighbourhood attends 8 or more events a year. [1]

- However, there are anomalies as well since one respondent who stayed in the neighbourhood for 5 years attended 15 social events, while one respondent who stayed 15 years in the neighbourhood only attends 1 social event every year. [1]

Candidates are expected to evaluate the data in the scatter graph. Award 1m for each description. Reserve 1m for students to provide a concluding statement about the validity. Capped at 2m if students do not cite the data from Fig.1.2. Accept all plausible answers.

- (ii) The students had decided that the best way to represent the average number of events attended by residents is using mode.

Suggest reasons why students decided against using mean or median to represent the average number of events attended by residents. [2]

- Using the mean would mean that it is subjected to the influence of outliers, which can skew the data. [1] In this case, it can be that there are some residents who are very active and attend tons of social events while most only take part modestly, thus the mean will not be able to show this.
- Further, use the median will only consider the middle value – and this will result in having inaccurate results. [1] This can happen because it may not be reflective of the frequency of figure above and below the position of the median.

Candidates are expected to describe some limitations of using mean and median. Candidates would do well to link it to the context of the question. Accept all plausible answers.

[Total: 14]

2 Cluster 2: Tourism

- (a) Fig. 2.1 shows a travel journalist's take on Dubai, UAE as a tourist destination.

"When I tell people that I'm going on my tenth trip to Dubai, they look at me in confusion. It is a city that has become famed for its beach clubs, impressive skyline and every kind of luxury experience you can find. But there's so much more to Dubai than what you see on Instagram! Dubai also has stunning natural beauty like the mountainous Hatta and deserts that surround the city. I have also never felt safer here!"

Fig. 2.1

Using Fig. 2.1, suggest why the travel journalist is likely a dependable-type tourist. [2]

Award 1m for each plausible reason.

Answers cannot just quote from the source – it must connect to an aspect of the dependable personality type in order to be considered as an explanation

- This is her tenth trip to Dubai – dependables enjoy predictability so she is likely to return to the same tourist destination [1]

- Dubai is Instagram famous – dependables enjoy visiting popular tourist destinations and tend to follow travel trends on social media [1]
- Dubai has well developed tourism facilities – dependables like to feel comfortable when travelling and it is mentioned that it has “beach clubs”, “luxury experiences”, *all which need well developed facilities to support such activities* [1]
- Dubai is very safe – dependables enjoy predictability and prioritise safety [1]

(b) Study Figs. 2.2 and 2.3 (Insert), which show a beach resort and a protest on tourism development respectively, happening in Mallorca, Spain.



Fig. 2.2 (Insert)



Fig. 2.3 (Insert)

With reference to Figs. 2.2 and 2.3, identify the stage of tourism development Mallorca is in and explain the effects this may have on the city. [4]

Mallorca is in the **stagnation** stage. [1]

Award 1m for each impact explained.

- Overtourism / tourism that has exceeded its carrying capacity may lead to a rise in crimes or unrest against tourists as locals are unhappy with the state of tourism development, making tourists feel unsafe [1]
- Facilities may become worn down and overused, making the place less attractive from tourism. Tourists may start to avoid travelling there and the destination will lose revenue [1]
- Environmental pollution may be observed as too many tourists may leave more litter behind, leading to water and land pollution and damage natural habitats. [1]
- Mallorca may no longer become attractive as a tourist destination and tourist numbers will start to decline [1]

Accept other plausible answers.

(c) Explain the role businesses play to ensure that tourism is developed sustainably. [3]

Award 1m per point. Additional 1m can be awarded for further elaboration.

- Businesses have the financial resources to influence sustainable tourism development [1]
- Businesses can participate in tourism decision making and work with authorities to make their business practice more sustainable. [1] For example they can work with authorities to promote ecotourism like Quicksilver Cruises that specialise in ecotours of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia [1]
- Businesses can incorporate sustainable practices in their business models, like hotels who reduce their provision of disposable items [1], or choose to hire more locals to minimise economic leakages and empower the local economy [1]
- If tourism is sustainable, businesses in the area can be kept profitable as there will continue to be tourists who visit the area in the long term. [1]

Accept any plausible answers on the actions businesses can take to carry out their tourism business in a sustainable manner.

(d) Study Fig. 2.4 (Insert), which shows some features of community-based tourism.

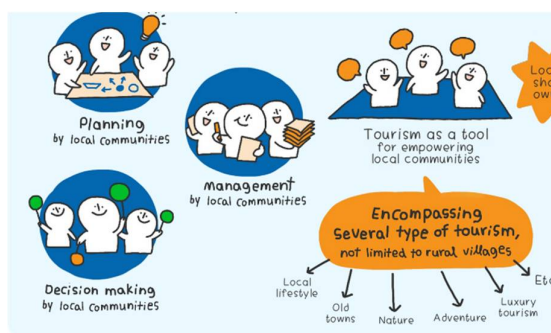


Fig. 2.4 (Insert)

“Community-based tourism is an effective approach all countries can use to develop tourism sustainably.” [9]

How far do you agree with the above statement? With reference to Fig. 2.4, evaluate with the use of relevant examples.

Level 1 (1 – 3 marks)	• Brief description of the reasons that may not necessarily be accurate • One-sided response (only effective/not effective) • No evaluation / limitations given • No location-specific examples provided
Level 2 (4 – 6 marks)	• Clearly state/identify at least two reasons with balance (effective & not effective) • Describes factors but description may lack details / describes one factor in detail but description for the other method may be vague or lacking in details • Attempted at evaluating effectiveness of CBT • General examples provided • Evidence of incoherent answer or misconception
Level 3 (7 – 9 marks)	• Clearly identify at least three reasons • Balanced response • Evaluate all reasons and form a logical conclusion • Specific examples provided • Well-organised and coherent answer • Incl overall conclusion, with an insightful analysis. Demonstrate clear link between points discussed and key question.

Suggested answer, sample essay

Introduction:

Community based tourism (CBT) is a small-scale tourism approach where tourism is planned and managed by local communities. As locals are involved in the decision making of tourism processes, this ensures that they can reap the benefits to them and ensure sustainability. However, I do not agree that it is an effective approach in all countries.

Approaches that can be taken to answer this question:

- Benefits – different areas of sustainability CBT can take – social and economic sustainability / Disadvantages/Challenges – negative social impacts, economic difficulties
- Features of CBT, then evaluate benefit and challenges for each – Decision making by locals (gives them a stake in tourism/competing needs), Homestays and agriculture tourism (economic benefits/lack of knowledge in tourism business)

CBT can promote **social sustainability (benefit)**.

Locals act as tour guides and open their homes for homestays for the tourists. This in turn generates revenue for the local economy and a part of it can be directed to fund community projects and infrastructure like schools and clinics. This improves the quality of life for the locals. Traditional practices and culture like certain art forms, dances and cuisines can also be preserved as locals can pass down such practices to interested tourists. One example is how the pottery villages in Central Vietnam has benefitted through CBT. The influx of tourists brought more revenue, increased their standard of living and renewed interest in the traditional way they make pottery. It is hence an effective approach to promote socially sustainable tourism.

However, in some places, CBT can also lead to a **loss of culture (negative impact/challenge)**.

Without sufficient measures put in place to show their local culture authentically to the tourists, it may result in cultural commodification and the loss of authenticity instead. As tourists may prefer more comfortable living conditions, locals may feel the pressure to put in modern amenities to suit the needs of the tourists, or they may mass produce items such as souvenirs in order to earn money. For examples, CBT projects in Kyrgyzstan has lost authenticity as traditional yurts have been modified with modern furniture like beds and with electricity to meet the standard of tourists. Hence, **CBT may not always be effective in promoting social sustainability**.

Or...

CBT includes **locals providing homestays and the rise in agriculture/rural tourism**.

Tourists may be interested to visit places away from the large cities, and choose to visit small towns / farms / villages and stay with local families in order to experience authentic local life. As local communities have greater knowledge of their hometowns, they are best equipped to be the tourists hosts and guides. Hence their decisions can help ensure tourism needs are met in a sustainable way. Tourists may join in on nature walks hosted by locals, stay with a local family, take part in local activities like farming etc. Hence this provides employment for the locals and revenue, helping them to increase their standard of living and ensures sustainable tourism development.

However, CBT may not be effective in promoting sustainable tourism development as the **locals may face competition from large-scale tourism developments**. Local communities that can only carry out small-scale tourism often lack the necessary skills and finances to further develop the local tourism industry. Without additional support from the government or NGOs, they may have a lack of funds to start new tourism businesses, do marketing to attract more tourists, or maintain their facilities. In addition, they will also face competition with other tourism developments, especially large scale ones whose people may have more knowledge and funding to expand their tourism businesses. For example, the CBT projects in the Sacred

Valley, Peru, that are managed by the indigenous groups face competition to expand as tourists to Peru prefer to visit and stay at more popular destinations like the city of Cusco or Machu Picchu. They also struggle from a lack of advertisement. Hence, CBT projects may not be sustainable in the long run as the benefits tourism brings to the local community are uneven and uncertain.

Conclusion – Evaluation approaches (not exhaustive obviously)

Agree: All countries can have effective CBT projects that promote tourism sustainably if some of the challenges are anticipated and addressed. For instance, lack of promotion and funding – if the government or NGOs are willing to provide funding or training/guidance to the locals

Agree: All countries can have effective CBT projects for tourism sustainability as inviting tourism to the local areas will almost always bring about some economic benefit to the locals, than having no tourism at all. But...

Managed approach: Local communities need to balance the desire to earn more (economic benefit) with social and environmental sustainability, to ensure that the local communities' needs are met and the environment is not damaged so that tourism can continue to develop sustainably with CBT

Disagree: It depends on the **place** and the measures put in place to mitigate the negative economic and social impacts of tourism. Not all countries would benefit equally from CBT as an approach; for instance cosmopolitan, developed cities may be able to develop their tourism sector more sustainably through promoting MICE tourism instead.

Disagree: CBT is limited by the fact that it is effective only if carried out in the small scale. Hence there is a limit to how much local communities can develop their tourism sector before the negative effects of tourism, like the loss of authenticity, and overcrowding, will kick in.

[Total: 18]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 3 or Question 4.

3 Cluster 3: Climate

(a) Study Fig. 3.1, which shows a mountainous region.

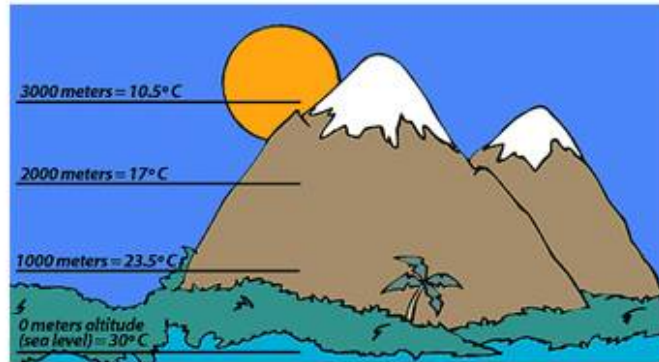


Fig. 3.1

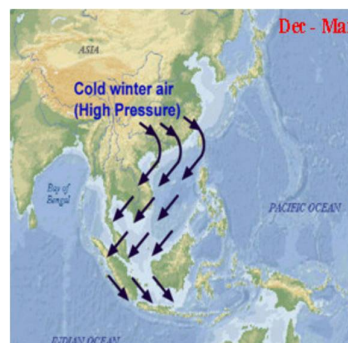
With reference to Fig. 3.1, explain the relationship between altitude and temperature. [2]

- At higher altitudes, air is less dense and air pressure is lower as gravity pulls most of the air molecules towards the ground surface. With fewer air molecules, air has a lower ability to absorb and radiate heat, leading to lower temperatures. [1]
- In contrast, at lower altitudes, the higher air density and pressure leads to a higher ability to radiate heat, thereby resulting in a zone of warmer temperatures. [1]

Candidates are expected to explain the relation between altitude and temperature. Award 1m for each explanation. Accept all plausible answers.

(b) Fig. 3.2 is a regional map of Asia and Australia. [4]

Annotate on Fig. 3.2 to explain the formation of monsoon that affects Singapore from November to January.



- From November to January, the Northern Hemisphere experiences winter and cooler temperature while the Southern Hemisphere experiences summer and warmer temperature. [1]

- In Northern Hemisphere, the air cools and sinks, forming an area of higher pressure over Central Asia while in the Southern Hemisphere, air warms up and rises, forming an area of lower pressure over Australia. [1] From November to January, the Northern Hemisphere experiences winter and cooler temperature while the Southern Hemisphere experiences summer and warmer temperature. [1]
- Air thus moves from Central Asia towards Australia as air moves from a zone of high to low pressure. [1]
- Due to the Coriolis Effect, air in the Northern Hemisphere gets deflected to the right causing Singapore to experience the North-East Monsoon, bringing about rain as the monsoon wind picks up moisture as it moves over the South China Sea. [1]

Candidates are expected to use an annotated diagram to explain the North-East Monsoon. Award 1m for each explanation. Capped at 2m if students can explain the processes that leads to a monsoon, but in the wrong context. Capped at 3m if students did not provide an annotated diagram. Accept all plausible answers.

- (c) Study Fig. 3.3 (Insert), which shows the changes in temperature and sunspot numbers over the years.

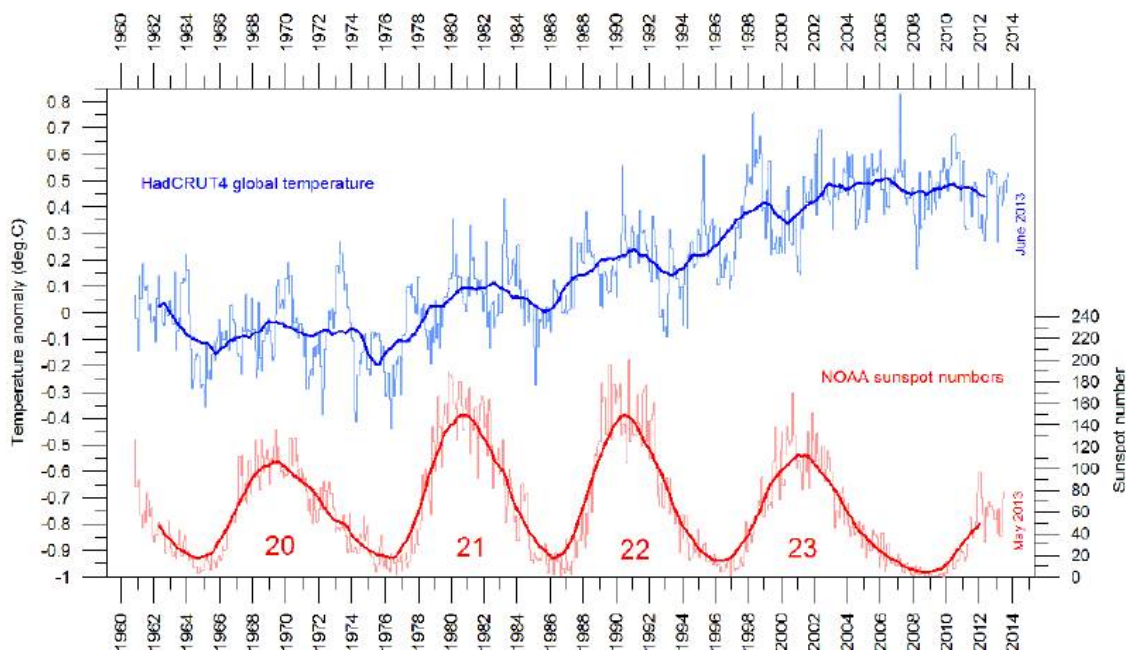


Fig. 3.3 (Insert)

Using Fig 3.3, explain why the occurrence of sunspots does not have a huge role in the climate change that we experience since year 2000. [3]

- Before year 2000, the pattern of global temperature largely mirrors that of sunspots occurrence. [1] This can be seen where between 1986-1991, the global temperature increases number of sunspots increase. Furthermore, when the number of sunspots subsequently decrease, the global temperature also has a decreasing trend. [1]
- However, since year 2000, the number of sunspots has decreased while the global temperature remains 0.4°C above the average long term temperature, thus, showing that sunspots play less of an important role in the climate change we experience since year 2000.

Candidates are expected to explain the relationship between number of sunspots and

temperature. Reserve one mark for using the relationship to explain why sunspot is not as the reason for climate change today. May award a maximum of 1m if data from the figure is well presented. Accept all plausible answers.

(d) Explain how climate change can indirectly impact humans.

[3]

Provisioning Ecosystem Services

- Climate change causes physical changes to the environment, which affects provisioning ecosystem services. This will mean they may be impacts on fish production and crop yield. [1]
- Climate change causes ocean temperatures to increase and increase in acidity, threatening aquatic life and affecting the distribution of aquatic species as they migrate towards cooler waters. [1] Hence, people who are dependent on fishing for livelihood will have a reduced income and this may also lead to food insecurity for people who rely on fish as a part of their diet globally. [1]
- Climate change can also cause more severe or frequent extreme weather events making it difficult for crop yields to survive thus reducing food production. [1] When food production falls, food prices may also increase. This will affect the poor since a larger proportion of their income is spent on food and this will lead to a higher possibility of malnutrition and starvation. [1]

Candidates are expected to explain how climate change can affect humans indirectly. 1m for each explanation. Also accept if students discuss and explain how climate change affects regulating and cultural ecosystem services. Accept all plausible answers.

(e) Study Fig. 3.4, which shows a factsheet on Fiji, a country in the Pacific.

Fiji Factsheet

Population Undernourished	3.9%
National Poverty Rate	24.2%
Types of Hazards that Fiji is exposed to	Fiji has a high exposure to flooding including, specifically coastal, and very high exposure to tropical storms and their associated hazards. Drought exposure is also significant. Disaster risk in Fiji is increased due to its high levels of social vulnerability and low degree of coping capacity.
Effect of Sea-Level rise on Fiji	Sea-level rise represents a major threat to communities and livelihoods in Fiji. Many of Fiji's islands are low-lying and threatened with inundation and the nation's extensive coastline is vulnerable to erosion and saltwater intrusion. Human development processes have exacerbated vulnerability to sea-level rise. The clearing of mangroves has removed a natural barrier to erosion.

Fig. 3.4

Using Fig. 3.4, describe the climate risks affecting people in Fiji.

[3]

- People in Fiji may be vulnerable to climate hazards as they are in poverty (with a national poverty rate of 24.2%) as this may mean that they are unable to cope with price increases and are therefore vulnerable to food shortages. [1] In addition, they may also not be able to afford health resources when they are infected with diseases caused by climate change.
- Fiji is also affected by longer term events that will allow them to have more time to prepare for the hazards. For instance, droughts and sea level rise that is going to

affect Fiji incrementally rise over decades, but they may not last for a long period of time. [1] However, the hazards may go unnoticed, and locals may not implement any measures leading to widespread negative impacts. [1]

- As Fiji is a coastal country, it also “has a high exposure to flooding” and “very high exposure to tropical storms”, which increases the likelihood of being affected by climate change with the increase in extreme weather events due to the exposure by virtue of their proximity to the coast. [1]

Candidates are expected to explain how climate change can affect humans indirectly. 1m for each explanation. Also accept if students discuss and explain how climate change affects regulating and cultural ecosystem services. Accept all plausible answers.

(f) Study Fig. 3.5 (Insert), which shows an infographic on climate sustainability in Singapore.

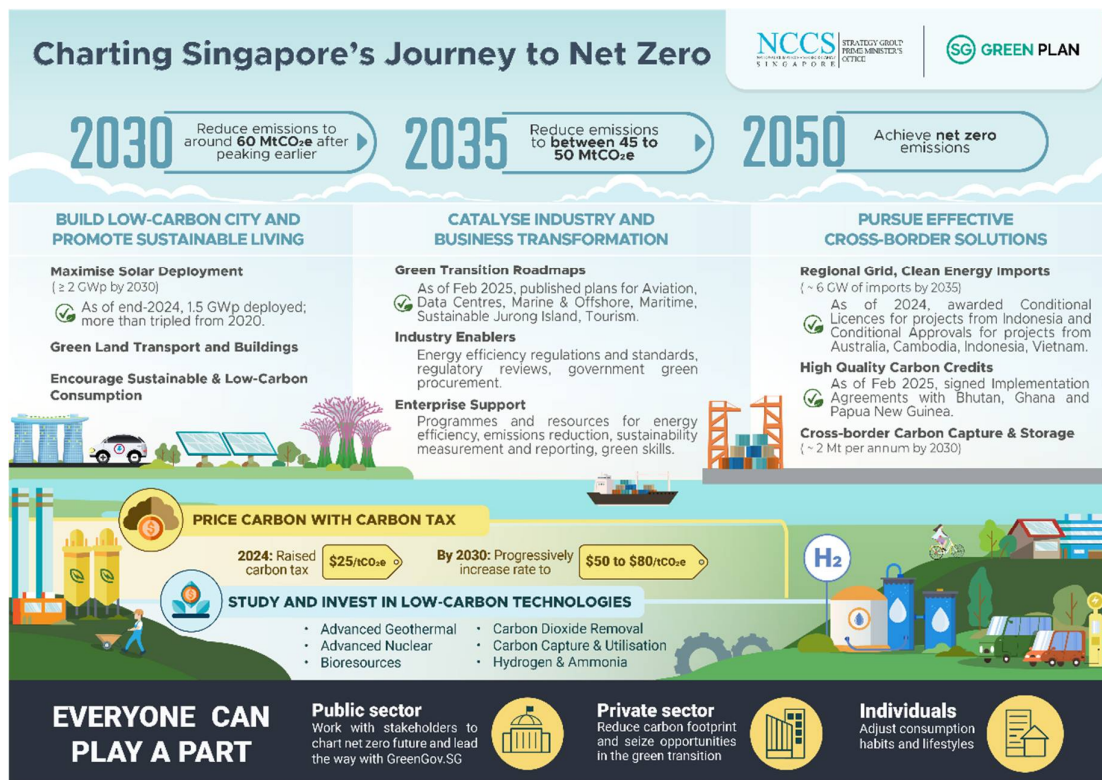


Fig. 3.5 (Insert)

With reference to Fig. 3.5, evaluate effectiveness of Singapore's mitigation strategies in combating climate change. [3]

- Singapore is effective in trying to mitigate climate change via the use of low carbon technologies and clean energy source as it targets to achieve net zero emissions by the 2050.
- In Fig. 3.5, Singapore is studying advanced geothermal, advanced nuclear bioresources which are renewable resources that does not emit greenhouse gases, thus providing a sustainable alternative to conventional fuel. [1] In addition, Singapore also invests in carbon dioxide removal and carbon capture and utilisation technologies which allows for these greenhouse gases to be turned into raw materials for useful repurposing that can be sold for profits, such as the creation of cement from stored carbon dioxide.

- However, Singapore is not actively pushing for a change in consumption patterns as there are no specific strategy mentioned in any part this plan by the government (except that it is the responsibilities of individuals). While it takes a long time to change the mindset of Singaporeans, not starting early can signal the reluctance to shift away from lifestyles that contributes heavily to our carbon footprint, such as food choices and food waste. [1]

Candidates are expected to share how Singapore's plan to mitigate climate change can be effective, or what are some of the limitations. For full credit to be awarded, candidates have to explain how the plan is effective, and how it is not. Also accept if students discuss and explain how different stake holders are involved. Accept all plausible answers.

[Total: 18]

Additional page

If you use the following page to complete the answer(s) to any question(s), the question number(s) must be clearly shown.

References

Question 1	Fig. 1.1	https://ars.els-cdn.com/content/image/1-s2.0-S2666520423001297-gr1_lrg.jpg
Question 2	Fig. 2.1	https://metro.co.uk/2025/06/18/keep-going-back-worlds-most-overrated-city-2-23425684/
	Fig. 2.2	https://isla-travel.de/en/mallorca-magazine/overtourism-on-mallorca-these-places-are-experiencing-the-biggest-flood-of-tourists/
	Fig. 2.3	https://www.dw.com/en/mallorca-spanish-island-braces-for-busy-tourist-season/a-72164258
	Fig. 2.4	https://www.undp.org/thailand/blog/community-based-tourism-empowering-local-champions-sustainable-tourism-thailand
Question 3	Fig. 3.1	https://thebritishgeographer.weebly.com/apps/search?q=altitude+lapse+rate
	Fig. 3.2	Image generated from ChatGPT
	Fig. 3.4	https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/country-profiles/15854-WB_Fiji%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf
	Fig. 3.5	https://www.nccs.gov.sg/singapores-climate-action/mitigation-efforts/overview/

	Qns	AO1	AO2	AO3
GEL (14 marks)	1a	3		
	b	3		
	c		3	
	di			3
	dii	2		
	Total	8	3	3
Tourism (18 marks)	2a		2	
	b		4	
	c	3		
	d			9
	Total	3	6	9
Clim ate (18 mark)	3a	2		
	B		4	
	C		3	

	D	3		
	E		3	
	F			3
	Total	5	10	3
		16	19	15

END OF PAPER

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