

# Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component – folio (Geographical Issue).

## Candidate 1

The candidate was awarded **33/40 marks** overall.

### Should Edinburgh implement a LEZ?

#### A: Justify the choice of a current complex geographical to critically evaluate

The candidate was awarded **4/4 marks**.

- ◆ A Clear **purpose** is evidenced by the title and last sentence in the introduction; ‘This essay will investigate whether an LEZ should be introduced to the Capital’.
- ◆ The **relevance** of the issue in the wider context of the subject is clear. ‘Protecting public health and supporting Scotland’s wider climate change ambitions by encouraging more sustainable transport options ...’.
- ◆ There **is explicit reference to wider reading**, for example the Scotsman article, the low emission report, and the use of Figure 1 to enhance the justification.
- ◆ More context from wider reading is provided in the final paragraph of the introduction, discussing the controversial nature of an LEZ ‘some participating in the Council’s consultation claimed the proposed LEZ boundary is too large ...’.

#### B: Undertake wider background reading from a wide range of sources relating to the geographical issue

The candidate was awarded **6/8 marks**.

There is reasonable evidence provided by the candidate. The sources lack intellectual substance and explicit detail which places the candidate in the 4-6 marks range.

- ◆ The candidate uses reasonable sources that provide a review of the issue with a wide variety of viewpoints. Evidence of background reading is clear.
- ◆ Sources are current and lend themselves to the topic. The bibliography is detailed, with a reasonable range of wider reading.
- ◆ Viewpoints are contrasting: one for and one against, and the second article looks at examples in Europe.
- ◆ Articles are relevant but Source 1 lacks academic substance. The candidate states that article 3 has no author, but this is incorrect.

### **C: Summarise a wide range of viewpoints on the complex geographical issue**

The candidate was awarded **7/10 marks**.

A reasonable range of viewpoints and a reasonable degree of understanding to outline the issue is presented by the candidate. Information is organised effectively and includes some citations. The summaries are succinct and opportunities to include diagrams were available. The lack of academic sources has limited the candidate's ability to be more insightful in summarising the viewpoints placing the candidate in the 5-7 marks range.

◆ Source 1: The Edinburgh Reporter

A reasonable degree of understanding is evident; 'significantly reduce harmful pollutants in this densely populated part of Edinburgh', 'essential for a more sustainable environment' and 'initial consultation in 2019 said clean air matters to them'.

◆ Source 2: Transport Environment

The candidate shows a reasonable degree of understanding in this source, though it is considerably shorter than the others. The candidate states 'existing LEZs significantly reduce air pollution, with the most substantial reduction being a decrease in the NO<sub>2</sub> concentration ...', '70,000 available studies providing health and social justice arguments ...'.

◆ Source 3: Cockburn Association

The candidate again shows a reasonable understanding of the source; 'current proposals don't offer a solution to this issue and may result in higher levels of pollution.', 'The proposed boundary creates an inner city ring ...'.

### **D: Critically evaluate each of the viewpoints**

The candidate was awarded **9/10 marks**.

The candidate has included explicit and highly evaluative comments with references to the credibility of authors, the statistics contained within the sources, identification of bias and contrasting of sources. Evidence from wider reading is used to support evaluative comments and there was potential for more placing the candidate in the 9-10 marks range.

Evaluation 1:

- ◆ Credibility of author; 'Her first-hand experience of living in Edinburgh means her viewpoint is worth exploring'.
- ◆ Evaluative comments; 'a lack of references or accompanying graphics from the article undermines their reliability ...'.
- ◆ Idea of bias in the first paragraph 'it may introduce bias though being dismissive towards the negatives to please readers ...'.

- ◆ The candidate includes supporting wider reading in the second paragraph with quotes from the Transport Secretary, and at the end of the second paragraph with a quote from the Planning Edinburgh website.

#### Evaluation 2

- ◆ The candidate describes the source as a non-profit organisation and politically independent.
- ◆ The candidate states there is no author, but there is.
- ◆ The candidate discusses a wide use of statistics with a quote to 'cement points throughout.'
- ◆ The last sentence demonstrates that the candidate is trying to compare and contrast sources 'This viewpoint agrees with source one as both highlight the benefits associated with the introduction of LEZs'.
- ◆ The candidate uses supporting wider reading from the Urban Access regulations in Europe website to agree with the source.
- ◆ Figure 2 is also used to support the arguments put forward by the source, with further evidence of wider reading being used to support the source, coming from the London Assembly website 'there are now 13,500 fewer polluting cars being driven into central London ...since the Mayor introduced the ultra-low Emission Zone six months ago'.

#### Evaluation 3

- ◆ The candidate discusses the credibility and prioritisation of the source 'The association has extensive knowledge of Edinburgh, its residents, and environmental issues, which is why this source is chosen'.
- ◆ There is a further attempt to contrast viewpoints 'This source differs from Sources 1 and 2 as it highlights the problems of introducing the LEZ and provides solutions to make the LEZ more beneficial'.
- ◆ The candidate uses wider reading to support the source 'Richard Price from New Town and Broughton Community Council...' with further wider reading from Friends of the Earth.
- ◆ Large elements of the third evaluation discuss the language used by the source. The candidate could have instead made more evaluative comments about the content.

### **E: Reach reasoned conclusion(s) supported by a wide range of evidence**

The candidate was awarded **7/8 marks**.

The candidate has summarised all the key elements of the issue, supported by a wide range of evidence with clear concluding points placing them in the 7-8 marks range.

- ◆ The candidate gives a detailed conclusion supported by a wide range of information and demonstrates insight into the topics.

- ◆ Paragraph 2 briefly integrates all three viewpoints; 'The Edinburgh Reporter highlights how important ...The Transport & Environment organisation agrees with this and helps prove this by using positive data ...However, the Cockburn Association claims the LEZ...'
- ◆ The candidate gives a concluding point in the final two sentences of the first concluding paragraph 'Overall, I feel The Cockburn Association source is the most convincing. They acknowledge the zone plan is not as effective as it could be, and not only put forward their reasoning for this, but also provide alternative solutions'.
- ◆ The final three paragraphs are much better and demonstrate the candidate's insightfulness and wider reading to come to their conclusions, rather than just using the sources. The candidate uses supporting evidence from the National newspaper and from the IASS.
- ◆ The candidate follows up with 'if successful, several cities may follow Edinburgh's lead, creating a highly effective way of reducing pollution'.
- ◆ In the final paragraph, the candidate expresses the idea that the council should 'take a further look at the boundaries and either adapt the LEZ accordingly ...'.
- ◆ Overall, the candidate has demonstrated a good understanding of LEZ and the final comment refers back to the aim of the issue 'Edinburgh should implement a revised Low Emission Zone'.

## Candidate 2

The candidate was awarded **30/40 marks** overall.

### Is deep sea mining the solution to the climate crisis?

#### A: Justify the choice of a current complex geographical to critically evaluate

The candidate was awarded **4/4 marks**.

- ◆ A clear purpose is expressed in the title of the issue 'Is Deep Sea Mining the Solution to the Climate Crisis?'.
- ◆ The candidate shows explicit reference to wider reading, for example, reference to Callum Roberts and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- ◆ A relevant comment is made in the last paragraph of the introduction about this being a controversial topic and impacts are not known.

#### B: Undertake wider background reading from a wide range of sources relating to the geographical issue

The candidate was awarded **7/8 marks**.

Though missing a bibliography, the candidate has provided a wide range of relevant, up-to-date sources with intellectual substance placing them in the 7-8 marks range.

- ◆ Relevant sources that provided a detailed review of the issue with a wide range on viewpoints and explicit evidence of background reading were noted.
- ◆ No set bibliography has been included however articles are shown in the footnotes. In total, nine articles are referenced.
- ◆ Articles cited are relevant and current.
- ◆ Two contrasting viewpoints are discussed, with one that is mixed.
- ◆ Wider reading has been integrated for example, 'A review written for Frontiers ...' and the candidate references the International Labour organisation 'Tuvalu, Kiribati and ... made up over 10% of their GDP'.

#### C: Summarise a wide range of viewpoints on the complex geographical issue

The candidate was awarded **7/10 marks**.

A reasonable range of viewpoints are used to outline the issue. A reasonable degree of understanding of the issue is demonstrated, and the information is effectively organised. Though the candidate has included evidence of more substantial and academic reading, they have used the sources identified below instead, placing them in the 5-7 marks range.

- ◆ Source 1: The Guardian

The candidate expresses a reasonable understanding of the source 'Mining deep-sea nodules would be catastrophic for our already ...', 'smaller and weaker creatures would be smothered by the plumes'.

Wider reading is used to enhance; 'A review written for Frontiers says that...'.  
Outside agencies are used for citations in the second paragraph, for example 'Andrew Sweetman, a professor at Heriot-Watt University, says ...'.

◆ Source 2: Mongabay

Again, there is a reasonable degree of understanding in this source. Despite a misleading opening sentence, the candidate states 'Although mining would bring in a new source of wealth and development it could destroy the fishing industry'.

The candidate also uses supporting wider reading from the International Labour organisation; 'As of 2009 the tuna sector provided \$446 million to the GDP of the Pacific Islands'.

◆ Source 3: Foreign Policy

There is a reasonable understanding of the source presented here; 'though metals can be obtained from other sources that deep sea mining is the only viable option.', 'And a lot of the new nickel will probably come from tropical rainforests, which have much more biodiversity than the seabed'.

To supporting wider reading from a Guardian article, there is a table/diagram used to enhance the summary however, it does not link very well with the source.

Overall, citations from the main article and background reading are used to support the viewpoints.

## **D: Critically evaluate each of the viewpoints**

The candidate was awarded **5/10 marks**.

The candidate makes some reasonable evaluative comments. They follow a very formulaic order placing the candidate in the 5-7 marks range.

### Evaluation 1

- ◆ The candidate discusses the up-to-date nature of the article in the last paragraph.
- ◆ The candidate links the credibility of the author to the 'wide variety of different viewpoints showing the consequences of deep-sea mining'.

### Evaluation 2

- ◆ The candidate makes simplistic observations about the second source 'The article shows both the positive and negative impacts ...'.

- ◆ The candidate suggests that 'This gives the article contrasting opinions meaning ...'
- ◆ The candidate tries to identify bias by stating 'This focus on environmental issues may bias them against deep sea mining ...'

### Evaluation 3

- ◆ The candidate contrasts this source to the previous two, acknowledging opposing views.
- ◆ This is quite a simplistic comparison, and much of the third evaluation is repetitive.
- ◆ Overall, the evaluations are quite formulaic. The candidate follows an author/source/up to date/bias/use of background reading strategy without really developing those evaluations.

## **E: Reach reasoned conclusion(s) supported by a wide range of evidence**

The candidate was awarded **7/8 marks**.

The candidate clearly offers a conclusion and demonstrates this with evidence from all three sources. They could have expanded on their own insightful knowledge of the topic more. This evidence places them in the 7-8 marks range.

- ◆ There is a detailed conclusion supported by a wide range of information and evidence.
- ◆ Key elements of the issue were summarised, supported by evidence with all sources discussed.
- ◆ In the conclusion, the candidate briefly summarises source 1 'Source One highlights that deep sea mining could cause catastrophic damage ...'.
- ◆ The candidate discusses 'Sources One and Two agree that deep-sea mining will have negative effects on the environment'.
- ◆ The candidate uses extensive detail from source 2 to explain the consequences of deep sea mining.
- ◆ The candidate attempts to contrast the third source with the others 'In contrast Source Three argues for the continued funding of deep-sea mining.'.
- ◆ While the above is more evaluative at times, the candidate begins to express insightful comments in the conclusion. 'If deep sea mining is to be used as a way to combat climate change extensive research is needed'.
- ◆ The candidate exemplifies this with background reading with an article from Kathryn Miller of Greenpeace Research Laboratories 'Many areas of deep-sea ecology have not been studied such as recovery of damaged areas, effects of noise pollution ...'.
- ◆ The candidate offers a final and overall concluding statement that links back to the purpose of the Issue 'Overall deep-sea mining should be implemented as it could greatly help reach the UN goal of net zero, but only after extensive further research on the areas stated and under strict conditions'.

## Candidate 3

The candidate was awarded **20/40 marks** overall.

### The effect of fast fashion on the environment.

#### **A: Justify the choice of a current complex geographical to critically evaluate**

The candidate was awarded **3/4 marks**.

- ◆ Relevance of the issue in the wider context of the subject is clear in the opening paragraph of the introduction. The candidate describes the 'destructive effects on the environment ...chemical dyes that are extremely harmful and end up polluting rivers and oceans'.
- ◆ There is explicit reference to relevant geographical literature '20 to 30% of the clothes in their wardrobe.' and 'Synthetic fibres are used in 72% of our clothing' with sources listed in the footnotes.
- ◆ The purpose of this essay is not made clear or explicit.

#### **B: Undertake wider background reading from a wide range of sources relating to the geographical issue**

The candidate was awarded **4/8 marks**.

Though a very relevant issue, a poorly organised bibliography with sources of a similar nature has placed this candidate in the 4-6 marks range.

- ◆ The candidate uses relevant sources that provide a reasonable review of the issue with a range of viewpoints. This includes evidence of background reading.
- ◆ The bibliography is poorly organised meaning we cannot determine if the sources are current and up to date.
- ◆ There are some links, but we cannot determine if the candidate has used the others without links.
- ◆ The sources have sufficient substance to allow the candidate to fulfil the requirements of the issue.
- ◆ There is evidence of background reading and research, and this is used to support evaluations.

#### **C: Summarise a wide range of viewpoints on the complex geographical issue**

The candidate was awarded **6/10 marks**.

The candidate has summarised a reasonable range of viewpoints and demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the Issue. It is organised effectively and includes some citations and opportunities to include diagrams, where available. Source 1 discusses microplastics and Source 2 discusses garbage



statistics, so graphical evidence could have enhanced this section. This places the candidate in the 5-7 marks range.

◆ Source 1: The Guardian

A reasonable degree of understanding is evident. The candidate captures the main parts of the article, for example 'harmful effect on the planet', 'fashion industry produces 10% of the global carbon dioxide emissions', 'the pollution of rivers from the microplastics', 'clothing items travel around the world ...greenhouse gases' and 'health and safety of workers'.

◆ Source 2: Huffpost

The candidate displays a reasonable degree of understanding. Evidence includes 'average American discards seventy pounds of clothing a year', 'more than half of the clothes are discarded ...This contributes to the carbon dioxide emissions ...', 'contributes 20% of the world's wastewater.', 'become better at recycling and reusing fast fashion' and 'invest more in second hand clothing'.

◆ Source 3: Retail Gazette

The candidate displays a reasonable degree of understanding. Further evidence here includes '100% recycled or sustainably sourced materials ...', 'use the size of their business to introduce the change to renewable ...', 'company and so are using the "climate positive strategy"', 'switching to 100% renewable electricity' and 'climate-neutral supply chain by 2030'.

## **D: Critically evaluate each of the viewpoints**

The candidate was awarded **4/10 marks**.

Evaluations of sources 1 and 2 are quite similar. Evaluation 3 names back up sources rather than indicating content. The candidate could have discussed bias and/or exaggeration. They could have compared or contrasted the viewpoints. Though the statistics are mentioned, their content could have been analysed. Comments are therefore limited and places the candidate in the 1-4 marks range.

### Evaluation 1

- ◆ The candidate discusses the credibility of the article because it includes information from other agencies 'Panel on Climate Change', 'Environmental Audit Committee', and 'water pollution from textiles can also be seen in an article posted on Sanvt's website'.
- ◆ The candidate discusses reliable statistics from organisations, but there is a lack of development here.
- ◆ The candidate discusses the reliability of the author 'so her writing is likely to be reliable'.

### Evaluation 2

- ◆ The candidate says it is a credible website because it gives information on many different topics.

- ◆ The candidate discusses the author's credibility because they appeared in the New York Times etc.
- ◆ The candidate claims that the author uses statistics from Council for Textile Recycling, but there is no evaluative development of this.
- ◆ Similar points in this article are also in Ethical Consumer.

### Evaluation 3

- ◆ The candidate states that the author makes reference to the 'Ellen Macarthur Foundation', Anna Gedda of H&M, Lara Robertson from 'Good on You' and Jahshans.
- ◆ There is an attempt to suggest these links make the source reliable, but this could be more explicit.

### **E: Reach reasoned conclusion(s) supported by a wide range of evidence**

The candidate was awarded **3/8 marks**.

Though there are concluding statements, the lack of evidence to bind ideas together, and a lack of insight into the issue places the candidate in the 1-3 marks range.

- ◆ This is a limited conclusion, but an attempt has been made to pull ideas together.
- ◆ The candidate has tried to give a brief overview of the issue. The candidate only briefly summarises sources 1, 2 and 3.
- ◆ There is a clear conclusion in the final sentence 'If fast fashion continues to be the most popular way to shop for clothing it is important that these companies make their products as sustainable as possible to reduce the negative effect it is having on the environment'.