Commentary on candidate 3 evidence

The evidence for this candidate has achieved the following marks for each section of this course assessment component.

Section A: Geographical Study

A — Justify the choice of a complex geographical topic to research (4 marks)

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**. The relevance of the topic was acknowledged and supported by relevant literature that 'sets the scene' and contextualises the Study.

The purpose of the Study is implicit…..Fig 2: Soil catena illustrates this. Further exemplification of the purpose of the Study includes;

- ‘What is of interest…..contrasting slope profiles’ (page 3)
- The aim of the Study which is 'to sample a north facing and a south facing slope and to compare the soil characteristics' (page 6)

B — Plan and carry out detailed research, which could include fieldwork (10 marks)

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**. There is reasonable evidence of planning for research, however, there are only five sample sites along a 20m transect per slope. The reliability and significance of the data is therefore questionable. The four research questions are relevant and supported by appropriate sources of information. The candidate has also selected appropriate research techniques.

C — Evaluate the research techniques and the reliability of data gathered (8 marks)

The candidate was awarded **7 marks** because they have provided clear and explicit evaluative comments, albeit somewhat formulaic (pages 7 -9). The reliability of the data gathered has been acknowledged (page 15, moisture content samples).

D — Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic being studied from wider reading (8 marks)

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** because they have included a clear and explicit knowledge and understanding of the topic throughout the Study, that is supported by evidence of wider reading that is used to support analysis on Pages 12/13 …..'In Britain soils tend to be ….into soil water. 'Page 18 last paragraph, and Page 21

E — Use a wide range of appropriate techniques to process the gathered information (10 marks)

The candidate was awarded **10 marks** because they have provided a wide range of appropriate techniques eg scatter graphs, bar graphs, Student T test, Pearson's, kite diagrams, ternary diagram, Simpson's Index. The techniques have been well integrated and used with skill.

F — Analyse all the information that has been gathered and processed to identify and explain relationships (12 marks)

The candidate was awarded **12 marks**. The analysis and explanations of relationships identified are clear, explicit and insightful. The candidate has also related their findings to the research. Evidence of this can be seen clearly on pages 15 and 18.

G — Reach reasoned conclusion(s) supported by a wide range of evidence (8 marks)

The candidate was awarded **7 marks**. The conclusion clearly goes beyond repetition of analysis (page 22, 'systematic sampling ….. vegetation & relief'). It also shows some insight into the topic chosen.