

Commentary on candidate 1 evidence

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

Title: How Perth Fits the Burgess Model.

Section A: Research Methods

The candidate is awarded **5 marks**. In the first paragraph the candidate gains two technique marks for "collecting data on land use" and for "traffic count".

In paragraph 2, the candidate gets two justification marks for describing in detail how and where the traffic count was carried out and in the third paragraph the candidate gains a justification mark for describing how the land use survey was carried out.

No further marks are awarded on this page since it is repetition (of the land use survey technique).

Section B: Research Findings and Conclusions

The candidate is awarded **14 marks**. The first descriptive mark is for identifying the main land use in Dunkeld Road. The second descriptive mark is for giving the correct number of residential buildings with the first explanation mark being awarded for explaining the reason for so many residential buildings. The candidate was awarded a third descriptive mark for identifying the main land use in Barrack Street and a further descriptive mark (if required) is awarded for the correct number of commercial buildings in Barrack Street.

A further nine descriptive marks could be awarded if required however, this particular candidate has already gained the maximum of three descriptive marks. The second explanation mark is awarded for the retail park being the reason for the number of commercial buildings with the third explanation mark being awarded for the reason that commercial premises are found in High Street.

The fourth explanation mark is awarded for people commuting from other cities and a fifth explanation mark is awarded for explaining how the ring road allows cars to access the retail park.

A sixth explanation mark is awarded for stating that vans might have been delivering goods to the shops and the seventh explanation mark, is awarded for explaining how the car may have been a blue badge holder as it was a mainly pedestrianised street.

Most of the conclusion is repetition until two-thirds of the way down the page where the eighth explanation mark is awarded for explaining that site 1 is busy because it is the "entrance to Asda & McDonalds"; the ninth explanation mark is awarded for explaining why traffic flow is heavier in the inner city

The tenth explanation mark, is awarded for explaining the problems of parking in the CBD with the eleventh explanation mark being awarded at the start of the final paragraph on page 4 for stating that Perth does fit the Burgess Model and how it does so.

A further concluding point is awarded the twelfth explanation mark for drawing a comparison between the decrease in the number of residential buildings from the suburbs, to the CBD in Perth with what would be expected in the Burgess model.

This candidate gains full marks in section B (3 descriptive and 11 explanatory marks).

Total marks awarded 19/20

Commentary on candidate 2 evidence

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

Title: What Area is More Popular - High Street or the Retail Park?

Section A: Research Methods

The candidate is awarded **6 marks**. The first technique mark is awarded for 'questionnaires'. Although the candidate does not specify who the questionnaire is for, they do so further on in the paragraph.

The second mark comes for the list of questions asked and the third mark is awarded for the justification of using a questionnaire.

The second technique mark is awarded for the use of a RICEPOTS land use survey with the next mark being awarded for further description of the technique (only looking at ground floor use and along both sides of the street).

The final mark is awarded for justifying the use of the RICEPOTS land use survey technique in the sentence beginning "This is effective because...."

Section B: Research Findings and Conclusions

The candidate is awarded **12 marks**. The first descriptive mark is awarded for correctly interpreting figure 4 in the processed information (100% of people travelling to the retail park got there by car). The second descriptive mark is given for correctly referencing data from figure 4 ("the most popular way of transport to the High Street is by public transport"). The third descriptive mark is awarded for the figures, showing that 6 out of 11 people travel in this way.

The first explanation mark is awarded for the idea that there are more cars at the retail park due to free parking. The second explanation mark is given for cars being used as the easiest way to transport goods home from the supermarket with the third explanation mark at the top of the second page being given for the idea that the High Street has more public transport due to the bus station being located nearby.

The fourth descriptive mark (if needed) is given for correctly referencing figure 8 on the processed information sheets. The double asterisk refers to the last page where a further descriptive mark could be awarded (if needed) for the most common type of vehicle. NB: there are a further 11 descriptive marks available throughout the candidate's response for correctly interpreting their processed information (however, they have already achieved the maximum 3 marks for description).

The fourth explanatory mark is awarded for the comparison of the shopping centre (which is located in the High Street) with the retail park, stating that it is more attractive because it has a more weather-proof roof than the retail park.

The fifth explanation mark is awarded at the end of the third paragraph, on the second page, for the idea that the High Street has a bigger variety of shops than the retail park and the sixth explanation mark is awarded at the top of the third page for the retail park having more high order shops and people travelling further to purchase high-end products.

A seventh explanation mark is awarded for the added attraction of restaurants and cinemas at the retail park which encourage people to travel further to go there with the eighth explanation mark being given for the idea that the retail park has a more pleasant environment, with less litter than the High Street.

The asterisk then continues on to the last page and the ninth (and final) explanation mark is awarded for the overall concluding statement. Returning to the previous page, no marks are awarded for the candidate's concluding statement here, as it is a repeat point.

Total marks awarded 18/20

Commentary on candidate 3 evidence

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

Title: How does vegetation change as the height increases?

Section A: Research Methods

The candidate is awarded **6 marks**. The first technique mark is awarded at "...the clinometer measured the slope of the hill from the group to the two people's eyes." "Using a clinometer" alone is not enough for a mark, we need to be clear about what is being measured. Another mark is awarded for justification for the idea of carrying the research out twice to make the results more reliable.

The second technique mentioned is measuring distance. This would be awarded a technique mark, however, as the candidate goes onto mention another technique on the following page which gains more marks, this second technique is not credited (only the two highest scoring techniques receive credit). No further marks can be gained for justification as this technique has not gained a mark and the candidate has repeated the same justification, given above.

The candidate mentions a third method and this method gains a mark for "A quadrat gives a percentage of vegetation there is on a piece of land we threw it on." There is a justification mark just before this sentence for throwing down the quadrat randomly, then taking a photo for further research at home. The candidate then goes onto mention a fourth method, vegetation cards. This is not really a fourth method, rather it is a further description of the way in which they used the quadrat. They gain a further justification mark here for using the cards to identify the type of vegetation.

A final mark is awarded for this technique for specifying some of the categories: "blaeberries, grass, heather or moss."

Section B: Research Findings and Conclusions

The candidate is awarded **8 marks**. The first descriptive mark is awarded for "vegetation changes as height increases." A further descriptive mark is awarded for the 0% blaeberrie coverage at site 1 and another descriptive mark is awarded for the increase to 4% at site 2.

NB: The candidate has now reached their maximum of three descriptive marks. There are however, a further fourteen descriptive marks available, should they have been needed, throughout the candidate's response for correctly interpreting their processed information.

The first explanation mark is awarded for the idea of blaeberreries liking shady conditions and being present in the area with most trees, which was darker as the sunlight didn't get through. Explanatory mark two comes for the idea of heather being found in open areas, such as at sites 3 and 4.

A further explanation mark is awarded for shorter heather growing at the top of the hill where it has adapted to the windier conditions by growing closer to the ground.

The fourth explanation mark is awarded for moss being found in areas that are cold, darker and moist, as site 2 has gaps in the trees through which rain can easily fall.

No marks can be awarded for the next paragraph as the response is confused here and incorrectly uses the processed information.

The beginning of the concluding paragraph receives no marks as it is repetition.

The fifth (and final) explanatory mark is awarded for the idea of soils getting thinner as you go up a slope linked to the statement that there is less vegetation because of this earlier on. The final paragraph receives no marks as it is further repetition.

Total marks awarded 14/20

Commentary on candidate 4 evidence

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

Title: River Study of the Keltney Burn.

Section A: Research Methods

The candidate is awarded **6 marks**. The first technique mark is awarded for calculating the speed of the river.

A further mark is awarded for this technique at the end of the sentence "...the person on the bank will start the timer." This is for giving some detail about how the river speed was measured. Another mark is awarded at the end of the sentence "...so the timer can record how long it took." and a final mark for this technique is awarded in the next sentence, ending "...then take an average to eliminate sources of error." These two marks are for further detailed description of this technique. At this point the candidate has gained four marks, the maximum available for any one technique.

The candidate continues to mention the second technique which is calculating the bedload, and so gains a fifth mark here. The candidate goes into further detail about how this is done and so a sixth mark is awarded at the end of the sentence "... measure the x,y and z axis for each stone and record."

No further marks are available in this section as the candidate has already gained the maximum. However, had there been more available, they could have gained a further mark for clarifying how they calculated the bedload for each site.

Section B: Research Findings and Conclusions

The candidate is awarded **9 marks**. No marks are awarded at the beginning of the results paragraph as it is unrelated to their results and not linked to findings/processed information.

The first descriptive mark is awarded for sites 0-2 getting deeper. A further descriptive mark is given where the candidate states that site 3 is deeper than site 4.

The first explanatory mark is awarded for mentioning the idea that pools and riffles could be the reason for the differences in depth. A second explanatory mark is given where the candidate draws a conclusion, stating that these depth results do follow what the Bradshaw model says. A third descriptive mark is awarded for the statement ending "... sites 0, 3 and 4 all follow this trend."

NB: The candidate has now reached the maximum of three descriptive marks. There are however, a further six descriptive marks (had they been available) which could have been awarded throughout the candidate's response for correctly interpreting their processed information.

A third explanatory mark is given for the boulder possibly affecting results at site 2. No further marks are given for the stream following the pattern of the Bradshaw Model as this is repetition. The final with the heading "Discharge", receives no marks as the candidate is writing an explanation which is unrelated to their study results. The final sentence of this paragraph is repetition.

The fourth explanatory mark is awarded where the candidate links rocks coming in from a tributary stream to the size of the bedload in the Keltney Burn.

The fifth mark for explanation is awarded for the idea that speed results could have been affected by the wooden float being caught in the bank at times. A sixth explanation mark is awarded in the next sentence for the concluding statement that "... for this reason I cannot say that the speed (of the river) follows the Bradshaw Model."

NB: one mark is given for when it fits the model and a further mark is awarded for evidence of when it doesn't.

The paragraph titled "Average Angularity" is inaccurate and contains further repetition. The paragraph titled "Efficiency" has further descriptive points but no new explanations, so gains no further marks.

The conclusion contains no new explanation and so gains no further marks. The improvements paragraph at the end of the response contains two further relevant points about techniques, which could have been awarded in section A, had there been any available marks left. However, because the candidate has reached their maximum for techniques, no further marks are awarded here. The relevant points here are the idea of using a flowmeter to improve accuracy and the possibility of using a larger stretch of the same river for the study.

Total marks awarded 15/20

Commentary on candidate 5 evidence

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

Title: How a Burn Changes from Source to Mouth.

Section A: Research Methods

The candidate is awarded **5 marks**. The first technique mark is awarded in the first sentence for measuring the speed. Another mark is given for description of how the speed was measured by dropping the float into the river and timing its journey.

The next section of this response doesn't gain any marks as the candidate is describing problems of taking the measurements rather than ways in which they might have improved their research, such as by using a flowmeter. However, a third mark is awarded for the idea of calculating averages

The candidate then goes on to mention their second technique, gaining the fourth mark for measuring the width and depth of the stream. A fifth mark is awarded for "...from bed to surface at 25cm increments the entire width of the stream." This is for further explanation of their technique.

No mark is given for the river being too deep to measure as no possible solution is suggested,

Section B: Research Findings and Conclusions

The candidate is awarded **11 marks**. No marks are awarded for the first paragraph as it is theory with no link to the study as yet.

The first descriptive mark is awarded for point 1 being wider than point 2. No marks are given for figures as they appear in the table on the processed information sheets.

NB: this happens throughout the response and are straight lifts.

The first explanation mark comes for the farmer "digging out the site" as a reason why the site didn't correlate. Explanatory mark two is awarded in the next sentence for further explanation of the reasons for this action. These two marks are effectively given for a well-developed point about why this site was different (two marks for a developed point).

A second descriptive mark is awarded for the response "...points 5 and 7 were both higher." A third explanatory mark is awarded for the idea that the overhanging bank prevented accurate measurement of the stream.

The first paragraph on the third page gains no marks as it is repetition of points made previously.

The fourth explanatory mark is awarded in the second paragraph for the idea of the depth correlating with the Bradshaw Model and being backed up with evidence from the data, "... depth increase as you go downstream." The fifth explanation mark is given in the next sentence for rocks and debris affecting the results and the sixth explanatory mark is awarded in the final paragraph on page three for taking the figures from the data sheets and giving reasons why they didn't correlate with the model.

At the end of this paragraph on page three, a third and final descriptive mark is given for site 7 being flatter. NB: No other descriptive marks could be awarded to this candidate as descriptive statements are all straight lifts from the data however, they have now achieved the maximum for description.

The seventh explanation mark is awarded in the final line of page three for the idea of the flatter area leading to a slower rate of flow.

The final paragraph of the response on page 4 receives an eighth and final explanation mark for the overall concluding statement.

Total marks awarded 16/20