

# General Marking Instructions

In line with SQA's normal practice, the following general Marking Instructions are addressed to the marker. They will also be helpful for those preparing candidates for Course assessment.

Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking. All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

## General Marking Principles for Advanced Higher Geography project-folio

*This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to this project-folio. These principles must be read in conjunction with the Detailed Marking Instructions which identify the key features required in candidate responses.*

- (a) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these General Marking Principles and the Detailed Marking Instructions for this assessment.
- (b) Marking will always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (c) Candidates can structure their evidence in a variety of ways and may also demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways and at different points in their evidence. Markers will credit all relevant and appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding wherever they are demonstrated in the project-folio evidence.
- (d) Principal Assessors will provide guidance on marking specific candidate responses which are not covered by either the principles or the Detailed Marking Instructions.

### Section A: geographical study

The word count for the completed geographical study should be no more than 3,000 words in length (excluding any text used on front covers, list of contents, annotations to any illustrations, references, bibliography, appendices). The word count must be submitted by the candidate with the completed project-folio (study).

If the word count for the geographical study exceeds the maximum by 10% a penalty will be applied.

Project-folio section A is worth 60 marks.

### Section B: geographical issue

The word count for the completed geographical issue should be no more than 1,800 words in length (excluding any text used on front covers, list of contents, annotations to any illustrations, references, bibliography, appendices). The word count must be submitted by the candidate with the completed project-folio (issue).

If the word count for the geographical issues essay exceeds the maximum by 10% a penalty will be applied.

Project-folio section B is worth 40 marks.

**Project-folio section A: geographical study**

In presenting their findings, candidates will:

- A. Justify the choice of a complex geographical topic to research.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 4 marks.
- B. Plan and carry out detailed research, which could include fieldwork.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 10 marks.
- C. Evaluate the research techniques and the reliability of data gathered.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 8 marks.
- D. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic being studied from wider reading.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 8 marks.
- E. Use a wide range of appropriate techniques to process the gathered information.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 10 marks.
- F. Analyse all the information that has been gathered and processed to identify and explain relationships.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 12 marks.
- G. Reach reasoned conclusion(s) supported by a wide range of evidence.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 8 marks.

**Project-folio section B: geographical issue**

In presenting their findings, candidates will:

- A. Justify the choice of a current complex geographical issue to critically evaluate.**  
Candidates can be credited up to 4 marks.
- B. Undertake wider background reading from a wide range of sources relating to the geographical issue.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 8 marks.
- C. Summarise a wide range of viewpoints on the complex geographical issue.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 10 marks.
- D. Critically evaluate each of the viewpoints.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 10 marks.
- E. Reach reasoned conclusion(s) supported by a wide range of evidence.**  
Candidates can be credited up to a maximum of 8 marks.

# Administrative information

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## History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Advice relating to the Geographical Study and the Geographical Issues essay has been updated to explain that a penalty will be applied for exceeding the word count.	Qualifications Manager	September 2015

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