

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

GEOGRAPHY (GGY315120)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The format of the external assessment is a:

- **3 hour written examination.**

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

Criterion 3: Communicate geographical ideas and information.
All aspects of Criterion 3 standards are examinable, **except** the aspect of creating appropriate reference lists and bibliographies.

Criterion 4: Identify and apply geographical concepts to geographical phenomena.
All aspects of Criterion 4 standards are examinable.

Criterion 5: Identify geographical processes and their relation to geographical change
All aspects of Criterion 5 standards are examinable.

Criterion 6: Identify geographical issues or challenges and possible solutions
All aspects of Criterion 6 standards are examinable.

SPECIFIC MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR USE BY CANDIDATES

- Current External Assessment Information Sheet for Geography (*GGY315120*)
- Data Sheet: World population data

WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

The examination paper is divided into four sections, covering Units 1, 2 and 3 of the course. Each section will be based on a different unit. A particular unit might appear in different sections from year to year.

The following specifications for each section are outlined in the table below:

- the distribution across the sections of:
 - criteria
 - time allocations
- the number and type of items.

SECTION	SECTION A	SECTION B	SECTION C	SECTION D
Criteria	Criteria 4 and 6	Criteria 4 and 5	Criteria 3 and 5	Criteria 3 and 6
Elements	All elements except E6	All elements are assessed	All elements are assessed	All elements are assessed
Course coverage	Unit 1 – Sustainable Places This section relates to one unit only.	Unit 2 – Human Impact on Land Cover Change This section relates to one unit only.	Unit 3 – Globalisation This section relates to one unit only.	Units 1, 2 and 3. This section relates to all of the above 3 units.
Number and nature of items	Two (2) items - with sub-parts (e.g., a. b. c.). One (1) item on each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place (could be anywhere) • Challenges – Australian Challenges (Rural, Urban, Economic, Demographic, etc) This section will use stimulus pieces, use of the World Population Data Sheet, etc.	Two (2) items. One (1) item on each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropogenic Climate change (with a choice of focus built into the question) • Direct human actions resulting in land cover change (with choice built into the question) 	Three (3) items. One (1) item on each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of enhanced technology and transport • Impacts of cities • Shift in global economic power 	Three (3) items. Each item is framed on the depth studies from units – for 1, 2 and 3.
Compulsory or optional	All items are compulsory	All items are compulsory	All items are compulsory	Choice of one item only from three.

SECTION	SECTION A	SECTION B	SECTION C	SECTION D
Item type(s) / format (See Attachment I for definitions and exemplars)	Short responses required to closed-ended items.	Extended responses to open-ended items.	Short responses required to open-ended items.	Essay response to open-ended items.
Response time	45 Minutes	45 Minutes	45 Minutes	45 Minutes
Mark / rating allocation (weighting must be specified)	All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z			

WRITTEN EXAMINATION CONTENT

A representative sample, encompassing a large proportion of the targeted course content areas, tests the standard of skills, knowledge and understanding of a candidate.

Where a section requires responses to more than one (1) item, the relative weighting of the items is explicitly stated as having equal value.

The relative weighting of items is indicated by:

- The relative allocation of marks, and
- Space for responses

ASSESSMENT

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to the markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written examination; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include items that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

ATTACHMENT I - EXAMINATION ITEM TYPES

In these specifications, the term 'item' is defined as an individual task to be undertaken by candidates. The task may be divided into several parts. Item types can be categorised as follows:

CATEGORY	ITEM TYPES AND DEFINITIONS
The format of response	<p>Short response format</p> <p>These items are composed of a brief prompt that demands a response to some stimulus material that varies from a single response to a few written points.</p> <p>This sort of item is suited to assessing the candidate's ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recall specific information and methods related to key content • apply rehearsed methods to familiar situations • demonstrate understanding of key concepts in previously unseen stimulus material.
	<p>Extended response format</p> <p>These items involve lengthy structured responses. Greater complexity may be due to one or more of, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a greater cognitive demand of English language concepts • the necessity to select appropriate information • justification of a response via a logical line of reasoning.
	<p>Essay response</p> <p>These are items that require responses that follow essay writing principles; included that responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an introduction (general statement related to item, brief summary of the main topics/arguments/points to be made in the essay) • have body paragraphs (with topic sentences to start followed by supporting sentences) • have a conclusion (restatement or summary of the main points made in the body paragraphs and a final comment.
Assessment of response	<p>Closed-ended response</p> <p>These are items for which there is a single 'correct' or 'best' response.</p>
	<p>Open-ended response</p> <p>These are items for which there may be multiple correct responses OR in which the quality of the argument and/or the expression is being assessed.</p>

ATTACHMENT 2 - WRITTEN EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SECTION A

- assesses aspects of Criteria 4 and 6
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in both Criteria 4 and 6
- includes a representative sample of course content from Unit 1
- comprises of two (2) items with sub-parts
 - includes stimulus pieces and use of the World Population Data Sheet
 - requires closed-ended response
- requires short responses

SECTION B

- assesses aspects of Criteria 4 and 5
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in both Criteria 4 and 5
- includes a representative sample of course content from Unit 2
- comprises of two (2) items and require open-ended responses
- requires extended responses

SECTION C

- assesses aspects of Criteria 3 and 5
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in both Criteria 3 and 5
- includes a representative sample of course content from Unit 3
- comprises of three (3) items and require open-ended responses
- requires short responses

SECTION D

- assesses aspects of Criteria 3 and 3
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A in both Criteria 3 and 6
- includes a representative sample of course content from Units 1, 2 and 3
- comprises a choice of one (1) item from three (3) items and requires open-ended response
- requires essay response