

## EXAMINER TIPS FOR IGCSE Bangladesh Studies 0449

### Paper Two - Environment and Development

#### Examiner tips

This section has been written to help you to achieve as many marks as you can on the paper. The main thing is to make sure you have done your revision thoroughly of course but these tips will help you to avoid some of the common mistakes which students make and which can lose you marks.

There are eight sections:

1. How to revise
2. Choosing your questions
3. Timing your answers
4. Read the question carefully
5. Maps and diagrams
6. Judgment questions
7. Be concise and accurate
8. When you have finished

#### 1. How to revise

- **Don't just read** through your notes and books. This might work for a few minutes but most students find that after a short time, they are not really concentrating.
- **Use your notes** etc. **Highlight** bits, **re write** them, make **lists** of key points for each section of the syllabus, make **summaries** of each main section etc. In other words do something which means that you are concentrating on the information, by processing it - and therefore learning.
- **Draw simple maps and diagrams** and add information to them. You may be able to use them in the exam to support an answer.
- Look at **past papers** and see if you can answer the questions.
- Talk through your answers with a friend.
- Revise in **short bursts** so you can concentrate. If your mind starts wandering to other things, stop and have a short break.
- Try to revise somewhere where you will not be interrupted or distracted.

#### 2. Choosing your questions

You have to choose three questions out of five. How should you choose?

- Well **don't rush** it is the first advice.
- Take some **time to read** through the questions before deciding. If you rush you may find that although you can do the first part well, you will struggle with the later parts of the question.
- Sometimes an examiner marks a script that starts off really well but then fizzles out leading to a low mark overall. This is usually a sign that the student hasn't chosen carefully.
- Another sign of wrong choosing is where a student has started to answer a question, but then crosses it out and starts another. This means that valuable time has been wasted writing the crossed out answer, which will get no marks.

- Don't just look at the **resources**. You may see a map or diagram, which you think you could write about. That is fine, but look also at the other parts of the question, which might require knowledge and understanding beyond the topic covered by the map.
- If you are feeling **a bit nervous** and really want to get stuck into an answer, at least choose your first question carefully and then, when you have finished it, pause for a couple of minutes in order to choose the next one. It doesn't matter which order you answer your chosen questions.

### 3. Timing your answers.

You have 90 minutes to answer the paper.

- Spend at least **five minutes** in choosing your three questions – but see the bullet point above.
- Plan to spend about **25 minutes on each question**.
- Leave five minutes at the end to **check** through your answers. It's easy to make a simple error when writing. Don't let a simple error cause you to lose marks just for the sake of a few minutes checking. Remember examiners can only give marks according to what you have written. They may think that you have been rushing and that you really know the correct answer but they can only mark what they read.
- That should leave you five minutes spare in case one of your answers takes slightly longer than 25 minutes or perhaps for a final read through.

Use the **mark allocation** to each question as a guide to how much time to spend.

- Don't spend ages writing a lot for a question worth only 1 or 2 marks.
- Do spend time giving full answers to questions with, say, 4 or 5 marks. It is always disappointing to read a script where the student has written really well and shown a lot of knowledge for a question worth only 1 mark but then gives a brief answer to a question where they could really score highly.

### 4. Read the question carefully

Examiners see scripts where students have written detailed answers containing accurate information but which have nothing to do with the question.

- **Don't waste time and marks** by writing about things which are not relevant to the question.
- If you recognise a key word in a question- say deforestation- don't just write all you know about deforestation, use your knowledge to try to answer what the question is asking.
- If a question asks for **four** things, make sure you don't leave it at three!
- Like wise there is no point in giving 5 things – unless you are not sure of their accuracy.
- Try to be as **precise and accurate** as you can. Vague statements such as 'there are a lot of forests in Bangladesh' won't get much credit. 'There are forest in the south east, especially in the Chittagong Hills and in the south west near the coast in the area called Sunderbans. There are also forests in the northeast around Sylhet' could earn several marks, depending on what the question was of course.

## 5. Maps and diagrams

- **Draw diagrams and simple maps** to support your answers. Often a simple maps or diagram with annotations (adding notes) can present a lot of information and show understanding quickly when to explain it all in words is difficult or time consuming.
- When reading maps and diagrams do carefully **check the key** and any information such as the scale or the units used.
- If you using a map you can use **compass points** to describe where areas are e.g. 'To the north there are...' or 'There are many xxxs along the coast' or 'the forest stretches for x miles east from the coast' or 'south of the border'.
- If you are reading a graph make sure you know exactly what is being measured and what the **units of measurements** are. Are they in thousands or millions? Is it degrees of temperature? Are they percentages or actual amounts? You don't want to lose a mark by giving the answer in thousands when it should be millions ( the easy bit) when you have worked out the correct reading from a graph( the hard bit)

## 6. Judgment questions

At the end of each question will be a section where you are expected to make judgments about **issues affecting the environment and development** of Bangladesh. You will be asked to provide **evidence** to support both sides of an issue and then give your own view based of course on evidence. Evidence basically means information which supports a point of view. There are no marks just for stating a point of view. Marks are awarded for your use of evidence to support your view. For Example 'I think statement A is correct' gets no marks on its own. 'I agree with statement A because .....

The following **examples of evidence** (shown in italics) were given by candidates who answered a question about flooding in 2008. The question gave them two statements:

- A. Flooding causes many problems for the country
- B. Flooding brings many benefits to the country.

*'I support option A as, although floods do bring some good to the country, it does more harm for example:*

- *floods cause water borne diseases*
- *floods cause the economy to suffer*
- *floods cause lack of food and drinking water etc.*
- *Thus floods cause more harm than good.'*

Another example is *' I agree most with the opinion A. Opinion B is only agreeable if the level of flood is not high. Usually in Bangladesh this is not so. The floods are terrible and bring many miseries to the lives of the people. Many people die and suffer severe financial loss'*.

Further examples of evidence are shown below. These are also extracts from candidates' answers to a question in 2008 about the growth of cities. The statements were:

- A. It is good for Bangladesh to have large cities that are rapidly growing.
- B. It would be better for Bangladesh if people stayed in the countryside rather than move to Dhaka.

*'It is good for Bangladesh to have cities that are rapidly growing. This is because*

- *For the cities to grow, many industries and buildings need to be set up. A large number of people are needed for construction and if people come to cities they can provide labour. Later, people are needed to work in organisations that use the buildings.*
- *Economy has to develop faster. Primary sector cannot cause this fast Secondary and tertiary sector ( industry and services) is required. Cities are the ideal places for these sectors and they must grow.'*

*'It is better for Bangladesh if people stay in the countryside rather than move to cities. This because:*

- *There is too much pressure on cities due to the large population. Many people are not getting water, food , electricity and other necessities of city life.*
- *An increased population has increased pollution in cities. This can cause hazardous health problems.'*

*'I agree with opinion B the most. This is because the urban population of Bangladesh is already very high. Many people coming in the hope of jobs have to remain unemployed, as the city cannot manage to provide jobs to all. Bangladesh should invest more on development in rural areas so that people remain in the countryside'.*

## 7. **Be concise and accurate**

- Being **concise** means you need to or express your knowledge, understanding, skills and judgements in as few words as you can.
- Do try to write your answers as clearly and accurately as possible.
- Do include information that you consider to be relevant.
- Try not to repeat yourself. That wastes valuable time

## 8. **When you have finished**

- Check carefully through your answers. See the 'timing section above'.
- Make sure you have done your best and not made silly mistakes, which could cost you marks.
- Sit back and take a rest!