

GENERAL

Higher Grade examining goes beyond simply asking for facts in response to questions. It requires deductions to be made based on diagrams or tables or sets of statistics. It often requires explanations of situations created by the examiner, rather than simple descriptions of those situations. It means reading and understanding the questions. It was evident in many questions that candidates had not read the questions carefully enough and answered incorrectly.

While the principles of Physical Geography remain constant, Settlement Geography and Regional Geography are changing rapidly in our developing country and it is necessary for teachers to keep up to date on developments of recent years. Teachers must acquire and use up to date resources, especially for Higher Grade classes, such as newspapers and journals such as the Business Times and Financial Mail. Candidates should be kept up to date regarding new place names, trade statistics, the role of gold, platinum and oil in our modern economy.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**Question 1**

This question was the most popular question in the examination.

- ? On the whole this question was well answered, especially 1.2, based on the synoptic weather map.
- ? Question 1.2.4 regarding tropical cyclones was also answered well. Some learners interpreted (e) wrongly when they did not apply the consequences of tropical cyclones on the inhabitants.
- ? In this paper candidates were required to express their Geomorphology as well as Climatology knowledge in drawing. Most of these questions were answered poorly. Teachers should allow learners to draw simple diagrams, instead of supplying them with photo copies of Geomorphology diagrams to practice this skill. This should be regarded as an attempt to be creative and present a more realistic situation for river capture, slopes or any other Geography concepts.

Question 2

This question was not very popular

- ? Inversion (2.2) was the cause of many problems in this paper. Teachers should make sure that learners have a thorough knowledge regarding inversions during summer and winter conditions. Learners should also be able to draw these conditions.
- ? Many learners did not understand the concept, humidity (2.3.3) and struggled to explain why cities experience a higher rainfall.
- ? Question 2.4.2 regarding slopes was well answered.
- ? Some learners struggled to apply Ecology concepts in new situations.

Question 3

- ? Question 3.2.1 was well answered.
- ? Most candidates did not understand the concepts Wet-point and dry –point settlements (3.2.4) and also struggled to describe the shape of the farms in the same question. This question also appeared in last years question paper.
- ? Urban geography was answered poorly. Learners will always struggle to answer these questions if they are unfamiliar with the basic concepts in this section of the work.

Question 4

This unpopular question caused the most problems.

- ? As mentioned in question 3, it is very difficult to attempt this question without a thorough knowledge of the basic concepts.
- ? The question regarding rural depopulation was well answered.
- ? Industrial parks and Land –use zones however were poorly answered.
- ? Learners could not interpret the cartoon in 4.5.1 Lots of exercise should be given to learners to interpret a variety of cartoons and diagrams.

Question 5

- ? This question was generally well-answered. It was disappointing to realize that candidates struggled to apply questions regarding oceans and currents on the map of South Africa. Many learners also do not have the basic knowledge of the map of South Africa.
- ? Questions regarding agriculture were well answered.
- ? Candidates showed a reasonable knowledge regarding the population distribution of South Africa.

Question 6

- ? See comment regarding map of South Africa in Question 5.
- ? Environmental problems on the Karoo farm were answered poorly. This question also required a knowledge of ecology.
- ? Questions regarding mining were well answered.
- ? Candidates struggled to define migrant labourer, as well as answering the accompanying questions
- ? Question 6.5.1 regarding industrial growth was poorly answered.