

Key content of Sections B and C questions in HKDSE Geog Paper 1 (Sections B, C and D from 2019 onwards)

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Opportunities and risks | Q1 DBQ Earthquake in Haiti | Q5 Short essay Tectonic hazards along the Circum-Pacific belt and effectiveness of land use zoning | Q2 DBQ Rift valley and volcanic eruption in East Africa | Q1 DBQ Comparing tsunamis in NE Japan and Alaska |
| Managing river and coastal environments | Q5 Short essay Flooding in the lower course and effectiveness of dam construction to prevent floods | Q1 DBQ Coastal features and management in HK | Q1 DBQ Map: Ha Pak Nai and WENT landfill Estuary environment in HK | Q2 DBQ Changing velocity, channel width, mean depth of channel and discharge along a river |
| Changing industrial location | Q6 Short essay IT industry and globalization | Q2 DBQ Iron and steel industry in China | Q3 DBQ Shifting IT production plant within China and evaluation of the proposal of moving plants back to the US | Q5 Short essay Factors explaining spatial distribution of I&S industry in China before and after 1978 |
| Building a sustainable city | Q2 DBQ Map: Hung Shui Kiu Proposed new development area | Q3 DBQ Map: Eastern Kowloon Two development projects in the area | Q5 Short essay Suburbanization and new town development in HK | Q3 DBQ Map: Tung Chung Proposed reclamation sites and land use planning for new town extension |
| Combating famine | Q3 DBQ Food shortages and farming techniques in eastern Africa | Q6 Short essay Nomadic herding and food supply in the Sahel | Q6 Short essay Climatic constraints on farming and effectiveness of irrigation in southern California | Q6 Short essay Risk of famine in the Sahel and effectiveness of biotechnology |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Disappearing green canopy | Q7 Short essay Reasons for disappearing of TRF and a conservation measure | Q4 DBQ Cattle rearing in the Amazon Basin and reforestation | Q4 DBQ Human activities in the rainforest in Brazil and evaluation of the 'rainforest adoption' measure | Q7 Short essay Negative socio-economic effects of deforestation of TRF and the role of MDCs |
| Global warming | Q4 DBQ Greenhouse gases, emission scenario and effectiveness of inter-governmental cooperation | Q7 Short essay Adverse impact of global warming in HK and effectiveness of urban greening | Q7 Short essay The overuse of fossil fuels in causing a rise in global temp and evaluation of the use of renewable energy | Q4 DBQ Effects brought by global warming in the arctic region, CO ₂ emissions and international efforts to combat climate change |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Opportunities and risks | Q5 Short essay Tectonic activities in the Himalayan region, opportunities and challenges to the region | Q1 DBQ Volcanic eruption: Distribution, formation of volcanoes, negative impacts, technological measures, opportunities and risks | Q1 DBQ Earthquake: Plate boundaries, formation, destructive effects, factors that make a place more vulnerable | Q1 DBQ Volcanic eruption and tsunami in Indonesia: explain occurrence and losses, discussion on warning system |
| Managing river and coastal environments | Q1 DBQ Map: Sai Kung Coastal landforms, work of waves | Q5 Short essay Erosion of beach materials in Hong Kong, beach nourishment | Q2 DBQ Map: Hong Kong Island Coastal landforms, wave erosion and deposition, coastal protection strategies (sea wall or rock armour/rip rap) | Q5 Short essay Depositional features at the lower course, river management strategies at the lower course |
| Changing industrial location | Q2 DBQ Iron and steel industry in China, location factors, how advancement in technology affect location | Q6 Short essay Global distribution of IT industry, the influence of US government on the development of local IT industry | Q5 Short essay Locational factors affecting clustering of iron and steel industry in China, as well as IT industry in the US | Q6 Short essay Location factors of the IT industry in the US, whether global transport and telecom. facilitates IT industry to outsource production |
| Building a sustainable city | Q6 Short essay Housing problem in HK, and the effectiveness of developing green belts | Q2 DBQ Map: Sheung Wan and Sai Ying Pun Urban problems, redevelopment, revitalization, rehabilitation | Q3 DBQ Environmental problems, urban planning (green belt), economic and social sustainability of Hung Shui Kui NDA | Q2 DBQ Map: Ma Tau Wai Urban renewal in Kowloon City |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Combating famine | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Climatic constraints in farming in Central Valley, effectiveness of precision farming</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>The Sahel: Climatic characteristics, nomadic herding, reasons for insufficient food production from nomadic herding, growing cash crops</p> | <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>The Sahel: Physical factors leading to famine, effectiveness of genetically modified crops</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>The Sahel: climatic constraints, farming activity there, reasons for insufficient food production by this activity, whether precision farming can help improve the food supply</p> |
| Disappearing green canopy | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>Climatic conditions of TRF, deforestation and effectiveness of selective logging in conserving the TRF</p> | <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Nutrient cycling in the TRF, impact of plantation on the nutrient cycling in the TRF</p> | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>World distribution, climate, vegetation characteristics and energy flow of TRF and oil palm plantation, causes and underlying causes of TRF destruction</p> | <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Nutrient compartments in a TRF, whether plantation causes greater changes to these compartments than shifting cultivation</p> |
| Global warming | <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>How human activities increase the concentration of CO₂, and the cooperation of MDCs and LDCs in reducing CO₂</p> | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>Radiation and greenhouse effect, relationship between human activities and global warming, the responsibility of MDCs/LDCs in reducing CO₂ emissions</p> | <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Reasons for increasing greenhouse gas emissions in LDCs, constraints encountered by LDCs in reducing greenhouse gas emissions</p> | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>Changing atmospheric CO₂, draw annotated diagram to illustrate radiation activities, trend of global mean temp., relationship between the change in GDP per capita and CO₂ emissions per capita, international cooperation</p> |
| FBQ | -- | -- | -- | Coast |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
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| | 2020 | | | |
| Opportunities and risks | Q6 Short essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions at convergent plate boundaries • Land use zoning in reducing loss (volcanic eruption Vs earthquakes) | | | |
| Managing river and coastal environments | Q2 DBQ Map: Lam Tsuen River & Tai Po <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a meander (draw annotated diagrams) • River management strategies at 2 locations | | | |
| Changing industrial location | Q3 DBQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations of I&S plants in China (Ürümqi & Shanghai) • Production mode of the IT industry • Discuss whether I&S industry may adopt multi-point production mode | | | |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
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| | 2020 | | | |
| Building a sustainable city | Q7 Short essay Urban decay and redevelopment in old urban areas | | | |
| Combating famine | Q4 DBQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomadic herding and food supply in the Sahel • Agricultural system in SC • Discuss whether agricultural system in SC can solve food problems in the Sahel | | | |
| Disappearing green canopy | Q5 DBQ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation characteristics in a TRF • Impact of cattle rearing on nutrient storage (biomass and soil) in the TRF • Feasibility of abandoning cattle ranch and restore TRF to develop ecotourism | | | |
| Global warming | Q8 Short essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons of rising trend of GHG emissions • Whether technology can slow | | | |

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| | down the trend | | | |
| FBQ | Relationship between land use and environmental quality | | | |

Key content of Sections D and E questions in HKDSE Geog Paper 2 (Sections E and F from 2019 onwards)

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Dynamic earth | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Rocks and landform features in Hong Kong</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>Water as a factor affecting external processes on slopes of HK</p> | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Reclamation and rock cavern</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>Rock cycle and how two types of rocks shape the landforms of HK</p> | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Geological map, folding and weathering in Ma Shi Chau-Yim Tin Tsai area</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>How rock type affects landscape, and housing and transport development in HK</p> | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Rocks and mass wasting in High Island area</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>Weathering in granite areas in HK and its importance in shaping the landforms in HK</p> |
| Weather and climate | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Temperature and rainfall patterns of two places in China, and sandstorms</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Monsoons, and impact of it and other weather systems on precipitation characteristics in HK</p> | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Interpreting weather conditions of two places based on a weather chart and data</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Sandstorms in North China</p> | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Variation in insolation and pressure pattern at different major latitudes</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Climate in south-east and north-west China</p> | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Climatic data of two places in China and climatic hazard</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Planetary wind systems and their importance in distribution of global climatic zones</p> |
| Transport development, planning and management | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Traffic flow, traffic congestion in Wan Chai and Causeway Bay</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Logistics in HK</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Transport problem in southern Hong Kong</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Logistics industry in HK</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Sea transport in the ZDR and container throughput of river cargo in HK</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Transport problem in HK</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Importance of railway and franchised bus in public transport in HK</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Logistics industry in HK</p> |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
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| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| A regional study of the Zhujiang Delta | Q4 DBQ Industrial development and water quality of three cities Q8 Short essay Farming in ZDR | Q4 DBQ Industries in Guangzhou Q8 Short essay Cross-border air pollution problem in the ZDR | Q4 DBQ Farming in Dongguan Q8 Short essay How urban development in the ZDR affects river water quality and the effectiveness of legislation | Q4 DBQ Gross industrial output and NO ₂ concentration in the ZDR Q8 Short essay Challenges of industry in the ZDR and strategy of branding |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Dynamic earth | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Granite, formation, gullies and badlands, effectiveness of tree planting</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>How sedimentary rock changed into metamorphic rock, the role of sedimentary rock in shaping the physical landscape in HK</p> | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Landslide: The impact of rock characteristics on landslide, causes and measures</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>Volcanic rocks: Formation and characteristics, their relative importance in shaping the physical landscape of Hong Kong</p> | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Granite, tuff, physical landscape of HK, chemical weathering, deep weathering profiles and top formation, mass movement</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>How the distribution of major faults shaped the physical landscape in HK, effects on urban development</p> | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <p>Igneous rocks (rhyolite and granite), weathering feature (pressure release, exfoliation), mass wasting (rockfall), salt crystallization, role of rock structure and water in weathering</p> <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>Influence of climatic conditions in HK on slope stability, whether afforestation helps increase slope stability</p> |
| Weather and climate | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Pressure pattern of a season, weather conditions of HK during the approach of a typhoon</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Impact of drought in North China, and effectiveness of water resource management</p> | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Temperature difference between two cities in China, cold front and the weather conditions</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Climatic characteristics of NW China, significance of climate in causing sandstorms in NW China</p> | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>East Asian monsoon system in July, formation and characteristics of tropical cyclones, weather conditions under typhoons</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Rainfall characteristics between northern and southern China, effectiveness of the water transfer scheme</p> | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Climatic differences between HK and Urumqi, relationship between winter monsoon and weather condition of HK, reasons for the weakening of winter monsoons</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Trade wind belts, relationship between trade winds and climatic characteristics of the equatorial region</p> |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Transport development, planning and management | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>HK International Airport as a regional aviation hub, its challenges and measures</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Transport problems in HK, effectiveness of electronic road pricing</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Railway network in HK, problems at interchange station, the transport strategy of ‘According Priority to Railway’</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>HK as a regional logistics hub, impacts of HKZMB on HK and Guangdong’s logistics industry</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Transport network and connectivity, port competition between HK and Shenzhen, road transport development in the ZDR, HKZMB-</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>How transport patterns in HK cause road congestion, effectiveness of electronic road pricing</p> | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Transport problem at the Cross Harbour Tunnel, whether HK transport information system can help relieve the problem</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Advantages of HK as a logistics and transport hub, whether HKZMB can help HK maintain those advantages</p> |
| A regional study of the Zhujiang Delta | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>Industrial development in the ZDR, significance of the policy of ‘Emptying the Cage for Birds’</p> <p>Q8 Short essay</p> <p>Problem on farm production in ZDR, effectiveness of adopting modern farming technology</p> | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>River water quality, impacts of water pollution, and sewage treatment in the ZDR</p> <p>Q8 Short essay</p> <p>Industrial development of the ZDR in the past 10 years, the importance of scientific research and human resources on the industrial development of the region</p> | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>‘Front shop, back factory’, rise of capital-intensive and high-tech industries in the ZDR, challenges faced by the industry, branding</p> <p>Q8 Short essay</p> <p>Why air pollution is becoming more serious in ZDR, effectiveness of cross-border cooperation</p> | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>Favourable physical conditions for farming in Zhaoqing, hydroponics in the ZDR</p> <p>Q8 Short essay</p> <p>Water pollution in the ZDR in the last decade, whether sewage treatment plants help improve water quality in the ZDR</p> |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | 2020 | | | |
| Dynamic earth | <p>Q1 DBQ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slope safety measures: check dam and soil nails • Causes of landslides • Appropriateness of slope safety measure <p>Q5 Short essay</p> <p>Formation of clastic sedimentary rocks and how these rocks shape the landforms in the NE part of HK</p> | | | |
| Weather and climate | <p>Q2 DBQ</p> <p>Planetary winds (formation), monsoons and typhoons</p> <p>Q6 Short essay</p> <p>Physical factors favouring the formation of sandstorms in North China and effectiveness of shelter forest programme in tackling sandstorms</p> | | | |

| | Key content in the exam questions | | | |
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| | 2020 | | | |
| Transport development, planning and management | <p>Q3 DBQ</p> <p>Passenger % of railways and franchised buses (changes, reasons of changes, problems/impacts)</p> <p>Q7 Short essay</p> <p>Advantages of HKIA as a regional air transport hub and whether the completion of the third runway helps to maintain these advantages</p> | | | |
| A regional study of the Zhujiang Delta | <p>Q4 DBQ</p> <p>Air pollution in ZDR (changes, reasons (fuel consumption & industries) and acid rain)</p> <p>Q8 Short essay</p> <p>Favourable physical factors of agricultural development in the ZDR and impacts of rapid urbanisation on agricultural development</p> | | | |