

External markbands–SL and HL

Paper 1 and 2 markbands

These markbands are to be used for papers 1 and 2 at both standard level and higher level

	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	Paper 1 Section B	Paper 2
Level descriptor	Knowledge/ understanding	Application/analysis	Synthesis/ evaluation	Skills	Marks 0–15	Marks 0–10
A	No relevant knowledge; no examples or case studies	No evidence of application; the question has been completely misinterpreted or omitted	No evaluation	None appropriate	0	0
B	Little knowledge and/or understanding, which is largely superficial or of marginal relevance; no or irrelevant examples and case studies	Very little application; important aspects of the question are ignored	No evaluation	Very low level; little attempt at organization of material; no relevant terminology	1–3	1–2
C	Some relevant knowledge and understanding, but with some omissions; examples and case studies are included, but limited in detail	Little attempt at application answer partially addresses question	No evaluation	Few or no maps or diagrams, little evidence of skills or organization of material; poor terminology	4–6	3–4
D	Relevant knowledge and understanding, but with some omissions; examples and case studies are included, occasionally generalized	Some attempt at application; competent answer although not fully developed, and tends to be descriptive	No evaluation or unsubstantiated evaluation	Basic maps or diagrams, but evidence of some skills; some indication of structure and organization of material; acceptable terminology	7–9	5–6
E	Generally accurate knowledge; and understanding, but with some minor omissions examples and case studies are well chosen, occasionally generalized	Appropriate application; developed answer that covers most aspects of the question	Beginning to show some attempt at evaluation of the issue, which may be unbalanced	Acceptable maps and diagrams; appropriate structure and organization of material; generally appropriate terminology	10–12	7–8
F	Accurate, specific, well-detailed knowledge and understanding; examples and case studies are well chosen and developed	Detailed application; well-developed answer that covers most or all aspects of the question	Good and well-balanced attempt at evaluation	Appropriate and sound maps and diagrams; well structured and organized responses; terminology sound	13–15	9–10

Paper 3 markbands

Part (a)

Level descriptor	Knowledge/ understanding AO1	Application/analysis AO2	Skills AO4	Marks 0–10
A	No relevant knowledge, or inappropriate	The question has been completely misinterpreted or omitted	None appropriate	0
B	Little relevant knowledge and/or understanding	Important aspects of the question are ignored	Little attempt at organization of material	1–3
C	Some relevant knowledge and understanding	Answer partially addresses the question	Some indication of structure or organization	4–6
D	Generally accurate knowledge and understanding	Answer is developed and covers most aspects of the question	Appropriate structure with generally appropriate terminology	7–8
E	Accurate, relevant knowledge and understanding	Well-developed answer that covers most or all aspects of the question	Well-structured response with sound terminology	9–10

Part (b)

Level description	Knowledge/ understanding AO1	Application/ analysis AO2	Synthesis/ evaluation AO3	Skills AO4	Marks 0–10
A	No relevant knowledge, or inappropriate	The question has been completely misinterpreted or omitted	No synthesis/ evaluation	None appropriate	0
B	Little relevant knowledge and/or understanding	Important aspects of the question are ignored	Little attempt at synthesis/evaluation	Little attempt at organization of material	1–4
C	Some relevant knowledge and understanding	Answer partially addresses the question	Basic synthesis/basic or unsubstantiated evaluation	Some indication of structure or organization	5–8
D	Generally accurate knowledge and understanding	Answer is developed and covers most aspects of the question	Synthesis that may be partially undeveloped/ evaluation that may be partially unsubstantiated	Appropriate structure with generally appropriate terminology	9–12
E	Accurate, relevant knowledge and understanding	Well-developed answer that covers most or all aspects of the question	Clear, developed synthesis/clear, substantiated evaluation	Well-structured response with sound terminology	13–15