

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

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Candidate number

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Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

I declare this is my own work.

INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Paper 3 Physical Geography 2

Wednesday 14 January 2026

07:00 UK Time

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- a ruler with millimetre measurements
- a calculator, which you are expected to use where appropriate.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- Answer **all** questions.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do **not** write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- All working must be shown.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You may use a bilingual dictionary for this exam.
- You may **not** use an English dictionary.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
TOTAL	



J A N 2 6 G G 0 3 0 1

Section A – Water, Carbon and Life on EarthAnswer **all** questions in the spaces provided.You must answer **all** questions in **Section A**.Only **one** answer per question is allowed.

For each question completely fill in the circle alongside the appropriate answer.

CORRECT METHOD



WRONG METHODS



If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown.



If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish to select as shown.

**0 1 . 1**

Which of the following is a store of water in the lithosphere?

[1 mark]**A** Water in an ice sheet☐**B** Water in between layers of rock☐**C** Water in clouds☐**D** Water in plants☐**0 1 . 2**

Which of the following is the definition of interception?

[1 mark]**A** Plants release water into the air☐**B** The ground takes in water, allowing it to enter the soil☐**C** Vegetation catches water before the water reaches the ground☐**D** Water changes from a liquid to a gas and enters the atmosphere☐

0 1 . 3

Which of the following is a natural driver of change in the carbon cycle?

[1 mark]

A Carbon capture and storage

☐

B Combustion of coal, oil and gas

☐

C Deforestation

☐

D Weathering

☐

0 1 . 4

What is 'carbon sequestration' in oceans?

[1 mark]

A The breakdown of biological material by deep-sea creatures

☐

B The burning of coal, oil and gas in coastal environments

☐

C The rise of deep, cold and high in carbon water to the surface of the ocean

☐

D The taking in of carbon by sea creatures

☐

0 1 . 5

What role does dust in the atmosphere play in cloud formation?

[1 mark]

A They allow transpiration to occur.

☐

B They cause condensation around them.

☐

C They increase evaporation rates.

☐

D They reduce precipitation levels.

☐

5

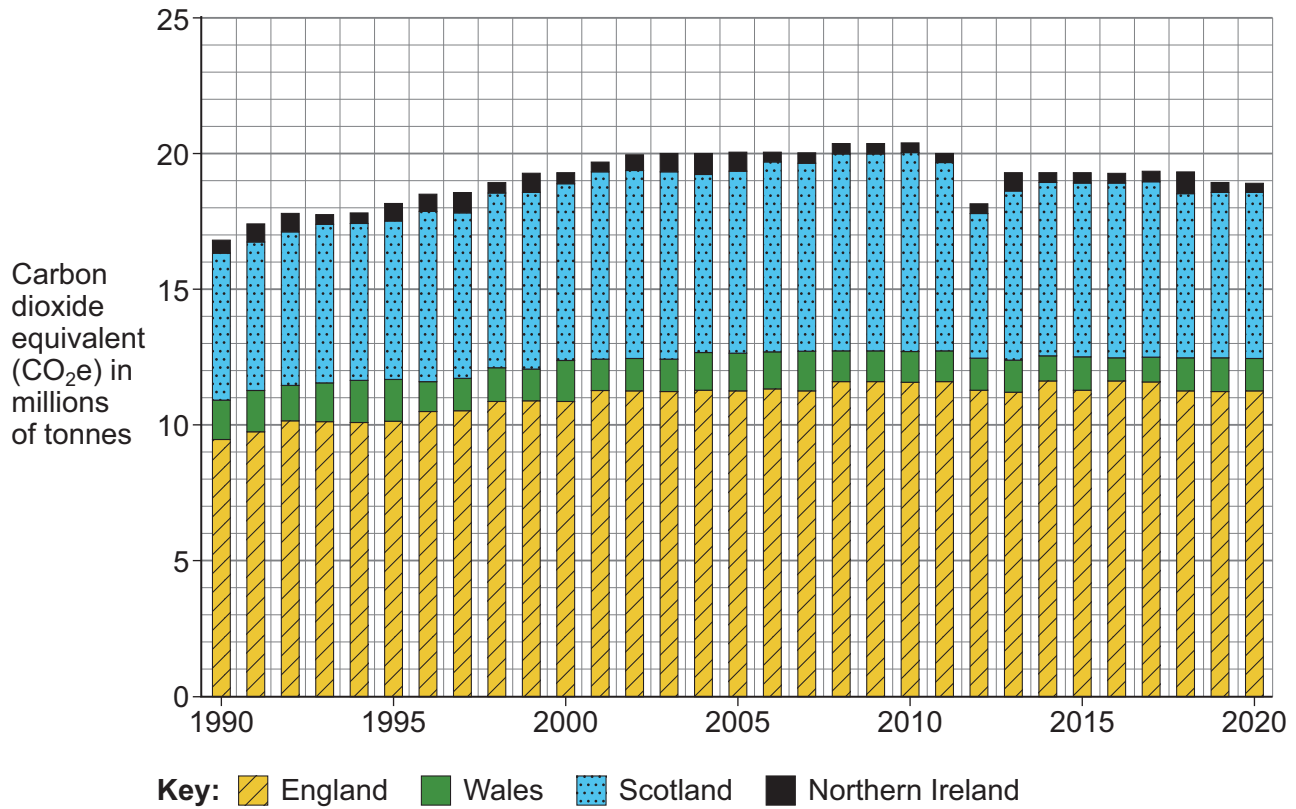
Turn over ►



Figure 1 shows net annual change in the amount of carbon stored in forests in the UK (CO₂ equivalent) between 1990 and 2020.

The UK is made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Figure 1



0 2

Analyse the data shown in **Figure 1**.

[6 marks]



Extra space _____

[9 marks]

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Extra space _____

9



Evaluate how climate change threatens the role tropical rainforests have in supporting life on Earth.

[illegible]

[illegible]

20

END OF SECTION A

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►



Section B – Ecosystems Under Stress

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

You must answer **all** questions in **Section B**.

Only **one** answer per question is allowed.

For each question completely fill in the circle alongside the appropriate answer.

CORRECT METHOD



WRONG METHODS



If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown.



If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish to select as shown.



0 5 . 1

Which of the following describes an example of **both** an input to **and** an output from an ecosystem?

[1 mark]

	Input	Output	
A	Carbon held in rocks	Heat energy from respiration	☐
B	Rain or snow that falls	When animals move around their habitat	☐
C	Sunlight used by plants	Oxygen released during photosynthesis	☐
D	Water stored in a lake	Nutrients released from decomposition	☐

0 5 . 2

Which of the following is a definition of 'net primary production'?

[1 mark]

- A The amount of energy that plants produce after they use some of the energy for themselves. ☐
- B The energy consumed by animals who eat mostly plants in a given area. ☐
- C The total biomass produced by all plants and animals in an ecosystem over a year. ☐
- D The total energy used by primary producers to grow and multiply in each area. ☐



0 5 . 3

Which of the following is an impact of wildfires on ecosystems?

[1 mark]

- A** Wildfires can encourage new growth by clearing dead vegetation. ☐
- B** Wildfires create habitats that only benefit large animals and birds. ☐
- C** Wildfires have no effect on habitats above ground level. ☐
- D** Wildfires result in the permanent loss of all plant and animal species in the area. ☐

0 5 . 4

Which of the following is a definition of 'nutrient cycling'?

[1 mark]

- A** The breaking down of organic matter, transferring nutrients back into the soil and promoting plant growth. ☐
- B** The consumption of nutrients by animals without any transfer of nutrients between different ecosystem components. ☐
- C** The one-time intake of nutrients by living creatures, leading to a reduction of essential nutrients. ☐
- D** The process by which nutrients are permanently removed from the soil through plant growth. ☐

0 5 . 5

'Algal blooms reduce the amount of sunlight that can enter the water and slow the growth of underwater plants. The decline in plant biomass leads to less competition for nutrients. As a result, there is further growth of algal blooms.'

This is an example of which of the following?

[1 mark]

- A** Negative feedback ☐
- B** Plagioclimax ☐
- C** Positive feedback ☐
- D** Seral stage ☐

5

Turn over ►

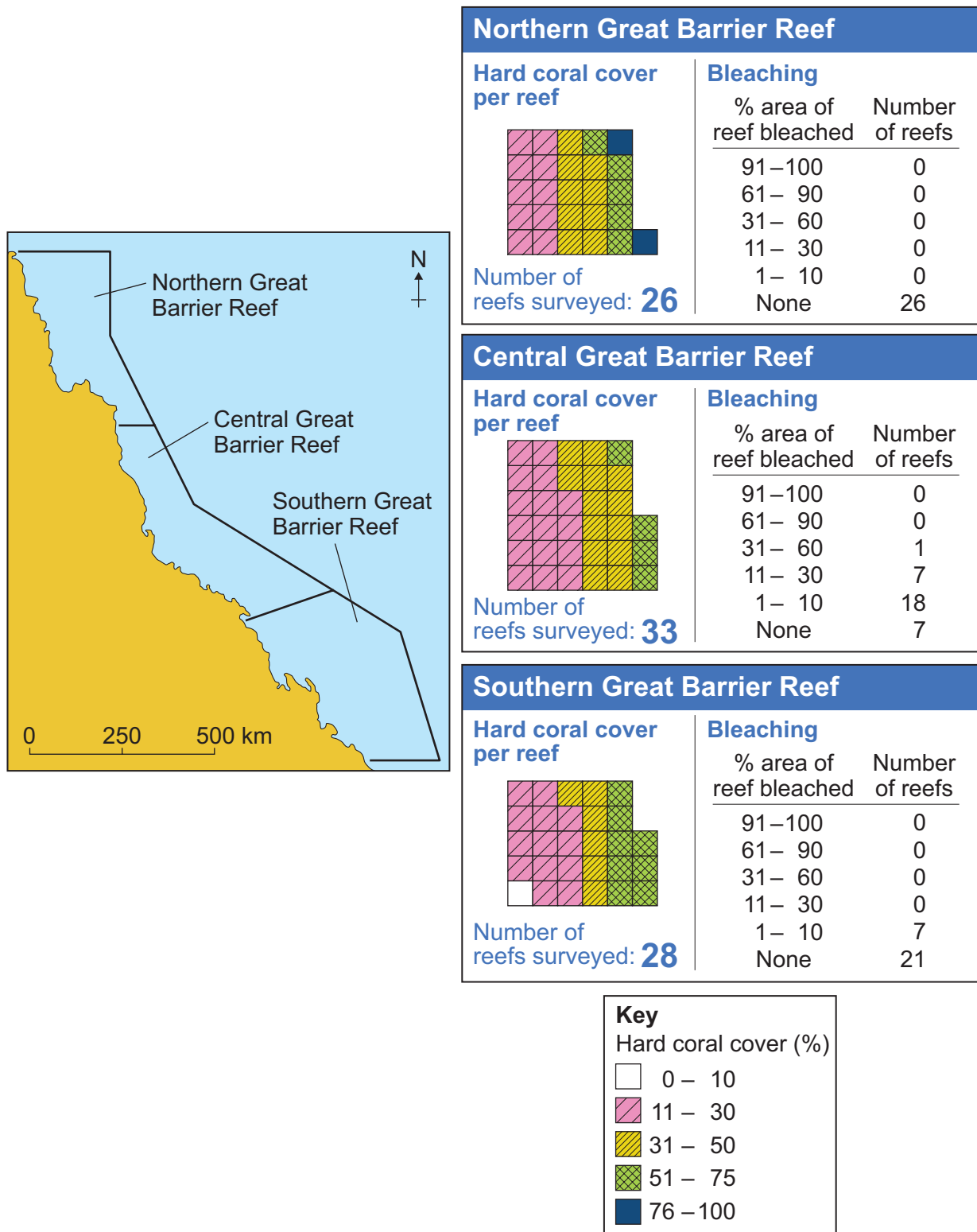


Figure 2 shows the amount of hard coral cover and bleaching in the three sections of the Great Barrier Reef in north-east Australia in 2021.

Notes:

Hard coral is more vulnerable to bleaching than soft coral.

Figure 2



[6 marks]

Extra space _____

6

Examine the impact of the introduction of new species on an ecosystem at a local scale.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



[20 marks]

[illegible]

Extra space _____



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

20

There are no questions printed on this page

*Do not write
outside the
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**



[illegible]

