

Candidate Name _____

Subject TG	Class	Index Number



ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL (SECONDARY)
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS AND 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

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HUMANITIES

2260/02

Paper 2 Geography

Friday

14 August 2026

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional materials: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

1. Write your name, subject teaching group, class and index number in the spaces at the top of this page.
2. Write in dark blue or black pen.
3. You may use a pencil for any diagrams or graphs.
4. Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.
5. The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Answer **three** questions in total.

Section A

Answer Question 1 **and** Question 2

Section B

Answer either Question 3 **or** Question 4

For Examiner's use
50

This question paper consists of 13 printed pages, 1 blank page and 1 Insert.

Section A

Answer Question 1 and Question 2.

1.	(a)	(i)	Explain what is meant by a sense of place within an urban neighbourhood. <i>A sense of place within an urban neighbourhood refers to the importance, meanings and memories people associate with specific locations in their neighbourhoods.</i>	
				[1]
		(ii)	Study Fig. 1.1 (Insert), which shows the introduction of 'Friendly Streets' to Ang Mo Kio Street 31. Using Fig. 1.1 (Insert), describe how the infrastructure in the neighborhood supports social sustainability and inclusivity for an aging population. <i>The banner reading 'Welcome to Friendly Streets' informs residents, motorists and pedestrians that all are included.</i> <i>Additionally, it signals to motorists that they are entering a high-activity community zone and must slow down to accommodate slow-moving elderly pedestrians</i> <i>To facilitate inclusivity and social sustainability, the paved footpaths/sidewalks/pavements are wide and level.</i> <i>These allows seniors and resides to walk at their own comfortable pace without being rushed/crowded</i> <i>Additionally, the wider footpaths/pavements/sidewalks accommodates wheelchairs and/or mobility devices thus reducing friction between different types of commuters.</i> <i>The highly visible zebra crossing in the middle ground of the photograph indicates that the road surface is flush with the footpath/sidewalk/pavements. This promotes social sustainability and inclusivity as it eliminates the need to step or down, removing tripping hazards and allowing seniors who use canes/walkers/Personal Mobility Aids (PMAs) to cross smoothly.</i> <i>The covered walkway links residential HDB blocks (on the right) with social spaces such as the local coffeeshop (on the left) are shared community spaces thus facilitating regular social interactions.</i>	
				[3]
		(b)	State one urban hazard common in residential areas (other than fires) and explain its negative consequences on the local community. <i><u>Air pollution</u> can occur in residential areas due to burning vegetation and industrial and motor emissions.</i> <i>As carbon dioxide and other pollutants are released into the atmosphere from the burning of vegetation, the local community may experience respiratory infections, heart diseases and lung cancer.</i> <i>Exposure to industrial and motor emissions can lead to poor health such as asthma in children and decreased lung function in older adults aside from respiratory functions, heart diseases and lung cancer.</i> <i><u>Traffic hazards</u> can occur in residential areas arising from speeding, red-light running and/or drink driving.</i> <i>Traffic hazards may cause serious injuries among the local community which may lead to disabilities and/or loss of life.</i> <i>Additionally, traffic hazards impact a significant proportion of elderly pedestrians and motorcyclists, who may suffer injuries or death.</i>	

				[3]
	(c)	A group of geography students conducted a Geographical Investigation (GI), using a questionnaire in the neighbourhood of Ang Mo Kio Street 31 to determine if longer residency leads to a stronger community attachment.		
		(i)	State a hypothesis the students could use for this investigation. <i>The longer/higher the number of years a resident has lived in the neighbourhood, the higher their sense of belonging / the stronger community involvement.</i> <i>Accept other plausible answers.</i>	
				[1]
		(ii)	Study Fig. 1.2 (Insert), which shows the relationship between years lived and sense of belonging for Ang Mo Kio Street 31 residents between 1980 and 2025. With reference to Fig. 1.2 (Insert), describe the relationship shown in the scatter graph. <i>There is a positive relationship/correlation between the years lived in the neighbourhood and the sense of belonging.</i> <i>Long-term residents who have lived in the area for over 30 years predominantly exhibit high scores for their sense of belonging.</i> <i>Residents who have lived 10 years or less in the neighbourhood have a lower to moderate sense of belonging.</i>	
				[2]
		(iii)	Explain two limitations of using closed-ended questionnaires to collect data regarding residents' emotional attachment to a place. <i>Fixed-response questions restrict respondents to predetermined options (e.g., Yes/No or 1–5 scales).</i> <i>They do not allow residents to explain the complex reasons or unique personal memories behind their emotional attachment</i> <i>Respondents may pick neutral options or arbitrary high numbers quickly without fully processing the criteria,</i> <i>which compromises the reliability and validity of the data.</i> <i>Additionally, unfavorable or unclear and/or misleading question construction may lead to potential bias</i> <i>Unforeseen issues and/or insights that can be captured by open-ended questions are unaccounted for, reducing the reliability and validity of the data</i> <i>Accept other plausible answers.</i>	
				[4]

[Total: 14]

2 Cluster 2: Tourism

	(a) Study Fig. 2.1 (Insert), which shows the number of foreign visitors visiting Iceland by cruise ship from 2013 to 2023. Using Fig. 2.1 (Insert), describe the trends in international tourist arrivals to Iceland between 2013 and 2023. • Over the entire ten-year period from 2013 to 2023, the number of foreign visitors arriving in Iceland via cruise ships has increased from approximately 94,000 in 2013 to nearly 290,000 in 2023. • From 2013 to 2019, Iceland experienced continuous and <u>steady year-on-year</u> growth. Cruise visitor arrivals more than doubled during this phase, climbing smoothly from around 94,000 in 2013 to a pre-pandemic peak of exactly 250,000 in 2019. • There was a dramatic and severe collapse in visitor arrivals between 2019 and 2020. Due to global travel restrictions, numbers <u>plummeted/dropped</u> from 250,000 down to a low of fewer than 5,000 visitors in 2020, before climbing to 15,000 visitors in 2021. • Following the easing of travel restrictions, the industry recorded a <u>steep growth</u> / sharp, exponential V-shaped recovery from 2021 onwards. Arrivals increased rapidly from about 15,000 in 2021 to around 210,000 in 2022, before increasing to nearly 290,000 visitors by 2023.
	[3]
	(b) Study Fig. 2.2 (Insert), which shows a photograph of a beach in Bali, Indonesia. With reference to Fig. 2.2 (Insert), suggest how the over-concentration of tourists at popular destinations can lead to severe environmental and economic consequences. <i>Increased in tourism-related employment mirrors the popularity of Iceland as a tourist destination hence severe <u>environmental/ecological</u> pressure is created when</i> • The carrying capacity of 'honeypot'/popular destinations are exceeded by heavy foot traffic/tourist numbers ◦ The increased heavy foot traffic/tourist numbers may lead to severe soil compaction increasing soil and land erosion aside from damaging existing flora/ecosystems • Additionally, increased tourist numbers will result in the production of more waste and litter which may overwhelm existing local waste management facilities. ◦ This may lead to the contamination of water bodies and environmental pollution <i>Increased in tourism-related employment mirrors the popularity of Iceland as a tourist destination hence severe economic consequences are created by:</i> • Over-reliance/over-dependence on tourism as the tourism industry was severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in mass unemployment and business collapse. • Additionally, the tourism industry is seen as a lucrative one that offers high returns over the short term, which may draw necessary labour, capital and resources away from traditional industries (fisheries or agriculture) or even essential industries. • The pursuit of economic gains might negatively affect the local housing supply for residents as more housing supply/units are converted into short-term tourists' rentals (e.g. Airbnb). This will increase the cost of living for residents while inadvertently decreasing their quality of life over the long-term.

				[3]																		
	(c)	Explain how advances in transport technology and the rise of low-cost carriers have globally accelerated tourism demand. <i>Tourism demand has been facilitated by advances in transport technology such as:</i> • <i>With the introduction of modern aircraft that are highly fuel-efficient, possess larger passenger capacities, and can fly longer distances without refueling</i> ○ <i>For example, the deployment of advanced twin-engine long-haul aircraft like the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and the Airbus A350 has enabled ultra-long-range non-stop routes, such as direct flights from Singapore to New York or London to Sydney. This convenience encourages long-distance international leisure and business tourism</i> <i>Tourism demand has been facilitated by the rise of low-cost carriers (LCC) because:</i> • <i>LCCs have revolutionized travel by making international flights financially accessible to the masses, as evidenced by the success of AirAsia and Scoot in Southeast Asia and Ryanair and EasyJet in Europe.</i> • <i>Additionally, low-cost carriers use smaller, secondary airports which stimulates local economies that were previously inaccessible to mainstream international tourists.</i> ○ <i>For example, In Asia, the expansion of flights directly into regional airports like Krabi International Airport or Da Nang International Airport allows tourists to bypass busy capital cities (like Bangkok or Hanoi) and head straight to coastal resort towns.</i> • <i>Advances in aircraft maintenance, computerized scheduling, and the operational model of LCCs emphasize fast aircraft turnaround times. This practice of high frequency (e.g. multiple flights per day on the same route) accelerates tourism demand as it gives travelers immense flexibility, giving rise to "spontaneous" travel and the global trend of short weekend getaways.</i>																				
				[3]																		
	(d)	"Overtourism in fragile environments can only be effectively managed through strict government legislation and regulations rather than the efforts of private businesses and local communities." To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. <table><tr><th colspan="3">Generic Level Descriptors for 9-mark AO3 Questions</th></tr><tr><th>Level</th><th>Marks</th><th>Descriptors</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>7–9</td><td>Develops arguments that supports both sides of the discussion clearly, using a range of points with good elaboration. Examples used demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is derived from a well-reasoned consideration of the arguments.</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>4–6</td><td>Develops arguments that support one side of the discussion well, using one or two points with some elaboration. Example(s) used demonstrate a good understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is well supported by arguments.</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>1–3</td><td>Arguments are unclear with limited description or may be listed. No examples provided or examples are generic, demonstrating a basic understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is simple, missing or unclear.</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>No creditworthy response.</td></tr></table> <i>While strict government legislation provides the essential legal framework to curb overtourism, declaring it the only effective method overlooks the indispensable roles played by grassroots community stewardship and corporate responsibility in safeguarding fragile ecosystems.</i>			Generic Level Descriptors for 9-mark AO3 Questions			Level	Marks	Descriptors	3	7–9	Develops arguments that supports both sides of the discussion clearly, using a range of points with good elaboration. Examples used demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is derived from a well-reasoned consideration of the arguments.	2	4–6	Develops arguments that support one side of the discussion well, using one or two points with some elaboration. Example(s) used demonstrate a good understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is well supported by arguments.	1	1–3	Arguments are unclear with limited description or may be listed. No examples provided or examples are generic, demonstrating a basic understanding of the issue or phenomenon. Evaluation is simple, missing or unclear.	0	0	No creditworthy response.
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0	0	No creditworthy response.																				

		<i>Governments possess the exclusive legal authority to enforce macro-level compliance and regulate tourist carrying capacities. Top-down regulations, such as Bhutan's US\$100 daily Sustainable Development Fee or the complete temporary closure of Maya Bay in Thailand, demonstrate how state intervention can decisively halt environmental degradation. Without legislative backing, penalties, and strict zoning laws, fragile environments are vulnerable to unchecked commercial exploitation, as voluntary measures lack the statutory power to restrict massive visitor volumes during peak seasons.</i> <i>Conversely, top-down policies often fail without the ground-level execution provided by local communities and private businesses. Local communities act as the immediate custodians of their land; for instance, the Maasai-owned conservancies in Kenya effectively manage wildlife tourism by enforcing localized grazing boundaries and visitor codes of conduct. Furthermore, private eco-tourism operators directly modify daily tourist behavior by implementing zero-plastic mandates and utilizing renewable energy, mitigating ecological footprints much faster than slow-moving legislation can be drafted. Evaluating this issue through the geographical concept of scale reveals that while governments successfully operate at the macro-scale to establish legal boundaries, businesses and residents are vital at the micro-scale to ensure daily enforcement and compliance. Likewise, differences in terms of resources and socioeconomic priorities between and within DCs and LDCs will affect the effectiveness of governments in managing overtourism in fragile environments vis-à-vis that of private businesses and local communities.</i> <i>True sustainability in fragile environments is achieved not through isolation, but through a cross-scale partnership where state regulations guide, and local stakeholders execute. In conclusion, effectively managing overtourism requires a balanced approach involving multiple stakeholders incorporating various perspectives is essential to managing tourism in fragile environments.</i>		
				[9]

[Total: 18]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 3 **or** Question 4.

3 Cluster 3: Climate

	(a)	Explain how latitude and solar radiation angles influence the temperature differences between equatorial and polar regions. • <i>Angle of incidence: At the equator (low latitudes), the sun's rays hit the Earth's surface at a high angle of incidence (near 90° or vertically overhead). This concentrates solar energy over a small, compact surface area, resulting in intense heating and high temperatures.</i> • <i>Oblique angles at the Poles: Conversely, at the polar regions (high latitudes), the sun's rays strike the surface at a low, oblique angle. This spreads the same amount of solar energy over a much larger surface area, leading to lower temperatures.</i> • <i>Atmospheric thickness: Furthermore, solar radiation striking the poles must travel through a thicker layer of the atmosphere than at the equator. This causes more solar energy to be lost due to scattering, absorption, and reflection by atmospheric gases and clouds before reaching the ground.</i>		
				[3]
	(b)	Describe the physical mechanisms driving the enhanced greenhouse effect, explicitly differentiating it from the natural greenhouse effect. • <i>The Natural Process: The natural greenhouse effect is a vital process where atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and water vapor allow incoming shortwave solar radiation to pass through to heat the Earth, but trap a balanced portion of outgoing longwave terrestrial radiation, keeping the planet warm enough to sustain life.</i> • <i>Human Amplification: The enhanced greenhouse effect occurs when human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) for industry and transport, along with widespread deforestation release excessive concentrations of these GHGs into the atmosphere</i> • <i>Increased Heat Trapping: This thick layer of anthropogenic GHGs absorbs a significantly greater amount of outgoing longwave terrestrial radiation that would otherwise escape into space.</i> • <i>Re-emission and Warming: These gases continually re-emit this trapped thermal energy back down toward the Earth's surface. This disrupts the natural thermal equilibrium and causes global temperatures to rise excessively, driving global warming.</i>		
				[4]
	(c)	Explain how anthropogenic climate change alters global weather patterns, leading to an increase in extreme weather events. • <i>Amplified Hydrological Cycle: Rising global temperatures cause land and ocean surface temperatures to increase. This accelerates rates of evaporation and expands the moisture-holding capacity of the atmosphere.</i> • <i>Severe Storms and Flooding: This intensified hydrological cycle results in a higher frequency of localized, heavy downpours, leading to severe flash flooding and making tropical cyclones (typhoons/hurricanes) more destructive due to warmer sea surfaces fueling them with extra thermal energy.</i> • <i>Prolonged Droughts and Heatwaves: Conversely, higher temperatures rapidly</i>		

		deplete moisture from soils and vegetation. Combined with shifts in atmospheric pressure belts and wind circulation patterns, this leads to prolonged, intense heatwaves and devastating droughts in arid or semi-arid regions (e.g., parts of East Africa or Australia). • <i>Climate Instability: The redistribution of thermal energy across the globe alters jet streams, making weather patterns less predictable and causing historical weather baselines to swing toward more frequent and severe anomalies.</i>	
			[4]
	(d)	Explain how the burning of fossil fuels has accelerated climate change. Use examples to support your answer. <i>Award 1 mark for each explanation of the anthropogenic factors that have accelerated climate change, up to a maximum of 2 marks</i> <i>Award 1 mark for each example of the anthropogenic factor that has accelerated climate change</i> <i>Award up to 1 additional mark for further development of each explanation</i> • <i>One anthropogenic factor that has accelerated climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, which is used by humans for activities such as agriculture, industries, and urbanisation</i> • <i>As fossil fuels have high carbon content, the burning of fossil fuels will produce large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to the enhanced greenhouse effect, accelerating climate change</i> • <i>Since the industrial revolution in the 1880s, the use of fossil fuels have increased steeply, causing more than 35 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide to be emitted into the atmosphere</i>	
			[4]
	(e)	Explain the impacts of climate change on human systems. <i>Award 1 mark for each explanation of the impact of climate change on human systems</i> <i>Award 1 additional mark for further development of each explanation</i> • <i>Sea level rise can cause low-lying countries and islands to be flooded more frequently, causing people to lose their homes/ part of their land</i> • <i>More extreme weather events can also happen, such as heatwaves that cause heat injuries and death to people</i>	
			[3]

[Total: 18]

4 Cluster 4: Tectonics

	(a)	Study Fig. 3.1 (Insert), which shows a diagram of an oceanic-continental convergent plate boundary. Referring to Fig. 3.1 (Insert), explain how a deep-sea trench and fold mountains are formed at an oceanic-continental convergent plate boundary. • <i>When a dense oceanic plate collides with a less dense continental plate, compressional forces cause the heavier oceanic plate to subduct into the mantle.</i> • <i>At the exact point where the oceanic plate bends and sinks downward, a long, narrow, and exceptionally deep depression is carved into the ocean floor, forming a deep-sea trench.</i> • <i>Simultaneously, the massive compressional forces <u>compress, buckle, and uplift</u> the layers of sedimentary rock lining the edge of the overriding continental plate.</i> • <i>These rock layers undergo intense folding, raising massive, elevated structures parallel to the plate boundary, resulting in fold mountains.</i> • <i>Pairs of deep-sea trench and fold mountains formed at such plate boundaries include the Andes mountain and the Peru-Chile Trench, the Cascade Ranges and the Aleutian Trench</i>
		[5]
	(b)	Distinguish between the structural profiles and eruption styles of a shield volcano and a stratovolcano. <i>Award 1mark for each comparison</i> <i>No marks to be awarded for no comparisons.</i> <u>Structural profiles</u> <i>A shield volcano has low, <u>broad</u>, and <u>gently sloping</u> profile</i> • <i>resembling a shield, while</i> <i>a stratovolcano has <u>tall, steep</u>, and <u>highly symmetrical</u></i> • <i>conical profile.</i> <u>Eruption styles</u> <i>A shield volcano is constructed from <u>low-viscosity</u> and <u>low silica</u> basic basaltic lava that flows easily over long distances before cooling. In contrast, a stratovolcano is built from <u>alternating layers of ash, pyroclasts</u>, and <u>highly viscous, silica-rich</u> lava that cools rapidly near the vent.</i> <i>The basic basaltic lava of a shield volcano allows <u>gases to escape easily</u> thus creating a <u>quiet and effusive</u> eruption. The eruption of a stratovolcano is <u>explosive and violent</u> due to the <u>trapped volcanic gases</u> that build up over time under immense pressure before erupting violently.</i>
		[5]
	(c)	Study Fig. 3.2 (Insert), which shows a photograph of a tsunami in Japan.
	(i)	Referring to Fig. 3.2 (Insert), describe how underwater earthquakes can trigger a tsunami. • <i>A powerful underwater earthquake along a marine subduction zone causes a sudden, violent vertical displacement of the seafloor.</i> • <i>This motion instantaneously displaces the massive column of water sitting directly above the fault line, unleashing high-energy seismic sea waves that</i>

			<i>race across the open ocean.</i> <i>• The waves travel towards the coast at high speed. Upon reaching the coast, there is friction with the shallow seabed, which slows the waves down.</i> <i>• The waves build up in height and resulted in the coastlines being severely hit by the tsunami</i>	
				[3]
		(ii)	Explain the impacts of a tsunami on coastal communities. <i>• Tsunamis can destroy ecosystems where the seawater can <u>flood large areas</u> of coastal areas and damage habitats.</i> <i>• <u>Large amounts of debris</u> are carried by waves which can <u>pollute</u> the areas and kill wildlife.</i> <i>• Tsunamis can also <u>destroy properties and infrastructure</u> where the waves can sweep away buildings.</i> <i>• Fast moving waters can <u>snap electricity and communication cables</u> thus disrupting essential services.</i> <i>• Fast moving waters can <u>sweep away roads and railways</u>, making it difficult to rescue people or provide aid.</i> <i>• Tsunamis can cause injuries – where waters can <u>drown</u> people and the <u>waves can hit and kill people</u>.</i>	
				[2]
		(d)	Describe how land-use planning reduces a city's vulnerability to earthquakes. <i>• Land-use planning controls and minimises developments in high-risk areas by using hazard maps to identify areas at high risk of tectonic disasters, which reduces the potential loss of lives and damage to properties</i> <i>• Land-use planning also involves building important infrastructure such as hospitals away from earthquake-prone areas, so that medical aid can still be supplied when an earthquake occurs</i> <i>• Land-use planning involves building homes and important infrastructure on higher ground, which can reduce the loss of lives and damage if the earthquake triggers a tsunami</i> <i>• For example, after a tsunami in Japan in 1933, land use planning was implemented and residential land use near coastal areas (eg. Touni-hongo village) are shifted to higher ground. In the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, houses on higher ground were not destroyed.</i> <i>• However, effective implementation of land-use planning requires a lot of resources, which not all countries might have</i>	
				[3]

[Total: 18]

Copyright Acknowledgements

Question 1	Fig. 1.1	https://aa-highway.com.sg/singapore-to-have-more-friendly-streets/
Question 1	Fig. 1.2	\textcopyright 2026 [NgEuKhim]. All Rights Reserved.
Question 2	Fig. 2.1	https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/pdf/10.5555/20250309820
Question 2	Fig. 2.2	https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/travel/article/3042373/bruised-bali-faces-looming-environmental-crisis-and
Question 4	Fig. 3.1	https://www2.tulane.edu/~sanelson/eens1110/pltect.htm
Question 4	Fig. 3.2	https://jla-lifesaving.or.jp/en/watersafety/tsunami/

Assessment Specification Grid

Question	Max Mark	Question Part	AO1	AO2	AO3
1	14	(a)(i)	1		
		(a)(ii)		3	
		(b)	3		
		(c)(i)			1
		(c)(ii)		2	
		(c)(iii)			4
		Total	4	5	5
2	18	(a)(i)		3	
		(a)(i)		3	
		(b)	3		
		(c)			9
		Total	3	6	12
3	18	(a)	3		
		(b)	4		
		(c)			4
		(d)			4
		(e)	3		
		Total			
4	18	(a)		5	
		(b)	5		
		(c)(i)		3	
		(c)(ii)	2		
		(d)			3
		Total	14	19	17

Assessment Objectives Weighting for Paper 2

AO1: Knowledge with Understanding	15%
AO2: Skills and Analysis	20%
AO3: Judgement and Decision-making	15%
Total	50%