

ASSUMPTION ENGLISH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026
4E5N GEOGRAPHY ELECTIVE (2260/02)
MARKER'S REPORT FOR STUDENTS

Name:

Class:

Date:

Cluster 1: Geography in Everyday Life

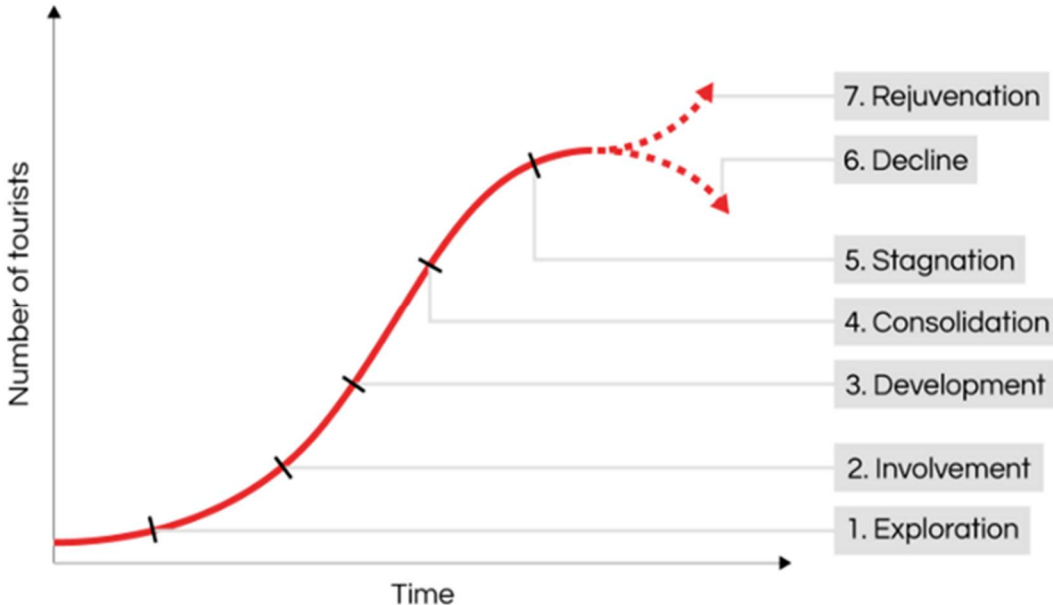
Questions	Common Mistakes
1 (a) Study Fig. 1.1 (Insert), which shows an article on the development of Woodlands Town in Singapore. (i) Describe how cultural and regulating ecosystem services are provided by the Woodlands North Coast. Cultural ecosystem services: - The presence of green spaces can provide <u>non-material benefits</u> from ecosystems, including <u>aesthetic</u> experiences, <u>recreation</u> and <u>education</u>. - E.g. <i>The area's natural landscape and hilly terrain</i>, combined with <i>the blocks designed to maximise scenic views</i>, provides aesthetic experiences for residents living in the area. , enhancing well-being/ relieving stress. - This in turn enhances their well-being and quality of life. - E.g. <i>WoodsVista Gallery, a walking and cycling path</i> developed, can encourage people's participation in <u>recreational/physical activities, such as walking or jogging</u> - which can <u>improve</u> people's physical and mental <u>health</u>. <i>Multi-tiered and diverse native plantings offer visitors varied opportunities to interact with nature</i>, encouraging educational opportunities. - E.g. Students from nearby schools may conduct fieldwork and/or go on a learning journey to find out more about the living species in the vicinity. Regulating ecosystem services: <i>Abundant green spaces/ Multi-tiered and diverse native plantings</i> encourage photosynthesis, which <u>removes carbon dioxide and air pollutants</u> in the air, thereby <u>regulating air quality</u>. <u>Shade provided by the multi-tiered tree canopy/</u> extensive tree cover also helps to <u>regulate air temperature</u>. - Tree roots and soil structures present can also help <u>regulate water flow by encouraging infiltration and reducing surface runoff</u>. At least 1 point from each ecosystem service @ 1 mark each (max 3 marks) Reserve 1 mark for reference to figure (<i>in bold italics</i>)	I got ____ / 3 marks. [] Did not make use of Fig. 1.1 [-1 mark] [] Did not write enough for 3 marks [] Did not understand what ecosystem services are Provisioning - Resources (food, water, nutrients, etc.) Regulating - <u>AIR quality</u> (photosynthesis – remove CO2) - <u>AIR temperature</u> (evapotranspiration helps lower temp, tree cover provides shade) - <u>WATER flow</u> (reduces surface runoff) - <u>WATER quality</u> (filtration through the soil) Cultural - <u>Aesthetic</u> (visually appealing/pretty scenery) - <u>Recreational</u> (leisure activities) - <u>Educational</u> (fieldwork/ learning journeys) Supporting - photosynthesis – replenish O2

Questions	Common Mistakes
(ii) With reference to Fig. 1.1 (Insert), suggest how economic sustainability may be achieved by the new urban neighbourhood. \$ social environmental - Economic sustainability can be achieved by ensuring that a neighborhood has a high enough population density ("upon completion, it will yield about 4000 BTO flats"). ① Amenities such as eateries and shops will be in close proximity for residents. - Local businesses are able to sustain themselves as there will be sufficient demand for their goods and services. ② - Due to its close proximity, residents need not travel far, keeping their transportation costs low. Residents living nearby can also take up employment at these shops, earning income and increasing their standard of living. ③ ★ Transport infrastructure are located close to one another. (Woodlands North MRT station, bus stops, Woods Vista Gallery that links residents to Woodlands Central) Connecting infrastructure need not be built over long distances, keeping the cost to develop transport infrastructure low/ lowering transportation costs for residents. Any 3 @ 1 mark each Reserve 1 mark for reference to figure (in bold italics)	I got ____ / 3 marks. [] Did not make use of Fig. 1.1 [-1 mark] [] Did not write enough for 3 marks [] Did not understand what economic sustainability is about (read the larger font for key phrases!)
(b) A group of students would like to investigate the importance of inclusive amenities and facilities in Singapore's urban town planning. As part of their investigation, they wanted to find out if well-considered features could contribute to a strong sense of place for residents in Woodlands. (i) Briefly describe how inclusive amenities and facilities may help residents derive a sense of place in their neighbourhoods. - Inclusive amenities and facilities can encourage residents to gather and/or spend time/interact with one another in their neighbourhoods. ① - The repeated encounters will also encourage familiarity of experiences for the residents. ② - Such interactions encourage residents to associate meanings and memories with these locations in the area/neighbourhood, in turn developing their sense of place towards these places. ③ - E.g. big, open venues (multi-purpose courts) that supports kindergarten graduation concerts, night markets, etc. 2 @ 1 mark each Accept the use of example(s) to elaborate point	I got ____ / 2 marks. [] Did not understand what sense of place is about [] Did not remember beyond 'gathering' and 'interactions' (read the larger font for key phrases!)

Questions	Common Mistakes
(ii) They decided to make use of Fig. 1.1 (Insert) as a reference article to ask their respondents some questions. On a weekend when everyone in the group was available, <u>they went down to Woodlands Central near the Woodlands Bus Interchange and MRT Station</u> to conduct their survey. They stood near a traffic light junction and <u>asked the first 20 people</u> that walked past them. Fig. 1.2 (Insert) shows the questionnaire that they used. Evaluate the validity and reliability of their investigation methods.	I got ____ / 6 marks.
The students are <u>unlikely to gather reliable nor valid data/ likely unable to conclude their investigation meaningfully.</u>	[] Did not <u>answer the question/write a clear stand</u> ('unable to gather reliable or valid data')
(+) <u>Q4 and 5 are relevant to their investigation focus (sense of place).</u> <u>Q5 allowed the respondents to explain why they have a strong sense of place towards an amenity/facility in their neighbourhood, which may help them conclude their investigation.</u> - Survey form captures demographic information <u>such as gender and age,</u> which <u>could be used for further analysis later on for varying levels of sense of place to see possible correlation against respective demographic groups.</u> (-) The data collected may largely be invalid - The <u>sample population may not be representative enough</u> for reliable conclusions to be made. <u>Sample size may be too small (20 people).</u> - the <u>20 people</u> surveyed may come from different neighbourhoods in Singapore/ <u>may not be residing in Woodlands,</u> and there is <u>no common basis of comparison</u> for the facilities and amenities available. <u>Convenience sampling (first 20 people that walked past)</u> is <u>biased/ unfair/ subjective in selection.</u> - Choice of <u>simple random sampling,</u> for example, would have been a more reliable sampling method due to the <u>fair selection of respondents through random numbers generated.</u> Accept suggestion of alternative sampling methods to elaborate why students' choice of sampling may not be reliable @ up to 1 additional mark - The <u>validity and quality of the data collected depends on respondents' understanding of 'sense of place' in the questionnaire.</u> <u>Close-ended options</u> would allow respondents who do not fully understand the definition to still make a choice, making the <u>data collected invalid if it does not reflect their true opinion.</u>	[] Did not write enough for 6 marks [] Did not know the difference between <u>validity, reliability</u> and <u>accuracy</u> (<i>Least likely to be tested on this syllabus</i>) - Accuracy: <u>How correct data is</u> - Validity: <u>Correlation back to investigation focus? (relevant or not? Can help to conclude?)</u> - Reliability: <u>Consistency in data</u>

Cluster 2: Tourism

Questions	Common Mistakes
2 (a) Study Fig. 2.1 (Insert), which shows a tourist map of Phú Quốc, an island in Vietnam increasingly popular with tourists.	
(i) Using Fig. 2.1 (Insert), describe the types of tourism experiences available in Phú Quốc. <i>What tourists will DO</i> • Scenic Tourism (<i>Type of tourism</i>) - o Pristine white-sand beaches such as Hon Thom, lush tropical jungles/ National Park offer beautiful, aesthetic views for tourists. - o The <u>natural/ physical</u> environment allows tourists to unwind/get away from their usual urbanised environments. • Heritage Tourism - o Tourists can participate in activities to <u>experience the local/Vietnamese culture</u> and learn about its history. - o E.g. Vietnam has a rich history of water towns/ Fishing Villages, and tourists can better <u>understand the locals' way of life</u> when they visit these places. - o E.g. Phú Quốc Night Market will likely offer a variety of local food delicacies and <u>seafood, enabling the tourists' experience of local food culture</u>. - o Other examples: observing/taking part in the Boat Race/Nguyen Trung Truc/Nghinh Ong Festival, visiting the Truc Lam Pagoda • Sports/Adventure Tourism - o The <u>availability of open waters and mountains</u> from these places of natural beauty <u>offer opportunities for outdoor adventures</u>, such as climbing, hiking and diving. - o E.g. The nearby waters make excellent diving spots, which will <u>attract tourists</u> who would be <u>keen to participate</u> in such <u>challenging physical activities</u>. Any 3 @ 1 mark each Max 1 mark for listing of the types of tourism wo further elaboration Reserve 1 mark for reference to figure (<i>in bold italics</i>) Accept other plausible answers	I got ____ / 3 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) [] Did not know I was supposed to write about WHAT the tourists can do [merely listed the attractions from map – max 1m] [] Did not write enough for 3 marks [] Did not make use of Fig. 2.1 [-1 mark]

Questions	Common Mistakes
(ii) With reference to Fig. 2.1 (Insert), identify the likely stage of tourism development in Phú Quốc and provide a reason for your answer. Identify: Development/ Consolidation 1 @ 1 mark Reason(s): • There is a rapid <u>increase of tourist arrivals</u> (<i>“visitor numbers have reached 5 million in 2019”</i>). • <u>Number of attractions and facilities built</u> increase rapidly (<i>“massive resort and theme park <u>investments</u>”, International Airport and Seaport</i>). • Destination is becoming <u>recognised</u> as a tourist attraction (<i>“solidifying its transition into a major mass-tourism hub</i>). (not in fig per se, but to consider for development cycle too) Contributions to the economy Any 1 @ 1 mark	I got ____ / 2 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) [] Did not know identify the correct stage of tourism development [no shortcut – please remember the stages] [] Did not make use of Fig. 2.1 [-1 mark]
	

Questions	Common Mistakes
(b) Describe how globalisation has facilitated a more diverse tourism supply. - Globalisation has boosted the growth of international tourism, so destinations have expanded the range of tourism products they offer. - As more tourists travel internationally, destinations need to cater to different/more varied interests, leading to a wider supply of attractions worldwide. - This also results in greater competition among businesses, which in turn encourages better, value-for-money travel experiences to be offered by businesses in order to attract more people. - This includes developing varied tourism experiences within a country/region, encouraging the emergence of niche tourism/ specialist operators who aim to provide unique travel experiences that mass market tour operators may not provide. - Globalisation has encouraged improvements in transport, making more places accessible to tourists. - More places become connected via different transport modes, making 'Second cities' more popular than before, increasing the number of attractions. - Cheaper flights, better airports, cruise routes and road networks allow previously less accessible destinations to receive visitors, in turn encouraging the development of new attractions and services in these places. - People also have greater access to tourist information and new travelling ideas, especially through new online media. E.g. London's King Cross Station became popular with tourists after having made known to people through the Harry Potter film series. - The use of the internet and social media, in particular, have also - allowed smaller and specialised tourism operators to reach global tourists through digital marketing modes. - encouraged the sharing of new knowledge/information on less-known destinations, such as Antarctica, in turn expanding the tourists' market for such attractions. Any 4 @ 1 mark each (including use of example(s) as elaboration of point(s) (in bold)) Reserve 1 mark for link back to question	THIS QUESTION WAS NOT DONE WELL AS A COHORT. I got ____ / 4 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) from tourists' pov [] Wrote about tourism DEMAND instead of tourism SUPPLY - Who makes up the tourism supply? (tourist operators, airline companies, attractions, etc.) [] Not writing the outcome (the HOW) - E.g. Globalisation improved access of info (SO WHAT? How has this changed tourism supply?)

Questions	Common Mistakes
(c) 'Pro-poor tourism is the easiest approach for less developed countries to achieve sustainable tourism development.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples to support your answer.	
Level 0 (0 marks) - No creditworthy response Level 1 (1-3 marks) - Arguments are unclear with limited description or may be listed. - No examples provided, or examples are generic, demonstrating a basic understanding of the issue/phenomenon. - Evaluation is simple, missing or unclear. Level 2 (4-6 marks) - Develops arguments that support one side of the discussion well using 1-2 points with some elaboration. - Example(s) used demonstrate a good understanding of the issue/phenomenon. - Evaluation is well-supported by arguments. Level 3 (7-9 marks) - Develops arguments that support both sides of the discussion clearly using a range of points with good elaboration. - Example(s) used demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the issue/phenomenon. - Evaluation is derived from a well-reasoned consideration of the arguments.	I got ____ / 9 marks. [] Incomplete/ Only generalised statements [] Did not develop GIVEN FACTOR (Pro-poor tourism) well/at all [] 1-sided argument (only valid GF or OF) [] Did not elaborate the point clearly [] Did not provide specific Egs to support the point(s) raised [] Did not link back clearly/ at all (so what? How does factor lead to economic/social/env sustainability?) [] Evaluation is too simple/ not developed well (did not use STEP approach at all)

A possible approach:

- The answer could first illustrate that **pro-poor tourism** may be seen as a suitable and practical approach for Less Developed Countries because it **directly focuses on improving the livelihoods of poor local communities**.
- However, the answer should also recognise that pro-poor tourism may not necessarily be the easiest or most effective approach to achieve sustainable tourism development. This is especially so **if local communities lack skills, capital, infrastructure or access to tourist markets**.
- An **alternative** approach is **community-based tourism**, where **local communities are more directly involved in the planning, ownership and management of tourism activities**; OR **ecotourism**, where **pristine, undisturbed natural environments can be leveraged on as an attraction, and revenue generated can help support economic and environmental sustainability**.

A comprehensive answer should be able to highlight the following, but not limited to:

- Sustainable tourism development can only be achieved when sustainability principles are applied to balance the economic, social and environmental aspects of tourism development, so that there may be equitable distribution of tourism benefits for all stakeholders.
- Pro-poor tourism may support the economic dimension by improving livelihoods, but if tourism is developed mainly to generate income, environmental degradation or cultural commodification may still occur, compromising on sustainable tourism development (production) in the long run.
- Community-based tourism may be a stronger alternative because it empowers local communities in the process - thereby supporting socio-cultural and environmental sustainability.
- LDCs may face wider barriers that make any tourism approach difficult/ limit both pro-poor tourism and community-based tourism.
 - o E.g. poor transport infrastructure, weak governance, limited education and training and political instability.
- Stakeholder cooperation and close partnership remain essential.
 - o Governments can provide infrastructure and regulation; international organisations can provide funding and expertise; businesses can connect communities to markets, and tourists can support responsible tourism practices.

AGREEMENT

(Yes, pro-poor tourism will enable LDCs to achieve sustainable tourism development.)

Point	Training/ Capacity building through skill development
Elaborate	With training provided, locals will be able to learn new skills which they can then use to gain employment in the tourism sector. This overcomes the lack the qualifications for formal employment otherwise, and can help to ensure that the locals can earn stable, long-term sources of income and achieve some form of career progression, contributing to economic sustainability. (individuals being self-sufficient = govt can channel funds into other areas of development instead of welfare subsidies/handouts)
Example	In Vietnam, the UNWTO provided handicraft skills training to locals in Ha Tay Province, enabling them to create products to sell to tourists and providing them with continual employment. UNWTO = United Nations World TOURISM Organisation
Another example?	

Point	Increasing access to micro-finance
Elaborate	Access to micro-finance enables the poor to set up businesses such as homestays and restaurants. With the offset of set-up costs, more locals can start their intended businesses on a small scale, which may also make it easier for LDCs to implement/develop tourism sustainably (will not require massive upfront capital unlike large-scale resorts).
Example	In the villages around China's Three Parallel Rivers Region, authorities provided financial assistance for villagers to set up homestays and restaurants, resulting in an increase in income and standard of living. • Early 2000s: Laomudeng was an isolated Nu ethnic minority village that lacked paved roads, stable electricity, and internet. Household incomes were low (less than 10,000 RMB / US\$1500) and primarily depended on subsistence farming. (farming for themselves) • Through China's Poverty Alleviation Loan programme and the local Rural Credit Co-operatives (RCC), villagers received specialised low-interest, subsidised micro-credits specifically designed for homestay conversions (referred to locally as <i>Nongjiale</i> or rural guesthouses). Cultural immersion -> social sustainability • Led by local pioneers who used credits to build the earliest inns, the village expanded to host dozens of homestays, performance spaces for ethnic Nu music, and local tea-tasting restaurants. Per capita disposable income in the village increased more than two-folds (25,000-40,000 RMB / US\$3500 to almost US\$6000).
Another example?	

DISAGREEMENT

(No, pro-poor tourism may not help LDCs to achieve sustainable tourism development.)

Main Limitation(s) of pro-poor tourism

Point	Inability to significantly reduce poverty as compared to direct investment in social services	
Elaborate	PPT may fail to reach the poorest members of a community.	
	• The poor may be reluctant to participate in PPT, or may lack the skills, finances and knowledge to establish and sustain their businesses.	• Non-poor locals often have better access to micro-finance or the self-confidence to undergo training, which can widen the income gap between the poor and non-poor.
Example	The Tourism, Employment, and Poverty Reduction (TEPR) programme in Abr, Iran, has not resulted in significant economic benefits for the poorest locals. • A large proportion of programme support went to established private entities and affluent social groups instead, rather than marginalised households. • This is partly because the poorest inhabitants lack the personal savings, collateral, and access to low-interest credit required to initiate and sustain viable tourism enterprises. • Many lack the self-confidence to undergo training provided by the authorities. • Some of the training classes require the participants to pay a small fee, and many possibly refrained from paying because they do not see a future for themselves in the industry. • Investors could also bypass the local poor or simply hire them without basic labor insurance so as to cut their own operating costs. • As a result, many continue to lack the necessary skills to participate in the tourism industry, resulting in low participation among the poor.	

3 Cluster 3: Climate

	Questions	Common Mistakes
(a)	Describe how land breezes are formed at night. - At night, <u>due to different specific heat capacities</u>, <u>land and sea lose heat</u> to the environment through longwave radiation at <u>different</u> speeds. - The land and the air above it lose heat <u>quickly</u>, causing <u>cooler air</u> to be denser and <u>sink</u>, forming <u>higher pressure over land</u>. / - The sea and the air above it lose heat <u>slowly</u>, causing the <u>warmer air</u> and <u>lower pressure area over sea</u>. - As a result, <u>air moves from</u> an area of <u>higher pressure over land</u> to lower pressure over the <u>sea</u>, forming <u>land breeze</u>.	I got ____ / 3 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) [] Wrote about sea breeze instead [] Over-summarising/ Missing out key points like 'pressure area'
(b)	<u>Compare</u> the formation and characteristics of convectional rain and relief rain. Characteristics: <u>Convectional rain is common in tropical areas</u> where there is intense heating of the Earth's surface, but <u>relief rain is common in coastal areas</u> where hilly terrains (e.g. <u>mountain ranges</u>) are present. <u>Convectional rain is likely to last a shorter time</u> (and is more intense) than relief rain. Both types of rainfall only fall in <u>localised areas</u>, but <u>relief rain will also leave the leeward/rain shadow side dry</u> due to lack of rain./ <u>relief rain will only rain on the windward side</u>. Formation: Both convectional rain and relief rain are <u>formed due to processes of evaporation and condensation</u>. - Convectional rain forms when intense surface heating causes <u>warm moist air to rise by convection</u>, while relief rain forms when <u>moist air is forced to rise over highland or mountain barriers</u>. Both convectional rain and relief rain <u>involve moist air rising, cooling and condensing to form clouds and rainfall</u>. (once air cools and condenses on condensation nuclei at dew point temperature).	I got ____ / 4 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) [] Described/ Listed the points for each type of rainfall instead of Comparing point-by-point (No clear BOC) [Max 1 mark for listing]

	Questions	Common Mistakes
(c)	Explain how changing land use has accelerated climate change. Changing land use: • <u>Clearance of land/ deforestation for space reduces the number of trees that absorb carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, result in increased levels of carbon dioxide.</u> • In industrial processes, the <u>burning of fossil fuels to generate energy to run the machinery and other factory processes also contribute to greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.</u> • <u>Fossil fuel combustion from the high concentration of vehicles in cities also contribute to emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon monoxide.</u> Any 1 example of changing land use to elaborate @ 1 mark Accept other plausible answers Link back to question: • Land use changes generally lead to more greenhouse gases emitted (such as carbon), causing enhanced greenhouse effect. • This in turn causes more heat to be trapped, accelerating climate change. 2 @ 1 mark each	I got ____ / 3 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) [] Only focused on changing land use but did not explain <u>HOW</u> it brings about climate change, i.e. outcome (the HOW) • E.g. all this changing land use increase GH gases (SO WHAT? How has this accelerated climate change?)
(d)	Study Fig. 3.1 (Insert), which shows a structural adaptation strategy for Singapore to guard against the impacts of climate change.	
(i)	With the help of Fig. 3.1, identify the structural adaption strategy and describe its use as a structural adaptation strategy to build climate resilience. Identify: <u>Polder(s)/ Dyke(s)</u> [1 mark] (X) seawalls Describe how: • A 10 km-long coastal dyke is built to increased seawall height around (the perimeters of the reclaimed area in) Pulau Tekong. • The land behind the dyke is drained and kept at a lower level than the surrounding sea (reduced infill below sea level, low-lying tract of land behind the dyke). • The polder acts as a barrier against rising sea levels and storm surges due to heavier rainfall, reducing the risk of seawater flooding the reclaimed land. • This allows the low-lying reclaimed land to remain safe and usable, protecting people, property and environments from coastal floods/ sea level rise. Any 3 @ 1 mark each Reserve 1 mark for reference to figure (<i>in bold italics</i>)	I got ____ / 4 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) [] Did not identify the right structural adaptation strategy • Seawall is only <u>part of</u> the whole set-up! [] No ref to fig./ Did not make use of Fig. 3.1 [-1 mark]

	Questions	Common Mistakes
(ii)	With reference to Fig. 3.1, explain why this strategy may not always be the most practical approach to develop climate resilience.	
	- It is <u>costly to build</u> (<i>cost more than S\$1 billion</i>), and <u>less developed countries (LDCs) may not have the financial resources to support</u> its construction. - Furthermore, the <u>structures require regular maintenance and enhancements</u>, which <u>cost more</u>. - It takes a long time to build (<i>nearly 8 years to reach full completion</i>) and <u>may not be feasible as a short-term measure/if immediate outcome is expected</u>. - There <u>may not be enough land space for the supporting infrastructure</u> (<i>dykes, stormwater collection pond/ pumping stations/ drainage network</i>) <u>to be built</u> (<i>800 hectares of land reclaimed in Pulau Tekong</i>). - It may not protect communities (from even higher flood levels) <u>if climate change continues to worsen</u>. Any 4 @ 1 mark each Reserve 1 mark for reference to figure (<i>in bold italics</i>)	I got ____ / 4 marks. [] Not Answering Question (NAQ) [] Could not develop beyond costly and take a long time (listed both points without further elab) [] Did not write enough for 4 marks [] Tried to write 4 different points rather than 2 points + elab (for 2 marks each) [] No ref to Fig. 3.1 [-1 mark]

End of Mark Scheme