# Commentary on candidate 1 evidence

Selected examples of marked questions for this candidate have been chosen to illustrate some key points.

The candidate produced two very good essays in section 3, one of which was awarded full marks. This is an area that the majority of candidates find challenging.

For section 2, the candidate was awarded 15 marks out of 20 available marks, and an overall mark of 67 out of 100 available marks for the entire question paper.

Overall, this candidate performed at a level B, and had prepared quite well for the question paper. They had a reasonable knowledge base, and were able to apply it well in most of the questions that were testing this.

## Straightforward questions

Examples:

Q1 (a)(i)      The candidate was awarded 0 marks. This question was intended to be an easy opening recall question. The question was not answered as well as had been anticipated by a significant number of candidates, including the more able ones. As with this candidate, many did not know the definition of a physical resource.

Q1 (b)      The candidate was awarded 1 mark for providing correct answers to this recall question.
Unlike Q1 (a), most candidates were able to give a range of acceptable answers here.

Q4 (a)(i)(ii)      The candidate was typical of many in that their knowledge of the nitrogen cycle was not very secure.

## Graph/Calculation questions

Examples:

Q3 (a)      The candidate completed the graph by adding a scale and label to the x and y-axis. The choice of scale on the y-axis is unusual and has caused an inaccurate plot for Brazil when the half box tolerance rule is applied. It is a very fine margin in this example. Graphs are very difficult to mark from electronic scanned images, so candidates should be encouraged to consider carefully their

scales to ensure they are easy to interpret.

Q3 (b)          The candidate did not gain a mark here. Calculating percentages does appear to cause difficulties to a significant number of candidates.

Q4 (d)          A two step calculation. As the candidate had struggled with the previous percentage calculation, it is perhaps to be expected that they might struggle with the second step. This was designed as a more challenging question.

Q5 (a)(i)          The candidate gained all available marks because the question
(ii) and (iii)          was divided into simple steps. This was specifically designed to assist candidates that find calculations more challenging.

Q10 (d) (ii)          Many candidates made the same mistake as this candidate. They included the data from the Norway spruce woodland (1800), which demonstrated that they had not looked at all of the sources available before conducting the calculation. The candidate could calculate an average, but had not selected all of the appropriate data.

## Explain/Discuss/Evaluate/Justify …questions

Examples:

Q4 (e)          The candidate was awarded 0 marks for this question. This was a challenging question because it required a considerable amount of background knowledge before the candidate could even begin to consider what the issues would be. The fact that it needed two explanations made this one of the most difficult questions in the question paper.

Q5 (d)          In this evaluate question, the candidate was awarded 2 marks. The previous parts of this question were intended to assist the candidates with this final part, and this candidate was able to find two valid reasons.

Q6 (a)          The candidate was awarded 1 mark for this question for 'wind farms are killing …birds'. The second statement about noise pollution was considered to be too weak to give a mark. Many candidates found this a challenging question and few attained all two marks.

## Essay questions

Examples:

Q11 B  a)  The candidate attained 4 marks out of 5 for good coverage of four requirements:

♦  rainfall,
♦  diagram of valley shape supported by some explanation

plus the human factors such as:

♦  connecting to the grid and,
♦  the feasibility of getting building materials from the site

b)  The candidate was awarded 1 mark for 'water …causes the turbine to turn'.

Q12 A  The candidate gained full marks for this question, and was only one of the few who did so. This is an excellent example of the standard, and the amount of detail required by a candidate to attain all 7 essay marks.