



# Cambridge International AS & A Level

**GEOGRAPHY**

**9696/21**

Paper 2 Core Human Geography

**October/November 2025**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)  
Insert (enclosed)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **four** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer **all** questions.
  - Section B: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Sketch maps and diagrams should be drawn whenever they serve to illustrate an answer.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
- The insert contains all the resources referred to in the questions.

LICs = low income countries.

MICs = middle income countries.

HICs = high income countries.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

**Section A**

Answer **all** questions in this section. All questions are worth 10 marks.

**Population**

- 1 Fig. 1.1 shows the crude birth rate for the world, 1950–2020 and estimated to 2100.
- (a) Using Fig. 1.1:
- (i) state the crude birth rate in 2020 [1]
  - (ii) describe the main changes in crude birth rate from 1950 to 2100. [3]
- (b) Suggest **two** reasons why birth rates are high in some countries. [2]
- (c) Explain why a government may want to increase the birth rate of their country. [4]

**Migration**

- 2 Fig. 2.1 shows the number of international migrants in each continent from 1990 to 2020.
- (a) Compare the changes in the number of international migrants shown in Fig. 2.1. [4]
- (b) Explain **one** reason for international migration. [2]
- (c) Explain the economic advantages of international migration for receiving/destination areas. [4]

**Settlement dynamics**

- 3 Fig. 3.1 is a photograph which shows the skyline railway in Bangkok, Thailand, an MIC in Asia.
- (a) Using Fig. 3.1, suggest the challenges of building the railway. [4]
- (b) Suggest **two** environmental advantages of the railway shown in Fig. 3.1. [2]
- (c) Explain how the use of land in urban areas is affected by competition for space (spatial competition). [4]

**Section B**

Answer **one** question from this section. All questions are worth 30 marks.

**Population**

- 4 (a) (i) Define the term 'dependency ratio'. [3]
- (ii) Outline **two** factors which cause an ageing population structure. [4]
- (b) With the aid of examples, explain the challenges for the government of a country with an ageing population structure. [8]
- (c) With the aid of examples, assess the extent to which economic development is the main factor affecting life expectancy. [15]

**Migration/Settlement dynamics**

- 5 (a) Describe how age influences patterns of migration. [7]
- (b) With the aid of examples, explain the pull factors of rural areas which cause internal migration in HICs. [8]
- (c) 'Urban to rural migration brings disadvantages to rural areas in HICs.'
- With the aid of examples, how far do you agree with this statement? [15]

**Settlement dynamics**

- 6 (a) Describe the main characteristics of the central business district (CBD) of urban areas. [7]
- (b) With the aid of examples, explain the factors causing change in central business districts (CBDs) of urban areas. [8]
- (c) With the aid of examples, assess the extent to which the operation of the housing market is the main cause of residential segregation. [15]

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