



ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
January 2010

Geography

Assessment Unit A2 3

assessing

Module 6: Skills and Decision Making
in Geography

[A2G31]



TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY, AFTERNOON

TIME

2 hours.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.
Answer **all** the questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 80.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **all** questions.

Section A carries 20 marks.

Section B carries 60 marks.

You are strongly recommended to spend **25 minutes** answering the questions in Section A of this assessment unit.

Section B is a decision making exercise. **You should spend at least 25 minutes reading the questions, and selecting appropriate information before attempting to write your answers.**

You are provided with a Resource Booklet for use with this paper.

SYNOPTIC ASSESSMENT

You are required to demonstrate understanding of the connections between the different aspects of geography represented in the specification when answering the questions in Section B.

Section A

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

You are strongly recommended to spend **25 minutes** on this section.

- 1 (a) Study **Table 1** which shows the location quotients of high and medium-high technology industries in UK regions.

Table 1: Total employment and employment in high and medium-high technology industries in UK regions (2006)

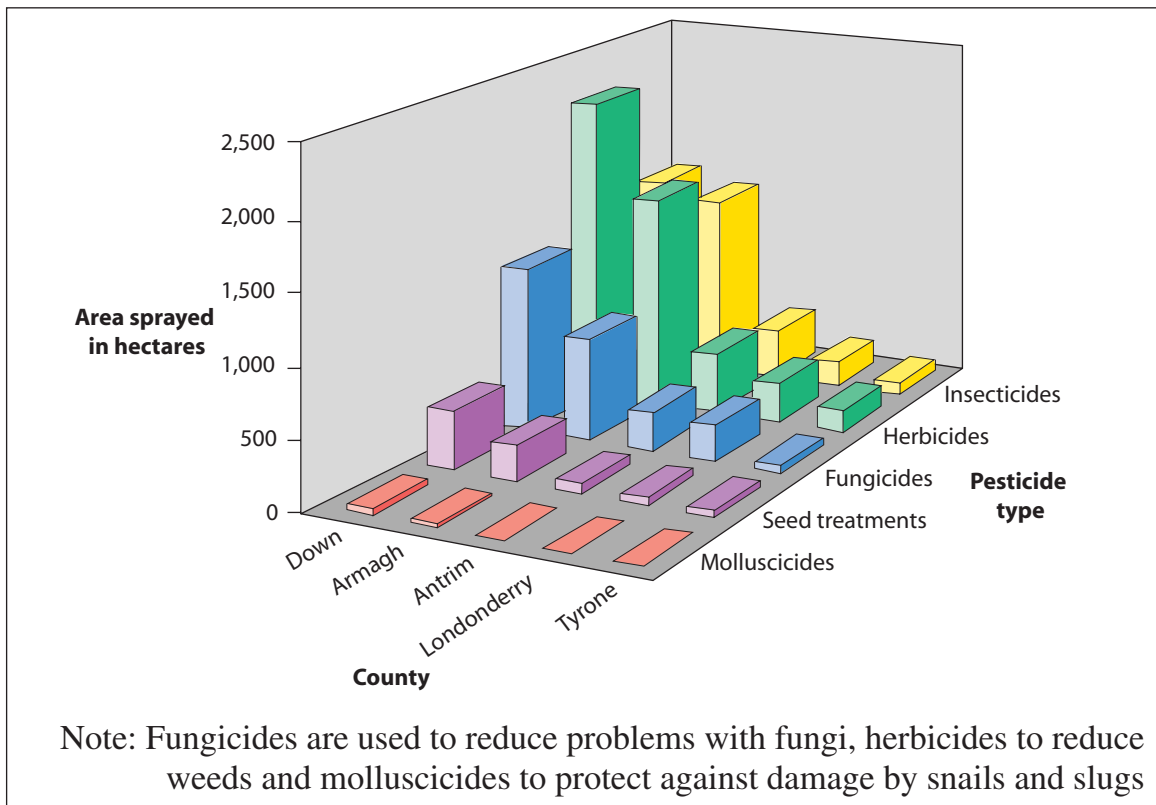
Employment UK Region	Total (thousands)	High and Medium- high Technology Industries (thousands)	Location Quotient
South East	4081	154	0.94
East of England	3761	107	0.71
South West	2222	101	1.14
West Midlands	2357	139	1.48
East Midlands	1882	97	2.06
Yorkshire and Humber	2262	82	0.91
North West	2954	136	1.15
North East	1070	55	1.29
Wales	1228	66	1.35
Scotland	2406	76	0.79
Northern Ireland	713	29	1.02

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- (i) What does the location quotient statistic measure? [2]
- (ii) What information, not shown on the table, would have been required to calculate the location quotient values? [1]
- (iii) Using the table, interpret the location quotient values for high and medium-high technology industry for
- East Midlands,
 - Northern Ireland, and
 - East of England. [4]

(b) **Graph A** shows the number of hectares of vegetable crops sprayed with different types of pesticides in five counties of Northern Ireland in 2004.

Graph A



Adapted from <http://www.afbini.gov.uk/pusg-vegetable-crops-2004.pdf>

- (i) State one advantage of this type of graphical representation of these data. [1]
- (ii) State one disadvantage of showing data on this type of graph. [1]
- (iii) Describe the pattern as shown in the graph of pesticide use in County Down. [3]

2 For a named fieldwork exercise:

- name a sampling technique which could have been used,
- describe how it operates, and
- explain why it is a suitable technique for that activity. [8]

Section B

Decision Making Exercise

You are recommended to spend **95 minutes** on this section.

3 Background to the Report

The Aberdeen and Grampian region of Scotland has some of the finest coastal golf courses (links) in Great Britain and is one of the fastest developing areas in Scotland for golf. There are more than 70 golf courses in the area serving 24,000 local golfers. In addition, this area has seen a major surge in tourists coming to play golf. The better known courses attract around 7,000 visitors each year, 65% of whom are from the USA. A predicted growth in golf tourism is one of the reasons that new golf developments are now being considered. One such development is the Menie Estate near Balmedie, 16 kilometres north of Aberdeen.

The plan is for two full-size championship quality golf courses within sand dunes on the coast of northeast Scotland. In addition, a golf driving range, a state-of-the-art golf academy and practice area are planned, along with a large clubhouse and five-star hotel with conference and banquet facilities. The hotel will offer a spa, tennis courts and other recreational facilities. Additional residential units will include 36 luxury four- and eight-bedroom golf lodges, as well as 950 holiday homes with sea views. Future plans for expansion include more residential units. There will also be a maintenance facility with a research centre for grass.

It was hoped to start the building early in 2008 and for the resort to be completed in 2012. However, there was an early setback for these plans when Aberdeenshire Councillors rejected the planning application for the £1 billion golf resort late in 2007.

You must adopt the role of First Minister to the Scottish Parliament who is to investigate the proposal and decide whether or not to proceed with the golf course. **Note that you do not have to decide on an alternative – only whether you approve or reject the project described here.**

You should base your answer solely on information contained in this examination paper and resource booklet and not on any decision that may have been made in relation to this issue.

You must adopt the role of First Minister to the Scottish Parliament who is to investigate the proposal and to decide whether or not to proceed with this proposed golf resort.

	MARKS
Format	2
Role	2
Graph	8

Each of the three sections must be clearly set out using the headings and sub-headings provided.

You must adopt and maintain the stated role.

Draw a graph using data from **Table 2** (found in **Resource F**) and incorporate it into the report at an appropriate place.

THE REPORT MUST BE STRUCTURED AS BELOW		MARKS		GUIDANCE TO CANDIDATES
Heading	Sub-heading	Sub-section	Section	
A. Introduction		8	8	A. Describe briefly the proposed development and outline the potential demand for it.
B. The likely impact on:	(i) the local environment;	12	30	B. (i) Discuss the environmental impact of the proposed development and the counterarguments. (ii) Discuss the possible beneficial effects on the local and national economy and the counterarguments. (iii) Discuss the social impact on local people and the counterarguments.
	(ii) the local and national economy;	12		
	(iii) the local people.	6		
C. Decision		10	10	C. State clearly your decision and justify the basis of the greater overall benefits.

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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