



Hills
Grammar

Extended Response Writing HSC Geography

What is the rubric?

A rubric indicating general criteria for judging performance appears at the beginning of Section III of the HSC. For further information refer to the NESA website. This clearly indicates the factors that will be used to assess responses to the question(s). These criteria are in addition to criteria specific to each question.

The Rubric

In this section you will be assessed on *how well you*

- Demonstrate geographical knowledge and understanding relevant to the question
 - Communicate ideas and information using geographical terms and concepts appropriately
 - Refers to case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate
 - Present a sustained logical and cohesive response
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TASK: Explain what is expected in each of the individual rubric points

RUBRIC	HOW WILL I SHOW THIS IN MY WRITING?
Demonstrate geographical knowledge and understanding relevant to the question	
Communicate ideas and information using geographical terms and concepts appropriately	
Refers to case studies, illustrative examples and the Stimulus Booklet where appropriate	
Present a sustained logical and cohesive response	

What is the question?

Account for the location of an economic enterprise you have studied at a local scale, and describe the ecological dimensions related to this enterprise (2002 HSC)

Circle the **DIRECTIVE** in the question (describe, discuss, outline, explain, evaluate, account....)

Underline the **KEY CONTENT** in the question. What part of the topic does this question come from?
Can you identify the dot point?

Define the **DIRECTIVE TERM/s** what are you being asked to do?

Re-write what you need to do in this question using the definitions of directive term

Which section of the syllabus is this question referring to? [write heading]

What Diagrams are required?

Is there a logical essay structure that matches this question?

(Hint: Is it cause and effect, or arguments for and against an issue?
Does the question contain sections that can be answered separately?)

If you could answer this question in one sentence that showed you actually have something to say – what would it be?

Brainstorm relevant: Syllabus concepts, key terms and examples

Write out any relevant ideas, arguments, facts and examples you can think of.

This will help you decide on the main points.

Find (use notes/text etc) info and examples to support each of your points.



**Organise these concepts and Key Terms into a
PLAN WITH STRUCTURE**



**What is the CENTRAL IDEA or THESIS of your response?
What are you trying to say overall?**

How to Structure the Introduction

Sentence 1	<p>[Optional] General Introductory sentence to set the scene</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Introduce your central idea if you are arguing, evaluating, justifying etc.</p>	
Sentence 2	<p>Sentence using the language of the question to directly state what this response will do: Try not to use "This essay describes"...etc</p>	
Sentence 4	<p>Sentence explaining what section 1 talks about (using the language of the question, identifying some of your main points, and stating if you will use case studies, examples or diagrams). NOTE: Sometimes the question will need some background or general information to get started. In this case the intro sentence could look like this: "Section 1 gives some background information to define all important concepts in this area.")</p>	<p><i>do what the question tells me to do]...</i></p> <p><i>by [referring to key concepts and examples]</i></p> <p><i>such as</i></p>
Sentence 6	<p>Connect these sections into your CENTRAL IDEA</p>	

How to Structure the Response

[Note the first paragraph of your essay might be one where you introduce key concepts and your main idea – you don't have to jump straight into the “syllabus dot point” – but don't waffle – if you're not sure, go for the dot point!]

Question	
Introduction	NOTE: in exam conditions, some students prefer to leave space and come back to the introduction once they have written the response. Others use the intro to help structure their response
[Section 1] Paragraph 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic sentence ('lead' sentence) ■ Clarification sentence (if necessary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify/define important terms in the topic sentence ■ Support sentence(s) ■ Complication/ refutation sentence(s) ■ Resolution/conclusion of paragraph linking to question and /or main idea
Paragraph 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic sentence ('lead' sentence) ■ Clarification sentence (if necessary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify/define important terms in the topic sentence ■ Support sentence(s) ■ Complication/ refutation sentence(s) ■ Resolution/conclusion of paragraph linking to question and /or main idea
[Section 2] Paragraph 3:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Topic sentence ('lead' sentence) referring to diagram “The above diagram shows...” ■ Clarification sentence (if necessary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify/define important terms in the topic sentence ■ Support sentence(s) ■ Complication/ refutation sentence(s) ■ Resolution/conclusion of paragraph linking to question and /or main idea
Paragraph N:	
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sentence restating central idea: “This response has defined described..... ...” ● Sentence re-capping some key ideas “This was shown by X, Y, Z...” ● [Optional] Final sentence can refer to the future possibilities in this area.

WRITING PARAGRAPHS IN GEOGRAPHY

Writing clear paragraphs is important in all subjects, especially Geography. You may already think you know how to write, but for the HSC, clear paragraphs are essential for clear extended responses. Clear extended responses lead to great results and you might even just learn something! So focussing on this from the beginning is very important.

What does a well-structured paragraph need?

Firstly you must always refer to the DIRECTIVE term

Topic sentence ('lead' sentence)

Clarification sentence (if necessary)

Clarify/define important terms used in the topic sentence

Support sentence(s) – examples / evidence ⑦ concrete support

Complication/ refutation sentence(s): ANALYSIS!

Resolution/conclusion of paragraph (link to question)

What does a well-structured paragraph look like?

Topic
Sentence

Clarification
Sentence/s

Supporting
Sentence –
EXAMPLE

Supporting
Sentence -
EXAMPLE

Complication
Sentence:
Analysis
examining
“the other
hand”, the
subtly, the

Link back to
question

Terminology

Place the sentences on the left in the correct order on the right to make a complete paragraph that answers the following question:

**Discuss the positive and or negative human impacts on an ecosystem at risk
(2012 HSC 5 Marks)**

As a result, some of the damaged areas have become uninhabitable for marine life and there are estimates from experts that the reef may take up to 10 to 20 years to recover from the incident. Therefore it is very important to think about the future sustainability of this ecosystem.

Coral reefs are an ecosystem at risk.

The decisions that humans make in relation to the use of this ecosystem have a long term consequence.

For example, the interdependence of the zooxanthella and the coral polyp show how they depend on each other for the reef to survive

It takes many years for the ecosystem to recover from negative disturbances caused by humans.

Despite the best efforts of governments there have been over 200 oil spills in the GBR.

The 2010 Chinese Coal container oil spill has had a devastating impact on the dynamic equilibrium of the reef when 1000's of litres of oil was spilt into the Coral Sea.

While the act of oil drilling is banned on the reef, spills caused by passing container ships have still continued to occur.

They are at risk because of their highly specialised nature and interdependence of biotic and abiotic elements.

The Great Barrier Reef is an example of an ecosystem that has had both positive and negative human impacts. A positive human impact is that the reef has been carefully managed by zoning for activities such as recreation and fishing. Another positive impact is that it is protected by the Biodiversity Act. This ensures its long-term protection.

Topic Sentence

Clarification Sentence

Example

Example

Example

Complication

Analysis

Conclusion

Use the space on the left to write your paragraph answering the following question – clearly using the

structure provide on the right:

With reference to ONE of the factors shown,(Maintenance of genetic diversity, utility value, need to allow natural change, heritage values, intrinsic values)

Justify the importance for the management and protection of ecosystems at risk
(2010 HSC 6 Marks)

	Topic Sentence
	Clarification Sentence
	Example
	Example
	Example
	Complication
	Analysis
	Conclusion

ANSWER TO PARAGRAPH SEQUENCE

Coral reefs are an ecosystem at risk. They are at risk because of their highly specialised nature and interdependence of biotic and abiotic elements. For example, the interdependence of the zooxanthella and the coral polyp show how they depend on each other for the reef to survive. The Great Barrier Reef is an example of an ecosystem that has had both positive and negative human impacts. A positive human impact is that the reef has been carefully managed by zoning for activities such as recreation and fishing. Another positive impact is that it is protected by the Biodiversity Act. This ensures its long-term protection. The decisions that humans make in relation to the use of this ecosystem have a long term consequence. It takes many years for the ecosystem to recover from negative disturbances caused by humans. Despite the best efforts of governments there have been over 200 oil spills in the GBR. The 2010 Chinese Coal container oil spill has had a devastating impact on the dynamic equilibrium of the reef when 1000's of litres of oil was spilt into the Coral Sea. While the act of oil drilling is banned on the reef, spills caused by passing container ships have still continued to occur. As a result, some of the damaged areas have become uninhabitable for marine life and there are estimates from experts that the reef may take up to 10 to 20 years to recover from the incident. Therefore it is very important to think about the future sustainability of this ecosystem.