PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

BGCSE GEOGRAPHY

2023

Paper 1: Written Paper

Section 1: General Comments

The Candidates for the 2023 examination series for this paper were generally about the same in the way they performed compared to the 2022 candidates. It was noted in this year's cohort that there were candidates whose work was exceptionally better. This was an indication that the 2023 candidates were well prepared for the examination. These candidates displayed well thought out answers on questions that required interpretation, analysis, and basic calculations. However, there were weaker candidates whose responses showed limited understanding in awareness and analysis questions.

Candidates for this examination series performed very well in Section A of the paper. Marks adding up to 20 out of 20 were recorded in some of the Centres. On the other hand, there were few weaker candidates who scored a zero in this section. The responses given in Section A showed that majority of Candidates were well prepared for this part of the paper as compared to Section B. The 2023 candidates in general displayed better skills in basic quantitative techniques. However ,a few of the weaker Candidates from some centres displayed a limited knowledge on the use of the map key; for example, on a question that required identification of land use, these candidates would list examples of vegetation such as savanna as an answer. Furthermore, questions on the interpretation of contour lines were observed to be the most poorly done in this section of the paper. The candidates' responses pointed to lack of skill in identifying landforms on the map using contour lines. Section B of the paper was performed fairly by majority of the candidates from across most of the Centres. However, most of the weaker candidates failed to address questions that tested awareness and analysis skills.

The 2023 candidates presented their work in very long paragraphs and phrases, with a lot of repetition. Some of the paragraphs had poorly constructed sentences with no concordance. Although candidates are encouraged to write full responses and expand the answers, some of the Candidates would write about half a page in a question that account for 1 mark. Centres must caution candidates about this practice since it has implications on the time required to complete the paper and high possibility of presenting contradicting answers in the process. On the other hand, there were few weaker candidates who presented their work with spelling errors, while some would write words in the local vernacular, e.g. instead of writing the word 'flood' they would write 'morwalela', this was common across both sections of the paper in some Centres. None the less, most candidates presented neat and well organised paragraphs and descriptions.

The 2023 cohort consisted of some few candidates who would at the end of the paper write nonsensical comments, some in the local vernacular, that are not part of the answers for any of the questions on the paper. Some of these comments were either directed to the examiner, the Centre, or the candidate themself. For example, one candidate presented a 'website that should be liked/followed so that the examiner can make money", while one candidate wrote some insulting comment at the end of the paper. Centres are advised to caution candidates on these issues as they may disadvantage them in one way or the other since it is easy to trace them back to their Centres.

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Section 2: Comments on Individual Questions

Section A

1 (a) The majority of candidates performed quite well in this question. The grid reference of 7430 was given for the grid square in which the kgotla at Otse is located. However, few of the weaker candidates failed to identify the correct northings and gave 7031 instead, while some would present the answer with E and S (74E30N. In addition, these candidates would swap the eastings and northings to arrive at 3074 as the answer. This led to a failure to get a mark.

(b) Majority of candidates performed fairly well in this question. The school was accurately identified as the man-made feature. However, few weaker candidates gave Moeding College or Buildings as the response, inevitably failing to get a mark. These candidates lacked skill in determining 6-figure grid refence on a map.

2 This question was performed very well by majority of the candidates. Most of the candidates gave the correct settlement pattern as linear. However, a few of the weaker candidates gave either nucleated or dispersed settlement pattern. This consequently resulted in failure to get a mark. These candidates failed to make interpretation of the pattern from the map.

3 Most of the candidates gave northwest, which was the expected response. These students showed an improvement in determining direction on a map since only a few weaker candidates failed to score in this question.

4 (a) This question was done very well by most of the candidates. An improvement in measuring of bearing was noted in most of the centres. An expected bearing of 3430 was provided by majority of the candidates across most of the centres. The answer was allowed a margin of error of ±1, hence 3420 and 3440 were awarded a mark.

(b) Majority of candidates performed very well in this question. The distance was accurately measured by the candidates giving 3km as the answer. A margin of error was allowed to the answer where measurements between 2.9km and 3.1km were credited. An improvement was noted in this question, where majority of candidates across most of the centres were able to score a mark.

(c) Candidates performed very well in the calculation of gradient. The heights for the points 1100m and 1060m, were provided in this question, hence candidates were awarded a mark for 40m that is the difference in height and conversion of the distance of 3km to 3000 metres. Alternative distances were also awarded i.e.,2900 and 3100m. the third mark was awarded to the final answer ;1:75, that also had alternatives; 1:72 and 1:77. On the contrary, few weaker candidates failed to accurately measure the distance resulting in the wrong final answer, which led to loss of a mark.

5 This question was poorly done by most of the candidates. The candidates would describe relief rainfall showing that they lacked knowledge on the concept in question. In addition, the candidates would give answers like gentle slope, conical hill, cliff, which was evident that candidates lacked contour interpretation skill. The responses given by candidates also showed that, although the question directed them to grid square 7527, the responses they gave extended to the whole of the hill. Furthermore,

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some of these candidates would describe the contour lines instead of stating what they show, for instance, 'contour lines are far apart from each other at the bottom and get closer as they go up the slope '. Other candidates would leave the question blank. None the less some few candidates were able to give correct answers. The common among the few responses given was concave slope. The following were also awarded marks; steep slope at the top of the hill, gentle slope at the bottom of the hill.

6   Candidates performed fairly in this question. Expected descriptions like 'there are hills for defence, there are gentle slopes that allow for easy construction of buildings, near rivers for water supply, presence of road for transport' were given. Candidates were required to give a factor and describe its influence on the location of the settlement. For example, the river is a factor identified on the map and its influence on the location of the village is water supply, hence the response 'there is a river for water supply'. On the other hand, some weaker candidates would only state the factors without describing the influence. This resulted in failure to get a mark. Furthermore, there were those who would give features that are part of the settlement as answers. These include there are schools for education, power line for electricity to state a few. These candidates consequently failed to get marks as it was evident that they lacked knowledge on locational factors of a settlement.

7   Most candidates performed very well in this question. Majority of Candidates were able to identify Some of the following services provided at Mogobane Village; water supply, education, administration, transport. On the contrary some of the weaker candidates would either state facilities in the village or provide services that are not represented anywhere on the map. For example; security, health were the most common answers given by these candidates. This led to failure to get marks.

8   **(a)**   This question was fairly done by most of the candidates. They were able to accurately read the map and identify correct land use like; residential, industrial, rainfed cultivation. However, some of the weaker candidates would write irrigated cultivation, mining, plantation as answers. This was evident that the candidates lacked skill in reading the key as they stated land uses that do not appear anywhere on the part of the map. In addition, few of the weaker candidates would either write savanna or outcrop indicating that they did not have knowledge of what land use is. Consequently, they could not score marks.

     (b)   The question was well done by most candidates. The performance on this question varied tremendously between the centres. Candidates in some of the centres addressed the question with clear answers relating the map with the legend. The main type of natural vegetation was accurately identified as savanna. However, few weaker candidates who could not get marks gave some of the following responses; deciduous vegetation, rainfed cultivation, mokoba tree. It was evident that these candidates lacked knowledge on reading the map key. This ultimately led to a failure to get a mark.

     (c)   Majority of candidates performed poorly in this question. It was clear from the responses given that interpretation of contour lines was a challenge to the candidates. 'hill, cliff, saddle, and gentle slope were some of the common responses that the candidates gave. However, these responses did

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not attract any marks since the expected answer was spur. Few weaker candidates would list valley and spur, indicating guesswork hence failure to score.

SECTION B

9 **(a)** **(i)** Majority of the candidates performed very well in this question. They read the graph accurately and stated 2020 as the correct year with the highest number of people receiving HIV treatment. On the contrary, there were few weaker candidates who presented 2006 as the response. This showed that these candidates lacked skill in reading compound graph, hence failure to get a mark. They read off the line graph that was showing AIDS related deaths instead of the bar graph showing people receiving treatment, hence failure to score.

(ii) This question was fairly done by most candidates. The expected answer of 1 600 000 was given by majority of the candidates. However, there were few weaker candidates who lacked skill in reading the graph scale. 1 700 000, 1 520 000 were some of the answers given that led to failure to score. On the other hand, some of these candidates would give 50 000 instead as the answer. This indicated that they read the scale of the bar graph instead of the line graph.

(b) Most of the candidates performed poorly on this question. The question required candidates to address the reasons for decreasing deaths in relation to Fig 1. The graph showed that an increase in HIV/AIDS treatment reduced deaths. Considering this, some of the following responses were credited; ARVs improve immunity, use of condoms cut the rate of infection, PMTCT prevent mother to child transmission. The candidates were expected to fully develop the answers instead of just stating the points. For example, 'people were taking ARVs' is a point that must be developed further by including 'that delays time to infect others', 'PMTCT reduces transmission risk from mother to child'. However, most candidates would provide answers on measures that prevent transmission instead of how treatment reduces deaths. Few weaker candidates gave responses like use of contraceptives, exercising the body, provision of better sanitation, there is use of ARVs; however, these did not attract any marks.

(c) **(i)** This question was well done by most candidates. The candidates were able to give some of the expected effects like; loss of breadwinners, increased deaths, increased number of orphans, family breakdown. On the contrary very few weaker candidates left out emphasis words like increased or more in some answers hence failure to score. Centres should encourage candidates to write full descriptions of the answers they give to avoid loss of marks. In most cases candidates would fail to score due to failure to develop an answer that would otherwise be correct.

(ii) Candidates performed well in this question. Candidates were credited for stating the measure and development of the points at a mark each. The question required the candidates to describe the measures and show how that reduced the effects of HIV/AIDS in the country. Most of the candidates scored marks for giving measures such as provision of free condoms, safe male circumcision, testing, to state a few. Where only measures were provided, candidates could only acquire maximum of three marks, while the remaining two marks were

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reserved for development of the measures; i.e. candidates were expected to further show how the measures reduced the effect of HIV/AIDS. For example, provision of ARVs to suppress the virus level on those infected. In this example, 'provision of ARVs is the measure that the government adopted and 'to suppress the virus level on those infected becomes the development.

10 (a) (i) Majority of the Candidates performed very well in this question. The month of July was identified as the correct month with the lowest average temperature. Notwithstanding the table showing temperature and rainfall averages few of the weaker Candidates went on to give the month of August instead. This depicted failure to read the table accurately since the month of August shows the least amount of rainfall not average temperature.

(ii) The question was well done by most Candidates. The average rainfall amount was identified correctly as 102mm. Candidates had to read and extract the answer from the table, however, few of the weaker candidates would omit the units of measure despite being included on the table, consequently failing to get a mark.

(iii) Most candidates performed fairly well in this question. The candidates subtracted the highest temperature of the month 25o C from the lowest 14o C and arrived at the correct answer of 11o C. A mark was awarded for the calculation working (subtracting the highest temperature form the lowest) and the remaining mark was given for the final answer. On the contrary there were few of the weaker candidates who would add the averages for all the months and divide by 12, while some would provide both the correct calculation and the latter. This spelled guess work on the part of the candidates therefore leading to failure to get marks.

(b) This question was well done by majority of the candidates. The expected trend of decrease/decline was provided by most of the candidates. The responses showed that candidates have a clear understanding of determining the trend from the data given. On the other hand, there were very few weaker candidates who would provide a description of the change every month, unaware that the question account for only 1 mark.

(c) The question was well done by most candidates. The following were some of the expected responses that the candidates gave; flooding, destruction of infrastructure, destruction of property, to state a few. The responses given by Candidates showed that they clearly understood this question. On the contrary there were few weaker Candidates who would provide answers like 'cause drought', 'destruction of vegetation' instead of 'destruction of crops', hence failure to get marks.

(d) Majority of Candidates performed very well in this question. The Candidates presented well thought out answers in this question. The Candidates were expected to further develop the solution to the problem without merely stating the solution. For instance, 'Evacuation of people to prevent death or injuries', 'resettlement to safer places', 'spraying of insecticides to control diseases/pests', 'develop flood warning systems so that people are prepared'. A few of the weaker Candidates would list the solutions without any development ultimately failing to get a mark. For example, evacuation, resettlement.

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Paper 2: Written

Section 1: General Comments

The general performance for this year's cohort showed noticeable improvement from the previous year in terms of the quality of answers specifically on structured questions which require candidates to express themselves by developing their answers. Candidates were seen to have given answers with simple ideas and their developments in questions that previously would have been answered by giving simple ideas only to maximise marks. They developed their answers irrespective of command words used in part questions and as a result marks in the 60s, 70s and 80s were seen in some Centres. This development is commendable as it demonstrated a positive acknowledgement of reports written for Centres to give advice to candidates on how to answer questions. Candidates also wrote neatly and correctly numbered their answers with a few cases of rubrics and wrongly numbered answers.

Candidates who made a popular choice of questions 1, 3, 5 and 7 performed better than those who made unpopular choices especially in questions 2 and 8. Centres are advised to encourage candidates to prepare adequately for all topics for them to improve their performance irrespective of choices they make.

Although a noticeable number of candidates in this year's cohort showed a considerable improvement in the quality of their answers, there are still concerns on many candidates who gave answers that were not up to the standard required across all questions. Very low marks were seen between 10% and 30% across all Centres. In some cases, candidates failed to observe mark allocation and as a result they could not maximise marks. Others demonstrated inadequate preparation on drawing sketch maps of Botswana and proper location of features they were required to locate. Many candidates also gave either simple ideas or developments alone in questions that required them to develop their ideas and as a result they could not maximise marks. Centres are advised to give more practice on all the above-mentioned questions in their preparations which would lead to candidates performing much better in the final examinations.

Section 2: Comments on Individual Questions

1   This question was very popular with most candidates scoring above average marks. Marks between 15 and 25 were mostly seen across Centres. However, some candidates did not perform well which could be due to lack of content or failure to understand the questions.

   (a) (i)   This question was well performed by many candidates who maximised marks. Those who could not maximise marks struggled with the label for C which was for shock waves/surface waves/seismic waves'. Other answers were 'Focus for A and Epicentre for B.' Candidates who failed to score marks mostly confused labelled parts with parts of the earth structure and gave answers such as crust, mantle, and core.

       (ii) It was well answered by many candidates with common responses such 'death/injuries to people and animals, destruction of infrastructure, loss of property, floods, deep cracks, landslides and destruction of natural vegetation etc'.

       (iii) Most candidates gave simple ideas only and as a result they could not maximise marks as they failed to develop their ideas. Expected answers were 'Evacuation of people to curb

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deaths or injuries, Research to monitor frequency of occurrences/to identify hazards, Well prepared and equipped Rescue teams to respond quickly/for quick response, Education to increase/raise awareness/to be prepared or take informed decision during the occurrence of an earthquake, Use of flexible or strong building materials for buildings to withstand the earthquake, Early warning/prediction to get people prepared for the occurrence, Disaster preparedness/Provide food, tents, water, medicine to respond to challenges of earthquakes, and Relocation for safety of people and their property'.

(b) (i) The question was well answered with most candidates linking the features with their benefits. Those who could not score misunderstood the question and gave responses such as 'they are prepared for the earthquakes; they have no place to go to etc.' Expected answers included 'Availability of fertile soils for arable farming, Minerals for mining, More rainfall on windward side of mountains for arable farming/water supply, Availability of forests for lumbering, Scenic beauty for tourism, lakes/Rivers for fishing/water supply/irrigation, Pastures for pastoral farming etc.'

(ii) Well done with most candidates giving correct responses. Those who could not maximise marks were those who did not observe marks allocated to the question. Expected answers included 'People lose their lives or get injured, Wild animals die, Basic amenities are cut e.g. power and water supply, Spread of diseases, Outbreak of fires, Displacement of settlements/people, damaged infrastructure and property, loss of jobs/businesses, Deep cracks, Landslides/ Mudflows and floods'.

2 The question was very unpopular and candidates who chose it did not perform well.

(a) (i) A few candidates managed to get correct answers for Rainfall (10mm) and Air pressure (1003 millibars) but could not give the correct reading for Cloud cover (8 oktas or 8/8). Those who failed to score mostly did not write units of measurement for all weather elements.

(ii) This question was poorly answered as most candidates failed to describe the weather experienced but rather stated readings. Centres are advised to emphasize the need to interpret the readings when describing the weather. Expected answers were 'Complete cloud cover/8 oktas/overcast sky, low/little rainfall, Wind is from the Northeast, Wind speed of 5 knots, High humidity, Low pressure, Cool/ mild/moderate temperatures, and Light breeze'.

(b) (i) Only a few candidates managed to give correct responses while those who failed to score gave characteristics of vegetation for other regions. They wrote answers such as 'long tap roots, small leaves, waxy leaves etc.' Expected answers were 'Tall trees, Trees form a canopy, Dense forests, Smooth trunks, Trees form layers, Buttress roots, Leathery leaves, Evergreen plants, Climbers/ lianas, Aerial roots, Little undergrowth etc.'

(ii) This question was not well answered as candidates gave developments only without simple ideas leading to failure to maximise marks. Expected answers were 'Herbs for medicine, Trees for lumbering, building materials and raw materials, Wild fruits for food, Scenic beauty for tourism, Trees for shade, Animals for hunting/fish for fishing, Abundant rainfall for plantation

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farming/water supply, Various species for education or research, Poisonous plants may lead to diseases.'

(iii) It was poorly answered as a few candidates who managed to score gave simple ideas but failed to develop them. Common answers were 'Education, Afforestation and Fencing'. Expected answers included the following: 'Education/Research to increase public awareness on conservation, Involving local communities in conservation projects to increase their participation, Use of alternative sources to reduce usage, Selective logging of mature trees to ensure that trees re-establish themselves, Promote Eco-tourism to reduce cutting of trees/ show value of trees, Create national parks/Fencing to protect biodiversity, Create permanent forest reserves to prohibit change of land use, Laws/regulations/licences/harvesting seasons to protect species or for regrowth, Afforestation/re-afforestation/cultivation to rehabilitate degraded forests/for regeneration, Seed saving/collection for replanting/regrowth/to avoid extinction'.

3 The question was popular with slightly above-average performance from candidates who selected it.

(a) **(i)** The question was well performed with most candidates giving correct responses on examples of veld products. Common answers given were 'mophane worm, sengaparile, motshikhiri/ thatching grass, water lily/ tswii and various wild fruits etc.'

(ii) Most candidates managed to maximize marks in this question and expected answers were 'source of food, provides employment/income, provides building materials, source of raw materials, source of medicine, promotes small scale industries, source of firewood, provides decoration/ornaments.'

(iii) Most candidates concentrated on 'overharvesting and deforestation' as simple ideas and developed them with 'soil erosion/global warming/loss of animal habitat/bare land etc'. This led to them failing to maximize marks as they failed to bring up other simple ideas and their developments. Additional answers were 'Veld fires lead to little or no grass cover/bare land/extinction, Air pollution/Fumes/Poisonous gases lead to imbalance of atmospheric gases, Land pollution leads to loss of aesthetic value.'

(b) **(i)** This question was fairly answered as some candidates could only identify Chobe National Park for labelled area D. Most candidates showed lack of content on Wildlife Management Areas in Botswana as they wrote answers such as 'Chobe Game Reserve' or gave wrong answers. However, a noticeable number of candidates did manage to give correct answers. The second area labelled E is for 'Central Kalahari Game Reserve/CKGR.'

(ii) Most candidates managed to identify the 'Northern, Southwestern, Central parts of Botswana and along the borders/boundaries.' However other candidates were not able to understand what the question was looking for and could not locate wildlife management areas. Other answers were 'Northwestern part of Botswana/Ngamiland, Around the Okavango Delta, Central part of Botswana/Central district, Around pans and Eastern Botswana.'

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(c) Most candidates failed to develop their answers in this question and as a result they lost some marks. Some gave developments alone without simple ideas hence lost all the marks as developments alone could not score. However, there was a noticeable number of candidates who gave correct responses with both simple ideas and their developments. Expected answers were: 'Source of tourism/attracts tourists giving us foreign exchange, Beautify the environment hence promote tourism, promotes sustainable usage hence avoid extinction/depletion, Raw materials for craft industries/promotes development of other industries, Creates employment/ income which improves living standards, Source of government revenue used to develop the country, Source of food hence self-sufficiency/reduce imports, Part of the food chain hence balance the ecosystem.'

4 The question was less popular with average scores seen across all Centres. However, a noticeable number of candidates did well and scored above average marks.

(a) **(i)** Most candidates did well on this question. The most common answer given was Kariba dam project. Other answers included 'Cabora Bassa, Tekeze, Owen Falls, Sennar, Aswan, Kafue, Katse, Muela, Gariep, Kolwezi, Jinja, Koko, Inga, Kainji etc.'

(ii) Most candidates were able to label X (Reservoir/ lake) and Y (Penstock) with a few of them demonstrating lack of knowledge or content on the parts of the HEP station. Centres are advised to always emphasize the importance of studying diagrams to reduce loss of marks when asked to draw or label them in some topics of the syllabus.

(iii) This question was well answered showing that candidates knew the process of how electricity is produced in an HEP station. Sequence should always be emphasized, and all points included to maximize marks allocated to the question. The process is as follows; 'A reservoir/dam/lake is created, Water falls at high speed through penstock, Turbine rotates/ spins/turns, Turbine is connected by a shaft to the generator, Turbine switches on/ activates the generator, Generator produces electricity.'

(iv) A considerable number of candidates were able to identify the physical factors but some failed to name the perennial river to the station named in question (a) (i). Other expected answers were 'Hard/ Firm base rock or Strong geological base, Steep gradient/Steep slope, Deep narrow valley/Gorge, Ice or snow-free area.' Some candidates lost marks as they gave factors which were not physical such as market, labour etc. Candidates need to be advised to always identify key words in questions before they answer to minimise giving unexpected answers.

(b) **(i)** Well done as most candidates were able to describe economic benefits of Morupule Power station. Expected answers were 'Source of employment, Supply of (cheap), Electricity to locals, Skills/Training, Promotes self-sufficiency in power production Government revenue through tax, Development of infrastructure, Source of foreign exchange and Attracting other industries.'

(ii) Most candidates concentrated on deforestation, toxic gases/fumes as simple ideas and their developments. Expected answers were; 'Soot from burning coal kills plants/vegetation, Deforestation causes extinction/depletion, loss of animal habitat/migration of animals, soil

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erosion, global warming/less oxygen/more carbon dioxide etc. Coal/soot/ash cause water pollution, Smoke/fumes/toxic gases cause acidic rain/air pollution, Soot/coal/ash cause land pollution.'

(c) This question was challenging to most candidates who gave simple ideas alone without developments. Common answers were 'sustainable use and reduced prices of electricity'. More training on higher order type of questions is needed to equip candidates with the appropriate skills of analysing, application and evaluating concepts/issues covered in the syllabus. Expected answers in the question were as follows; 'less power cuts/loadshedding hence less damage to perishable goods, Sustainable/continuous supply of electricity hence continuous production of goods/services, Reduced costs of production of electricity hence expansion of power station/new stations can be developed/other developments can be made, Electricity prices remain low hence more affordability/more connections to households, Reduced pressure on natural resources hence less damage to the environment, Boosts market confidence hence more investors come to the country, Reduced importation of electricity hence saves government revenue.'

5 A popular choice for many candidates who generally attained average scores. However, there were a few exceptions as there were those who scored above average.

(a) (i) Most candidates did not perform well in this question but managed to score a mark for naming a commercial pastoral farm. They lost marks by using dots to locate farms, wrong location of farms and their geographical features. Some candidates lost marks as they gave commercial arable areas instead of pastoral farms while others gave random names of farms that could not be verified. Centres are advised to give more practice on drawing sketch map of Botswana, proper location of features and their geographical features helping to locate them. They should also advise candidates to use established farms to reduce risk of losing marks. Farms should also be located by a larger shape or size. A typical example can be seen in location of the Tuli Block which is a long, narrow area on the Eastern part of Botswana along the border with South Africa. Other farms were 'Gantsi Block, Sandveld, Ncojane Ranches, Hainaveld, Lobatse Block,

(ii) In this question, many candidates lost marks because they gave human factors instead of the physical factors. However, a considerable number of candidates gave relevant answers such dam/river/boreholes, large land, high rainfall, and pastures. Other answers included 'less livestock diseases, few predators and moderate temperatures.'

(iii) Most candidates managed to give both simple ideas and their developments. However, a noticeable number of candidates gave answers for commercial arable farming instead of pastoral farming which resulted in loss of marks. Expected answers were as follows: 'Giving people loans to buy inputs, vaccines, fences, machinery, develop farms, Artificial insemination to improve breeds, Subsidies to reduce production costs on feeds, bulls, fencing and borehole drilling, Sources or facilitates market for better prices/ Advertises for better market, Education/Training to improve skills/empower locals, Allocate land/ranches to improve

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management, Vaccination/cordon fences to control diseases, Laws/regulations/policies e.g. Kgomo Khumo to reduce stock theft.'

(b) This question was well answered as most candidates gave both simple ideas and developments to maximise marks. Some of the answers which were common included, 'Source of employment/income to improve living standards, Improves self-sufficiency/provides food to reduce imports, Government revenue/tax used to develop the country/build schools/roads, Source of raw materials which attracts other industries, Develop infrastructure to improve service delivery etc.'

(c) Majority of candidates did well in this question as they were able to develop their ideas to maximise marks. Common answers included: 'deforestation leads to soil erosion/loss of animal habitat/bare soils/increase in carbon dioxide or global warming etc., Use of chemicals/insecticides leads to land pollution/water pollution/salination/emergence of weeds, Use of machinery compacts the soil/causes soil erosion/land pollution from oil leakages/air pollution from smoke, Irrigation leads to salination/leaching, Overstocking/Overgrazing leads to bare soils/depletion of water sources or extinction of plant species/soil erosion/bush encroachment or loss of palatable grasses.'

6 The question was less popular, and performance was average across Centres.

(a) (i) The question was poorly performed as many candidates struggled with drawing sketch maps of Botswana and mostly named BMC for the industry. Those who managed to correctly draw sketch maps struggled with correct naming of large industries and correct location of geographical features helping to locate them. Only a few candidates demonstrated appropriate skills hence maximizing marks for the question. Centres should give more practice to these types of questions and expose candidates to more examples of diffrent types of industries in Botswana. Some of the expected answers included 'Nortex, Kgalagadi Plastics, Botswana Vaccine Institute, Nutri Feeds, Foods Botswana, Seboana, KBL, Makoro Bricks, Apache Tiles etc.

(ii) This question was a follow-up to question 6 (a) (i) and candidates were expected to give specific factors linked to the industry named. However, most candidates failed to name the source of raw materials, water, road, labour, power and market. Some of them scored for general points of large and flat land. Centres should emphasize the need to name factors to reduce losing marks and they should give more practice on these types of questions. For example, BMC in Lobatse will attract answers such as 'Cattle from Kanye, Lobatse Block, Gantsi Block etc., Water from Nnywane dam, Nearness to A1/railway line for transport, Labour from Lobatse/Kanye, Ramotswa etc, Market from EU countries/South Africa/Gaborone, Power from Morupule Power Station, Large land, Flat land.

(iii) Well done with most candidates managing to develop their points hence scoring much better in this question. Expected answers were as follows: 'Fumes/Toxic gases cause air pollution/depletion of the ozone layer/acid rain, Waste from industries cause water pollution, land pollution, Clearing of land/deforestation causes soil erosion, extinction/depletion of plant species, migration of animals/loss of habitat, global warming/increase in carbon

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dioxide/decrease in oxygen, Excavation causes land scarring/land degradation, Large machines cause noise pollution.'

(b) Most candidates did justice to this question and were able to develop their points as expected. Expected answers were as follows: 'Source of employment/income improves living standards, Diversify the economy hence reduce dependence on few economic activities, Development off infrastructure to improve service delivery, Government revenue to develop the country, Foreign exchange to pay for imports, Education/Training to improve skills/empower locals, Source of raw materials for development of other industries. etc.'

(c) Most candidates were able to give simple ideas but failed to develop them in this question. This led to loss of marks as simple ideas alone scored half of the allocated marks. Expected responses were as follows: 'Financial assistance to develop the industry, Industrial estates/Factory shells to accommodate industries, Tax holiday to attract industries/to encourage setting up of industries, Education to improve skills, Market/Advertise to attract more industries, Government subsidies for affordability, Serviced land for easy access to services e.g. electricity/transport/water, Tariffs and bans against imported goods to reduce competition/create market/protect local industries/attract more industries, Use of machinery/technology for efficiency.'

7 This question was a popular choice for candidates, and they mostly attained average marks. However, a noticeable number of candidates scored higher showing an improved awareness to develop points.

(a) (i) Candidates generally did well in this question though some showed lack of awareness that Gantsi is an urban area, Expected answers were: 'Tsabong to Gantsi: Rural-Urban migration, Francistown to Gaborone : Urban-Urban migration'. Centres should always emphasize the need for candidates to label their points or follow the order as guided by the question to reduce loss of marks.

(ii) Most candidates did well in the question except those who repeated reasons even though the question had clearly stated that reasons should be different when answering the question. Some candidates also failed to label their reasons as instructed by the question hence risked losing marks. Expected answers included the following:

A - holiday/employment/tourism

B - education/employment/visiting family/medical/recreation

C - education/health/employment/visiting family/friends

D - education/entertainment/holiday/employment/business etc.

(iii) The question was challenging for most candidates as they mostly focussed on the receiving areas. Those who managed to give relevant simple ideas failed to develop them hence lost some marks. The most common simple ideas were 'loss of skilled manpower, sex imbalance, family break up, and decline in production.' Expected answers included: 'Sex imbalance resulting in female headed households/ lack of security/ juvenile delinquency, High dependent

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population as able bodied people migrate, Low development due to loss of skilled manpower/ low population/ few able-bodied people, Cultural disintegration as people adopt cultures of their place of migration, Spread of diseases as people go and return to places of origin, Decline in agricultural production/ low production as able bodied people migrate, Family break up as the other spouse leaves or remains, Depopulation leading to underutilised resources/ghost towns/low development, Loss of skilled manpower/ brain drain leading to poor service delivery.'

(iv) A considerable number of candidates did well in the question except those who confused the question with that of (a) (iii) hence lost marks as they did not focus on the population structure in rural areas as people move out. Answers for the question were: 'More old-aged people as the young migrate, Sex imbalance/more females than males, More young children as the working group leave/migrate, Fewer able-bodied people/less economically active as they are the ones who leave.'

(v) Most candidates could not develop their simple ideas hence failed to maximise marks. However, there were a few who did exceptionally well by expanding their points hence scored higher marks. Expected answers were: 'Unemployment resulting in crime/ begging/ lack of food, Language barrier therefore struggle to communicate, Shortage of housing/staying in squatter settlements as they cannot afford high rent, Lack of jobs/ few job opportunities due to lack of skills, Lack of social services/facilities due to overcrowding, They are vulnerable to crime/discrimination/racism/xenophobia as they are not familiar with life in receiving areas/might be involved in crime due to unemployment, Low wages as employer exploits the workers/takes advantage of the situation, Spreading of diseases due to overcrowding/poor sanitation/air pollution.'

(b) Most candidates performed well in the question even though there were those who lost marks as they gave simple ideas without developing them. Answers for the question were as follows: 'Rural electrification to improve standards of living/attract industries, Rural industrialisation to create employment opportunities/businesses/Ipelegeng to eradicate poverty, Decentralisation of government services for easy access, Provide clean, piped water to improve water supply/ improve standards of living/attract industries, Give people loans to start their own businesses/empower citizens, Provision of social services/facilities to improve service delivery or to bring them closer, Development of infrastructure to create a conducive environment for industries/improve service delivery, Incentives e.g. RASA to retain or attract government employees to rural areas, Improve agriculture to increase food production, Education to make them aware of negative impacts/dangers of rural-urban migration.'

8 The question was unpopular, and it was poorly performed by most candidates who scored below average.

(a) (i) The question was fairly answered as some candidates could not describe the distribution of HIV/AIDS prevalence as they gave names of districts. The distribution should be directional or show the general appearance without narrowing it to specific names of areas. Expected

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answers were: 'Northwest part of Botswana, Northeast, East/Eastern Botswana, Southern, Southeast, Southwest, Along the borders/international boundary.

(ii) This question was poorly answered as most candidates did not develop their points and failed to bring out various simple ideas. Some of them mentioned the use of contraceptives instead of condom as it is the only contraceptive that prevents spreading of the virus. Candidates also lost marks as there was a lot of negative answering, for example by saying 'People do not practice monogamy' instead of saying 'People had multiple sex partners.' Centres should give advice to candidates to be direct in their answers through relevant examples to reduce loss of marks. Expected answers included: 'Getting tested/treated to reduce transmission, Use of condoms for protection against the virus, Behavioural change due to increased awareness, Women empowerment hence were able to negotiate for safer sex, Increased or more education reduced risky behaviour/increased use of condoms, Fear of contracting HIV so people take health advice seriously Health facilities/services available to provide prevention measures.'

(b) (i) In this question, most candidates focused on social impacts instead of economic ones. A few who managed to score gave answers such as 'loss of skilled manpower, loss of jobs, and more money spent on buying ARVs.' Other answers included: 'low productivity as time is spent on seeing doctors, Decline in economic development, Decreased revenue due to constant absenteeism, Recruitment of replacement labour leads to increased expenditure.'

(ii) The question was challenging to most candidates as they failed to understand what it was looking for. Some candidates gave reasons for low prevalence showing that they were clueless. A few who managed to score some marks could not develop their answers hence failed to maximize marks. Expected answers were as follows: 'Cultural and religious beliefs which discourage the use of condoms, Fear of stigma leading to lack of disclosure for one's status, Shortage of facilities/services reduces accessibility for other people (e.g. in remote areas), Alcohol/drug abuse/reckless lifestyles resulting in unprotected sex/high risk of infections, Lack of use of condoms due to personal preference/different reasons/high risk of infections, Lack of awareness/education on the reality of HIV/AIDS/ignorance so people don't change their mindset or behaviour, Increasing rape/incest cases as it is often done without a condom, Increase in inter-generational relationships hence the younger has no say on the use of condom, Increase in transactional sex hence increased risk of contracting the virus.

(iii) Candidates failed to develop their simple ideas and those who managed to score some marks concentrated on 'reduced deaths and reduced costs on buying medication.' Centres are advised to give more practice on questions that need candidates to apply their knowledge and make suggestions. Expected answers were: 'Improved productivity as employees are healthy, Improved economy as absenteeism is reduced, Improved general health of people leading to reduced government expenditure on HIV/AIDS related issues, Reduced transmission from mother to child leading to healthy children/ increased life expectancy, Reduced deaths/ increased life expectancy leading to increased population/ labour, Reduced government expenditure/saves government revenue hence more money for developments.'

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Paper 3: Alternative to Coursework

Section 1: General Comments

Several candidates in this cohort performed relatively well across the two questions of this paper, and showed good geographical and research knowledge, writing answers of consistently good quality, though not outstanding. However as always, there were a wide range of marks, and some candidates, whilst not performing as consistently across the paper, made a genuine attempt on all questions, thus enabling the paper to differentiate effectively between candidates of all abilities.

The following items of general advice (which have been provided in the previous reports), need to be emphasized to future candidates:

- The paper is an alternative to coursework, and it must be approached as if the actual research is being carried out, not theoretically. Centres are encouraged to carry out basic fieldwork activities with candidates especially using simple techniques which can be done in school or the local area;

- Check the command word or words which indicate the focus and context of each question such as suggest, describe, calculate, state, identify, so that relevant information is given;

- Use the mark allocation as a guide to the amount of detail or number of responses required and not devoting too much time on the questions that are worth few marks, but ensuring that those worth more marks are answered in full detail;

- Study sources such as tables and diagrams carefully, interpret them by picking what is appropriate, rather than copying parts of them;

- Have the correct equipment for the examination, including mathematical instruments, ruler, and a calculator;

- Practise drawing methods of data presentation, such as bar graphs, pie charts, line graphs etc. and each method must have a title and all the values be labelled;

- When giving figures in an answer, always give units, more especially if they are not stated in the question.

- Learn Geographical research terms and be confident in using them correctly;

- For questions that require justification, like 'suggest how', 'explain how' always state the simple idea, thereafter, develop that simple idea;

- Avoid using vague words or statements, which should be elaborated or qualified, for example, rather than 'pollution' state which type of pollution is it, or rather than 'infrastructure' state which type of 'infrastructure' such as roads.

Section 2: Comments on Individual Questions

1   **(a) (i)**   The question was well answered by almost all the candidates, as they were able to formulate a research topic with a focus and the location as guided by the stem of the question; for

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example, 'Causes of squatter settlements in Phikwe. However, there was a significant number of candidates who left out either the focus of the topic or the location, some even went on to pick a location that is not an urban area, e.g. 'Squatter settlers in Paje'.

(ii) Majority of the candidates answered this question correctly, by writing objectives such as:

- To find out causes of squatter settlements,

- To find out effects of squatter settlements,

- To find out solutions to squatter settlements.

However, there are few candidates with errors on writing aims, as they left out the phrase; 'To find out' and crafted wrong aims as in 'causes of squatters.'

(iii) The question was generally well answered but some of the candidates failed to link the hypothesis to the aims in question 1 (a) (ii). Furthermore, as the hypotheses were linked to the aims, if the candidates get the aim wrong, it automatically follows that the hypothesis will be wrong, even if the hypothesis is correctly formulated, as it is not linked to the correct aim. Examples of the correct hypothesis linked to the aims in 1 (a) (ii) are:

- 'The main cause of squatter settlements in Gaborone is high rentals in the inner city',

- 'The main effect of squatter settlements in Francistown is increased water pollution',

- 'The major solution to mushrooming squatter settlements in Lobatse is accelerating land allocation'.

Furthermore, some candidates lost marks, because they wrote findings/ conclusions/ consequences instead of hypothesis, for, example; 'squatter settlements result in overpopulation'.

If a hypothesis is in the past, it is assumed that the research has already taken place and the results are now being discussed, and remember, hypothesis is an assumption on the outcome of the research before the research takes place.

Few of the candidates used words that indicate probability (may, might, can, maybe, etc.) in their hypothesis, rendering their hypothesis wrong as no assumption was made, or no position was taken. Examples are; 'squatter settlements may result in polluting Gaborone Dam'. and 'squatter settlements can lead to overcrowding'.

(b) (i) This question differentiated well with stronger responses designing clear and detailed questionnaire with bio data, which cover age, gender, education, profession, and very relevant questions such as:

- 'Do you live in a squatter settlement?'

- 'Why do you live in a squatter settlement?'

- 'What challenges do you face in squatter settlement?'

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- 'How do you overcome the challenges you face in the squatter settlement?'

- 'What do you think can be done to help people living in squatter settlements?'

Weaker responses did not have biodata and generally asked conclusive and irrelevant questions such as 'what do you eat? how many people are staying in Zola?' and so they failed to gain any credit.

(ii) Answers were varied in relevance and quality. Stronger responses showed excellent knowledge and understanding of the advantages of the questionnaire and described them as follows;

- 'First-hand information can be obtained'

- 'Questions answered at a convenient time'

- 'Respondent can consult other sources of information'

- 'Can be given to many people/wider coverage'

However, a substantial number of candidates described how a questionnaire is designed and administered whilst other candidates described advantages of other methods of data collection such as observation and interview.

(iii) There were excellent responses with almost all the candidates scoring the full marks. The answers were; 'interview, observation and studying documents / document study'.

(c) This question discriminated the candidates very well, with marks ranging across all the abilities. The stronger candidates fully described the steps in using the pie chart to present the data as follows:

- 'Group data/sort data/organize data/arrange data/calculate sector angles'.

- 'Write a title'.

- 'Draw a circle/plot or measure sector angles'.

- 'Label sector angles/make a key'.

There are some candidates who missed two or more descriptive steps and those that just drew the pie chart, and as a result lost mark.

(d) Majority of the candidates did not perform well in this question as it required them to suggest an idea and develop that idea on how to improve the squatter settlements. Most of the suggestions were simple ideas like 'provide housing, provide health, relocate squatters' etc, and because these ideas are not developed, candidates were not able to score full marks. The examples of appropriately developed suggestions are as follows:

- 'Provide social services like education, health, sanitation, security to improve on the quality of life'

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- 'Provide low-cost housing/finance low-cost housing to improve affordability/take housing loans to build better housing'

- 'Relocation to decongest the area'

- 'Accelerate land allocation to reduce shortage of land'

2 **(a)** **(i)** Almost all candidates scored full marks, by picking '2019' as the correct answer,

(ii) Majority of the candidates were able to identify '2017'as the year with lowest electricity imported.

(b) This question was well answered, with majority of the candidates scoring at least two marks, mainly for subtraction and conversion.

(c) **(i)** The question was very poorly performed by majority of the candidates. The expected suggestions are:

- 'Breakdown of machines at the power station'.

- 'Scheduled maintenance'.

- 'Drop in demand for power'.

(ii) Majority of the candidates did not perform well in this question as it required them to suggest an idea and develop that idea on how the decrease in electricity generation might have affected the economy of Botswana. Most of the suggestions were simple ideas like; 'loss of jobs, decline in production, increased power tariffs' etc, and because these ideas are not developed, candidates were not able to score full marks. The examples of appropriately developed suggestions are as follows;

- 'Closure of industries/businesses leading to decreased government revenue '

- 'Decline in production of goods/services leading to price increase'

- 'Loss of jobs hence increased poverty'

- 'Increased electricity tariffs leading to increased running costs'

(c) **(i)** This question differentiated well, with stronger candidates drawing the line graph accurately whist some candidates made errors of 'inconsistent scale, wrong plotting, and lack of labelling X and Y axis', resulting in loss marks.

(ii) Vast majority of candidates answered this question well, and scored maximum marks, however there were few candidates who gave methods of data presentation that were not applicable in this case such as 'scatter graph, pictogram, and maps'. The methods of data presentation that are applicable are; 'text/prose, bar graph, pie chart, flow chart and histogram'.

(d) This question discriminated the candidates well across all ability levels. The stronger candidates were able to suggest brilliant strategies on how government of Botswana can improve supply of

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power, such as 'building new power stations, use of renewable sources of energy, increased importation of power, and buying from independent power producers'. However, there were some candidates who focused on power conservation strategies such as: 'use of prepaid power, switching off lights and electricity apparatus when not in use', and as such, ended up losing marks.

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