

External markbands—SL and HL

Paper 1 and 2 markbands

These markbands are to be used for papers 1 and 2 at both standard level and higher level.

	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	Paper 1 Section B	Paper 2
Level descriptor	Knowledge/understanding	Application/analysis	Synthesis/evaluation	Skills	Marks 0–15	Marks 0–10
A	No relevant knowledge; no examples or case studies	No evidence of application; the question has been completely misinterpreted or omitted	No evaluation	None appropriate	0	0
B	Little knowledge and/or understanding, which is largely superficial or of marginal relevance; no or irrelevant examples and case studies	Very little application; important aspects of the question are ignored	No evaluation	Very low level; little attempt at organization of material; no relevant terminology	1–3	1–2
C	Some relevant knowledge and understanding, but with some omissions; examples and case studies are included, but limited in detail	Little attempt at application; answer partially addresses question	No evaluation	Few or no maps or diagrams, little evidence of skills or organization of material; poor terminology	4–6	3–4

	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	Paper 1 Section B	Paper 2
Level descriptor	Knowledge/understanding	Application/analysis	Synthesis/evaluation	Skills	Marks 0–15	Marks 0–10
D	Relevant knowledge and understanding, but with some omissions; examples and case studies are included, occasionally generalized	Some attempt at application; competent answer although not fully developed, and tends to be descriptive	No evaluation or unsubstantiated evaluation	Basic maps or diagrams, but evidence of some skills; some indication of structure and organization of material; acceptable terminology	7–9	5–6
E	Generally accurate knowledge and understanding, but with some minor omissions; examples and case studies are well chosen, occasionally generalized	Appropriate application; developed answer that covers most aspects of the question	Beginning to show some attempt at evaluation of the issue, which may be unbalanced	Acceptable maps and diagrams; appropriate structure and organization of material; generally appropriate terminology	10–12	7–8
F	Accurate, specific, well-detailed knowledge and understanding; examples and case studies are well chosen and developed	Detailed application; well-developed answer that covers most or all aspects of the question	Good and well-balanced attempt at evaluation	Appropriate and sound maps and diagrams; well structured and organized responses; terminology sound	13–15	9–10