

Tutorial Letter 104/2/2018

Know your world: Introduction to
Geography

GGH1501

Semester 2

Department of Geography

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The purpose of Tutorial Letter 104 is to provide information on the structure of the examination and guidelines for examination preparation.

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CONTENTS

		Page
1	Introduction	2
2	Structure of the examination paper	3
3	How to approach preparation for the examination	3
4	Specific guidelines for examination preparation	4
5	Concluding words	13

1 Introduction

The purpose of Tutorial Letter 104 is to provide examination guidelines, which you should carefully consult when preparing for the examination in May.

Note the following acronyms that are used in the sections below to refer to different elements of the study material:

- PB Sect A: Section A of the prescribed book
- PB Sect B: Section B of the prescribed book
- SG: GGH1501_SG001_2018 (“study guide document”)
- MCQs: Multiple- choice questions
- Ch: Chapter
- Sect: Section
- Fig: Figure
- p/pp: page/pages

The lecturers listed in the table on the next page are available to be contacted if you need to clarify or check on uncertainties which you may have concerning the examination guidance supplied in this tutorial letter. Please note the various learning units with which each of the lecturers will be able to assist.

Lecturer	Learning unit	Telephone	E-mail
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2 Structure of the examination paper

Firstly, please note that the examination paper will consist of two parts: **Section A** consists of multiple-choice questions and **Section B** consists of questions that require written answers. The structure of both parts of the examination paper is explained in the section below.

Section A: 60% weight

- There are 44 multiple-choice questions to be answered on a mark-reading sheet.
- These questions cover all the learning units, with a minimum of five (5) to a maximum of eight (8) multiple-choice questions per learning unit.

Section B: 40 percent weight

- There are six questions of ten marks each.
- You need to answer any **four (4)** of these.
- **Learning unit 6 is not examined in this section (LU 6 is assessed by MCQs only in Section A).**
- Each ten-mark question will be split into a question of six marks and a question of four marks.
- For each ten-mark question, the question of six marks and the question of four marks will **NOT** be from the same learning unit: They come from different learning units.
- It is therefore not a good idea to leave certain learning units out during your preparations, since you do not know how we will be combining them.

4 How to approach preparation for the examination

Working through the learning unit activities and Assignment 02 will be of great help to master the **approach** to answer questions requiring written answers successfully.

A focus on working out questions in previous examination papers will be helpful, but is not sufficient preparation for the examination, since other questions may feature, which you may then struggle to answer. Rather focus on mastering the prescribed material in the textbook as well as you can, which will enable you to see the bigger picture of what the module is about, and to answer any questions.

If looking at previous examination papers, do not use the papers from 2015 and before, since in 2016 a completely revised module was implemented, with an accompanying change in the structure of the examination paper and the type of questions being asked.

What to do if you do not have the prescribed textbook

The prescribed textbook has been used intensively to compile the examination paper. So it is not a very good idea to prepare for the examination without the textbook. We are, however, aware that some students might not have the textbook.

A second best option would be to “Google” the different topics and themes covered by the module, and in that way compile an information resource which you can use for examination preparation. It is a second best option, and you miss out on the integrated, holistic narrative of the textbook, but it is better than having nothing.

This option requires of you to immediately start with the compilation of your information resource, else it will not be ready by the time you need it for examination preparation.

IMPORTANT: We do not recommend or endorse this option, and cannot assist you in any way if you decide to go this route. It is your choice, and if deciding to do it this way, you have to be aware of the risks involved.

4 Specific guidelines for examination preparation

Learning unit 1 (The nature of geography and geographical thinking)
Guidance for MCQs
<p>Ensure that you are well prepared to answer MCQs related to the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meaning and application of spatial location, variation and association • characteristics and utility of the geographic grid • scale uses and differences • time calculation when travelling east or west across the globe • characteristics of the three main analytic methods used by geographers • connection between places, resulting in spatial interaction • diffusion of ideas/characteristics/features • description of the location of a place in terms of “site” and “situation” • properties of spatial distribution patterns of features over space • major physical systems of the Earth and their interrelatedness • regions – different types and related concepts • different schools of thought on human-environment interaction
Guidance for questions requiring written answers
<p>To be able to answer Questions related to this learning unit which require written answers, you will need to be able to apply your understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implications of the different schools of thought on human-environment interaction • the three main analytic methods employed by contemporary geographers to analyse problems/phenomena • spatial location, variation and association in order to identify and explain geographical patterns on world maps • diffusion of ideas/characteristics/features across space from one place to another over time • the role of “site” and “situation” in various decision-making contexts

Learning unit 2 (Key processes in the physical environment)
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Guidance for MCQs

Ensure that you are well prepared to answer MCQs related to the following aspects:

- Earth-sun geometry and accompanying relationships
- global variation patterns of temperature, annual temperature range and precipitation (characteristics and explanation)
- global atmospheric circulation zones and associated precipitation patterns
- the tectonic plate framework – patterns and implications
- types of landscapes – in terms of how they are formed
- geological hazards – types, characteristics and impacts
- weathering – characteristics, types and examples
- factors playing a role in soil formation
- biomes – definition, types, characteristics (focus on associations between soil type and climate)

Guidance for questions requiring written answers

Topics that you need to be well acquainted with in order to be able to answer the questions in this section, include the following:

- the role of movements along the boundaries between tectonic plates in the formation of large-scale landforms
- spatial distribution patterns of various major climate types over the world (characteristics of and reasons for these patterns)
- spatial distribution of the ITCZ and the various global climate processes that influence the formation and migration as well
- spatial distribution pattern of volcanoes and earthquakes over the world (characteristics of and reasons for this pattern, plus examples)
- different processes forming part of the nitrogen and carbon cycles and how these respectively contribute to the cycling of nitrogen and carbon

Learning unit 3 (Patterns and trends of the global population)

Guidance for MCQs

Ensure that you are well prepared to answer MCQs related to the following aspects:

- ability to use thematic world maps to obtain information on population characteristics and indicators
- indicators of population change – characteristics/use of CDR, CBR, etc
- characteristics of the world population distribution pattern
- location of the world's major population clusters
- forecasts of the future world population
- overpopulation – characteristics and measurement
- migration – types, sources and destinations of migration
- recent international/global migration – patterns and trends
- forced migration – characteristics and reasons

Guidance for questions requiring written answers

Topics that you need to be well acquainted with in order to be able to answer the questions in this section, include the following:

- analysis of population pyramids to obtain information on population characteristics
- typical form of population pyramids associated with different phases of the demographic transition
- natural factors as enabling and constraining factors for human settlement, compared to the role of other factors
- migration patterns, trends, types and controls, with reference to recent migration trends from the Middle East to Europe
- variations in population characteristics between regions/countries and possible explanations for these variations

Learning unit 4 (The global cultural mosaic)

Guidance for MCQs

Ensure that you are well prepared to answer MCQs related to the following aspects:

- ability to use thematic world maps to obtain information on the characteristics of states and/or the distribution of languages/religions
- predominant religions/languages in different parts of the world
- ethnic religions and the landscape
- diffusion of religions/languages over the world
- language and international communication
- most widely spoken language families in the world
- dominant and endangered languages (including de facto languages, lingua franca, etc.)
- different state shapes: characteristics/examples
- the phenomenon of genocide, with specific reference to Africa
- different types of boundaries between states
- state space and territory – what sovereignty implies and what not

Guidance for questions requiring written answers

Topics that you need to be well acquainted with in order to be able to answer the questions in this section, include the following:

- diffusion of languages from their areas of origin to other areas in the world – at the hand of an example, with reference to the emergence of dialects
- diffusion of religions from their areas of origin to other areas in the world – at the hand of an example, with reference to their current distribution
- distribution patterns of major languages and/or religions over the world and how these patterns are changing
- how conflict is leading to changes in the world political map, with reference to examples
- political advantages/challenges associated with different state shapes, with reference to examples

Learning unit 5 (Making and earning a living)

Guidance for MCQs

Ensure that you are well prepared to answer MCQs related to the following aspects:

- The use of thematic maps to obtain information on development indicators as the HDI, GNI, etc.
- the two paths to development, their characteristics and how they differ
- characteristics of developing countries versus developed countries
- differences in gender-related development across the world
- shifting cultivation: characteristics and distribution over the world
- subsistence and commercial farming: characteristics and differences
- distribution of industrial clusters over the world
- different economic sectors: examples of type of industries & employment
- types of services that can be distinguished and examples of each type
- types of business services in developing countries
- geographical and other factors determining the location of industries
- settlement patterns: differences between developed/developing countries

Guidance for questions requiring written answers

Topics that you need to be well acquainted with in order to be able to answer the questions in this section, include the following:

- long-term sustainability implications of subsistence agriculture, with reference to shifting cultivation, pastoral nomadism and intensive subsistence farming
- good health as an indicator of development, with reference to the spatial distribution of this indicator over the world
- spatial associations between world distribution patterns of development and population indicators
- differences between developed and developing countries in terms of economic structure
- factors influencing decisions where to locate factories

Learning unit 6 (Resources: Use and abuse)
Guidance for MCQs (Note that LU 6 will be assessed by MCQs only.)
<p>Ensure that you are well prepared to answer MCQs related to the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • characteristics of resource use and resource needs • energy resources: use and distribution pattern over the world • characteristics and advantages/disadvantages of various energy resources • resources: concepts and definitions • valuation of resources • differentiating between sustainable development, preservation, exploitation, sustainability, mismanagement and conservation
For this learning unit, no questions requiring written answers will be included in the examination paper.

Learning unit 7 (Geographic data: nature, sources and representation)
Guidance for MCQs
<p>Ensure that you are well prepared to answer MCQs related to the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the “language” of maps • map elements, as required on all maps • interpretation of map scales • using scale to convert map distances to real distances • conversions between different types of scales • conversions between different distance measurements, i.e. cm to km • using maps to determine absolute location (using the geographical grid) and real world distances (i.e. doing calculations) • relative versus absolute location • calculation of gradient • characteristics of different types of map projections

- characteristics of the geographical grid
- characteristics of contemporary analytic tools (GIS/GPS/Remote Sensing)

Guidance for questions requiring written answers

Topics that you need to be well acquainted with in order to be able to answer the questions in this section, include the following:

- application of contemporary analytic tools (GIS/GPS/Remote Sensing) to analyse geographical phenomena
- distortions associated with different map projections and how these affect map characteristics and usability for different purposes
- the concept of scale and how it is applied in terms of maps with different scales for different purposes (e.g. small scale versus large scale maps)
- conversions between different types of scales and utility of maps with different types of scales for different purposes

4 Concluding words

We urge you to take special note of the guidelines for examination preparation that have been supplied in this tutorial letter, which will assist you in a direct way to decide what to emphasise during your final revision before the examination. The semester is now well under way, and we would like to encourage you to keep up the pace and to stay motivated to ensure success in your studies for this module. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you not understand or struggle with your studies for GGH1501; we are here to assist and support you so that you can make the best of your learning experience.

Warm regards,

The GGH1501 lecturers