

2012 HSC Earth and Environmental Science Marking Guidelines

Section I, Part A

Multiple-choice Answer Key

Question	Answer
1	A
2	D
3	D
4	A
5	A
6	В
7	С
8	В
9	С
10	С
11	В
12	В
13	D
14	В
15	A
16	A
17	D
18	A
19	С
20	D



Section I, Part B

Question 21

Criteria	Marks
Correctly completes the table	4
Completes the majority of the table	3
Completes some of the table	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 22 (a)

Criteria	Marks
Gives ONE relevant reason	1

Question 22 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies ONE difference each for magnitude and fatalities	3
Gives reasons for the differences	3
Gives one difference and provides a reason	
OR	
Gives the differences	2
OR	
Gives reasons for the differences	
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 22 (c)

Criteria	Marks
Gives reasons for the need for information on earthquakes	
States how Australian scientists can contribute to the general knowledge of earthquakes	3
Gives reasons for the need for information on earthquakes	
OR	2
• States how Australian scientists can contribute to an understanding of earthquakes	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 23 (a)

Criteria	Marks
Correctly plots all points on the graph	2
Plots some points on the graph	1

Question 23 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Draws a complete diagram	2
Correctly labels the diagram	3
Draws a diagram	2
Gives some labels	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 24 (a)

Criteria	Marks
Gives the correct answer	1

Question 24 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Names two hypotheses	
Provides detailed features of both hypotheses	4
Gives differences between the two hypotheses	
Names two hypotheses	
Gives features of one or two hypotheses	3
Gives at least one difference	
Names one hypothesis	2
Gives features of that hypothesis	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 25 (a)

Criteria	Marks
Provides information on the diversity of fossils	2
Provides information on the abundance of fossils	2
Provides some relevant information	1

Question 25 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Gives the features of the site at the time of fossil formation	2
• Relates the fossils to the features of the environment	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 26 (a)

Criteria	Marks
Names the organism	1

Question 26 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Describes the distribution and abundance of modern and ancient stromatolites	3
Provides reasons for the differences in abundance and distribution	
• Outlines the distribution or abundance of modern and ancient stromatolites	
OR	2
Gives a reason for a difference	
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 27

Criteria	Marks
Identifies one evolutionary advance	
Provides a feature of the evolutionary advance	3
Relates the advance to the spread to the terrestrial environment	
Identifies one evolutionary advance	
• Outlines a feature of the evolutionary advance or relates an advance to the spread to the terrestrial environment	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 28 (a)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies one agricultural practice	
Outlines land degradation caused by the practice	3
Relates the land degradation to the agricultural practice	
Identifies one agricultural practice	2
Outlines damage caused or relates damage to the agricultural practice	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 28 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies a management plan as identified in part (a)	
Gives features of the management plan	4
Gives details of how the management plan reduces land degradation	
Identifies a management plan	
Outlines the management plan	3
Outlines how the management plan reduces land degradation	
Identifies a management plan	
Either outlines the management plan OR outlines how the management plan reduces land degradation	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 29

Criteria	Marks
Provides features of an appropriate integrated strategy	
Uses information in the table	
Explains how the strategy would be effective in reducing impact on the environment	5
Uses relevant terminology and progression of thought	
Provides features of an appropriate integrated strategy	
Refers to the table	
Outlines how the strategy will be effective in reducing impact on the environment	4
Uses some appropriate terminology or progression of thought	
Outlines an appropriate strategy	
Outlines how the strategy will be effective in reducing impact on the environment	3
Uses some appropriate terminology	
Outlines a strategy	2
Provides some relevant information	1

Question 30 (a)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies the activity	1

Question 30 (b)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies differences in trends for both energy use and forestry curves	2
Gives reasons for both trends	3
Identifies the differences in trends for both curves	2
Gives ONE reason for a trend	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 31

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates a depth or breadth of knowledge and understanding of the evolution of the Australian continent and sustainable use of its resources	
Gives examples of advances in knowledge	
• Demonstrates a depth or breadth of knowledge and understanding of relevant advances in knowledge	
• Clearly links the changes in advances in knowledge to an improved understanding of the Australian continent and the sustainable use of resources	7
Makes a clear judgement based on the supporting arguments	
• Demonstrates a coherent and logical progression of thought and includes correct use of scientific principles, ideas and terminology	
• Displays a knowledge and understanding of the evolution of the Australian continent and sustainable use of its resources	
Has a knowledge and understanding of advances in knowledge and how they have changed	
Gives examples of advances in knowledge	5–6
• Tenuously links them to improved understanding of the Australian continent and its resources	
Makes a judgement linked to the supporting arguments	
Uses relevant terminology and/or progression of thought	
Recalls relevant knowledge of the Australian continent and/or its resources and/or technology and/or attempts to link technology to an understanding of the Australian continent and/or its resources	2.4
Gives example/s of advances in technology	3–4
Gives a tenuous judgement or attempts a judgement	
Uses some appropriate terminology and/or progression of thought	
Provides some relevant information	1–2



Section II

Question 32 (a) (i)

	Criteria	Marks
ſ	Provides a correct definition of an introduced species	1

Question 32 (a) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
• Gives a reason for each viewpoint to justify the classification of the dingo as a native or an introduced species	2
Provides some relevant information	1

Question 32 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Describes the trends in the graph for poison, moths and mechanical devices	
Compares the trends with the trend for prickly pear	4
Makes a judgement	
Uses quantitative data from the graph	
Outlines trends in the graphs	
Compares the trends with the trend for prickly pear	3
Gives some data OR makes a judgement	
Outlines a trend in the graphs	2
Gives a reason for the trend	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 32 (c) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Gives two reasons	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 32 (c) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Describes two strategies	
• Gives differences between the two strategies OR	4
• Gives similarities between the two strategies	
Outlines two strategies	2
Gives similarities/differences	3
Outlines two strategies	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 32 (d) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Briefly describes one impact of a feature	1

Question 32 (d) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Gives additional information needed to validate the conclusion	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 32 (d) (iii)

Criteria	Marks
Outlines the Bradley method	
States how the method could be used in the reserve	3
Uses information from the map and/or graph	
Outlines the Bradley method	
States how the method could be used or uses information from the map and/or graph	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 32 (e)

Criteria	Marks
Demonstrates a depth or breadth of knowledge and understanding of quarantine procedures and introduced species	
Makes a clear judgement for or against quarantine regulations	6
• Gives examples	Ü
• Demonstrates a coherent and logical progression of thought and includes correct use of scientific principles, terminology and ideas	
• Displays a knowledge and understanding of quarantine procedures and/or introduced species	
Makes or implies a judgement	4–5
Gives examples	
Uses relevant terminology and/or progression of thought	
Recalls relevant information of quarantine procedures or introduced species	2.2
Gives examples and/or makes a judgement	2–3
Uses some appropriate terminology or progression of thought	
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 33 (a) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies both the fossil and combustible nature of coal	1

Question 33 (a) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Outlines changes in composition as rank increases	2
Outlines changes in energy as rank increases	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 33 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Describes the trend in the graph for coal	
Describes the trends in the graph for wind and solar	4
Gives relevant reasons for the differences	4
Uses data from the graphs	
Outlines trends in the graphs	
Gives reasons for the differences	3
Refers to the graphs	
Outlines a trend in the graphs	2
Gives a reason for the trend	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 33 (c) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Demonstrates an understanding that fossil fuels form in specific environments	2
States how this knowledge could be used to predict new sources	
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 33 (c) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Describes the exploration techniques used to locate and determine the size of coal deposits	
Describes the exploration techniques used to locate and determine reservoir size for oil	4
Gives similarities	
OR	
Gives differences	
Outlines the exploration techniques used to locate and determine the size of coal deposits	
• Outlines the exploration techniques used to locate and determine reservoir size for oil	3
Gives similarities and/or differences	
Outlines the exploration technique used to locate coal deposits AND oil reservoirs	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 33 (d) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Gives one distinction	1

Question 33 (d) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Correctly identifies incomplete combustion	2
States how to achieve complete combustion	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 33 (d) (iii)

Criteria	Marks
Outlines the impacts of the products	2
Makes a judgement on the effects of the impacts	3
Identifies the impacts OR	2
Makes a judgement	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 33 (e)

Criteria	Marks
Demonstrates a depth or breadth of knowledge and understanding of alternative energy sources	
Makes a clear judgement on the economic impact of increasing renewable energy	6
Gives a range of examples of alternative energies	
Demonstrates a coherent and logical progression of thought and includes correct use of scientific principles, terminology and ideas	
Displays a knowledge and understanding of alternative energy sources	
Makes or implies a judgement	4–5
Gives examples of alternative energies	4-3
Uses relevant terminology and/or progression of thought	
Recalls relevant knowledge of alternative energy sources	
Uses some appropriate terminology or progression of thought	2–3
Gives examples and/or makes a judgement	
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 34 (a) (i)

Criteria	Marks
• Identifies one renewable resource and one non-renewable resource	1

Question 34 (a) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies a technology	2
Outlines the impact of the technology on mineral exploration	2
Identifies an impact of ONE technology	1



Question 34 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Recognises mining is unviable below \$40 per kilogram	
Identifies one factor that could be changed to maintain mine viability	
Describes how the factor could be changed	4
Links the change in the factor to mine viability	
Uses data from the graph	
Recognises mining is unviable below \$40 per kilogram	
Identifies one factor that could be changed to maintain viability	2
Describes how the factor could be changed	3
Uses data from the graph	
Recognises mining is unviable below \$40 per kilogram	2
Outlines how one factor could be changed	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 34 (c) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Outlines how grade was determined	2
Outlines how size was determined	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 34 (c) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Outlines the size and grade of the deposit	
Outlines the mining method	4
Links the mining method to the size and grade	4
Outlines the concentration method and links it to size and grade	
Outlines the size and grade of the deposit	
Outlines the mining method and links it to size/grade OR outlines the concentration method and links it to size/grade	3
Outlines the size and grade of the deposits	2
Outlines the mining method OR concentration method	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 34 (d) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies one qualitative and one quantitative property	1

Question 34 (d) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Gives steps needed to derive the quantitative property	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 34 (d) (iii)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies ore minerals	
Identifies gangue minerals	3
Give a reason for the classification	3
Uses data from the table	
Identifies ore minerals	
Identifies gangue minerals	2
Gives a reason or uses data	
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 34 (e)

Criteria	Marks
Demonstrates a depth or breadth of knowledge and understanding of government policies and their effect	
Makes clear judgements about day-to-day operation and long-term impacts on sustainability	6
Gives examples	
• Demonstrates a coherent and logical progression of thought and includes correct use of scientific principles, terminology and ideas	
• Displays a knowledge and understanding of government policies and their effect	
Makes or implies a judgement	4–5
Gives examples	
Uses relevant terminology and/or progression of thought	
Recalls relevant knowledge of government policies and/or effects	
Gives examples and/or makes a judgement	2–3
Uses some appropriate terminology or progression of thought	
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 35 (a) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies two technologies	1

Question 35 (a) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Names one deep sea sediment	2
Gives the origin and distribution of the sediment	2
Gives some relevant information	1



Question 35 (b)

Criteria	Marks
Describes the distribution of salinities in the Pacific Ocean	
Relates the salinity distribution to ocean processes	4
Refers to the map	
Outlines the distribution of salinities in the Pacific Ocean	
Relates the salinity distribution to ocean processes	3
Refers to the map	
Outlines the distribution of salinity	2
Outlines a relevant ocean process	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 35 (c) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Demonstrates a knowledge of plate tectonics	
Demonstrates a knowledge of the deep sea floor	3
Links plate tectonics to our understanding of the deep sea floor	
Outlines features of plate tectonics and/or the deep sea floor	2
Attempts to link plate tectonics and the deep sea floor	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 35 (c) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Gives the detailed features of biotic communities around deep ocean vents	3
Gives some features of biotic communities around deep ocean vents	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 35 (d) (i)

Criteria	Marks
Identifies two relevant characteristics of brine shrimp	1



Question 35 (d) (ii)

Criteria	Marks
Outlines the steps required to ensure the method was valid	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 35 (d) (iii)

Criteria	Marks
Gives the tolerance to temperature	
Gives the tolerance to salinity	2
Compares the two	3
Refers to the graphs	
Gives the tolerance to temperature and gives the tolerance to salinity	2
Gives some relevant information	1

Question 35 (e)

Criteria	Marks
Demonstrates a depth or breadth of knowledge and understanding of ocean currents and ocean resources	
Makes a clear judgement linking human activities to ocean resources	6
Gives examples	O
• Demonstrates a coherent and logical progression of thought and includes correct use of scientific principles, terminology and ideas	
Displays a knowledge and understanding of ocean currents and ocean resources	
Makes or implies a judgement	4–5
Gives examples	
Uses relevant terminology and/or progression of thought	
Recalls relevant knowledge of ocean currents and/or ocean resources	
Gives examples and/or makes a judgement	2–3
Uses some appropriate terminology or progression of thought	
Gives some relevant information	1

Earth and Environmental Science

2012 HSC Examination Mapping Grid

Section I Part A

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
1	1	9.2.3.2.1, 9.2.3.3.1	H7, H8
2	1	9.2.5.2.2, 9.2.5.3.1, 9.2.4.2.5	H4, H7
3	1	9.2.2.2.1, 9.2.3.2.1	H7, H8
4	1	9.2.3.2.1, 9.2.3.3.1	H7, H8
5	1	9.2.1.2.2	H2, H7
6	1	9.2.1.2.2, 9.2.1.2.4, 9.2.1.3.1	H2, H7, H8
7	1	9.3.5.2.3	H7, H8
8	1	9.3.2.3.1, 9.3.3.2.4, 9.3.4.3.1	H7, H8
9	1	9.3.3.2.4	H7, H8
10	1	9.3.1.2.1, 9.3.3.2.4	Н7
11	1	9.3.4.2.1	H7, H8
12	1	9.3.3.2.1, 9.3.3.3.1, 14.1g	H7, H8, H14
13	1	9.3.1.2.5	H2, H3, H7
14	1	9.4.2.2.1	H7, H8, H9, H10
15	1	9.4.4.2.1	H9, H10
16	1	9.4.6.2.1	H2, H10
17	1	9.4.1.2.1	H7, H8
18	1	9.4.1.3.1	H7, H8
19	1	9.4.5.3.1, 9.4.7	H3, H10
20	1	12.4d, 12.4e, 14.3c	H12, H14

Section I Part B

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
21	4	9.2.2.2.1, 9.2.2.3.1, 13.1a	H7, H8, H13
22 (a)	1	9.2.4.2.1, 9.2.4.2.8	H7, H8
22 (b)	3	9.2.4.2.1, 9.2.4.2.8	H10, H7
22 (c)	3	9.2.4.2.6, 9.2.4.3.3	H1, H9, H5
23 (a)	2	9.2.4.2.1, 9.2.4.2.8, 13.1f	H7, H8, H13
23 (b)	3	9.2.4.2.1, 9.2.4.2.2, 9.2.4.3.1, 13.1e, 14.1f	H2, H7, H13, H14
24 (a)	1	9.3.5.2.1	H2, H8, H13
24 (b)	4	9.3.5.2.5, 9.3.5.3.1, 9.3.5.3.3, 13.1a	H2, H7, H8, H13
25 (a)	2	9.3.4.3.3	H7
25 (b)	2	9.3.4.3.3	H1, H2, H7
26 (a)	1	9.3.1.2.2	H7



Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
26 (b)	3	9.3.1.2.2, 9.3.1.3.3	H2, H7
27	3	9.3.4.2.3, 9.3.4.2.4, 9.3.4.3.2	H7, H8
28 (a)	3	9.4.2.2.1	H9, H10
28 (b)	4	9.4.2.2.1, 9.4.2.3.2	H9, H10
29	5	9.4.4.2.1, 9.4.4.2.2, 9.4.4.3.2	H3, H5, H9, H10
30 (a)	1	9.4.6.2.1, 9.4.6.3.2, 14.1a	H8, H14
30 (b)	3	9.4.6.2.1, 9.4.6.3.2, 14.1g	H8, H9, H10, H14
31	7	9.2.3.2.1, 9.4.1-5	H1, H3, H4, H7, H9, H10

Section II

Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
Question 32		Introduced Species and the Australian Environment	
32 (a) (i)	1	9.5.1.2.1, 9.5.1.3.1	H7
32 (a) (ii)	2	9.5.1.2.1, 9.5.1.3.1	H7
32 (b)	4	9.5.5.2.4, 14.1a, 14.1g	H1, H7, H14
32 (c) (i)	2	9.5.3.2.1, 9.5.3.2.1, 9.5.3.3.1	H7, H10
32 (c) (ii)	4	9.5.4.2.2, 9.5.4.3.2	H2, H3
32 (d) (i)	1	9.5.1.3.2, 9.5.1.3.3, 9.5.2.3.1, 14.1a, 14.1g	H14
32 (d) (ii)	2	9.5.1.3.2, 9.5.1.3.3, 9.5.2.3.1, 14.1c	H14
32 (d) (iii)	3	9.5.5.3.2	H3, H8
32 (e)	6	9.5.1.2.1, 9.5.1.2.5, 9.5.6.2.1, 9.5.6.3.1, 13.1a	H1, H4, H7, H10, H13
Question 33		Organic Geology – A Non-renewable Resource	
33 (a) (i)	1	9.6.1.2.3	Н9
33 (a) (ii)	2	9.6.1.2.4	Н9
33 (b)	4	9.6.1.2.4, 9.6.6.2.1, 14.1a, 14.1g	H4, H5, H9, H10, H14
33 (c) (i)	2	9.6.3.2.3	H2, H3, H9
33 (c) (ii)	4	9.6.3.2.1, 9.6.3.2.2, 9.6.3.3.1	H9, H10
33 (d) (i)	1	9.6.5.3.1	H1
33 (d) (ii)	2	9.6.5.2.1, 9.6.5.3.1, 14.1g	H14
33 (d) (iii)	3	9.6.5.2.3, 9.6.5.3.2, 13.1a	H7, H13
33 (e)	6	9.6.5.2.2, 9.6.5.3.2, 9.6.6.2.1, 13.1a	H5, H6, H9, H10, H13
Question 34		Mining and the Australian Environment	
34 (a) (i)	1	9.7.3.2.1	H1, H6, H10
34 (a) (ii)	2	9.7.4.2.1, 9.7.4.3.1	H1, H4, H10
34 (b)	4	9.7.3.2.6, 9.7.3.3.2, 13.1a	H4, H5, H6, H9, H13
34 (c) (i)	2	9.7.4.2.2	H2, H3, H9
34 (c) (ii)	4	9.7.4.2.3, 9.7.4.2.6, 9.7.4.3.4	H2, H3, H9
34 (d) (i)	1	9.7.3.3.3, 11.1b, 12.3c	H11, H12



Question	Marks	Content	Syllabus outcomes
34 (d) (ii)	2	9.7.3.3.3, 13.1a	H13
34 (d) (iii)	3	9.7.3.3.3, 14.1e	H7, H14
34 (e)	6	9.7.2.2.2, 9.7.4.2.6, 9.7.4.3.4, 9.7.5.2.3, 9.7.5.2.4, 13.1a	H1, H4, H6, H13
Question 35		Oceanography	
35 (a) (i)	1	9.8.8.2.1, 9.8.8.3.1	H7, H8
35 (a) (ii)	2	9.8.7.2.1, 9.8.7.3.1	H7, H8
35 (b)	4	9.8.3.2.2, 9.8.3.3.2, 9.8.3.3.4	Н7
35 (c) (i)	3	9.8.2.2.1, 9.8.2.2.5	H1, H7, H8
35 (c) (ii)	3	9.8.6.2.5, 9.8.6.3.3	Н7
35 (d) (i)	1	9.8.6.3.2	H7
35 (d) (ii)	2	9.8.6.3.2, 11.2c	H11
35 (d) (iii)	3	9.8.6.3.2, 14.1a, 14.1e	H7, H14
35 (e)	6	9.8.4.2.1, 9.8.4.2.2, 9.8.4.2.3, 9.8.4.2.4, 9.8.5.2.5, 9.8.5.3.2, 13.1a	H1, H4, H6, H13