AO4 ‘Communicate findings’

Assessment Objective 4 assesses the candidates’ use of geographical skills. In some AO4 questions the examiner will also be assessing the candidate’s ability to communicate their findings – how well they can communicate patterns and trend presented in stimulus material. The following example assesses this ability and is taken from Component 3 of the SAMs.

Study the map below. The line on the map is known as the North-South divide. The economy of the UK is growing faster to the south of this line.

(i) Compare the patterns shown by the map and graph on page 6 of the separate Resource Folder. [6]

Population Increase 2001-12 in each of the UK economic regions
(in hundreds of thousands) Source: Office of National Statistics
Response 1

The pattern is obvious to me. Below the line the population figures are high. London is a good example with 955, this is way higher than anywhere. Wales has only 163. London has most jobs with 5.6 million. Wales has 1.4, the North East has only got 1.1 which is the worst region. The North East has the lowest population with only 63. So the map and the graph are sort of showing the same thing.

Response 2

To the south of the line the population figures are higher than places north of the line. The best example is the London region where the population is much higher than places like Wales and the NE. There is a close match with the number of jobs by region. It is the same pattern. To the south of the line the jobs are much higher, with London standing out the most with well over 5.6 million jobs compared to the worst region which is the NE again. They only have 1 million jobs.

In conclusion, the population is growing more in the south than in the north. Jobs are also more common in the south than in the north.

Response 3

There is a very clear pattern when comparing the ‘north’ to the ‘south’ with reference to the “divide”. For both the population (which is showing growth in the period 2001 – 12) against the number of jobs per economic region, the ‘south’ can claim to have the highest population growth rates and also, with one exception, the highest number of jobs. This partly explains why the map uses the term “divide”. North of the line, population growth is relatively slow and fewer jobs can be found in those regions.

A few examples illustrate some of the extremes. London shows the fastest population growth rate of 955 000, a rapid rise of almost a million; this is compared to the north-east which only shows a modest growth rate of 63 000, the lowest figure of any region.

Perhaps one minor anomaly exists. The East of England, south of the “divide”, has a relatively fast population growth rate of 491 000 compared the north-west, which has 84 000 fewer people in terms of growth. The reverse is true of job availability in these two regions. The north-west has 0.7 million more jobs.

In conclusion, overall the pattern between population growth and job availability shows a clear divide between north and south.
Marking scheme

This question targets AO4 - the skills elements of use of the map and graph and the ability to communicate findings.

Use the descriptors below, working upwards from the lowest band.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Elaborated statements which make direct comparisons between the regions to the north and south and which make effective use of both sets of data. Meaning is unambiguous. The response has clear purpose, is fluent and logically structured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Statements which make comparisons between the regions to the north and south. Meaning is clear. The response has purpose, is organised and well structured.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Simple valid statements describe patterns. Meaning is generally clear. Statements are linked by a basic structure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Award 0 marks if the answer is incorrect or wholly irrelevant.</td>
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</tbody>
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Responses will use map evidence to make comparisons between population increase with total number of jobs. Some candidates will note that both sets of data are higher to the south of the north/south divide which is marked on the map.

Population increase is lower to the north of the line / higher to the south.

The lowest area is the North East which has only increased by 63000 whereas London and the South East have the two largest increases.

The South East has grown 10 times more than the North East.