

- Questions need to be read carefully so that exactly what is being requested is understood. Pay particular attention to the verbs used in the question e.g. describe as opposed to identify.

Advice for teachers

- Provide students with opportunities to practise extended answer questions.

Comments on specific sections and questions

This was a straightforward examination with many candidates achieving sound marks in most sections. A generally high quality of response was noted in many questions, especially in Section Two and even more so in Section Three.

Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)

This section resulted in the range of marks shown but was, in general, considerably easier than the other sections. The minimum was high and demonstrated the need for adjustment in difficulty of this section. Candidates achieved very high scores in Questions 7, 11, 15, 18 and 20 with means greater than 90%. These questions were largely recall. The scores for Questions 8 and 10 were much lower, around 50%. Both these questions involved interpretation of information provided in graphical form.

Section Two: Short answer (97 Marks)

The range of candidates' results showed that the breadth of content challenged some while the depth challenged others. Many candidates demonstrated strengths in certain areas by writing strong answers to groups of questions (on topics such as the acidification, or coral bleaching), but few could answer all questions well. Thus, while the maximum possible marks for each question were achieved in almost all questions, no one candidate managed to score highly on all questions. Other candidates gave relatively shallow answers across the range of content. Overall, this section catered for a range of candidate and teacher expertise.

Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Nearly all candidates made a reasonable attempt at Section Three: Extended answer section. There was a very clear favourite amongst Section Three questions; namely Question 28. Question 30 was also generally favoured by candidates. Question 29 was less favoured.