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Level 1 Geography RAS 2023

91935 Demonstrate understanding of decision-making in response to a geographic challenge in the wider Pacific region

EXEMPLAR

Merit

TOTAL 05

Page 1

Make sure you have the paper Resource Booklet 91935R. This contains **new** material, as well as the resources you have viewed in class. Use these new resources as supporting evidence in your answers.

The following definitions may assist your answers:

Viewpoints: What people think about geographic issues.

Perspectives: Ways in which people view and interpret environments. Including, but not limited to: economic, social, political, indigenous, and spiritual.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Cook Islands economy.

Because of this, the Cook Islands Government now faces an important challenge when looking towards the future, especially in terms of its economy.

- (a) Explain the challenge COVID-19 has created for the Cook Islands Government in terms of meeting the country's future needs.

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Covid-19 had a major affect on the Cook Islands. When Covid-19 forced them to close their borders in order to keep the virus out the Cook islands seen a massive Economic impact, "The Cook islands economy decreased by 32%" during Covid-19. Covid-19 meant they were losing out on alot of money that would be spent by tourists to the Islands. When they realised that tourism was their main contributor to their economy and they struggled majorly without it the prime minister Mark Brown decided he wanted other ways to make money so they wernt reliant on tourism. Another source of income would mean i more resilient economy for the Cook Islands and possibly a better enviroment for locals.

Three possible options the Cook Islands Government could take to meet the future needs of the country are:

- Option A – maintain an emphasis on the tourism industry
- Option B – transition away from tourism and carry out deep-sea mining
- Option C – focus on a combination involving both tourism and deep-sea mining.

When making a decision on meeting the future needs of the Cook Islands, the government needs to consider the viewpoints of a range of people or groups.

- (b) For each group or individual below, explain the key perspective(s) that shapes their viewpoint on the future direction the country should take. Include their viewpoint in your discussion, and the concept of *mana tiaki*, the Cook Islands' tradition of guardianship and protection of resources for future generations.

Group

Their perspective / viewpoint on the Cook Islands' future direction

The indigenous Cook Islands
Māori population:

B <i>I</i> <u>U</u>
<p>The perspective of the indigenous people is enviromental they would like the seas to kept natural and not be interfared with as this would keep within the term of Mana Tiaki which means to protect/guard the Cook Islands resources for the future generations to come. In their perspective Deep sea mining isnt an option as it is damaging/harming the enviroment. Their other perspective is Cultural they want their cultural beleifs and traditions to stay the same. So again deep sea mining would not meet the Manatiaki concept as well as it clashes with the Ra'ui system which is resourced land,sea and air which ensures a sustainable yet reliable future. Because of these perspectives that the Indigenous Maori people of the Cook Islands have i belive their veiwpoint on their countrys future direction is Option A (Maintain emphis on the Tourism industry). "With more than 90% of the Islands Indigenous Cook Island Maori population wanting this outcome."</p>

Tourism operators:

B <i>I</i> <u>U</u>
<p>The tourism operators have a economic perspective as well as a Social perspective. They want the sea to be kept the way it is as water based activities plays a major role in their economy. Their concept of Manatiaki is they think it is a key concept to follow and it would benefit them as it keeps all the resources in the Cook islands proetcted for the future which helps their industry as they do not like the idea of Deep sea mining asit takes away from tourism being the key contributor at the moment. Their other perspective would be social this is because they want to encourage tourists to the island as it gives the operators more income which has a positive economic impact on the operators families and employes as it keeps them working and earning money so the flow on affect from tourism is important. The veiwpoint the tourism operators are likely to want is Option A (Mantain and emphis on the tourism industry). They believe this is positive direction for the country to go and will benefit their own people as well.</p>

Prime Minister Mark Brown:

B	<i>I</i>	<u>U</u>				
<p>Mark Browns perspective is Economic he wants their economy to thrive and earn as much money as they can. Mark Brown may have a slight agreement with the ra'ui system however he doesnt show a definite side. He says "the economic impacts will be gamechanging" "This has the potential to match if not surpass the tourism industry [income] that our country currently earns" This proves he has a positive perspective on the mining and sees the economic side of this over the enviromental toll it could have. He beleives this ensures the country will keep moving forward and that the people will be impacted positively by Option C (Focus on a combination invloving both tourism and deep sea mining) His decision would also come in as Social perspective as he wants the best for his people and this would create more job opportunities for the wider community while giving the economy a much needed economic boost with deep sea mining making a very large profit for the economy of the Cook Islands. He believes mining would benefit them majorly and give them another key way to make money so if another virus was to come and they had to shut down they would still have an income stream from Deep sea mining.</p>						

Pacific Deep Mining Company:

B	<i>I</i>	<u>U</u>				
<p>The Pacific Deep Mining Companys perspective would be mainly Economic as all they really want is to make money and profit option B (Transition away from tourism and carry out Deep sea mining) would ensure their success Their vewiwpoint can also be seen as Political as they want their industry of deep sea mining to overtake the tourism sector and they take this up politically and try to persuade the other groups how they would benefit from this new industry. The Pacific Deep Mining Company would benefit majorly from option B. The process of Mana Tiaki is not focused on by this group and they dont agree with fully with the Ra'ui system. Their perspective doesnt change focus from Econmic and slightly political. However their veiwpoint is verv strong. They believe Option B is the way to go.</p>						

(c) (i) Choose ONE option that you think the Cook Islands Government should focus on to best meet the future needs of the country.

- ☐ Option A – maintain an emphasis on the tourism industry
- ☐ Option B – transition away from tourism and carry out deep-sea mining
- ☒ Option C – focus on a combination involving both tourism and deep-sea mining.

Explain why you chose this option. To do so you should:

- consider the viewpoints of the different groups of people who are involved
- consider why this option is better than the others
- integrate specific evidence from all the resources supplied.

<div>B <i>I</i> <u>U</u> </div> <p>I chose this option (C) as i agree with the veiwpoint majorly of Mark Brown and they do need another source of income aside from tourism this was proven over the covid-19 period when their economy was one of the worst affected in the world. Givin the fact Cook Island has the option of this new revenue stream i believe they should make the most of it however i dont believe they shouldnt follow the pacific deep Mining companys perspective as their way goes majorly against all other perspectives and will cause alot of Backlash amoungst locals. I believe the correct solution to this problem would be to discuss with the local Indigenous population on how they could do this to also meet the proccess of manatiaki and meet with tourism operators to talk to them and find a solution on how they co operate together i did chose Option B because of the simple fact another revenue stream was needed mining would deliever this while still keeping a focus on tourism. I think the best way for them to do this would be to find out the tourim operators peak season i would say these times would be through the drier months so (April - November) by not mining in these months they would give the tourism industry time to shine as water based activities espically such as diving as seen in figure12 "Diving is a popular tousist acivity" this would give tourists time to enjoy these activities without being ruined by the possible mining affect such as large plumes that disrupt the waters. by having a more down season (December - March) and mining over these 3-4 Months they still make income but the enviromental impact this Deep Sea Mining may have will have time to recover and wont interfair with the tourism peak time of the year by doing this it could also adress the issue of over mining of the area which would meet Manatiaki to an extent as it would help preserve the ocean for the future generation i think the other guideline that would ensure they meet the Ra'ui system also would be no mining in marine reserves and a certain distance around i beleive this would meet the prime ministers need for the country create more jobs for the locals as well as give the tourism operators their time to shine and wont affect their industry. The Deep sea mining companys perspectives and veiwpoints was meet halfway and working with the Indigenous people would mean a better outcome for the Cook islands espically as the Ingenous people perspective is to look after the land and the Mining companys is to make alot of money so by meeting in the middle it ensures a mix of both giving the economy a reliable system to fall back on if one fails. If option A was to be chosen it would mean the economy was going to stay at a sever risk and had no other profitable way to make money option C should also not have been chosen as the focus on deep sea mining could leave a very long term effect on the ocean and leave longterm damage which would go against the tradition of guardinship dramtically. We can see all the possible impacts deep sea mining has on the enviroment such as "Noise created by mining could drive away marine life" "Toxic metals may enter the food web" as listed in the evidence in figure vii. This option if done correctly could give the Cook Islands economy the biggest boost it has seen.</p>
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(ii) Which group's viewpoint was most important when choosing your option in part (i)?

- ☒ The indigenous Cook Islands Māori population
- ☐ Tourism operators
- ☐ Prime Minister Mark Brown
- ☐ Pacific Deep Mining Company.

Explain why that viewpoint was more important than the others.

<div>B <i>I</i> <u>U</u> </div> <p>I think the Indigenous Cook Islands Maori population was the most important as they had a focus on the environment and wanting to keep the process of Manatiaki alive and not lose their cultural beliefs i think this veiwpoint was the most important because they were the only ones to have a key enviromental perspective meaning that through their perspectives the Cook islands would definitely be very sustainable and i beleve with this group being involved with option C they will be sure to help evaluate the right mix of mining and tourism while keeping the enviroment as their key focus if i was to chose the Prime minister or the mining company they were to worrried about money and the economic perspective which could lead to sever damage to the islands and sea around it and Tourism operators didnt have as bigger enviromental perspective as the indigenous people.</p>

Merit

Subject: Geography

Standard: 91935

Total score: 05

Grade score	Marker commentary
M5	<p>The candidate discusses the fact that tourism is the main contributor to the Cook Islands economy and that Covid had a major impact on this. Reference is made to making the economy more resilient in the future by finding other means of income.</p> <p>The perspective(s) of each group are explained and linked to how it shapes their viewpoints on the challenge. The first three groups/individuals' viewpoints are focussed on the Cook Islands' future, while the Pacific Deep Mining Company only refers to the benefits of mining on their organisation.</p> <p>The candidate has made a decision in relation to the challenge and refers to the how each group/individual would view the decision. The response has some ambiguity in relation to which option is best: Option B or Option C. The candidate is also ambiguous when discussing which viewpoint is most important when making the decision. In particular, the candidate agrees most with Mark Brown's viewpoint but chose indigenous Cook Islanders as being the most important when considering the options.</p> <p>The candidate has referred to the concept of Mana Tiaki throughout the response and has included some relevant evidence to support the discussion.</p>