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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

**Achievement**

**TOTAL 03**

## 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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In the Cook Islands, the tourism sector of the economy makes about 66% of the countrys annual income, and provides for around 34% of jobs in the cook islands (in 2016). Covid-19 has had a big affect on the Cook Islands due to the borders shutting and not letting tourists in the country for around 2.5 years. This caused the cook islands economy to decrease by 32% and the government had to borrow \$228 million dollars. when a global pandemic or other event happens that closes borders or significantly decreases tourism numbers the country loses most of their annual income, which affects the citizens and Government. This is due to the cook islands being very reliant on their tourism sector, so they need another form of income that can benefit the country for if there was to be no more tourism, otherwise the country would be massively struggling financially. Having another large, sustainbale source of income also helps the country pay off debt which occured during Covid-19

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:

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The Indigenous Cook Island Maori people would want the government to focus on tourism and not do deep-sea mining. this is because the mining could create noise which scares away marine life. Cook islanders are very reliant on their marine life because they care about Te Taiao and utilize their natural resources with consideration for others and the future, this concept is called Mana Tiaki which is the tradition of guardianship of their land and sea.





deep sea mining could also release sediment into the water which could pollute the water and kill marine life such as fish and coral reefs. Cook Islands are trying to protect 100% of their ocean and since the borders shut in 2020, places such as the Muri Lagoon and marine reserves have got significantly healthier without the impacts of tourist. Cook islanders would not want to undo these efforts with deep sea mining causing possible pollution and killing marine life, this is showing Kaitiakitanga, guardianship and protecting of the marine life.

Tourism operators:





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torusim operators would want the country to prioritise the tourism sector of the economy because it currently makes up such a large portion of the GDP and jobs for cook islanders. They would not want to lose thier jobs and they are likely to care for the environment because deep sea mining could have an affect on the tourism industry. This could be due to possible pollution from the sediment released back into the ocean from the mining vessles, which could kill coral reefs and turn the water to a murky, less inviting color which would disencourage tourists to visit these places. 96 percent of tourists take part in swimming while at the cook islands and 98 percent go to the beaches. So beaches, coral reefs, swimming and more water based activities make up the majority of tourist destinatins and activities. Having no tourists want to go to these places and take part in these activities would cause tourism to get smaller, losing money and jobs for cook islanders.

Prime Minister Mark Brown:

<b>B</b> <i>I</i> <u>U</u>    
<p>Cook islands prime minister Mark brown would want to start deep sea mining because the cook islands have many Polymetalic nodules on their sea floors. These nuggets are precious resources which contain expensive metals inside them. The world is going more environmentally friendly so these resources are selling for a high price because they help make batteries, which can be used for EV's and solar panels. This would bring a substantial amount of money to the country so if the tourism industry stopped then this income from mining could sustain the economy. The Prime Minister recognises the importance of being environmentally friendly and is keen on starting deep sea mining because it contributes to the making of electric vehicles and solar panels. This could reduce the amount of fossil fuel emissions and help slow climate change. The Cook Islands and surrounding countries such as Fiji, Vanuatu and more are known for trying to go green and reduce the impact of climate change so for Prime Minister Mark Browns perspective doing deep-sea mining makes sense for that reason and it can also earn the Cook Islands a significant amount of money. He would also want to preserve marine life for the Cook islands because he would know how important the marine life and its natural resources is for the Islanders. He also knows how important the ocean is to the tourism industry. To accommodate for all perspectives he could do deep sea mining in an area of the ocean where there are no islands nearby so if the mining was to cause slight pollution it would be away from the other islands where the tourism industry could still thrive. This is showing Manaakitanga, being responsible for how deep sea mining is used while still maintaining tourism and natural resources</p>

Pacific Deep Mining Company:

<b>B</b> <i>I</i> <u>U</u>    
<p>Pacific Deep Mining Company would be wanting to carry out deep sea mining because they have an opportunity to make lots of money from the mining of the Nuggets on the Cook Islands sea floor. It can help the environment while also making them and the Cook Islands economy a large amount of money, while also contributing to slowing climate change and reducing fossil fuels.</p>
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(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.

**B I U** [List Bulleted] [List Numbered] [Undo] [Redo]

it is important to have another large source of income capable of sustaining the country incase of another pandemic. Deep sea mining would create jobs for many Cook Islanders and bring a substantial amount of money to the economy due to the resources inside the nuggets being so valuable and in such high demand.

But it is also important to maintain a strong tourism insustry as it currently makes a lot of money for the Cook Islands, therefore doing deep sea mining while keeping the tourism industry is the best option as they both make good money for the economy and both will create jobs for Cook Islanders.

(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.

**B I U** [List Bulleted] [List Numbered] [Undo] [Redo]

Prime Minster Mark Browns perspective is the most important viewpoint to consider because he knows how important tourism is to the Cook islands, making money and providing jobs. He also knows the viewpoint of the indigenous Cook Islands Maori people and how they want Te Taiao to be protected and the natural resources to be protected and sustainable.

Mark Browns viewpoint is the best because it benefits the country by making more money and boosting the economy, while also slowing climate change which benefits the environment and its natural resources. Its also keeping the tourism industry sustainable and keeping the oceans sustaible and clean which keeps natural resources and benefits the tourism industry and the Indigenous people.

## Achievement

**Subject:** Geography

**Standard:** 91935

**Total score:** 03

Grade score	Marker commentary
A3	<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 viewpoints of each group are explained, however, there was only inferred discussion on the perspectives that shaped these viewpoints.</p> <p>The candidate has made a decision in relation to the challenge but reasons for the decision are very limited. The consideration of viewpoints when making the decision was briefly discussed in the last task.</p> <p>The candidate has referred to the concept of Mana Tiaki and has included some relevant evidence to support the discussion.</p>