

91240

2

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MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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## Level 2 Geography

### 91240 Demonstrate geographic understanding of a large natural environment

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate geographic understanding of a large natural environment.	Demonstrate in-depth geographic understanding of a large natural environment.	Demonstrate comprehensive geographic understanding of a large natural environment.

## SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**You should attempt ALL parts of the question in this booklet.**

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–8 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

TOTAL

High Merit

6

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Name ONE **large natural environment case study** you will use to answer ALL parts of the question in this booklet.

*Interior Plains of the USA*

In your answers, you should:

- use appropriate geographic terminology
- refer to relevant geographic concepts
- integrate comprehensive supporting evidence from your case study.

**Relevant Geographic Concepts****Environments**

Environments may be natural and / or cultural. They have particular characteristics and features, which can be the result of natural and / or cultural processes. The particular characteristics of an environment may be similar to, or different from another.

**Perspectives**

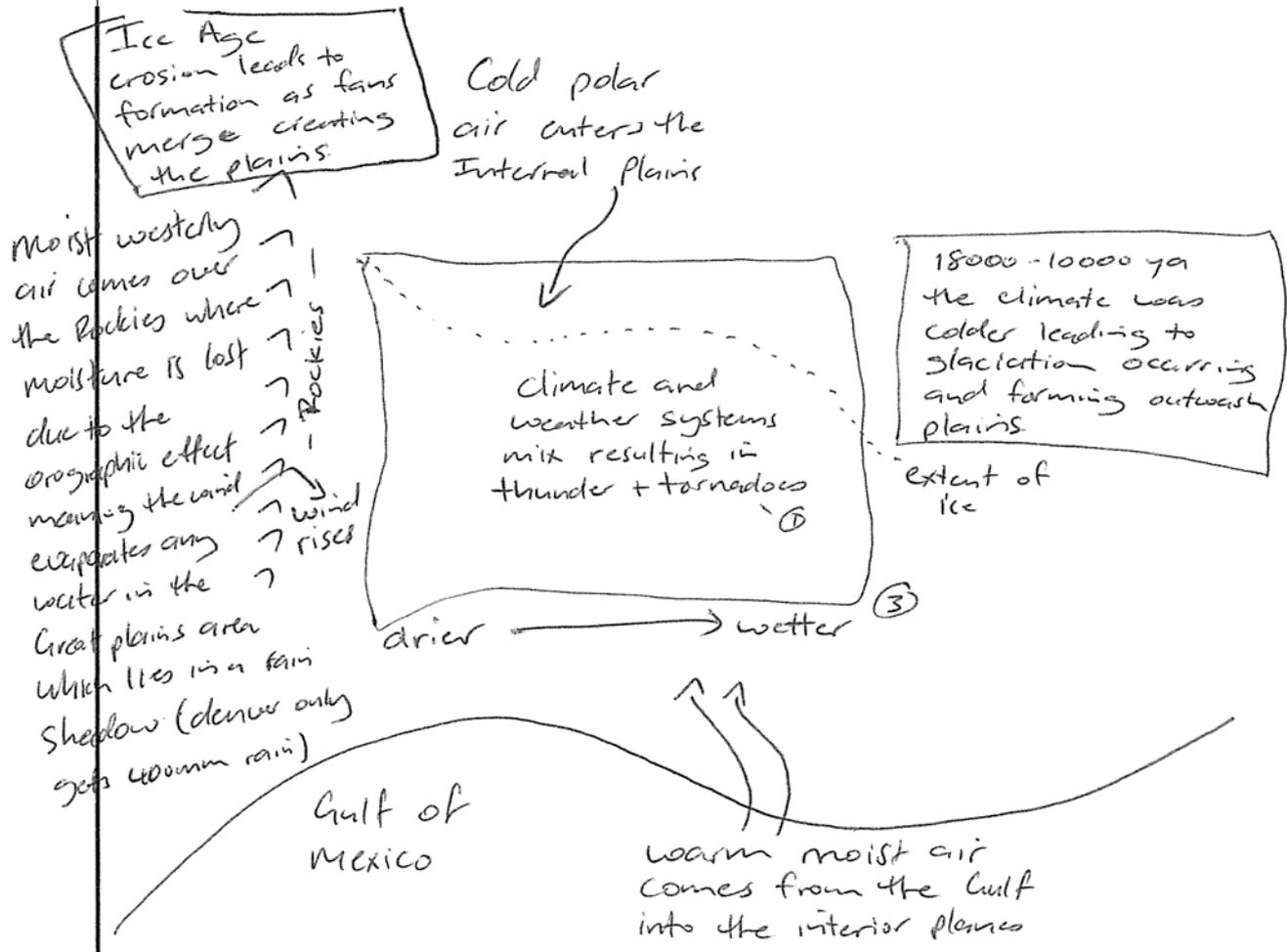
Perspectives are ways of seeing the world that help explain interaction with environments. They are bodies of thought, theories, or world views that *shape* people's values, and have built up over time.

**QUESTION****(a) Characteristics of the large natural environment**

In the space on page 3, use labelled sketch maps and/or diagrams to describe the **natural characteristics (elements)** of your environment. These characteristics may include:

- landforms (relief)
- climate
- soils
- vegetation.

Title: Climate and Relief in the Interior Plains of the USA



(b) **Interaction between elements or processes within the large natural environment**

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Explain how elements and/or processes interact in your environment.

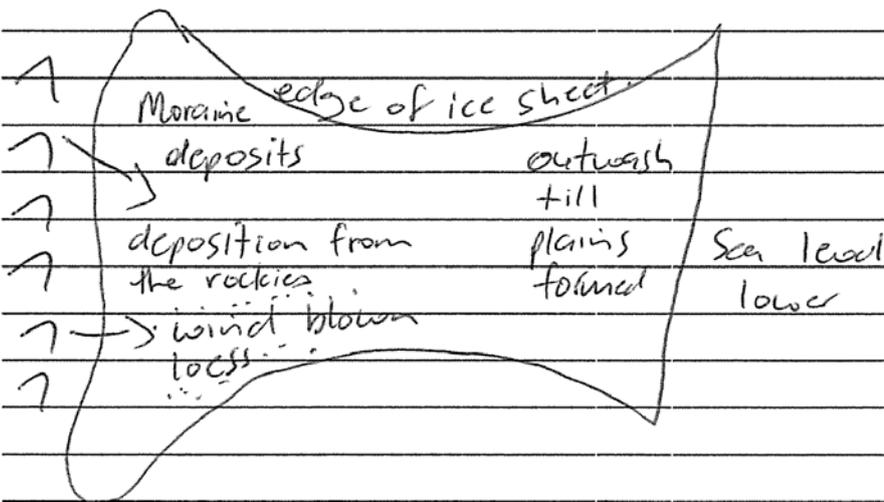
**PLANNING (optional)**

Throughout the formation of the Interior Plains there has been a constant interaction between the process of movement, such as erosion, and climatic processes that leads to the interior plains being what they are today. 550 million years ago the basement rock of the interior plain, Ancient Laurentia was a crater which was transported north over millions of years to become a part of Pangaea. This movement led to a later period of Glaciation. This period of Glaciation meant the climate was incredibly cold and erosion from melting ice sheets formed the outwash plains.

as the climate settled.

As deposition formed the Rockies the climate forced deposition to also merge fans together and create the plains we see today. As the Glaciation ended the climate changed once more resulting in wind erosion to appear in the form of very fine loess which is still seen today. As the climate turned windier and drier causing both the movement of the erosion and the change of the climate to appear today as the loess in the Great plains.

Interaction of climate and Movement  
2 million yrs ago



(c) **Changing perspectives on the large natural environment over time**

Identify two groups/individuals who each have a **different** perspective on your environment. These perspectives may include:

- cultural
- economic
- political
- environmental.

Explain how the perspective of each group/individual has changed over time.

Group/individual (1): Native American Indians

Group/individual (2): European Pioneers.

**PLANNING (optional)**

The Native American Indians were the first inhabitants of the Interior Plains of the USA this was before the 1800s. During this time they had a 'Holistic and Spiritual' perspective of the environment as 'the land was life' and provided everything they needed. The Tribes such as the Cheyenne in the great plain had 82 uses for Bison and had the perspective

that this made the full resourceful, while the tribes in the mid west could cultivate maize and wheat on the wetter lands there. Their respectful and holistic perspective was forced to change when the Europeans imposed their values on the natives. They were forced onto reservations and their culture collapsed. Now they must use all resources available to survive and are no longer living sustainably off the land. 63% of the Native Indian people are living below the poverty line and are forced to do what they can to survive.

Initially the Europeans had a greedy perspective (economic) about the Interior Plains and the Native Americans. Their cultural perspective meant they saw the original inhabitants as something they could move which was shown by the 'trail of tears' in 1840 leading the native americans onto the reservations. Their economic perspective was that they could make a lot of money off the land by cultivating it.

This perspective was forced to change following the 1930s dust bowl which was a drought that lasted nearly a decade and showed they were not treating the land right.

This forced the Europeans to adapt to a more environmental perspective that was more like the Native Indians' perspective. They saw that the interior plains needed to be respected in order to keep them economical and environmentally sound.

<b>Merit Exemplar for 91240 2016 Sample Assessment</b>		<b>Total Score</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Part</b>	<b>Comment</b>		
a	The diagram is annotated well and shows the interactions that have contributed to the characteristics of the environment.		
b	The response gives a good, in-depth explanation of the interactions of elements that have resulted in the natural characteristics of the landscape. Case study information is incorporated into the answer.		
c	The response shows a good understanding of the history of the area, but not how the perspectives of the different groups/individuals have changed. There is some implication or brief mention of how the perspectives have changed, but this is weak. Case study information is included in the response.		
Comment on Holistic Judgement	Overall, this paper is a good example of Merit as it shows good understanding of the characteristics and interactions of the environment, but there is not detailed discussion as to how both perspectives changed. There is good use of both case study information and geographic concepts.		