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2

91240



912400



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## Level 2 Geography, 2018

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

2.00 p.m. Thursday 15 November 2018  
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.

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 2–12 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.**

Excellence

TOTAL

8

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## INSTRUCTIONS

A **large natural environment** means a distinctive part of the Earth's surface defined by its common natural characteristics (e.g. mountain, desert, forest, river valley) that occurs at a national, regional, or continental scale. The environment can be in New Zealand or overseas.

**Natural characteristics (elements) of an environment** include landforms (relief), climate, soils, and vegetation.

Name the **large natural environment** you have studied this year:

Amazon Large Natural Environment (ALE)

Refer to this environment when answering parts (a) and (b) of the question.

In your answer, you need to integrate case study evidence as well as geographic terminology and concepts.

**Geographic concepts** you may choose to use in your answer include:

### Environments

May be natural and / or cultural. They have particular characteristics and features which can be the result of natural and / or cultural processes.

### Location

Where something is found. Location can be an advantage or a constraint. Location can be described in absolute or relative terms.

### Perspectives

Ways of seeing the world that help explain differences in decisions about, responses to, and interactions with environments. Perspectives are bodies of thought, theories, or world views that shape people's values and have built up over time.

### Change

Involves any alteration to the natural or cultural environment. Change can be spatial and / or temporal. Change is a normal process in both natural and cultural environments. It occurs at varying rates, at different times, and in different places.

### Interaction

Involves elements of an environment affecting each other and being linked together. Interaction incorporates movement, flows, connections, links and, interrelationships which work together and may be one- or two-way interactions. Landscapes are the visible outcome of interactions. Interaction can bring about environmental change.

**QUESTION**ASSESSOR'S  
USE ONLY**(a) Characteristics of the environment**

Fully explain how the characteristics of your chosen large natural environment have formed and changed over time.

Natural characteristics (elements) of an environment include landforms (relief), climate, soils, and vegetation.

You may include maps and/or diagrams to support your explanation. (Space is provided on page 7.)

**PLANNING (OPTIONAL)**

Discuss/incorporate vegetation, soils, climate, ~~the~~ relief into land formation.

Over time - e.g. steeper cliffs = heavier relief  
diagram 3 - 40,000 plant types etc.

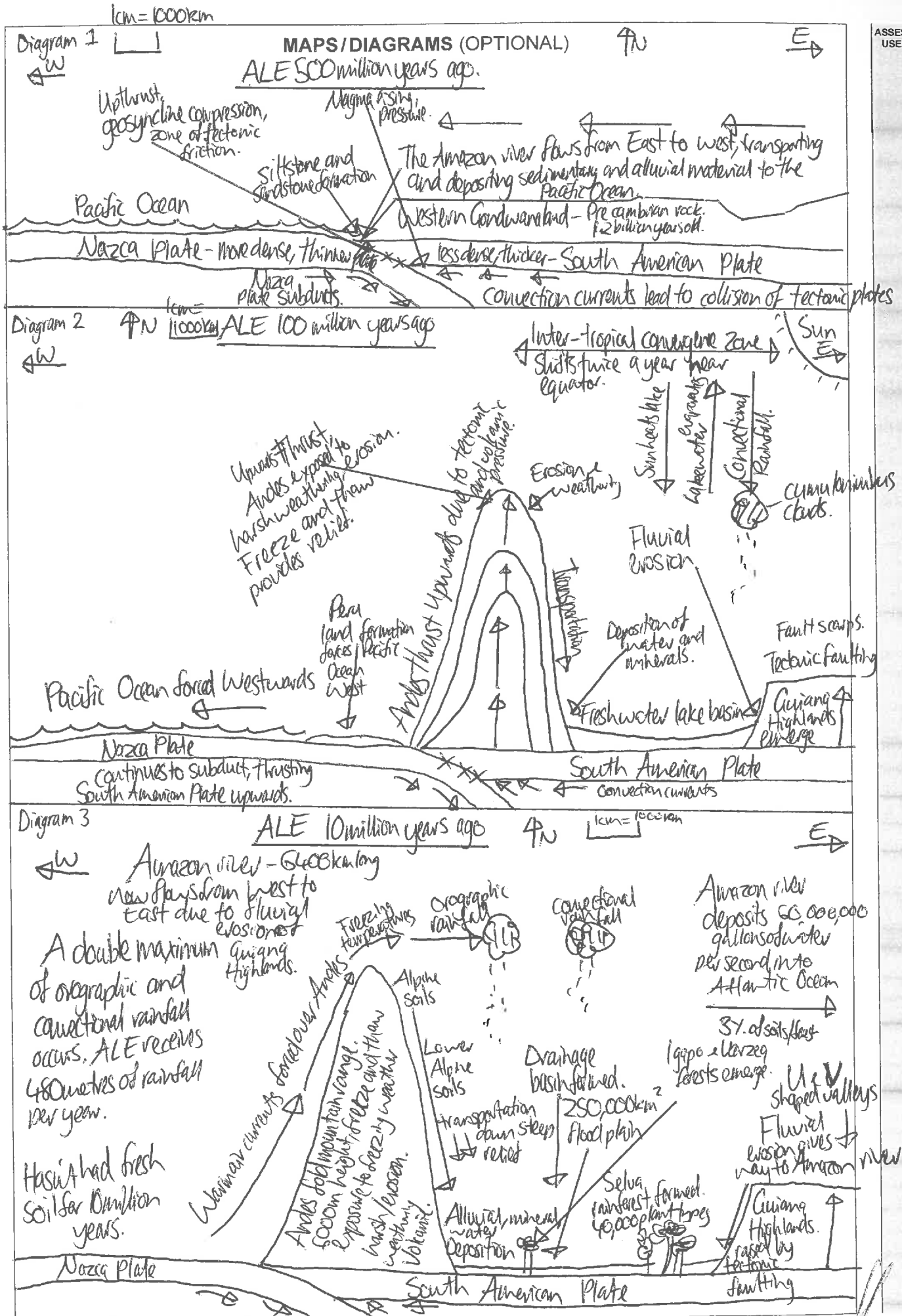
500 million years ago the ~~Amazon River~~ <sup>Amazon Basin</sup> convection currents lead to the collision of the Nazca and South American tectonic plates, forcing the Nazca plate to subduct as it was heavier/denser (although thinner than the South American Plate). The Amazon River provided transportation and relief ~~from~~ for the heavily eroded Western Gondwanaland soils, depositing alluvium and silt to the Pacific Ocean. This formed siltstone and sandstone which was transported due to the glacial erosion of the <sup>pre-cambrian, 1.2 billion years old</sup> Western Gondwanaland. Due to the subduction of the Nazca Plate, geosyncline compression and tectonic pressure, along with magmatic (volcanic pressure) began to form the Andes fold mountain range. We can observe the tectonic friction which eventually forms the Andes range as Diagram 7. ~~being~~ This change over time is slow and gradual, but ~~will~~ would ultimately lead to the formation of the Andes which ~~provides the ALE~~ ~~Amazon Large Nat~~ <sup>Amazon Large Natural Environment</sup> 100 million ~~years~~ (ALE) massively. //

100 million years ago, the Andes fold mountain range <sup>increases to 4</sup> ~~is~~ almost 8000 metres tall, and is exposed to harsh weathering and erosion (freeze and thaw) which provides soils ~~and~~, minerals and water ~~relief~~ for the newly formed Amazon freshwater lake basin. ~~The~~ The upwards thrust from the Andes traps the Amazon river into a lake basin, with the Guiana Plateau/Highlands preventing river flow from the East. The formation of Andes relief (water) ~~and~~ provides the ~~Amazon~~ Amazon basin with soil for another 90 million years, and water to this day. This is the foundation of changing characteristic ~~water~~ relief and soils in the ALE. Similarly, the sun heats the Amazon lake, which then evaporates and forms convectional rainfall. This provides the Amazon basin with rainfall in areas which aren't affected by the Inter-tropical convergence zone, ~~is~~ shifting twice a year near the equator and preventing rainfall ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~all~~ <sup>at all</sup> movement. This forms

a seasonal rainfall climate for some parts of the Amazon. ~~Embarked~~  
Freezing cold temperatures begin to impact the Andes climate, as water freezes and thaws, providing more relief from the Andes mountains to the Amazon basin. Fluvial erosion begins to carve a river path through the Guiana Highlands. Very little vegetation grows in the ALE due to the high flood relief and lake basin, however lichens and mosses grow on the Andes mountains. Shrubs and bushes, small trees ~~extensive~~ emerge near the lake due to high mineral deposition and water supply. (Nazca Plate continues to subduct.)

10 million

10 million years ago, the Guiana Plateau ~~becomes~~ <sup>changed and</sup> fluvial succumb<sup>ed</sup> to fluvial erosion <sup>along</sup> the Amazon river <sup>to</sup> reaches the Atlantic Ocean, where it deposits 60 million gallons of water per second. The <sup>Amazon</sup> river is now 6400 km long and has <sup>and</sup> inlets such as the Xingu river which provides more water. The Andes <sup>are</sup> now 5000 metres tall, exposed to freezing temperatures/freezing and thawing and soil erosion (very rocky). The Andes provides very steep relief with many <sup>steep</sup> cliffs and hills. Alpine soils are very thin and infertile due to ~~the~~ <sup>their</sup> height. Their increased height, ~~exposure~~ <sup>and</sup> exposure, providing nutrients for lichens only. Lower alpine soils ~~are~~ also nutrient deficient, thin and infertile, however are sit at 3000-4000 metres so provide soil for shrubs and mosses up to 10m tall (maximum). The ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> very steep relief transports and deposits alluvial soils, ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> 8 tonnes per hectare per year. Alluvial soils provide the 250,000 km<sup>2</sup> flood plain and drainage basin with very ~~rich~~ <sup>nutrient</sup> rich Varzea soils. These Varzea soils make up 3% of the ALE and provide Varzea and Igapo forests with ~~an~~ <sup>nutrient</sup> nutrient dense soil. The Amazon floodplain is regularly flooded,



**(b) Perception and use of the environment**

Different groups of people or individuals have different perceptions of the natural environment. Perceptions can change over time and include cultural, economic and political. People's perceptions affect their use of the environment.

Perceptions are outcomes of people's background, experiences, or involvement with the natural environment.

Name ONE group or individual whose perception of your chosen large natural environment has changed over time.

Brazilian Government //

Fully explain how the perception of the large natural environment by this group or individual has changed over time, and how this has affected their use of the large natural environment.

PLANNING (OPTIONAL)

Before the <sup>2000s</sup> 1990s, the Brazilian Government viewed the Amazon as a valuable economic resource which could be exploited and utilised for the Government's benefit. The Tanzi project of 1973 was one of the first projects accepted by the Brazilian Government, a private papermill project that saw initial on large scale deforestation of the Amazon.

Deforestation rates continued and the Brazilian Government became primarily involved in the late 1970s, which made logging a primary export of the Brazilian economy. The Brazilian recession in 1980 was linked with decreases in deforestation rates, whereas economic growth periods increased during the 1990s when deforestation rates increased. Deforestation rates increased from 15,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the 1980s to 29,069 km<sup>2</sup> in 1995, <sup>causing</sup> This had a large adverse effect on the ALE environment as the Amazon ALE produces ~~30%~~ 31% of the world's oxygen, the releasing of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere increased by ~~an~~ during these periods of large-scale deforestation.

Similarly, the Brazilian Government viewed the minerals in the ALE as a valuable economic resource. The Carajás mine - a 6 km by 4 km to wide open iron mine produced 4.5 million tonnes of iron per year. Other ~~the~~ Many, Megal or smaller mines were also constructed, stripping the Amazon of minerals and exposing siltstone and sandstone back into the river, damaging organisms, such as fish. The Brazilian Government also provided 280 acres per person to cattle ranches in the Amazon area. The Government encouraged <sup>inter</sup> breeding of cattle and ranching, eventually increasing cattle rates from 6 per acre to 30 in a lifetime. The Brazilian government also constructed the Trans-Amazonian Highway, a 4000 km stretch of road that <sup>is</sup> Brazil's biggest export. They produce 1.3 million tonnes of beef <sup>per year</sup> and the best in their world <sup>production</sup> 800,000 tonnes per year. //



was built in order to transport materials and access the ALE better. Manaus, ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> only ~~then~~ in the ALE that was only previously available by boat, was now reachable by land which increased population size from 200,000 in 1970 to 2.3 million in 1995. This increased population could now also work on the projects the 48<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Government had been developing in the ALE, increasing labour and damage to the ALE and its resources.

The Brazilian Government also built 48 hydro dams, the biggest being the Tucuruí dam (combined provide 23% of the world's electricity).

This created large scale damage of the ALE due to land ~~sat~~ silt and ~~degradation~~ building other minerals excavated and leaked into the Amazon river, providing more ~~land~~ damage to the ALE and providing more economic profit for the government. Railroads were also constructed to carry materials.

However, since the ~~2000s~~ 2000s, the Brazilian Government's perspective has shifted, to viewing the ~~Amazon~~ ALE as a precious resource that needs to be conserved for cultural and reasons and political reasons. Due to international pressure on the exploitation of the ALE, the Brazil government implemented policies to protect the ALE's resources and inhabitants.

The Amazon Protected Areas act announced 70 million hectares will be conserved by 2028 - ~~so far~~ by 2015 17 million hectares had been turned to conservation. ~~To~~ the Brazilian Government implemented 4000 forest rangers to conserve the ALE from illegal miners and loggers (although <sup>and</sup> ~~policing~~ in Brazil's corrupt).

(Continued on spare pages)

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

This sees a change in the ALE characteristics, as more ~~vegetation~~ <sup>as more ~~vegetation~~ <sup>can be supported and grow.</sup></sup>

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QUESTION NUMBER

1) with 10-20 metres of flooding water levels rising up to 16 to 20 metres (providing lagoons and large floodplain soils with zooplankton, Varzea soils and other minerals). ~~Due to the old flood~~ Due to the drainage of the old lake basin, ~~left~~ <sup>was</sup> rich soils ~~on the bottom~~ <sup>left</sup> in the floodplain, where ~~drainage~~ a Selva rainforest formed, with over 40,000 plant types. This large rainforest required regular flooding and silt from the Andes to provide it with nutrients. A thin humus layer on soil would soon form, regularly changing and thinning due to the floods. ~~The constantly blown air was~~ ~~currents were rare~~ //

Warm air currents were now forced over the Andes, as can be seen on the diagram. The warm air would meet the freezing Andes <sup>mountain</sup> climate which produced orographic rainfall, combining with convectional rainfall to produce a double maximum of rainfall. This provided the ALE 480 metres of rainfall per year, ~~provided~~ <sup>combined</sup> with the equatorial heat to create a rainforest climate.

The ALE ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> now 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, including the Guiana Plateau (2.3 million km<sup>2</sup>) and the Brazilia Plateau (3.2 million km<sup>2</sup>). These plateaus ~~contained~~ <sup>forming</sup> V and U shaped valleys providing steep relief in the ALE. The Guiana Plateau contained weathered laterites, whereas the Brazilia Plateau contained leached laterites, leached ~~minerals~~ soils. ~~which were~~ Both soils covered 82% of the ALE and are thin, nutrient deficient, infertile and reddish brown due to the high iron content. This (P.T.O.) ~~changed~~ <sup>changed</sup> these soils.

**Write the question number(s) if applicable.**

Our ~~can~~ ~~caused a change~~ means that much of the ALE soils are nutrient deficient. The ALE also hasn't had soil for 20 million years (today present time), and is therefore lacking in fresh nutrients which will ~~lead to a change~~ ~~in the rainforest~~ the rainforest. Therefore many of the trees here the soil nutrient levels have changed over time. The weathered latasols changed to ~~warmer~~ / decreased nutrient levels due to exposed weathering and erosion as the Guiana Highlands elevated with tectonic faulting. The leached latasols ~~became~~ decreased in nutrients due to the ~~one~~ effects of ~~severe~~ rainforest climate and increased flooding/rainfall. //

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2) Eco-tourism has also <sup>massively</sup> increased, providing cultural awareness for tourists and local Brazilians about protecting the ALE. Eco-tourism provides many Brazilians with jobs that encourage conserving the environment, ~~providing a change in economic~~ ~~increases, political and cultural p...~~

The Brazilian Government has also decreased logging and deforestation from  $29,059 \text{ km}^2$  in 1995 to ~~11,023~~  $11,023 \text{ km}^2$  in 2017 which is a large decrease. Crackdowns on cattle ranching also reinforces a change in the Brazilian Government's perspective of the ALE.

Therefore,  
the Brazilian  
Government's  
perspective  
has shifted  
over time  
from ~~economic~~  
economic  
exploitation,  
to ~~political~~  
political and  
cultural ~~political~~  
conservation  
and protection

Furthermore, <sup>(political)</sup> protection acts for the Native tribes of the Amazon <sup>(cultural)</sup> have been put in place, to protect the estimated 50-60 remaining tribes from foreign contact which could be deadly for the tribes due to disease. The tribes are viewed as a part of the Amazon which

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is a ~~conservation~~ ~~has an inherent conservation~~ ~~area~~ ~~protection~~ ~~over~~ ~~after~~ ~~many~~ ~~inter~~ ~~national~~ ~~conservation~~ ~~initiatives~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~launched~~ ~~to~~ ~~protect~~ ~~the~~ ~~tribes~~ ~~and~~ ~~their~~ ~~territories~~ ~~from~~ ~~foreign~~ ~~contact~~ ~~and~~ ~~disease~~ ~~and~~ ~~other~~ ~~threats~~ ~~to~~ ~~their~~ ~~survival~~ ~~and~~ ~~well-being~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~preserve~~ ~~their~~ ~~unique~~ ~~cultural~~ ~~heritage~~ ~~and~~ ~~ways~~ ~~of~~ ~~life~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~ensure~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~tribes~~ ~~are~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~continue~~ ~~to~~ ~~live~~ ~~in~~ ~~their~~ ~~traditional~~ ~~territories~~ ~~and~~ ~~ways~~ ~~of~~ ~~life~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~ensure~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~tribes~~ ~~are~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~continue~~ ~~to~~ ~~live~~ ~~in~~ ~~their~~ ~~traditional~~ ~~territories~~ ~~and~~ ~~ways~~ ~~of~~ ~~life~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~ensure~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~tribes~~ ~~are~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~continue~~ ~~to~~ ~~live~~ 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## Excellence Exemplar 2018

Subject	Geography		Standard	91240	Total score	8
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
	E8	<p>This is a comprehensive answer that includes highly detailed diagrams.</p> <p>Part A covers the Amazon Large Natural Environment, showing the formation and change over time from 500 million years ago until the present time. Detailed information is supplied, and it is an insightful answer.</p> <p>Part B covers the actions taken or endorsed by the Brazilian Government. The answer is full of detailed case study material and is an excellent geographical answer.</p>				