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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 Geography 2024

### 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.

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 BOTH 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.

Do not write in the margins (// // // //). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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

Merit

TOTAL 06



## INSTRUCTIONS

Name the large natural environment you have studied this year. The environment can be in New Zealand or overseas and can be at a national, regional, or continental scale:

The Amazon rainforest / Amazon Basin

Refer to this environment when answering both parts of the question.

Integrate case study evidence, as well as geographic terminology and concepts, into your answers.

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

- (a) Explain how your chosen large natural environment is formed and changes over time.

You may include diagrams and maps in your answer.

### PLANNING

500  
200  
2  
Present

500 million years ago, the continent of Gondwana-land split into what is now present day South America & Africa. This change and breakup occurred due to strong convection currents in the mantle. These ancient pre cambrian rocks were subject to the process of erosion, and they eroded and were transported by ~~the~~ rivers, in which they accumulated and were compressed into sandstone. This change was before the processes of formation, volcanism and subduction formed the Andes. There was no Amazon basin at this stage.



200 million years ago. This change occurred due to the breakup of Gondwanaland. As the Nazca plate shifted east, it collided with and subducted beneath the American plate, causing volcanic activity. This caused convective rising of magma through the surface of the continent. This caused soft sedimentary rocks to be pushed up along the western boundary, causing fold like ~~mountains~~ mountains - the Andes. At the same time, land in the north and east buckled, forming a trough like basin. These changes are still in operation today. The andes average 2,700m in height and 9000km in length.

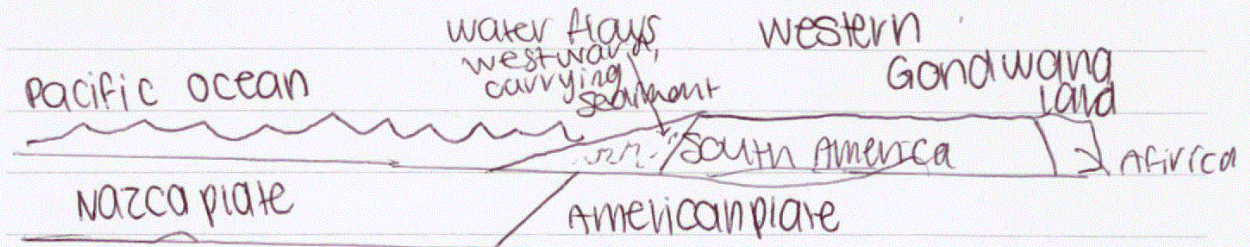
2 million years ago. During this quaternary time period, the region experienced a cold spell (ice age). Thus the soft sedimentary rock was easily eroded due to increased height and softness of the peaks. The material eroded was then transported by rivers and then dumped in the Amazon Basin.

Present day. The Andes are formed by soft sedimentary rocks that is easily eroded due to the Amazon's climate (heavy rain). The rocks are then transported by rivers into the basin. The <sup>Amazon basin</sup> Andes occurred a lot of change. It was formed by many processes such as subduction, erosion, folding and volcanism. The Andes are now one of the largest mountains in the world and the basin is very popular and large.

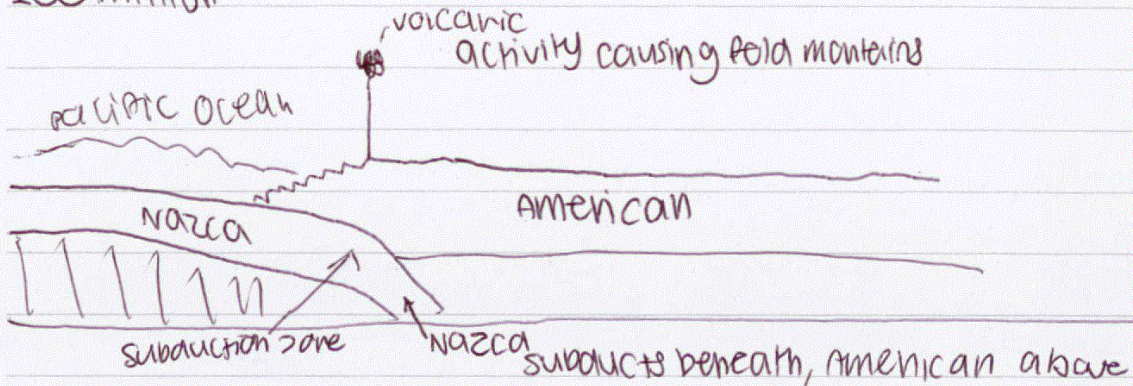


## DIAGRAMS

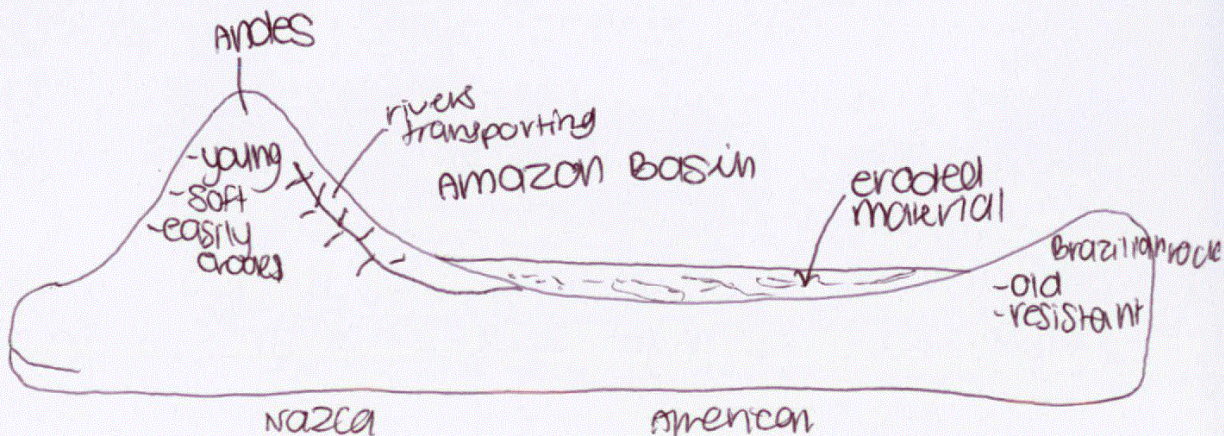
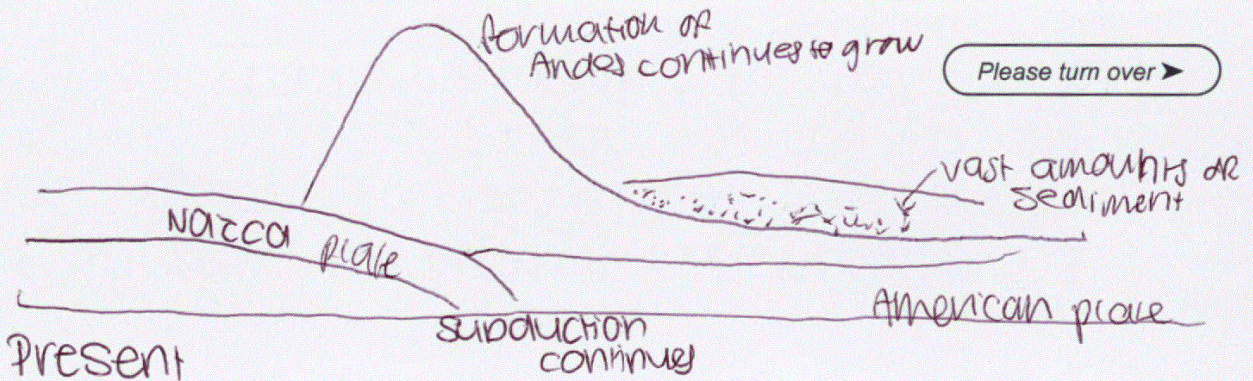
500 million



200 million



2 million





- (b) Explain how one person or group's perception of your chosen large natural environment has changed over time.

### PLANNING

Brazil is a large part of the Amazon. The Brazilian government has a large effect on the Amazon. From the 1980s - now, we have seen a big change in the perception (now they view the environment.)

In the 1980s, Brazil was under a military government who had a strong economic perception of the Amazon. During this time, the focus of the Amazon was to develop it for economic reasons. During this time, the environment was destroyed by 1/5 due to deforestation. 1 football field every day for one decade was destroyed for ~~environment~~ economics. These huge



In 1972, the gov't also introduced the Trans-Amazonian highway, which was intended to connect Brazil with Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. This was mainly for economic and development purpose and heavily impacted the natural environment of the Amazon.

numbers show the lack of care for the environment the government had at this time. The government introduced what was known as the colonisation program, which aimed to develop the Amazon for crops and exports. The quote "land without men for men without land," reflected on the 250 acres of land they gave to immigrants or people in poverty (especially those from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo) and they would then plant crops. The government's perception at this time, was very much economic based, they struggled to see the environmental side of things, which damaged the Amazon.

in perception

In the early 2000s, we saw a change when Lula da Silva came in to presidency, he along with his environmental minister Marina Silva, were determined to make a change. With them, came the introduction of IBAMA. IBAMA was Brazil's environmental administrative arm. With the use of satellite images, they would scope out illegal miners and stop them from deforesting. They would send out staff to find areas where deforestation was occurring, and would shut it down. The government was very much against deforestation and had an environmental perception at the time. They introduced new and stricter land laws which were put in place to stop deforestation and improve the Amazon.

We again saw another change recently, when Jair Bolsonaro was selected for president. Jair had a very different perception and again was highly interested in the economics that came with the Amazon. With this change in perception, a lot of da Silva's work was reduced. Jair stopped the funding of IBAMA, allowing for illegal miners to more easily deforest. He also loosened land laws, to encourage planting crops, and he fired environmental scientists. In the first 3 years of his presidency over 300,000 acres of land was destroyed.



Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

QUESTION  
NUMBER

b) Bolsonaro ultimately had a economic view. In 2023 17% of the Amazon is gone. With no changes, experts think predict 25% of the amazon ~~will~~ and the wildlife will dry out or die in 2025. The governments perception has encountered many changes over time. Their ~~perpe~~ perception heavily influences the environment and the Amazon's health.

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## Merit

**Subject:** Geography

**Standard:** 91240

**Total score:** 06

Grade score	Marker commentary
M6	Both parts of the question are addressed in detail. This response shows the formation and change within the Amazon in detail, through a series of distinct periods. Support is provided through diagrams. Differing Brazilian Governments' perception of the Amazon shows change over time. Detailed case study material is provided.