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91935



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 1 Geography 2025

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

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of decision-making in response to a geographic challenge in the wider Pacific region.	Explain decision-making in response to a geographic challenge in the wider Pacific region.	Evaluate decision-making in response to a geographic challenge in the wider Pacific region.

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

**Answer ALL parts of the question in this booklet.**

Pull out Resource Booklet 91935R from the centre of 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.

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.**

**Excellence**

**TOTAL 07**

Climate change is causing many issues around the world. One of the key issues is sea level rise. As polar and mountain areas experience warmer temperatures, ice melt is increasing, and this is feeding into our oceans. This increase in sea level is causing problems for people who live near the coast. Fiji is one such country that is having to manage the impacts of sea level rise.

## QUESTION

- (a) Explain why rising sea levels are a challenge for Fiji and its people. Include supporting evidence from the resources in your discussion.

Sea level rise is a challenge for Fiji and its people as Fiji is located in the South-Western Pacific and has a total land area of 18,270 km<sup>2</sup>. Fiji is built up of 330 islands some of which are ~~coral~~<sup>coral</sup> island which have low elevations and are typically smaller.

These island are at risk of being submerged under the water very quickly as they are located very low and close to the ocean already. Because Fiji are small islands they are at much larger risks of being completely submerged before other countries as they don't have the same amount of high elevations and complexity of environments as other countries. Many Fijian communities are already suffering from sea levels rising these include coastal erosion, flooding, saltwater contamination and damages to infrastructures, like roads, bridges, and water supplies. Because Fiji isn't a very wealthy country they do not have enough money to set up and aid long-term solutions such as constructing man-made and natural sea walls, upgrading infrastructure, and adapting agricultural practices. This means that they island are at a higher risk of completely summerging without the help of others or the human income of climate change drastically dropping. By the year 2100 the sea level will rise around 2-4 meters displacing 150,000 people. This will force many communities having to leave / abandon their homes and relocate inland, this process is both costly and culturally disruptive. This is why Fiji <sup>and its people</sup> are having challenges with sea level rise.

## Definitions

**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.

Three possible actions the people of Fiji could take to meet the challenge of rising sea levels are:

- Option 1 – **relocate** at-risk communities further inland
- Option 2 – build **nature-based** coastal defence structures to try to protect people who live near the coast
- Option 3 – build **man-made** coastal defence structures to try to protect people who live near the coast.

- (b) For each of the people in the table (pages 4–6), explain their viewpoint on the future actions that should be taken to solve the challenge of rising sea levels in Fiji. Include their perspective, geographic terminology, and supporting evidence from the resources in your discussion.

People	Their viewpoint/perspective
Prime Minister Rabuka	<p>Prime Minister Rabuka perspective is viewed in a political state. He believes that by relocated villages he is giving them a more sustainable life. For his perspective the best option for him would be to relocate at-risk communities further inland. Option two and three could work but he has a plan already to relocate over 40 more villages in the next 10 year. As he believes that "this crisis relentlessly eats away at our shore." This means the best option for Prime Minister Rabuka is option 1.</p>

People	Their viewpoint/perspective
Lani Bola	<p>Lani Bola hold her <sup>perspective</sup> <del>viewpoint</del> from a spiritual, <sup>viewpoint</sup> social <sup>perspective</sup>. She believes that abandoning your home isn't something cold, calculated business decision. For those of us affected, it deeply emotional loss. This is because of her deep cultural and spiritual connection to her ancestral lands. The best option for Lani would be option three. I think this because they have tried multiple natural coastal defences and none of which have worked. Option <del>one</del> <sup>one</sup> definitely wouldn't make her happy as she is deeply connected to the land. The best option for Lani Bola is Option <del>three</del>. As she thinks "the best thing we can do now is build a sea wall."</p>
Local climate change campaigners	<p>The local climate change campaigners hold their <sup>perspective</sup> <del>viewpoint</del> from a environment and economic <sup>viewpoint</sup> <del>perspective</del>. This is because they want to help and support communities struggling from rising sea levels. The best option for the local campaigners would be option two as not only do they want to slow down the rising sea levels, but want to make it good and sustainable for the environment. This means that option three wouldn't work with their perspective and viewpoint. Option one wouldn't be ideal for their viewpoint and perspective so that makes option two ideal for the local climate change campaigners.</p>

People	Their viewpoint/perspective
Town councils	<p>The town councils hold a <del>viewpoint</del><sup>perspective</sup> economic and social viewpoint. This is because they are seeing the communities struggle to build protection against coastal erosion and rising sea levels. Option one and two don't allie with the town councils perspective, as they believe that it need to be acted upon now before it's to late, no matter what the cost. That is why option three would be the best for the town councils perspective / viewpoints.</p>

- (c) (i) Choose (✓) ONE action that you think should be taken to meet the challenge of rising sea levels in Fiji.

Option 1 – **relocate** at-risk communities further inland

Option 2 – build **nature-based** coastal defence structures to try to protect people who live near the coast

Option 3 – build **man-made** coastal defence structures to try to protect people who live near the coast.

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

- consider the viewpoints and perspectives of the different groups of people involved
- evaluate why this option is better than the others
- integrate geographic terminology and a wide range of evidence from the resources to support your explanation.

In my opinion the best option for Fiji would be option two; build nature-based coastal defence structure to try to protect people who live near the coast. Taking into consideration of the different people's viewpoints/perspectives ~~although more people/groups aren't~~ I think that if the nature based coastal defence is an effective structure it will keep most people happy. As unlike in option 1 people will get to stay in their homes and their ancestral landscapes, and unlike in option three it is good for the environment which helps to strengthen all three Fijian concepts Bula vakavanua (living in harmony with nature and the land), vanua (land and its spiritual significance, representing respect for the land, culture and values central to Fijian identity) and tabu (deep respect for sacred traditions and the natural world.) I think that this option is better <sup>than</sup> ~~be~~ the others <sup>because</sup> ~~because~~ of these reasons and would align better with most peoples perspectives and viewpoints.

→ This option is a lot more cost effective, and will still allow Fiji to have its beautiful beaches which attract all of the tourists which make up 40% of Fiji GPP.

Please turn over ▶

- (ii) Explain which viewpoint(s) or perspective(s) were **least** important when making your decision in part (i).

In my opinion was ~~the~~ Prime Minister Rabuka, as if his people were happy and safe. he wouldn't need to put all this time and money into moving communities and villages from their ancestral landscapes. I also believed that Rabuka could make profit out of the natural based coastal defence structures, as if they are effective he could allow Islanders to sell these to other Islands who are struggling with similar disasters such as rising sea levels. It would also help environment allowing future generation live on this beautiful country and learn about the Fijian culture. I also believed that by him forcing people to leave he was not taking into account the three Fijian concepts bula vakavanua, vanua and Tabu. If he did this he could lose a lot of respect, and authority over his ~~at~~ country. This is why when I made my decision the least important perspective was Prime Minister Rabuka, as happy people and safe communities happy Rabuka.

## Excellence

**Subject:** Geography

**Standard:** 91935

**Total score:** 07

Question part	Grade score	Marker commentary
(a)	M	Clear reason given for the challenge. Sea level is rising causing erosion, saltwater contamination etc. and people will need to do something about it, which will be expensive. A range of detail is used to support the response.
(b)	M	The candidate has clearly labelled the option they would choose and linked a relevant perspective with supporting evidence. Four of the four groups are correct. For example, 'The PM has a political perspective, and he would support option 1. This is because ...'
(c)i	M	The candidate makes a clear selection and gives clear reasons why that is the best option, with some reference to the other options. However, to reach Excellence level, this response required more detail.
(c)ii	E	The candidate has selected the PM and shown that his perspective is very narrow and doesn't take into account the social, cultural, and indigenous perspectives, and is therefore not holistic. There is some evidence to support this response.
Fijian concept	E	The candidate has incorporated the Fijian concepts from the resource booklet into their response in (c)ii.
Overall	E7	The candidate has a clear understanding of the challenge (a), the perspectives involved (b), and how those perspectives inform decision making ((c)i and ii). With more detail in (c)i this paper would have reached 08.