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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.

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Merit

TOTAL 05

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.

The reason why rising sea levels are such a challenge for Fiji is because Fiji faces significant challenges in accessing financial support from international governments and donors, with sea levels rising 2-to-4 meters ~~sea level~~ by the year 2100 Fiji must plan to protect critical infrastructure such as ports and hospitals. Also protecting fresh water reserves from salt water contamination. Many communities are already struggling with the loss of arable (cropping) land and traditional way of life. Due to the sea levels rising some villagers are forced to relocate and ~~it~~ is challenging for indigenous people who hold deep cultural and spiritual connection to their ancestral lands. "abandoning your home isn't some cold calculated business decision. For those of us affected, it's a deeply emotional loss" - Stated Lani Bala. People with limited resources often resort to make shift short-term measures, such as using tyres and sandbags barriers which can easily be damaged and become ineffective. In most severe areas, rising water will ultimately force many communities out their homes and relocate inland, a process that ~~is~~ ~~is~~ is both costly and culturally disruptive.

## 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><del>President</del> prime minister Rabuka's <del>perspec</del> has a social perspective on the sea level rise crisis. <del>As prime minister his concern is to keep the people safe</del></p> <p>his viewpoint is to move the villagers inland as the crisses eats away at their shore, he warned that six villagers have already been relocated, and over the next 10 years Fiji's government is planning to relocate over 40 more villagers. In 2014 the villagers of Vunidogaru became the first to move as residents were forced to abandon their homes and relocate inland. while there were issues with this move the villagers can now see a sustainable future where people <del>for</del> are far from the eroding coast</p>

People	Their viewpoint/perspective
Lani Bola	<p>Lani Bola's perspective is cultural as she values her spiritual connection to the lands as they are ancestral. Lani's <del>the</del> view point on the sea level rise is that she sees relocating as a last resort as she holds a deep cultural connection to the lands. "Abandoning your <del>the</del> home is a deeply emotional loss" - Stated Lani. The next thing they are trying to do is build a sea wall as they have tried various other measures to <del>the</del> combat the rising sea but nothing has worked. At the moment they have no other choice but to build a sea wall. "it's a matter of survival" Said Lani.</p>
Local climate change campaigners	<p>The local climate campaigners perspective is environmental as they are there to help adapt to the impacts of climate change, especially sea level rise. Their current initiative funded programmes include: Coastal protection measures. A shift from traditional hard infrastructure. Resilient infrastructure. Raising housing off the ground. Sustainable agriculture. Projects focused on adopting climate-smart <del>and</del> practices to improve food security and <del>economic</del> economic resilience. Their overall viewpoint is to help Fiji as much as possible and in the most effective <del>way</del> nature based way.</p>

People	Their viewpoint/perspective
Town councils	<p>The town councils perspective is Environmental as they are defending the coast the man made way. their view point on Sea levels rising is to focus on Strengthening Dailt infrastructure to protect coastal communities. Man made build infrastructure include Sea walls, as they provide immediate protection against coastal Erosion and rising sea levels.</p> <p>AS one local councillor stated, its time for councils to take control of the Sea level rise problem in Fiji. The community-based attempts to solve the problem, such as fences and dams have not worked. They have turned some of their nicest beaches into an eye sore.</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.

The reason why I choose option 3 is because of the ~~view~~ viewpoints of the local people. Lani Bola stated that Relocation is especially challenging for Indigenous people who hold a deep cultural and spiritual connection to their ancestral lands. "The decision to relocate a Fijian community might seem like an easy one, but abandoning your home isn't some cold calculated business decision. For those affected it's a deeply emotional loss." - ~~Siael~~ ~~Weston~~ ~~Man~~ Fijis town council will focus on strengthening the built infrastructure to protect coastal communities. They will build man made sea walls as it will allow communities to better build their resilience to rising sea levels. AS Tourism is Fijis biggest industry attracting over 900,000 visitors in 2023, it made FJD 3.4 billion (NZD 2.54 billion) Tourism also provides for 150,000 people. Fijis economy heavily relies on tourism making it vulnerable to natural disasters. AS most of Fijis Tourist attractions are around the coast the best option for the economy is to build man made coastal defence structures. ~~to try and~~

Please turn over ►

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

The perspective or viewpoint that ~~was~~ was the least important was Prime Minister Rabuka because he only cared about the villages and not about the massive Economic loss he will have if he decided to continue moving more villages. Due to Tourism being his largest ~~source~~ industry Attracting over 900,000 people in 2023, Fiji heavily relies on tourism. ~~making~~ If Fiji's tourism industry were to drop in the ~~next~~ years following years Fiji will have to rely on Agriculture and Manufacturing. Not only will it be bad economically but the people see relocating as a last resort as they are so deeply cultural and have a strong spiritual connection to their ancestral land. As there were two other solutions to tackle the situation on sea level rise I decided that we had to look at which one was ~~going~~ going to help Fiji most cost effectively and which one would last the longest. Which my ~~choice~~ ~~choice~~ ~~was~~ choice was to build man made structures.

## Merit

**Subject:** Geography

**Standard:** 91935

**Total score:** 05

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, 'Lani Bola's perspective is cultural as she values her spiritual connection to the lands ...'
(c)i	M	The candidate makes a clear selection and gives clear reasons about why that is the best option, with some reference to only one of the other options; this is what holds the grade to Merit level. Detail has been used to support the answer.
(c)ii	A	The candidate focuses mainly on the negative aspects of the option chosen. To reach Excellence level, the candidate needed a clear statement about the narrowness of the Prime Minister's perspective. The holistic nature of decision-making is implied but is by accident rather than design.
Fijian concept	N	No evidence of the application of a Fijian concept. The cultural and spiritual connection the Indigenous people have towards their ancestral lands is identified but quoted directly from the resources.
Overall	M5	A solid Merit-level paper with good evidence throughout. To reach Excellence level, a better understanding of how a range of perspectives inform decision-making was needed.