



TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Scholarship Examination Sample Paper

GEOGRAPHY

Time allowed: 1 hour

Attempt BOTH sections, taking care to read the instructions for each section.

Begin each section on a separate sheet of paper, with your name at the top.

Section A is worth 50 marks and section B is worth 50 marks.

You should spend 30 minutes on each section.

Total marks: 100

Section A

Read the information provided and answer **ALL** of the questions in Section A



Source: The Guardian

Flames near a fire road above Mandeville Canyon during the Palisades fire, in Los Angeles, on Saturday 9th January 2025. Photograph: Mark Edward Harris/ZUMA Press Wire/REX/Shutterstock

On 7 January 2025, a series of devastating wildfires started in Los Angeles. Aided by extensive drought conditions and strong 'Santa Ana' winds, the fires quickly spiralled out of control. The fires had significant impacts in the wildland–urban interface, where human development meets natural vegetation. The flames devastated thousands of buildings. Lives were tragically lost, and nearly 200,000 residents were forced to evacuate. The Palisades and Eaton fires burned for weeks, overwhelming firefighting efforts. With economic losses projected at \$150 billion, this disaster ranks among the costliest in modern United States history.

Source: ECMWF

Questions:

1. Using Resources 1a and 1b, and the information on this page, describe the location and impact of the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires. [10]
2. With reference to all the resources suggest reasons why the wildfires might have occurred, and been so widespread and destructive. [20]
3. Describe and explain the effects that changing climate may be having on a range of natural hazards (such as forest fires)? [20]

[Total 50 marks]

Section B

*Only answer **ONE** of the following 5 questions.*

1. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are both tectonic events. Using examples that you have studied argue whether tectonic events can be managed and disasters ultimately avoided.
2. “River flood disasters are caused by humans.” Using a flooding event you have studied, explain the extent to which you agree with this statement.
3. “Physical and Human Geography are two separate disciplines and should be taught separately at GCSE.” How far do you agree with this statement?
4. In today's society, what are the key factors that impact where a manufacturing company locates? Use case study examples within your answer.
5. For a transport or infrastructure project you have studied, explain the role of sustainability in the project’s conception, construction and use.

[Total 50 marks]

END OF PAPER