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basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GEOGRAPHY PARAGRAPH WRITING EXEMPLAR GUIDE

About the Study Guide

This study guide is designed to help learners with paragraph writing in Geography. Many learners struggle to get full marks in paragraph writing and subsequently lose marks in the process. The guide presents examples of paragraph questions from previous National Senior Certificate examination papers and possible responses thereof. This is to display best practice to learners regarding good paragraph writing in the subject and to provide tips on which areas of the question they are required to focus on.

Teachers should make a concerted effort to infuse the teaching of paragraph writing in the classroom and provide multiple opportunities for learners to practise this skill for empowerment and mastery.

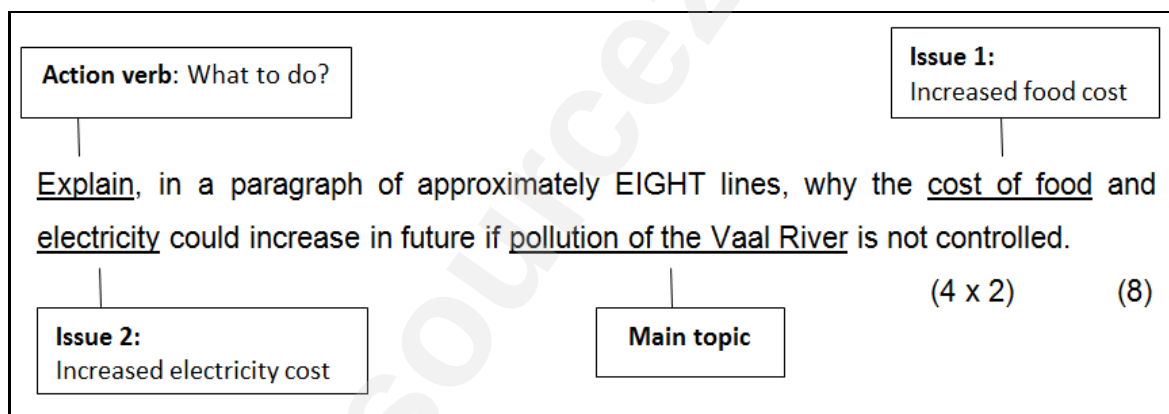
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Paragraph Writing in Geography

Learners in Geography are assessed through paragraph writing as part of testing their communication skills, knowledge and insight. These questions require critical and analytical thinking. In order to master these questions, learners should:

- underline the **main topic** of the question,
- underline the **action words** or **question verbs**,
- underline the **focus areas** of the question (note that most paragraph questions require two aspects or issues that must be discussed/ explained in two equal parts),
- write in **full sentences** to explain answers, and
- avoid repetition of facts.

An illustration of how to analyse a paragraph question statement:



If learners are trained well in paragraph writing, they will manage to get a better mark in the subject because there are 6 paragraphs of 8 marks each in Paper 1 (i.e. 6 x 8 = 48 marks).

Good Luck!

Question 3:

Explain, in a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, FOUR natural factors that can cause the water table level to rise. (4 x 2) (8)

Answer 3:

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining* any four natural factors that affect the water table level to rise)

There are various natural factors that can cause the water table level to rise underground. For example, a natural factor such **topography/relief** can cause the water table level to rise especially when slope is gentle because such slopes promote greater infiltration of water underground. Another factor is the **rock type**; in which permeable rocks promote infiltration of water underground and thus causing the water table level to rise. **Soil moisture** also contributes to the level of the water table to rise as dry soil increases infiltration while saturated soils feeds the water table and lets it to rise. The **type of rainfall** such as prolonged and gentle rains may lead to the rise in water table level. **Dense vegetation cover** promotes higher infiltration rate and leads to the rise in the water table level. (4 x 2) (8)

Additional Notes

Question 4:

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, give sustainable solutions to improve the living conditions of people living in a squatter settlement (Informal settlement).

(4 x 2) (8)

Answer 4:

(Note that your answer should focus on *providing* sustainable solutions/answers to improve the living conditions of people in squatter settlements or informal settlements)

Sustainable solutions to improve the lives of people in squatter settlements will be to empower the community with skills to build themselves low cost houses with quality material. The area should be planned to include tarred streets with proper drainage systems. People in these communities should also be part of those who are empowered with plumbing skills to install piped water, sanitation infrastructure and electrical skills to install electricity. Such community empowerment skills projects will ensure that people in squatter settlements are provided with jobs for life to eradicate poverty and unemployment; and that they will take pride in their own development and take ownership of the infrastructure built in their area. Further upliftment should include regular refuse removal, access to recycling facilities, and provision of solar panels to encourage the use alternative energy.

(4 x 2) (8)

Additional Notes

Question 6:

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines in which you make suggestions on how to break the cycle of stagnation (lack of growth) in rural areas of South Africa.
(4 x 2) (8)

Answer 6:

(Note that your answer should focus on *making* **suggestions/proposals to break the cycle of stagnation and attract growth in rural areas of South Africa**)

In order to break the cycle of stagnation in rural areas, industrial decentralisation should be encouraged in rural areas so that jobs can be available for young people. Implementation of government strategies such as GEAR to create jobs for people and RDP to provide basic services. The government should implement an integrated rural development to improve farming. Parks and recreational facilities should be established in rural areas to provide for leisure activities. The government should develop and harness eco- and cultural-tourism to boost the economy of rural areas. Furthermore, festivals could be linked to tourism activities to bring money into small towns. Rural areas could also attract commuters to come and live in small towns because of their peaceful and tranquil atmosphere prevalent there.

(4 x 2) (8)

Additional Notes

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines in which you evaluate the role of the Wild Coast SDI in the economic upliftment of people living in the Easter Cape.

Answer 7:

The role of the Wild Coast SDI is to promote the development of new and existing infrastructure in the Eastern Cape. The development of infrastructure in the SDI will provide employment to local communities. The SDI will give access to different markets and assist with economic upliftment. Access to different markets will increase their earning potential, especially in foreign currency from various countries. Poverty will be reduced amongst local people in Eastern Cape. The SDI will also promote economic opportunities in the tourism industry. The SDI will also promote the growth of both the formal and the informal economic activities along the corridors. Due to its coastal location, the SDI will also attract both national and international private sector investment. The agricultural industry will promote the earning potential of rural communities.

(4 x 2) (8)

Additional Notes

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In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, explain why berg winds are regarded as a threat to farming communities along the east coast of South Africa.

The formation of berg winds along the east coast of South Africa will be a threat to the farming communities because these are extremely hot and dry winds that are associated with fire hazards on the farms. People may be displaced as a result of raging veld fires. Crops in farms will be destroyed because of veld fires. Livestock might be burnt to death. Grazing land will be destroyed by fire in the process. The farming equipment will be destroyed by fire, leading to farming production being affected. This will consequently lead to or result in loss of income. Those who practise subsistence farming will be left destitute and without food resources. Berg winds will also cause physical discomfort due to higher temperatures. Consequently most people will be dehydrated. More water will be used for irrigation leading to high costs (financial implications). Vegetation will be dried out by the wind, the quality of soil will be reduced and also accelerate soil erosion.

(4 x 2) (8)

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Question 10:

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, explain, from a climatic point of view, why the location of the farmhouse and the surrounding farmland on the valley floor is not necessarily ideal. (4 x 2) 8

Answer 10:

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining why the location of a farmhouse and farmland on the valley floor is not ideal/best*)

The location of the farmhouse and the farmland on the valley floor is not the best because at night the area will experience katabatic winds. These winds are cold and collect on the valley floor. The valley floor is also prone of trapping pollution and should the farm owner try to burn coal to heat the house, the smog will be trapped in the valley making it dangerous for respiration. The temperature at the bottom of the valley usually drops below freezing point in winter, resulting in the formation of frost. Crops that are not frost resistant could die. The valley floor might experience radiation fog. Cold conditions and fog impact negatively on health. The valley floor does not have the advantage of a thermal belt. (4 x 2) 8

Additional Notes

Question 11:

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, evaluate the role of regular flooding in maintaining the health of a river and its surrounding flood plain. (4 x 2) 8
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Answer 11:

(Note that your answer should focus on *evaluating* how regular flooding has the role of maintaining the health of a river and its flood plain)

Regular flooding deposits fertile soil/silt on the flood plain. Flooding increases moisture levels of soil on the flood plain and encourages vegetation growth. Flooding raises the water table and increases accessibility and availability of groundwater. More water maintains and improves biodiversity. The removal of silt will maintain flow levels. Regular flooding removes alien vegetation away. Regular flooding improves oxygen levels in water and prevents eutrophication from taking place. It will maintain the aesthetic appeal if the river stays in its natural state. Removes harmful chemicals from agricultural activities. (4 x 2) 8

Additional Notes

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, evaluate how the inhabitants and their activities in informal settlements negatively affect the environment. (4 x 2) (8)

(Note that your answer should focus on *evaluating* how the activities of the inhabitants in informal settlements will negatively affect the environment)

The inhabitants of informal settlements might get involved in activities such as removing the natural vegetation which might lead to soil erosion. They might also use open fire which cause air pollution. Open fires might cause veld fires that might affect the ecosystem and disrupt food chains in that environment. They might also dump toxic waste in rivers and cause water pollution. Littering will promote unhygienic conditions (environmental despoliation). All of these above activities might lead to an unpleasant environment that is aesthetically not pleasing to the eye.

(4 x 2) (8)

Additional Notes

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Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines and discuss the direct and indirect contribution of mining to the GDP of South Africa. (4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *discussing* the (1) direct and (2) indirect contribution of mining to the GDP of South Africa)

The **direct** contribution of mining to the GDP of South Africa includes tax revenue generated from the mining industry. This money will stimulate growth in the country's economy. The mining industry provides employment to many skilled and unskilled workers, contributing to the GDP. Mining generates foreign capital from international buyers and investors thereby contributing to the GDP of the country. The **indirect** contribution includes the development of industries that supply the mining industry with machinery. Because has a multiplier effect, it leads to the growth of other service sectors such as agriculture, electricity, water, transport, etc. There will be beneficiation of other products. Transnet and Ports generates income from transporting mining products.

(4 x 2) 8

Additional Notes

[illegible]

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, evaluate the effect that urban sprawl will have on the natural environment in the future. (4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *evaluating* the effect of urban sprawl on the natural environment in the future)

Urban sprawl might cause the removal of vegetation. This might cause the habitation of various species to be destroyed. Biodiversity will be negatively impacted. Most ecosystems will be thrown into imbalance. Soil will be covered by artificial surfaces and this will reduce infiltration of water underground, As a result the water table will be lowered. Destruction of soils will occur and the aesthetic appeal of the original ecosystem will be destroyed.

(4 x 2) 8

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In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, suggest measures that can be employed to improve crop production to meet the needs of the growing South African population.

(4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *suggesting* measures to improve food production to meet the needs of the growing South African population)

The implementation of irrigation schemes can be used to improve food production. The government can also implement the water transfer schemes to ensure enough water supply in the agricultural sector. Farmers should be allowed to use of fertilisers to improve crop yields. Use of genetically modified seeds, crops and other organism to ensure sufficient food production. Further research by Agri SA to gain more knowledge in food production. Education of farmers regarding the latest farming methods in agriculture. The government to fund farmers to practice commercial farming so as to increase production. Contour ploughing, Rotational cropping, Diversification, Planting of a variety of crops. Adjusting to the climatic conditions.

(4 x 2) (8)

Additional Notes

[illegible]

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, outline precautionary measures that the inhabitants of Vredendal should have in place in advance when a berg wind approaches.

(4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *outlining* precautionary measures that the inhabitants/residents should put in place when a berg wind approaches)

Additional Notes

[illegible]

Question 17:

You would like to develop a campsite along the banks of the river. After careful consideration of a site along the slip-off slope/bank and that along the undercut slope/bank, which one will you choose? In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, explain why the site you have chosen is the better choice. (4 x 2) 8

Answer 17:

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining whether a site along the slip-off slope/bank or the undercut slope/bank will be a better choice (suitable) to develop a campsite along the banks of a river*)

The slip-off slope will be a better choice as it is the inside bank of a meander on a river where sedimentary material is deposited, as a result of the slower flow rate. This slope would be suitable for building and developing a camp site because the slope is gentle. The slope will provide easy accessibility to the river for water collection and fishing. The flow rate is lower and therefore safer. Deposition of sediments will increase the camping area and making possible for more vegetation to grow as the soil is fertile. However, the undercut slope will not be suitable for building as there is constant erosion taking place here. Undercutting leads to the formation of steeper cliffs, making it dangerous for human habitation and activities. The area will constantly be flooded and eroded because the water on this slope flows faster. The area is constantly retreating backwards making the area narrower and dangerous for habitation.

Additional Notes

Question 18:

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, discuss various sustainable solutions to limit the formation of smog in a city. (4 x 2) 8

Answer 18:

(Note that your answer should focus on *discussing* **different sustainable solutions to limit the formation of smog in a city**)

Smog forms air pollution in the city derived from combustion of coal, vehicles and industrial emissions. Sustainable solutions to limit the formation of smog would be to regulate the combustion of coal through bylaws. Industries should build taller chimneys to release pollution higher in the atmosphere. The cities should have penalties/ fines for exceeding carbon emissions and smog restrictions by industries. Decentralisation of heavy industries away from the CBD. Filters on chimneys to reduce toxicity of emissions. There should be improved and reliable public transport. City dwellers should be encouraged to use pool cars/ lift clubs. Carbon tax for motor car dealership and to encourage production of cars that are environmental friendly. Development of the green belt and roof top gardens that would act as the lungs of the city.

Additional Notes

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Question 19:

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, explain the changes that the captured stream will undergo downstream of the elbow of capture. (4 x 2) 8
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Answer 19:

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining* the changes that the captured stream will undergo downstream the elbow of capture)

Downstream the elbow of capture there will be a decreased channel flow since the headwaters have been captured. There will be less water for plants and aquatic animals in the river; thereby reducing biodiversity. Less water will encourage deposition and therefore the river will start depositing its load on the river bed. A misfit or beheaded stream will form (i.e. a small stream within a larger valley). There will be a wind gap next to the elbow of capture where there is sand and gravel. A knickpoint and water fall might form at the elbow of capture especially if the base level of the capturing river is far lower than that of the beheaded stream.

Additional Notes

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, analyse the role that green belts play in reducing the environmental problems that the CBD experiences as a result of its accessibility.

(4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *analysing the role played by green belts in reducing the environmental problems in the CBD caused by its accessibility*)

The greenbelts are man-made spaces or natural environments covered with vegetation (i.e. trees, grass, and flowers). The green belt is responsible for controlling greenhouse emissions in the CBD. This will reduce the effect of urban heat island. The plants also help to absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen in the atmosphere. Hence the greenbelt is known as the lungs of the city because it helps with oxygenation. The plant cover also helps to absorb/reduce noise and traffic sounds in the city. The green parks beautify the CBD for an aesthetic appeal (creating a pleasing environment). These parks also are used as recreational spaces in the city. The greenbelt also helps to reduce run-off and soil erosion.

Additional Notes

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Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines in which you analyse the reasons for South Africa's low food security index. (4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *analysing the reasons for South Africa's low food security index*)

There are various reasons that contribute to South Africa's low food security index. Factors such as drought conditions that prevail in the country contribute in the drop in production levels reducing the amount of food available. Climate change affects rainfall variability in most parts of the country thereby affecting cultivation and reducing production levels. Increase in pests and diseases also decrease crop production. Regular interruptions in electricity supply (or load shedding) compromise food production and food quality in storage. Economic decline and foreign ratings creates an increasing inflation rate which increases the cost of food. Increased health risks and reduced life expectancy (HIV/Aids) decreases the ability to produce food. Increased rural-urban migration reduces food production. High cost of food also contributes towards low food security index. Poor transport facilities in rural areas make food less accessible. Large areas have infertile soils. Most subsistence farmers produce less food. Another challenge is that there are not enough commercial farmers in South Africa, coupled with farm killings that compromise food production. Poor use of technology and lack of research contributes to low food security index. Farm strikes/ labour unrests in the agricultural industry contribute to low food security index. Other factors include uncertainty caused by the land reform processes, which may affect the land not to be cultivated.

Additional Notes

[illegible]

Question 22:

Local government (municipalities) must increase their yearly budgets to provide for an influx of rural migrants. Explain this statement in a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines. (4 x 2) 8
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Answer 22:

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining* **how municipalities should provide for an influx of rural migrants using their increased yearly budgets**)

Municipalities should use their budgets for building new low cost housing. The infrastructure in urban areas should be improved, e.g. electricity, roads, transport, drainage systems, sanitation, etc. The budget should also be used to improve basic services (education, health, water, and social). Money should be used to install solar heating and jojo tanks for rain harvesting. Money should also be used to provide skills development projects for rural migrants to get jobs and provide for themselves. There should also be a budget for crime prevention and policing. There should be regular waste removal.

Additional Notes

In a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines, outline the importance of launching the agriculture zone and cargo terminal for future industrial development in the Durban-Pinetown industrial region. (4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *outlining* the importance of launching the (1) agriculture zone and (2) cargo terminal for future industrial development in the Durban-Pinetown industrial region))

The importance of launching the agricultural zone the Durban-Pinetown industrial region is to support agricultural production and ensure that there are increased yields. The agricultural zone will provide increased raw materials to be used in the industries in the region. There will be greater output from industries for local and international trade. The agricultural zone has been developed to support further industrial growth. The cargo terminal was launched to make the handling of high volumes easier. The terminal will also be used to import more raw materials to be used in industries. More finished goods can be exported for international trade, thereby expanding trade links for South Africa. This will lead to further industrial development.

Additional Notes

[illegible]

Question 24:

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines explaining the weather conditions that will be experienced by a tourist visiting Cape Town with the passage of a cold front. (4 x 2) 8

Answer 24:

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining the weather conditions that will be experienced by a tourist visiting Cape Town with the passage of a cold front*)

Cape Town will experience lower/cold temperature as air behind the cold front comes from high latitudes. There will be gusty, strong winds blowing in the area due to strong pressure gradient. There will be a dense cloud cover due to strong uplift of warm air ahead of the cold front. Cumulonimbus clouds will result in heavy rainfall/thunderstorm/ hail. Atmospheric pressure will be higher due to cold, dense, air following the cold front. Humidity will decrease due to cold dense air.

Additional Notes

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines discussing how human activities along the river's course could increase the drainage density of the drainage basin.

8

(Note that your answer should focus on *discussing* how human activities along the river's course could increase the drainage density of the drainage basin)

Additional Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. A faint, diagonal watermark reading "edureso" is visible across the center of the page.

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines explaining how pollution domes can affect the environment of people living in the city. (4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining* how **pollution domes can affect the environment** of people living **in the city**)

Pollution domes will cause the accumulation of soot on buildings causing them to be damaged. Pollution domes contributes to the formation of acid rain which results in the peeling of paint. Acid rain will also contribute to the acidity of city soils, damaging crops that are not prone to thrive in acid conditions. Damaged plants will have to be replaced. Concrete surfaces become pitted or develop holes and should be maintain regularly. Metal structures such as windows and air conditioners become easily corroded due to acid rain. High pollution results in higher rainfall and can cause flood damage.

Additional Notes

[illegible]

Question 27:

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines elaborating on the changes that will occur in the fluvial features found in the illustrated course of the river as a result of river rejuvenation. (4 x 2) 8

Answer 27:

(Note that your answer should focus on *elaborating* the changes that will occur in the fluvial features found in the illustrated course of the river as a result of river rejuvenation)

Knickpoints will form where the old erosion level meeting the new erosion levels. Waterfall can form at the knickpoint due to the breaking/lowering along the course of the river. Meanders will become more incised and entrenched. A valley within valley will form because of vertical erosion. Valleys with multi-terraced slopes will form. The river channel will become narrower. New floodplain will become narrower. More meanders will develop.

Additional Notes

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines discussing the reasons why the rate and level of urbanisation has led to increased protests against service delivery in urban areas.

(4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *discussing why* the rate and level of urbanisation has led to increased protests against service delivery in urban areas)

The high rate and level of urbanisation will lead to increased urban dwellers. This will mean that there will be more demand for housing in urban areas and the inability of local government to meet this demand might lead to protest actions. Lack of services such as water, electricity, sanitation, etc. in informal settlement might also contribute to protests. Urbanisation increased unemployment rates which frustrates people to protests. Urban dwellers might strike due to a high demand for clinics and hospitals services. They might also strike due to lack of access in schools and tertiary education as high population numbers might cause some learners to be excluded from admission. Protests might occur due to lack of access to land and land ownership. Urban people might strike due to nepotism and corruption in accessing urban functions.

Additional Notes

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Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines explaining the factors preventing South Africa from being competitive with other top beef exporters. (4 x 2) 8

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining* the factors preventing South Africa from being competitive with other top beef exporters)

Some of the factors that prevent South Africa from competing with other top countries in beef exporting include the issue of water shortage which affect the beef industry in a negative way and also increase farming costs. Regular droughts reduce the amount of beef to be exported and also affect the quality of stock for export markets. Low government subsidies push beef prices to be higher than normal. Large distance to overseas markets increases costs of exportation. Cattle disease such as foot and mouth/ mad cow disease lead to the beef from SA being disqualified or quarantined for export market, leading to loss of foreign revenue.

Additional Notes

[illegible]

Question 30:

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines suggesting sustainable solutions to improve access to water in rural areas.	(4 x 2)	8
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Answer 30:

(Note that your answer should focus on *suggesting* **sustainable solutions** to improve **access/provision of water** in **rural areas**)

Sustainable solutions to improve access to water in rural areas should include developing a proper infrastructure for piped water to homes. The government should invest in building more dams to store and supply water in rural areas. In some areas the government should assist rural communities in digging boreholes to access underground water sources. The use of more Jo-jo tanks should be encouraged. The government should continue to utilise inter-basin water transfer schemes where there is lack of water. The rural communities should be educated in the wise use of water and recycling of grey water. There should be upgrading and continuous maintenance of water network systems.

Additional Notes

Question 31:

Write a paragraph of approximately EIGHT lines explaining how energy provision and labour will become major challenges that the PWV/Gauteng Industrial Region will experience in the processing of copper in the next three years. (4 x 2) 8

Answer 31:

(Note that your answer should focus on *explaining how* (1) **energy provision** and (2) **labour** will become **major challenges in the processing of copper** in the years to come)

The processing and smelting of copper is mostly reliant on coal as a source of energy. There is also an overload on ESKOM grid that cannot cope with the demand of electricity. The power cuts and load shedding will affect productivity. The aspect of labour will affect the processing of copper in a way that importing skills will be expensive. This will increase the costs of production. Labour strikes or industrial actions will also reduce productivity. Another challenge related to labour is the issue of brain drain in the mining industry, where valuable skilled people are leaving South Africa to seek greener pastures in overseas countries. The fourth industrial revolution is going to cause a lot of people to lose jobs in the mining industry as machines will replace people in performing certain functions.

Additional Notes
