

Question 2.2

Question

Evaluate the usefulness of **Figure 5a** and **Figure 5b** in showing the nature and extent of either economic change or demographical and cultural change in this area.

[6 marks]

Mark scheme

AO3 = 6 marks

AO3 – Evaluation of how visual media represents information (captured in a moment of time) about the economic, demographic and cultural characteristics of an area.

Mark scheme:

Level 2 (4–6 marks)

AO3 – Clear evaluation of the qualitative evidence provided which makes appropriate use of data to support. Clear connections between different aspects of the data.

Level 1 (1–3 marks)

AO3 – Basic evaluation of the qualitative evidence provided which makes limited use of data to support. Basic or limited connections between different aspects of the data.

Notes for answers:

The question requires an evaluation of the usefulness of the two sources. The emphasis is on the use of geographical skills to analyse and evaluate how visual media represents information (captured in a moment of time) about the economic, demographic and cultural characteristics of an area.

AO3

- Evaluation of the usefulness of the two visual sources in depicting details of the area, including evidence of settlement function, housing development, industrial land use, communications and open space.
- Evaluation of the usefulness of the sources in indicating either economic change or demographic and cultural change over time.
- Consideration of the limitations of the 2 sources in showing change. The photo image might be considered a more truthful representation (although this may depend on the choice of view and scale of image) whereas the artistic representation is more subjective (often a combination of the real and the imagined). Both sources have a limited perspective, so may not show much detail about change in the area. Both are a snapshot in time.
- Evaluation of economic change. This is demonstrated effectively in several ways. In Figure 5a industrial development and possibly housing is also located along the river, with more or less continuous building. Staithes for shipping are constructed into the river. The bridge construction in the foreground may imply industrial and commercial development. A further bridge is evident in the background, suggesting further development. In Figure 5b industry by the river has changed,

with earlier buildings replaced by an oil storage facility and storage sheds. The staithes have been removed or fallen into disrepair. A new bridge has been built in the distance so there are now three, implying that the area is still commercially/industrially developed, or that transport between places on either side of the river has been improved. The visual images therefore indicate significant economic change over the eighty year period.

- Evaluation of demographic and cultural change. The two images are useful in showing demographic change as evidenced in housing. Figure 5a shows closely packed housing extending up the hillside to the top of the slope. There is virtually no open space. Figure 5b shows that housing on the hillside has gone (although there is some at the top of the hill), to be replaced by scrub and woodland. The immediate local population has therefore been reduced. Housing has a lower density and there is more green space. Close proximity to the river may have become less important for transport, work or leisure. Some cultural change can be deduced from the two images, although the level at which the degree of change can be evaluated is limited.
- Overall evaluation of the painting in Figure 5a, which gives an impression of both the social and economic geography of the area. The photo in Figure 5b is probably more reliable and the detail is more precise. However, together they are even more useful, showing what has changed and what is obviously still important from the past.

Student responses

Student response 1

Figure 5a is a painting whereas 5b is a photo. 5a may not be 100% what it looked like, things could have been added in to make it a nicer painting therefore not useful. Both resources were done in different mediums. However it does show a clear change in that 1935 had many houses on the hill which has now been replaced by trees and a factory. This shows how the demographic has changed as there's evidently less people. But through the trees there could still be some houses so the resource isn't clear enough to know for sure. The images demographical change is people, the movement of people.

L2 – 4 marks

There is some evaluation at the start and the student then clearly addresses the idea of change in demographics with clear evidence from the figures. It is only just L2 as there is only some tentative reference to the usefulness of the figures in showing the extent of change.

Student response 2

Firstly figure 5a is a painting whereas figure 5b is a photo. This means that only part of the painting could be made up to suit what the artist wants the high level bridge to be perceived as whereas figure 5b is a photograph which is generally more useful as this is the reality of what the place looks like and therefore the real culture of a place can be shown and also the extent of how cultured the place actually is figure 5a and 5b together are overall quite useful as they were taken or painted at different times, 80 years apart and this makes it easier to see how the population and culture of the area has changed. For example, in figure 5a there are lots of buildings and housing behind the bridge indicating it was a highly populated area in 1935 but in the photograph there are far less buildings, so perhaps showing a decline in the population of that particular area. So overall, the figures together are much more useful in showing the nature and extent of the change. However, the painting alone could misrepresent the place and is therefore not very useful.

6 marks

Level 2 – clear awareness of the nature of change with implicit idea of extent. Clear evaluation of the usefulness of both figures and explicit attempt to evaluate. Thorough understanding that together they give a better picture of change.

Student response 3

Figure 5a shows trees on the hillside however 5b shows none of the houses but instead a huge factory – this could suggest the area is much more industrialised and not so residential. However there are limitations as demographic refers to people and statistics as well and this can't be assessed. In addition 5a is a painting which means there is more room for artistic interpretation and may not be exactly how it looked. They also don't show exactly the same areas and 5b can't be properly assessed as it's unsure whether the houses are hidden by woods. 5b also has more factors overall they are not very useful as don't show clear demographic or cultural examples.

3 marks

Level 1 – shows an awareness of the limitations of qualitative resources with some limited evidence in support. The response is much more limited in considering either economic or demographic change with any degree of accuracy.

Student response 4

Changes over time in the area include the removal of an entire housing estate and the emergence of industry and factories in the area. This shows a clear demographic change as the people have left their homes to give the room for this factory development. This is a large scale change as it appears that there has been the removal of an entire estate – a great population of people. Culturally, this could be due to people not fully comfortable living in the close proximity to a factory location so moving electively perhaps into city shows need for urban migration. Which as a comparison it is very useful to see the changed culture, the painting is not as useful as the photograph due to it being subjective as the artist could have distorted reality. The images also do not show the exactly same location or the same angle so some differences could have been missed. Overall, it is very useful because it shows the large scale demographic and cultural change of the area regardless of the limitations mentioned.

5 marks

Level 2 – This response is clearly clued into the question and the student has made clear attempts to answer it. It addresses both the nature of change and the extent. However it does drift into conjecture away from AO3 evidence. There is clear evaluation of usefulness showing awareness of the limitations of the figures.

Student response 5

The key change is that evident from the sources is the removal of all the houses on the hillside in the 80 year period between both figures. This change has completely altered the demographic with people moving away from the riverside, perhaps this is due to a cultural change with people commuting into industrial areas instead of living within. Figure 5a is useful in the fact that it shows the living conditions and the rough density of population however the bridge hides many details and it doesn't show the whole area of interest. Figure 5b is useful in the way that it is a photo, however it is unclear on the change of land use where the housing was in figure 5a. Overall, the sources are inhibited strongly by the lack of clarity, slightly different angles and the bridge obstructing the view. Therefore, are not particular useful for showing the nature and extent of demographical and cultural changes in that area.

Just level 2 – 4 marks

Clearly attempts to evaluate the usefulness of the sources with specific reference to the figures, eg bridge, different angles etc. It does consider the nature of the changes, though this is weaker.