Close the Gap

Weather Hazards Assessment

1.4) 'The weather of the UK is becoming more extreme.' Use evidence to support this statement. (6 marks)

Student response C

The weather of the UK is becoming more extreme and this is evident from the frequency of storms but also the severity as they smash records. For instance in 2010, floods and storms had occurred; in 2012 a major drought had occurred and in 2013 the record for the wettest weather has been broken. This proves that weather is becoming more extreme. One example is The Saint Jude's Day storm which had caused powerful storms and floods in some areas.

Examiner commentary C

The idea is understood as indicated by the opening sentence. There is some evidence but this is not always accurate, such as the information for 2010 and 2013. Greater accuracy and links in a more coherent account would lead to higher L2 and L3 answer – [3 marks – Level 2]

Complete the following to create a level 3 answer:

Weather in the UK is becoming more extreme, there are numerous examples to back this up.

Floods have been one of the most common extreme types of weather, normally a result of intense / prolonged rainfall. One example is the Somerset floods in 2004 that destroyed many homes and agricultural land. People were evacuated or got around by boat. This is more severe than any other somerset flood.

A further example is the 2007 ~~flod~~ floods in summer – many people were left homeless. Several people also died because of the severe flooding.

In addition to flooding, heatwaves have also become more common, with devastating consequences! A particularly bad one occurred in 2003 ..... with a temperature of 38.5°C in kent. Over 2000 people died due to heat, ~~and~~ railway tracks buckled and roads melted.

Finally, there has also been evidence of increased snow in some years, including 2009, 2010 and 2018 with the 'Beast from the East'. All of these are likely to be related to a change in climate!

1.7) Using Figure 4 only, forecast the weather conditions in New Orleans over the next 24 hours.

New Orleans, over the next 24 hours would suffer from extreme winds and storm surges as the storm pushes water from the sea into New Orleans. This coupled with the incredibly heavy rainfall from the clouds would cause major flooding!

The eye of the storm is currently south of New Orleans. In New Orleans, because of the spin, New Orleans will expierience heavy rain and wind. When the eye of the storm is over New Orleans there will be calmness and less rain - but after the eye the storm will then become powerful and winds will blow to the west. The storm may travel slightly to the east but mainly north.

Include further detail to the answer above to make this 4/4 (Level 2).

1.8) Assess the extent to which prediction is the most important factor in reducing the effects of tropical storms. (9marks + 3 SPaG)

There are many ways in which to reduce the effects of tropical storms, these include prediction, protection and planning. In my opinion, a combination of these is the best way.

Prediction is important because the track of a tropical storm can be mapped and people can be given adequate warning of the approaching storm. This happened in 2013 with typhoon Haiyan. The track was successfully predicted but many people did not understand the severity of the storm and so stayed put; this led to 6,300 deaths! In addition, it is not always 100% accurate as storms can change direction without warning.

Protection may be a more important way in which to reduce the effects of tropical storms. Bangladesh have reduced deaths from 500,000 in 1979 to just over 4000 in 2007 from cyclone shelters (in addition to early warning systems – sometimes just using a bike and megaphone in rural areas!). Cyclone shelters have ..... ***(include specific features and explain them, justify why they are so important)***

food and water ~~supples~~ supplies so people can survive - without nutrients our body would start eating itself and we would die. They also include some form of shelter to protect people from the storm because if you didn't have you would die or be injured badly.

Finally, planning is vital to reducing the effects of tropical storms. ***(Give specific examples and explain why).***

Planning is vital to reduce the effects of ~~tt~~ tropical storms. In 2013 Typhoon Haiyan hit and 6300 people were killed. This number could've been massive if there was not a planned evacuation plan. This reduced the effect of the tropical storm on people's lives by saving their lives.

In conclusion, I believe ... ***(Link back to the question with evidence but do not repeat what you have already written).***

that prediction is a very important factor - but cannot reduce the effects of a tropical storm very well without planning, protection and monitoring.