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Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Tuesday 16 May 2017 – Afternoon

AS GCE GEOGRAPHY

F761/01/1 Managing Physical Environments

INSERT

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



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Fig. 1 Extracts from an article about Bangladesh, South Asia

Bangladesh, a country of many waterways, is situated between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal. Seventy five per cent of its land area is below 10m above sea level and 85% is classed as floodplain. Even in an average year 18% of the country is inundated by floods, and some extreme events have affected 75% of the country.

In the 2004 floods, 600 deaths were reported and 30 million people were made homeless.

High rates of erosion in the Himalayas mean large quantities of soil and sediment are washed into the river channels, reducing their ability to carry water. Deforestation in the Himalayas reduces interception rates, which means shorter lag time and higher peak discharges. Some places receive 500 mm of rainfall in a day during the monsoon period. Ice and snow melt from glaciers and mountain peaks in the Himalayas works its way into rivers. The Himalayas also causes relief or orographic rainfall, increasing rainfall totals and then river levels further.

Bangladeshi water is frequently contaminated with arsenic because of the high arsenic content in the soil.

Fig. 2 Extracts from an article about the Sandbanks peninsula, Dorset

The Sandbanks peninsula is a sand spit, about 1 km² in area, west of Bournemouth. It predominantly consists of quartz sand derived from the cliffs of Bournemouth, transported by longshore drift. This sediment supply has now been greatly reduced by construction of a promenade and sea-defences.

Sandbanks is a desirable place to live and there are many large and expensive houses on the peninsula; the average price of the 15 on sale in 2013 was £5.3m. Views to the north extend across Poole Harbour, to the south across the English Channel and in the west to the world heritage coastline of Studland and Swanage.

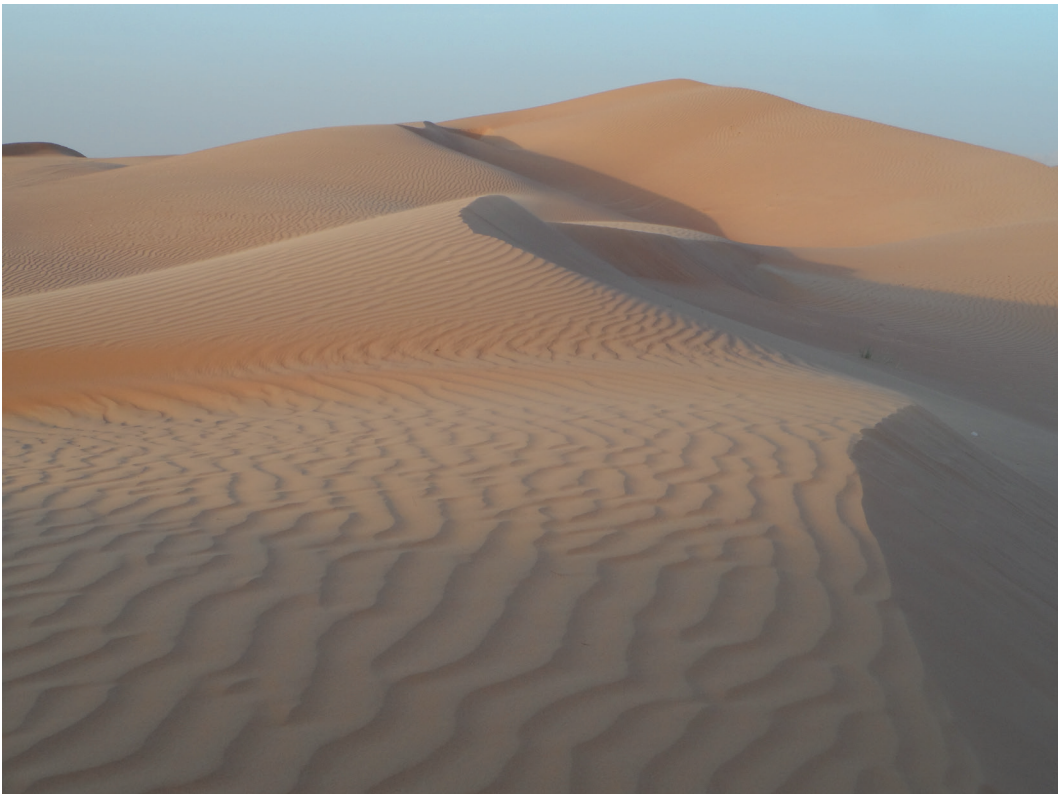
Sea levels are predicted to rise here by 0.6m in the next 100 years. In places, the Sandbanks peninsula is only 1.5m above sea level. There is evidence of storm and flood events occurring with increasing frequency; there was significant flooding at Sandbanks in January 2014, with residents at the end of the spit cut off when the road to Poole was submerged.

The beach has been awarded a European Blue Flag for cleanliness and great water quality.

Fig. 3 A cold environment in Iceland



Fig. 4 A hot arid/semi-arid environment in Dubai



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