Analysing the Sources

How Paper 1 works, how to find and explain information in the sources, how to describe a perspective, and how to say why an issue matters.

Global Perspectives Paper 1 does not test what you already know. Every paper gives you an **insert**, a booklet of **sources** about one global issue (for example, living alone, girls' education or vehicle crime), and every question is about those sources. You are marked on **skills**: reading carefully, analysing, evaluating and arguing. This chapter covers the first skill, reading the sources and using them well.

1.1 Selecting and explaining information from sources

How the paper is built

Paper 1 has four compulsory questions and 70 marks in total, and you write on the question paper.

	Papers up to 2024	Papers from 2025
Time	1 hour 15 minutes	1 hour 25 minutes
Question 1	12 marks: short parts on Sources 1 to 3	18 marks: parts (a) to (d) on Sources 1 and 2
Question 2	14 marks: strengths and weaknesses of an argument, then how to research a claim	16 marks: evaluate the research in Source 3, then explain how to test a claim
Question 3	20 marks: short parts on fact, opinion, value judgement, prediction or vested interest, then which argument is more convincing	16 marks: which argument is more convincing
Question 4	24 marks: which of three actions would you recommend? (2023 asked "Do you agree with this statement?" instead)	20 marks: which of three actions would you recommend?

Questions 1 and 2 are about reading and checking the sources. Questions 3 and 4 are extended answers worth more than half of the marks, so keep time for them.

Identify, describe, explain

Command words tell you how much to write.

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Command word	What to do	Example
Identify	Pick it out of the source. One short answer, no explanation.	"Identify one example of a claim from Source 2."
Describe	Say what the source says, in your own words, with some detail.	"Describe the perspective of the charity."
Explain	Give the point **and the reason**: because, so, which means.	"Explain why the example you identified is a claim."
Which ... and why?	Choose one, then justify the choice with reasons and evidence.	"Which cause of crime is the most significant?"

A one-mark "identify" question wants one correct item from the **right source**. Check which source the question names: "From Source 1" means the answer is in Source 1, not Source 2.

Using the source properly

1. Read the question first, then read the sources with it in mind. Underline names, numbers and strong words.
2. Use **short quotations or figures** as evidence, and say what they show.
3. Do not copy long passages. Marks go to your **analysis**, not to what you can copy.
4. Check each part for how many marks it is worth and write that much. A 1-mark part needs one answer, a 6-mark part needs several developed points.

> TRY IT
>
> Source 1 says: "In 2019, 14 per cent of households in the town were one person living alone. By 2023 this was 21 per cent." **Identify one change shown in the source.**
>
> **Answer:** The proportion of single-person households rose from 14 per cent to 21 per cent between 2019 and 2023. (Use both figures and the direction of change.)

Answering "which is the most significant?"

For a question such as "Which benefit of education do you think is most significant? Explain why" (3 marks in papers up to 2024, 8 marks from 2025):

- **Choose one** from the sources and name it.
- **Give reasons**: who it affects, how many people, how long the effect lasts, what else it leads to.
- **Use the source** as evidence.

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- A short comparison with another choice can strengthen your justification, for example "This matters more than X because X only helps for a short time."

1.2 Analysing perspectives and why an issue matters

Issue, perspective and argument

- An **issue** is an important subject or problem for discussion.
- A **perspective** is a **viewpoint on an issue based on evidence and reasoning**. People have different perspectives because they have different experiences, interests and values.
- An **argument** is a series of statements with reasons and evidence that support a claim.

Perspectives can be **personal**, **local or national**, or **global**. A farmer's view of a new dam, a national government's view and an international charity's view will be different, and each may be reasonable.

Describing a perspective

When asked to "describe the perspective of" a person or organisation, use this checklist (you will not need every item every time):

Look for	Question to ask
Issue	What problem or topic are they talking about?
Value	Is it seen as good or bad, right or wrong, important or not?
Causes	What do they say makes it happen?
Consequences	What do they say it leads to, and who is affected?
Actions	What do they want done, or what are they doing?

> **Describe what they think, not what you think. Write "The charity believes ... because ..." and support it with a short quote or detail from the source.**

Why an issue is important to a nation

Questions such as "Explain why the growth of single-person households is an important national issue" want reasons, not a description. Think in layers:

- **Who** is affected, and how many people? (Whole population, one group, future generations)
- **Economy**: costs, jobs, housing, health services, taxes.

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- **Society**: families, communities, loneliness, crime, education.
- **Environment**: energy, land, resources.
- **Government action**: does it need new laws, money or planning?
- **Over time**: is it growing, permanent or getting worse?

Pick **two or three strong reasons**, develop each in a sentence or two with the source as evidence, and link it back to the nation.

The question names the level, and it changes from paper to paper: "an important national issue", "an important global issue", "a significant issue for workers". Keep that level **explicit in every point**. The mark scheme's top level asks for the national (or global) dimension to be clear throughout, not only implied.

> **NOTE**
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> A good answer to "why is it important?" says **what happens**, **to whom**, and **why that matters for the whole country**.

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