Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname	Other names

Centre Number | Candidate Number

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

Thursday 12 June 2025

Morning (Time: 1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper reference **1GB0/03**

Geography B

PAPER 3: People and Environmental issues
Making Geographical Decisions

You must have:
Resource Booklet (enclosed)
Calculator, ruler

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  – *there may be more space than you need.*
- You are advised to **show all your working out** with **your answer clearly identified** at the **end of your solution**.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 64.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
  – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- The marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar are clearly indicated.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ▶

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P 7 8 7 2 5 R A 0 1 1 6

Pearson

SECTION A

People and the Biosphere

Answer ALL questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

1 Use Section A (pages 2, 3, 4 and 5) in the Resource Booklet to answer this question.

(a) Study Figure 1.

(i) Identify the biome most likely to be found north of the taiga (boreal forest) region.

(1)

☒ **A** desert

☒ **B** grassland

☒ **C** tropical rainforest

☒ **D** tundra

(ii) State **two** local factors that can affect the distribution of biomes.

(2)

1 .....

2 .....

(iii) Name **two** of the goods provided by forests.

(2)

1 .....

2 .....

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(b) Study Figure 2.

Identify which of the following best describes the density of Canada's population.

(1)

- ☐ **A** It is highest in the north west
- ☐ **B** It is highest on the border with Alaska
- ☐ **C** It is lower in the north than the south
- ☐ **D** It is the same density in the north and the south

(c) Study Figure 3.

Using data from Figure 3 and your own knowledge, explain **two** ways in which the winter climate of the taiga influences the characteristics of its trees.

(4)

1 .....

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(Total for Question 1 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 10 MARKS

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SECTION B

Forests Under Threat

Answer ALL questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

2 Use Section B (pages 6, 7 and 8) in the Resource Booklet to answer this question.

(a) Using your own knowledge, explain **one** reason why tropical rainforests have higher levels of biodiversity than the taiga.

(2)

(b) Study Figure 4 in the Resource Booklet.

(i) State **one** reason why deforestation has taken place in this area.

(1)

(ii) Identify the type of forest shown.

(1)

(c) Study Figure 5 in the Resource Booklet.

Using evidence from Figure 5 and your own knowledge, explain **one** reason why population densities are higher in some biomes than others.

(2)

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(d) Study Figure 6.

Using evidence from Figure 6, explain **one** negative impact of developing hydroelectric power (HEP) in Canada.

(2)

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(e) Using evidence from Figure 6, explain **two** reasons why human impact on the taiga is greater in some areas of Canada than others.

(4)

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(Total for Question 2 = 12 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 12 MARKS

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SECTION C

Consuming Energy Resources

Answer ALL questions.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

3 Use Section C (pages 9, 10, 11 and 12) in the Resource Booklet to answer this question.

(a) Study Figure 7 in the Resource Booklet.

(i) Identify which of the following energy resources has become less important since 1990.

(1)

☒ **A** coal

☒ **B** gas

☒ **C** nuclear

☒ **D** wind

(ii) Identify which of the following energy resources has nearly doubled in consumption since 1990.

(1)

☒ **A** coal

☒ **B** gas

☒ **C** hydroelectric power (HEP)

☒ **D** nuclear

(iii) The amount of energy produced by solar power is too small to be shown on Figure 7.

Suggest **one** reason why solar power is unimportant in Canada's energy mix.

(2)

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(b) In 2022, Canada's exports rose by 142 billion US$.

Oil, gas and coal exports made up 82 billion US$ of this increase.

Calculate the percentage (%) of the increase in exports contributed by the oil, gas and coal industries.

Give your answer to **one** decimal place.

Show your working below.

(2)

.....%

(c) Study Figure 7 and Figure 8 in the Resource Booklet.

Using evidence from Figure 7 and Figure 8, explain **two** reasons why fossil fuels are important for Canada's economy.

(4)

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(d) Study Figure 9 in the Resource Booklet.

Using evidence from Figure 9 and your own knowledge, assess the reasons why energy use per capita (person) varies from place to place and over time.

(8)

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(e) Study Figure 10 in the Resource Booklet.

Using evidence from Figure 10 and your own knowledge, assess the reasons why it might be difficult to reduce the carbon footprint of most Canadians.

(8)

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(Total for Question 3 = 26 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 26 MARKS

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SECTION D

Making a Geographical Decision

Answer Question 4.

Write your answers in the space provided.

In this question, up to four additional marks will be awarded for your spelling, punctuation, grammar and your use of specialist terminology.

4 Study the three options below for how the Canadian Government should manage Canada's energy resources and the environment.

Option 1: Increase the exports of fossil fuels and use the income to research and expand renewable energy.

Option 2: Stop the exploitation of the taiga for energy production unless approved by the indigenous communities who live there.

Option 3: Increase taxes on fossil fuels to reduce consumption even if this reduces Canada's economic growth.

Select the option that you think the Canadian Government should choose to benefit both its environment and its economy.

Justify your choice.

Use information from the Resource Booklet and knowledge and understanding from the rest of your geography course to support your answer.

(12)

Chosen option

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(Spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology = 4 marks)
(Total for Question 4 = 16 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION D = 16 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 64 MARKS

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Geography B

PAPER 3: People and Environmental issues
Making Geographical Decisions

Resource Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ▶

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P 7 8 7 2 5 R A

Pearson

SECTION A

People and the Biosphere

The issue: **which energy future for Canada and its population?**

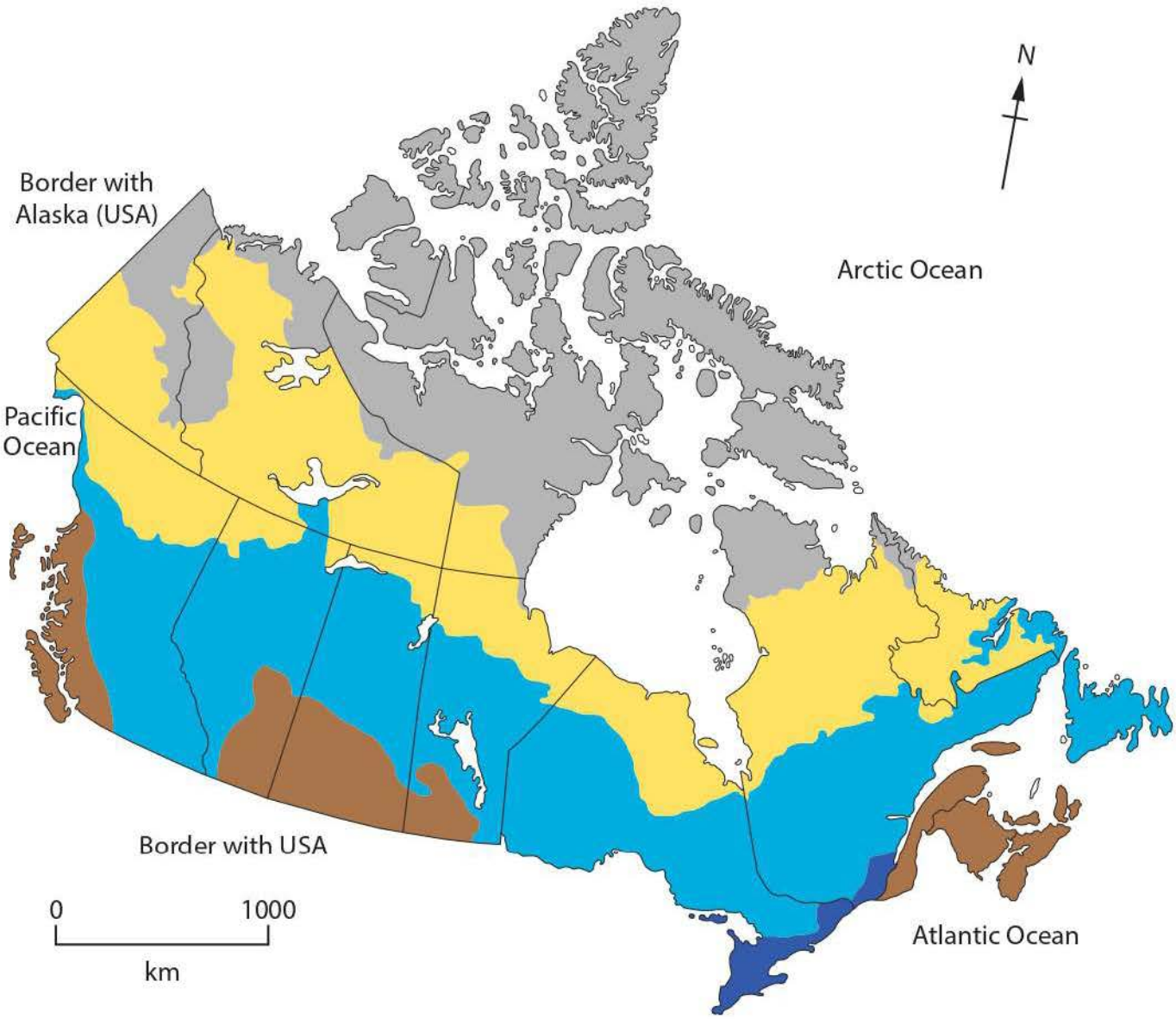
- Canada has the 10th largest economy in the world.
- Canada has enormous reserves of natural resources and is a major exporter of energy including fossil fuels.
- Canada's people and environment face significant threats from climate change.
- Canada's First Nations indigenous people are likely to be the most affected by the challenges of climate change.

Introduction

- Canada has a population of approximately 38 million in a land area of 10 million km^2 making it one of the least densely populated countries in the world.
- 90% of its population live in the south of the country and live within 150 km of the border with the USA.
- 1.4 million Canadians are First Nations indigenous people. They are the majority in the northern regions of the country.
- About half of Canada is covered with taiga (boreal) forest which is a major resource.
- 75% of its population say that they are concerned by climate change and, of them, 15% give money to charities dealing with climate change.

Figure 1

The distribution of Canada's taiga



Key: people/km²

- 0.01 or less
- 0.02 to 1
- 1.1 to 2
- 2.1 to 15.0
- 15.1 or more

Figure 2

Canada's population density and distribution

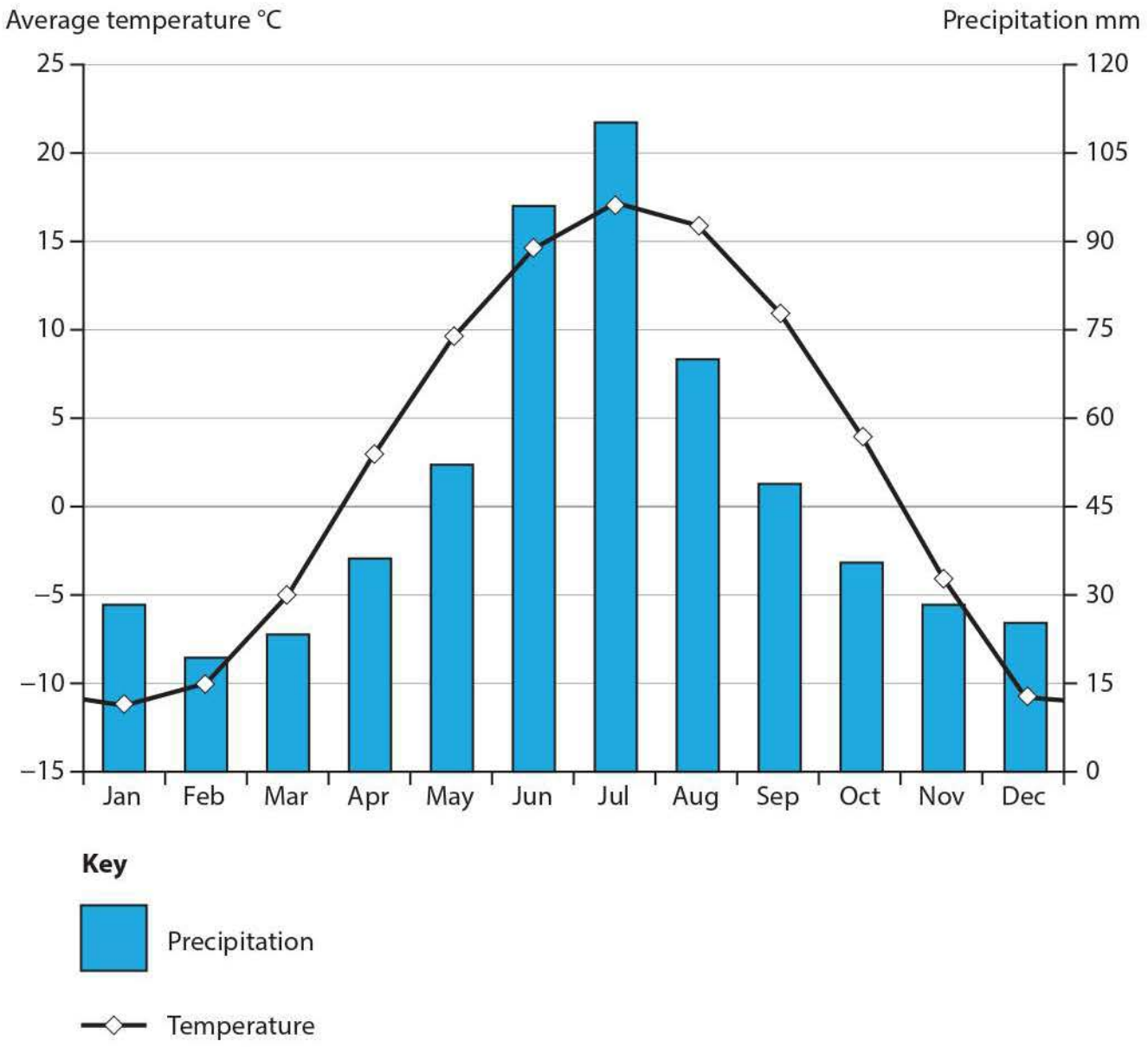


Figure 3

The climate of the northern taiga

SECTION B

Forests Under Threat

- In some regions, oil is found near the surface mixed with sand.
- Extracting the oil from the sand requires energy, water and the removal of all vegetation.

Figure 4

A production site for oil extraction in Alberta, Canada

Country	Forest area (in km^2)	Population density (people per km^2)	Main type of forest biome
Russia	8,138,480	8	Taiga (boreal forest)
Brazil	4,918,480	25	Tropical rainforest
Canada	3,469,750	4	Taiga (boreal forest)
United States	3,104,500	35	Mixed, mostly temperate
China	2,114,050	149	Mixed, mostly temperate
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,519,550	44	Tropical rainforest

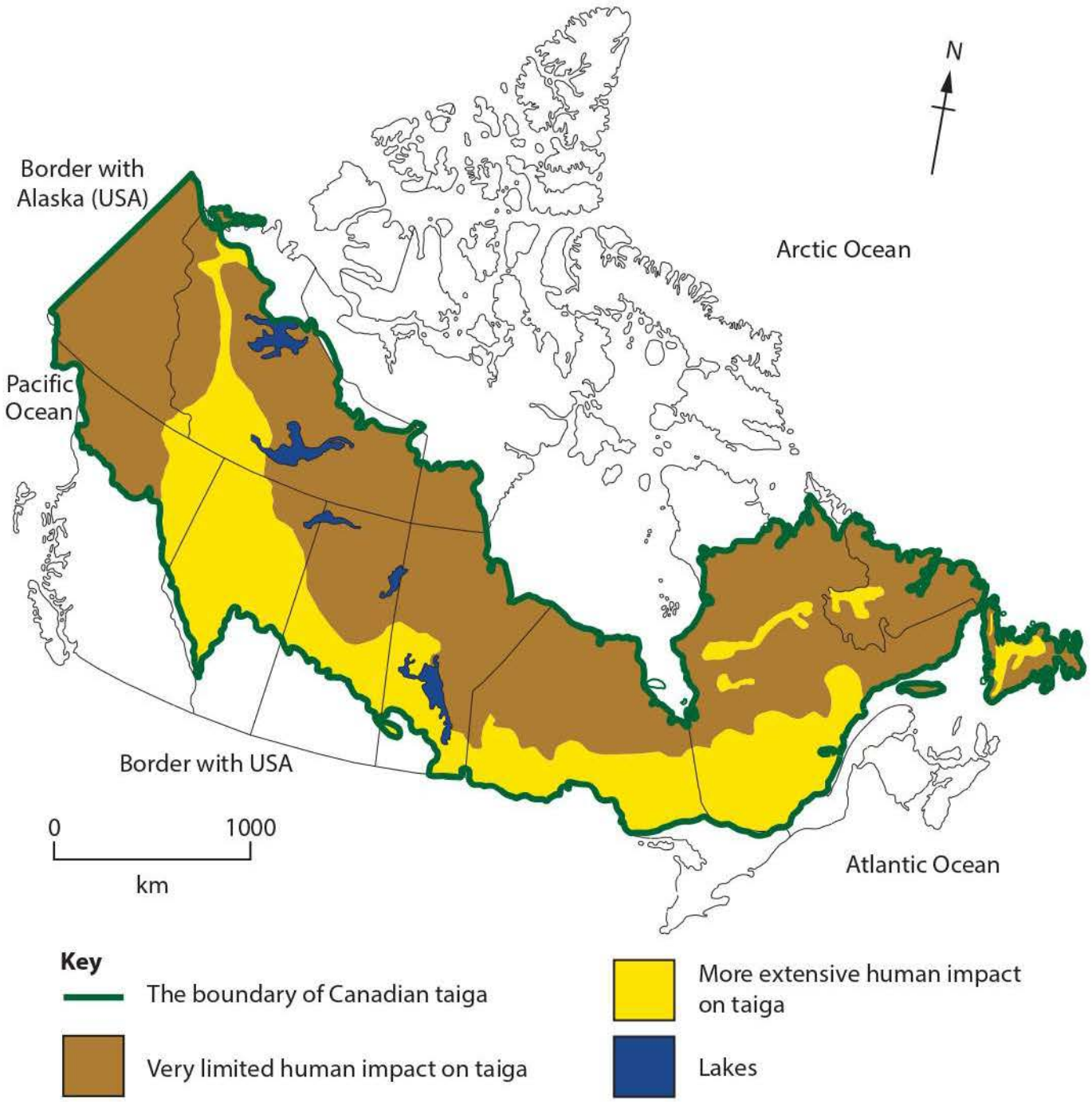
Taiga (boreal forest) covers 17 million km^2 of the Earth's surface. Of this, Russia and Canada's taiga amount to nearly 70% of all taiga forest cover.

The taiga is particularly sensitive to both land use changes and climate changes due to a short growing season and, in many places, poor soils that limit growth. These factors pose serious threats to taiga forests everywhere.

The taiga plays an important role in absorbing CO_2 from the atmosphere. However, temperatures in the Arctic are rising at three times the global rate of increase and as a result have increased the risk of wildfires.

Figure 5

Information about the six most forested countries ranked by their area of forest



About 40% of Canada's taiga has been disturbed by human activities.

Logging for timber and paper production, mining coal and oil, and gas extraction have caused significant damage that is sometimes very difficult to repair.

The forests are home to more than 600 First Nations indigenous communities as well as bears, wolves, caribou and moose.

Canada has more than 600 large dams that produce electricity, many of them in the taiga. Over 50,000 km^2 have been flooded as a result of dam construction.

Most of Canada's taiga is owned by the government.

Figure 6

Human impact on Canada's taiga

SECTION C

Consuming Energy Resources

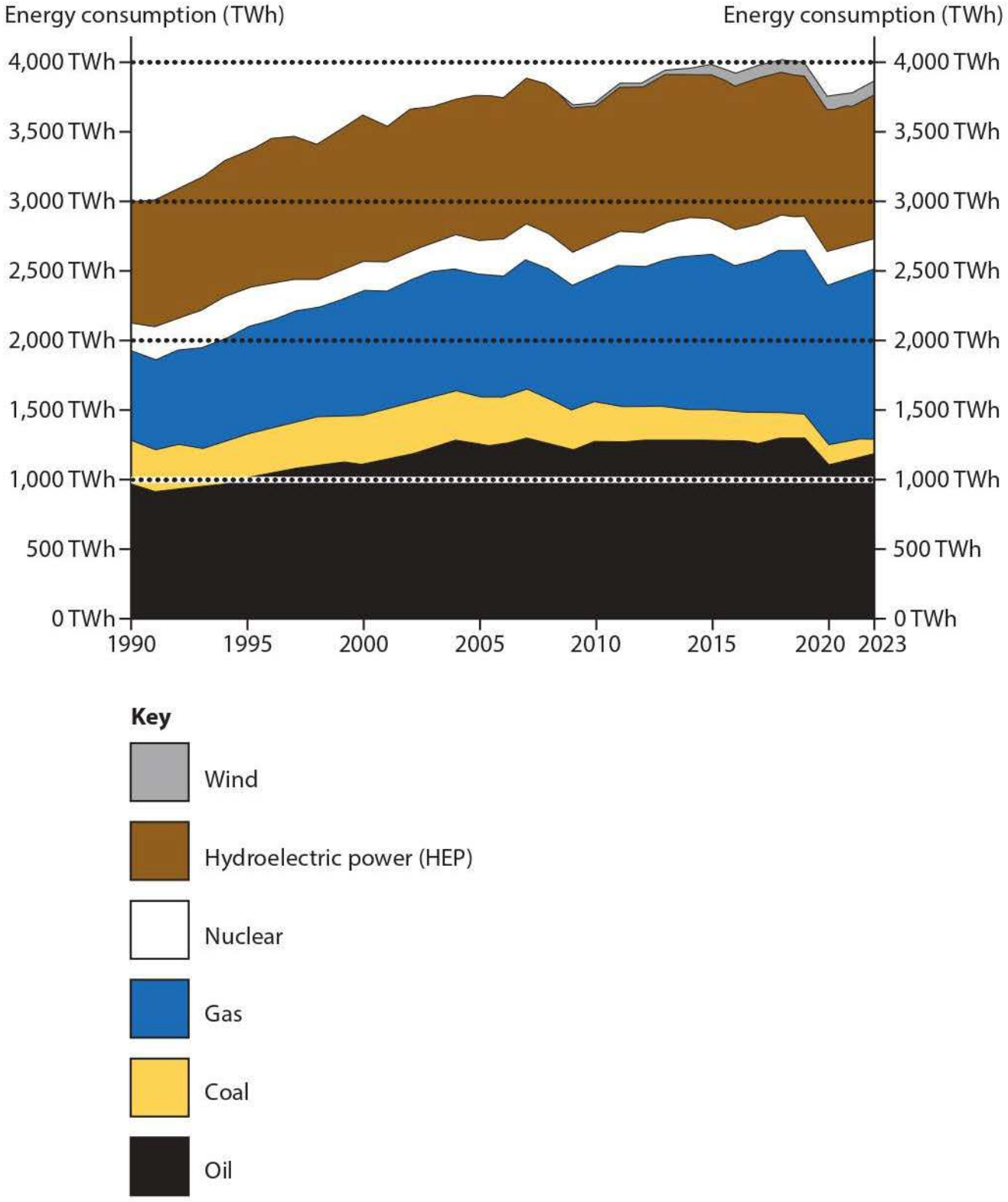


Figure 7

Canada's energy mix in terawatt hours (TWh), 1990–2023

Fossil fuels	Global rank for production of fossil fuels	Global rank for fossil fuel exports
Coal	14th	7th
Gas	5th	6th
Oil	4th	3rd
Non-fossil energy sources	**Global rank for production of non-fossil energy sources**	**Exports of electricity**
Nuclear power	6th	Along with fossil fuels, these energy sources are used to produce electricity. 5.8 billion US$ was paid to Canada by USA for imports of electricity in 2022.
Hydroelectric power (HEP)	1st	
Wind energy	9th	
Biofuels	20th	

Over 30% of Canada's total exports are fossil fuels, of which oil is the most valuable.

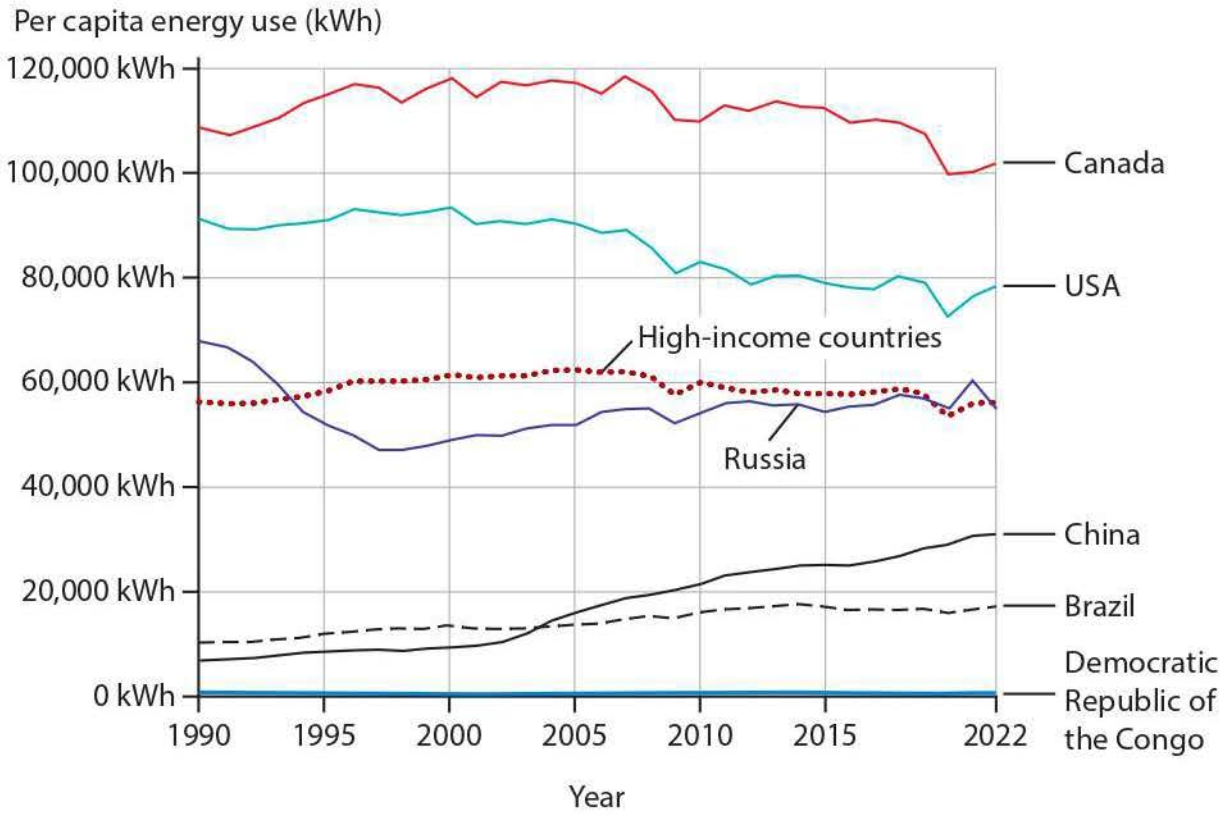
91% of Canada's energy exports go to the USA.

5% of Canada's total workforce (900,000 people), are directly or indirectly employed in the energy industry.

The energy industry contributed 10% of Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021.

Figure 8

Canada's energy industry in a global context



The average per capita (person) energy consumption in high-income countries is about 60,000 kWh per year.

Canadians are amongst the world's highest energy users.

The reasons for this include:

1. Car ownership is high and average journeys are long, both commuting to and from work and for leisure.
2. The climate is extreme so heating in winter and cooling in summer are both needed.
3. Canadian houses are large, averaging a floor area of 180 m^2, whilst UK houses are on average 76 m^2.
4. Canadian electricity costs about 0.12 US$ per kWh, half the price of electricity in the UK, whilst average incomes are higher in Canada.

Figure 9

Energy use per capita in kilowatt hours (kWh) for the six countries with the largest forest area and information about Canada's energy consumption

Country	Tonnes of CO_2 per capita 1990	Tonnes of CO_2 per capita 2021	Percentage (%) change 1990–2021	GDP per capita 2021 (in US$)
Russia	17.1	12.1	–29	28,526
Brazil	1.5	2.3	+53	14,594
Canada	16.6	14.3	–14	49,884
USA	20.6	14.9	–28	62,589
China	2.2	8.0	+264	14,129
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.1	0.1	0	1,022

Canada intends to reduce its carbon footprint (tonnes of CO_2 per capita) by:

- Stopping the use of coal and oil to generate electricity.
- Developing a plan to replace oil as the main fuel used in transport.
- Reducing methane and CO_2 emissions from the oil and gas industry.
- Stopping government support for the oil and gas industry.
- Improving the insulation of Canadian homes.

Figure 10

The carbon footprint and GDP per capita for the six countries with the largest forest area, and information about Canada's plans to reduce its carbon footprint

Acknowledgements

Pearson Education Ltd. gratefully acknowledges all the following sources used in the preparation of this paper:

Figure 4: ©ASHLEY COOPER/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY