

Should the Abingdon Reservoir Be Constructed – 9 marker Model answer

- It is probably easier to argue that the Abingdon reservoir should be constructed – whatever decision you make you should also give the counter argument and try to explain why the counter-argument is wrong – limiting factors. Also consider the weaknesses of your decision – limiting factors.
- In your response you should consider different stakeholders, environmental, social and economic factors and long term vs short term benefits
- Refer to information from the entire booklet (refer to 'figure x') and also from as many different aspects of human and physical geography as possible
- The 9 marker is most likely to be whether or not the Abingdon reservoir should go ahead. If the question is slightly different just make sure you follow the above steps.

Model answer:

In my opinion the plan to construct the Abingdon reservoir should go ahead as the benefits of the scheme outweigh the negatives and far more people will benefit from the scheme than suffer as a result of it.

Figure 1 states that the south-east of England is currently suffering from serious water stress and it is expected that water demand in the south-east will rise to 5600 litres per day by 2030. Not only is water demand higher in the south-east but it is also the most densely populated part of the UK, with an ever increasing population of over 100,000 people per year. As a result of this, current water supplies will not meet the demands of residents in the south east so new reservoirs such as the Abingdon reservoir will have to be constructed. Some people might argue that rather than losing green space to construct a reservoir we should meet the demands of the south east with the techniques mentioned in figure 2 such as low volume toilet cisterns. This technology might help to alleviate the water shortages in the south east but larger steps such as this scheme are required to meet the needs of people in the future.

Another reason why I feel that the reservoir should be constructed is that in addition to the growing population in the south east of England, it is expected that climate change is going to lead to more unpredictable rainfall in the future and that the UK may even have a Mediterranean climate. This would suggest that large steps such as reservoir construction need to be taken to prevent future water shortages. The GARD suggest in figure 3 suggest that the new reservoir is going to have negative impacts on the local environment such as displacing water voles. However, as some of the local residents argue, in figure 3, the reservoir is better for the environment than other possible building projects such as new homes.

Overall I think the new reservoir should be constructed as it is going to benefit a huge number of people, in an area with increasing water demand, at a time when we could be facing future droughts due to climate change. I think the benefits to the residents of the south east far outweigh the problems caused for a few locals.