

FREE SAMPLE: RESOURCES A TO E AND PARTS (a) AND (b)

RESOURCE BOOKLET: TONGA: LIVING WITH VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS AND TSUNAMI

Read Resources A to E before you start the question

Definitions. Viewpoint: what a person or group thinks about a geographic challenge. Perspective: a way of viewing and interpreting an environment, for example economic, social, political, indigenous or spiritual. Geographic challenge: a topic, problem or opportunity related to an environment that people can respond to.

Resource A: Tonga: living with volcanic eruptions and tsunامي

Tonga is a Polynesian country of more than 170 islands in the South Pacific. On 15 January 2022 the undersea Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted violently. The eruption, ash fall and tsunami damaged homes, water supplies, farms and communications, and left Tongans to decide how to rebuild their coasts.

Source: TPH-written introduction; facts in Resource B are cited.

Resource B: Key facts

Fact	Figure
Date of the main eruption	15 January 2022
Height the eruption column reached	58 km
People in Tonga who died	4
Share of Tonga's population affected (World Bank)	85%
Population of Tonga in 2022 (World Bank)	105 042
Buildings damaged or destroyed	600 (about 300 were homes)
Tsunami wave at Kanokupolu, Tongatapu	18 m
Tsunami recorded in Nuku'alofa	1.2 m
Depth of ash that covered Nuku'alofa	2 cm
Damage in Tonga (World Bank)	T\$421 million, about 36.4% of Tonga's GDP
Damage to agriculture	T\$17.3 million
Undersea cable length that had to be replaced	87 km
Time before the cable to Tongatapu was repaired	about five weeks (22 February 2022)

Source: Wikipedia, "2022 Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption and tsunami"

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_Hunga_Tonga%E2%80%93Hunga_Ha%CA%BBapai_eruption_and_tsunami), which cites the World Bank and Tongan Ministry of Finance; population: World Bank, World Development Indicators (SP.POP.TOTL), retrieved 1 Nov 2026

Resource C: Timeline

20 December 2021 – The volcano begins erupting.

15 January 2022 – Main eruption: an ash column 58 km high, then a tsunami; waves reach 18 m at Kanokupolu.

After the eruption – Ash covers Nuku'alofa to 2 cm and contaminates water supplies; communications fail because the undersea cable is cut.

21 January 2022 – Limited satellite connection is set up.

22 February 2022 – The cable to Tongatapu is repaired, about five weeks after the eruption.

Source: Wikipedia, "2022 Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption and tsunami"

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_Hunga_Tonga%E2%80%93Hunga_Ha%CA%BBapai_eruption_and_tsunami), which cites the World Bank and Tongan Ministry of Finance; population: World Bank, World Development Indicators (SP.POP.TOTL), retrieved 1 Nov 2026

Resource D: Three possible actions

Option 1 – relocate the most exposed west-coast villages to higher ground further inland

Option 2 – rebuild where people live now, and strengthen the response with a tsunami early-warning system and evacuation routes

Option 3 – build a high sea wall along the west coast of Tongatapu to try to stop tsunami waves

Source: TPH-written options (not an official plan).

Resource E: Three people and their viewpoints

A family from a west-coast village on Tongatapu: The family's home is on the coast near land that has belonged to them for generations. They fear another tsunami but do not want to leave their land, church and neighbours. They want warning and safe routes first, and move only if the village moves together.

A Tongan government official responsible for the economy: The official is worried about the cost: damage was about 36.4% of GDP and the country cannot afford to protect every coast. Money should go where it protects the most people for the least cost, and the economy must recover quickly.

A village elder who is also a church minister: The elder says land (fonua) is a family's identity and the graves of ancestors are on the coast. Leaving must be the community's own decision, and the elder wants traditional knowledge of the sea to be used in any warning system.

Source: TPH-written, typical positions of these groups to help you practise. They are not quotes from real people.

ANSWER ALL PARTS OF THE QUESTION

27 marks in all

Use the resource booklet about Tonga. Write in full sentences and use evidence from the resources in every part.

Question One (27 marks)

(a) Explain why rebuilding coastal communities after the 2022 Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai eruption and tsunami is a geographic challenge for Tonga and its people.

Include supporting evidence from Resources A to C.

[6 marks]

(b) For each person in Resource E, explain their viewpoint on the actions in Resource D. In your answer include their perspective, geographic terminology and supporting evidence from the resources.

[9 marks]

THE WORKED ANSWERS TO PARTS (a) AND (b)

Question 1 (27 marks) [Tonga]

(a) Explain why rebuilding coastal communities after the 2022 Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption and tsunami is a geographic challenge for Tonga and its people. Include supporting evidence from Resources A to C.

(a) Answer: Tonga faces a geographic challenge because a violent eruption and tsunami hit a small island nation with little room to move away from the coast.

- Achievement: describes the challenge with evidence: the eruption on 15 January 2022 sent a column 58 km high, the tsunami reached 18 m at Kanokupolu, 4 people died and 600 buildings were damaged or destroyed.
- Merit: explains why it is a challenge: 85% of Tonga's 105 042 people were affected, so a large share of the whole country needed help at once; ash 2 cm deep contaminated water supplies and the cut cable (87 km to replace, about five weeks to repair) left islands without communications, which slowed rescue and recovery.
- Excellence: links the wider implications: damage of T\$421 million (about 36.4% of GDP) and T\$17.3 million to agriculture is a huge cost for a small economy, and because many people live on the coast, tsunami and ash will remain a risk for people and for the economy whatever is rebuilt.
- Marking (TPH): 2 marks for describing the challenge with evidence, 2 for explaining why it is a challenge for people (using at least two facts), 2 for the wider implications.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Say why the challenge matters for people and the economy, and back every claim with a fact from the booklet.

(b) For each person in Resource E, explain their viewpoint on the actions in Resource D. In your answer include their perspective, geographic terminology and supporting evidence from the resources.

(b) Answer: Each group's perspective shapes the action it prefers: the family (social) wants early warning and to stay together, the official (economic) wants the cheapest effective response, the elder (indigenous and spiritual) wants a community-led decision that protects land.

- The family from a west-coast village: Social perspective: values staying with family, land and church. Prefers Option 2 (strengthen warning and evacuation routes) and would only accept Option 1 if the whole village moved together. Evidence: the tsunami reached 18 m at Kanokupolu, so the family's fear is realistic.
- The government official: Economic perspective: values keeping costs down and the economy running. Prefers Option 2 because a warning system is cheaper than moving villages or building a wall; a wall that must stop an 18 m wave would be very costly when damage was already T\$421 million (about 36.4% of GDP).
- The village elder: Indigenous and spiritual perspective: values land (fonua), ancestors and community decisions. Opposes forced relocation (Option 1), so prefers Option 2 or a community-led move; wants traditional knowledge in the warning system. Evidence: 600 buildings were damaged or destroyed, but graves and land remain on the coast.
- Marking (TPH): 3 marks for each person: the viewpoint and the action preferred, the perspective named, and a piece of evidence from the resources.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Name each group's perspective (social, economic, indigenous, spiritual), then link it to the option that group prefers and to evidence.

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