**Total 35 points.**

The assignment is in two parts. Consider the requirements of both assignment A3 and A4 before you commit to a subject.

Familiarize yourself with the two databases:

• Comtrade – official international trade statistics from the United Nations, which is extensive, updated continually, and is supported by numerous third-party tools that enable analysis and data visualization.

• StandardsMap – a database and tool from the International Trade Center (ITC), which covers several hundred voluntary sustainability standards.

For both databases it may be easier if you create account to help access information.

Choose a **commodity** for which you can get information, and which is subject to a voluntary sustainability standard. Standards Map is the most direct place to find sustainability standards, however standards not listed on that database may be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Do not use a company or example that has been detailed in class or in course material. This includes STARS, LEED, FSC, REPO, ResponsibleSteel, Responsible Minerals Initiative

**Rubric**

• **Understanding of content, support for your answer 50%**

• **Application of concepts, development of ideas 50%**

• **Communication/presentation up to 50% deducted**

Question 1

Provide a broad description of the commodity. Consider for example areas/countries where it is produced, major exporting and importing countries, the forms the commodity takes (e.g., oil is traded as a commodity both as crude and refined liquids), and the types of uses or end-products that the commodity goes into (generally described). Include some basic data or statistics on production volume, use, trade, etc. – for example at the global level or for illustrative countries.

(**10 marks**. 500 words.)

Question 2

Provide a figure or table that supports your description of the production, trade or use of the commodity. For example, this might be a screenshot from one of the data visualization tools that utilizes Comtrade data. Ensure you describe this figure or table – either as a cross-reference in the text for question 1 or within question 2 as a paragraph and explanation with the figure.

(**10 marks**. One figure or table with description – this may fit on one or two pages: ensure that the figure or table is big enough and fills enough of the page to be legible.)

Question 3

Name the standard you have chosen and provide a link to its program website.

Discuss issues that have motivated the development of the sustainability standard for the commodity. Provide at least one specific reference, case or example, for example cited from a newspaper, journal article or website, that highlights the sustainability issue(s) or problem(s) – outside the program website. Of course, this issue could be environmental, social or economic – or some combination.

(**10 marks.** 500 words)

Question 4

References. Properly credit and reference in APA your sources for questions 1, 2 and 3.

(**5 marks**. List of references)