



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle Final Examination 2025

Geography

Common Level

Thursday 5 June Afternoon 1:30 - 3:30

360 marks

Examination Number

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Date of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

Instructions

Write your Examination Number and your Date of Birth in the boxes on the front cover.

There are **nine** questions in this paper.

Answer all questions.

The questions do not all carry equal marks.

Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil and colouring pencils for sketches, graphs and diagrams only.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work at the end of the booklet. Label any such extra work clearly with the question number and part.

This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

Question 1

- (a) Greta Thunberg is an environmental activist. Read her tweet below on deforestation.



- (i) According to the above post, how many square kilometres of forest have been destroyed?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

1,482 km² ☐

2,548 km² ☐

3,974 km² ☐

- (ii) By what percentage did deforestation in the Amazon increase compared to May 2020?

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- (iii) Briefly explain **one** reason why deforestation is still happening in many places, including in the Amazon Rainforest.

- (b)** Examine the table below showing the weight of fish landed (in tonnes) at selected Irish ports in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and answer the questions which follow.

Weight of Fish Landed (in tonnes) at Selected Irish Ports
in 2019, 2020 and 2021

Ports	2019	2020	2021
Castletownbere	34,540	34,290	31,590
Dingle	7,380	10,320	10,080
Killybegs	197,760	229,870	203,330

- (i)** Which fishing port recorded the heaviest weight of fish landed in all three years?

- (ii)** Calculate the total weight of fish landed at Dingle Port for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. Use the correct unit of measurement in your answer.

Optional rough work:

Answer:

- (iii)** Which of the following sentences best describes overfishing?
Tick (✓) the correct box.

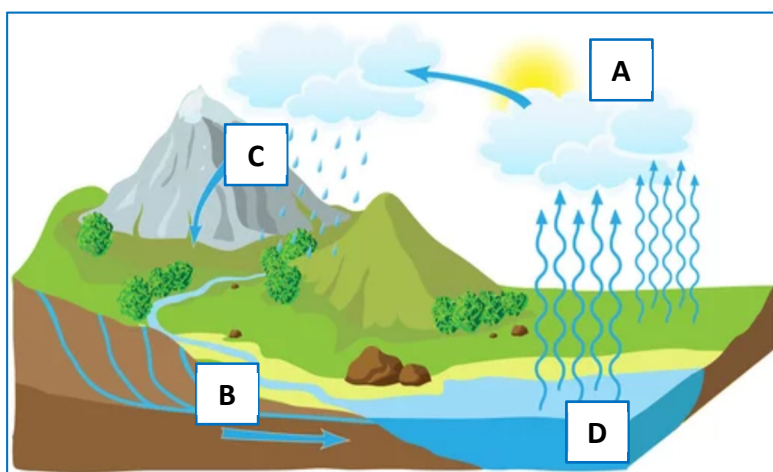
Overfishing occurs when fish are taken from the water faster than they can reproduce. ☐

Overfishing occurs when trawlers only take enough fish so they are not at risk of becoming extinct in an area. ☐

(iv) Explain **two** ways governments could reduce overfishing.

Question 2

(a) Match each of the letters **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** on the water cycle diagram with the correct term in the table.



Term	Letter
Evaporation	
Runoff	
Precipitation	
Condensation	

- (b)** The aerial photograph below shows the Cathaleen's Fall Generating Station (Hydro Electric Power HEP) that can be found on the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map supplied with this paper. Examine both the photograph and map and tick (✓) the correct box for each of the following questions.



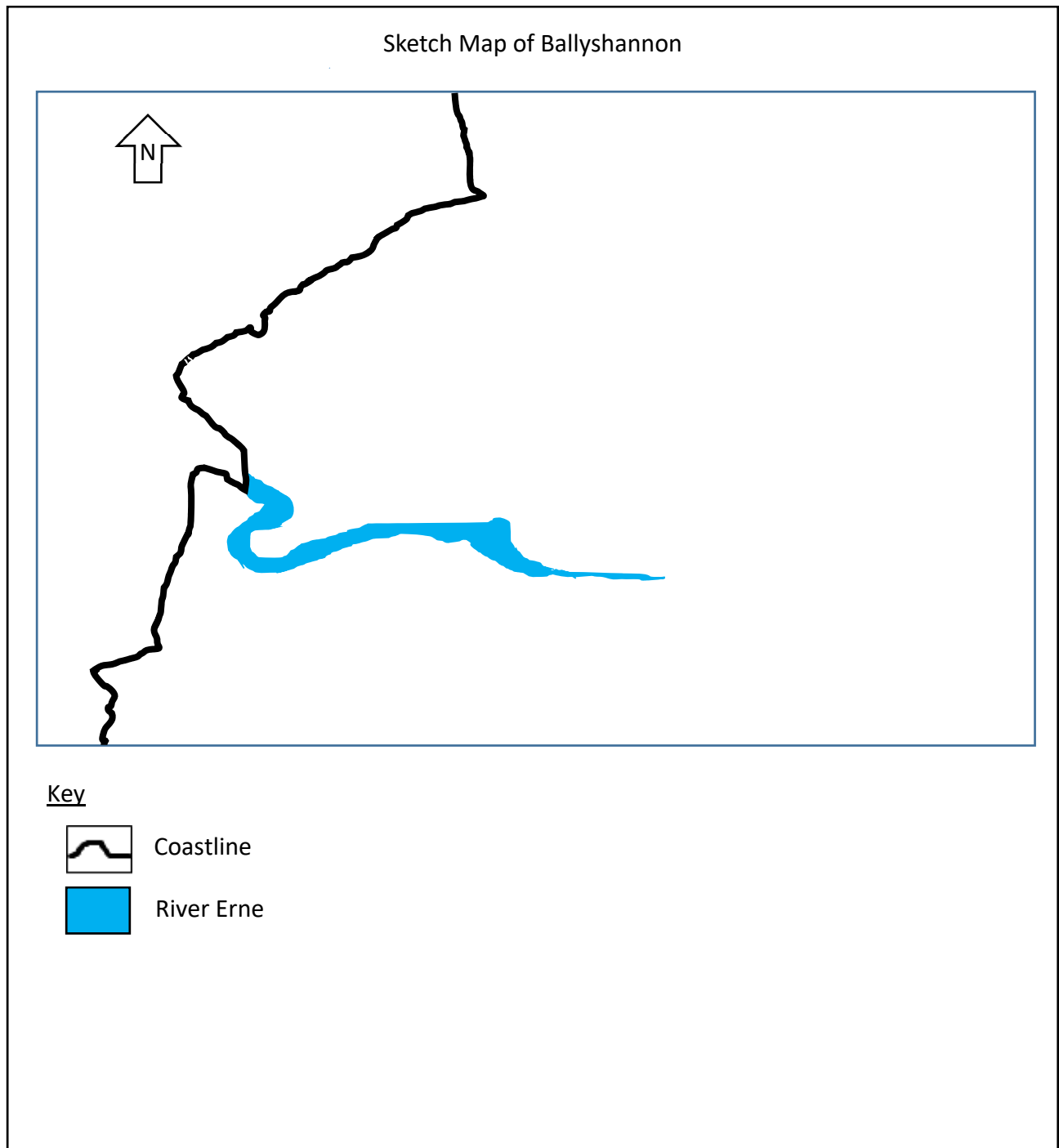
- (i)** In which of the following locations of the aerial photograph above can the lake be found?
- Left foreground ☐ Right foreground ☐ Left background ☐
- (ii)** Which of the following is the correct six-figure grid reference for Cathaleen's Fall Generating Station?
- G 898 634 ☐ G 888 613 ☐ G 834 593 ☐
- (iii)** Assaroe Lake is an example of a manmade lake formed behind the Hydroelectric Generating Station. Which of the following is the correct name for this type of lake?
- Reservoir ☐ Ribbon ☐ Corrie ☐
- (iv)** Which type of energy is hydroelectric power (HEP)?
- Renewable ☐ Non-Renewable ☐
- (v)** Solar energy is a type of renewable energy.
- True ☐ False ☐

- (c) The building of a dam on a river can have positive and negative impacts on the area around it.

Discuss **two** impacts of building of a new dam and HEP station.

(d) Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend supplied with this paper. In the space provided below complete the sketch map of the Ballyshannon area by showing and naming each of the following:

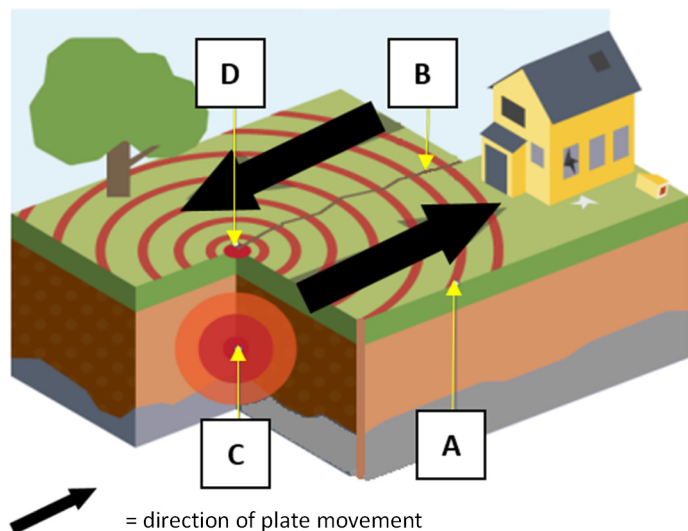
- Assaroe Lake
- The N15 north of the River Erne
- Cathaleen's Fall Generating Station
- Belalt Strand.



Question 3

(a) Examine the diagram below, which shows a cross-section of an earthquake and answer each of the following questions.

(i) Match each of the features labelled **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** on the diagram with the correct feature in the table.



Feature	Letter
Epicentre	
Fault line	
Focus	
Shock waves	

(ii) Which of the following types of movement can be seen at the plate boundary in the diagram? Tick (✓) the correct box.

Sliding ☐

Separating ☐

Colliding ☐

(iii) Name **one** scale used to measure earthquakes.

(iv) What is the name given to the small tremors that follow the main earthquake?

(v) Briefly explain the term *epicentre*.

- (b) Examine the photographs below of different ways that people have responded to earthquakes and answer the question below.



Match each of the photographs **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** with the response that best matches it in the table below. One has been completed for you.

Response	Letter
Earthquake Drills	
Search and Rescue Crews	
Emergency Shelter	
Tsunami Walls	D

- (c) (i) Name a location that you have studied where an earthquake or volcanic eruption has occurred.

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- (ii) Name **and** explain **one** economic **and one** social impact of volcanoes and/or earthquakes.

Economic impact:
Social impact:

- (iii) Briefly explain how earthquakes or volcanic activity can cause mass movement.

Question 4

Examine the report below from when Donncha O’Callaghan visited a refugee camp in Syria with the charity UNICEF.



When Donncha O’Callaghan became a UNICEF Ireland Ambassador he witnessed first-hand the aid offered to people from Syria who were forced to flee their home due to natural disasters and war.

During his visit he said “The thing that shocks me is seeing these little children – the same age as my two daughters – with tiny little wrists and tiny little bones and you’d do anything you could. These children badly need our help.”

- (a) (i) According to the report, what country did Donncha O’Callaghan visit?

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- (ii) List the **two** push factors stated in the article.

1:
2:

- (iii) Name the type of aid offered to people immediately following a natural disaster or war. Tick (✓) the correct box.

Development aid ☐

Emergency aid ☐

- (iv) Choose the correct term from the box below to complete each of the following sentences. One has been completed for you.

work	asylum seeker	emigration
multilateral		barrier

- (a) Leaving a country to live in another country is known as _____.

- (b) Moving to a new location in search of _____ is an economic factor.

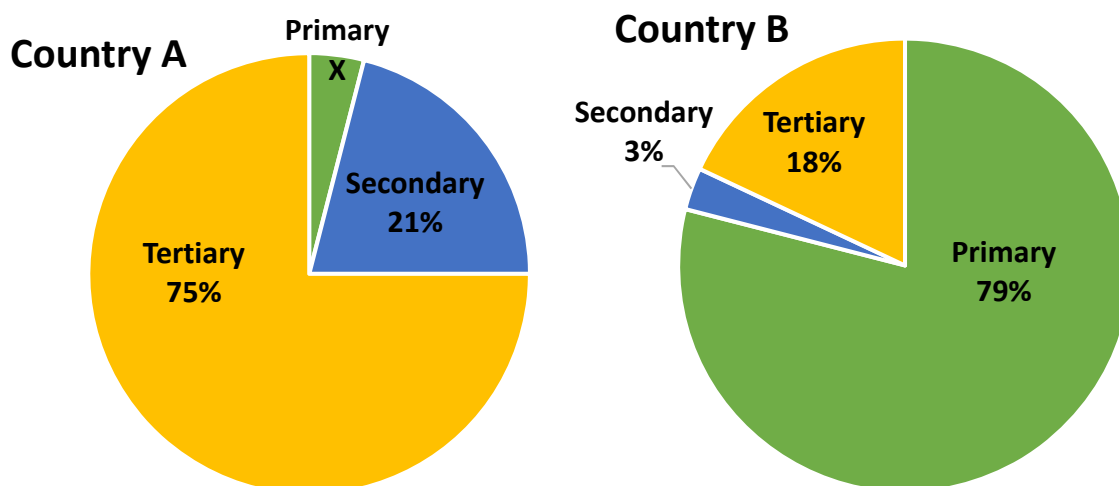
- (c) A person who has been forced to leave their home in search of safety or security is known as an asylum seeker.

- (d) Something that prevents or discourages a person from migrating is known as a _____ to migration.

- (e) UNICEF is an example of a _____ aid agency.

- (b) Donncha O’Callaghan states in the article that “These children badly need our help.” Explain how improving access to healthcare can benefit young people in the developing world.

- (c) Examine the pie charts below which show the percentage of people employed in different economic activities in Country A and Country B and answer each of the following questions.



- (i) Name the sector with the lowest percentage (%) employment in economic activities in Country B?

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- (ii) Calculate X the percentage of people employed in primary economic activities in Country A.

Optional rough work:
Answer:

- (iii) Which of the two countries in the pie charts on the previous page is more economically developed? Tick (✓) the correct box.

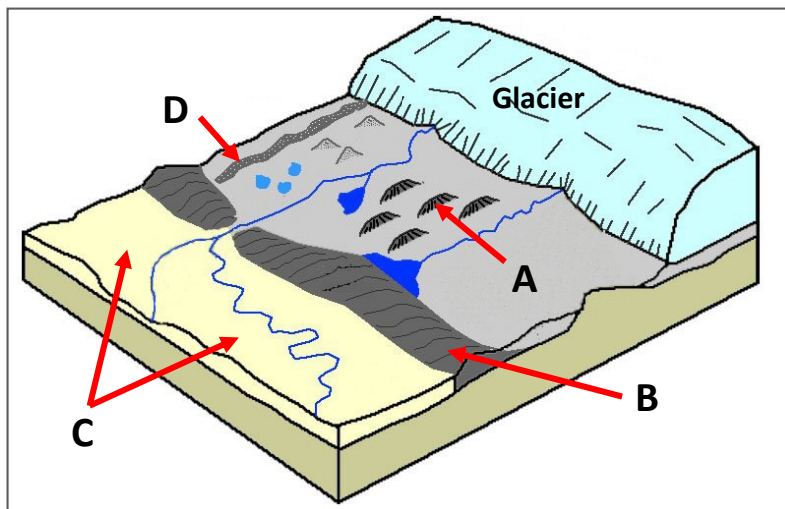
Country A ☐

Country B ☐

Explain **one** reason for your answer.

Question 5

- (a) Complete the grid below matching the letter with the glacial feature named in the table. One has been completed for you.



Glacial Feature	Letter
Esker	
Drumlin	
Outwash plain	C
Moraine	

(b) Name **one** feature of glacial erosion **and** explain, with the aid of a labelled diagram, how it was formed.

[illegible]

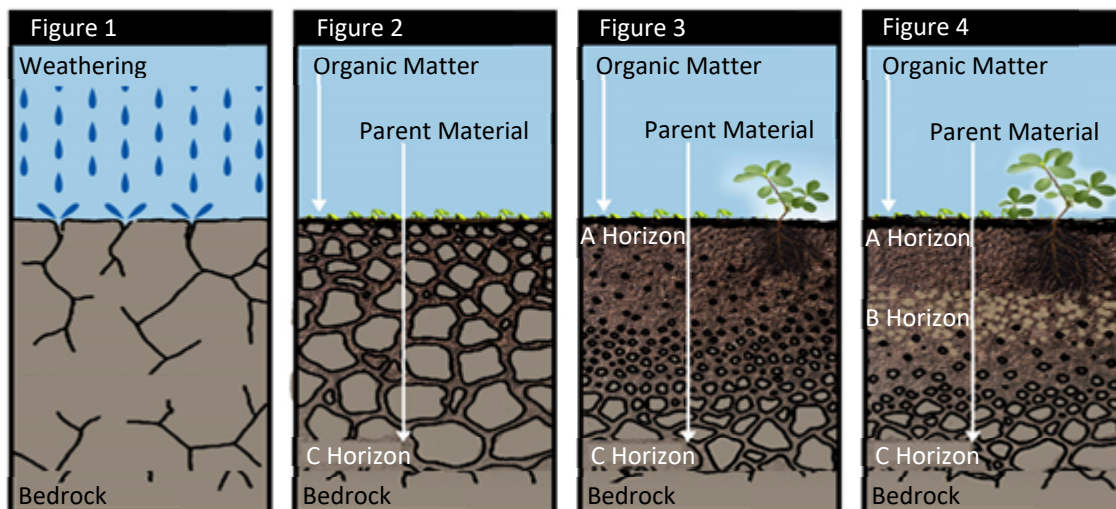
- (c) Glaciers are melting at a rapid rate around the world with studies suggesting that in some mountain ranges glaciers could virtually disappear before the end of the century.



Discuss **one** reason why glaciers are melting at a worrying speed.

Question 6

(a) Examine Figures 1 to 4 below which show the formation of a developed soil profile.



(i) Match each of the Figures 1 to 4 above with the stage of formation in the table below that best matches it. One has been completed for you.

Stage of Formation	Figure
Horizons begin to form	3
Bedrock begins to break down	
Defined horizons in a developed soil	
Organic matter starts to decay	

(ii) Name a type of weathering that can have an influence on soil formation.

(b) Explain how **one** of the following factors influences soil formation.

- Climate
- Vegetation
- Parent material

(c) Read the article below and answer each of the following questions.

The world needs topsoil to grow 95% of its food

According to the United Nations, farms worldwide are experiencing a loss in soil fertility, with a third of the world's soils moderately or highly degraded.

Intensive agriculture, industrial activity, deforestation and urbanisation are causing soil erosion.

The natural processes that create fertile topsoil can take centuries and this will create issues unless there are changes to farming practices and ways are found to preserve soil.



(i) How much of the world's soil is moderately or highly degraded?

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(ii) List **two** causes of soil erosion mentioned in the article.

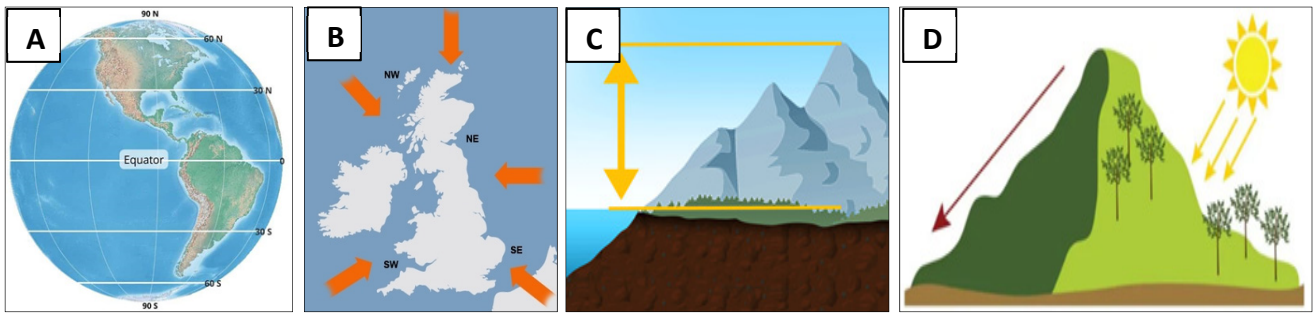
1:

2:

(iii) Describe **one** impact of soil erosion.

Question 7

(a) Examine the diagrams below which show different factors that influence climate.



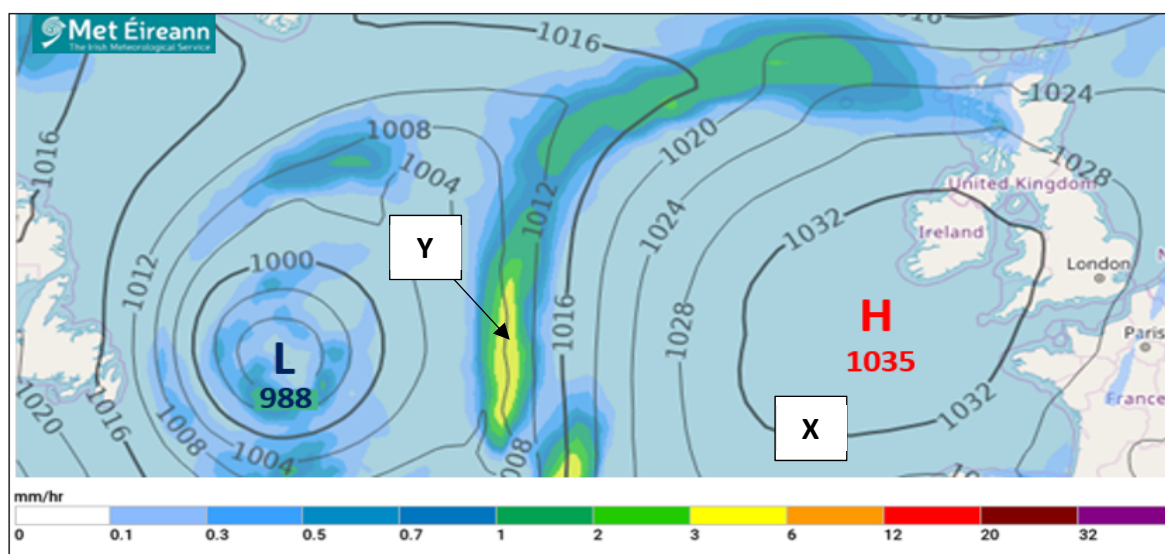
(i) Match each of the diagrams labelled **A** to **D** to the factor affecting climate that best matches it by writing the correct letter in the table below.

Climate Factor	Letter
Aspect	
Latitude	
Prevailing Winds	
Altitude	

(ii) Name Ireland's climate.

(iii) Which factor listed in the table in part (i) has the biggest impact on Ireland's climate? Justify your answer.

- (b) Examine the Met Éireann weather chart below and tick (✓) the correct box for each of the following questions.



- (i) Which of the following is Ireland under the influence of?
- High Pressure ☐
- Low Pressure ☐
- (ii) What is the atmospheric pressure over the area marked X?
- 1028 mb ☐
- 1024 mb ☐
- 1032 mb ☐
- (iii) On the chart above, in which area of pressure will there be higher precipitation?
- High Pressure ☐
- Low Pressure ☐
- (iv) Which of the following levels of precipitation is forecast to fall in the area marked Y?
- 0.3 mm – 0.5 mm ☐
- 3 mm – 6 mm ☐
- 12 mm – 20 mm ☐
- (v) Which of the following is the unit of measurement for precipitation?
- Millimetres (mm) ☐
- Millibars (mb) ☐
- (vi) Which of the following is the instrument used to measure precipitation?
- Barometer ☐
- Rain gauge ☐
- Anemometer ☐

- (c) (i)** Name **one** example of a significant weather event that you have studied.

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- (ii)** Name a location that was affected by the weather event named in part **(i)**.

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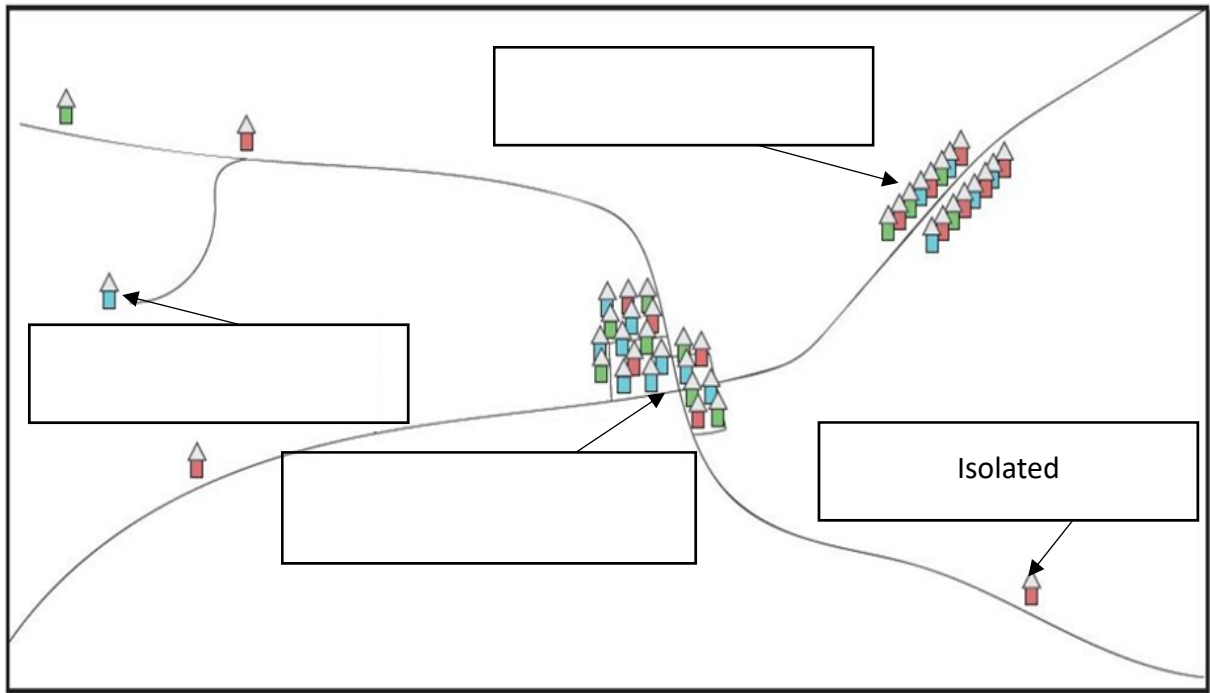
- (iii) Explain how the weather event named in part (i) was formed. Use at least one diagram in your answer.

[illegible]

Question 8

- (a) (i) Match each of the terms in the table below with the settlement pattern in the diagram that best matches it. One has been completed for you.

Isolated	Linear	Clustered/Nucleated	Dispersed
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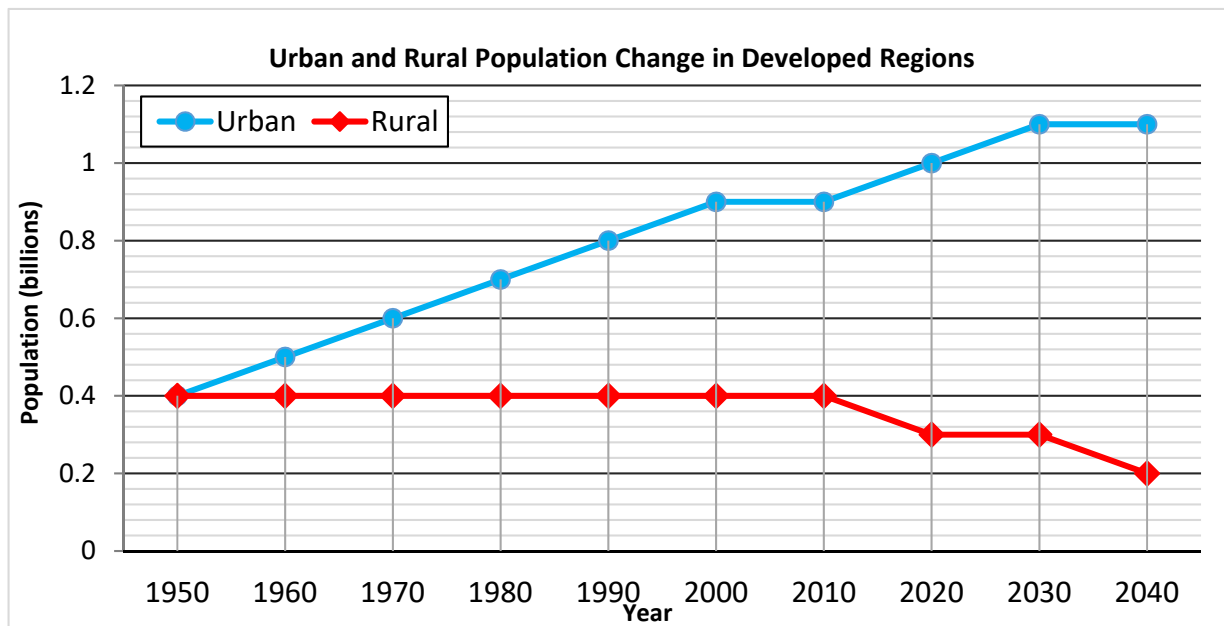


- (ii) Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map of Ballyshannon supplied with this paper. Give a four-figure grid reference for an example of a linear settlement pattern that can be seen on the map.

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- (iii) Explain briefly why linear settlement patterns develop.

- (b) Examine the graph below and indicate whether each of the following statements are true or false by ticking (✓) the correct box.



- | | True | False |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (i) Since 1960 more people have been living in urban areas than rural areas. | ☐ | ☐ |
| (ii) There were over 1 billion people living in urban areas in developed regions in 2010. | ☐ | ☐ |
| (iii) Rural population is set to decrease between 2010 and 2040. | ☐ | ☐ |
| (iv) From 1950 to 2000 the overall trends showed a decline in the number of people living in rural areas and a rise in people living in urban areas. | ☐ | ☐ |

- (c) Explain **two** reasons why more people are living in urban areas than rural areas.

Question 9

- (a) Examine the images below of different economic activities. State in the table below whether each image shows an example of a primary, secondary or tertiary economic activity.



Letter	Economic Activity
A	
B	
C	

- (b) Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map extract and legend which accompany this paper and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) The Tourist Information Office in Ballyshannon has regular opening times.
Tick (✓) the correct box.

True ☐

False ☐

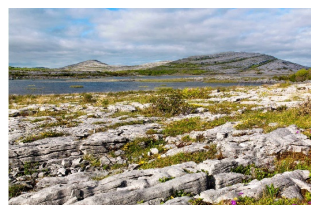
- (ii) Give a six-figure grid reference for the Tourist Information Office in Ballyshannon.

- (iii) What type of road is the R231?

- (iv) Calculate the area, in km², shown on the map.

- (v) Explain **one** way that the physical geography of the Ballyshannon area influenced the route of the N15 national primary road. Use map evidence to support your answer.

- (c) Discuss how the physical geography of an area helps to attract tourists.



Additional answer space.

Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Space for diagram(s)

Acknowledgements

Images

Image on page 3: <https://twitter.com/GretaThunberg>

Image on page 5: <https://www.sieker.de/en/fachinformationen/flood/article/hydrological-modeling-389.html>

Image on page 6: <https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/13866817.300000-young-eels-die-at-hydroelectric-dam/>

Image on page 9: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zp46sg8/revision/1>

Images on page 10: <https://r3.rappler.com/previous-articles?filterMeta=Earthquake%20Drill> and <https://www.theb1m.com/video/japans-400-kilometre-tsunami-shield> and <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-quake-idUSKBN1ZP09Q> and <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/keeping-hope-alive-haiti/>

Image on page 12: <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/stories/lebanon-emergency-within-emergency>

Image on page 14: <http://officersiasacademy.blogspot.com/2016/04/landforms-created-by-glacier.html>

Image on page 16: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/bear-glacier-retreat-article.htm>

Image on page 17: <https://learn.weatherstem.com/modules/learn/lessons/85/06.html>

Image on page 18: <https://spunout.ie/voices/experiences/soil-erosion-simple-solutions-best>

Images on page 19: <https://www.geographyrealm.com/latitude-longitude/> and <https://atmosphericcirculation.weebly.com/britains-weather-and-climate-case-study.html> and <https://gamesmartz.com/definitions?definition=5679&altitude&s=80> and <https://www.slideshare.net/MohammedShameemVatto/microclimate-250962985>

Image on page 20: <https://www.met.ie/forecasts/atlantic-charts/precipitation-pressure>

Image on page 22: <https://opentext.wsu.edu/introtohumangeography/chapter/12-2-rural-settlement-patterns/>

Images on Page 24: <https://www.drive.com.au/news/toyota-wait-times-expected-to-fall-as-it-aims-for-record-production-in-2023/> and <https://www.independent.ie/business/farming/news/farmers-to-get-up-to-1000-to-grow-silage-41608276.html> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greystones_railway_station#/media/File:A_DART_train_in_Greystones,_County_Wicklow_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1811056.jpg

Images on Page 25: <https://www.snow-online.com/skimag/the-10-best-ski-resorts-in-switzerland.htm> and <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/travel/experiences/beaches/> and <https://www.takeahike.ie/counties/clare/burren-national-park-white-route-hike-guide/>

Texts

Data on page 4: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-fl/fishlandings2021/data/>

Article on page 12: <https://www.thesun.ie/news/6674240/donncha-ocallaghan-proud-moment-irish-syrian-refugees-unicef/>

Data on page 13: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/382311/nigeria-gdp-distribution-across-economic-sectors/?locale=en> and <https://www.statista.com/statistics/375575/ireland-gdp-distribution-across-economic-sectors/?locale=en>

Article on page 18: <https://www.bbc.com/future/ bespoke/ follow-the-food/why-soil-is-disappearing-from-farms/>

Data on page 23: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Global-urban-and-rural-population-growth-in-developed-and-underdeveloped-areas-from-1950_fig2_225279192

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Junior Cycle Final Examination – Common Level

Geography

Thursday 5 June

Afternoon 1:30 - 3:30