



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Geography

Part One and Answerbook

Ordinary Level

Friday 6 June Morning 9:30 - 12:20

400 marks

Examination Number

----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Date of Birth

		/			/		
----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------

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.

Write your answers to all parts of the examination into this answerbook. This answerbook 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.

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

There are two parts to this examination. Questions for **PART TWO** are supplied separately but your answers must be written in this answerbook.

PART ONE	Short-Answer Questions	100 marks
	Attempt any TEN questions.	
	All questions carry equal marks.	

PART TWO	Structured Questions	300 marks
-----------------	----------------------	------------------

You must attempt **THREE** questions. You must answer one question from two different sections below:

- Section 1 – **Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment** (Questions 1-3)
- Section 2 – **Regional Geography** (Questions 4-6)
- Section 3 – **Electives** (Questions 7-12)

The third question can be from any section.

All questions carry equal marks.

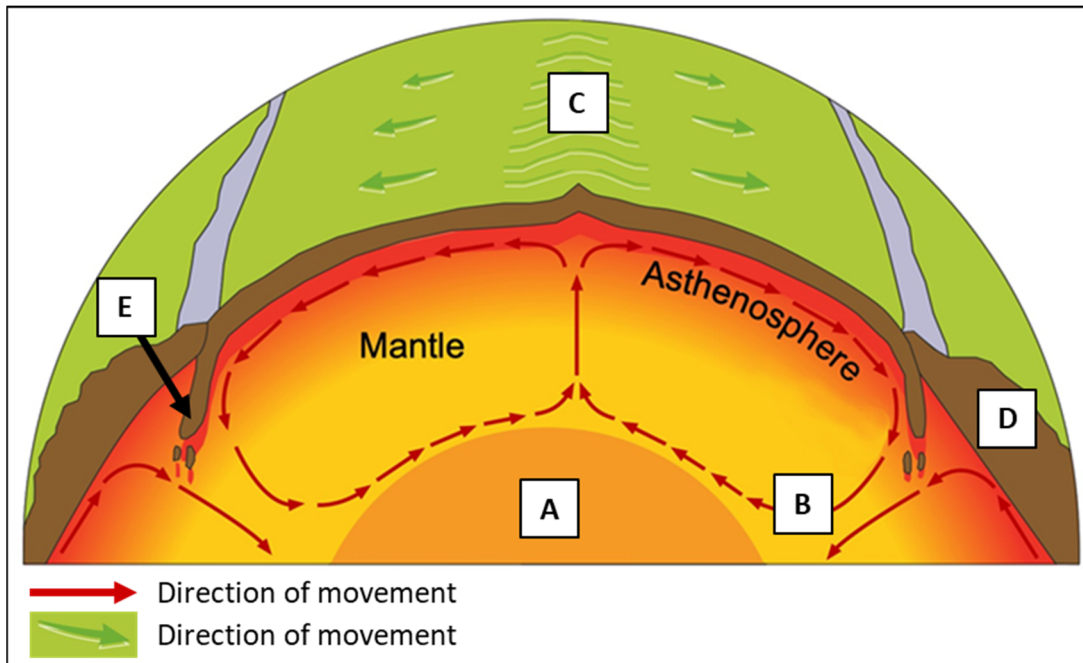
PART ONE – SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS – 100 MARKS

Attempt any **TEN** questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

THESE QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

1. Plate Tectonics



Amended from internetgeography.net

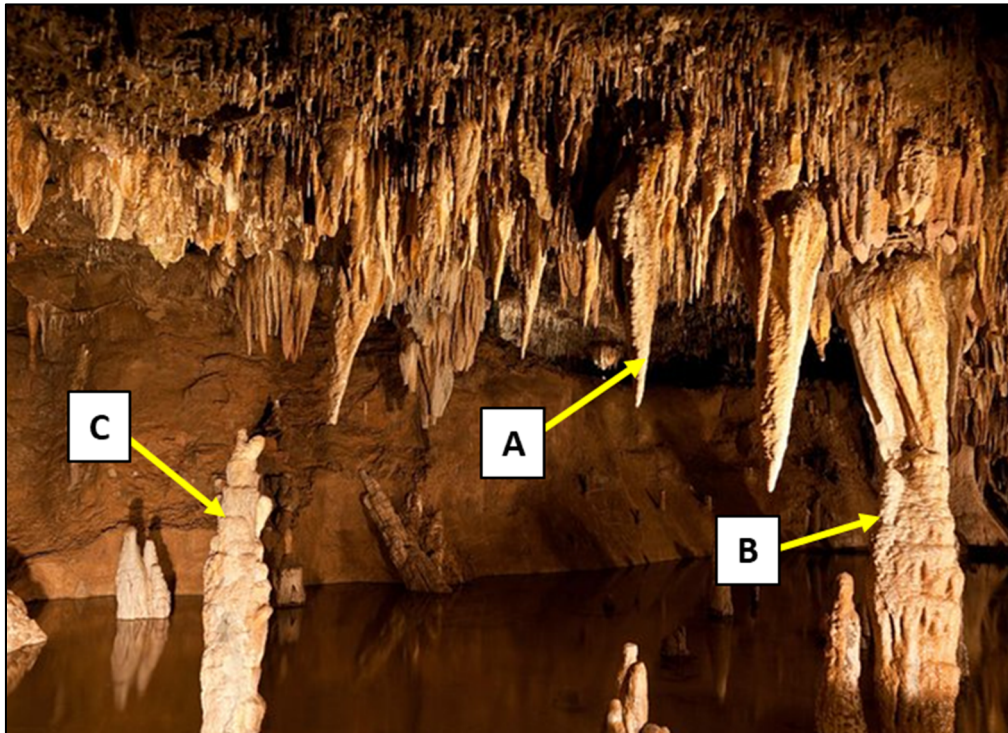
Examine the diagram above which shows the structure of the earth and answer the following question.

Match each of the letters **A, B, C, D** and **E** with the feature that best matches it in the table below.

Feature	Letter
Convection current	
Subducting plate	
Core	
Continental crust	
Separating plates	

[10m]

2. Karst Landscape



Amended from tripadvisor.com

Examine the photograph of karst features above and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Match each of the letters **A**, **B** and **C** with the feature that best matches it in the table below.

Feature	Letter
Stalagmite	
Column/Pillar	
Stalactite	

- (ii) Indicate whether the following statements are true or false by ticking (✓) the correct box.

- (a) The features in the photograph above are formed as a result of physical/mechanical weathering.

True ☐

False ☐

- (b) The features in the photograph above are formed underground.

True ☐

False ☐

[10m]

3. Surface Processes



www.en.wikipedia.org



www.nationalgeographic.com



www.dalesrocks.org.uk



www.sandatlas.org

Examine the photographs above and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Match each of the photographs **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** with the landform in the table below that best matches it.

Landform	Letter
Glacial erratic	
U-shaped valley	
Sea stack	
V-shaped valley	

- (ii) Which of the following processes is most associated with the formation of a sea stack?

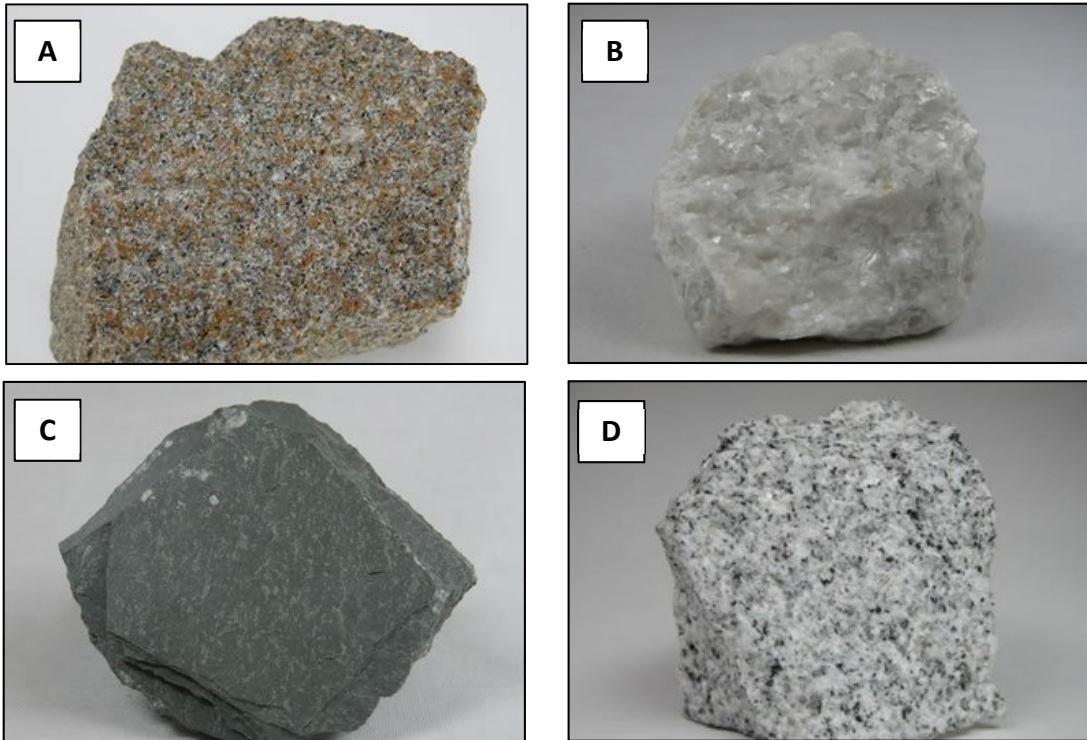
Tick (✓) the correct box.

Erosion ☐

Deposition ☐

[10m]

4. Rocks



Amended from www.geology.com

Examine the photographs above. Complete the table below by answering each of the following questions. Some of the table has been completed for you.

- (i) Match each of the photographs **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** with the rock type that best matches it in the table below.
- (ii) State whether each rock type is an igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic rock.

Q.4 (i) Letter	Rock type	Q.4 (ii) Igneous/Sedimentary/Metamorphic
A	Sandstone	
	Marble	
D	Granite	
	Slate	Metamorphic

[10m]

5. Map Skills

Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend accompanying this paper, and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Lough Corrib is located in which area of the Ordnance Survey map?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

South west ☐

North east ☐

- (ii) What is the approximate area of Lough Corrib that can be seen on the Ordnance Survey map?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

7 km² ☐

12 km² ☐

[10m]

6. Ordnance Survey Map

Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend accompanying this paper, and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Name the feature shown at each of the following grid references:

M 144 421:
M 037 445:
M 124 422:

- (ii) What does the letter N stand for in relation to the N59 road?

--

- (iii) Draw the Ordnance Survey map symbol for a viewpoint in the space below.

--

[10m]

7. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Oughterard accompanying this paper.

Indicate whether the following statements are true or false by ticking (✓) the correct box.

	True	False
(i) There is a lake in the right foreground.	☐	☐
(ii) There is a football pitch in the left background.	☐	☐
(iii) There is an area of woodland in the right foreground.	☐	☐
(iv) There is a car park in the right middleground.	☐	☐
(v) There is a housing estate in the centre foreground.	☐	☐

[10m]

8. Regions

Match the **type of region** with the **example of the region** that best matches it, by writing the correct letter in each case, in the table below.

Letter	Type of Region
A	Administrative region
B	Cultural region in Ireland defined by language
C	Geomorphological region
D	City/Urban region
E	Climatic region

Example of Region	Letter
Gaeltacht	
Cool Temperate Oceanic	
Longford County Council	
Brussels	
The Burren	

[10m]

9. European Union

Current Members of the European Union and the year they joined

Year	Countries			
1957	Belgium	Germany	Luxembourg	
	France	Italy	The Netherlands	
1973	Denmark	Ireland		
1981	Greece			
1986	Portugal	Spain		
1995	Austria	Finland	Sweden	
2004	Cyprus	Czechia	Estonia	Slovenia
	Hungary	Latvia	Lithuania	
	Malta	Poland	Slovakia	
2007	Bulgaria	Romania		
2013	Croatia			

Examine the table above showing the year that each of the current members joined the European Union and answer each of the following questions.

(i) In what year did Ireland join the European Union?

(ii) How many countries joined the European Union in 1995?

(iii) What country is the most recent member of the European Union?

(iv) In what year did ten countries join the European Union?

(v) State **one** advantage of European Union membership.

[10m]

10. Weather Charts

- (i) Match each of the weather chart symbols with the feature of weather that best matches it, by writing the correct letter, in each case in the table below.

Letter	Symbol
A	
B	
C	
D	

Feature of Weather	Letter
Warm front	
High pressure system	
Low pressure system	
Occluded front	

- (ii) What is another name for a high pressure system?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

Depression ☐

Anticyclone ☐

[10m]

11. Graphical Interpretation



Amended from www.cso.ie

Examine the infographic above on employment, occupations and commuting in Ireland in 2022 and answer each of the following questions.

(i) What percentage (%) of the Irish workforce were working from home?

(ii) Which area of Ireland had the lowest percentage (%) of people working from home?

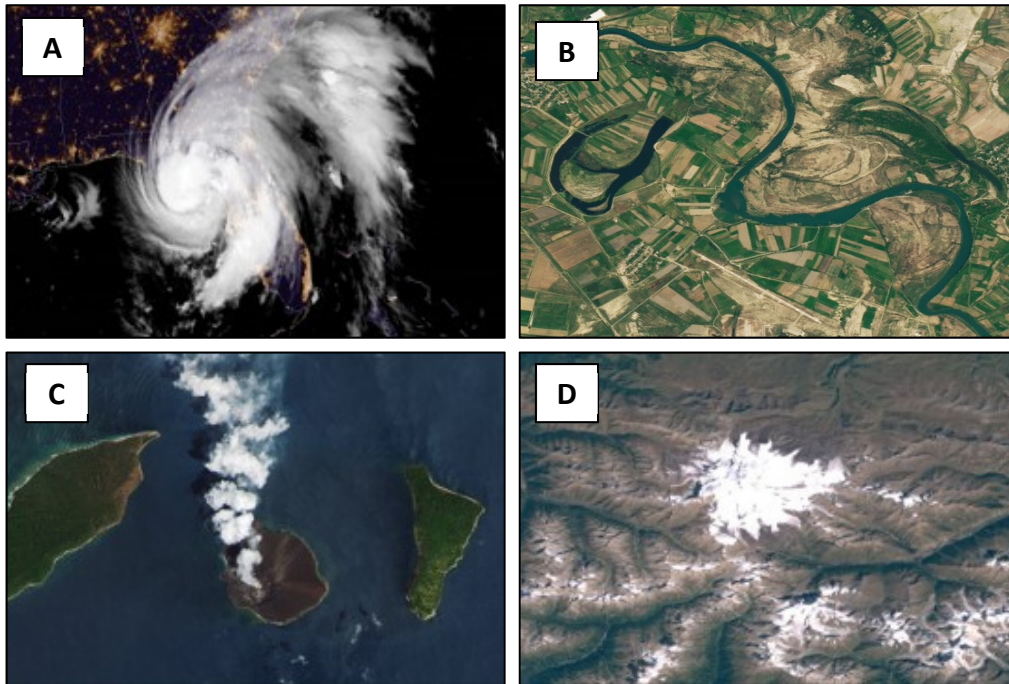
(iii) What was the main way of commuting to work?

(iv) How many people were employed in 2022?

(v) State **one** impact of Ireland having a large number of retired people.

[10m]

12. Satellite Interpretation



Amended from www.earthobservatory.nasa.gov

Examine the satellite images above and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Match each of the images **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** with the description that best matches it in the table below.

Description	Letter
Snowcapped Mount Elbrus, Russia	
Hurricane Debby, USA	
Anak Krakatoa volcano, Indonesia	
River Kura, Azerbaijan	

- (ii) What is the name given to a volcano that has not erupted in a long time but could erupt again?
Tick (✓) the correct box.

Dormant ☐

Extinct ☐

[10m]

Answerbook for PART TWO

Instructions

Questions for **PART TWO** are supplied separately.

Start each question on a new page. Write the question number in the box at the top of each page.

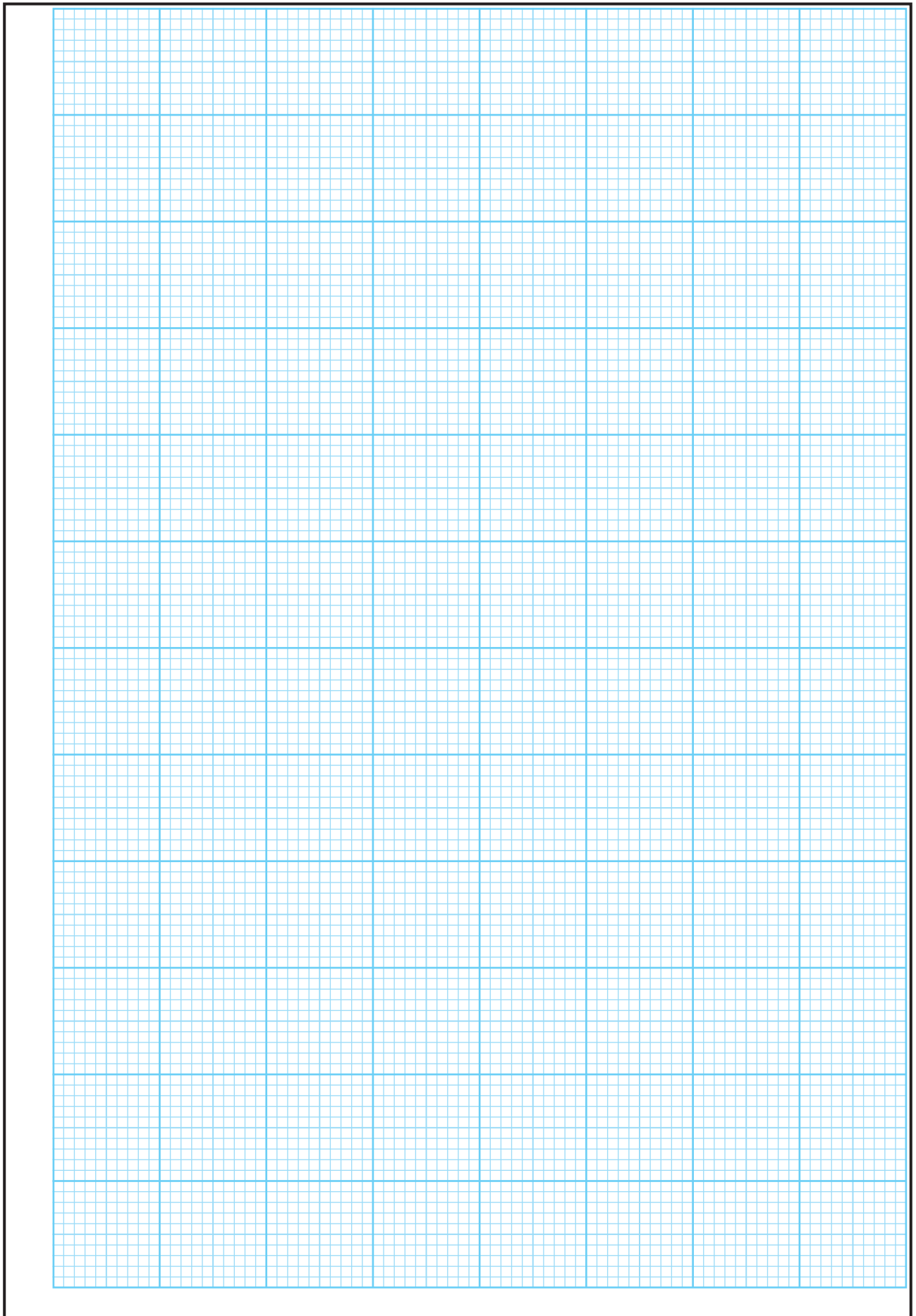
Use the left-hand column to label each part, as shown below.

Question		0 4	Start each question on a new page
Part			
(a)			
(b)(i)			
(b)(ii)			

Four pages of graph paper are provided on the next four pages of this answerbook. On pages with graph paper, the box for the question number is at the bottom of the page.

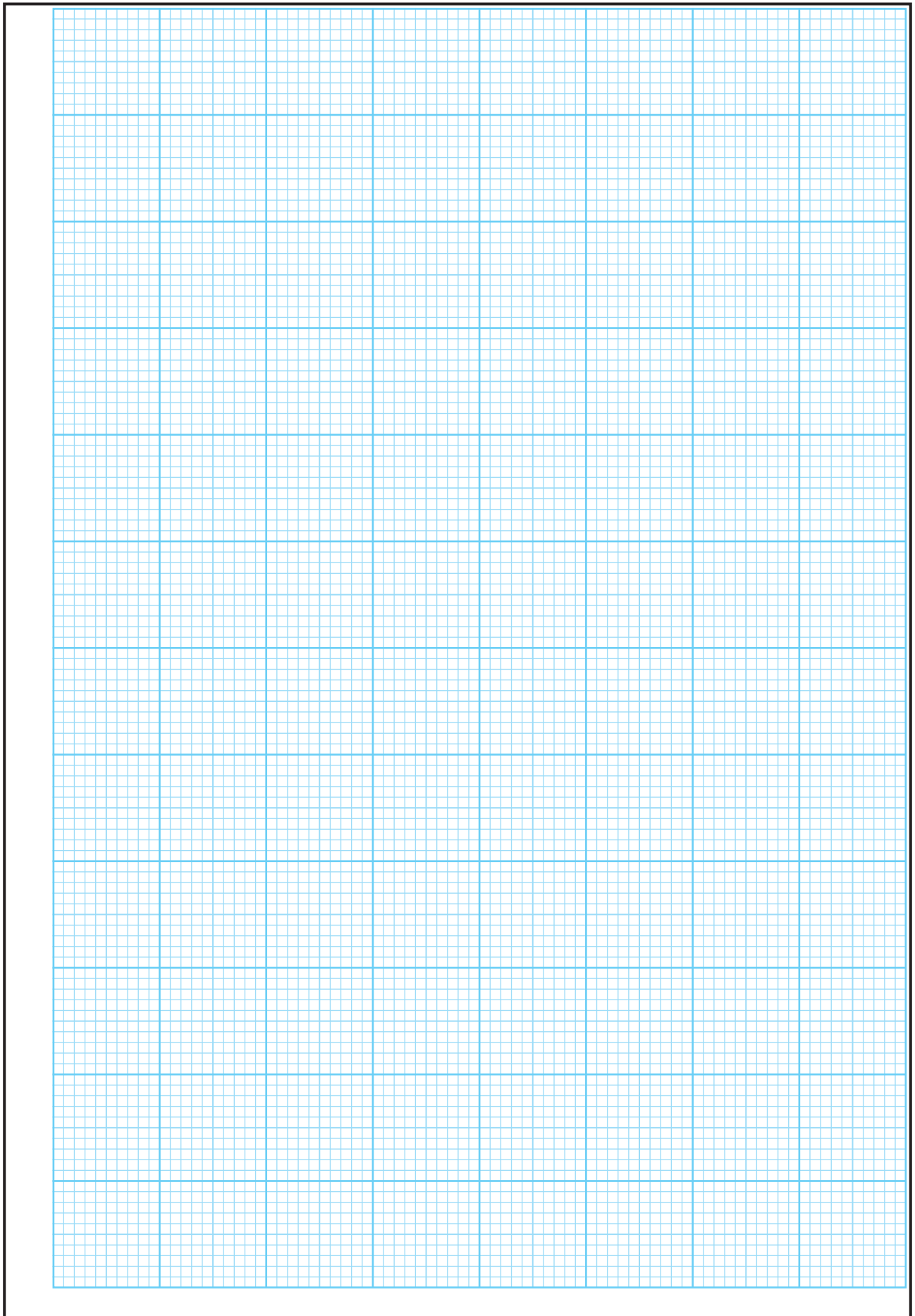
You do not need to use all of the pages in this answerbook. If you run out of space in this answerbook, you may ask the superintendent for more paper or graph paper.

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



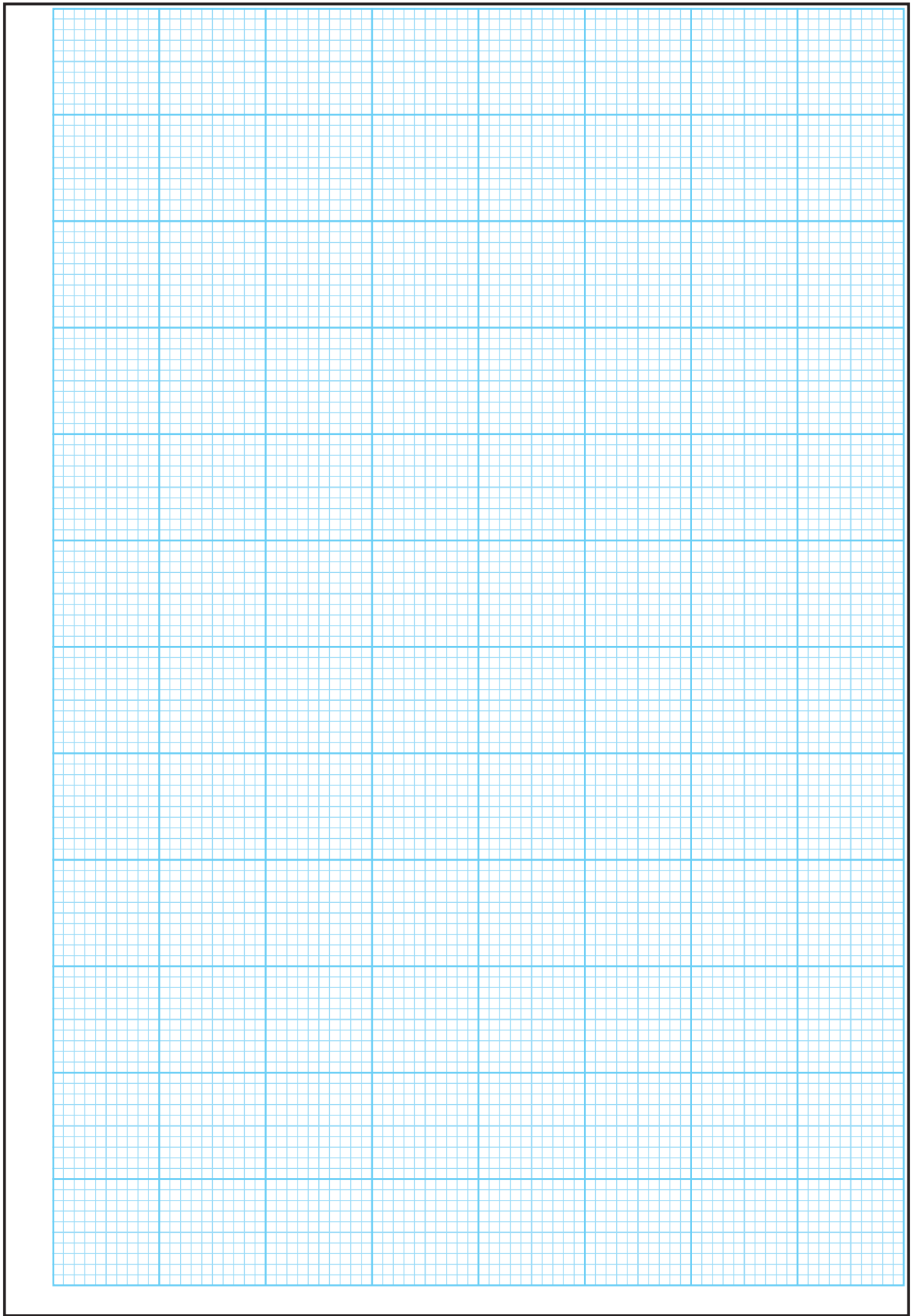
Question

☐☐

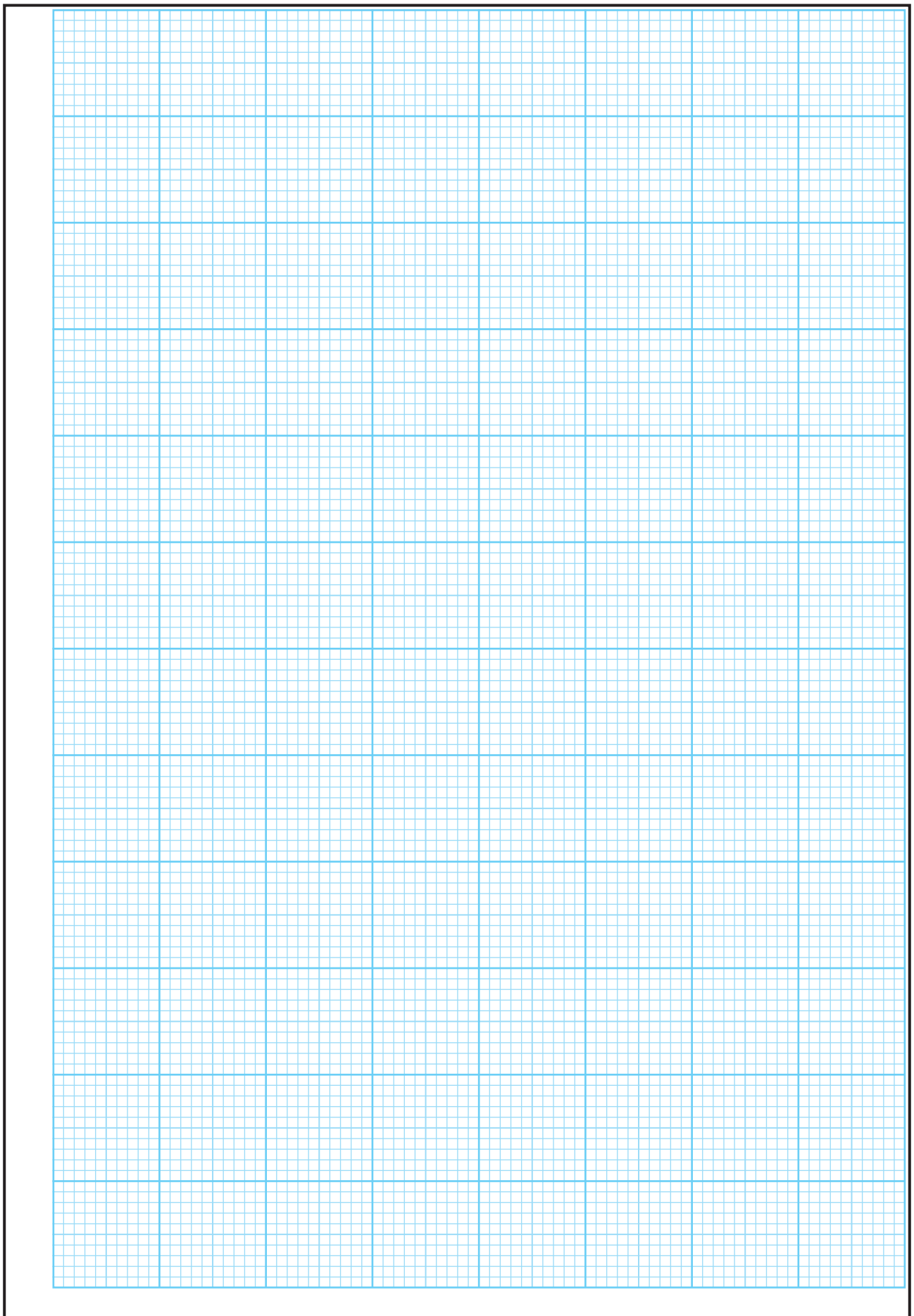


Question

----------------------	----------------------



Question



Question

☐☐

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

--	--

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Do not write on this page

Copyright notice

This examination paper may contain text or images for which the State Examinations Commission is not the copyright owner, and which may have been adapted, for the purpose of assessment, without the authors' prior consent. This examination paper has been prepared in accordance with Section 53(5) of the *Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000*. Any subsequent use for a purpose other than the intended purpose is not authorised. The Commission does not accept liability for any infringement of third-party rights arising from unauthorised distribution or use of this examination paper.

Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

Geography Part One and Answerbook

Friday 6 June

Morning 9:30 - 12:20



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Geography

Part Two

Ordinary Level

Friday 6 June

Morning 9:30 – 12:20

400 marks

Do not hand this up.

This document will not be returned to the
State Examinations Commission.

PART TWO – STRUCTURED QUESTIONS – 300 MARKS

You must attempt **THREE** questions. You must answer one question from two different sections below:

- Section 1: **Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment** (Questions 1-3)
- Section 2: **Regional Geography** (Questions 4-6)
- Section 3: **Electives** (Questions 7-12)

The third question can be from any section.

All questions carry equal marks.

THESE QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED IN THE ANSWERBOOK CONTAINING PART ONE

SECTION 1
PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Questions 1 to 3

All questions carry 100 marks.

Question 1

1A. Ordnance Survey Map

Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend accompanying this paper.

Draw a sketch map of the area shown on the Ordnance Survey map.

On it, **show** and **label** each of the following:

- Lough Corrib
- The N59 road
- An area of coniferous plantation in the south east of the map
- The entire area of land above 200 metres at M 03 42
- Inishshanboe Island.

[30m]

1B. Landform Development

Answer (i) or (ii).

(i) Explain, with the aid of diagrams, the formation of any **two** landforms.

Or

(ii) Describe and explain any **two** processes of mass movement.

[40m]

1C. Human Interaction with the Rock Cycle

Describe and explain how humans interact with the rock cycle with reference to **one** of the following:

- Quarrying
- Mining
- Oil/Gas exploitation
- Geothermal energy production.

[30m]

Question 2

2A. Volcanoes

Volcanic Activity in Hawaii, USA



Hawaii is known worldwide as an active volcanic island, located in the Pacific Ocean.

Hawaii is located at a hotspot and experiences regular volcanic eruptions. The hotspot is responsible for these eruptions.

The Kilauea volcano, in the south east of the island, is one of the most active volcanoes in the world. It erupted three times in 2024.

Volcanoes are a huge tourism attraction for Hawaii and bring many tourists to the island every year. However, some tours were cancelled in 2024 as lava, toxic gasses and smoke erupted from Kilauea.

Amended from www.nps.gov

Examine the report above and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) In which ocean is Hawaii located?
- (ii) What is responsible for the eruptions mentioned in the article?
- (iii) How many times did Kilauea erupt in 2024?
- (iv) List **two** effects of a volcanic eruption.
- (v) Explain briefly **one** way to limit the damage caused by a volcanic eruption.

[30m]

2B. Rocks

- (i) Name **two** examples of sedimentary rocks.
- (ii) State **two** uses of sedimentary rocks.
- (iii) Describe and explain how sedimentary rocks are formed.

[40m]

2C. Human Interaction with Surface Processes

Examine how humans interact with **one** of the following surface processes:

- River processes
- Coastal processes
- Mass movement processes.

[30m]

Question 3

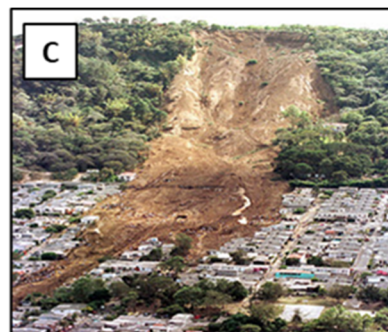
3A. Surface Processes



www.booking.com



www.worldofwaterfalls.com



www.britannica.com

Examine the photographs above and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) In your answer book, match each of the letters **A**, **B** and **C** on the photographs above, with the feature that best matches it from the list below:
- Waterfall
 - Landslide
 - Beach.
- (ii) In your answer book, match each of the letters **A**, **B** and **C** on the photographs above, with the process most associated with its formation from the list below:
- Coastal deposition
 - River erosion
 - Mass movement.
- (iii) Name **one** process of river erosion.
- (iv) Explain briefly the process of *longshore drift*.

[30m]

3B. Weathering

- (i) Name any **two** factors that influence weathering.
- (ii) Describe and explain any **two** of the following types of weathering:
- Freeze-thaw action
 - Carbonation
 - Onion weathering.

[40m]

3C. Plate Tectonics

- (i) Name **two** examples of tectonic plates.
- (ii) Name **two** types of plate boundary.
- (iii) Describe and explain what happens at plate boundaries.

[30m]

SECTION 2
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Questions 4 to 6

All questions carry 100 marks.

Question 4

4A. European Region

Draw a sketch map of a **European** region (**not in Ireland**) that you have studied.

On it, **show** and **name** each of the following:

- **One** named river in this region
- **Two** named towns or cities in this region
- **One** named area of relief (upland or lowland) in this region.

[30m]

4B. Secondary Economic Activity in an Irish Region

Answer each of the following questions with reference to an **Irish** region that you have studied.

- (i) Name **one** example of a secondary economic activity in this region.
- (ii) Explain the advantages that this region has for the development of this secondary economic activity.
- (iii) Describe **one** challenge faced by this secondary economic activity in this region.

[40m]

4C. Regions and Culture

The culture of a region can often be determined by the following factors:

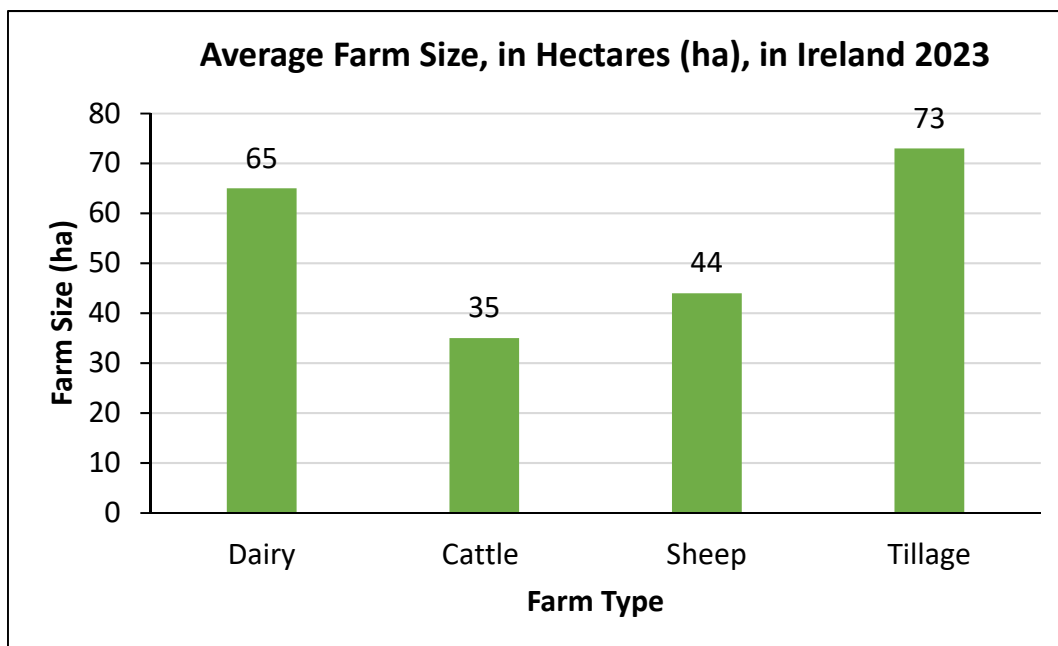
Religion	Language	Politics
Music/Dance		Sport/Games

Describe and explain the importance of culture in any **one** region that you have studied.

[30m]

Question 5

5A. Agriculture in Ireland



Amended from www.teagasc.ie

Examine the chart above showing the average size of Irish farms in hectares (ha) in 2023 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Which farm type had the smallest average farm size?
- (ii) What was the average size (in hectares) of tillage farms?
- (iii) Calculate the difference (in hectares) between the average dairy farm size and the average sheep farm size.
- (iv) State **two** products made from the output of a dairy farm.
- (v) Briefly explain the importance of farming to the Irish economy.

[30m]

5B. Economic Activities – European Region

Explain the development of any **two** of the following with reference to a **European** region (**not in Ireland**) that you have studied:

- The reasons why **tourists** are attracted to the region
- The importance of **manufacturing** to the region
- The development of **transport** in the region.

[40m]

5C. Regional Problems

Describe and explain **two** problems faced by any region that you have studied.

[30m]

Question 6

6A. Employment in Europe

Percentage (%) of working population in selected EU countries, 2023

Country	Total Working Population (%)	Male Working Population (%)	Female Working Population (%)
Netherlands	83	87	80
Ireland	79	84	74
Finland	78	78	78
Italy	66	76	57

Amended from www.europa.eu

Examine the table above with information on the percentage (%) of working population in employment in selected European Union countries in 2023 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) What percentage (%) of Ireland's male working population were in employment?
- (ii) In which country were 78% of the female working population in employment?
- (iii) Calculate the difference between the percentage (%) of the male working population in employment and the percentage (%) of the female working population in employment in Italy.
- (iv) State **two** benefits to a country of a high percentage of its working population being in employment.
- (v) Explain briefly **one** reason why the percentage of males in employment is often higher than the percentage of females in employment.

[30m]

6B. Primary Economic Activity in a Continental / Sub-Continental Region

Answer each of the following questions with reference to a **Continental / Sub-Continental** region (**not in Europe**) that you have studied.

- (i) Name **one** primary economic activity that contributes to the economy of this region.
- (ii) Explain the advantages that this region has for the development of the primary economic activity named in part (i) above.
- (iii) Describe **one** problem faced by this primary economic activity in this region.

[40m]

6C. Urban Regions

Describe and explain the reasons for the growth of any **one** urban area that you have studied.

[30m]

SECTION 3

ELECTIVES

Questions 7 to 12

Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities (Questions 7, 8 and 9)

Patterns and Processes in the Human Environment (Questions 10, 11 and 12)

All questions carry 100 marks.

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Questions 7 to 9

All questions carry 100 marks.

Question 7

7A. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Oughterard accompanying this paper.

Draw a sketch map of the area shown on the aerial photograph.

On it, **show** and **label** each of the following:

- A lake in the background
- **Two** connecting streets in the left foreground
- A field used for agriculture in the right background
- An industrial building in the centre middleground
- A sports ground.

[30m]

7B. Economic Activity - Environmental Pollution

- (i) Name **one** example of environmental pollution caused by economic activity.
- (ii) Explain the causes **and** effects of this environmental pollution.
- (iii) Describe how this environmental pollution could be reduced.

[40m]

7C. Economic Development – Developed Economy

Describe and explain the development of **one** of the following economic activities with reference to a developed economy that you have studied:

- Tourism
- Financial services
- Service and footloose industries.

[30m]

Question 8

8A. Employment in Ireland

Number of new jobs created by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA)
in selected counties in 2018, 2020 and 2022

County	2018	2020	2022
Cavan	16	30	39
Dublin	13,035	12,174	17,207
Limerick	1,491	787	1,125
Roscommon	126	120	126

Amended from www.oireachtas.ie

Examine the table above showing the number of new jobs created by the IDA in selected counties in 2018, 2020 and 2022 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) How many new jobs were created in Limerick in 2020?
- (ii) Which county had the lowest number of new jobs created in 2018?
- (iii) Which county had 126 new jobs created in 2022?
- (iv) Calculate the difference between the number of new jobs created in Dublin in 2020 and 2022.
- (v) Explain briefly why the number of new jobs created in Dublin and Limerick is much higher than the number of new jobs created in Cavan and Roscommon.

[30m]

8B. Ordnance Survey Map

Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend accompanying this paper.

Imagine you have been given the task of finding a suitable location for a new factory within the area covered by the map.

- (i) State, using a six-figure grid reference, where you would locate the factory.
- (ii) Explain the reasons why you chose this location.
- (iii) Describe **one** disadvantage of locating the factory at this location.

[40m]

8C. Colonialism

- (i) Name **one** developing economy which has been colonised **and** name the country that colonised it.
- (ii) Describe and explain the effects that colonialism has had on this developing economy.

[30m]

Question 9

9A. Ireland's Economy

New Car Registrations in Ireland in 2023 by Engine Type

Engine Type	Percentage (%) Market Share
Petrol	30
Diesel	22
Petrol/Diesel Hybrid	21
Electric	18
Petrol/Diesel Plug-in Hybrid	9

Amended from www.simi.ie

Examine the data above on new car registrations in Ireland in 2023 by engine type and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Using graph paper, draw a suitable graph to illustrate this data.
- (ii) In your answer book, explain briefly what is meant by the term *renewable energy*.

[30m]

9B. Multinational Company

- (i) Name **one** multinational company that you have studied **and** state where this multinational company is located in Ireland.
- (ii) Name **one** product manufactured by this multinational company **and** name **one** country (other than Ireland) where this product is sold.
- (iii) Explain the advantages of being located in Ireland for this multinational company.
- (iv) Explain **one** reason why this multinational company might decide to locate to another country.

[40m]

9C. Ireland and the European Union

Explain how being a member of the European Union has impacted on the Irish economy.

[30m]

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Questions 10 to 12

All questions carry 100 marks.

Question 10

10A. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Oughterard accompanying this paper.

Draw a sketch map of the area shown on the aerial photograph.

On it, **show** and **label** each of the following:

- A car park
- The Central Business District (CBD)
- A church
- An area of semi-detached housing in the centre foreground
- An area of recreational activity.

[30m]

10B. Migration – Ireland

Migration takes place due to push factors and pull factors.

- Name **one** push factor **and one** pull factor associated with migration.
- Discuss the positive impacts of migration on Ireland.
- Discuss the negative impacts of migration on Ireland.

[40m]

10C. Traffic Congestion

- Name **one** example of an urban area where traffic congestion is a problem.
- Describe and explain the measures that can be taken in urban areas to solve the problem of traffic congestion.

[30m]

Question 11

11A. Population Characteristics

Population figures for selected EU countries, 2022

Country	Total Population (millions)	Population Density (persons per km ²)	Birth Rate (per 1,000 of population)
Ireland	5.2	75	10.4
Belgium	11.6	384	9.8
Lithuania	2.8	45	7.8
Greece	10.5	80	7.3

Amended from www.europa.eu

Examine the table above showing population figures for selected European Union countries in 2022 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) What was the population (in millions) of Ireland?
- (ii) Which country had the highest population density?
- (iii) In which country was the birth rate 7.3?
- (iv) Calculate the difference (in millions) between the total population of Lithuania and the total population of Greece.
- (v) Explain briefly **one** impact of high birth rates.

[30m]

11B. Developing World City

- (i) Name **one** city in the developing world that is growing rapidly.
- (ii) State **three** factors that influence the growth of this developing world city.
- (iii) Describe and explain any **three** problems associated with the rapid growth of this developing world city.

[40m]

11C. Population Dynamics

‘Population change is influenced by many factors including income levels, culture and society and medical technology.’

Describe and explain the factors that influence population change.

[30m]

Question 12

12A. Urban Population

Percentage (%) of the Global Population
Living in Urban Areas, 1982-2022

Year	Percentage (%) of Global Population
1982	40
1992	44
2002	48
2012	53
2022	57

Amended from www.worldbank.org

Examine the table above showing the percentage (%) of the global population living in urban areas between 1982 and 2022 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Using graph paper, draw a suitable graph to illustrate this data.
- (ii) In your answer book, explain briefly **one** impact of an increasing percentage (%) of the global population living in urban areas.

[30m]

12B. Rural Settlement Patterns

Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend accompanying this paper and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Name **three different** rural settlement patterns evident on the map **and** give a six-figure grid reference for the location of an example of each.
- (ii) Describe and explain each of the **three** rural settlement patterns named by you in part (i) above.

[40m]

12C. Urban Land-Use

- (i) Name **one** urban area you have studied.
- (ii) Name **two** land-uses in this urban area.
- (iii) Describe and explain how these urban land-uses have changed over time.

[30m]

Do not hand this up.

This document will not be returned to the
State Examinations Commission.

Copyright notice

This examination paper may contain text or images for which the State Examinations Commission is not the copyright owner, and which may have been adapted, for the purpose of assessment, without the authors' prior consent. This examination paper has been prepared in accordance with Section 53(5) of the *Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000*. Any subsequent use for a purpose other than the intended purpose is not authorised. The Commission does not accept liability for any infringement of third-party rights arising from unauthorised distribution or use of this examination paper

Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

Geography Part Two

Friday 6 June

Morning 9:30 – 12:20