



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate 2026

Marking Scheme

Design and Communication Graphics

Ordinary Level

Note to teachers and students on the use of published marking schemes

Marking schemes published by the State Examinations Commission are not intended to be standalone documents. They are an essential resource for examiners who receive training in the correct interpretation and application of the scheme. This training involves, among other things, marking samples of student work and discussing the marks awarded, so as to clarify the correct application of the scheme. The work of examiners is subsequently monitored by Advising Examiners to ensure consistent and accurate application of the marking scheme. This process is overseen by the Chief Examiner, usually assisted by a Chief Advising Examiner. The Chief Examiner is the final authority regarding whether or not the marking scheme has been correctly applied to any piece of candidate work.

Marking schemes are working documents. While a draft marking scheme is prepared in advance of the examination, the scheme is not finalised until examiners have applied it to candidates' work and the feedback from all examiners has been collated and considered in light of the full range of responses of candidates, the overall level of difficulty of the examination and the need to maintain consistency in standards from year to year. This published document contains the finalised scheme, as it was applied to all candidates' work.

In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with their Advising Examiners when in doubt.

Future Marking Schemes

Assumptions about future marking schemes on the basis of past schemes should be avoided. While the underlying assessment principles remain the same, the details of the marking of a particular type of question may change in the context of the contribution of that question to the overall examination in a given year. The Chief Examiner in any given year has the responsibility to determine how best to ensure the fair and accurate assessment of candidates' work and to ensure consistency in the standard of the assessment from year to year. Accordingly, aspects of the structure, detail and application of the marking scheme for a particular examination are subject to change from one year to the next without notice.



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Design and Communication Graphics

Ordinary Level

Marking Scheme

Note: Other valid solutions are acceptable and are marked accordingly.

Question A-1**MARKS****(a) Points on right hand side (11)**

- (i) Complete division of line CD4
- (ii) Complete division of line CV3
- (iii) Construction lines (2 sets)2
- (iv) Identify remaining points on RHS2

(b) Points on left hand side (3)

- (v) Locate points on LHS curve3

(c) Parabolic curve (4)

- (vi) Complete curve on RHS2
- (vii) Draw curve on LHS2
- (viii) **Presentation**2

Total = 20**Question A-2****MARKS****(a) Radius 18 circle (3)**

- (i) Draw R18 circle3

(b) Logo (15)

- (ii) Construct horizontal lines6
- (iii) Determine required widths3
- (iv) Complete the main body4
- (v) Complete the holder2
- (vi) **Presentation**2

Total = 20

Question A-3**MARKS****(a) Plan (6)**

- (i) Projection from auxiliary2
- (ii) Locate points in plan.....2
- (iii) Complete the plan2

(b) Elevation (12)

- (iv) Projection from plan.....3
- (v) Locate points in elevation.....3
- (vi) Complete the elevation6

- (vii) **Presentation**2

Total = 20**Question A-4****MARKS****Perspective (18)**

- (i) Radiate lines to correct vanishing points.....3
- (ii) Complete the base surface5
- (iii) Complete the seat surface.....3
- (iv) Complete the back surface4
- (v) Complete the top surface3

- (vi) **Presentation**2

Total = 20

Question B-1**MARKS****(a) Elevation (18)**

- (i) Draw outline **14**
(ii) Draw inner details **4**

(b) Plan (18)

- (iii) Draw outline **12**
(iv) Draw inner details **6**

(c) Auxiliary elevation (19)

- (v) X_1Y_1 line parallel to plan of surface A **1**
(vi) Projections from plan **1**
(vii) Transfer of heights from elevation **3**
(viii) Draw surface A **4**
(ix) Complete auxiliary elevation **10**

- (x) **Presentation** **5**

Total = 60

Question B-2**MARKS****(a) Initial setup (6)**

- (i) Draw equilateral triangle **3**
- (ii) Draw X, Y and Z axes **3**

(b) Elevation and Plan (14)

- (iii) Projections & Semicircle to set up elevation **4**
- (iv) Draw elevation in the correct position **4**
- (v) Projections & semi-circle (or 45° lines) to set up plan **4**
- (vi) Draw plan in the correct position **2**

(c) Axonometric Projection of Outline (16)

- (vii) Projections from elevation and plan **4**
- (viii) Axonometric projection of RHS surface **4**
- (ix) Axonometric projection LHS surface **4**
- (x) Axonometric projection of door **4**

(d) Axonometric Projection of semi-circular opening (19)

- (xi) Divisions on semi-circle in elevation **3**
- (xii) Corresponding divisions in plan **4**
- (xiii) Projections from elevation and plan **4**
- (xiv) Draw axonometric projection of the semi-circular curves **6**
- (xv) Complete the outline of the house **2**

- (xvi) **Presentation** **5**

Total = 60

Question B-3

(a) Given plan & elevation (23)

- (i) Draw the outline plan as given10
- (ii) Projections from plan3
- (iii) Draw the elevation as given10

(b) Interpenetration (18)

Interpenetration on Left Hand Side (9)

- (iv) Projection from LHS of elevation2
- (v) Locate points on LHS in plan4
- (vi) Complete LHS of plan3

Interpenetration on Right Hand Side (9)

- (vii) Projection from RHS of elevation3
- (viii) Locate points on RHS of plan2
- (ix) Complete RHS of plan4

(c) End view (14)

- (x) Transfer of widths from plan3
- (xi) Projection of heights from elevation3
- (xii) Complete the end view.....8
- (xiii) *Presentation*5

Total = 60

Question C-1**MARKS****(a) Profile (37)**

- (i) Measure heights and draw horizontal lines **13**
- (ii) Projections from intersections between line AB and contours **11**
- (iii) Draw the profile **13**

(b) Triangle CDE (8)

- (iv) Plan of CDE **3**
- (v) Elevation of CDE **5**

(c) Strike and dip (10)

- (vi) Horizontal line in elevation **1**
- (vii) Strike in plan **3**
- (viii) Viewing direction for dip **4**
- (ix) Determine dip (2 heights, edge view) **2**
- (x) **Presentation** **5**

Total = 60

Question C-2**MARKS****(a) Plan (27)**

- (i) Draw the table top.....4
- (ii) Draw outer circle6
- (iii) Draw inner circle6
- (iv) Division of inner circle5
- (v) Twelve elements6

(b) Elevation (20)

- (vi) Draw the inner and outer circles6
- (vii) Draw top of table.....3
- (viii) Projection of elements from plan4
- (ix) Locate extremities of elements4
- (x) Draw elements3

(c) Freehand curves in elevation (8)

- (xi) Draw freehand curves.....8
- (xii) **Presentation**5

Total = 60

Question C-3**MARKS****(a) Elevation and End view (26)**

- (i) Draw the elevation8
- (ii) Draw the edges of the end view6
- (iii) Establish centre and draw arc5
- (iv) Complete the end view7

(b) Plan (8)

- (v) Projections from elevation and end view4
- (vi) Draw the plan4

(c) Surface Development (21)

- (vii) Appropriate layout of surface development1
- (viii) Development of bottom surface3
- (ix) Development of front and back surfaces4
- (x) Development of the left and right surfaces6
- (xi) Development of the curved surface7

- (xii) **Presentation**5

Total = 60

Question C-4**MARKS****(a) Locus of a point (26)**

- (i) Set up given diagram (A, B, C & P) **10**
- (ii) Division of circle..... **4**
- (iii) Correct widths on line AB **4**
- (iv) Points on locus..... **4**
- (v) Draw locus **4**

(b) Displacement Diagram (29)

- (vi) 360° division (widths on displacement diagram) **5**
- (vii) Correct use of 70mm height **1**
- (viii) Establish follower position at 0°, 90°, 120°, 180°, and 360° **5**
- (ix) 0° to 90°, Rise 50 mm with Uniform Velocity **3**
- (x) 90° to 120°, Dwell **3**
- (xi) 120° to 180°, Rise 20 mm with Uniform Velocity **3**
- (xii) 180° to 360°, Fall 70 mm with UAR construction **5**
- (xiii) Complete Displacement Diagram **4**
- (xiv) **Presentation** **5**

Total = 60

Question C-5**MARKS*****Assembly (14)***

- (i) Relative positioning of components **10**
- (ii) Draw Section **4**

Body (8)

- (iii) Outline **8**

Lid (8)

- (iv) Outline **4**
- (v) Fillets **4**

Handle (12)

- (vi) Locate centre points for arcs **4**
- (vii) Outline **8**

Divider (7)

- (viii) Inner **7**

Drawing Completion (6)

- (ix) Hatching and Centrelines ... (5,1)..... **6**
- (x) ***Presentation*** **5**

Total = 60



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
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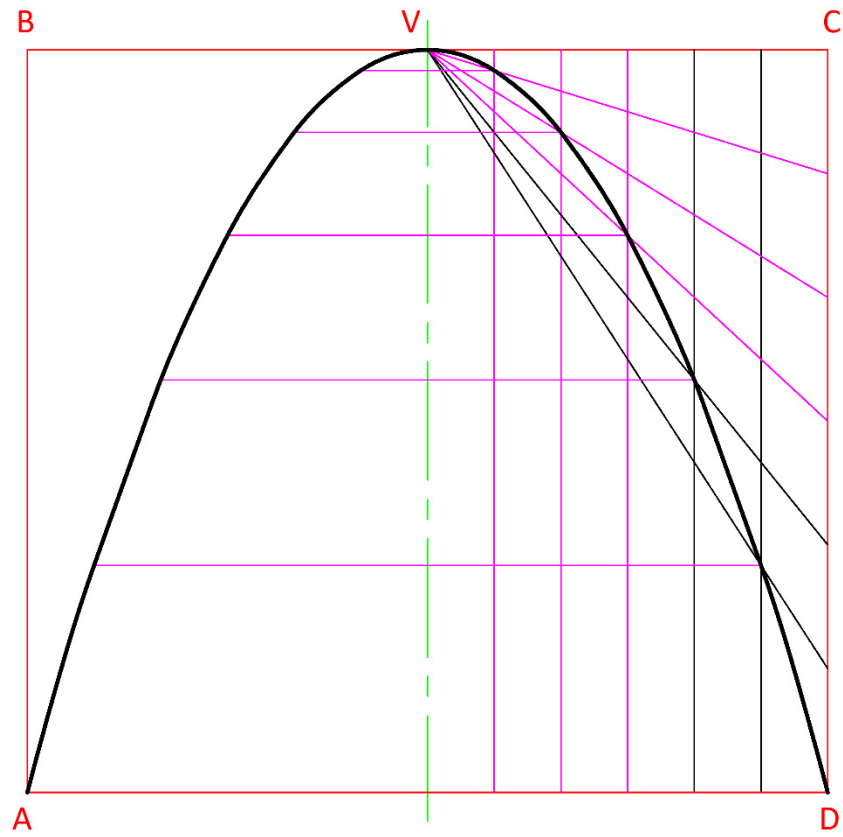
Design and Communication Graphics

Ordinary Level

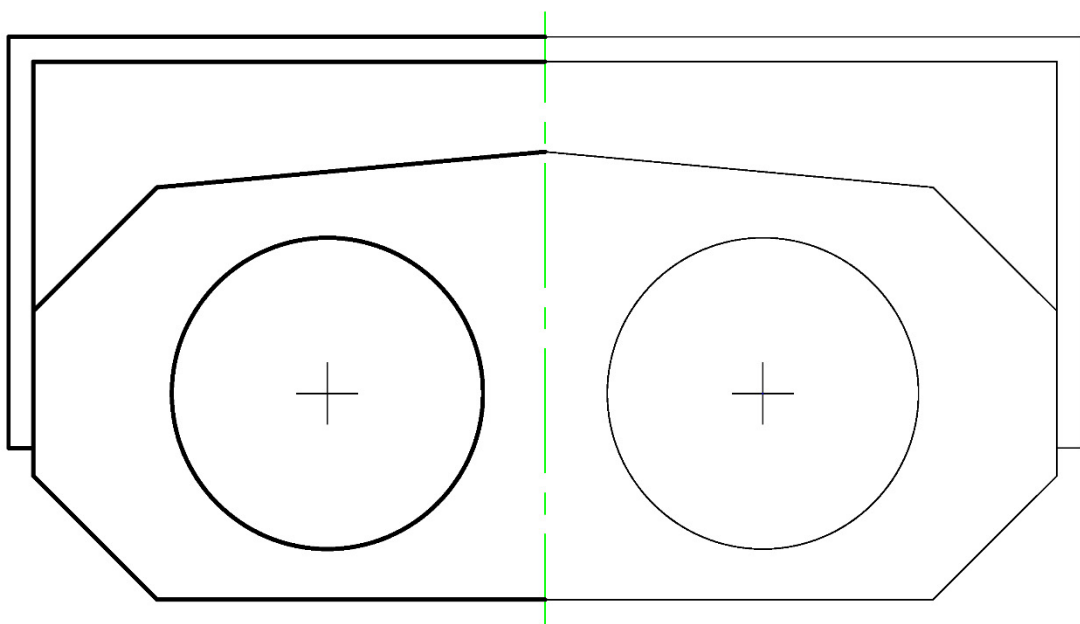
Sample Solutions

Note: Other valid solutions are acceptable and are marked accordingly.

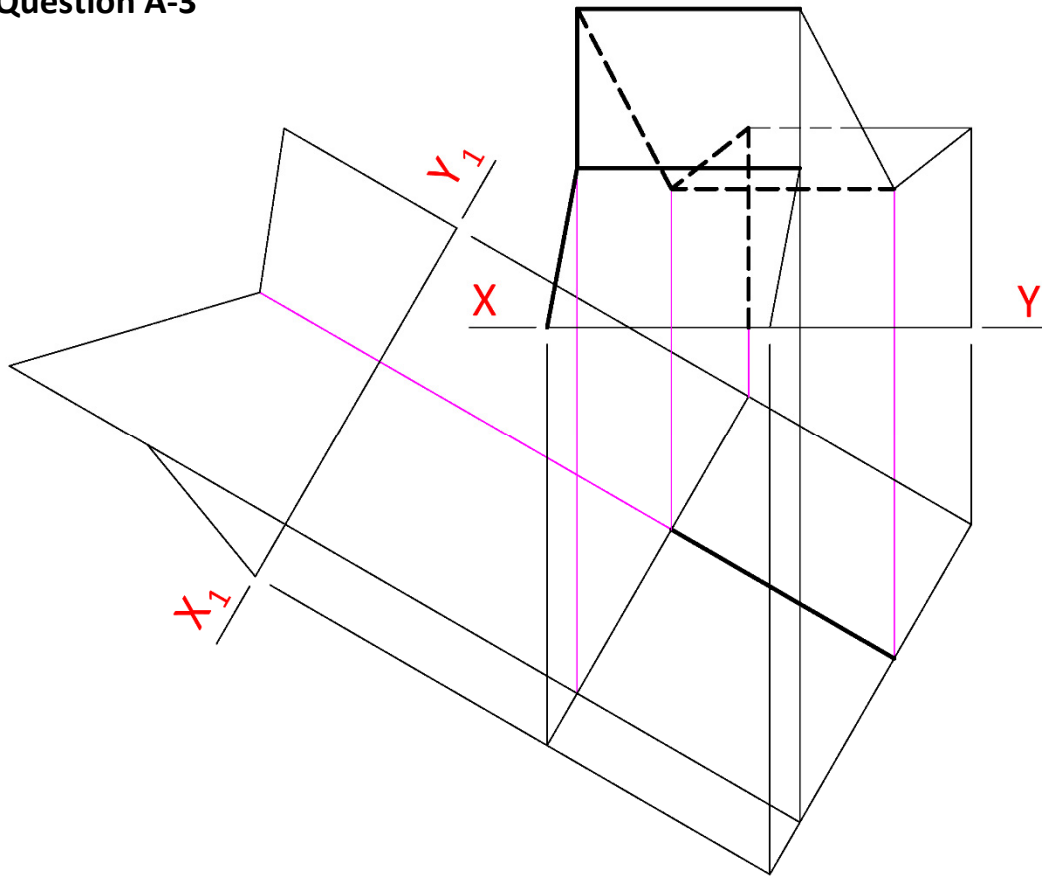
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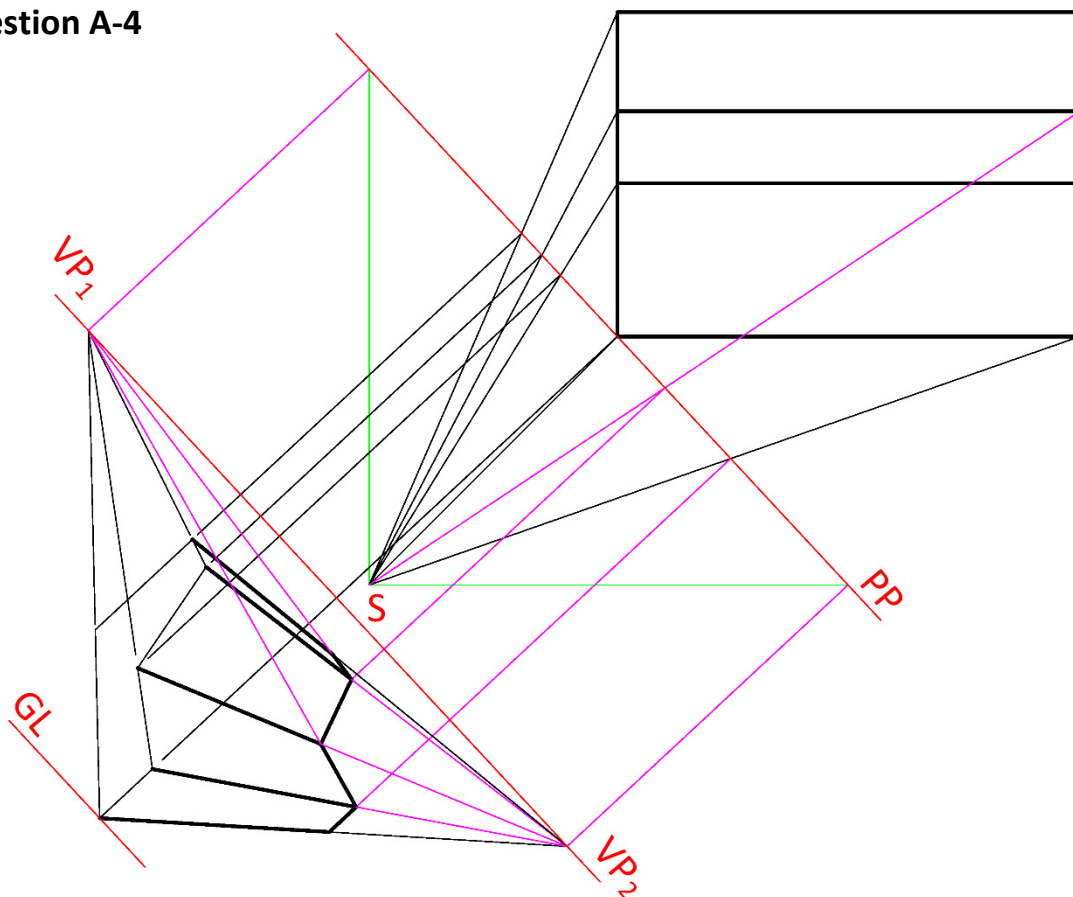
Question A-2

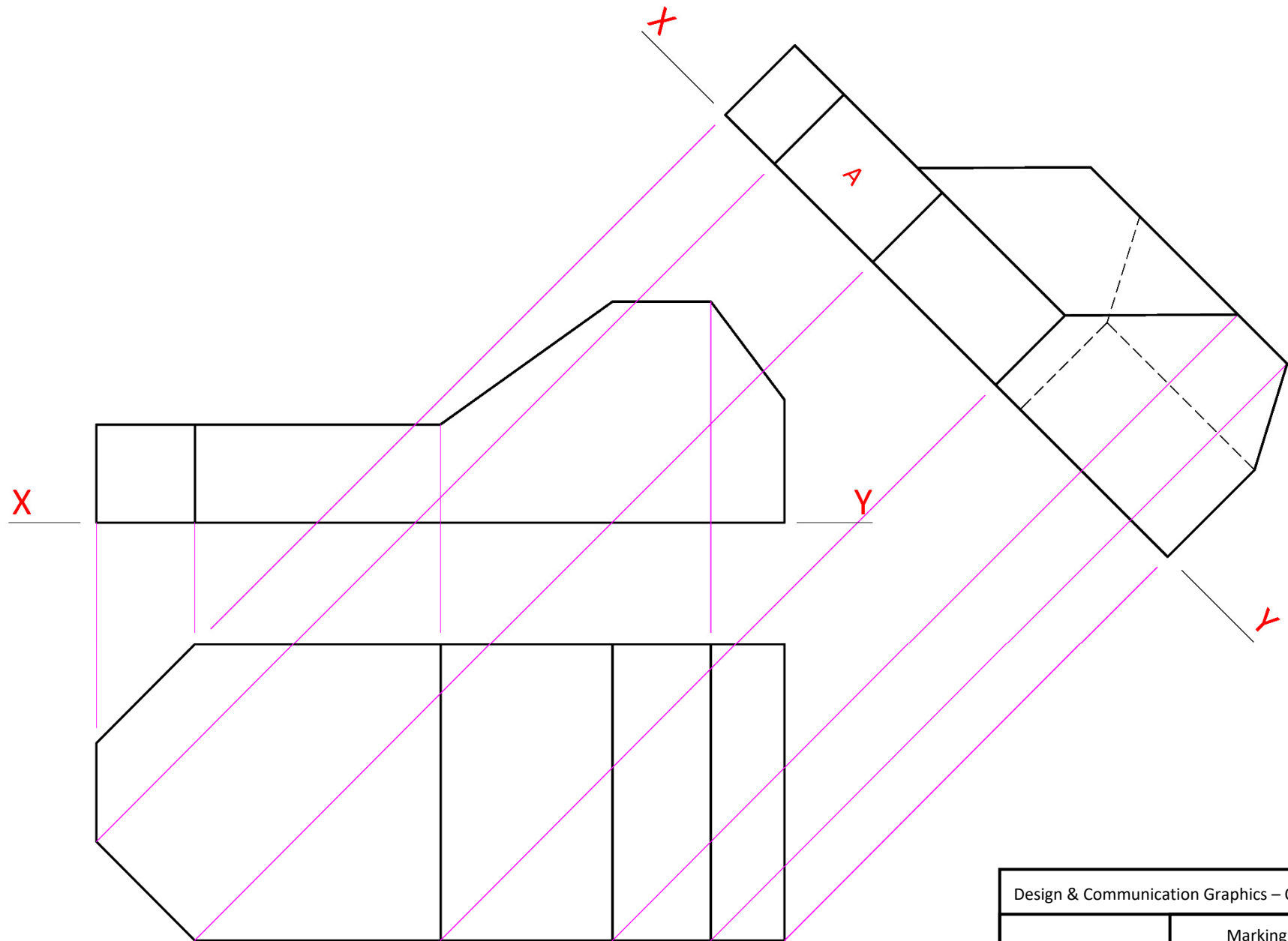


Question A-3

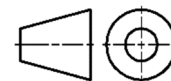


Question A-4





Design & Communication Graphics – Ordinary Level

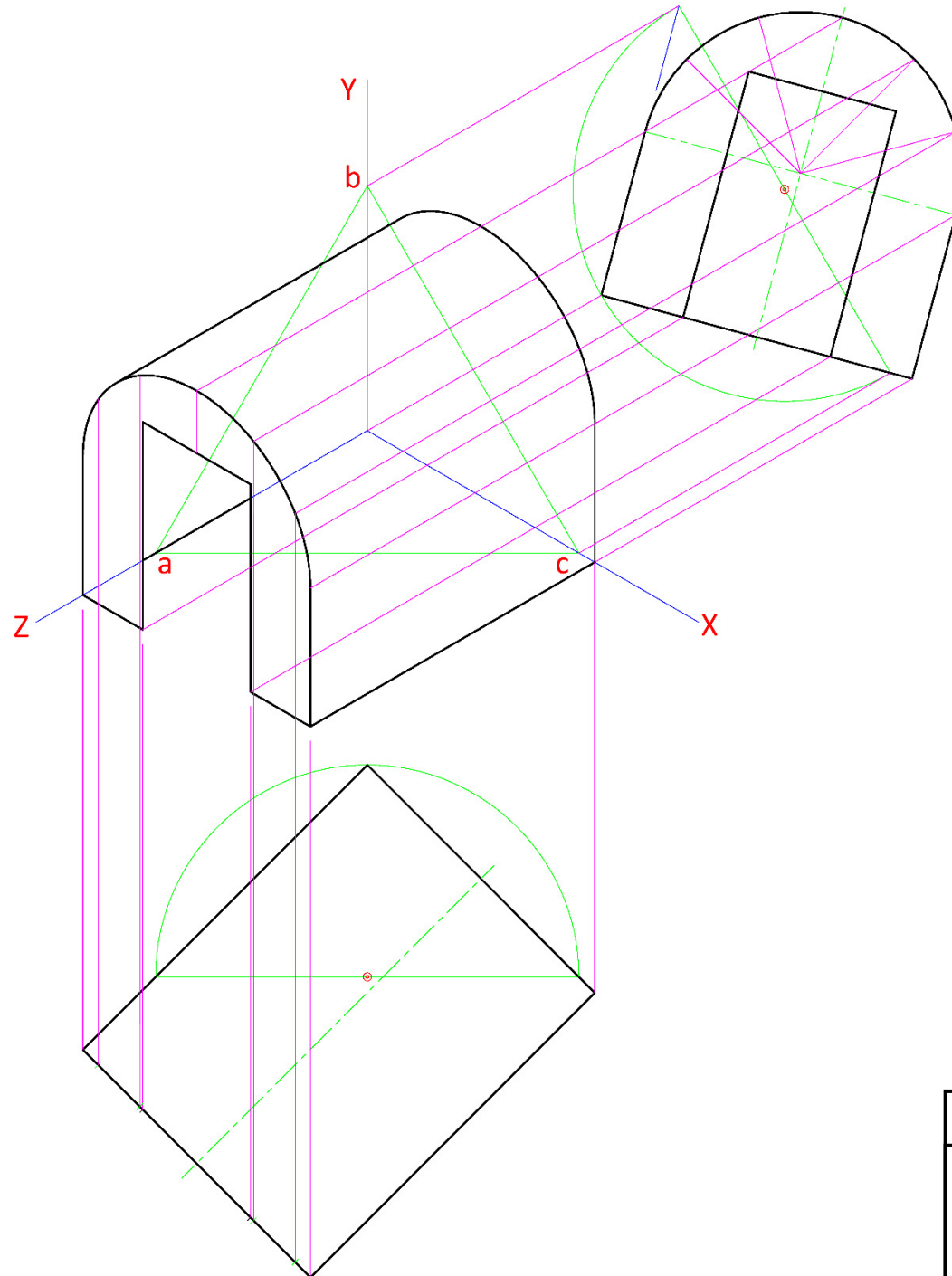


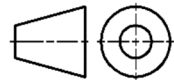
Marking Scheme

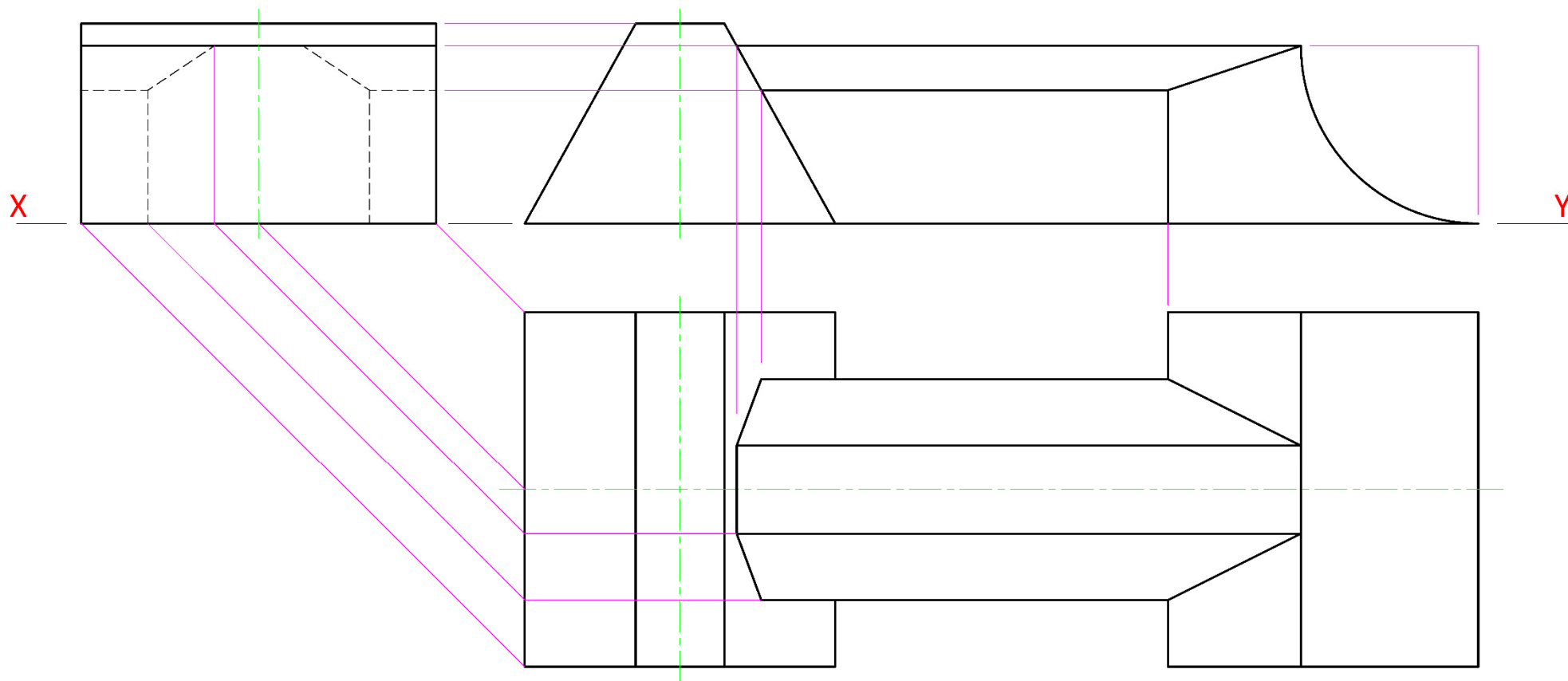
Question B-1

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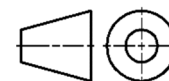
June 2026



Design & Communication Graphics – Ordinary Level		
	Marking Scheme	
	Question B-2	
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Design & Communication Graphics –Ordinary Level

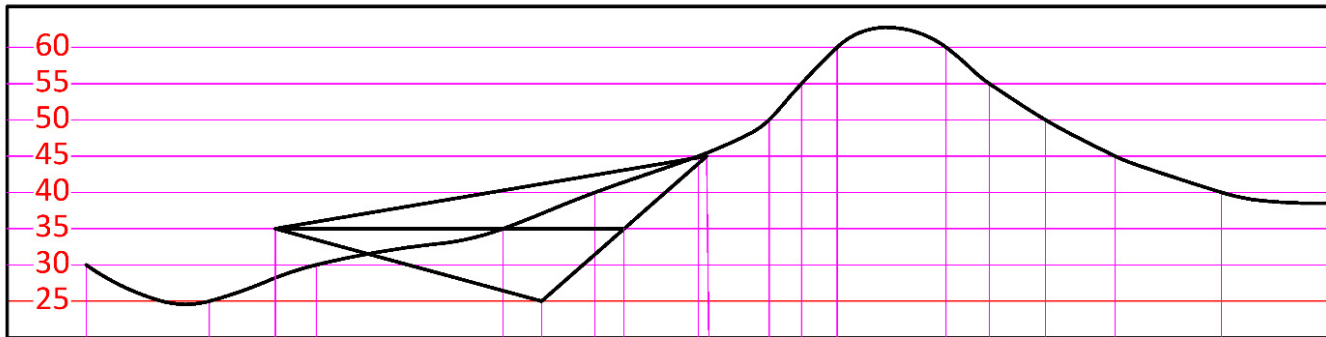


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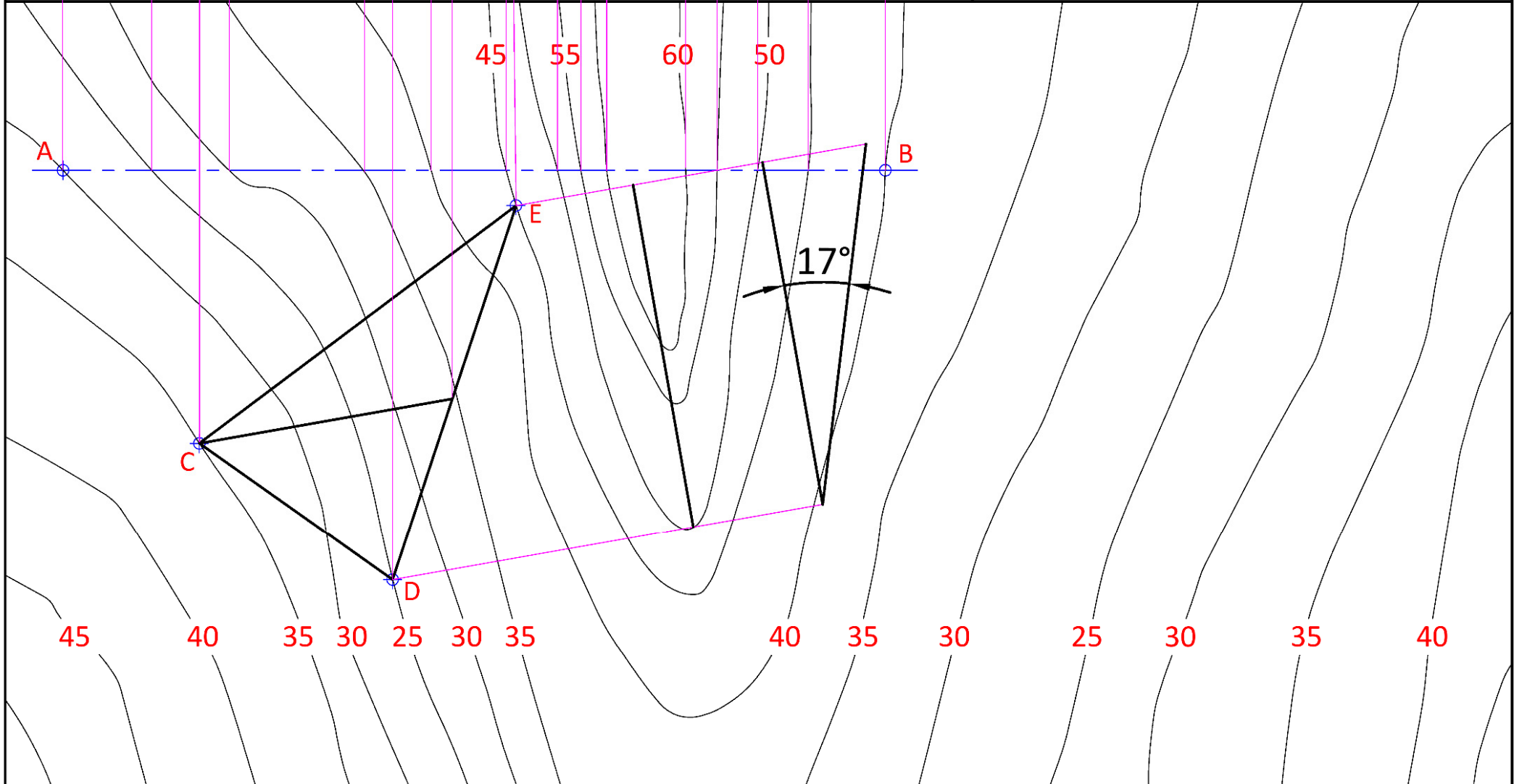
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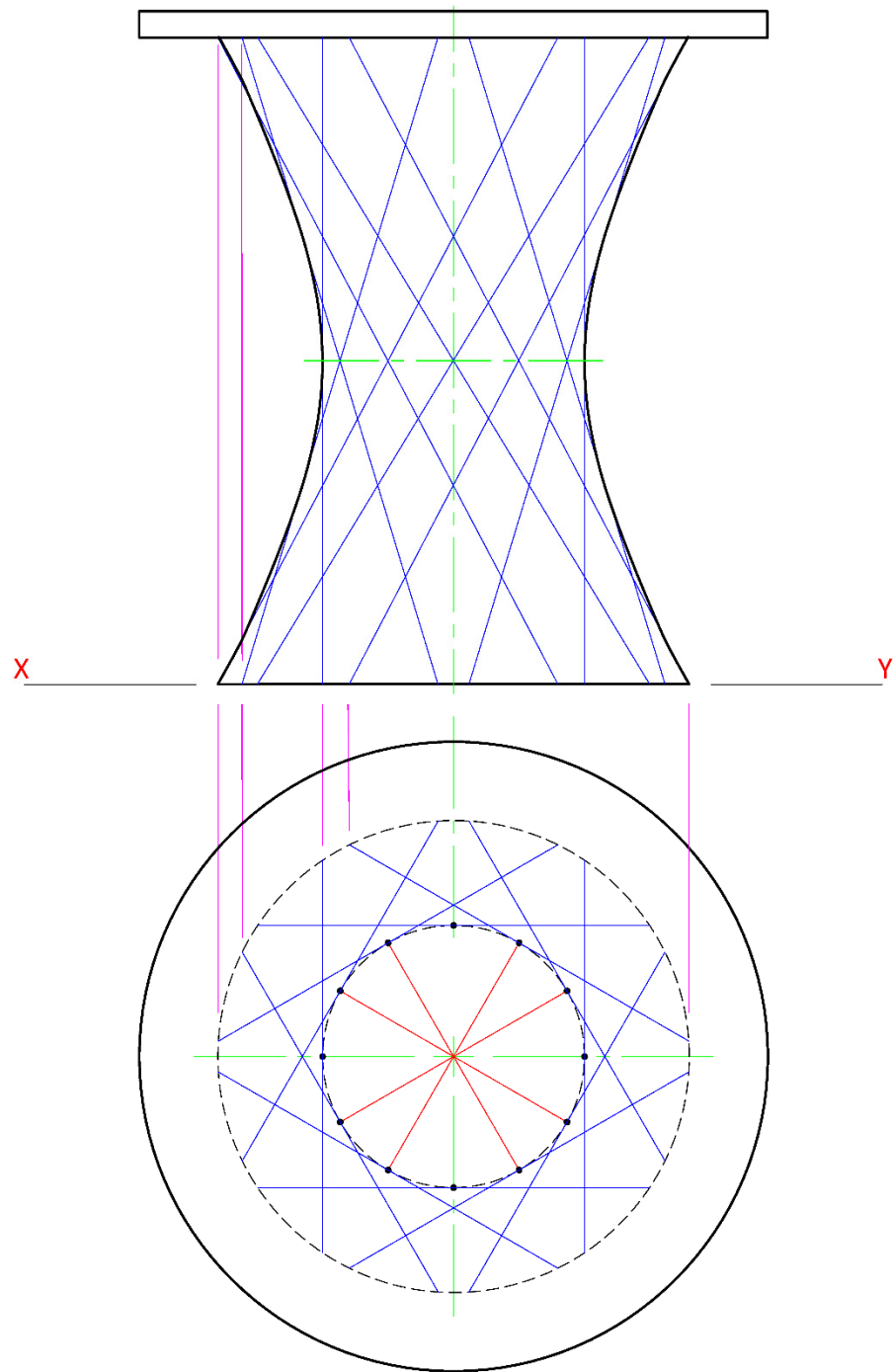
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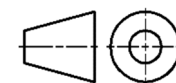


Design & Communication Graphics – Ordinary Level		
	Marking Scheme	
	Question C-1	
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Design & Communication Graphics – Ordinary Level

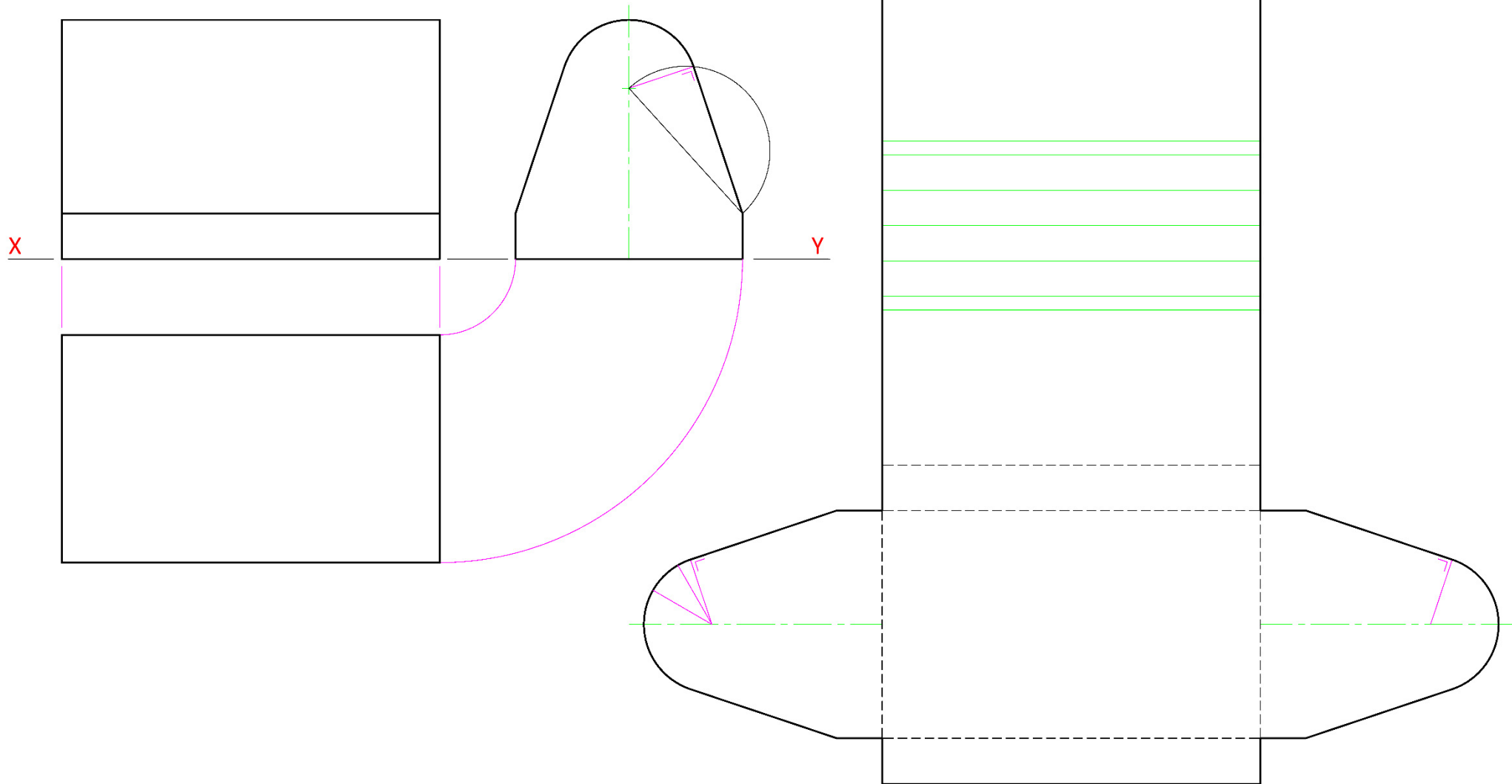


Marking Scheme

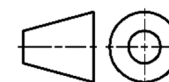
Question C-2

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June 2026



Design & Communication Graphics – Ordinary Level

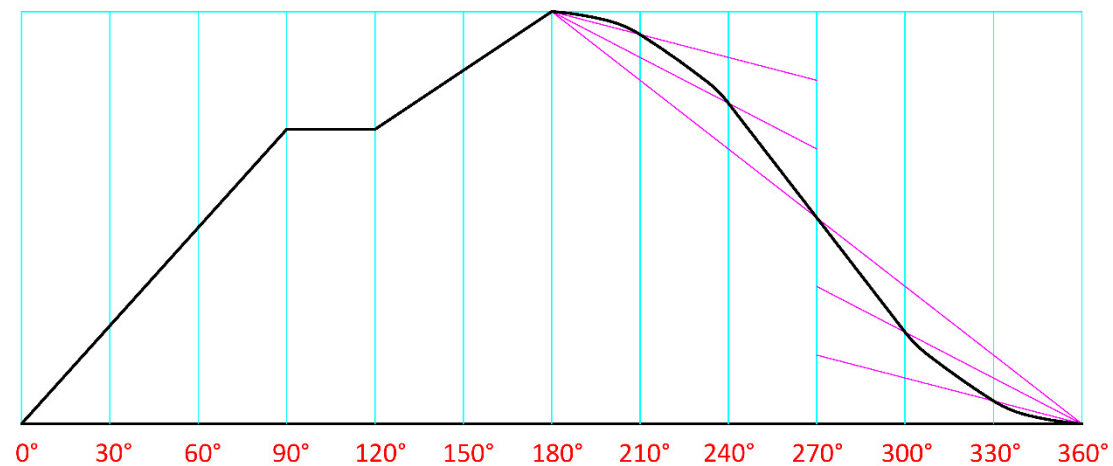
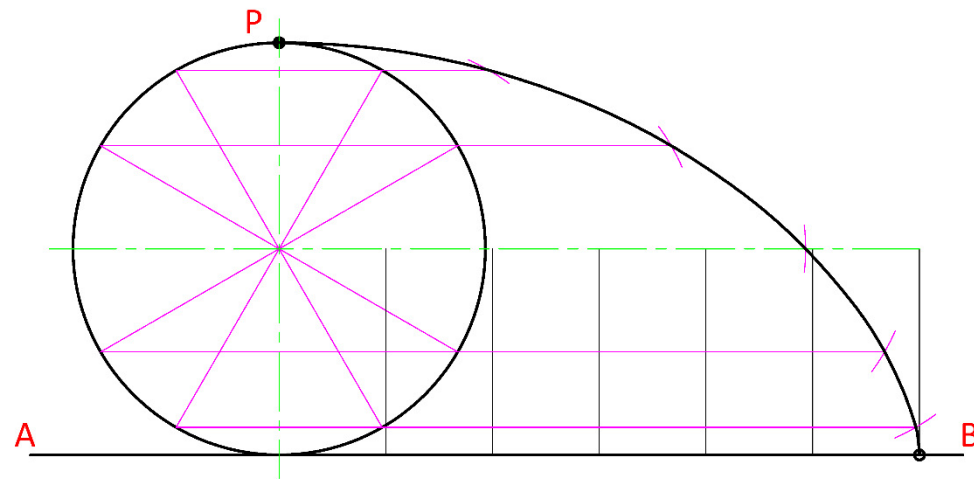


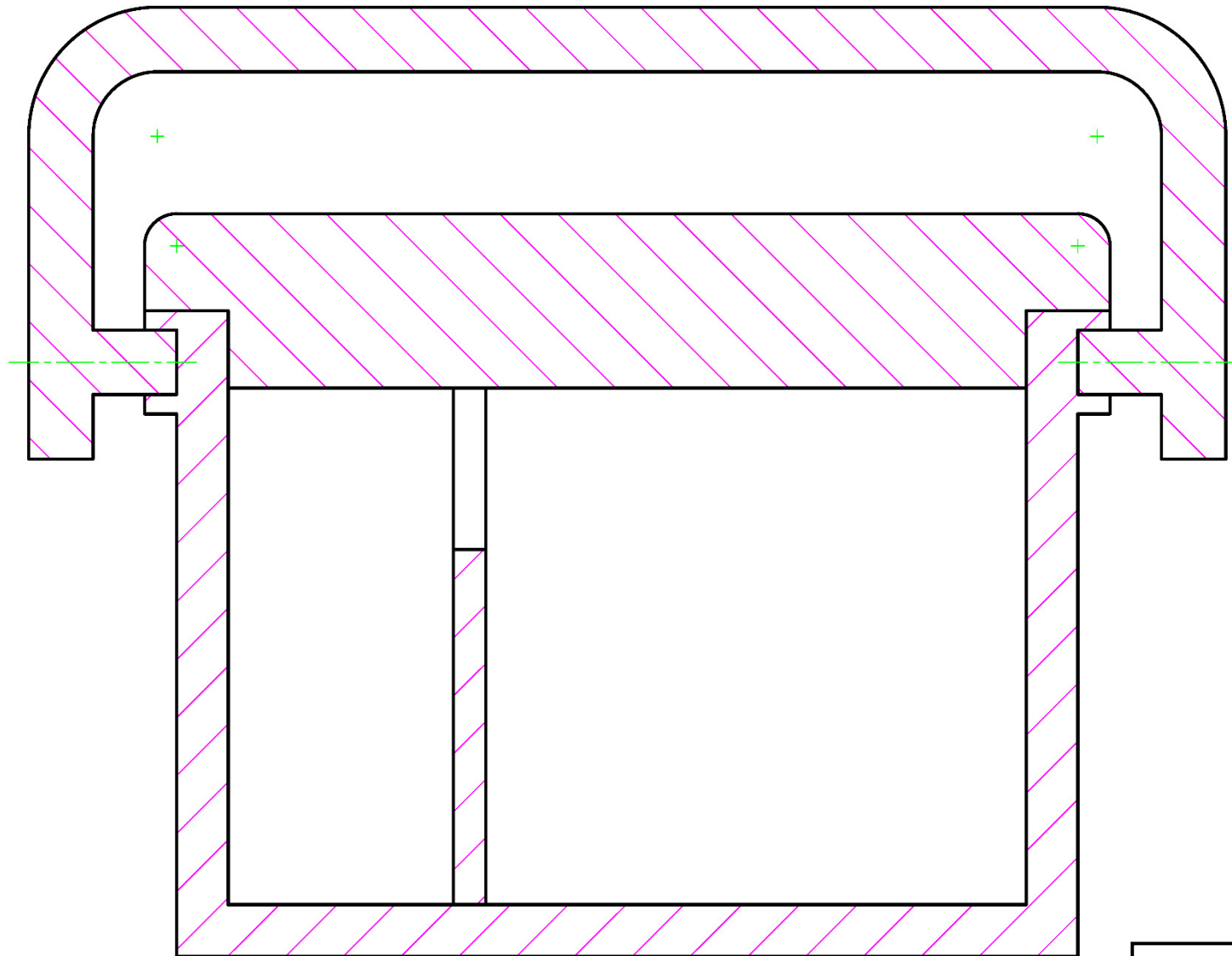
Marking Scheme

Question C-3

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June 2026





Design & Communication Graphics – Ordinary Level



Marking Scheme

Question C-5

Scale: n/a

June 2026



Leaving Certificate Examination, 2026

Design & Communication Graphics

Student Assignment Ordinary Level



Fidget toys help children and adults self-regulate by providing auditory, visual or tactile stimulus. Their shape and form allow the user to manipulate the toys by popping, stretching, squeezing, clicking, reshaping or spinning them. The creative use of material, colour, texture, and shape when designing fidget toys makes them visually and physically appealing, particularly to their target market. The toys come in a range of sizes, however the majority are small enough to be handheld.

Marking Scheme

Part (A) – Existing Artefact (110 marks)

- (a) Carry out a design investigation of existing fidget toys in graphic format. Your investigation should include an analysis of physical forms and shapes, features, materials, etc.

Output 1. Design Research & Design Feature Comparison (1-2 pages) (30 marks)

Exploration of brief and presentation of existing artefacts in graphic format. Select 2 artefacts – illustrate and explain the main design features and dimensions of each. Compare and contrast the main design features of both using suitable freehand sketches and other presentation techniques.

Marking Criteria	Marks
Design Research • Analysis and exploration of assignment brief • Investigation and relevant research on artefact • Presentation of existing artefacts • Presentation of relevant research information and knowledge of existing artefact: ○ Physical form, shape, features, materials, function, usability, etc.	15 marks
Design Feature Comparison • Selection of 2 artefacts • Illustrate and explain the main design features and dimensions ○ Main dimensions & design features • Compare and contrast the main design features of each artefact: ○ Features such as: shape and form, size, materials, etc ○ Sufficient information to demonstrate a good knowledge of the main design features ○ Appropriate use of freehand sketching and other presentation techniques to illustrate the main physical design features.	15 marks
Overall Requirements: • Effective selection of appropriate images/pictures/graphics/sketch/etc • Acknowledgement of Research Sources • Effective use of freehand sketches and other presentation techniques • Effective layout and presentation of information.	
Total	30 marks

Extensive range of relevant criteria considered – excellent presentation	26 - 30
Most relevant criteria considered – very good presentation	20 – 25
Some relevant criteria considered – good presentation	13 – 19
Limited criteria considered – fair presentation	7 – 12
At least one criterion considered – poor presentation	0 - 6

Output 2. Freehand Graphical Representation (1 page)**(20 marks)**

Choose one of the artefacts and make a detailed graphical presentation of this artefact. This should include a rendered freehand presentation quality drawing in 3D format.

Marking Criteria	Marks
Rendered freehand graphical presentation drawing of the selected artefact in 3D format • 3D Detail ○ Detailed communication of the artefact through the 3D representation of the artefact • Design features and views of artefact ○ Detailed graphical communication of the main design features ○ Rendered pictorial.	20 marks
• Proportion/Form/Volume ○ The relationship of the parts to the whole of the artefact ○ How the 2D representation suggests the 3D solidity of the body • Tone/Line ○ The use of light and shade in the chosen medium or combination of media as an integral aspect of the depiction of 3D form ○ Shading or line quality / weight • Rendering ○ Use of effective rendering techniques to represent the artefact.	
• Effective layout and presentation ○ Use of a range and depth of appropriate media and techniques.	
Total	
	20 marks

Extensive range of relevant criteria considered – excellent presentation	17 - 20
Most relevant criteria considered – very good presentation	13 – 16
Some relevant criteria considered – good presentation	9 – 12
Limited criteria considered – fair presentation	5 – 8
At least one criterion considered – poor presentation	0 - 4

Output 3. Solidworks Parts, Assembly, Drawing, and eDrawing files**(35 marks)**

Detailed computer model, comprising at least 3 parts but no more than 6 parts, an Assembly, a Drawing and an eDrawing of the selected artefact. The required filing structure will be considered in the marking process.

Marking Criteria	Marks
Adherence to required filing structure - Required filing structure presented on the candidate USB drive - PDF's must be included.	2 marks
Creation of a minimum of 3 Part files and no more than 6	6 marks
SolidWorks Part models - Detailed scrutiny of modelled SolidWorks parts - Proficiency demonstrated in the modelling of the SolidWorks parts: - Selection of appropriate sketches and profiles - Use of relations - Sketches fully defined - Selection of appropriate features - Use of end conditions - Renaming features - Economy of design.	16 marks
Factor of difficulty / Design intent demonstrated in SolidWorks modelling - Proficiency demonstrated in parametric CAD modelling - Approach taken to modelling geometry - Range and depth of modelling skills	3 marks
SolidWorks Assembly (consisting of min. 3 parts) scrutiny of assembled artefact - Creation of Assembly environment - Accuracy of modelled Parts to facilitate correct assembly - Correct and appropriate use of the mate command to assemble the parts - Application of appropriate materials/textures/colours/appearances to the artefact Assembly / Parts files.	6 marks
eDrawing of CAD model	2 marks
Total	35 marks

Output 4. Hardcopy output from Solidworks (1-2 pages)**(25 marks)**

Presentation of CAD model to include appropriately detailed orthographic views, pictorial views, and a detail view.

Marking Criteria	Marks
Detailed orthographic views of the CAD Assembly Elevation, Plan, End View(s), etc	8 marks
Inclusion of main dimensions, notes and symbols Minimum of 5 dimensions	3 marks
Rendered pictorial views of the SolidWorks model	6 marks
Detail views	2 marks
Effective layout, scaling and presentation of Drawing sheet(s)	6 marks
Total	25 marks

Extensive range of relevant criteria considered – excellent presentation	21 – 25
Most relevant criteria considered – very good presentation	16 – 20
Some relevant criteria considered – good presentation	11 – 15
Limited criteria considered – fair presentation	6 – 10
At least one criterion considered – poor presentation	0 - 5

Part (B) – Design Modification or Concept Design (50 marks)

(B) Show graphically how you would physically modify a chosen fidget toy to improve its overall design.

Or

Develop and graphically communicate a new concept design for a fidget toy based on a selected theme or target market.

Output 5. Graphical exploration of design solution (1-2 pages)

(20 marks)

Analysis of your modification(s) or concept design. Graphic development and progression of your chosen solution. Justification of your chosen solution.

Marking Criteria	Marks
Analysis and Exploration of physical modification or theme / target market • Analysis and exploration of possible modification(s) or Concept Design • Presentation of relevant research information toward a design solution: ○ Theme, target market, inspiration, function, usability, materials, etc ○ Use of key words, word banks, mood board, mind mapping, brainstorming, images etc.... • Detailed exploration and communication of research • Effective layout and presentation.	20 marks
Development and Progression of design solution • Graphic presentation of the development and progression of a design solution ○ Shape and form, physical features, theme, target market, etc • Use of appropriate presentation techniques including freehand sketches and a variety of media, annotations, etc • Effective layout and presentation.	
Justification for chosen solution • Justification and rationale for the chosen design solution. ○ Discuss design decisions and why?	
Total	20 marks

Extensive range of relevant criteria considered – excellent presentation	17 - 20
Most relevant criteria considered – very good presentation	13 – 16
Some relevant criteria considered – good presentation	9 – 12
Limited criteria considered – fair presentation	5 – 8
At least one criterion considered – poor presentation	0 - 4

Output 6. Presentation of Modification/Concept Design (1 page)**(10 marks)**

Detailed graphical presentation of the design Modification / Concept Design. This should include a rendered freehand presentation quality drawing in 3D format.

Marking Criteria	Marks
Rendered freehand graphical presentation drawing of the Design Modification / Concept Design in 3D format • 3D Detail ○ Detailed communication of the artefact through the 3D representation of the artefact • Design features and views of artefact ○ Detailed graphical communication of the main design features ○ Rendered pictorial and additional functional views.	10 marks
• Proportion/Form/Volume ○ The relationship of the parts to the whole of the artefact ○ How the 2D representation suggests the 3D solidity of the body • Tone/Line ○ The use of light and shade in the chosen medium or combination of media as an integral aspect of the depiction of 3D form ○ Shading or line quality/weight • Rendering ○ Use of effective rendering techniques to represent the artefact.	
• Effective layout and presentation ○ Use of a range and depth of appropriate media and techniques.	
Total	
	10 marks

Extensive range of relevant criteria considered – excellent presentation	9 – 10
Most relevant criteria considered – very good presentation	7 – 8
Some relevant criteria considered – good presentation	5 – 6
Limited criteria considered – fair presentation	3 - 4
At least one criterion considered – poor presentation	0 - 2

Output 7. SolidWorks files and Hardcopy output (1-3 pages)**(20 marks)**

CAD model (Part/Assembly & Drawing) and associated hardcopies to include appropriately detailed orthographic, rendered pictorial views and detail view to communicate your chosen design.

Marking Criteria	Marks
SolidWorks Part(s) / Assembly of the design solution - Detailed scrutiny of modelled SolidWorks Part(s) / Assembly - Proficiency demonstrated in the modelling of SolidWorks Part(s) / Assembly: - Selection of appropriate sketches and profiles - Use of relations - Sketches fully defined - Selection of appropriate features - Use of end conditions - Renaming features - Application of appropriate materials/textures/colours/appearances to the artefact - If Assembly presented: - Creation of an Assembly - Accuracy of modelled Parts to facilitate accurate Assembly - Correct and appropriate use of the Mate command to assemble the Parts	10 marks
Factor of difficulty/Design intent demonstrated in SolidWorks modelling - Proficiency demonstrated in parametric CAD modelling - Range and depth of modelling skills.	
Hardcopy presentation from SolidWorks of design solution - Detailed orthographic views of the design solution - Elevation, Plan, End View(s), etc - Inclusion of main dimensions - Detail view - Rendered pictorial view of the design solution - Effective layout, scaling, and presentation of Drawing sheet(s).	10 marks
Total	20 marks

Extensive range of relevant criteria considered – excellent presentation	9 – 10
Most relevant criteria considered – very good presentation	7 – 8
Some relevant criteria considered – good presentation	5 – 6
Limited criteria considered – fair presentation	3 – 4
At least one criterion considered – poor presentation	0 – 2

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