



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Geography

Part One and Answerbook

Higher Level

Friday 5 June Morning 9:30 - 12:20

400 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.

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 **80 marks**

Attempt any **TEN** questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

PART TWO Structured and Essay Questions **320 marks**

You must attempt **FOUR** questions. This must include one question from three of the 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)
- Section 4: **Options** (Questions 13-24)

The fourth question can be from any section.

All questions carry equal marks.

PART ONE – SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS – 80 MARKS

Attempt any **TEN** questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

THESE QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

1. Landscape Identification

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

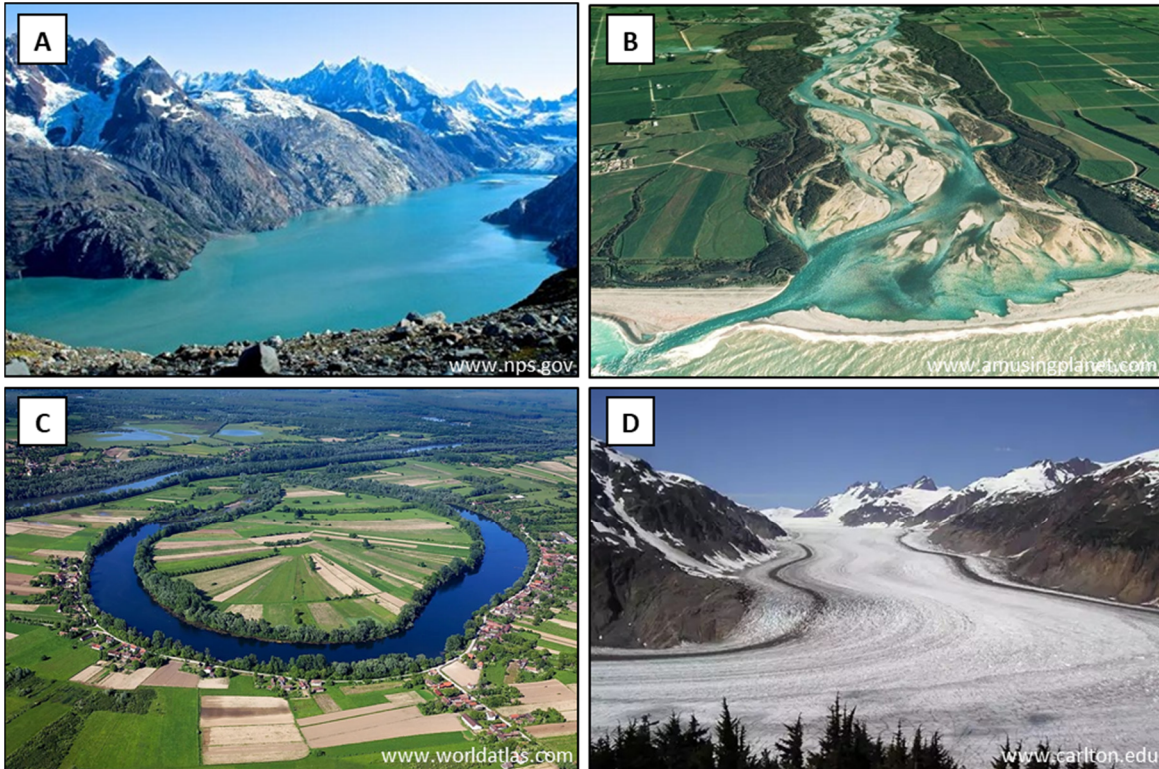
In the table below, match each of the following features with the grid reference that best matches its location on the Ordnance Survey map:

- Trellised drainage pattern
- V-shaped valley
- Meander
- Confluence.

Grid Reference	Feature
J 02 12	
J 08 07	
J 11 12	
J 02 09	

[8m]

2. Features and Processes



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

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

Feature	Letter
Oxbow lake	
River braiding	
Lateral moraines	
Fjord	

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

- (a) U-shaped valleys are features of river deposition.

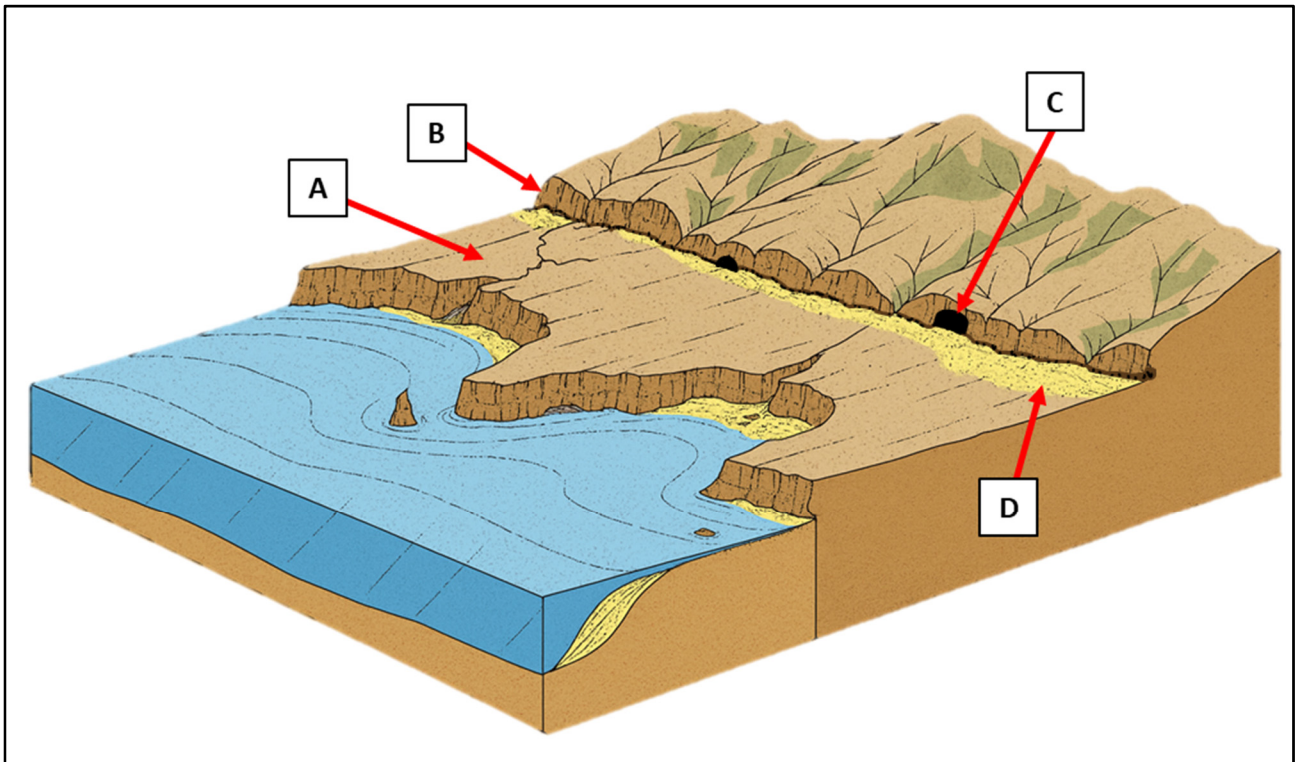
True ☐ False ☐

- (b) Scratches or grooves carved into bedrock by moving glaciers are known as striations.

True ☐ False ☐

[8m]

3. Isostasy



Amended from www.iasmania.com

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

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

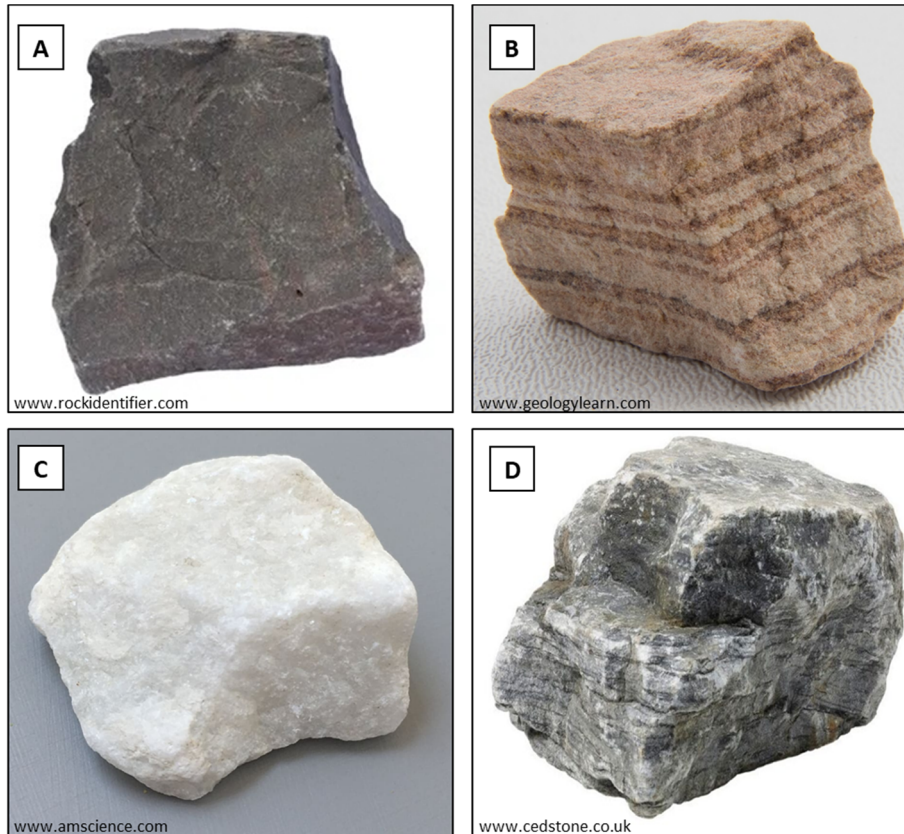
Term	Letter
Cave	
Raised Cliff	
Raised Beach	
Raised Platform	

- (ii) Isostatic uplift impacts rivers. State **two** effects that isostatic uplift has on rivers.

1.
2.

[8m]

4. The Rock Cycle



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

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

Rock type	Letter
Marble	
Limestone	
Basalt	
Sandstone	

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

- (a) Basalt is a plutonic igneous rock.

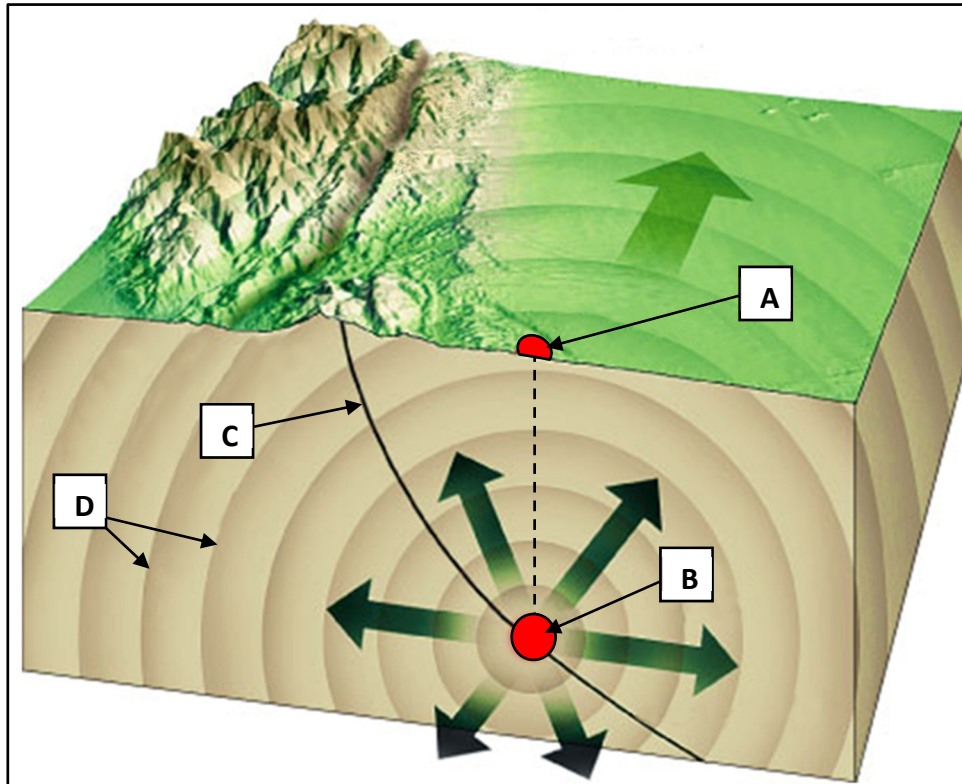
True ☐ False ☐

- (b) Limestone is transformed into quartzite when placed under great heat/pressure.

True ☐ False ☐

[8m]

5. Tectonic Cycle and Faulting



Amended from www.wordpress.com

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

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

Term	Letter
Fault line	
Seismic Waves	
Epicentre	
Focus	

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

- (a) Reverse faults are caused by compression.

True ☐ False ☐

- (b) Doming occurs when layers of rock are pushed upwards.

True ☐ False ☐

[8m]

6. Concept of a Region

Answer each of the following questions in the table below.

- (i) Match each of the following types of region with the description in the table that best matches it:

Urban

Geomorphological

Cultural

Administrative

- (ii) Match each of the following examples of regions with the description in the table that best matches it:

Co. Longford

The Gaeltacht

Munich

The Burren

Q.6 (i) Type of Region	Description of Region	Q.6 (ii) Example of Region
	A region involved in governing the functions and organisation of an area.	
	A region where people share common traits such as language, religion, traditions etc.	
	A region with high population density, in cities and towns.	
	A region with a unique landscape based on rock type, structure or relief.	

[8m]

7. Map Skills

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

- (i) Give a six-figure grid reference for the train station in Dundalk.

- (ii) Name the antiquity shown at grid reference J 010 065.

- (iii) Measure the length, in kilometres, of the M1 motorway from where it enters the map at J 034 040 to where it meets the N1 at J 061 110.

- (iv) Calculate the approximate area of land (km²) that is east of Easting 09 on the map.

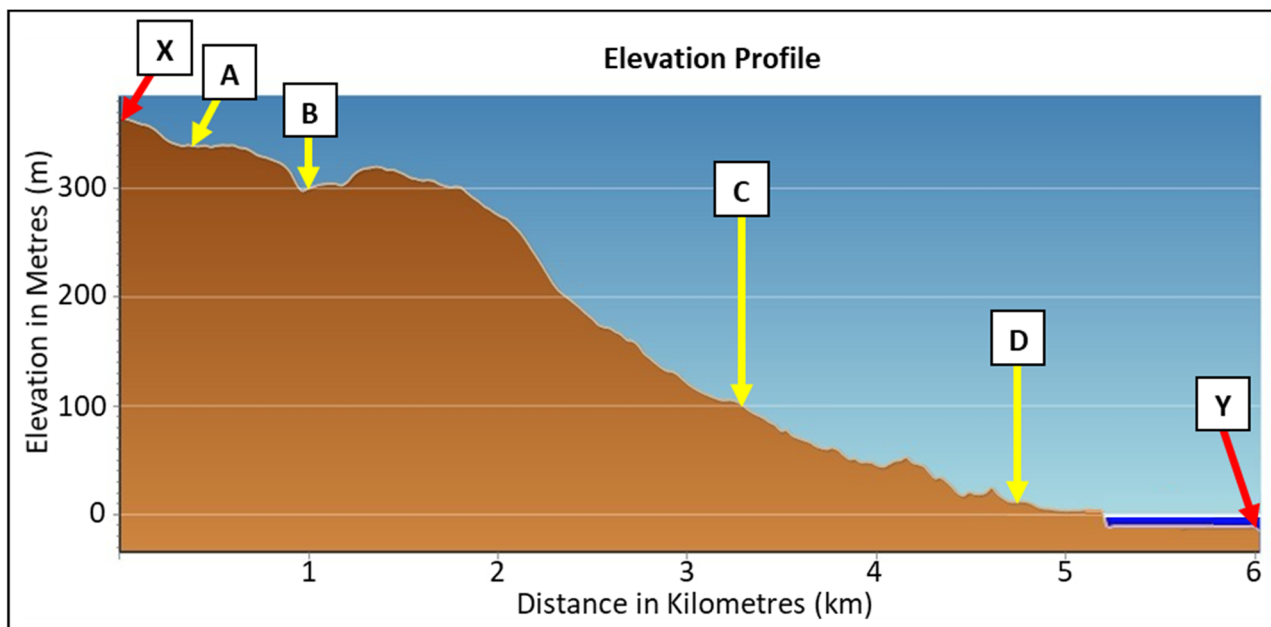
[8m]

8. Elevation Profile

Locate point **X**, J 120 130, and point **Y**, J 120 070, on the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map accompanying this paper. Both points are on Easting 12.

Figure 1 shows an elevation profile of the cross section of a 6 km line between point **X** and point **Y** on the Ordnance Survey map.

*Figure 1: Elevation profile of the Cross Section of a line between point **X** and point **Y**.*



Amended from www.scoilnet.ie

Using the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend and the elevation profile above, answer each of the following questions.

- (i) What type of forestry is located at point **A**?

- (ii) Name the tourist attraction at point **B** on the profile.

- (iii) What is the height of the land (in metres) at point **C** on the profile?

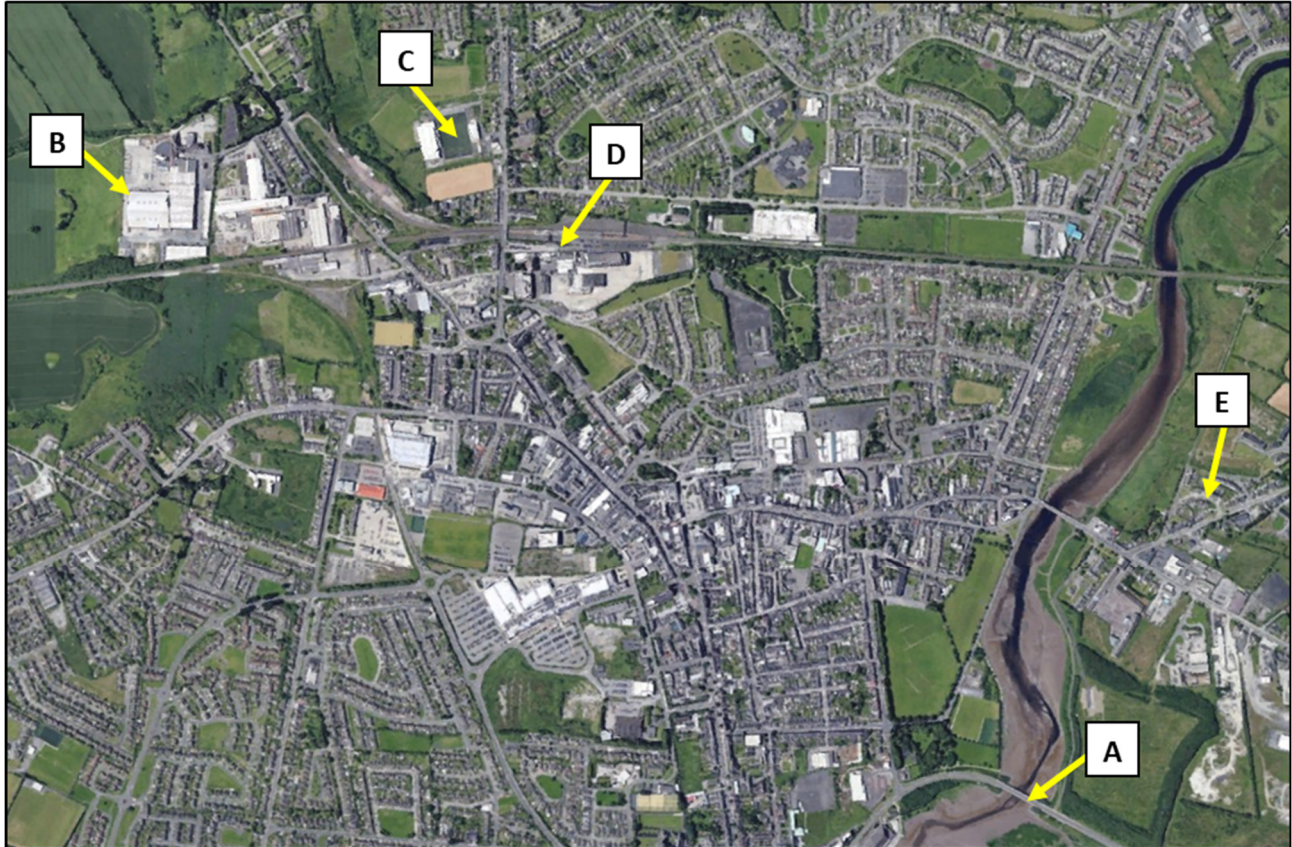
- (iv) Name the road that crosses the profile at point **D**.

[8m]

9. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Dundalk accompanying this paper and the satellite image below which shows part of the area covered by the aerial photograph.

Note: The orientation of the aerial photograph accompanying this paper is different to the orientation of the satellite image below.



Amended from www.googleearth.com

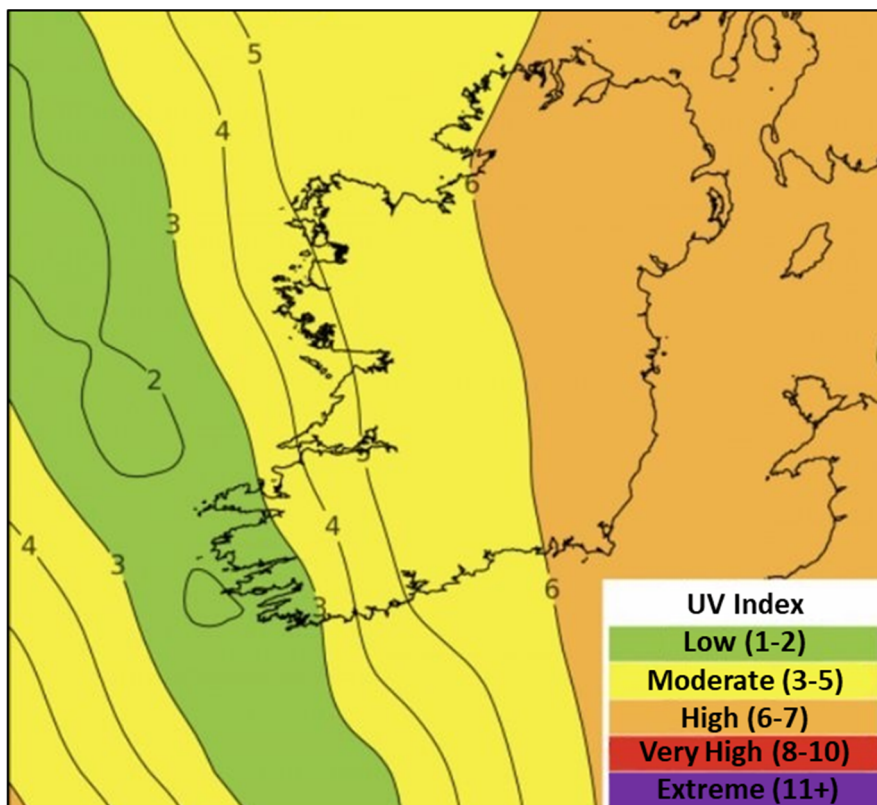
Locate each of the features labelled **A**, **B**, **C**, **D** and **E** above, on the aerial photograph accompanying this paper.

Using accepted notation, give the location of each of these features on the aerial photograph, in the table below. One has been completed for you.

Feature on Satellite Image	Location on Aerial Photograph
A Bridge	
B Industrial Estate	
C Sports Stadium	
D Railway Station	Centre Middleground
E Housing Estate	

[8m]

10. Weather



Amended from www.met.ie

The Ultraviolet Index (UV Index) measures the strength of the sun's UV rays. Examine the chart above showing Ireland's UV Index for 13 July 2025 and answer the following questions.

- (i) Which UV Index category is least prominent on the day shown?
Tick (✓) the correct box.

Moderate ☐

High ☐

Low ☐

- (ii) What was the UV index for Galway?

- (iii) What is the name given to lines on a weather map that join places of equal sunshine?

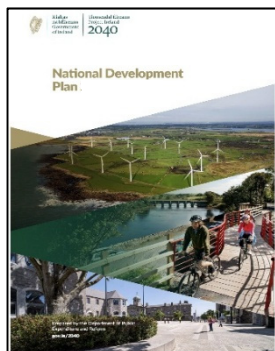
- (iv) State **one** reason why the east of Ireland experiences higher levels of sunshine in comparison to the west of Ireland.

[8m]

11. National Development Plan (NDP)

The Government has announced funding proposals for the latest National Development Plan 2025. The NDP is the government's long-term plan for what large-scale infrastructure projects will be needed in Ireland over the next five to ten years. This covers the period up to 2035 and sets out a total investment of €275.4 billion.

Every few years, the development plans are re-worked and reviewed by governments to ensure there are plans in place to meet the needs of Ireland's growing population. The plans also cover demands on public transport and roads and whether people have adequate health services now and into the future.



In the housing sector, the government plans to invest €35.9 billion from 2026 to 2030, with a target to build 300,000 homes over the period of the plan. The government plans to spend €24.3 billion on transport, with €2 billion of that investment to go towards the Metrolink in Dublin. The rest of the transport budget is to be spent on extending, improving and upgrading the transport network. Other areas of investment under the plan include water, health, defence, climate and energy.

Amended from www.thejournal.ie

Examine the extract above outlining Ireland's National Development Plan 2025 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) How much (€ billions) does the government plan to invest in total in the NDP?

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- (ii) How much (€ billions) of the transport budget will go towards the Metrolink project in Dublin?

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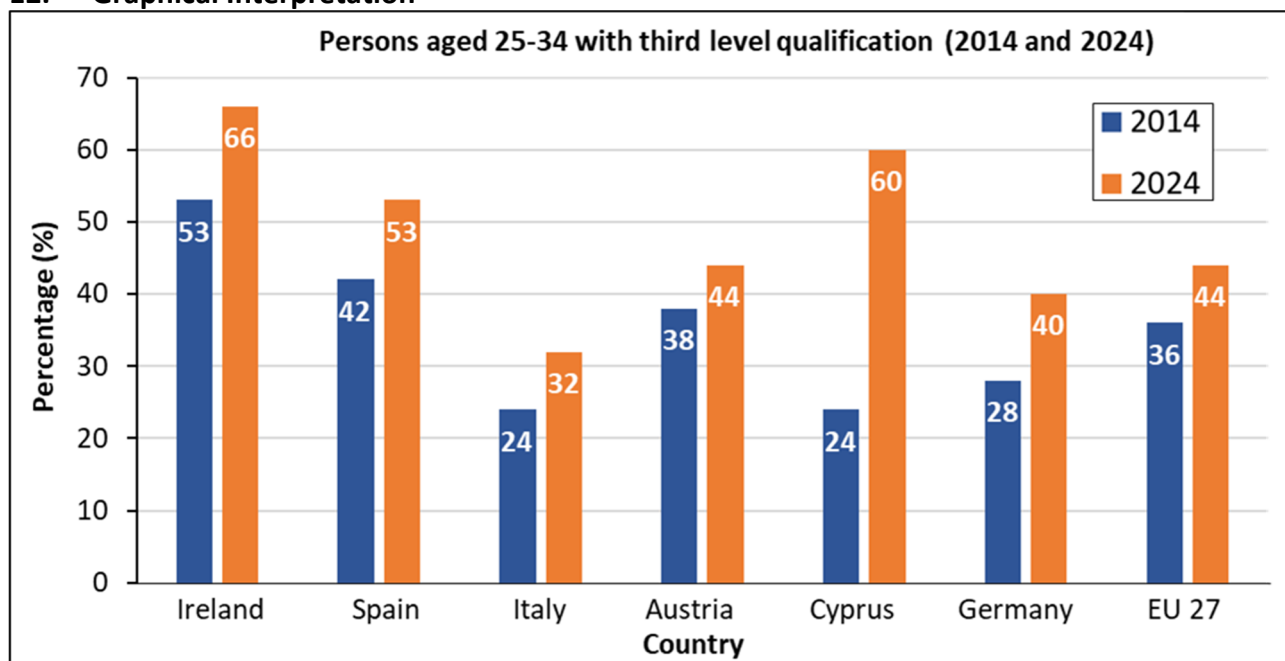
- (iii) From the extract above, identify **two** areas, other than housing and transport, that the NDP will focus its investment on.

1.
2.

- (iv) Explain briefly **one** advantage of having improved transport infrastructure in Dublin.

[8m]

12. Graphical Interpretation



Amended from www.eurostat.eu

Examine the graph above showing persons aged 25-34 with third level qualification (2014 and 2024) and answer the following questions.

- (i) What percentage (%) of people in Ireland had a third level qualification in 2024?

--

- (ii) Name **two** countries whose 2014 percentage of persons aged 25-34 with third level qualification was below the EU 27 percentage in 2014.

1.
2.

- (iii) Which country had the smallest percentage increase in persons aged 25-34 with third level qualification from 2014 to 2024?

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- (iv) Explain briefly **one** way that having a high percentage of people with a third level qualification can benefit an economy.

[8m]

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.

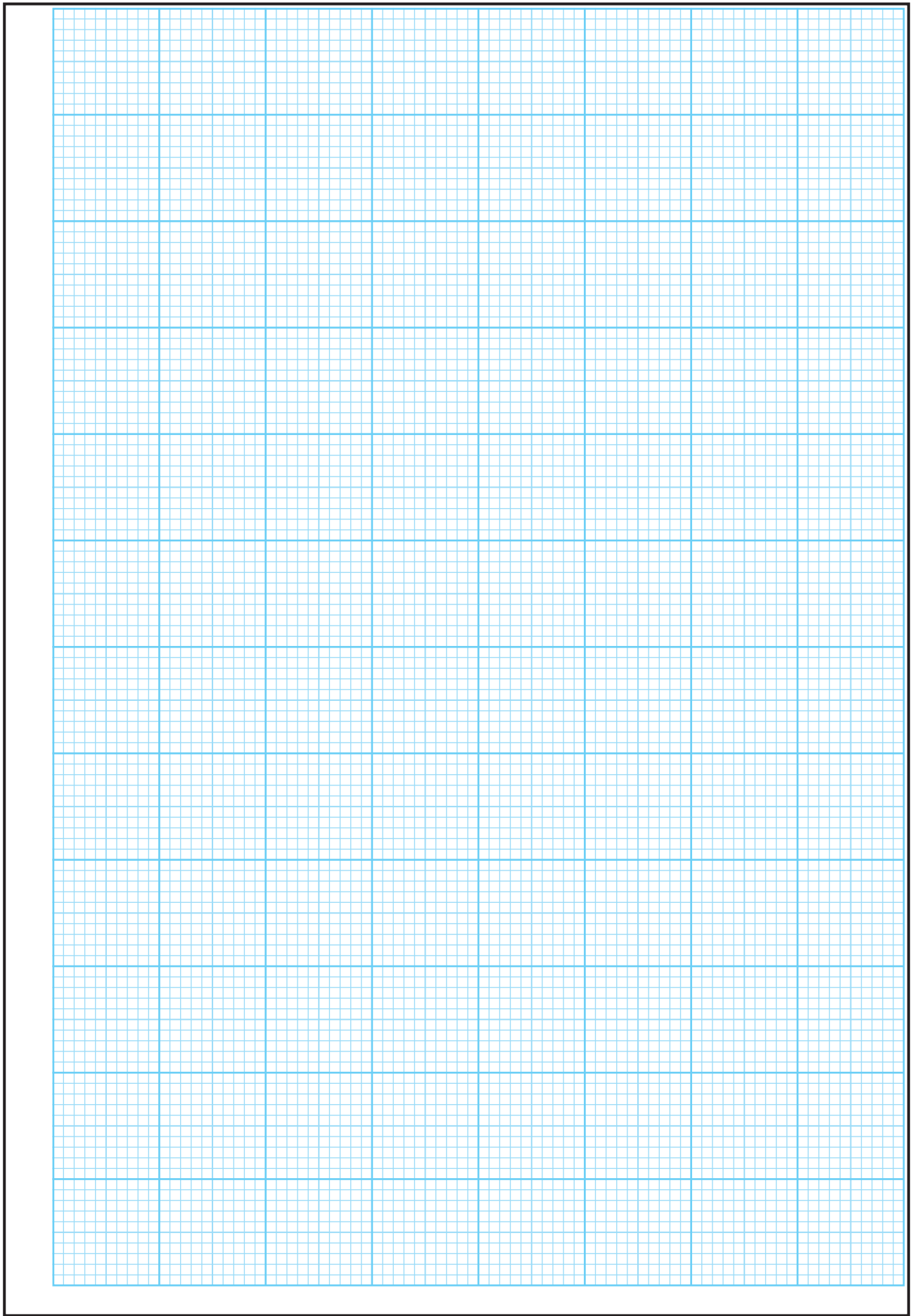
Use the left-hand column to label each part, as shown below.

Question	
04	
Part	
(a)	
(b)(i)	
(b)(ii)	

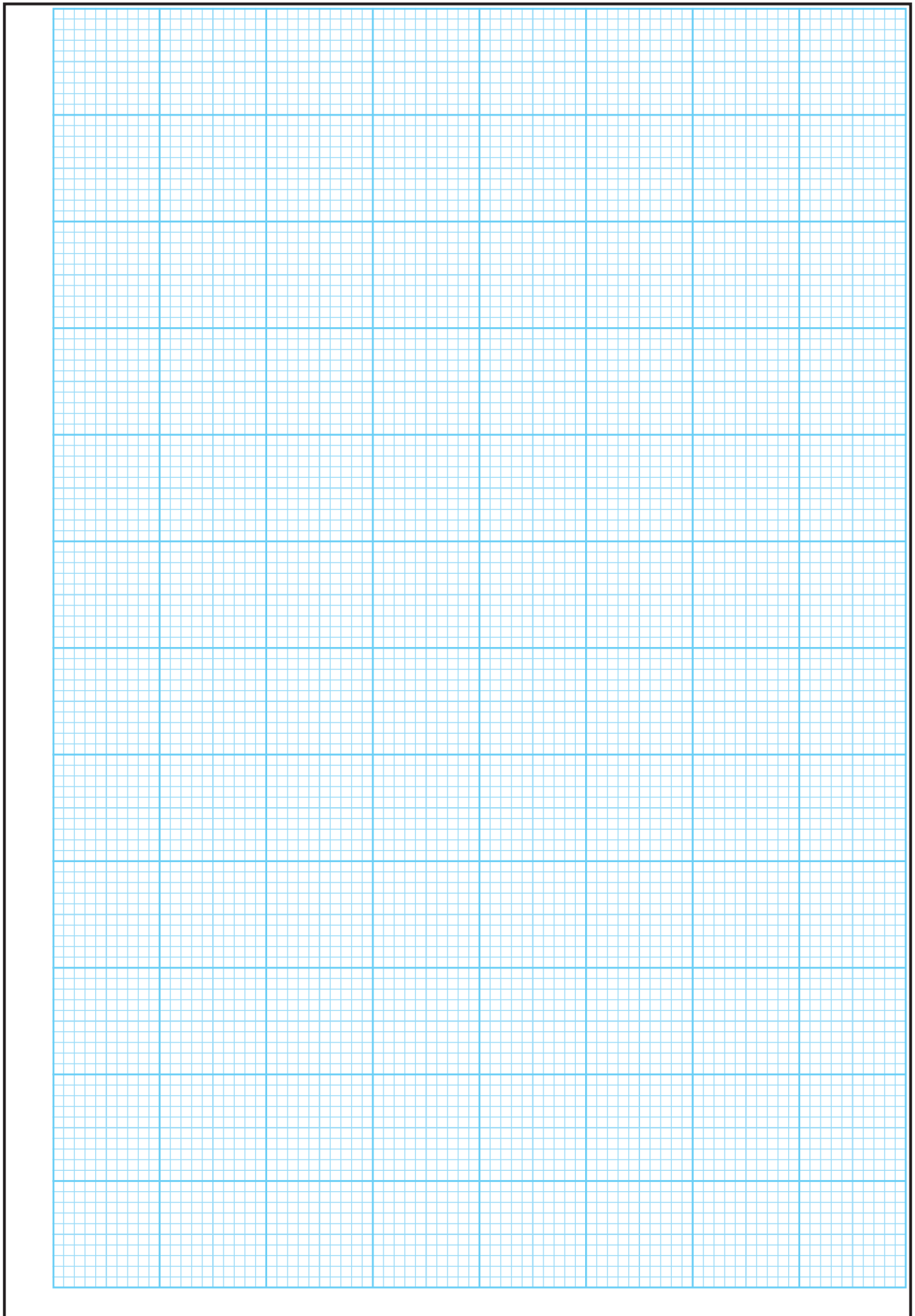
Four pages of graph paper are provided on the next four pages of this answerbook. On pages with graph paper, the box for the question number is at the bottom of the page.

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.

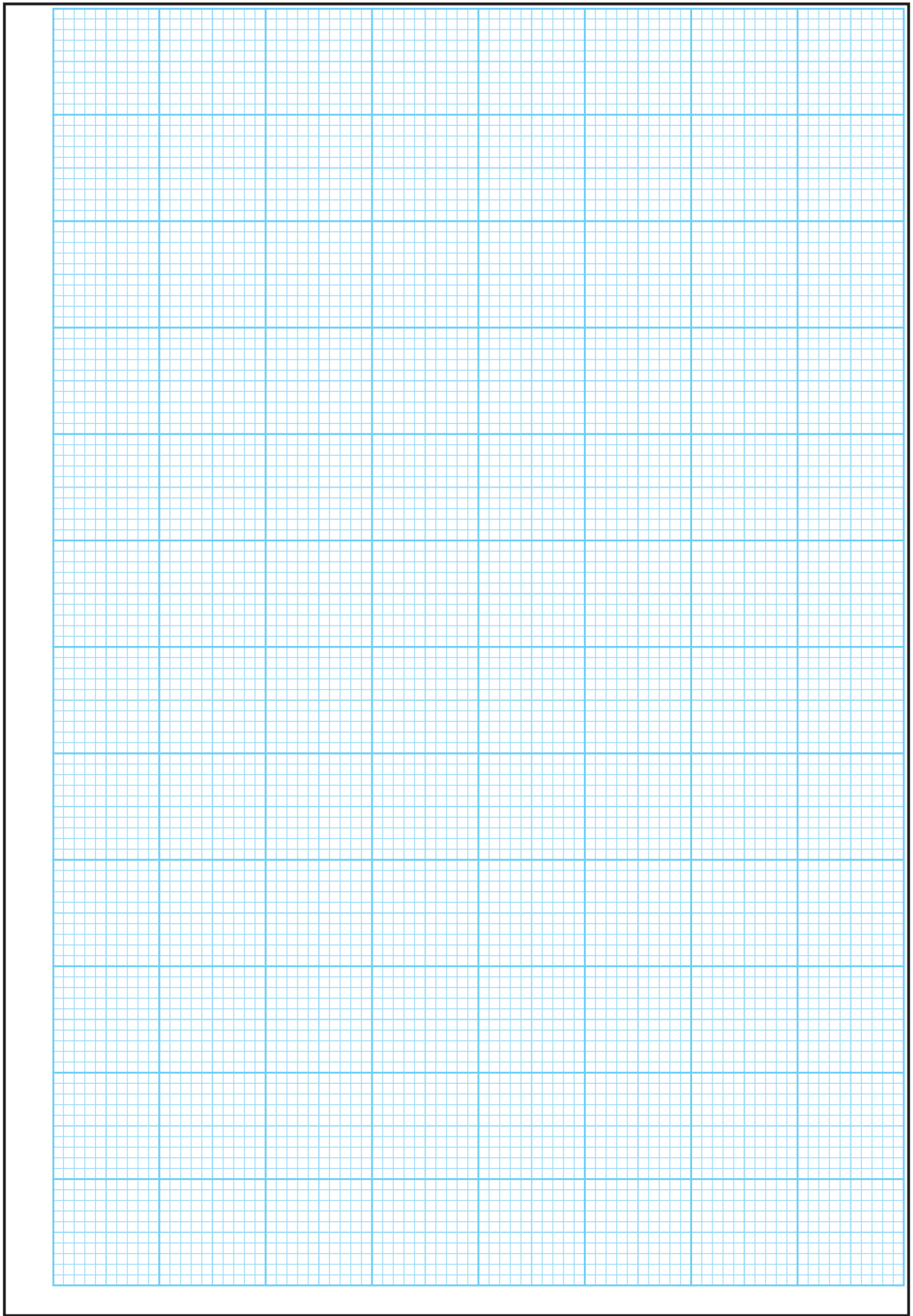


Question

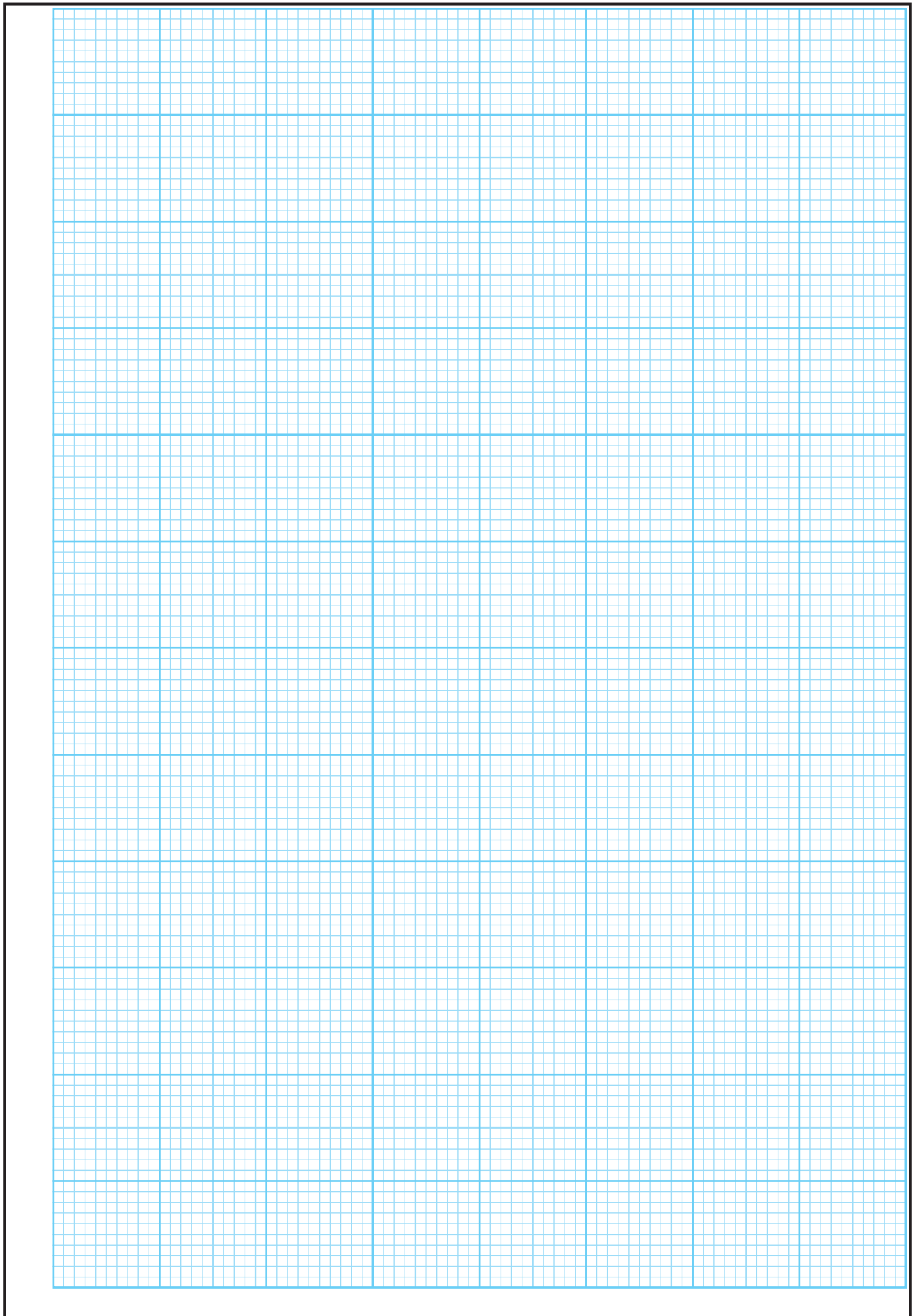


Question

☐☐



Question



Question

☐☐

Part

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Part

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Part

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Part

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Geography Part One and Answerbook

Friday 5 June

Morning 9:30 - 12:20