



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Geography

Part One and Answerbook

Ordinary Level

Friday 5 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.

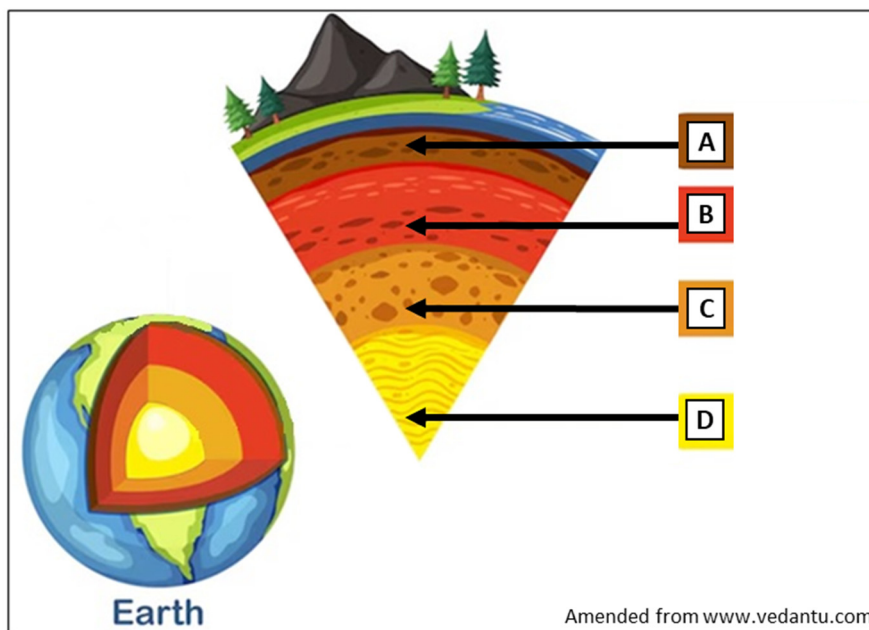
PART ONE – SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS – 100 MARKS

Attempt any **TEN** questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

THESE QUESTIONS ARE TO BE ANSWERED IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

1. Layers of the Earth



Examine the diagram above showing the different layers of the earth 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
Inner core	
Mantle	
Crust	
Outer core	

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

Circular movements of semi-molten rock in the earth's mantle are known as convection currents.

True ☐

False ☐

[10m]

2. Rocks



Amended from www.expedia.com

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

- (i) Which of the following is the location shown in the photograph above?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

The Burren, Co. Clare

☐

The Giant's Causeway, Co. Antrim

☐

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

- (a) Granite is an example of a sedimentary rock.

True ☐

False ☐

- (b) Fossils can be found in sedimentary rocks.

True ☐

False ☐

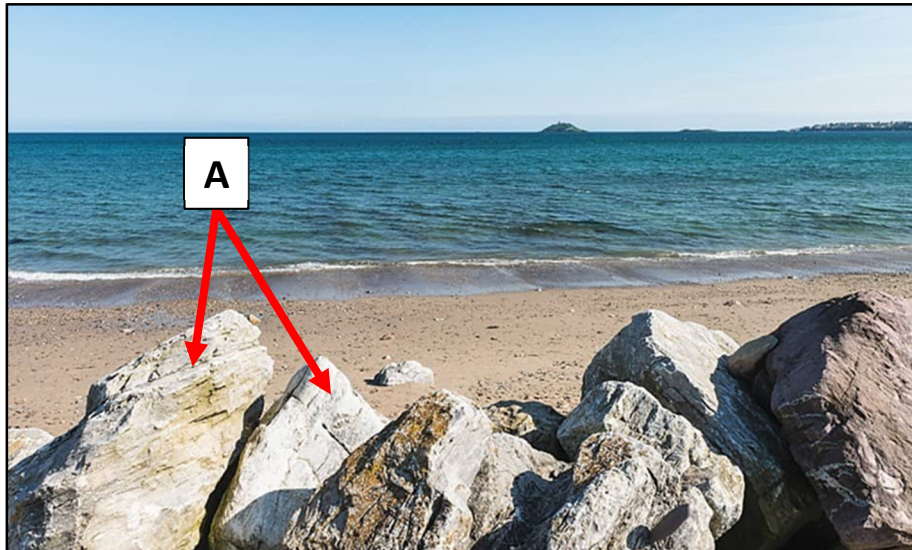
- (iii) Name any **two** types of metamorphic rock.

1.

2.

[10m]

3. Coasts



Amended from www.irelandhighlights.com

Examine the photograph of a coastline above and answer the following questions.

- (i) Which of the following coastal defences is shown at **A** in the photograph?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

Groynes ☐

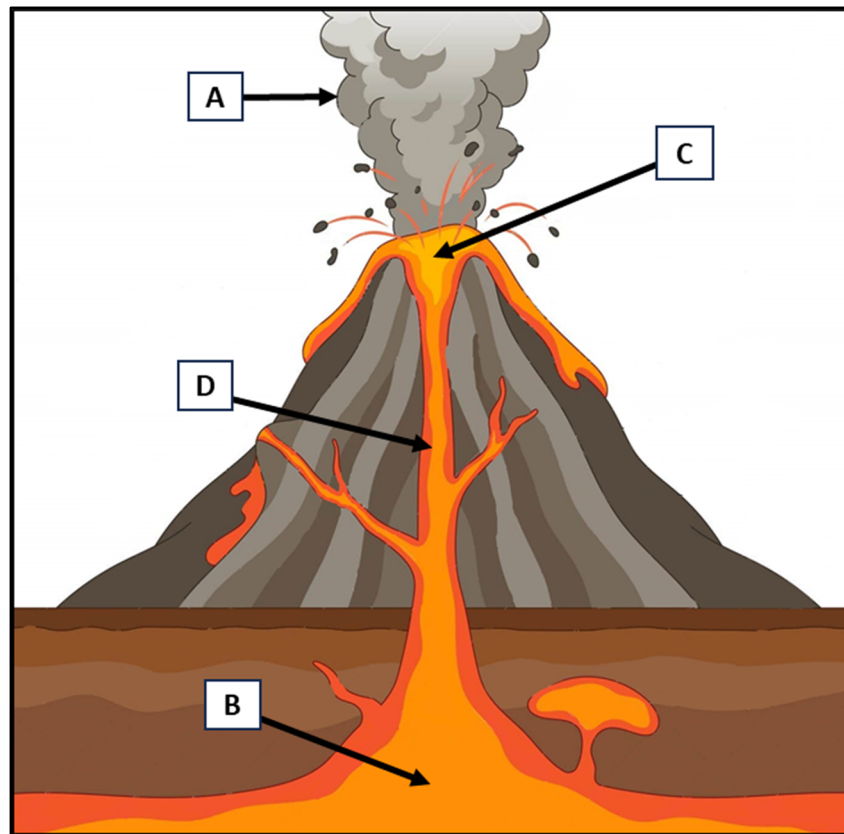
Rock Armour ☐

- (ii) Indicate, by ticking (✓) the correct box, whether each of the features named in the table is most associated with the processes of erosion **or** the processes of deposition.

Feature	Processes of Erosion (✓)	Processes of Deposition (✓)
Cliff		
Beach		
Sand Bar		
Blowhole		

[10m]

4. Volcanoes



Amended from www.dreamstime.com

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

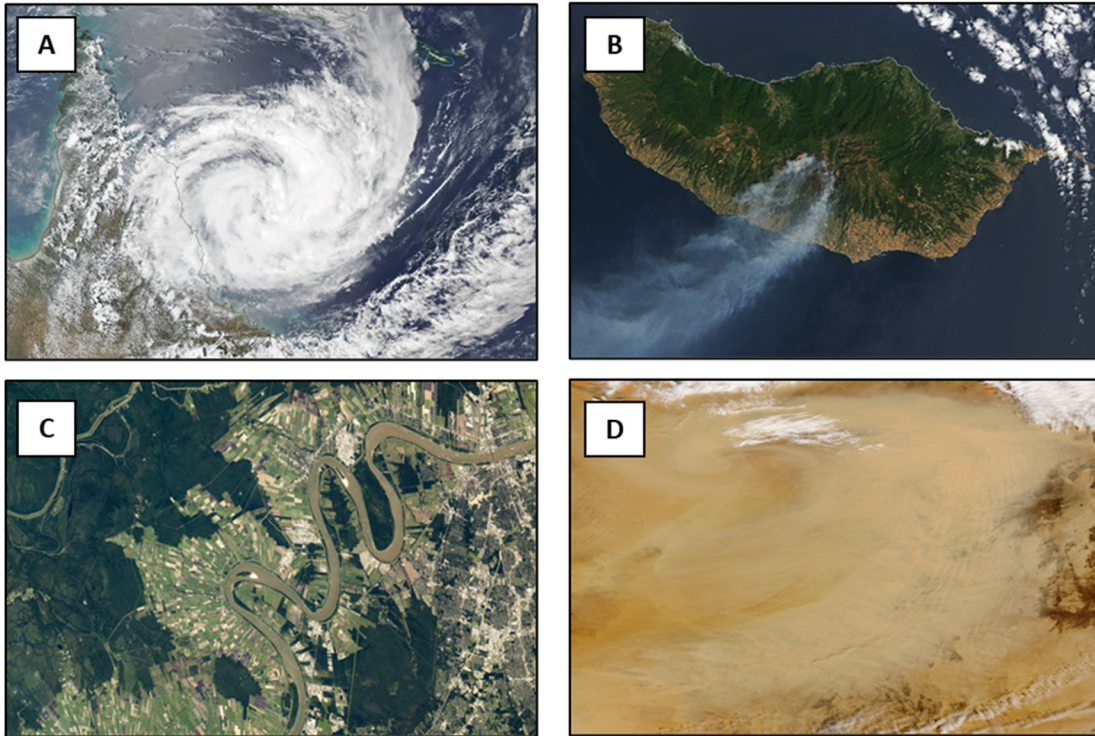
- (i) Match each of the letters **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** with the feature that best matches it in the table below.

Feature	Letter
Vent	
Crater	
Ash Cloud	
Magma chamber	

- (ii) State **one** way of predicting a volcanic eruption.

[10m]

5. Satellite Interpretation



Amended from www.earthobservatory.nasa.gov

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

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

Description	Letter
Wildfires on the island of Maderia	
River meanders in Baton Rouge	
Cyclone approaching Port Douglas	
Dust cloud over the Sahara Desert	

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

Met Éireann can use satellite images to forecast and track storms.

True ☐

False ☐

[10m]

6. Map Skills

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

- (i) What is the approximate area of Dundalk Bay that can be seen on the Ordnance Survey map?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

18 km² ☐

28 km² ☐

- (ii) What is the length of the M1 Motorway, from where it enters the map at J 034 040 to where it meets the N1 road at J 061 109?

Tick (✓) the correct box.

5.2 km ☐

10.2 km ☐

[10m]

7. Ordnance Survey Map

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

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

J 118 044:
J 071 063:
J 058 125:

- (ii) What is the height, in metres, of the spot height at J 099 127?

--

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

--

[10m]

8. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Dundalk accompanying this paper.

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

	True	False
(i) There is a church in the left foreground.	☐	☐
(ii) There is an industrial area in the centre foreground.	☐	☐
(iii) This aerial photograph is an oblique photograph.	☐	☐
(iv) There is a residential area in the right foreground.	☐	☐
(v) There is a bridge crossing the river in the right middleground.	☐	☐

[10m]

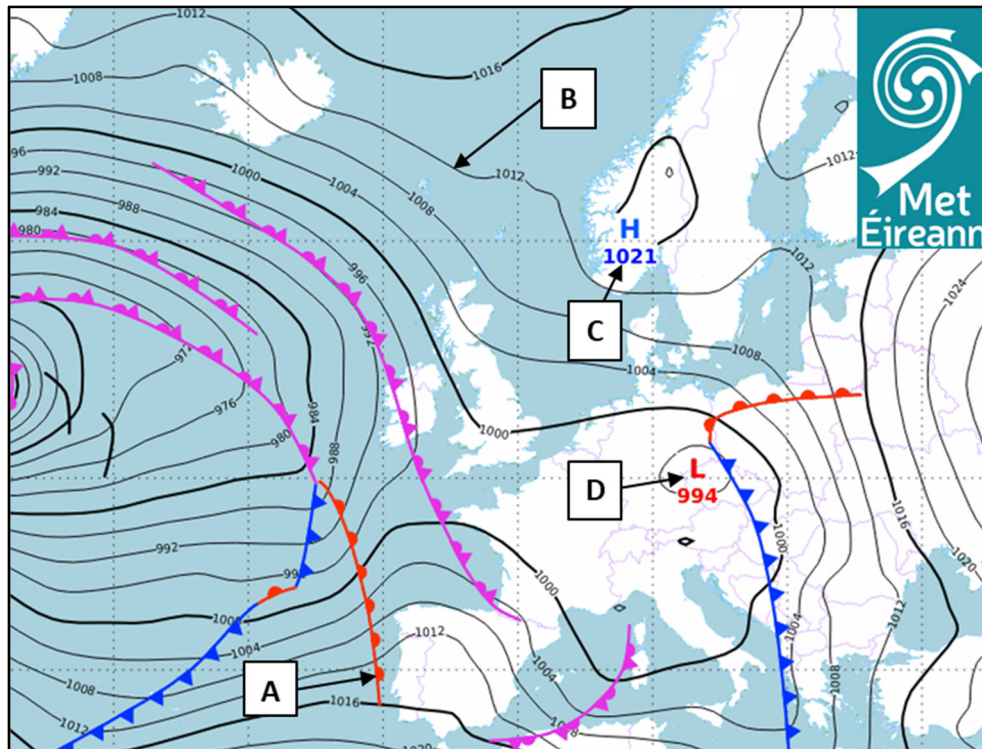
9. Regions

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	Example of Region	Letter
A	A region of industrial decline	The Islamic World	
B	A cultural region defined by religion	Donegal County Council	
C	A climatic region	Paris, France	
D	An administrative region	Sambre Meuse Valley, Belgium	
E	An urban region	Mediterranean	

[10m]

10. Weather Chart



Amended from www.met.ie

Examine the weather chart above and answer the questions that follow.

- (i) Match each of the letters **A**, **B**, **C** and **D** with the weather chart feature that best matches it, by writing the correct letter in each case in the table below.

Weather Chart Feature	Letter
Isobar	
Area of high pressure	
Warm Front	
Area of low pressure	

- (ii) Draw the weather chart symbol for a cold front in the box below.

[10m]

11. Tourism



Amended from www.tourismireland.com

Examine the information above from Tourism Ireland 2023, and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) In 2023, how many tourists visited Ireland?

- (ii) What was the average spend per trip made by tourists?

- (iii) What was the average length of stay (in nights) by tourists?

- (iv) Where did most ferry passengers come from in 2023?

- (v) Name **one** tourist attraction in Ireland.

[10m]

12. Weather Statistics

Average Monthly Temperatures and Monthly Rainfall at Valentia Observatory
from January to June 2024.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Average Temperature (°C)	6.3	9.2	8.7	10.0	12.7	12.9
Total Rainfall (mm)	126.9	183.2	239.8	124.1	57.1	73.5

Amended from www.met.ie

Examine the table above which shows average monthly temperatures and rainfall levels at Valentia Observatory for January to June 2024. Answer each of the following questions.

- (i) What was the average temperature (°C) for June?

- (ii) Which month had the lowest average temperature (°C)?

- (iii) Which month experienced the highest total rainfall (mm)?

- (iv) Calculate the total rainfall (mm) for April, May and June.

- (v) For how many months was the total rainfall more than 100mm?

[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.

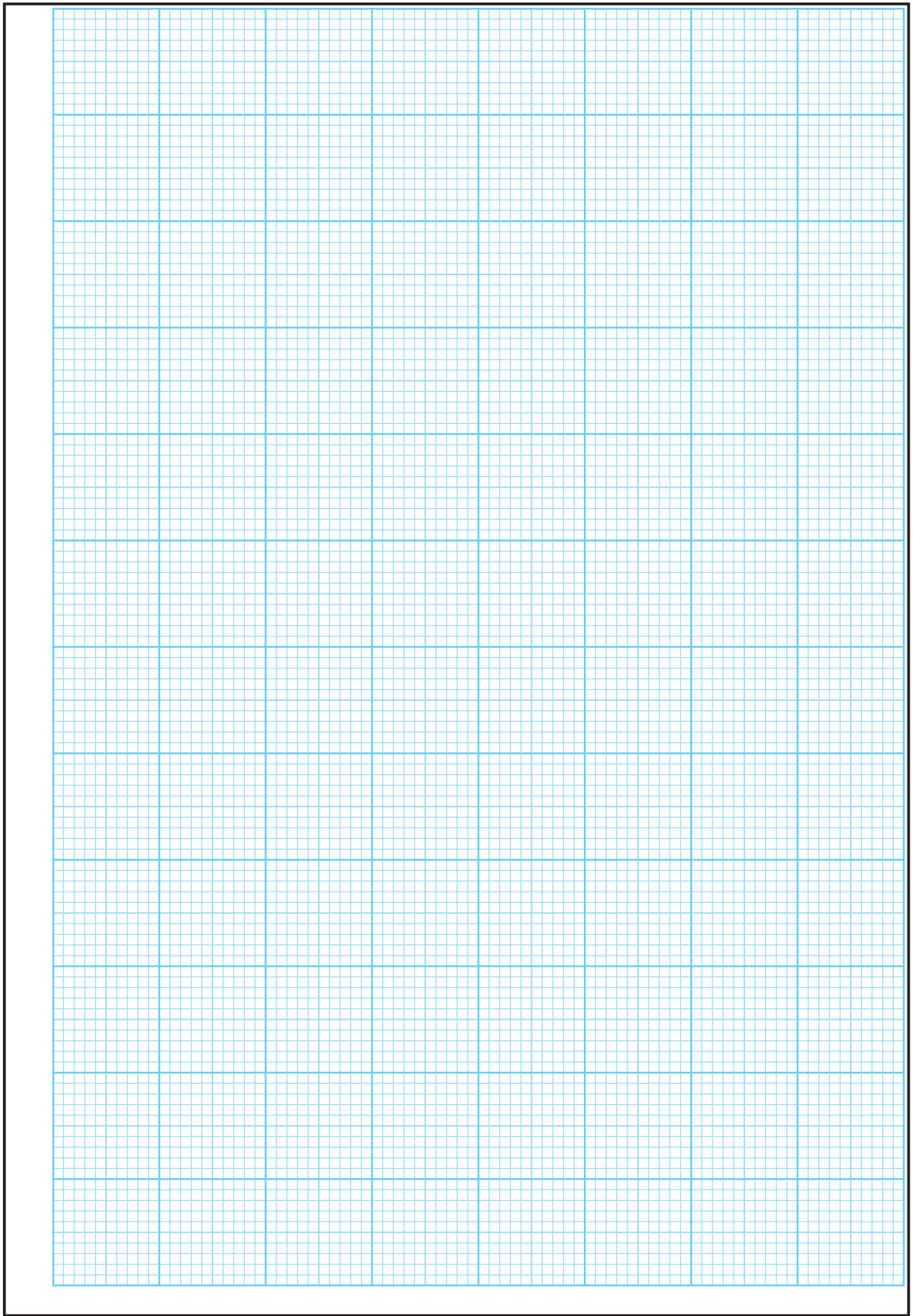
Use the left-hand column to label each part, as shown below.

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.

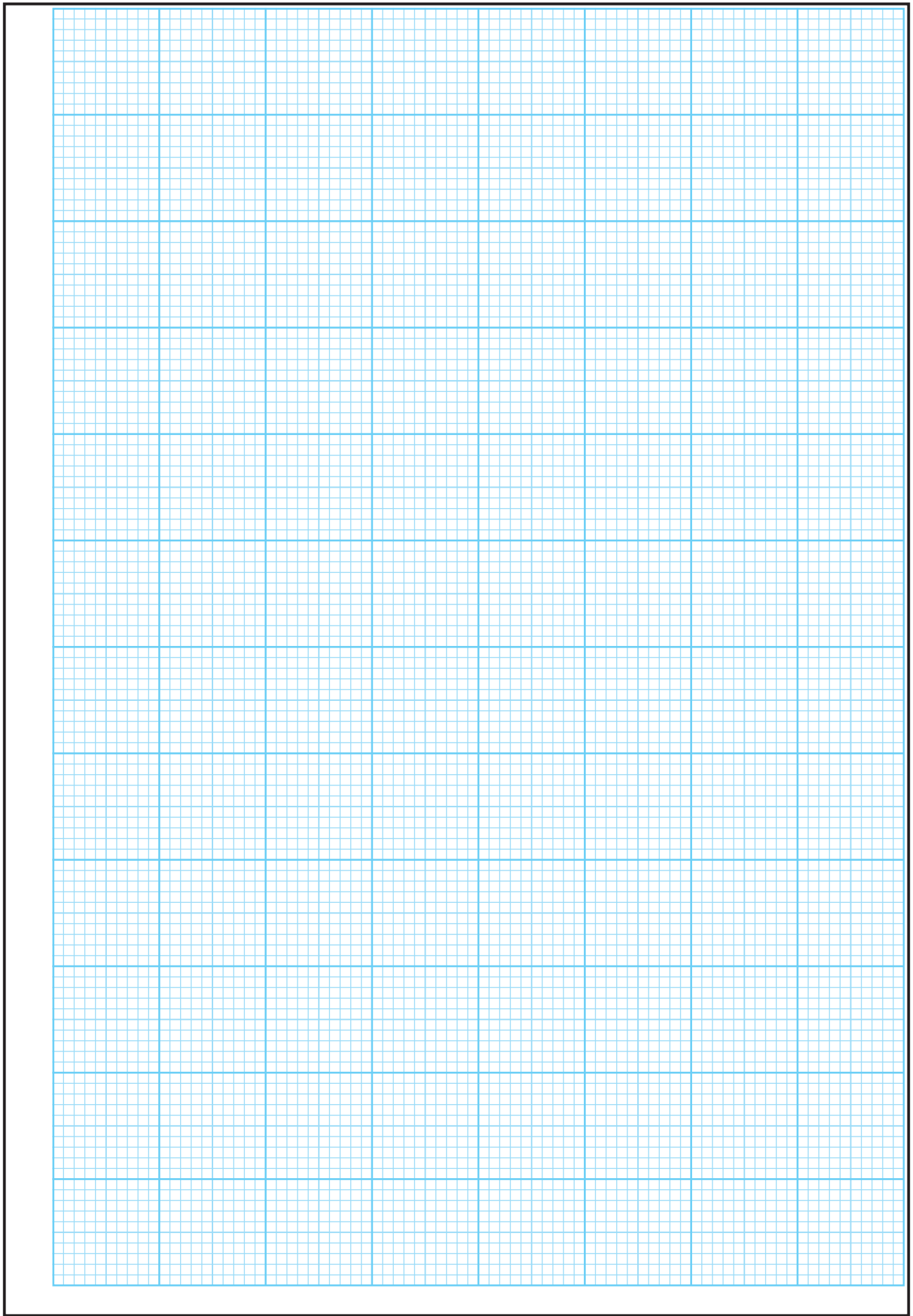
You do not need to use all of the pages in this answerbook. If you run out of space in this answerbook, you may ask the superintendent for more paper or graph paper.

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

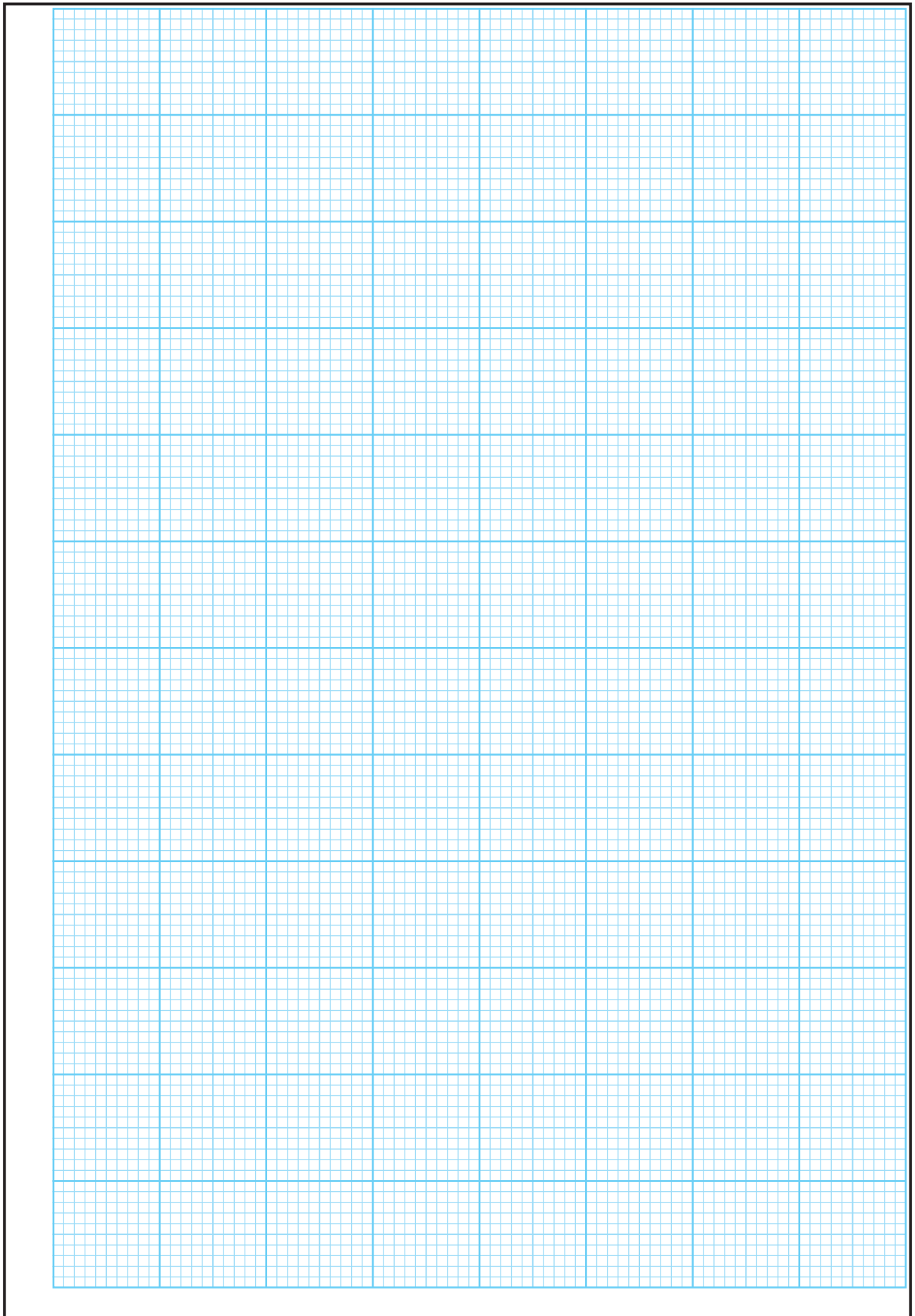


Question

☐☐

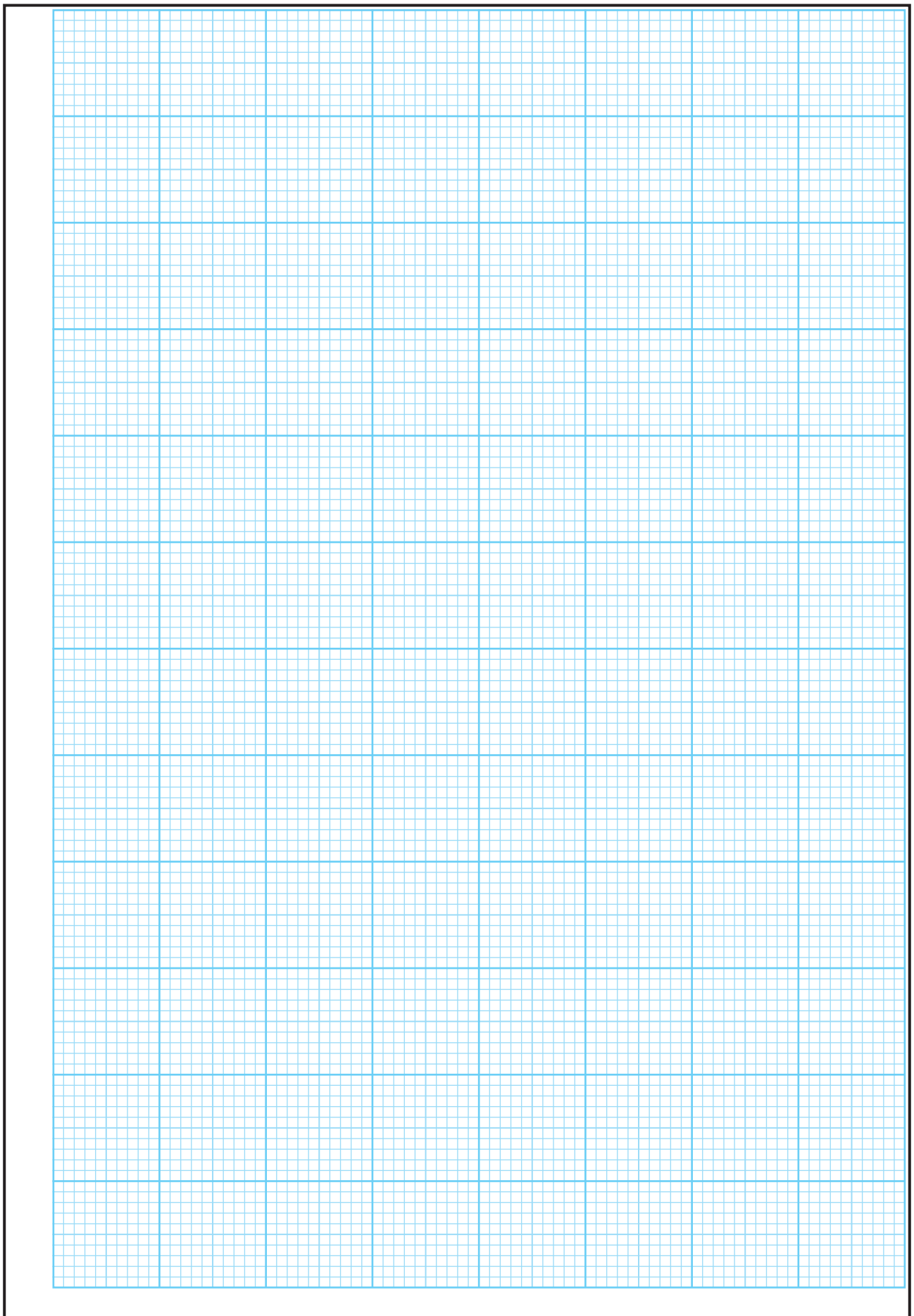


Question



Question

--	--



Question

--	--

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

Part

[illegible]

A diagram showing a rectangle divided into two equal squares by a vertical line. The rectangle is labeled with 'a' on the top and bottom edges and 'b' on the left and right edges.

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 5 June

Morning 9:30 - 12:20