



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Geography

Part Two

Ordinary Level

Friday 5 June

Morning 9:30 – 12:20

400 marks

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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:

- The coastline
- An area of land over 200m in height
- An area of deciduous woodland
- The railway line
- The Flurry River.

[30m]

1B. Landform Development

Answer (i) or (ii).

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

or

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

[40m]

1C. Earthquakes

(i) Name **two** geographical locations where earthquakes have occurred.

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

(iii) Explain how earthquakes occur **and** describe their main effects.

[30m]

Question 2

2A. Surface Processes



www.discoverireland.ie



www.ireland.com



www.concreteplayground.com

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

- (i) In your answer book, match each of the photographs **A**, **B** and **C** with the landform that best matches it from the list below:
- Waterfall
 - Sea stack
 - Drumlin.
- (ii) In your answer book, match each of the photographs **A**, **B** and **C** with the process most associated with its formation from the list below:
- Coastal erosion
 - Glacial deposition
 - River erosion.
- (iii) Explain briefly the processes of:
- Hydraulic action
 - Abrasion.

[30m]

2B. Karst Landscapes

- (i) Name **one** example of a karst landscape.
- (ii) Explain, with the aid of a diagram, how **one** surface feature in a karst landscape was formed.
- (iii) Explain, with the aid of a diagram, how **one** underground feature in a karst landscape was formed.

[40m]

2C. 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 3

3A. Mass Movement

A village in Switzerland has been partially destroyed after a huge chunk of glacier ice crashed down into the valley.

Climate change is causing glaciers to melt faster. This extra water from the glaciers has caused more landslides.

To help reduce the risk of injury and death, residents evacuated before the landslide. This was due to concerns about the glacier breaking and melting.

One person has been reported missing and several people have been injured. Homes, the church and Hotel Edelweiss have been covered by debris from the landslide. This landslide was recorded at every monitoring station in Switzerland. Tonnes of debris have also blocked the River Lonza, causing a flood risk.



Amended from www.bbc.com

Examine the news article above that describes a glacier melting and a landslide that followed and answer each of the following questions.

- In which country did the landslide take place?
- What was the cause of the landslide?
- Name **one** way the residents had prepared for the landslide.
- List **two** effects of the landslide.
- Explain briefly why there is now a flood risk in the area mentioned in the article.

[30m]

3B. Rocks

- Name **one** example of an igneous rock.
- State **one** location where igneous rock can be found.
- State **two** uses of igneous rocks.
- Describe and explain how igneous rocks are formed.

[40m]

3C. Human Interaction with Surface Processes

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

- River processes
- Coastal processes
- Mass movement processes.

[30m]

SECTION 2

REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Questions 4 to 6

All questions carry 100 marks.

Question 4

4A. Map Skills

Draw a sketch map of a **Continental / Sub-Continental** region (**not in Europe**) 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. Primary Economic Activity in a European Region

Answer each of the following questions with reference to a **European** region (**not in Ireland**) that you have studied.

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

[40m]

4C. Regions and Culture

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

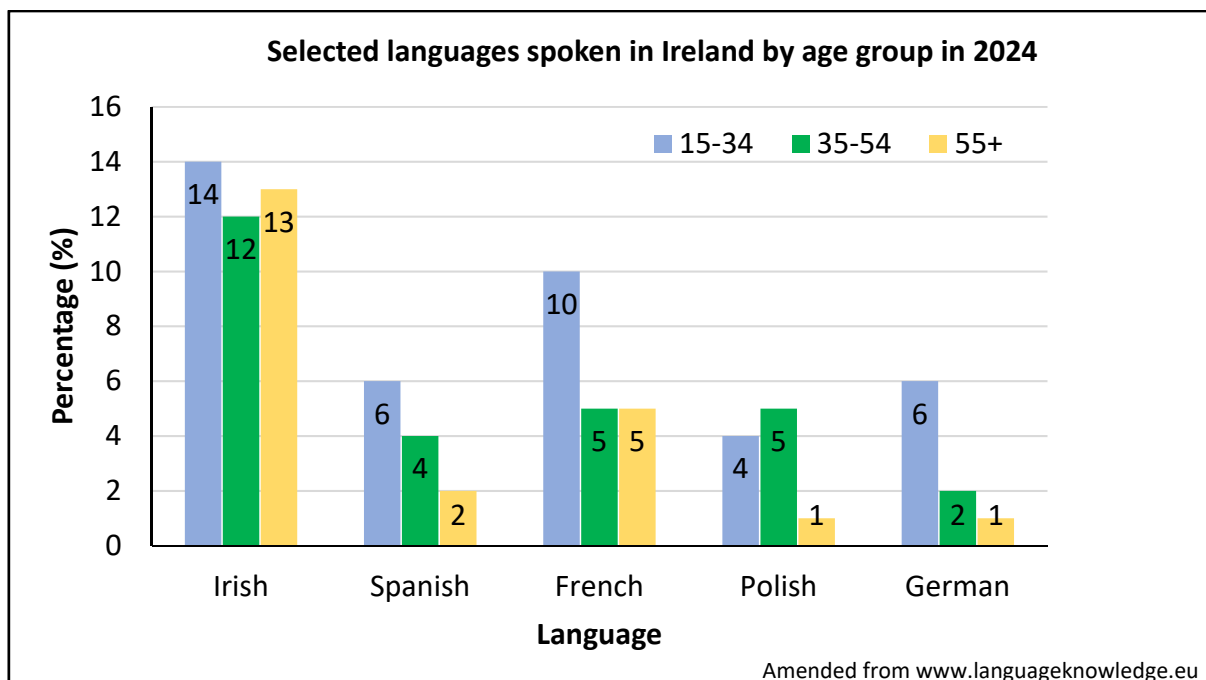
Religion	Language	Sport/Games	Music/Dance
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Describe and explain the importance of culture in any **one** region that you have studied.

[30m]

Question 5

5A. Language in Ireland



Examine the chart above showing selected languages spoken in Ireland by age group in 2024 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Which of the three age groups shown spoke the most Irish?
- (ii) In the 35-54 age group, what language was spoken least?
- (iii) Calculate the total percentage of French spoken by the three age groups shown.
- (iv) State **one** way that the Irish language could be promoted further.
- (v) Explain briefly **one** advantage of speaking an additional language.

[30m]

5B. Economic Activities – Continental / Sub-Continental Region

Explain the development of any **two** of the following with reference to a **Continental / Sub-Continental** region (**not in Europe**) that you have studied:

- The factors influencing **agriculture** in the region
- The importance of **manufacturing** to the region
- The reasons why **tourists** are attracted to the region.

[40m]

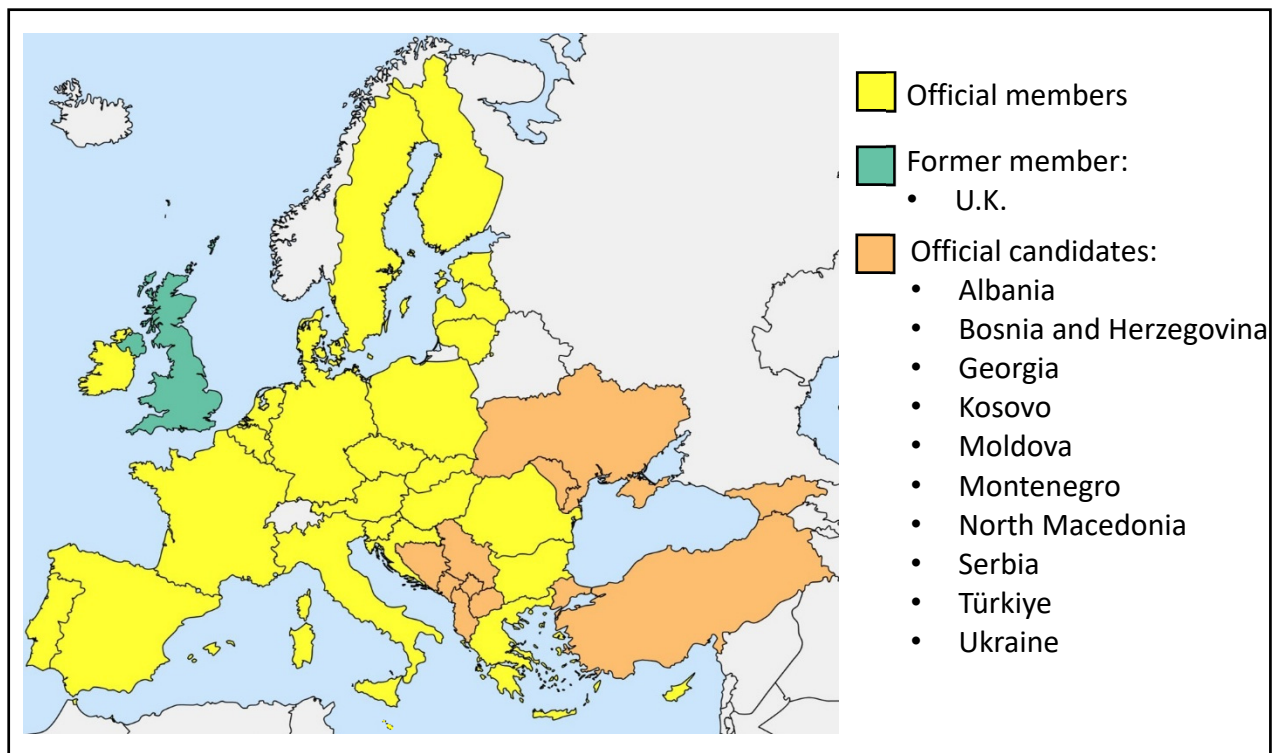
5C. Characteristics of Regions

- (i) Name **one** example of a core region **and** explain why this region is a core region.
- (ii) Name **one** example of a peripheral region **and** explain why this region is a peripheral region.

[30m]

Question 6

6A. European Union (EU)



Amended from www.enlargement.ec.europa.eu

Examine the map above showing official and former members of the European Union (EU), as well as official candidates for membership. Answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Name **one** former member of the European Union.
- (ii) Name **one** country, shown on the map, that is an official candidate for European Union membership.
- (iii) State **one** reason why countries want to join the EU.
- (iv) State **two** advantages of European Union membership for Ireland.
- (v) Explain briefly **one** challenge facing the EU today.

[30m]

6B. Tertiary Economic Activities – Irish Region

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

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

Question 7

7A. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Dundalk accompanying this paper.

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

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

- The river
- A bridge
- A recreational area
- An agricultural area in the right foreground
- A warehouse in the centre foreground.

[30m]

7B. Economic Development – Developed Economy

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

- Tourism
- Financial services
- Services and footloose industries.

[40m]

7C. Ireland and the European Union

- (i) Name any **one** European Union policy that affects Ireland's economy.
- (ii) Describe and explain the effects of European Union policy(ies) on Ireland's economy.

[30m]

Question 8

8A. Renewable Energy

At Emerald Park in Co. Meath, a new Solar Panel Project will generate 128 kWh of clean energy from 300 solar panels. This will reduce carbon emissions at the park by 37 tonnes annually.

This will also save the site more than €30,000 every year in energy costs. The park will be powered by renewable sources such as solar energy.

These new solar panels will generate enough electricity to power the entire park for a full month. There will also be twenty electric car charging points available.



Amended from www.irishpost.com

Examine the article above about the installation of solar panels in Emerald Park and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) How many solar panels will be installed at Emerald Park?
- (ii) How many kWh of clean energy will be generated by the project?
- (iii) State **one** benefit of having solar panels in Emerald Park.
- (iv) Name **two** sources of renewable energy.
- (v) Explain briefly **one** disadvantage of renewable energy.

[30m]

8B. Multinational Company

- (i) Name **one** multinational company that you have studied **and** state where this multinational company is located in Ireland.
- (ii) Name **one** raw material required by this multinational company **and** name **one** product manufactured by this multinational company.
- (iii) Explain the advantages of being located in Ireland for this multinational company.
- (iv) Explain **one** difficulty facing this multinational company.

[40m]

8C. Economic Activity and Conflict

- (i) Name **one** example of how the development of economic activities has resulted in conflict arising between people.
- (ii) Describe and explain this conflict.

[30m]

Question 9

9A. Economic Development

Expected Years of Schooling for
Selected Countries 2023

Country	Years
Greece	20
Norway	18
Chad	8
Serbia	15
Madagascar	9

Amended from www.hdr.undp.org

Examine the table above showing expected years of schooling for selected countries in 2023 and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Using graph paper, draw a suitable graph to illustrate this data.
- (ii) In your answer book, state **two** reasons why the expected years of schooling in some countries is much lower than others.

[30m]

9B. Economic Activity – 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 large hotel within the area covered by the map.

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

[40m]

9C. Fossil Fuels

- (i) Name **two** fossil fuels.
- (ii) Describe and explain the impact of burning fossil fuels on the environment.

[30m]

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Questions 10 to 12

Question 10

10A. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Dundalk accompanying this paper.

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

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

- The river
- A car park
- An industrial area in the background
- A sports ground in the right middleground
- An area of terraced housing in the left middleground.

[30m]

10B. Population Dynamics

‘Birth rates and death rates are influenced by many factors including income levels, culture and society and medical technology’.

Describe and explain the factors that influence birth rates and death rates.

[40m]

10C. Urban Sprawl

- (i) Name **one** city where urban sprawl has occurred.
- (ii) Explain the reasons why urban sprawl has occurred in this city.
- (iii) Describe **one** solution to urban sprawl.

[30m]

Question 11

11A. Population

Population of Ireland by age group (%), 2024

Age group	Percentage (%) of total population
0-14	18
15-24	13
25-44	27
45-64	26
65+	16

Amended from www.cso.ie

Examine the data above showing population of Ireland by age group (%) in 2024 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** challenge associated with an increase in population.

[30m]

11B. Migration – Rural to Urban

- (i) State **two** reasons why people migrate from rural areas to urban areas.
- (ii) Describe and explain the effect of this migration on the urban areas that people migrate to.
- (iii) Describe and explain the effect of this migration on the rural areas they leave behind.

[40m]

11C. Settlement Distribution

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

- (i) Give a grid reference for an area on the map where there is an **absence** of settlement.
- (ii) Explain in detail, using evidence from the map, why there is an **absence** of settlement at this location.
- (iii) Give a grid reference for an area on the map that has a relatively **high** density of settlement.
- (iv) Explain in detail, using evidence from the map, why there is a relatively **high** density of settlement at this location.

[30m]

Question 12

12A. Urban Development

Cork is set to be the fastest-growing city in Ireland over the next 20 years. The population is set to grow up to 60 percent in that time. This means that the transport network needs to be developed.

Luas Cork has been proposed and will run across the city, connecting key destinations along the line. Luas Cork will deliver large scale urban regeneration. This includes the development of the Cork City Docklands as well as older parts of the city.

This development is expected to deliver 20,000 new homes and almost 25,000 jobs. Luas Cork will reduce traffic congestion, lower carbon emissions, and improve air quality.



Amended from www.transportforireland.ie

Examine the information above about the plans for Luas Cork and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) In which city is the new Luas proposed?
- (ii) By what percent is the population projected to grow by over the next 20 years?
- (iii) How many new homes is this project expected to generate?
- (iv) State **two** reasons why more people in Ireland live in urban areas.
- (v) Explain briefly what is meant by the term *urban renewal*.

[30m]

12B. Developing World City

- (i) Name **one** city in the developing world that is rapidly growing.
- (ii) Explain the reasons for the rapid growth of this developing world city.
- (iii) Describe the problems caused by this rapid growth.
- (iv) Explain **one** solution to these problems.

[40m]

12C. Overpopulation

- (i) Explain briefly what is meant by the term *overpopulation*.
- (ii) Describe and explain the causes **and** effects of overpopulation with reference to example(s) that you have studied.

[30m]

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