



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2024

Geography

Part Two

Higher Level

Friday 7 June Morning 9:30 – 12:20

400 marks

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PART TWO – STRUCTURED and ESSAY QUESTIONS – 320 MARKS

You must attempt **FOUR** questions. You must answer 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.

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 80 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 to half scale.

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

- The coastline
- The 18 hole golf course, north of Bantry town
- The entire area of Lough Bofinna
- The entire area of land above 400 metres at Mullaghmesha.

[20m]

1B. Human Interaction with Surface Processes

Human activity impacts on surface processes.

Examine this statement with reference to **one** of the following:

- The impact of flood control measures on river processes
- The impact of coastal defence measures on coastal processes
- The impact of human activities on mass movement processes.

[30m]

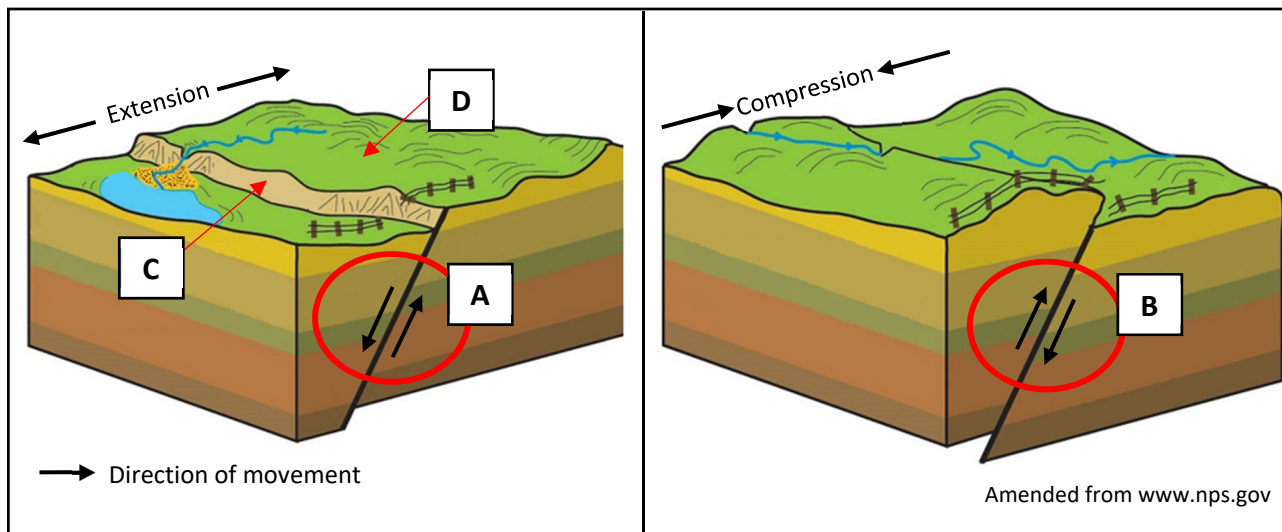
1C. Destructive Plate Boundaries

Discuss the impacts of destructive plate boundaries, with reference to an example(s) you have studied.

[30m]

Question 2

2A. Landscape Deformation



Examine the diagram above which shows different faults and landforms created by faulting and answer each of the following questions.

- Name each of the types of fault labelled **A** and **B**.
- Name each of the landforms created by faulting labelled **C** and **D**.
- What type of fault is found where the process of shearing occurs?
- Explain briefly what causes faulting.
- Name **two** periods of fold mountain building that shaped the Irish landscape over the last 400 million years.
- In your answerbook, state whether the following statement is true or false:
A syncline is the part of a fold where the layers of rock have been pushed upwards.

[20m]

2B. Landscape Development

Answer (i) or (ii)

- Examine the role of the **processes of erosion** on the formation of **one** fluvial landform **or one** coastal landform **or one** glacial landform that you have studied.

Or

- Describe and explain the **factors governing the operation** of **one** mass movement process that you have studied.

[30m]

2C. Volcanic Activity

Examine the influence of volcanic activity on the development of the Irish landscape with reference to **each** of the following:

- Intrusive features
- Extrusive features.

[30m]

Question 3

3A. Dynamic Boundaries



When Litli-Hrútur formed at a fissure, 61.2km southwest of the capital Reykjavík, it became Iceland's youngest volcano.

Thousands of tremors and earthquakes were recorded in the days leading up to the eruption. Molten lava flowed across the landscape of Iceland as pyroclastic material was thrown into the air and plumes of gas released into the atmosphere.

The volcanic cone grew to a height of 30 metres in the first seven days due to continuous lava flow.

Lava flowing from the crater moved slowly across the landscape, creating

picturesque lava streams. This encouraged more tourist interest in Litli-Hrútur, but fires and dangerously high gas levels prevented access for several days.

Amended from www.scienceworld.com

Examine the map and text above that highlight tectonic activity in Iceland. Answer each of the following questions.

- (i) To what height, in metres, did the cone of the *Litli-Hrútur* volcano grow in the first seven days?
- (ii) Give **one** reason, from the text above, why access was prevented after the eruption.
- (iii) Name **two** gases emitted from a volcano.
- (iv) Iceland is located on two tectonic plates. Name **both** plates.
- (v) Explain briefly **one** benefit of volcanic activity.
- (vi) Explain briefly what is meant by the term *caldera*.

[20m]

3B. Sedimentary Rocks

Examine the formation of sedimentary rocks, with reference to examples from Ireland.

[30m]

3C. Seismic Activity

Explain how the occurrence of earthquakes can be predicted and their effects reduced.

[30m]

SECTION 2

REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Questions 4 to 6

All questions carry 80 marks.

Question 4

4A. Map Skills

Draw an outline map of a **Continental / Sub-Continental** region (not in Europe) that you have studied.

On it, show and name each of the following:

- **Two** named urban centres
- The course of a named river
- The outline of a named feature of relief (upland or lowland).

[20m]

4B. Concept of a Region

Examine how culture **or** climate can be used to define regions, with reference to an example(s) that you have studied.

[30m]

4C. Secondary Economic Activity

Account for the development of secondary economic activity in an **Irish** region that you have studied, with reference to **two** of the following factors:

- Government policy
- Labour
- Markets
- Infrastructure.

[30m]

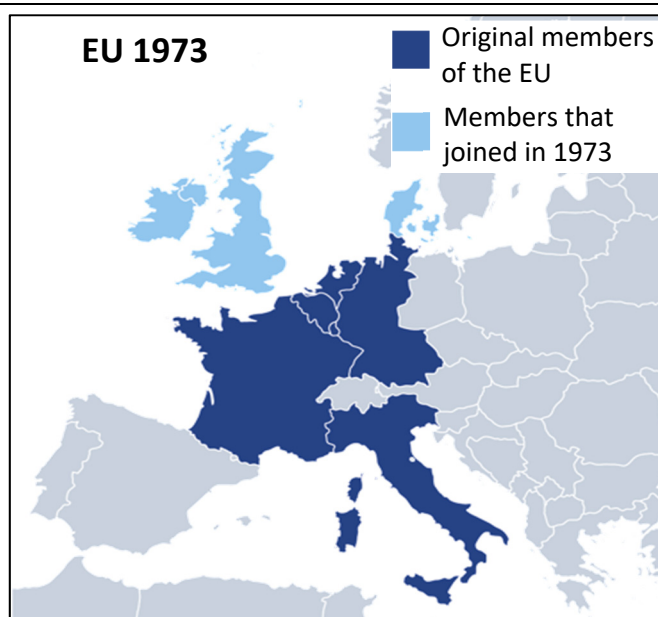
Question 5

5A. Regional Disparity in the European Union

Ireland joined the European Economic Community (EEC) (now the European Union (EU)) in 1973, along with Denmark and the UK, in what was the first enlargement of the union.

Almost 50 years ago (December 1974), in an act of solidarity with new member countries, leaders of the EU (then EEC) agreed to set up a fund for less developed European regions. This act of solidarity led to the establishment of the *European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)*. It was funded by the wealthier economies, the purpose of which was to support infrastructure development, create jobs and attract inward investment. The fund addressed imbalances in regional development through targeted investments.

The positive impacts of the fund were seen across the EU as regional development gaps were bridged, rural communities were supported and urban development was progressed.



Amended from www.europa.eu

Examine the map and text above that outline the development of the European Union and the establishment of the ERDF and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Other than Ireland, list the **two** countries that joined the EEC (now the EU) in 1973.
- (ii) Name **two** countries that were original members of the EU.
- (iii) State **two** purposes of the European Regional Development Fund.
- (iv) Explain briefly **two** challenges facing the EU today.

[20m]

5B. Primary Economic Activity

Examine the impact of **one** of the following on the development of primary economic activity(ies) in **two** contrasting **European** regions (not in Ireland) that you have studied.

- Climate
- Relief.

[30m]

5C. Urban Development

Examine the factors that have influenced the development of **one** urban area in an **Irish** region that you have studied.

[30m]

Question 6

6A. Tourism in Ireland

Irish Tourist Attractions 2022

Top Ranked Tourist Attractions		Share of Tourists by Category	
Tourist Attraction	Total Visitors	Category	% Share
Phoenix Park Visitor Centre	2,013,211	Historic site	36
Kilkenny Castle Parklands	1,418,171	Museum, gallery	17
Dublin Zoo	1,242,556	Visitor/heritage centre	X
Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience	1,136,868	Brand experience	10
Guinness Storehouse	1,110,000	Natural attraction	7
Castletown House Parklands	958,921	Visitor garden	7
The Book of Kells	835,065	Zoo, aquarium, open farm	6
National Gallery of Ireland	789,315	Heritage/leisure/theme park	3

Amended from www.failteireland.ie

Examine the table above showing Ireland's leading tourist attractions in 2022 and answer each of the following questions.

- Name the **two** most popular tourist attractions.
- What tourist attraction had a total of 835,065 visitors?
- Which category had a 17% share of tourists?
- Calculate **X**, the percentage share of tourists that visited a visitor/heritage centre.
- The majority of attractions in the table are on the east coast of Ireland. Explain briefly **one** reason why more tourists visited attractions on the east coast than other parts of the country.
- Explain briefly **one** possible negative impact of tourism.

[20m]

6B. Population Dynamics

Account for population distribution throughout a **Continental / Sub-Continental** region (not in Europe) that you have studied.

[30m]

6C. Socio-Economic Regions

Discuss how economic activity in core regions differs from economic activity in peripheral regions, using examples 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 80 marks.

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Questions 7 to 9

Question 7

7A. Ordnance Survey Map

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

Draw a sketch map of the area shown to half scale.

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

- The post office
- The electricity transmission line
- The R584 road
- The camping site.

[20m]

7B. Economic Development

Discuss how Gross National Product (GNP) and the Human Development Index (HDI) can be used as a measure of economic development, with reference to example(s) you have studied.

[30m]

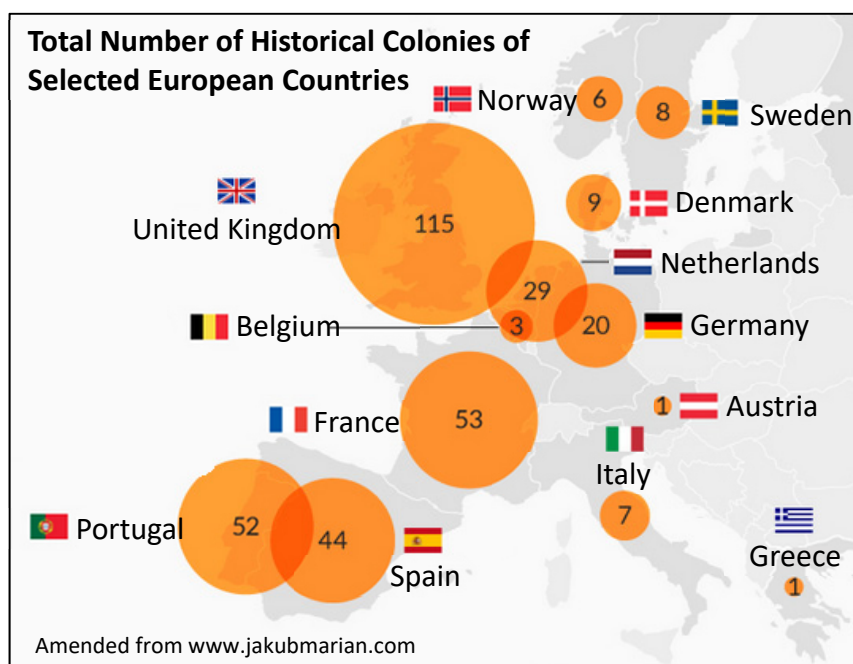
7C. Sustainable Development

Examine how economic activities can be developed sustainably in order to control their environmental impact.

[30m]

Question 8

8A. Colonialism



Examine the map above showing the numbers of historical colonies of selected European countries and answer each of the following questions.

- Which country had the highest number of colonies?
- Name **two** countries from the map that had only one colony.
- How many countries shown on the map had more than 10 colonies?
- Name **one** country you have studied that was colonised **and** name the country that colonised it.
- Explain briefly what is meant by the term *colonialism*.
- Explain briefly **one** negative impact colonialism had on a developing economy that you have studied.

[20m]

8B. Development of Economic Activity

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

- Explain **two** reasons why a fish processing plant might choose to locate in the area covered by the map. Use evidence from the Ordnance Survey map to support each reason.
- Using evidence from the Ordnance Survey map, explain **one** reason why a fish processing plant might choose not to locate in this area.

[30m]

8C. Environmental Impact

Examine the environmental impact of burning fossil fuels.

[30m]

Question 9

9A. Economic Activity

Unemployment rate for 25-74 year olds in Ireland

Year	% Unemployed
2018	4.8
2019	4.1
2020	4.4
2021	5.0
2022	4.2
2023	4.0

Source: OECD

Examine the data above showing the unemployment rate for 25 to 74 year olds in Ireland for each year, 2018 to 2023. Answer each of the following questions.

- Using graph paper, draw a suitable graph to illustrate this data.
- Explain briefly **one** way that high employment benefits the Irish economy.

[20m]

9B. European Union – Trade

Describe the current trading patterns of the European Union (both internal trade and external trade) and explain the factors that influence these trading patterns.

[30m]

9C. Multinational Company

Examine the impact of each of the following on the operations of **one** multinational company that you have studied:

- The product life cycle
- Developments in information technology.

[30m]

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Questions 10 to 12

Question 10

10A. Urban Density

Percentage of global population
living in urban areas

Year	Percentage
1972	37
1982	40
1992	44
2002	48
2012	52
2022	57

Source: www.worldbank.org

Examine the data above showing the percentage of global population living in urban areas in selected years and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Using graph paper, draw a suitable graph to illustrate this data.
- (ii) Explain briefly **one** challenge associated with increasing urban populations.

[20m]

10B. Urban Settlement

Answer the following question using evidence from the aerial photograph **OR** from the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map and legend to support your answer. Do **not** refer to both in your answer.

Explain **three** reasons why the town of Bantry developed at its present location.

[30m]

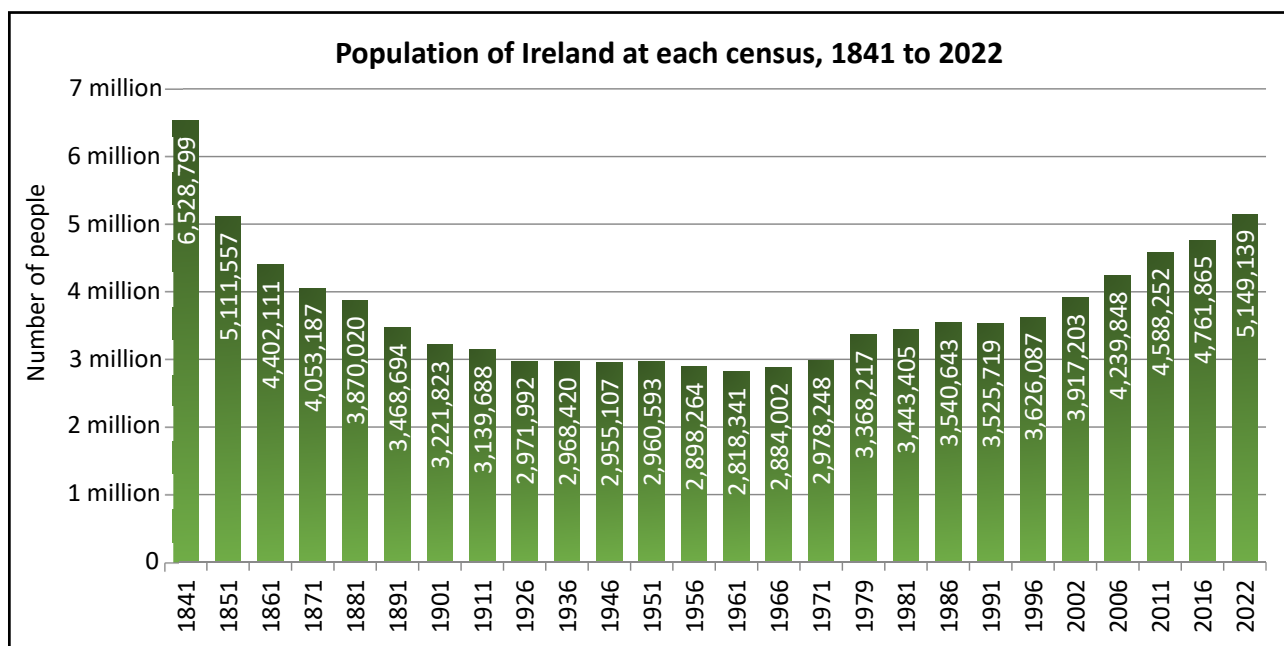
10C. Dynamics of Population

Examine how changing fertility and mortality rates impact on population structure with reference to example(s) that you have studied.

[30m]

Question 11

11A. Population Characteristics



Amended from CSO

Examine the chart above showing the population of Ireland at each census from 1841 to 2022 and answer each of the following questions.

- Which census year had the highest population?
- Which census year had the lowest population?
- Was the population increasing **or** decreasing from 1996 to 2022?
- In how many censuses was the population at or over 4 million people?
- Calculate the change in Ireland's population between 1841 and 2022.
- Explain briefly **one** reason why Ireland's population increased since 2011.
- Explain briefly the term *natural change*.

[20m]

11B. Changing Urban Functions

Examine how the functions and/or services of urban centres can change over time, with reference to an example(s) that you have studied.

[30m]

11C. Future Urbanism

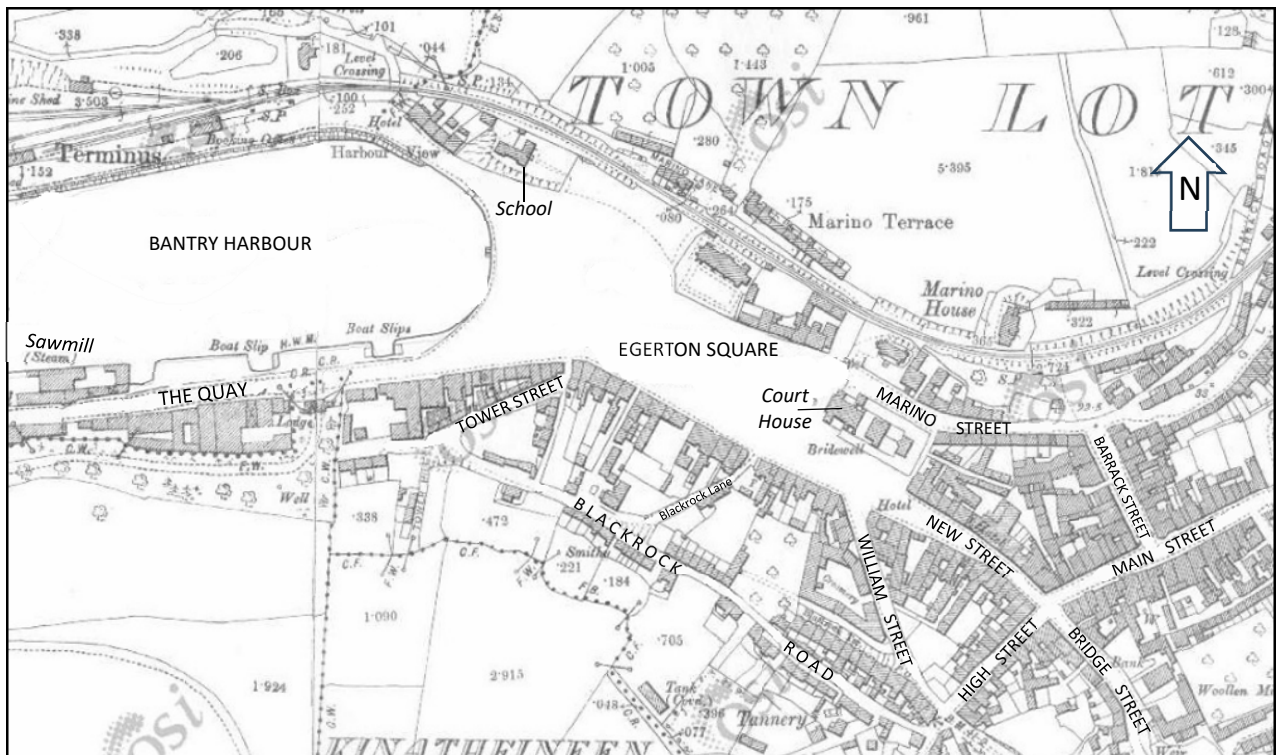
Discuss **two** challenges facing cities of the future.

[30m]

Question 12

12A. Historical Map

Historical Map of Bantry



Amended from www.scoilnetmaps.ie

Examine the historical map of Bantry shown above.
Draw a sketch map of the historical map.
On it, correctly show and label each of the following:

- Bantry Harbour
- **Two** connecting roads/streets
- The school
- The court house.

[20m]

12B. Migration

Discuss how recent trends in migration are impacting on migration policy in Europe.

[30m]

12C. Overpopulation

Examine the causes **and** effects of overpopulation, with reference to an example(s) that you have studied.

[30m]

SECTION 4

OPTIONS

Questions 13 to 24

All questions carry 80 marks.

Note: It is better to discuss **three** or **four** aspects of the theme in some detail, rather than to give a superficial treatment of a large number of points.

Global Interdependence

Note: It is better to discuss **three** or **four** aspects of the theme in some detail, rather than to give a superficial treatment of a large number of points.

- 13.** Sustainable development should be a priority for human and economic development.
Discuss.

[80m]

- 14.** We live in an interdependent global economy where decisions and actions taken in one area have an impact on other areas.

Examine this statement with reference to each of the following:

- Deforestation
- Global warming
- Desertification.

[80m]

- 15.** Views of development and underdevelopment are subject to change and should be challenged.

Discuss this statement with reference to the idea of the developed 'North' and the developing 'South'.

[80m]

Geocology

Note: It is better to discuss **three** or **four** aspects of the theme in some detail, rather than to give a superficial treatment of a large number of points.

- 16.** Explain how soil characteristics impact on soil development.

[80m]

- 17.** Examine the characteristics of **one** biome that you have studied, with reference to any **three** of the following:

- Climate
- Soils
- Flora
- Fauna.

[80m]

- 18.** Examine how each of the following impact on soil characteristics:

- Overgrazing
- Desertification
- Conservation methods.

[80m]

Culture and Identity

Note: It is better to discuss **three** or **four** aspects of the theme in some detail, rather than to give a superficial treatment of a large number of points.

19. Nationality and the nation state are political concepts placed on cultural landscapes. Examine how conflict can arise between political structures and cultural groups. [80m]
20. Identity as a concept entails a variety of cultural factors. Discuss this statement with reference to an example that you have studied. [80m]
21. Examine the importance of language as a cultural indicator. [80m]

The Atmosphere – Ocean Environment

Note: It is better to discuss **three** or **four** aspects of the theme in some detail, rather than to give a superficial treatment of a large number of points.

22. Examine how exchanges of water between oceans and atmosphere give rise to distinctive weather and climate regimes. [80m]
23. Identify and account for the characteristics of **one** distinctive global climate that you have studied. [80m]
24. Examine how solar energy is transformed and redistributed through circulation patterns in the atmosphere and oceans. [80m]

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

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