



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2025

Geography

Part Two

Higher Level

Friday 6 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 entire area of Lough Corrib
- The course of the Owenriff river from M 089 417 to where it enters Lough Corrib
- Buffy Lough
- The entire route of the N59 road.

[20m]

1B. Rocks and Landscapes

Examine how different rock types produce distinctive landscapes, with reference to examples that you have studied.

[30m]

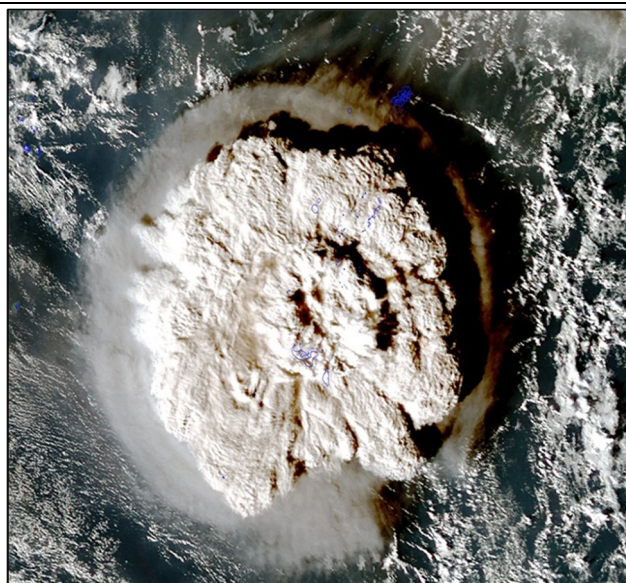
1C. Isostasy

Describe and explain how isostasy has shaped the Irish landscape.

[30m]

Question 2

2A. The Tectonic Cycle



The eruption of the underwater Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano on 15th January 2022 was one of the largest ever recorded. The eruption triggered tsunami waves of up to 15m which struck the west coast of Tongatapu, 'Eua and Ha'apai. Ashfall covered an area of at least five square kilometres. Damage to the international and domestic undersea telecommunications meant little information was available from Tonga after the eruption. However, Australian and New Zealand defence forces reported significant damage to houses, roads, water

services and other infrastructure. Four fatalities were attributed to the volcano and tsunami. Around 3,000 people were displaced in the immediate aftermath but most subsequently returned to their communities.

Amended from www.reliefweb.int

Examine the image and text above relating to the Tonga volcanic eruption and tsunami and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) To what height, in metres, did the tsunami waves reach?
- (ii) Give **one** impact on the Tongan islands from the eruption and tsunami.
- (iii) How many people died from the volcanic eruption and tsunami?
- (iv) State **two** ways in which volcanic eruptions can be predicted.
- (v) A tsunami can also be triggered by an earthquake. Name **one** instrument used to measure earthquake activity.
- (vi) Explain briefly **two** ways to limit the impact of earthquakes.

[20m]

2B. Surface Processes

Answer (i) or (ii)

- (i) Examine the role of the **process of deposition** on the formation of **one** fluvial landform **or one** coastal landform **or one** glacial landform that you have studied.
- Or**
- (ii) Describe and explain the **factors governing the operation** of **one** mass movement process that you have studied.

[30m]

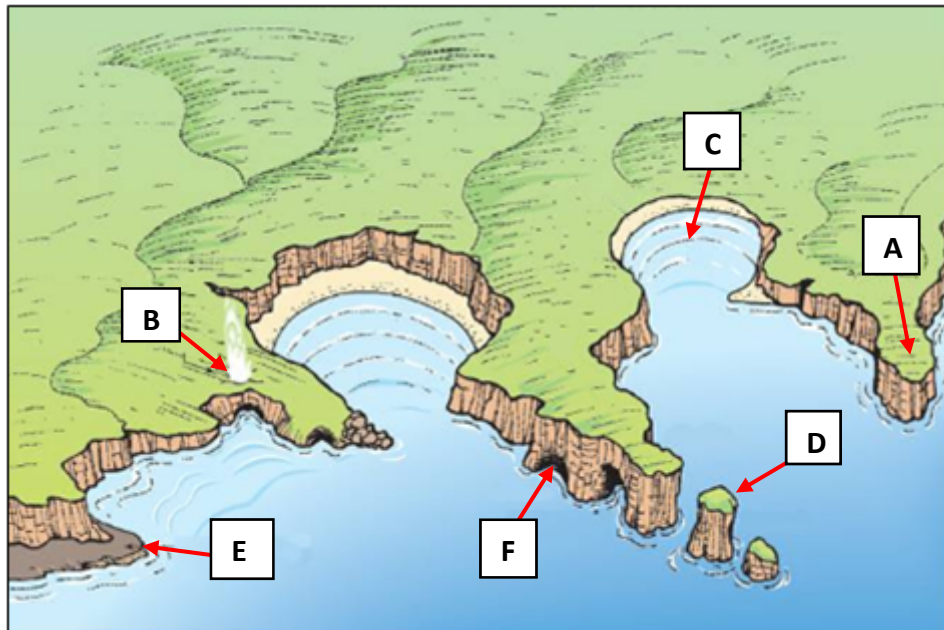
2C. Weathering

Explain **one** process of physical weathering **and one** process of chemical weathering.

[30m]

Question 3

3A. Coastal Landforms



Amended from www.purposegames.com

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

- Name each of the landforms formed by coastal processes labelled **A, B, C, D, E** and **F**.
- Name **two** specific processes of coastal erosion.
- Explain briefly what is meant by *wave refraction*.

[20m]

3B. Human Interaction with the Rock Cycle

Describe and explain how humans interact with the rock cycle with reference to **one** of the following:

- Mining
- Extraction of building materials
- Oil/Gas exploitation
- Geothermal energy production.

[30m]

3C. Landform Development

Examine how **one** of the following influences the development of landforms:

- Folding
- Faulting.

[30m]

SECTION 2

REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Questions 4 to 6

All questions carry 80 marks.

Question 4

4A. Map Skills

Draw an outline map of **Ireland**.

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

- The outline of **one** named region
- **One** named urban centre in that region
- **One** named river in that region
- The outline of **one** named feature of relief (upland or lowland) in that region.

[20m]

4B. Primary Economic Activity

Examine **two** factors that have influenced the development of primary economic activity in a **Continental / Sub-Continental** region (not in Europe) that you have studied.

[30m]

4C. European Union

Explain **each** of the following challenges currently facing the European Union:

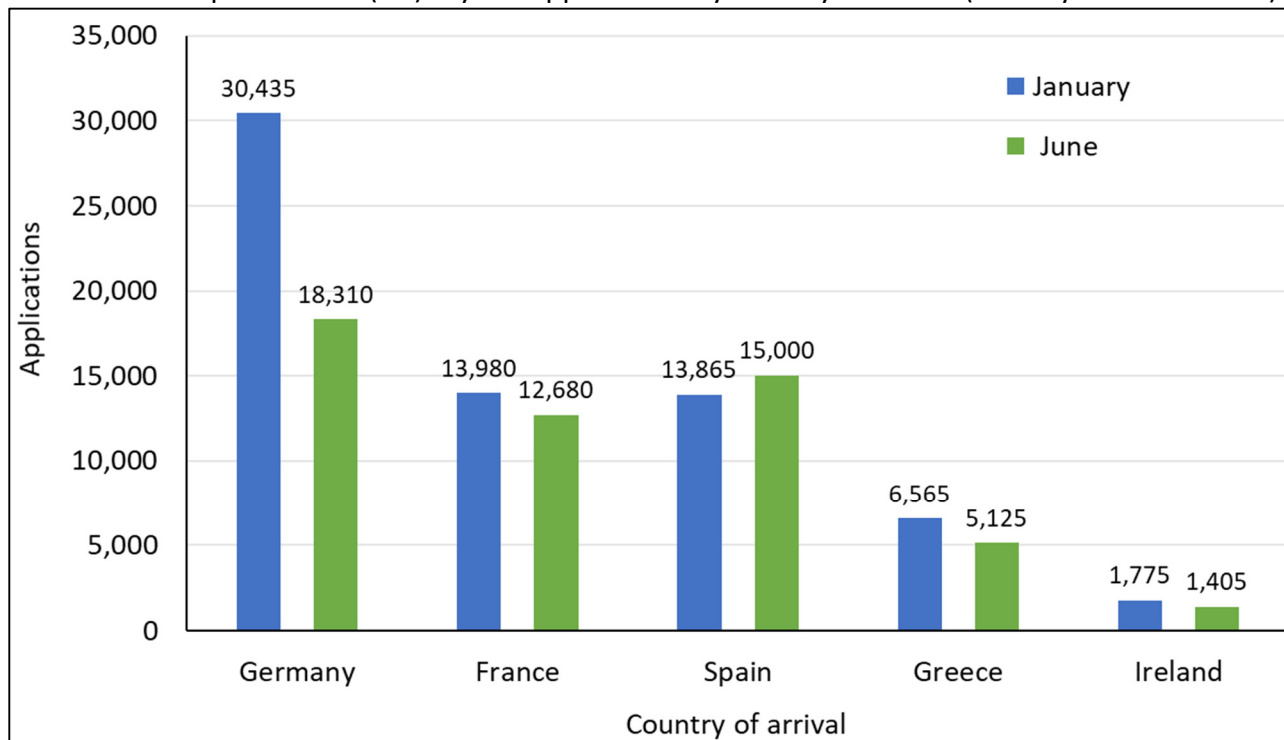
- Social challenges
- Economic challenges.

[30m]

Question 5

5A. European Union

First time European Union (EU) asylum applications by country of arrival (January and June 2024)



Amended from Eurostat

Examine the graph above showing first time asylum applications to selected European countries, for January and June 2024, and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Which country received the highest number of new applications for the period shown?
- (ii) Which country had a larger number of new applications in June compared to January?
- (iii) How many new first time applications did Ireland receive in January 2024?
- (iv) Calculate the average asylum applications for January in the countries shown.
- (v) State **one** possible reason why migration into the EU is high.
- (vi) Explain briefly **one** benefit of increased migration for the European Union.
- (vii) Explain briefly **one** challenge that the European Union faces as a result of high levels of inward migration.

[20m]

5B. Tertiary Economic Activity

Examine **two** factors that have influenced the development of **one** tertiary economic activity in an **Irish** region that you have studied.

[30m]

5C. Concept of a Region

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

[30m]

Question 6

6A. Coastal Employment in Ireland

Coastal employment in the seafood sector in Irish regions for 2022

Region	Coastal Population	Coastal Employment	Employment in Seafood Sector	Percentage of Coastal Employment in Seafood Sector
North	74,989	27,488	3,736	14
North West	64,059	25,328	1,773	7
West	64,704	27,034	1,690	6
South West	90,323	36,718	2,095	6
South	115,533	49,815	3,169	6
South East	91,681	36,467	1,602	4
North East	83,775	36,139	1,238	X
Republic of Ireland	585,064	239,989	15,303	6

Amended from bim.ie

Examine the table above showing information on the seafood sector in Irish regions for 2022, and answer each of the following questions.

- Which region had the highest coastal population?
- In the South East region what percentage (%) of coastal employment was in the seafood sector?
- Calculate **X**, the percentage (%) of coastal employment in the seafood sector in the North East region.
- Name **two** regions where the percentage (%) of total coastal employment is higher than the national average.
- Name **two** Irish fishing ports.
- Explain briefly **one** challenge facing the seafood sector.

[20m]

6B. Secondary Economic Activity

Examine **two** factors that have influenced the development of secondary economic activity in a **European** region (not in Ireland) that you have studied.

[30m]

6C. Urban Development

Examine the factors that have influenced the development of **one** urban area in a **Continental / Sub-Continental** region (not in Europe) 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 80 marks.

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Questions 7 to 9

All questions carry 80 marks.

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 golf course
- The viewpoint
- The cycle route in the north west of the map
- An area of forestry south of northing 40.

[20m]

7B. Multinational Company

With reference to **one** multinational company that you have studied, describe and explain any **two** of the following:

- Sourcing of raw materials and components
- Location of processing units
- Location of markets.

[30m]

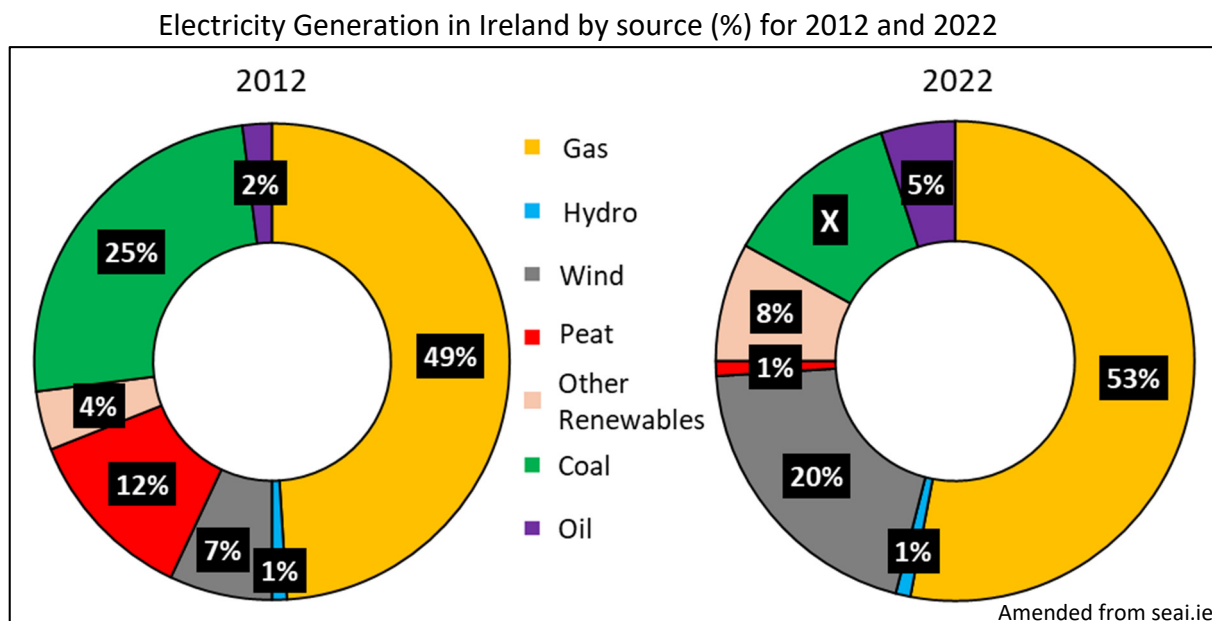
7C. Colonialism

Examine the challenges resulting from colonialism faced by a developing economy that you have studied.

[30m]

Question 8

8A. Electricity Generation



Examine the charts above showing electricity generation in Ireland by source (%) for 2012 and 2022, and answer each of the following questions.

- What was the largest fuel source for electricity generation in Ireland in 2022?
- What was the smallest fuel source for electricity generation in Ireland in 2012?
- Name **two** sources of electricity generation that declined from 2012 to 2022.
- By what percentage (%) did wind increase as a source for electricity generation from 2012 to 2022?
- Calculate **X**, the percentage (%) of electricity generated from coal in 2022.
- Other than hydro and wind, name **one** other source of renewable energy.
- Explain briefly **one** negative impact of using fossil fuels for electricity generation.

[20m]

8B. Tertiary Economic Activities

Using evidence from the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map of Oughterard accompanying this paper, discuss the potential for the development of tourism in the area shown on the map, with reference to the following:

- Accessibility
- Services (excluding transport)
- Attractions.

[30m]

8C. European Union Policy

Examine how European Union policy/policies impact on the Irish economy.

[30m]

Question 9

9A. HDI – Life Expectancy

Average life expectancy (in years) at birth in 2023

Continent	Life Expectancy
Africa	63
Asia	74
Europe	78
North America	76
Oceania	79
South America	74

Amended from statista.com

Examine the data above showing the average life expectancy (in years) at birth by continent in 2023, and answer each of the following questions.

- Using graph paper, draw a suitable graph to illustrate this data.
- Explain briefly **one** reason why life expectancy is lowest in Africa.

[20m]

9B. Economic Development – Developed Economy

Examine the impact of **two** of the following on the development of footloose industries **or** financial services **or** mass tourism in a developed economy that you have studied:

- Physical factors
- Political factors
- Human factors.

[30m]

9C. Renewable Energy

With reference to **one** specific renewable energy source, explain the advantages of this renewable energy source with reference to **each** of the following:

- Economic advantages
- Environmental advantages.

[30m]

PATTERNS AND PROCESSES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Questions 10 to 12

All questions carry 80 marks.

Question 10

10A. Aerial Photograph

Examine the aerial photograph of Oughterard accompanying this paper.

Draw a sketch map of the aerial photograph, half the length and half the breadth.

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

- A sports field
- A bridge
- A church
- A housing estate in the foreground.

[20m]

10B. Urban Planning

Examine the effectiveness of urban planning strategies in solving **two** of the following urban problems, with reference to any urban area(s) that you have studied:

- Pollution
- Transport
- Housing.

[30m]

10C. Migration

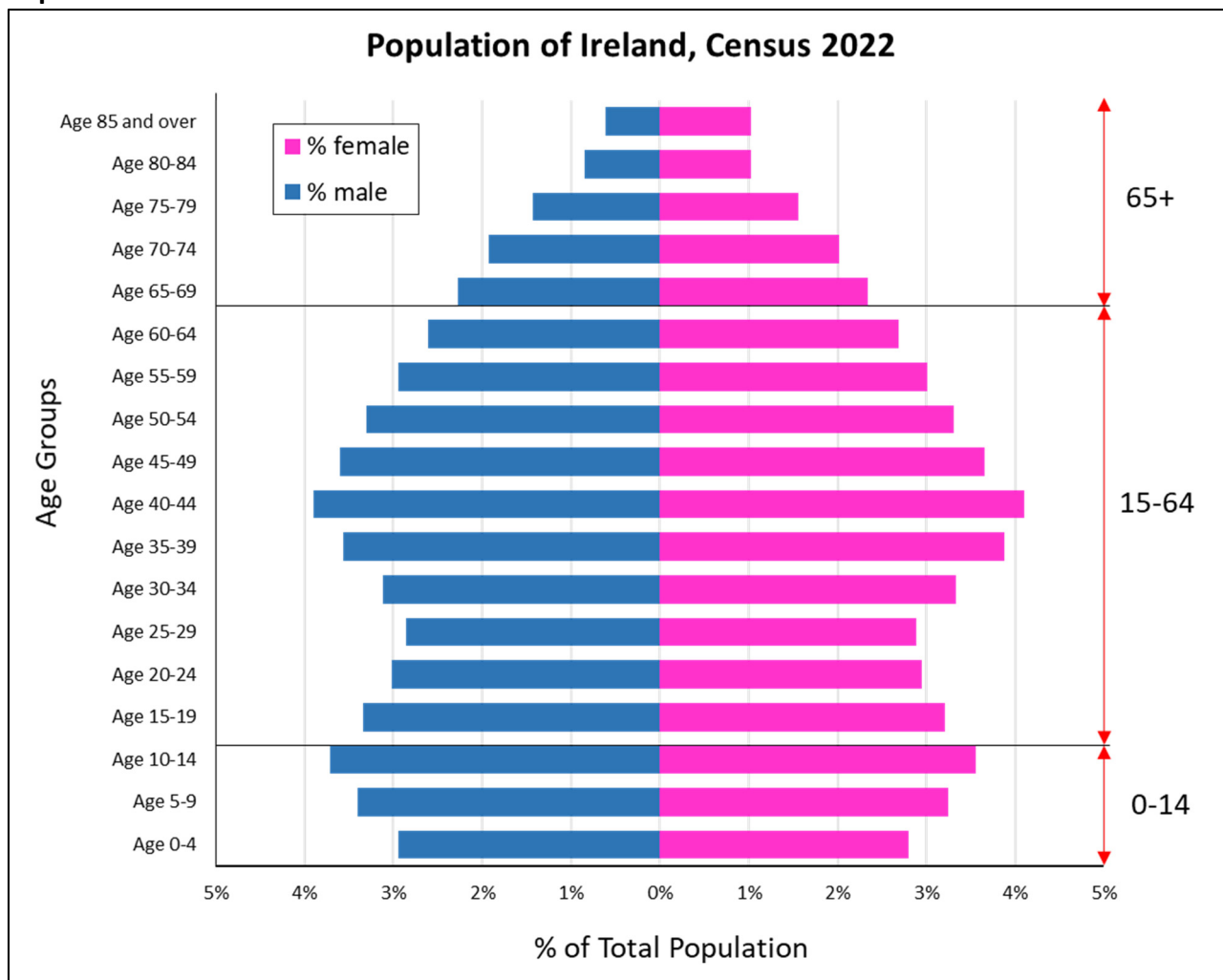
Population movements have an impact on donor and receiver regions.

Examine **one** impact of migration on donor regions **and one** impact of migration on receiver regions, using example(s) that you have studied.

[30m]

Question 11

11A. Population



Examine the population pyramid above showing Ireland's population structure, according to Census 2022, and answer each of the following questions.

- What percentage (%) of females are reported as being in the 70-74 age group?
- Which age group has the largest number of males and females?
- Do males or females live longer into old age? Give **one** piece of evidence from the pyramid to support your answer.
- Which of the following represents the approximate percentage (%) of males and females aged 65 and over: 11% **or** 15% **or** 19%?
- Explain briefly what is meant by the term *Dependency Ratio*.
- Explain briefly **one** effect of the projected increase in Ireland's dependency ratio.

[20m]

11B. Central Place Theory

Describe and explain Central Place Theory with reference to example(s) you have studied.

[30m]

11C. Dynamics of Population

Examine the impact/influence of any **one** of the following factors on levels of population change, with reference to example(s) that you have studied:

- The development of resources
- Society and culture
- Technology.

[30m]

Question 12

12A. Heritage

UNESCO World Heritage sites by country

Country	Number of sites
Belarus	4
Chile	7
Egypt	7
Hungary	8
Iceland	3
Ireland	2

Amended from UNESCO.org

Examine the data above showing the number of UNESCO World Heritage sites in selected countries and answer each of the following questions.

- (i) Using graph paper, draw a suitable graph to illustrate this data.
- (ii) Explain briefly **one** benefit of having a heritage site in an urban area.

[20m]

12B. Settlement Distribution

Examine the 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map of Oughterard accompanying this paper.

Using evidence from the map, account for variations in settlement distribution in the area shown on the map.

[30m]

12C. Urban Expansion

As cities grow and expand they impact on the surrounding areas.

Discuss this statement with reference to 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.** We live in an interdependent global economy. Discuss the impact of social and political decisions with reference to **each** of the following:

- Economic and political refugees
- Migration patterns
- Human rights issues.

[80m]

- 14.** Empowering people is a way of linking economic growth with human development.

Discuss this statement with reference to any **three** of the following:

- National debt
- Aid programmes
- Levels of exploitation at local and global scales
- Differing gender roles in society.

[80m]

- 15.** Examine sustainable development as a model for future development.

[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.** Examine how any **three** of the following processes impact on soil characteristics:

- Weathering
- Podzolisation
- Calcification
- Soil erosion.

[80m]

- 17.** Examine the influence of mineral matter, air, water and organic matter on soil development.

[80m]

- 18.** Biomes are altered by human activity. Examine this statement with reference to **each** of the following activities:

- The felling of tropical rainforests
- Intensive agricultural practices
- Industrial development.

[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. Examine the importance of religion as a cultural indicator.

[80m]

20. Examine how different cultural groups can exist within nation states, with reference to example(s) you have studied.

[80m]

21. 'Cultural identity is defined by many diverse factors'.

Examine this statement with reference to a case study of a European region you have studied.

[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. Describe the formation of each of the following **and** discuss its impact on weather patterns:

- Mid-latitude depressions
- Anticyclones
- Land and sea breezes.

[80m]

23. Give an account of how atmosphere-ocean phenomena (e.g. pressure, temperature, wind and humidity) are measured and examine the importance of such measurements.

[80m]

24. Examine how climate characteristics influence economic development.

[80m]

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