AQA

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number | | | | | | Candidate number | | | | |

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Candidate signature _____

I declare this is my own work.

GCSE
GEOGRAPHY

Paper 1 Living with the physical environment

Wednesday 13 May 2026 Morning Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:
- the OS map key insert (enclosed)
- a pencil
- a rubber
- a ruler.

You may use a calculator.

Instructions
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.

Answer all questions in Section A and Section B.

Answer two questions in Section C.
Question 3 (Coasts), Question 4 (Rivers), Question 5 (Glacial)

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
TOTAL	

- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do **not** write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need additional extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The total number of marks available for this paper is 88.
- Spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology will be assessed in Question **01.12**.

Do not write outside the box

For the multiple-choice questions, shade the circle next to the correct answer.

CORRECT METHOD 

WRONG METHODS 

If you want to change your answer you must cross out your original answer as shown. 

If you wish to return to an answer previously crossed out, ring the answer you now wish to select as shown. 

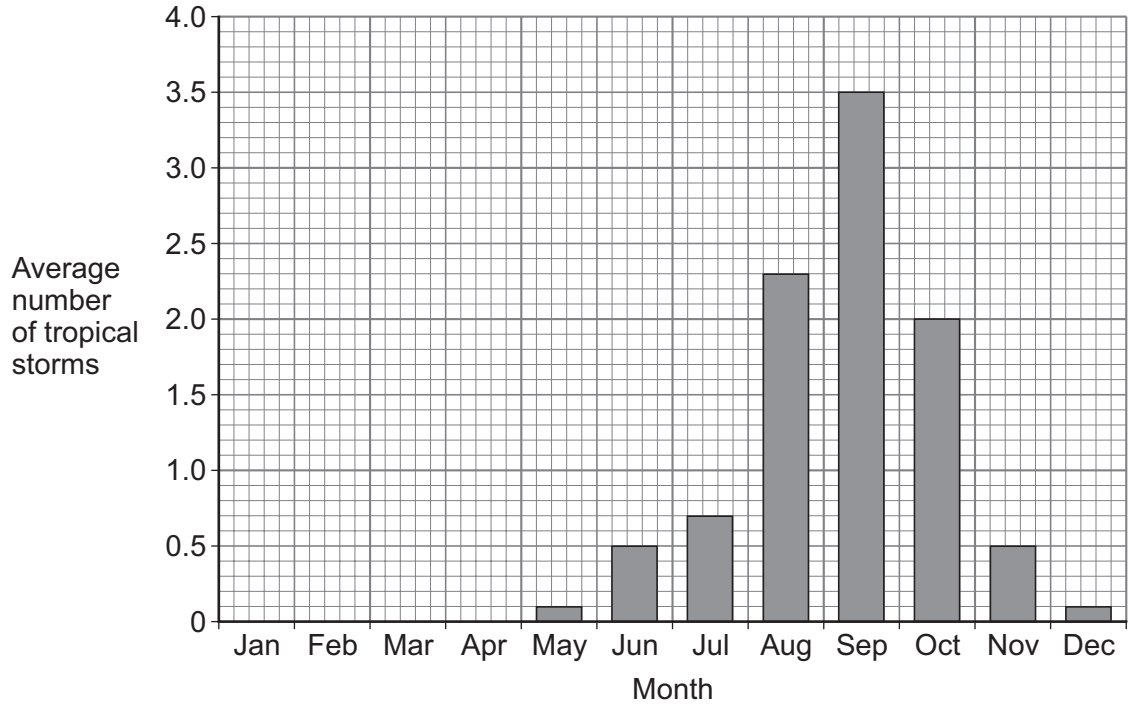
Section A The challenge of natural hazards

Answer **all** questions in this section.

Question 1 The challenge of natural hazards

Study **Figure 1**, a graph showing the average number of tropical storms each month in the North Atlantic, 1850–2020.

Figure 1



Do not write outside the box

0 1 . 1 Using **Figure 1**, which month had the highest average number of tropical storms in the North Atlantic?

[1 mark]

_____

0 1 . 2 Give **one** reason why the average number of tropical storms changes during the year in the North Atlantic.

[1 mark]

_____

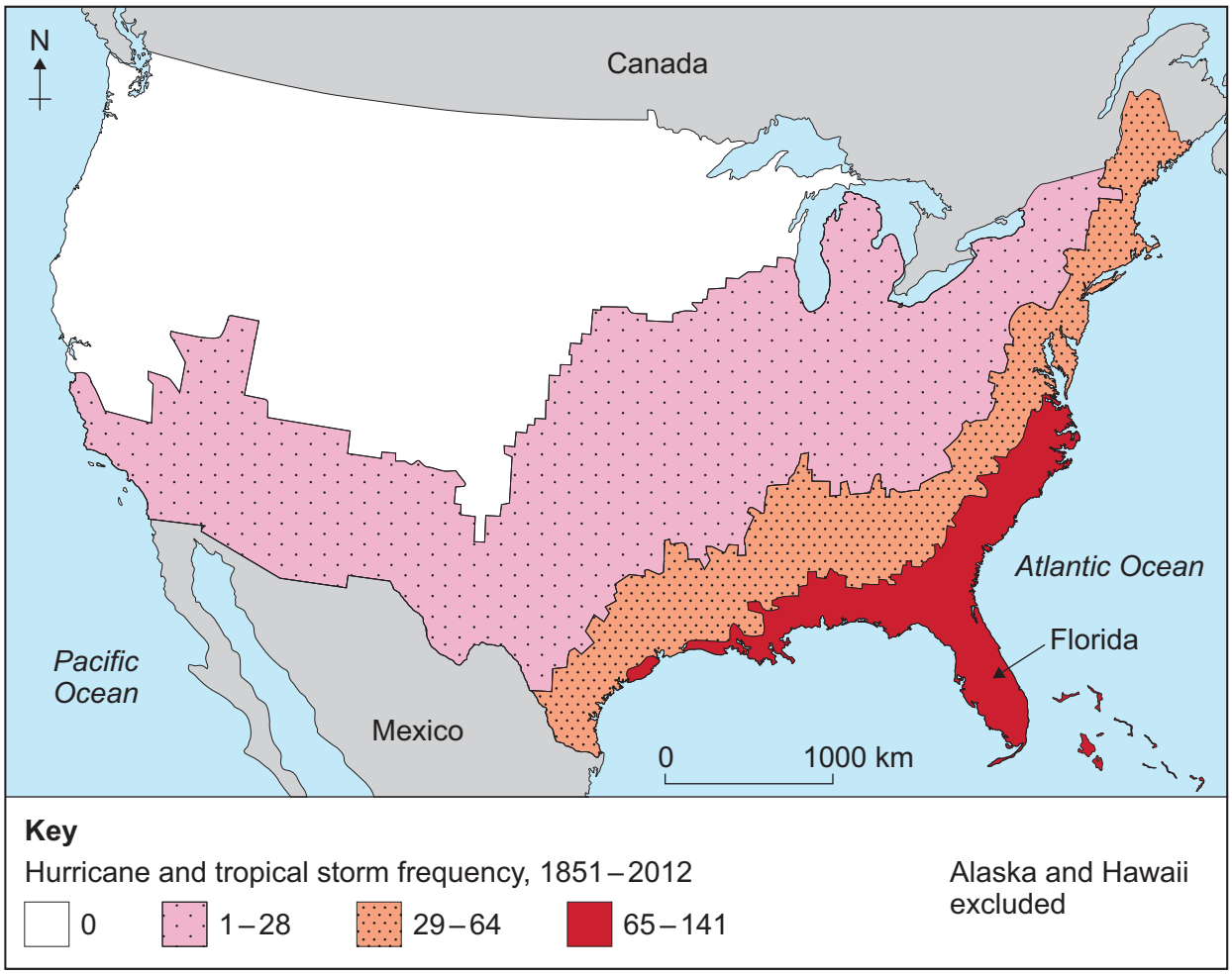
_____

Question 1 continues on the next page

Do not write outside the box

Study **Figure 2**, a map showing the frequency of hurricanes and tropical storms affecting the USA, 1851–2012.

Figure 2



0 1 . 3 Using **Figure 2**, which part of the USA is most frequently affected by hurricanes and tropical storms?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Northern border with Canada ⬭

B South east ⬭

C Southern border with Mexico ⬭

D West coast ⬭

Do not write outside the box

0 1 . 4 Give **one** reason why some parts of the USA are not affected by hurricanes and tropical storms.

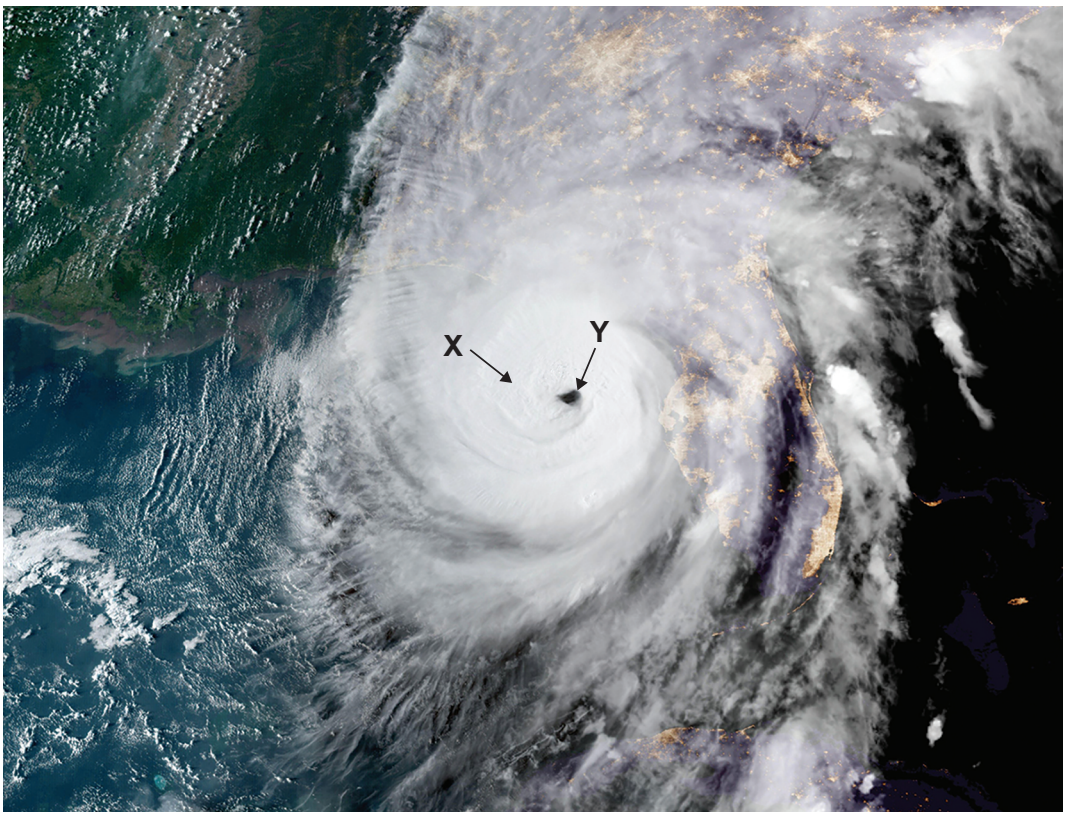
[1 mark]

_____

_____

Study **Figure 3**, a satellite image showing Hurricane Helene as it approached the Florida coast on September 24th 2024.

Figure 3



0 1 . 5 Using **Figure 3**, give **one** feature of the hurricane at:

[2 marks]

X _____

Y _____

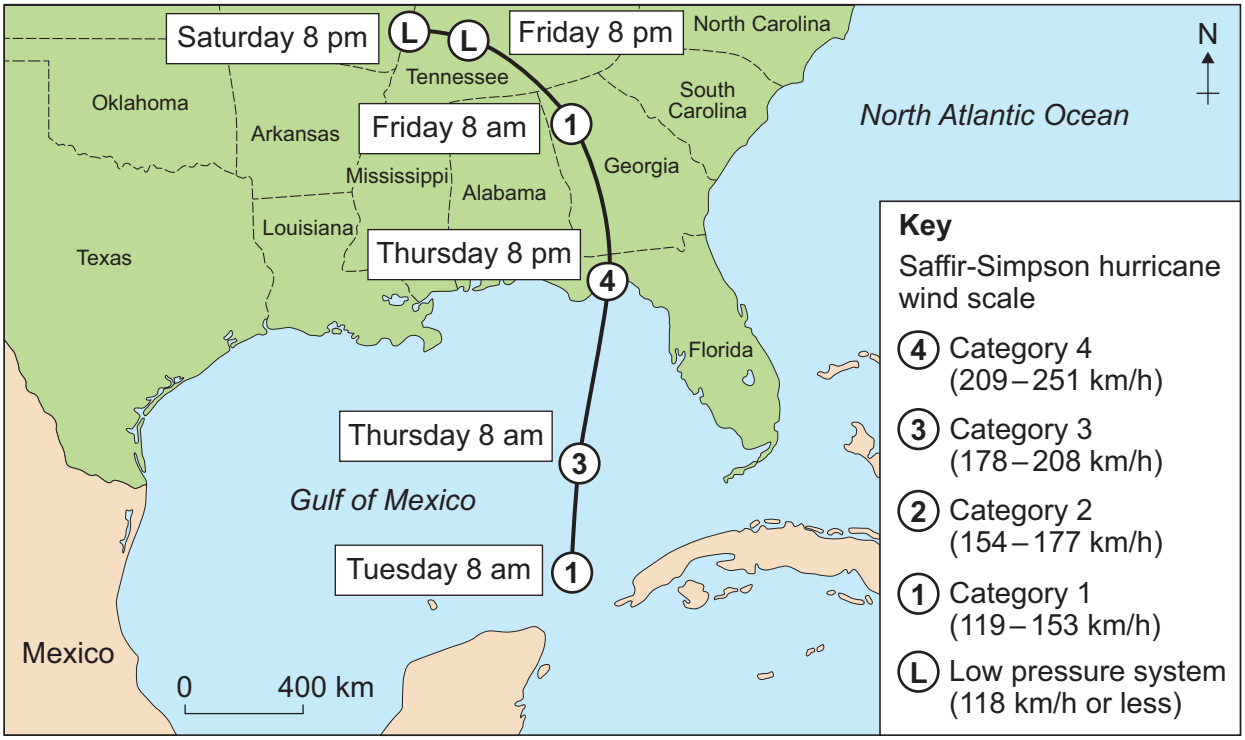
Question 1 continues on the next page

Do not write outside the box

Study **Figure 4**, information about Hurricane Helene which affected parts of the southern USA in September 2024.

Figure 4

On Thursday September 26th 2024, Hurricane Helene reached Florida as a Category 4 storm, bringing devastating winds, torrential rainfall, and powerful storm surges. Over the next two days the storm moved inland, causing severe flooding and over 240 deaths. Economic losses were over $160 billion, crops and forests were destroyed, and 5 million people lost power.



0 1 . 6 Suggest how tropical storms can have widespread impacts on people and the environment.

Use **Figure 4** and an example you have studied.

[6 marks]

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Extra space

Question 1 continues on the next page

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Study **Figure 5**, two photographs of the Pedersen Glacier, Alaska, USA, taken in 1917 and 2005.

Figure 5

1917



2005



0 1 . 7 Using **Figure 5**, give **two** pieces of evidence for climate change.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

Do not write outside the box

0 1 . 8 Climate change is partly caused by natural factors, such as:

- orbital changes
- volcanic activity
- variations in solar output.

Explain how **one or more** natural factors may affect climate change.

[4 marks]

Extra space

Question 1 continues on the next page

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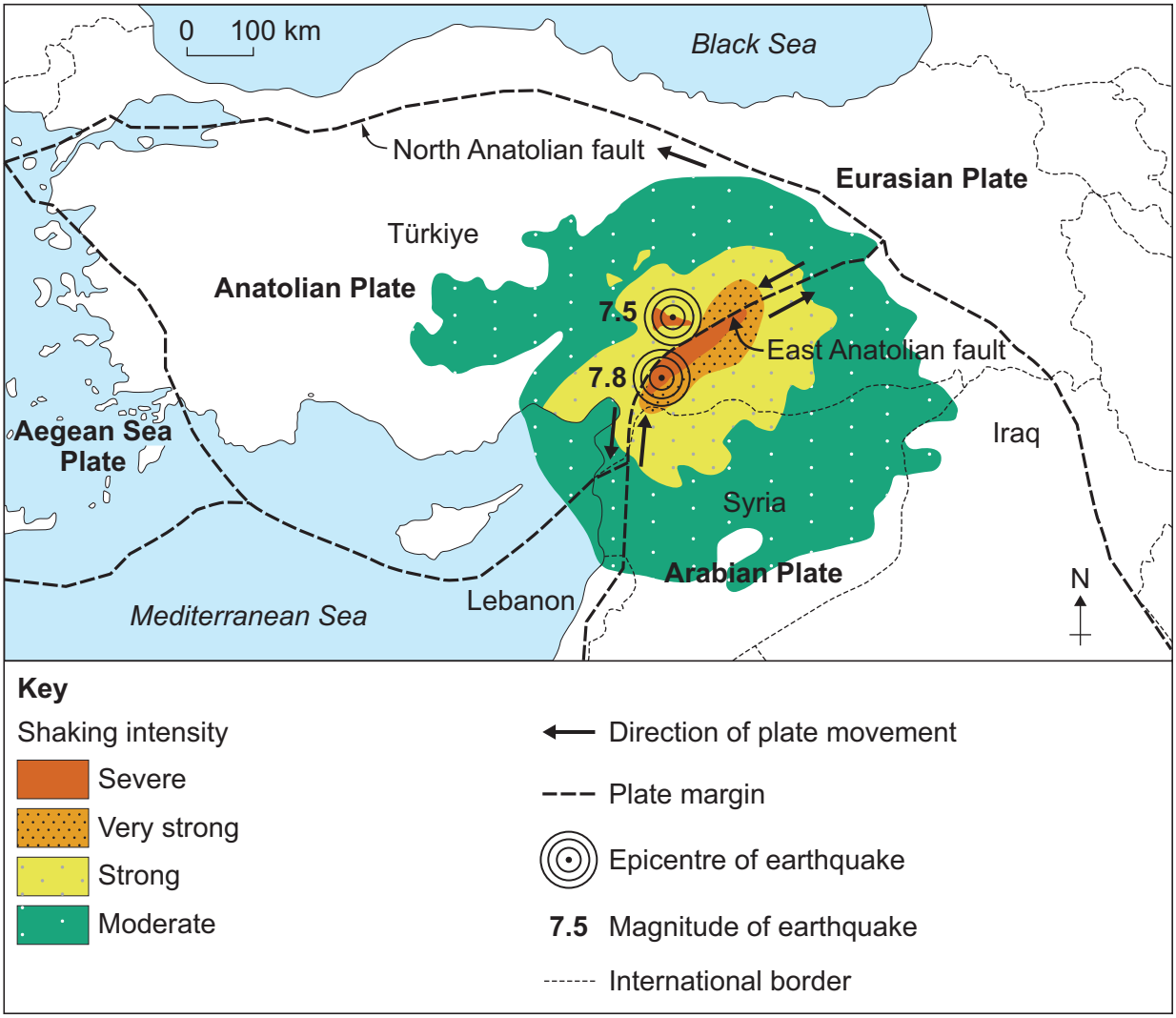
Study **Figure 6**, a map showing the location of earthquakes that affected parts of Türkiye and Syria in February 2023.

Figure 6



0 1 . 9 Using **Figure 6**, where was shaking intensity severe?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Along the East Anatolian fault ⬭

B Along the North Anatolian fault ⬭

C Between the Aegean Sea Plate and Anatolian Plate ⬭

D In the centre of the Anatolian Plate ⬭

Do not write outside the box

0 1 . 1 0 Using **Figure 6**, which statement describes the movement of tectonic plates that led to the two earthquakes?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Two plates came together and one was subducted. ⬭

B Two plates moved apart. ⬭

C Two plates moved side by side in opposite directions. ⬭

D Two plates moved side by side in the same direction. ⬭

0 1 . 1 1 Name the type of plate margin found close to the location of the two earthquakes shown in **Figure 6**.

[1 mark]

_____

Question 1 continues on the next page

Do not write outside the box

Study **Figures 7a** and **7b**, information about tectonic hazard management.

Figure 7a

Protection – 'earthquake proof' building



Earthquake monitoring includes use of seismographs, GPS to detect ground movement, and radar images from satellites.

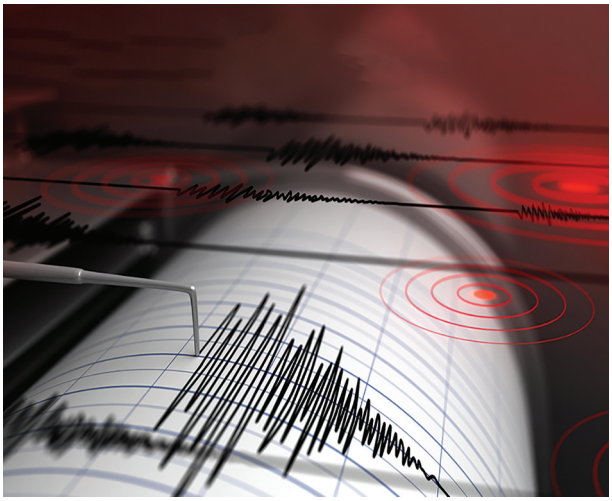


Figure 7b

The image showing monitoring volcanic activity cannot be reproduced here due to third-party restrictions.

The image can be found at: https://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/int/geog/envhaz/volcanoes/prediction/

Planning for a volcanic eruption



Do not write outside the box

0 1 . 1 2 Management of a tectonic hazard includes monitoring, prediction, protection and planning strategies.

To what extent can management reduce the effects of a tectonic hazard(s)?

Use **Figures 7a** and/or **7b** and your own understanding.

[9 marks]
[+ 3 SPaG]

Extra space

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33

End of Section A

Do not write outside the box

Section B The living world

Answer **all** questions in this section.

Question 2 The living world

0 2 . 1 What is biodiversity?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A The amount of forest that has been removed ⬭

B The rate of nutrient cycling in an ecosystem ⬭

C The size of a large scale ecosystem ⬭

D The variety of plant and animal species in a given area ⬭

0 2 . 2 In which of the following large scale ecosystems is biodiversity highest?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Hot desert ⬭

B Temperate grassland ⬭

C Tropical rainforest ⬭

D Tundra ⬭

Question 2 continues on the next page

Do not write outside the box

Study **Figure 8**, a graph showing the climatic conditions of different large scale ecosystems.

Figure 8

The graph showing climatic conditions of different large scale ecosystems cannot be reproduced here due to third-party restrictions.

The graph can be found at: https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/envirobiology/chapter/3-3-terrestrial-biomes/

0 2 . 3 Using **Figure 8**, which phrase describes the climate in the hot desert ecosystem?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A High precipitation and high temperatures ⬭

B High precipitation and low temperatures ⬭

C Low precipitation and high temperatures ⬭

D Low precipitation and low temperatures ⬭

Do not write outside the box

0 2 . 4 Using **Figure 8**, which ecosystem has an average temperature of 0°C and annual precipitation of 100 cm?

[1 mark]

_____

0 2 . 5 Explain why soils in the tropical rainforest are generally infertile and low in nutrients.

[2 marks]

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 2 continues on the next page

Do not write outside the box

Study **Figure 9**, information about the area covered by the world's forests, 1980–2020.

Figure 9

Year	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
World forest area (million sq km)	43.3	42.4	41.6	41.0	40.6

0 2 . 6 Using **Figure 9**, during which period was the decrease in world forest area greatest?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A 1980–1990 ⬭

B 1990–2000 ⬭

C 2000–2010 ⬭

D 2010–2020 ⬭

0 2 . 7 Using **Figure 9**, calculate the approximate percentage decrease in world forest area, 1980–2020.

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A 3% ⬭

B 6% ⬭

C 9% ⬭

D 12% ⬭

Do not write outside the box

0 2 . 8 Give **two** reasons why there are high rates of deforestation in some tropical rainforest areas.

[2 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

Question 2 continues on the next page

Do not write outside the box

Study **Figure 10**, images showing some effects of deforestation in tropical rainforests.

Figure 10



Loss of biodiversity



Soil erosion



Deforestation



Increased flooding

Do not write outside the box

0 2 . 9 Suggest how deforestation in tropical rainforests can have major effects on the environment.

Use **Figure 10** and a case study.

[6 marks]

Extra space

Question 2 continues on the next page

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0 2 . 1 0 **Either (hot deserts)**

Discuss the causes of desertification and what can be done to reduce the growth of hot deserts.

[9 marks]

Or (cold environments)

Discuss the value of cold environments as wilderness areas and what can be done to protect these fragile environments.

[9 marks]

Tick (✓) the box to show which environment you have chosen.

Hot desert environment ☐ Cold environment ☐

Do not write outside the box

Extra space

25

End of Section B

Turn over for Section C

Do not write outside the box

Section C Physical landscapes in the UK

Answer **two** questions from the following:
Question 3 (Coasts), Question 4 (Rivers), Question 5 (Glacial).

Question 3 Coastal landscapes in the UK

0 3 . 1 Identify the process of erosion where rocks and sediment are thrown by waves at the cliff face.

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Abrasion ⬭

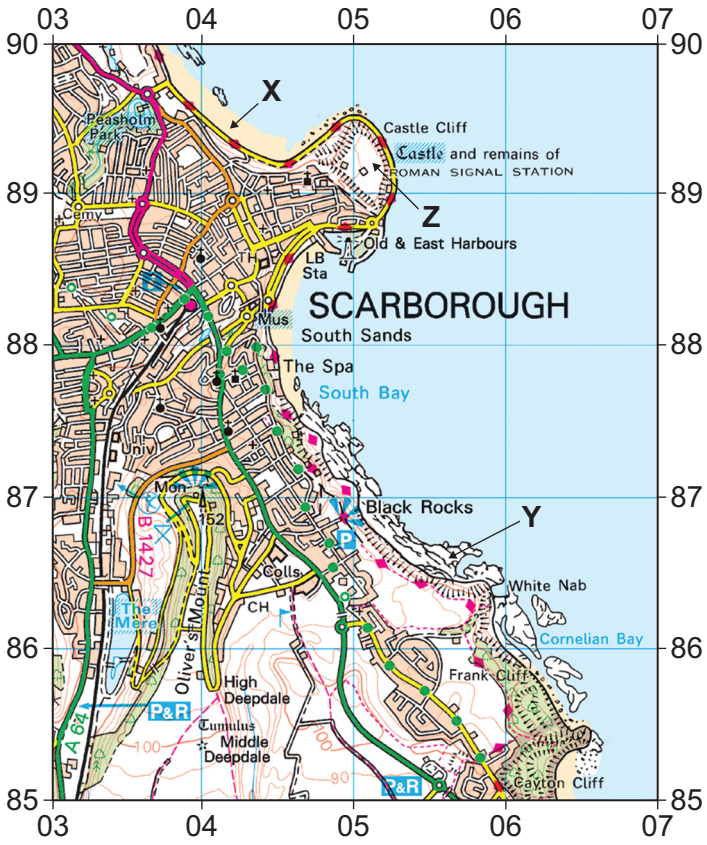
B Attrition ⬭

C Hydraulic power ⬭

D Solution ⬭

Study **Figure 11**, a 1:50 000 OS map of the Scarborough area.

Figure 11



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0 3 . 2 Using **Figure 11**, identify the landform labelled **X**.

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Bar ⬭

B Beach ⬭

C Spit ⬭

D Stack ⬭

0 3 . 3 A wave cut platform is labelled **Y** on **Figure 11**. The width of the wave cut platform was measured at seven sites in the area south of Scarborough.

Using the following data, calculate the median width of the wave cut platform.

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Width (m)	220	245	190	152	270	143	245

Median width of wave cut platform _____ m

[1 mark]

0 3 . 4 Suggest **one** reason why the wave cut platform is wide at some sites.

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A A sea wall built at the base of the cliffs ⬭

B Cliffs formed of hard rocks that erode slowly ⬭

C More rapid erosion as the cliffs are undercut and worn back ⬭

D More sand and shingle deposited at the base of the cliffs ⬭

0 3 . 5 Suggest why there is a headland at **Z**.

[1 mark]

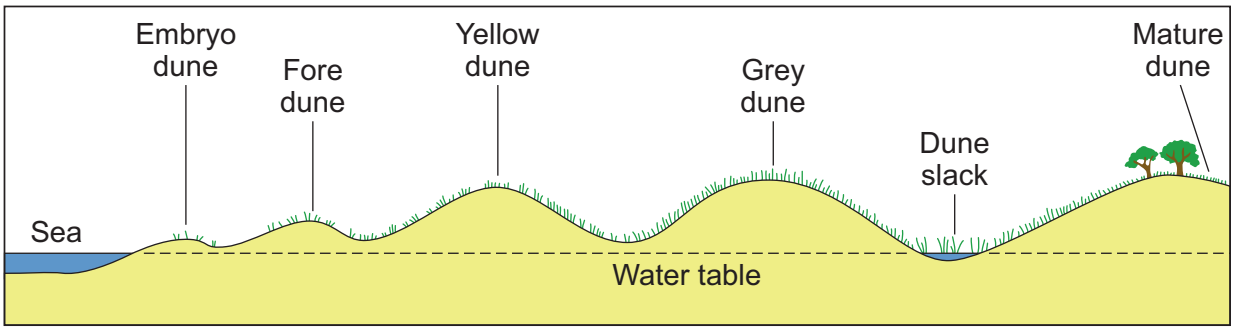
_____

_____

Do not write outside the box

Study **Figure 12**, a diagram and photograph of coastal sand dunes.

Figure 12





0 3 . 6 Explain how coastal sand dunes are formed.

Use **Figure 12** and your own knowledge.

[4 marks]

Do not write outside the box

Extra space

Question 3 continues on the next page

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Study **Figures 13a** and **13b**, photographs showing hard and soft engineering strategies used to protect the coast.

Figure 13a

Hard engineering



Figure 13b

Soft engineering



Do not write outside the box

0 3 . 7 ‘Hard engineering strategies are more effective than soft engineering strategies in protecting coasts from erosion.’

Do you agree?

Explain your answer.

Use **Figures 13a** and **13b** and your own understanding.

[6 marks]

Extra space

15

Do not write outside the box

Question 4 River landscapes in the UK

0 4 . 1 Identify the process of transportation where large rocks are rolled along the riverbed.

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Saltation ⬭

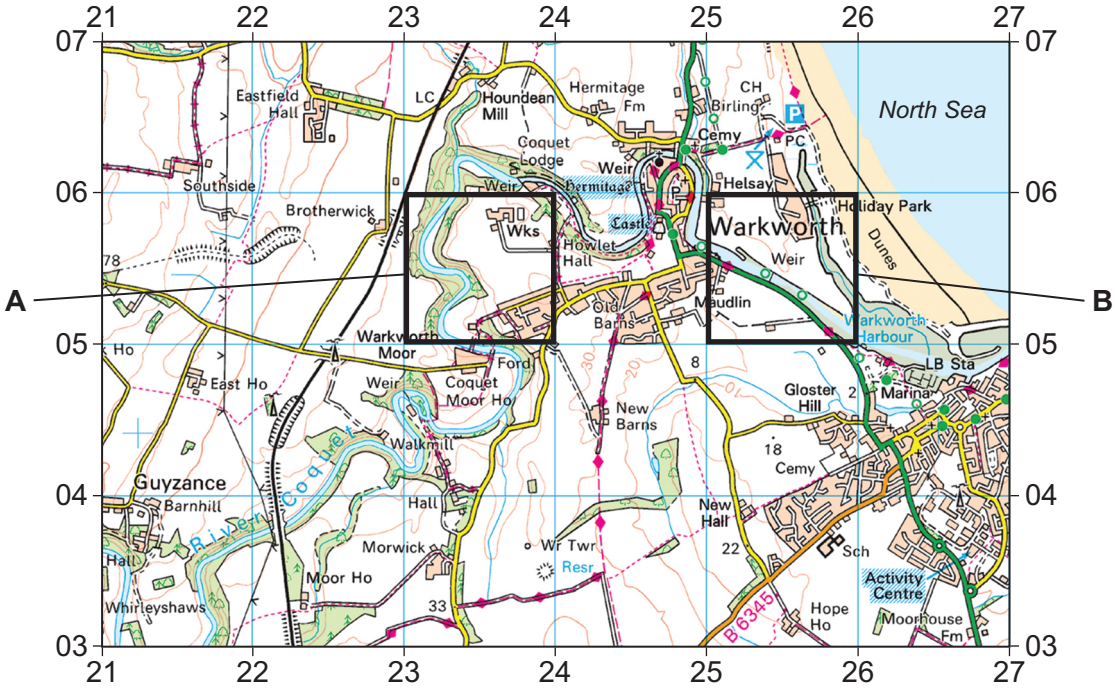
B Solution ⬭

C Suspension ⬭

D Traction ⬭

Study **Figure 14**, a 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map showing part of the River Coquet in Northumberland.

Figure 14



0 4 . 2 Using **Figure 14**, state **one** difference in the shape of the River Coquet between grid square **A** and grid square **B**.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

Do not write outside the box

0 4 . 3 Using **Figure 14**, identify which grid square shows a sloping, wooded river valley with a small tributary entering from the north.

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A 2106 ⬭

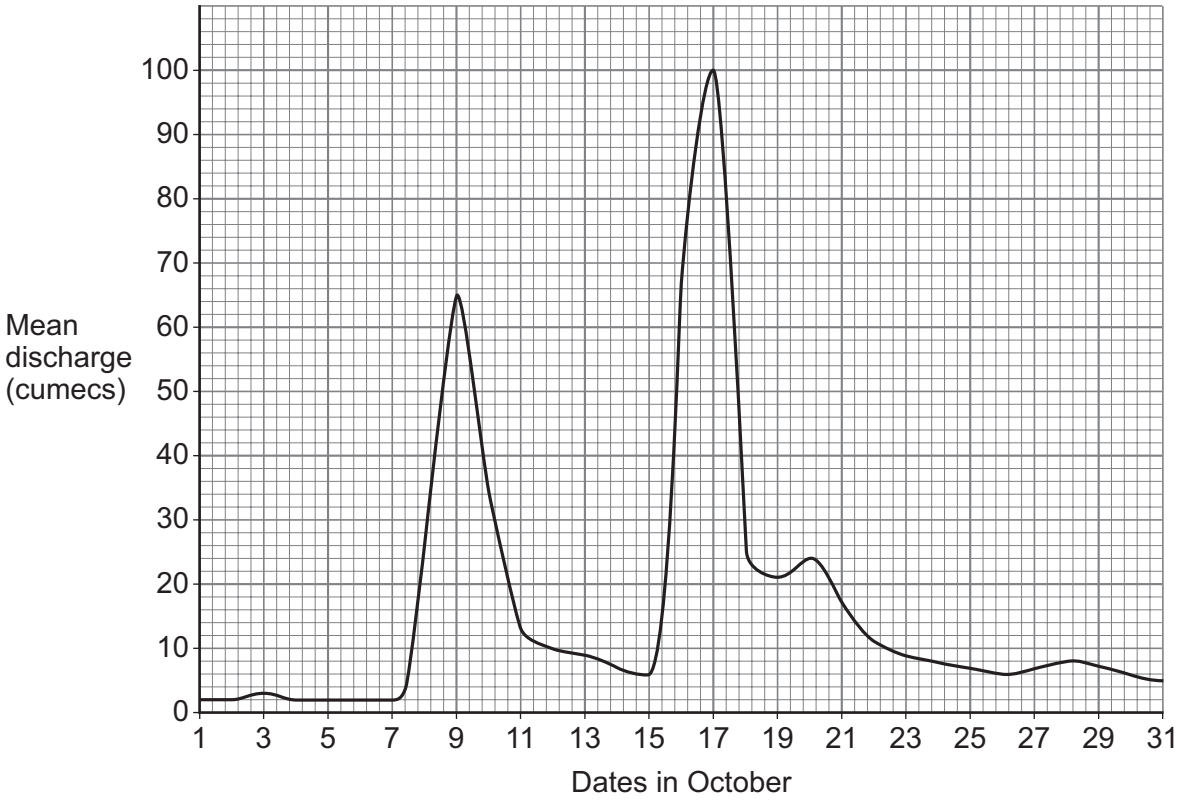
B 2306 ⬭

C 2504 ⬭

D 2605 ⬭

Study **Figure 15**, a graph showing the mean discharge of the River Coquet near Warkworth in October 2024.

Figure 15



Cumecs = cubic metres per second

0 4 . 4 Using **Figure 15**, what is the difference in mean discharge between 15th October and 17th October 2024?

[1 mark]

_____ cumecs

Turn over ▶

Do not write outside the box

0 4 . 5 Which **one** of the following factors might explain a rapid increase in river discharge after a period of heavy rainfall?

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A A dam upstream of the river ⬭

B Dense woodland in the drainage basin ⬭

C Gently sloping land around the river ⬭

D Impermeable rock in the drainage basin ⬭

Study **Figure 16**, an aerial photograph of the River Severn estuary and floodplain.

Figure 16



Do not write outside the box

0 4 . 6 Explain how **one or more** river landforms are formed by deposition.

Use **Figure 16** and your own knowledge.

[4 marks]

Extra space

Question 4 continues on the next page

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Study **Figure 17**, which shows some flood management strategies.

Figure 17

Dams and reservoirs	Planting trees	Flood relief channels	Flood plain zoning

0 4 . 7 ‘Flood management strategies can have both positive and negative impacts.’

Do you agree? Explain your answer.

Use **Figure 17** and your own understanding.

[6 marks]

Extra space

15

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Turn over for the next question

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ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

Do not write outside the box

Question 5 Glacial landscapes in the UK

0 5 . 1 Identify the process where meltwater freezes to the rock beneath the ice and tears away pieces of loose rock as a glacier moves through a valley.

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A Abrasion ⬭

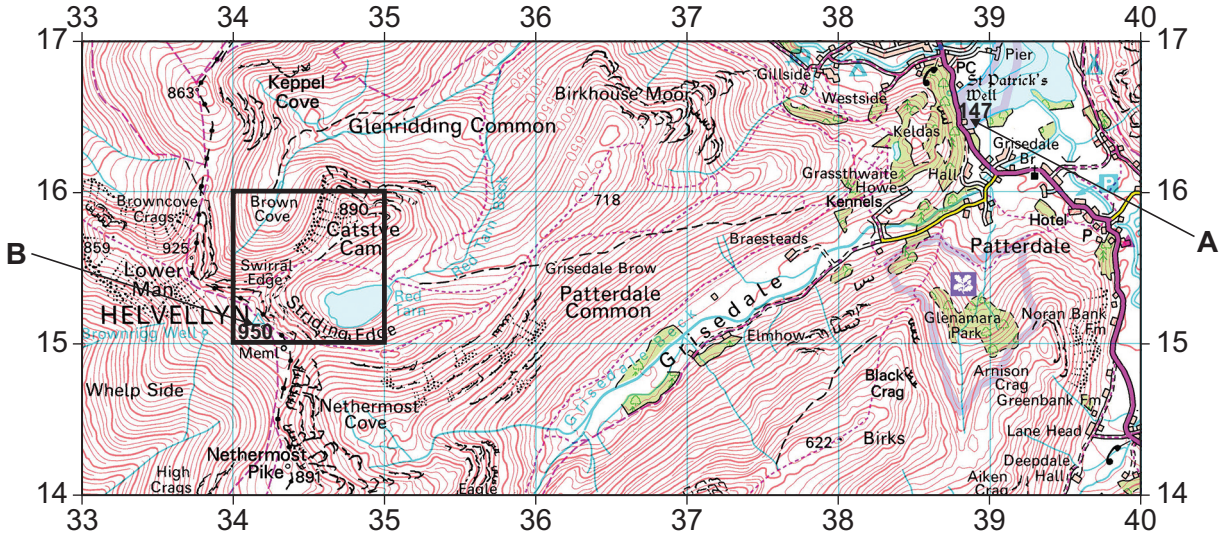
B Bulldozing ⬭

C Plucking ⬭

D Rotational slip ⬭

Study **Figure 18**, a 1:50 000 OS map extract of part of the Lake District in northern England.

Figure 18



0 5 . 2 Using **Figure 18**, suggest **one** piece of evidence from the highlighted grid square that shows this area was glaciated.

[1 mark]

_____

_____

0 5 . 3 Using **Figure 18**, what is the difference in height between point **A** near the lake and point **B** at the top of Helvellyn?

[1 mark]

_____ metres

Do not write outside the box

0 5 . 4 Using **Figure 18**, identify which grid square contains a glacial trough (U-shaped valley).

Shade **one** circle only.

[1 mark]

A 3416 ⬭

B 3516 ⬭

C 3715 ⬭

D 3814 ⬭

Study **Figure 19**, a photograph of Striding Edge shown in the highlighted square in **Figure 18**.

Figure 19



0 5 . 5 Using **Figures 18** and **19**, in which direction was the photographer facing when the picture was taken from near the top of Helvellyn?

[1 mark]

_____

Turn over ▶

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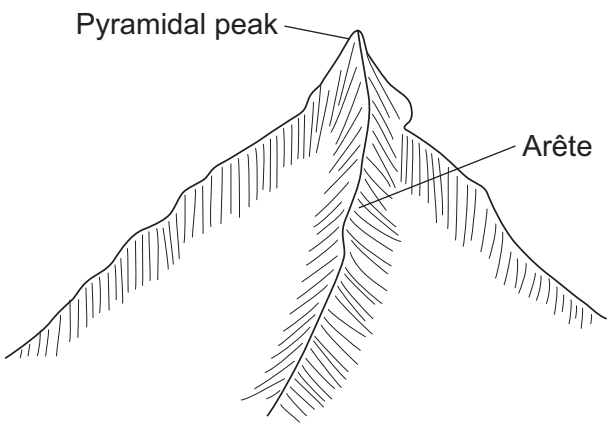
Study **Figure 20**, a diagram showing arêtes and a pyramidal peak.

Figure 20



0 5 . 6 Explain the formation of arêtes and pyramidal peaks.

Use **Figure 20** and your own knowledge.

[4 marks]

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Question 5 continues on the next page

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ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

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Study **Figure 21**, photographs showing different land uses in the Lake District.

Figure 21

Forestry



Quarrying



Tourism



Do not write outside the box

0 5 . 7 ‘There can be conflict between different land uses in glaciated upland areas.’

Do you agree?

Use **Figure 21** and your own understanding.

[6 marks]

Extra space

15

END OF QUESTIONS

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ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

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Question number	**Additional page, if required.** **Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.**

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Question number	**Additional page, if required.** **Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.**

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