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Centre number						Candidate number				
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**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS  
A2 GCE**

**F853/01**

**GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Contemporary US Government and Politics**

**TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2012: Morning**

**DURATION: 2 hours**

**SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES**

**Candidates answer on the Question Paper.**

**OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:**

**Insert – F853/01/I (inserted)**

**OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**None**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- **Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes on the first page. Please write clearly and in capital letters.**
- **Use black ink. HB pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.**
- **Answer QUESTION 1 and THREE other questions.**
- **Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Write your answer to each question in the space provided. If additional space is required, you should use the lined pages at the end of this booklet. The question number(s) must be clearly shown.**

## **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- **The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.**
- **The total number of marks for this paper is 100.**
- **You will be rewarded for your ability to draw together the knowledge, understanding and skills which you have acquired from your study of all parts of the course.**
- **You will be awarded marks for the quality of written communication including clarity of expression, structure and presentation of ideas, spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>QUESTION 1(a)</b>	<b>SEE PAGE 4</b>
<b>QUESTION 1(b)</b>	<b>SEE PAGE 7</b>
<b>QUESTION 2 TO 8 (ANSWER ANY THREE)</b>	<b>SEE PAGE 10</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL LINED PAGES</b>	<b>SEE PAGES 27 – 29</b>

## **SECTION A**

**Answer the question in this section.**

**Use the source below and your own knowledge to answer Question 1.**

### **SOURCE FOR QUESTION 1**

**Congress is frequently criticised as being ‘the broken branch’ of government. Although there are many legislative proposals in each congressional session, few bills are passed into law. The main reason for this is stated to be the complex legislative process that each bill has to go through to become law. Congressional committees play a key role in this regard but the problem is compounded by the factors which influence voting in both chambers, and the fact that Senate and the House are co-equal chambers.**

**1 (a) Describe the role of committees in Congress. [10]**

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**(b) Examine the reasons why Congress rejects more legislation than it passes. [15]**

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## **SECTION B**

**Answer THREE questions in this section.**

**Write the number of the questions answered in the margin.**

- 2 Evaluate the importance of the ‘invisible primary’ in the selection of presidential candidates. [25]**
  
- 3 Evaluate the claim that some American pressure groups have too much power and influence whilst others are too weak. [25]**
  
- 4 Discuss the view that the US Constitution is in need of major reform. [25]**
  
- 5 Evaluate the usefulness of the Executive Office of the President in helping recent presidents. [25]**
  
- 6 Assess the importance of political parties in US politics. [25]**
  
- 7 Discuss the view that the Supreme Court is essentially a political institution. [25]**
  
- 8 Discuss the claim that rights and liberties in the United States are better protected in theory than in practice. [25]**

**(Use this space for planning your answer(s).)**

**Write the number of each question answered in the margin.**


A grid consisting of 19 horizontal lines and 1 vertical line, creating a structure for writing or drawing.





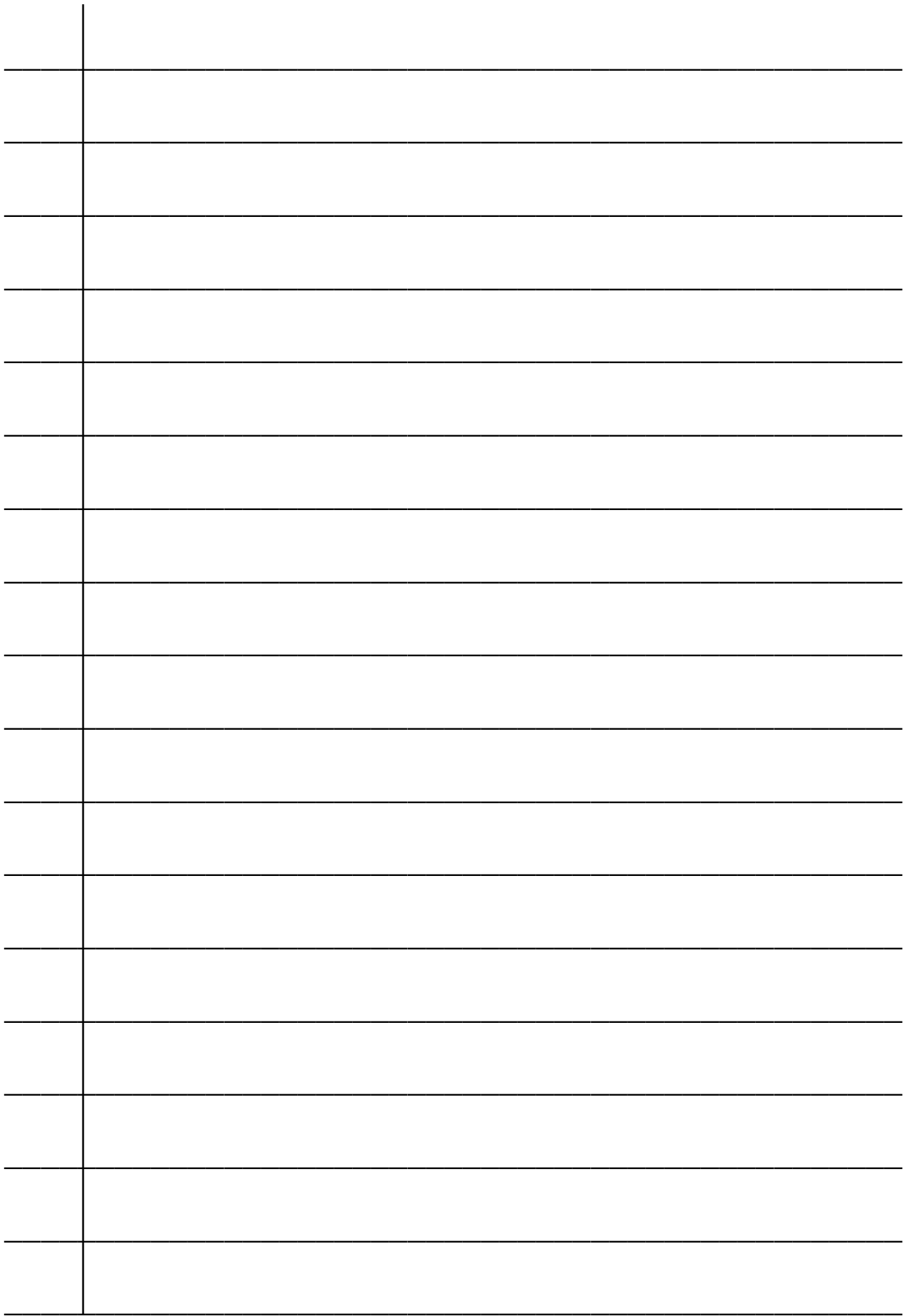


A grid consisting of 20 rows and 1 column, formed by horizontal and vertical lines. The grid is empty, intended for data entry or calculation.

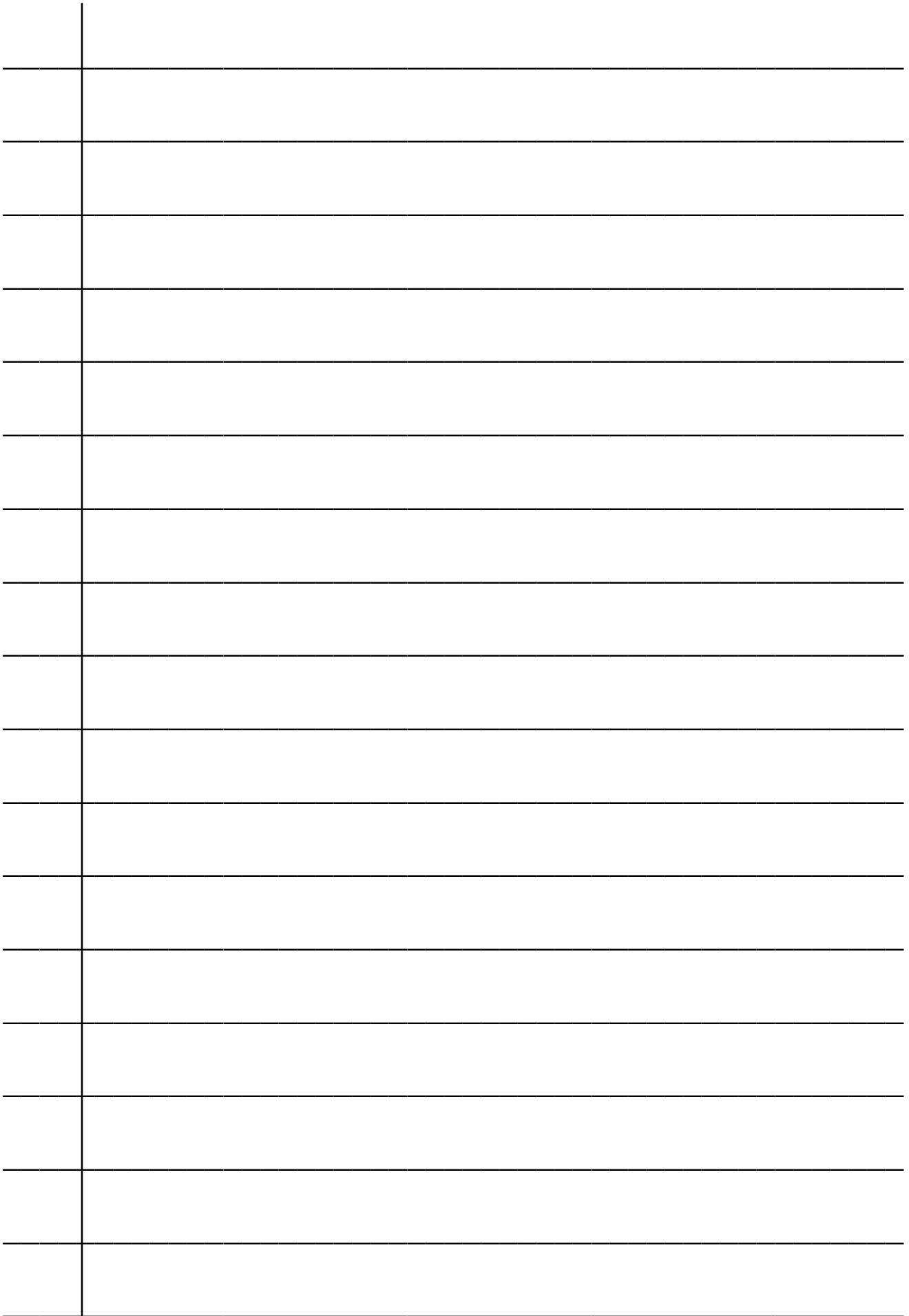

A blank table with 18 horizontal rows and one vertical column on the left side. The table is empty and ready for data entry.


A table structure consisting of 19 horizontal rows and 1 vertical column. The grid is empty, providing space for text or data entry.


The image shows a blank grid with 19 horizontal rows and 1 vertical column. The grid is composed of thin black lines on a white background. The vertical column is on the left side, and the horizontal rows extend to the right. There are no numbers or text within the grid cells.



This image shows a blank grid with 20 rows and 1 column. The grid is composed of solid black lines. The first column is narrow, and the remaining space is a wide area for writing. The grid is positioned in the upper two-thirds of the page.

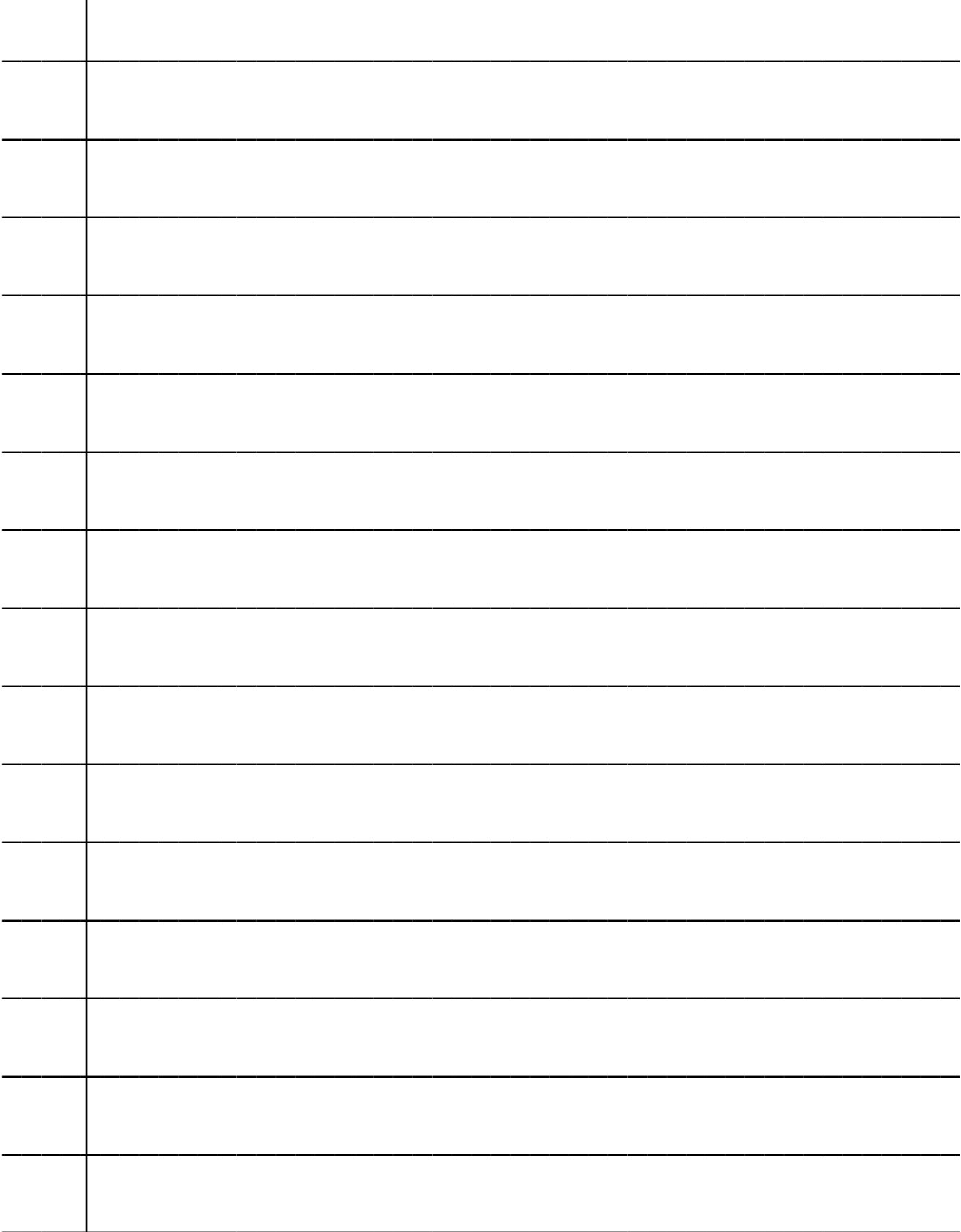





A table with 18 rows and 1 column. The table is empty, with no text or data entered in any of the cells. The lines forming the table are thin and black.



**ADDITIONAL PAGE:** If you use the following lined page to complete the answer(s) to any questions, the question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margin.



The image shows a blank page with horizontal ruling lines and a vertical margin line on the left side. The page is intended for writing answers to questions, with the requirement that the question number(s) be clearly shown in the margin.

**ADDITIONAL PAGE:** If you use the following lined page to complete the answer(s) to any questions, the question number(s) must be clearly shown in the margin.


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