

**GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
GEOGRAPHY A**

A671/02

Extreme Environments (Higher Tier)

Candidates answer on the question paper.

OCR supplied materials:

- An insert (A671/01/02/1 – inserted)

Other materials required:

None

**Monday 13 June 2011
Morning**

Duration: 1 hour



Candidate forename		Candidate surname	
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Centre number						Candidate number				
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The insert will be found in the centre of this document.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes above. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
- 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.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

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 **50**.
- You will be awarded marks in questions 1(b), 2(c)(ii), 3(c) and 4(b)(i) for the quality of written communication of your answer.
- This document consists of **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A – Hot Deserts and Extreme Environments generally

Answer **all** questions.

1 Study Figs 1A to 1C. Fig. 1B is in the Insert.

Mingulay is an uninhabited island off the north west coast of Scotland. The last residents left in 1912 when they found that they were unable to make a living in the harsh conditions. The ruined village is slowly being engulfed by the advancing sand dunes. The bay, from which the sands are blowing, provides the only landing place. It is sheltered enough in calm weather but provides no protection when the wind is from the east. The gentle eastern slopes of the island are in marked contrast to the dramatic cliffs to the west – black, jagged and battered by some of the worst storms in Scotland.

The National Trust for Scotland has owned the island since 2000. It is currently used for grazing sheep and the cliffs have become very popular with rock climbers. It is well known for its seabirds, including puffins, kittiwakes, and razorbills. They nest in the cliffs, which are amongst the highest in the British Isles.

Fig. 1A Extract about Mingulay

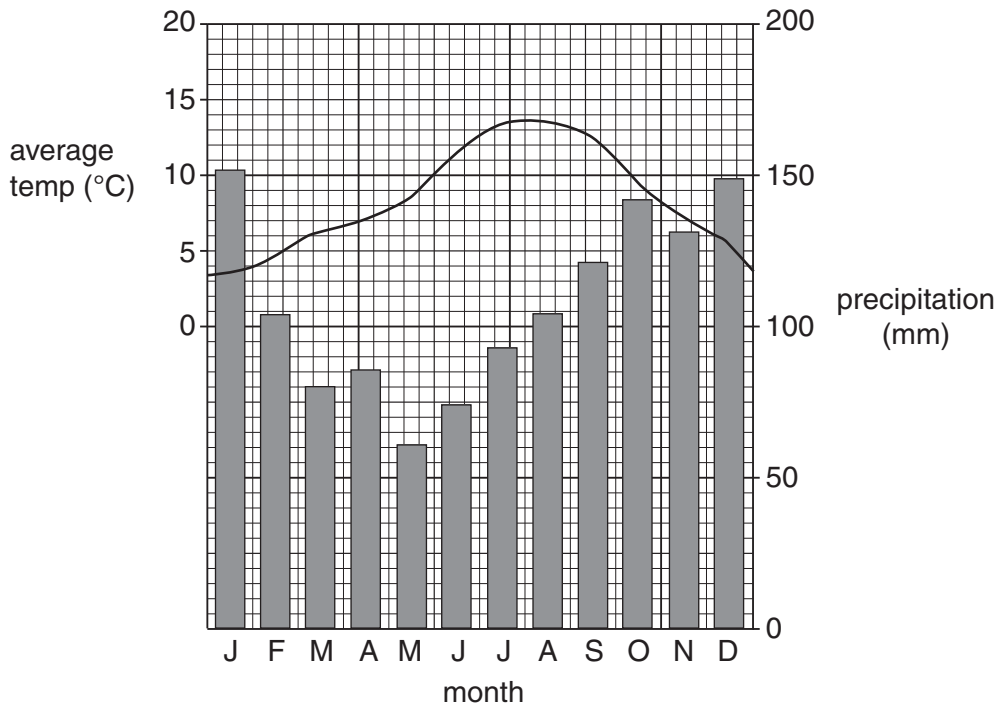


Fig. 1C Climate graph of Mingulay

(a) What is the meaning of the term *extreme environment*?

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[2]

(b) Within the UK there are some environments which can be considered extreme. Explain whether you think the environment of Mingulay is extreme. Give reasons for your answer.

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(c) Although no one lives on Mingulay today, it is still valued by many people. Explain why it is valued by many people.

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[Total: 12]

- 2 (a) Which **one** of the following best describes the location of hot desert areas?

Underline the answer which you choose.

In the centre of land masses close to the Equator.

In coastal areas in continents south of the Equator.

On and around the tropics on the western sides of large land masses.

In tropical countries close to warm ocean currents.

[1]

- (b) Study Figs 2A and 2B, poems written about hot deserts.

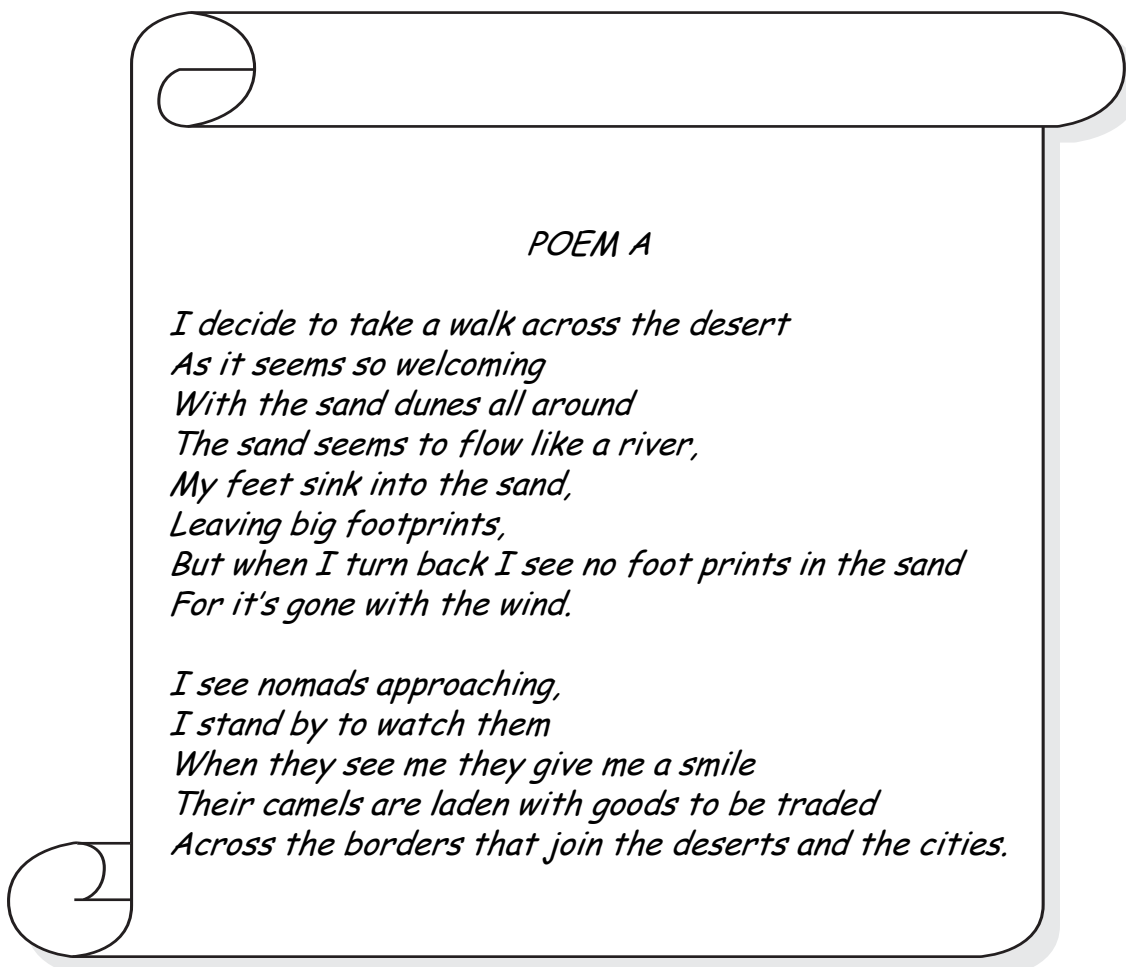
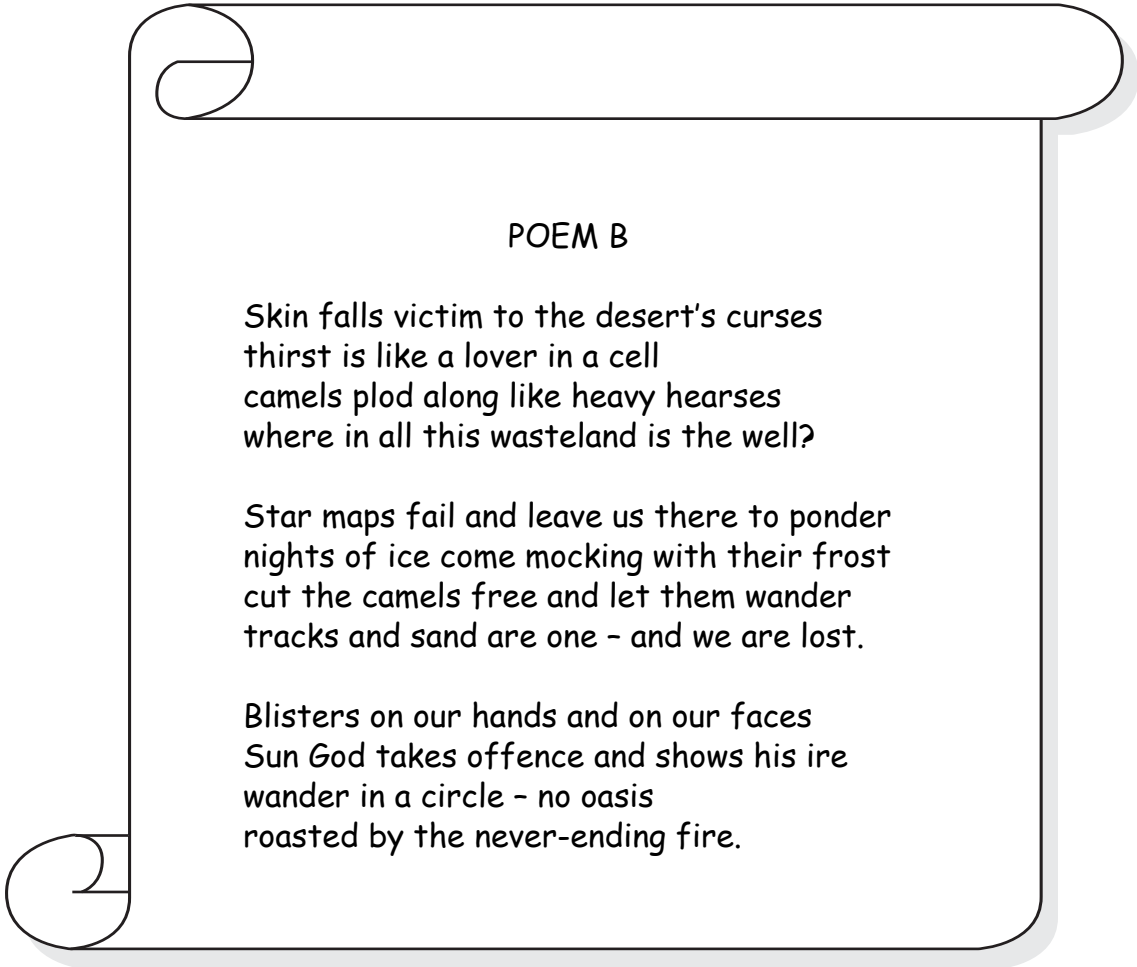


Fig. 2A



POEM B

Skin falls victim to the desert's curses
thirst is like a lover in a cell
camels plod along like heavy hearses
where in all this wasteland is the well?

Star maps fail and leave us there to ponder
nights of ice come mocking with their frost
cut the camels free and let them wander
tracks and sand are one - and we are lost.

Blisters on our hands and on our faces
Sun God takes offence and shows his ire
wander in a circle - no oasis
roasted by the never-ending fire.

Fig. 2B

Which poem better describes the hot desert as an extreme environment? Explain your choice.

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(c) Study Photographs A and B in the separate Insert.

(i) Identify the landforms shown in Photographs A and B.

Photograph A

Photograph B

[2]

(ii) Choose the landform shown in one of the photographs or another hot desert landform which you have studied. Explain how physical processes have created this landform.

Landform chosen.....

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[Total: 13]

[Section A Total: 25]

Section B – Your chosen extreme environment

Answer **all** questions. Your answers in this section must refer to **either** a **polar** or a **mountain** environment.

3 (a) Study Figs 3A and 3B in the separate Insert. These are paintings of extreme environments.

Choose **one** of the paintings in Figs 3A or 3B.

Painting chosen Fig.

Describe **three** features of the extreme environment which the painting shows.

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(b) Suggest reasons why polar or mountain environments are often represented in media such as paintings, music, literature and film.

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(c) Name an area of polar or mountain environment you have studied. What would be your feelings about staying there? Explain your views, using specific information about the area.

Name of polar or mountain area

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[Total: 13]

4 (a) Study Fig. 4.

June 28
We woke up to light rain and sleet, though the weather was improving. As we set off we were impressed by the size of the place and by the difficulty of the terrain. We sank in above our knees in the soft snow. The snow was very wet and walking was hard. By afternoon the clouds had gone and the sky was blue. Snow melt caused by the sun brought avalanches and rock falls.

June 29
In the morning we set off up the glacier with the aim of getting as far as the next glacier. Walking was easier because much of the glacier was dry although our route was crossed by streams, which slowed us down.

Fig. 4 Diary page from an expedition to an area in Greenland

Polar and mountain areas are challenging for people.
Identify **three** challenges faced by people in this expedition.

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Additional Pages: If you use the following lined pages to complete the answer(s) to any question(s), the question number(s) must be clearly shown.

A series of 25 horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page, providing a ruled area for writing answers.



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