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**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

A671/02

GEOGRAPHY A

Extreme Environments (Higher Tier)

MONDAY 13 JUNE 2011: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the question paper.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

An insert (A671/01/02/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. 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.**

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.**

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SECTION A – HOT DESERTS AND EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS GENERALLY

Answer ALL questions.

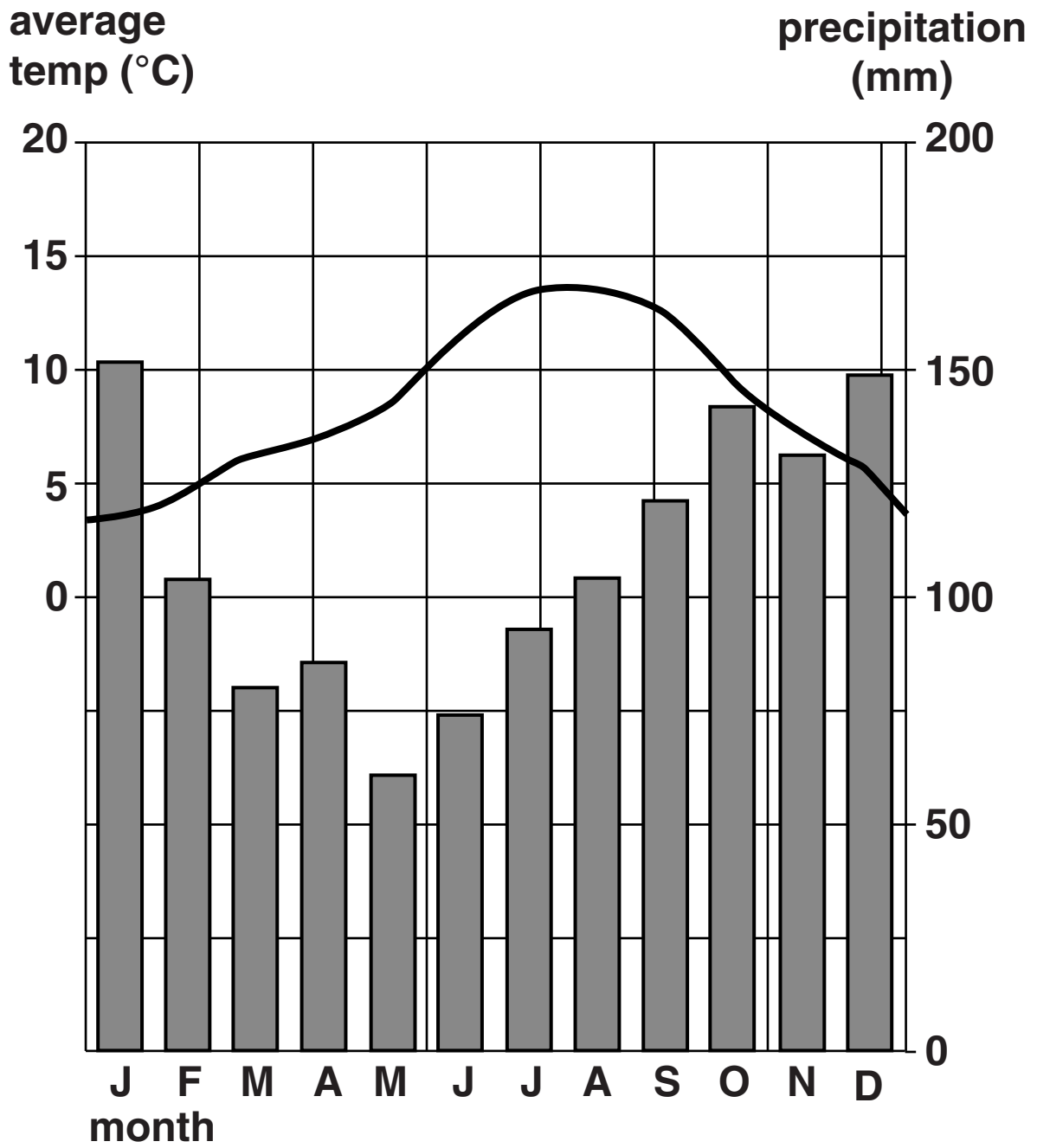
1 Study Figs 1A to 1C. Fig. 1B is in the Insert.

FIG. 1A EXTRACT ABOUT MINGULAY

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. 1C CLIMATE GRAPH OF MINGULAY



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

[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.

[6]

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

[4]

[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 A

I decide to take a walk across the desert
As it seems so welcoming
With the sand dunes all around
The sand seems to flow like a river,
My feet sink into the sand,
Leaving big footprints,
But when I turn back I see no foot prints in the sand
For it's gone with the wind.

I see nomads approaching,
I stand by to watch them
When they see me they give me a smile
Their camels are laden with goods to be traded
Across the borders that join the deserts and the cities.

FIG. 2B

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.**

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

[4]

[6]

[Total: 13]

[Section A Total: 25]

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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.

[3]

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

[4]

4 (a) Study Fig. 4.

FIG. 4 DIARY PAGE FROM AN EXPEDITION TO AN AREA IN GREENLAND

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.

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

[3]

(b) For a named polar or mountain area which you have studied:

(i) describe how it is used by people and explain why it is used in that way.

Name of polar or mountain area

[6]

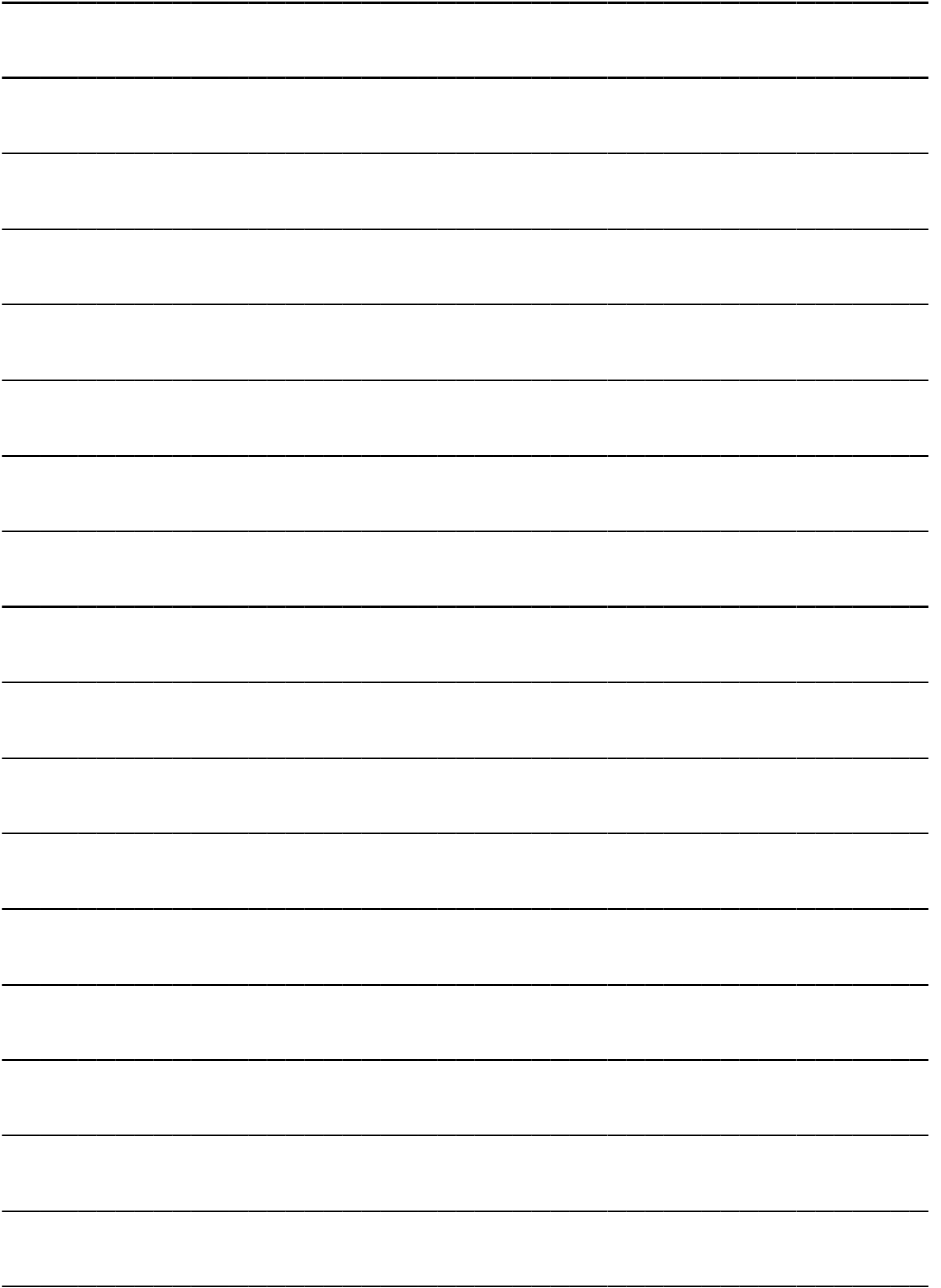
(ii) to what extent is the use of this area threatening to EITHER indigenous cultures OR the natural environment?

[3]

[Total: 12]

[Section B Total: 25]

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.



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