

The expert



Charles Hayes is a highly experienced and well-known geography teacher. He has taught for many years at St Mary's High School, Midleton, has a deep knowledge of the Junior Certificate syllabus, and is widely experienced in the correcting of Junior Certificate examinations.

An active member of the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland, he presents seminars and lectures in many parts of the country. He also supervises trainee teachers of geography for the Education Department at University College Cork.

Charles Hayes is best known as a writer. He is Ireland's best-selling geography textbook author, and his *New Complete Geography* has led the Irish geography textbook market for the past 19 consecutive years. He has written 10 best-selling textbooks in geography and history for Irish and European schools.

Timing is everything

Below is a suggested time-plan for your examination. You do not have to use this particular plan. If your teacher suggests another, you should follow his/her advice. What is vital is that you follow some logical time-plan in your examination. Learn your time-plan and stick to it.

A suggested time plan:

Reading the exam paper; selecting questions; re-reading selected questions and highlighting key words:

10 minutes

Section One – 20 short questions:

30 minutes

Section Two – three multi-part questions at 25 minutes each:

25 minutes

25 minutes

25 minutes

"Insurance time" of five minutes (in case you slightly "overspend" on any question)

5 minutes

120 minutes: total time for examination

Essential on the day

These guidelines may help you to perform at your best on the day of the examination.

- ◆ Come properly equipped to the examination. You will need two pens, a pencil, a pencil sharpener, a 30cm transparent ruler, a highlighter and a reliable watch.

- ◆ Be on time for your examination. People who turn up even slightly late tend to become panicked and flustered.

- ◆ Before answering any question, read the examination paper calmly. Then choose carefully the questions that you will answer. Re-read these chosen questions and highlight the key command words in each question.

- ◆ Avoid panic or elation as you read the examination paper. Your exam will almost certainly be neither impossibly difficult nor a walkover. It is important to stay calm, focused and determined throughout the examination.

- ◆ Stick carefully to your time-plan. This is essential to avoid spending too much time on some questions, and not enough on others.

- ◆ Begin with a question that you know you can do well and within your time plan. Always leave the most difficult of your chosen questions until last.

- ◆ Remain in the exam until the end. If you finish writing before time, use the remaining time to add extra points or developments to the answers that you have written.

- ◆ When the exam is over, forget about it. Do not waste energy discussing or worrying about something that is past. Focus instead on your next examination.

A road-map to success on the day of the exam

There is a lot of ground to cover in the geography exam, but, with plenty of practise, thorough revision and good time management, you can do well

Advice and sample questions and answers

The following things are worth noting about the Junior Certificate syllabus and its examination:

- ◆ The main elements of the syllabus are all examined. The 20 (obligatory) short questions will spread across the entire course. So will most of the five multipart questions, three of which you must answer. It is important, therefore, that you do not omit any major part of the course on the grounds that it might not "come up" in the exam.

- ◆ It is customary for one multipart question at higher level, and sometimes two multipart questions at ordinary level to focus on the reading and interpretation of Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs.

Three or more of the 20 "short questions" in part one of the paper may also refer to these maps and photographs. Revise and practise these topics well.

- ◆ Many "skill-based" questions appear on the examination. These questions are generally not difficult, and some demand little or no rote-knowledge on your part. But you will need to practise answering skill-based questions. Use your workbook, and/or past examination papers to help you.

- ◆ The answers to Junior Certificate questions need not be very long. But they must contain real geographical content and must always be relevant to the question asked. The main thing is to stick to the point, and avoid "waffle". I hope that the higher level sample questions, marking schemes and answers that follow will help you to answer questions simply but effectively in your coming examination.

◆ SAMPLE QUESTION 1: LIMESTONE AND THE BURREN

(a) (i) Explain how limestone is formed. (5 marks)

(ii) Describe how chemical weathering occurs. (5 marks)

Marking Schemes for Questions (a) (i) and (ii):

Statement: three marks

Development: one mark

Second development: one mark

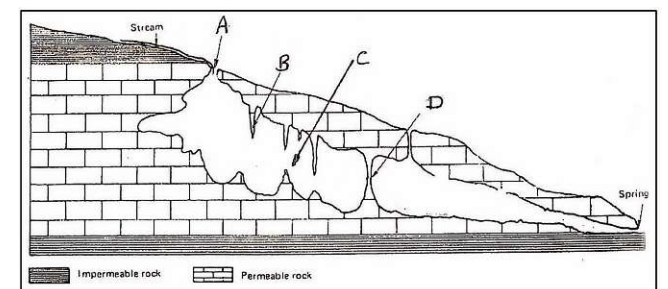
Sample answer to (i):

Limestone is made from the remains of fish and other sea creatures (three marks). Their skeletons piled up on the beds of shallow seas (one mark). Over time, they were crushed and cemented into solid rock (one mark).

Sample answer to (ii): As rainwater passes through the atmosphere, it takes in carbon dioxide (three marks) and then becomes a weak carbonic acid (one mark). This acid reacts with calcium carbonate in limestone (one mark), causing the limestone to be dissolved slowly.

(b) "The Burren is an example of a Karst Landscape".

Study the diagram of features found in Karst areas:



(i) Name the features marked A-D in the diagram

(ii) Choose two from the list and explain how they were formed (10 marks)

Marking scheme for Question (b):

(i) Four features named (one mark each)

(ii) Two chosen features (three marks each), marked as follows:

Statement: one mark

Development: one mark

Second development: one mark

Sample answer to (i): A= Swallow hole (one mark); B= Stalactite (one mark); C= Stalagmite (one mark); D= Pillar (one mark)

Sample answer to (ii): Stalactites develop when drops of water containing dissolved limestone (one mark) form and evaporate slowly on the roof of a cave (one mark). Each drop leaves a tiny speck of calcite on the roof (one mark). Over thousands of years, these specks develop into stalactites.

Stalactites (one mark) and stalagmites (one mark) may grow until they meet to form pillars.

(c) Many tourists visit the wide range of attractions that exist in the Burren. While these tourists bring many benefits to the area they also cause some problems. Describe how two of these problems have affected the Burren. (10 marks)

Marking scheme for (c):

Two descriptions at five marks each, marked as follows:

Statement: three marks

Development: one mark

Second development: one mark

Sample answer to (c):