

PHYSICAL SETTING EARTH SCIENCE

Friday, January 23, 2026 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

The possession or use of any communications device is strictly prohibited when taking this examination. If you have or use any communications device, no matter how briefly, your examination will be invalidated and no score will be calculated for you.

Use your knowledge of Earth science to answer all questions in this examination. Before you begin this examination, you must be provided with the *2011 Edition Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science*. You will need these reference tables to answer some of the questions.

You are to answer all questions in all parts of this examination. You may use scrap paper to work out the answers to the questions, but be sure to record your answers on your answer sheet and in your answer booklet. A separate answer sheet for Part A and Part B–1 has been provided to you. Follow the instructions from the proctor for completing the student information on your answer sheet. Record your answers to the Part A and Part B–1 multiple-choice questions on this separate answer sheet. Record your answers for the questions in Part B–2 and Part C in your separate answer booklet. Be sure to fill in the heading on the front of your answer booklet.

All answers in your answer booklet should be written in pen, except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil.

When you have completed the examination, you must sign the declaration printed on your separate answer sheet, indicating that you had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that you have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination. Your answer sheet and answer booklet cannot be accepted if you fail to sign this declaration.

Notice ...

A four-function or scientific calculator and a copy of the *2011 Edition Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science* must be available for you to use while taking this examination.

DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION BOOKLET UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN.

Part A

Answer all questions in this part.

Directions (1–35): For *each* statement or question, choose the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question. Some questions may require the use of the *2011 Edition Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science*. Record your answers on your separate answer sheet.

1 The concept that the planets travel around the Sun in eccentric orbits is best explained by the

- (1) Big Bang theory
- (2) Plate Tectonic theory
- (3) geocentric model
- (4) heliocentric model

2 The table below shows the times of ocean high tides and low tides on a certain date at a location in Massachusetts.

Ocean Tides

Type of Tide	Time
low	12:18 a.m.
high	7:08 a.m.
low	1:08 p.m.
high	7:49 p.m.

At what time would the next low tide occur at this location?

- (1) 1:49 a.m.
 - (2) 1:49 p.m.
 - (3) 8:29 a.m.
 - (4) 8:29 p.m.
- 3 Which energy-producing process that combines lighter elements into heavier elements (such as hydrogen into helium) occurs inside the Sun?
- (1) radioactive decay
 - (2) nuclear fusion
 - (3) condensation
 - (4) outgassing
- 4 Which factor causes the swing of a Foucault pendulum to appear to change direction over a period of time?
- (1) Earth's rotation on its axis
 - (2) Earth's revolution around the Sun
 - (3) 23.5° tilt of Earth's axis
 - (4) gravitational pull of the Moon

5 The time exposure photograph shows star trails in a portion of the night sky, as viewed from a location in the United States.

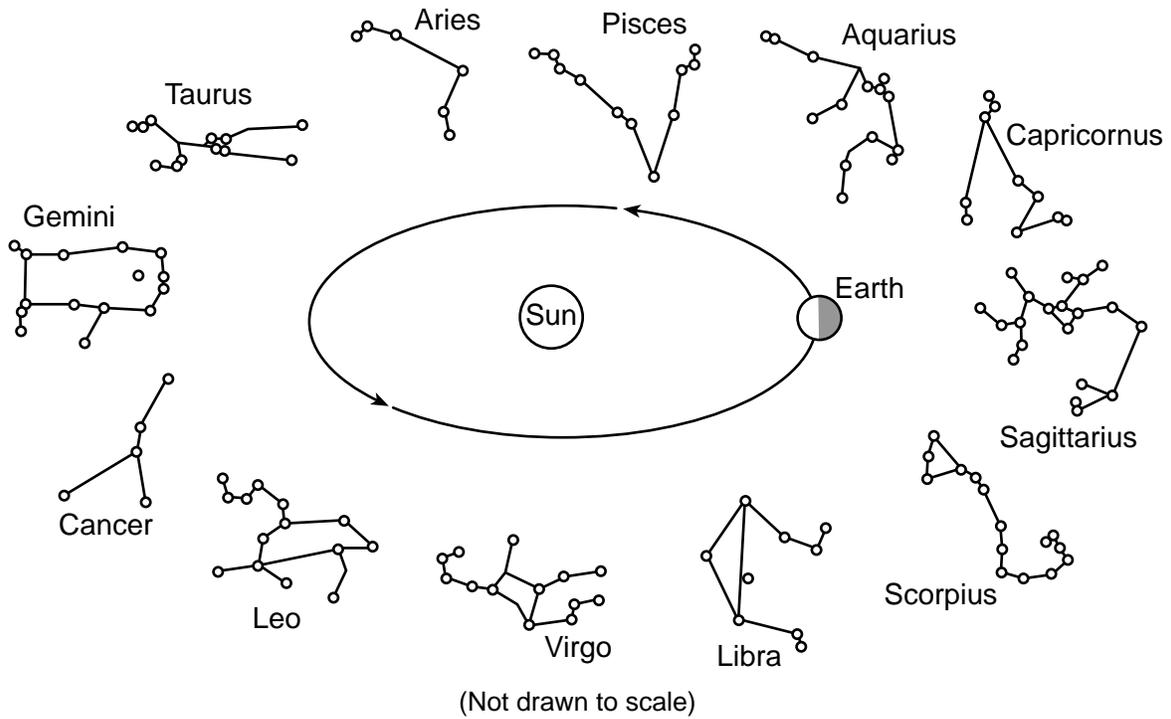


Source: astro.unl.edu/naap/motion2/starpath.html

Which direction was the camera pointing when this photograph was taken?

- (1) east
 - (2) west
 - (3) north
 - (4) south
- 6 Earth's early atmosphere is inferred to be the result of
- (1) outgassing from Earth's interior
 - (2) crustal plate movement
 - (3) convection in Earth's outer core
 - (4) decay of radioactive isotopes

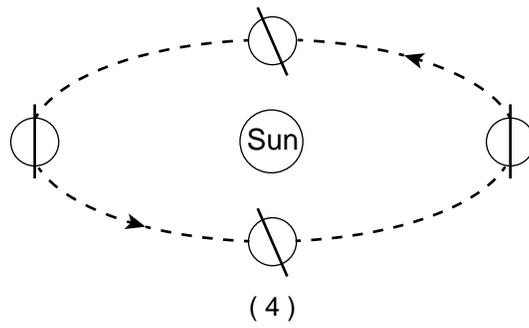
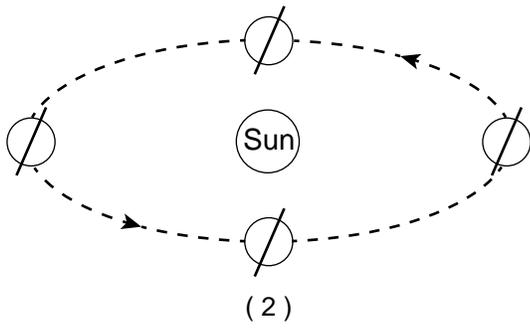
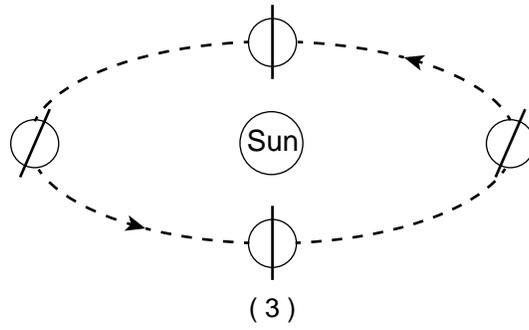
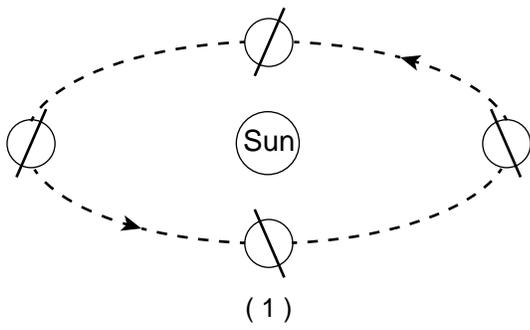
7 The diagram below represents one position of Earth in its orbit around the Sun and 12 constellations that can be seen in the night sky by an observer in New York State.



Which statement best explains why some constellations are *not* visible in the night sky in New York State at certain times of the year?

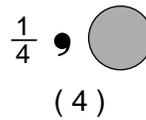
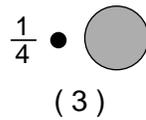
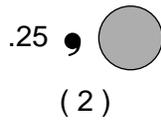
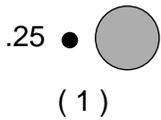
- (1) Earth spins on its axis.
- (2) The constellations spin on their axes.
- (3) Earth orbits the Sun.
- (4) The constellations orbit Earth.

8 Which diagram correctly shows the orientation of Earth's tilted axis in relation to the Sun as Earth revolves around the Sun?

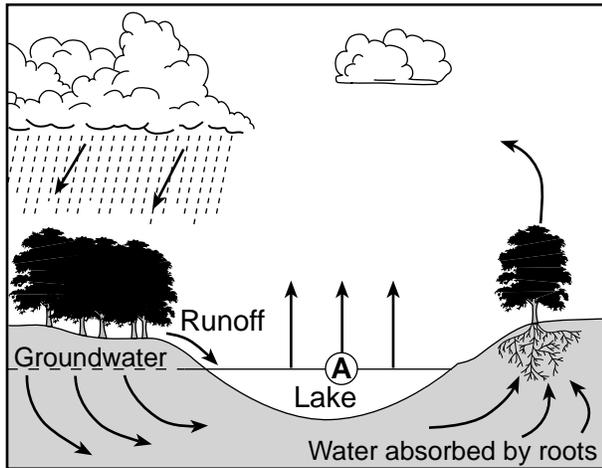


(Not drawn to scale)

9 Which station model correctly represents a location with overcast skies that is experiencing drizzle with a visibility of one-quarter mile?



- 10 The diagram below represents the water cycle. Letter A identifies one of the processes occurring in the cycle.



The process represented by letter A involves

- (1) 334 J/g of heat energy gained to change into water vapor
 - (2) 334 J/g of heat energy released into the lake water
 - (3) 2260 J/g of heat energy gained to change into water vapor
 - (4) 2260 J/g of heat energy released into the lake water
- 11 Approximately 90% of atmospheric ozone is located in the stratosphere. Between which altitudes is most of this ozone layer located?
- (1) 0 km and 10 km
 - (2) 12 km and 50 km
 - (3) 50 km and 75 km
 - (4) 80 km and 120 km
- 12 On March 21, the duration of insolation at Albany, New York, is approximately 12 hours. Each day for the next six months, the duration of insolation at Albany will
- (1) decrease
 - (2) increase
 - (3) decrease, then increase
 - (4) increase, then decrease

- 13 The photograph below shows Chimborazo, a volcano in South America, located near the equator.

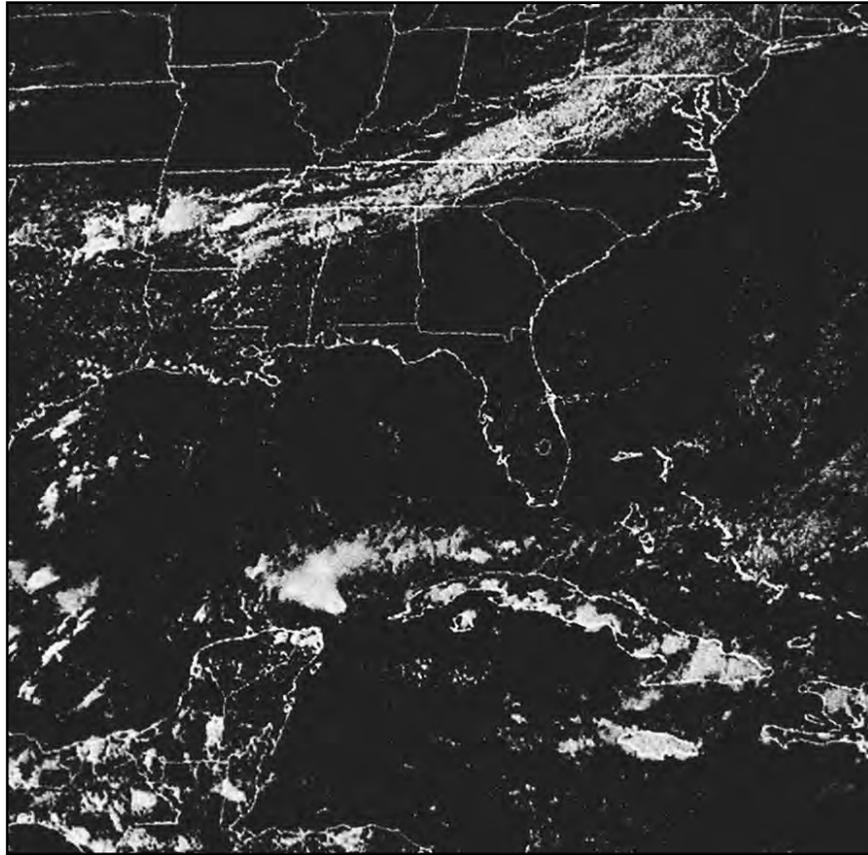


Source: <http://www.alpineinstitute.com/catalog/ecuador-chimborazo-climb/>

Which climate factor is responsible for the snow on this volcano?

- (1) low latitude
 - (2) low elevation
 - (3) high latitude
 - (4) high elevation
- 14 The *least* absorption of insolation occurs with surfaces that are
- (1) dark and smooth
 - (2) dark and rough
 - (3) light and smooth
 - (4) light and rough
- 15 Why is the range between the summer and winter temperatures greater in central New York State than on Long Island?
- (1) Long Island has a higher percentage of urbanization.
 - (2) Long Island is surrounded by a large body of water.
 - (3) Central New York State has higher elevations.
 - (4) Central New York State receives more insolation.
- 16 Equal amounts of which material at room temperature would have the greatest increase in temperature with the addition of 100 joules of heat?
- (1) basalt
 - (2) copper
 - (3) granite
 - (4) water

17 The photograph below is a satellite image of a portion of the Northern Hemisphere.

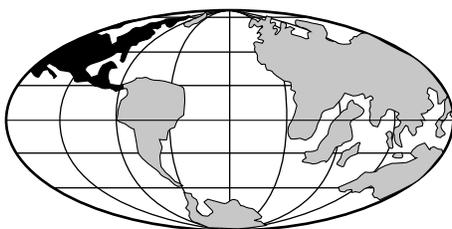


Source: https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/goes/conus_band.php?sat=G16&band=02&length=12

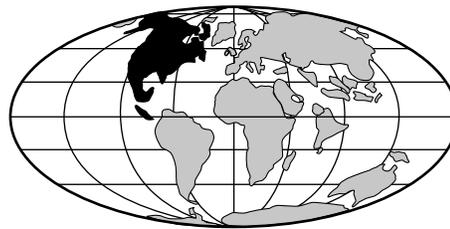
The white regions on this image indicate areas of

- (1) cloud cover
- (2) snow cover
- (3) high pressure
- (4) flooded surfaces

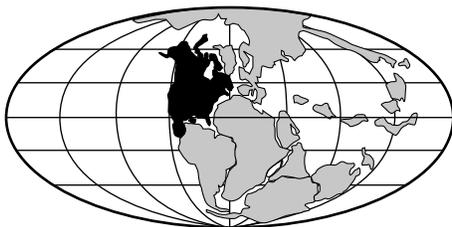
18 Which map best indicates the inferred position of Earth's landmasses when the first coral reefs were formed?



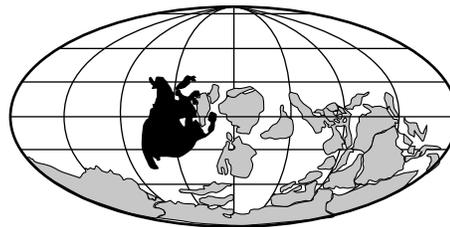
(1)



(3)



(2)



(4)

19 The photograph below shows an outcrop.

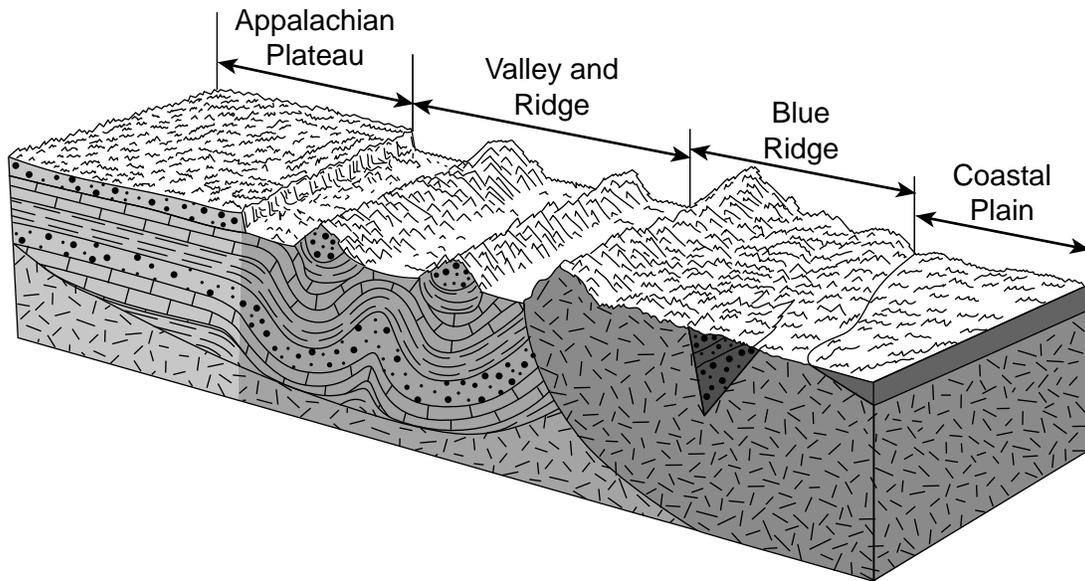


Source: <https://dec.vermont.gov/geological-survey/about/current-projects>

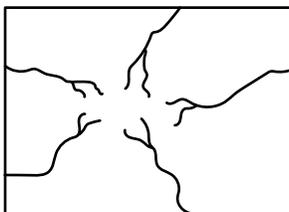
What evidence shown in the photograph indicates that crustal movement has occurred?

- (1) A variety of sediment sizes are shown.
- (2) The rock layers have different thicknesses.
- (3) A forest of trees are found above the outcrop.
- (4) The rock layers are no longer horizontal.

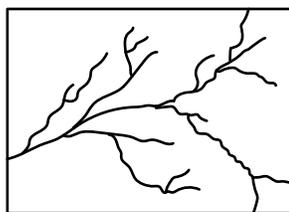
20 The block diagram below shows some of the bedrock geology and landscape regions in the states of Virginia and West Virginia.



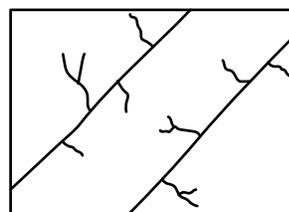
Which stream drainage pattern has most likely developed in the Valley and Ridge landscape region of Virginia?



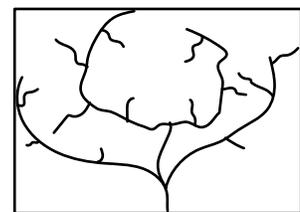
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

21 In the expanse of geologic time, which group of organisms listed below has existed for the shortest period of time?

- (1) birds
- (2) dinosaurs
- (3) humans
- (4) placoderm fish

22 Which index fossil found in surface bedrock of New York State may be classified as a Cambrian-age trilobite?

- (1) *Elliptocephala*
- (2) *Cryptolithus*
- (3) *Centroceras*
- (4) *Phacops*

23 Preserved life-forms, found in the fossil record, show the progression to more complex organisms over geologic time. This pattern of fossils provides evidence for

- (1) plate tectonics
- (2) animal migration
- (3) the evolution of life
- (4) the widespread distribution of life

24 Earth's last magnetic pole reversal occurred about 780,000 years ago. Evidence on Earth's surface for this phenomenon would be found in the

- (1) basaltic bedrock found along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge
- (2) metamorphic bedrock in Australia
- (3) salt and gypsum deposits found in the Erie-Ontario Lowlands
- (4) sand and clay deposits along the west coast of the United States

25 Convection currents that cause Earth's lithospheric plates to move occur in the

- (1) plastic mantle
- (2) stiffer mantle
- (3) outer core
- (4) inner core

26 Compared to the density and thickness of continental crust, the oceanic crust is

- (1) more dense and thicker
- (2) more dense and thinner
- (3) less dense and thicker
- (4) less dense and thinner

27 Landslides are most commonly found in regions having a

- (1) low rainfall event and gentle slopes
- (2) low rainfall event and steep slopes
- (3) high rainfall event and gentle slopes
- (4) high rainfall event and steep slopes

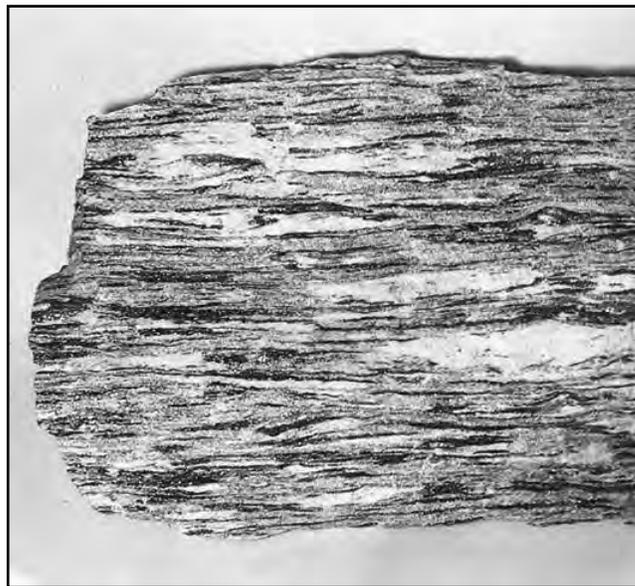
28 Vesicular texture is used to describe

- (1) metamorphic rocks with distorted pebbles
- (2) igneous rocks with gas pockets
- (3) metamorphic rocks with platy mica crystals
- (4) igneous rocks that are smooth and glassy

29 Which characteristic would be most useful in distinguishing graphite from magnetite?

- (1) luster
- (2) color
- (3) streak
- (4) hardness

30 The photograph below shows a sample of gneiss.



What is the texture and grain size of this gneiss?

- (1) foliated and fine grained
- (2) foliated and coarse grained
- (3) nonfoliated and fine grained
- (4) nonfoliated and coarse grained

31 Which table best describes the landscape category and the general bedrock structure, type, and composition of bedrock in Old Forge, New York?

Landscape Category	plateau region
Bedrock Structure	horizontal
Bedrock Type	sedimentary
Bedrock Composition	limestone, shale, sandstone

(1)

Landscape Category	mountain region
Bedrock Structure	folded
Bedrock Type	metamorphic
Bedrock Composition	gneiss, quartzite, marble

(3)

Landscape Category	mountain region
Bedrock Structure	horizontal
Bedrock Type	metamorphic
Bedrock Composition	gneiss, quartzite, marble

(2)

Landscape Category	plateau region
Bedrock Structure	folded
Bedrock Type	sedimentary
Bedrock Composition	limestone, shale, sandstone

(4)

32 The satellite image below shows a portion of a river as it enters the ocean.

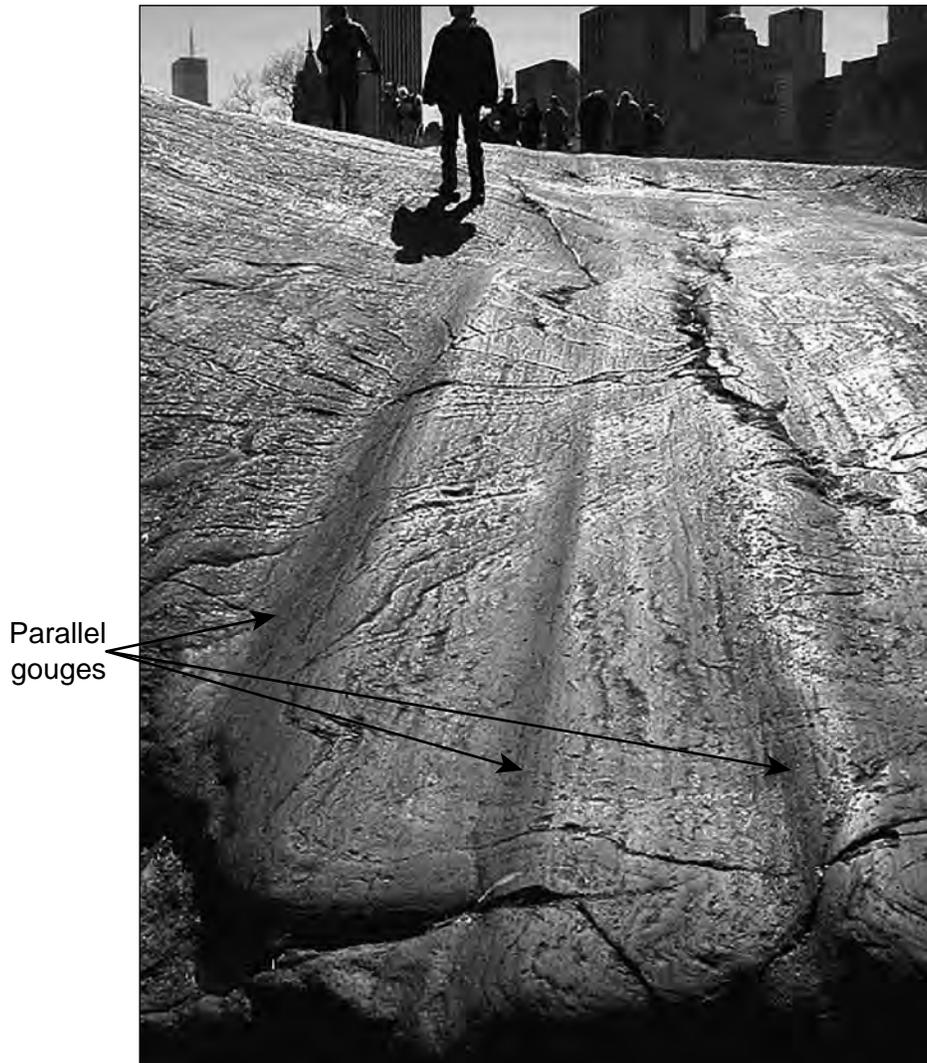


Source: <https://www.tinyurl.com/yas5hpw5>

Which landform is produced where this river enters the ocean?

- (1) delta
- (2) landslide
- (3) string of kettle lakes
- (4) string of finger lakes

33 The photograph below shows a series of long, parallel gouges on the surface of exposed bedrock in New York City.

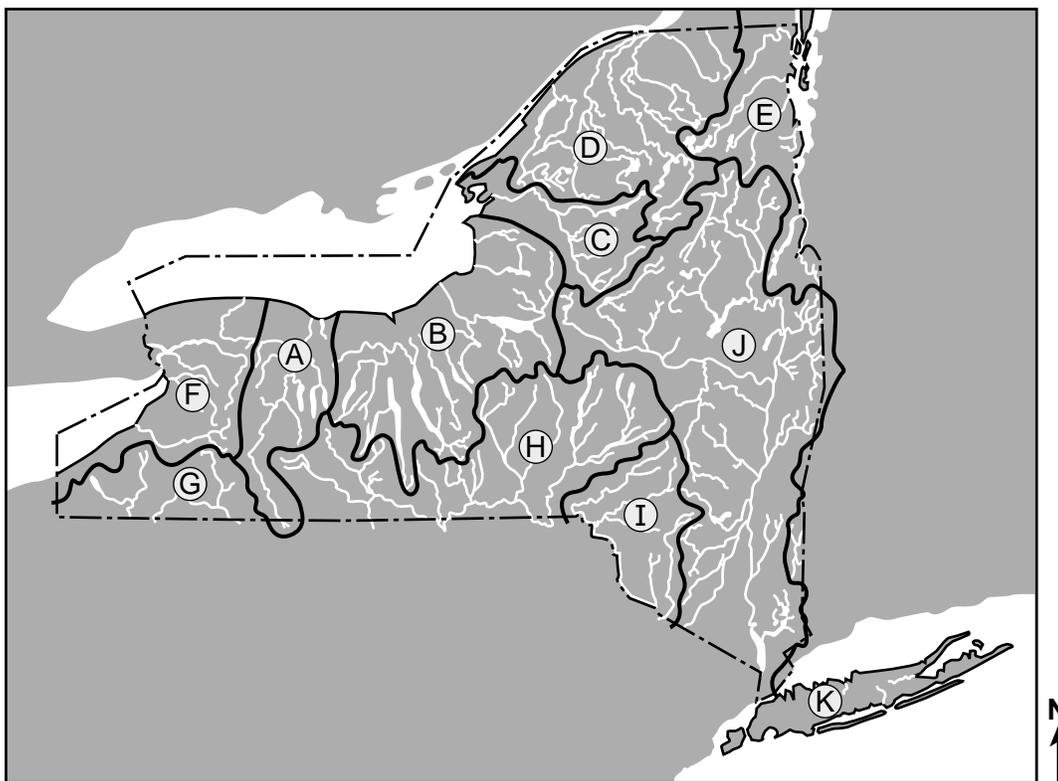


Source: <https://hudsonvalleygeologist.blogspot.com/2011/03/umpire-rat-rock-in-central-park.html>

The gouges on the rock were formed by boulders that were

- (1) deposited on bedrock at the bottom of a river
- (2) tumbled over the bedrock on a hillside during a landslide
- (3) moved along the bedrock at the bottom of a stream
- (4) dragged across the bedrock at the bottom of a glacier

34 The map below shows major watershed areas in New York State. Letters A through K represent individual watersheds.



Which table indicates the watersheds of the Mohawk River and the Susquehanna River?

River	Watershed
Mohawk	I
Susquehanna	B

(1)

River	Watershed
Mohawk	J
Susquehanna	H

(3)

River	Watershed
Mohawk	B
Susquehanna	I

(2)

River	Watershed
Mohawk	H
Susquehanna	J

(4)

35 The photograph below shows a dome of rock found in Saratoga Springs, New York. The dome of rock is travertine, a variety of limestone.



Which mineral makes up most of the travertine?

- (1) quartz
- (2) calcite

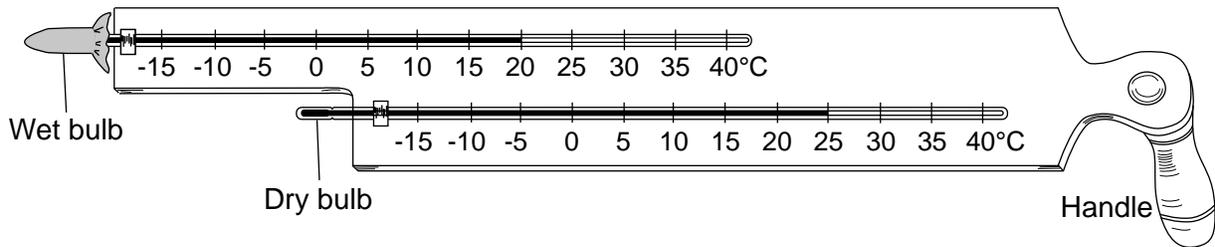
- (3) halite
- (4) talc

Part B-1

Answer all questions in this part.

Directions (36–50): For each statement or question, choose the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question. Some questions may require the use of the 2011 Edition Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science. Record your answers on your separate answer sheet.

Base your answers to questions 36 through 38 on the diagram below and on your knowledge of Earth science.



The diagram represents a weather instrument used to determine relative humidity and dew point.

36 Which weather instrument is shown?

- (1) anemometer
- (2) psychrometer
- (3) barometer
- (4) rain gauge

37 According to the temperature readings shown, what is the dew point?

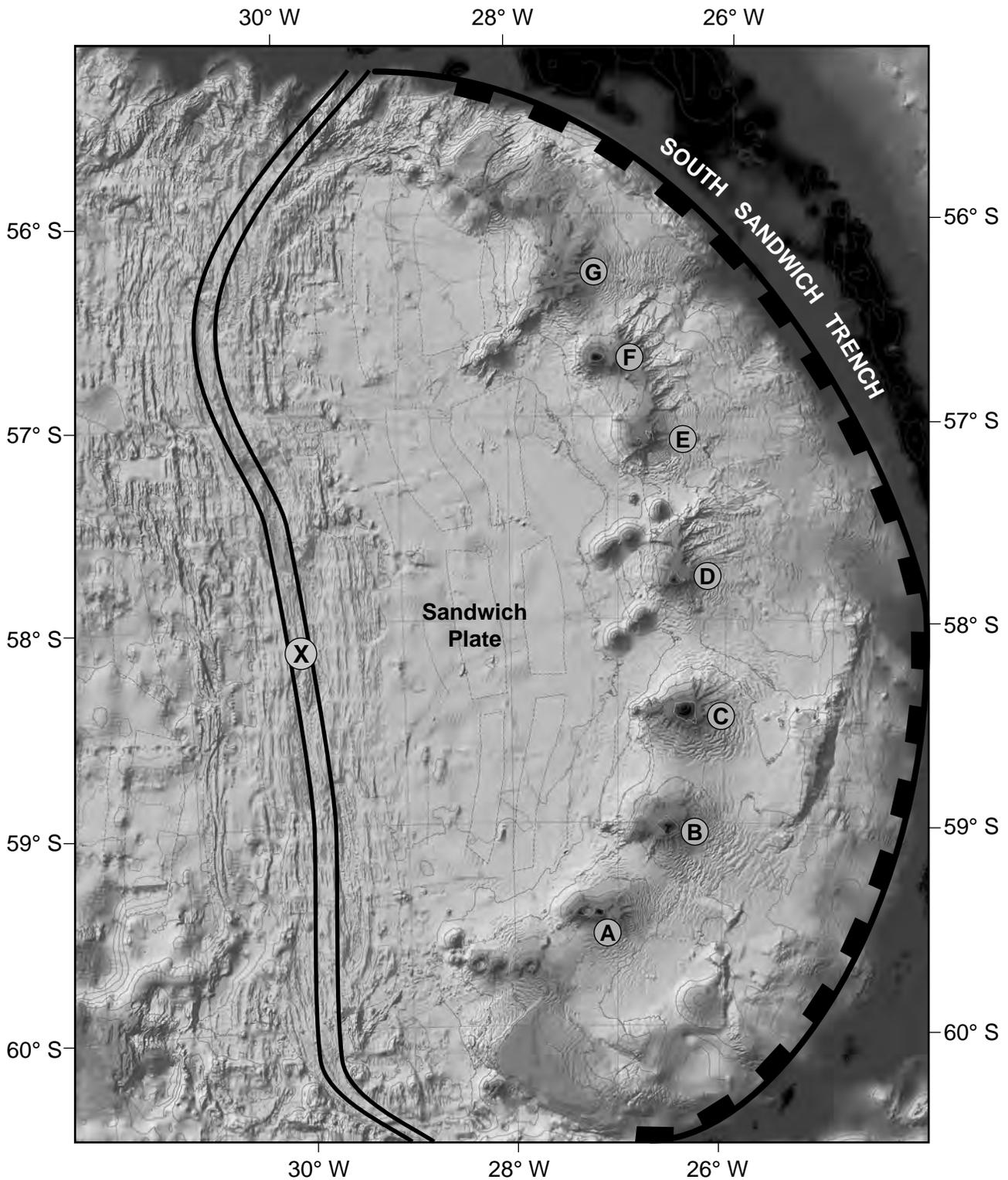
- (1) 5°C
- (2) 12°C
- (3) 17°C
- (4) 63°C

38 Which conditions would exist if the relative humidity were 100%?

- (1) The dry-bulb temperature would be below the wet-bulb temperature.
 - (2) The dry-bulb temperature would be the same as the wet-bulb temperature.
 - (3) The wet-bulb temperature would be lower than 0°C and the dry-bulb temperature would be higher than 0°C.
 - (4) The wet-bulb temperature would be lower than 20°C and the dry-bulb temperature would be higher than 20°C.
-

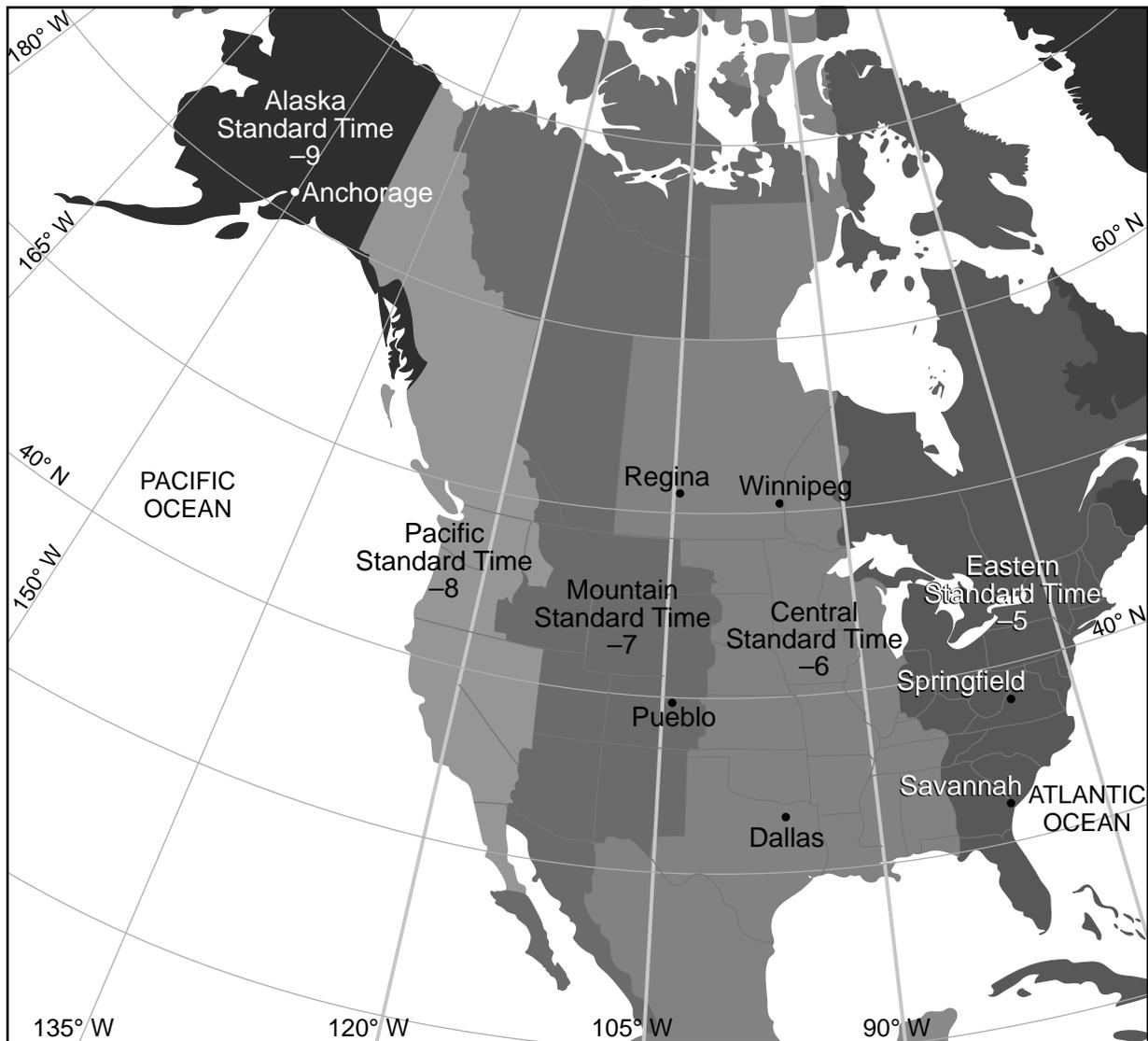
Base your answers to questions 39 through 42 on the passage and map below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The map shows the ocean floor and the location of seven volcanic islands, labeled A through G, found on the Sandwich Plate. Tectonic plate boundaries are indicated. One plate boundary is labeled X.

The Sandwich Plate is one of the smallest tectonic plates on Earth. Several volcanic islands are located west of the South Sandwich Trench. Due to their location, most of the islands are covered by glaciers. This chain of volcanic islands is a result of subduction. Due to their volcanic origin, over 70% of the islands are made of basalt from lava flows. A spreading center is located west of these islands.



- 39 Which tectonic plate is subducting under the Sandwich Plate?
- (1) South American Plate
 - (2) African Plate
 - (3) Antarctic Plate
 - (4) Scotia Plate
- 40 Which type of plate boundary is represented by letter X?
- (1) convergent
 - (2) complex or uncertain
 - (3) divergent
 - (4) transform
- 41 Peridotite has also been found exposed along the sides of some of the volcanic islands. How is this rock different than the basalt that makes up 70% of the islands?
- (1) Basalt contains more olivine than peridotite.
 - (2) Basalt contains more quartz than peridotite.
 - (3) Peridotite formed extrusively, while basalt formed intrusively.
 - (4) Peridotite formed intrusively, while basalt formed extrusively.
- 42 What is the name and relative temperature of the ocean current that flows south of the Sandwich Plate?
- (1) warm Brazil Current
 - (2) cool Brazil Current
 - (3) warm Antarctic Circumpolar Current
 - (4) cool Antarctic Circumpolar Current
-

Base your answers to questions 43 and 44 on the map below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The map shows a portion of North America, including parts of Canada and the United States. The shaded areas on the map show continental North American time zones. The number in each time zone indicates the difference in hours compared to the time at the Prime Meridian. Some cities are labeled on the map.



43 When it is 3:00 p.m. in Anchorage, Alaska, what time is it in Dallas, Texas?

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (1) 6:00 a.m. | (3) 12:00 noon |
| (2) 9:00 a.m. | (4) 6:00 p.m. |

44 From which two cities can Polaris be observed at nearly the same angle above the northern horizon?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) Dallas and Savannah | (3) Pueblo and Savannah |
| (2) Regina and Springfield | (4) Winnipeg and Dallas |

Base your answers to questions 45 through 47 on the data table below, which describes the ten stars that appear brightest in the nighttime sky over New York State. Stars are ranked by how bright they appear to the unaided eye from 1 (brightest) to 10 (dimpest). Distances are measured in light-years from Earth. A light-year is the distance light travels in one year.

The Ten Brightest Stars in New York State Nighttime Skies

Rank	Star Name	Luminosity (relative to Sun)	Distance (light-years)	Surface Temperature (K)
(brightest) 1	Sirius	27	8.6	9500
2	Arcturus	298	36.7	4106
3	Vega	61	25.3	8912
4	Capella	162	42.2	5419
5	Rigel	51,194	777	9076
6	Procyon	7.5	11.6	6500
7	Betelgeuse	58,980	429	3488
8	Altair	12	16.8	7757
9	Aldebaran	1080	65	3406
(dimpest) 10	Antares	387,000	604	2776

45 Which star would appear red to the unaided eye?

- (1) Vega
- (2) Procyon
- (3) Altair
- (4) Antares

46 Based on its luminosity and temperature, the star Capella would be classified as a

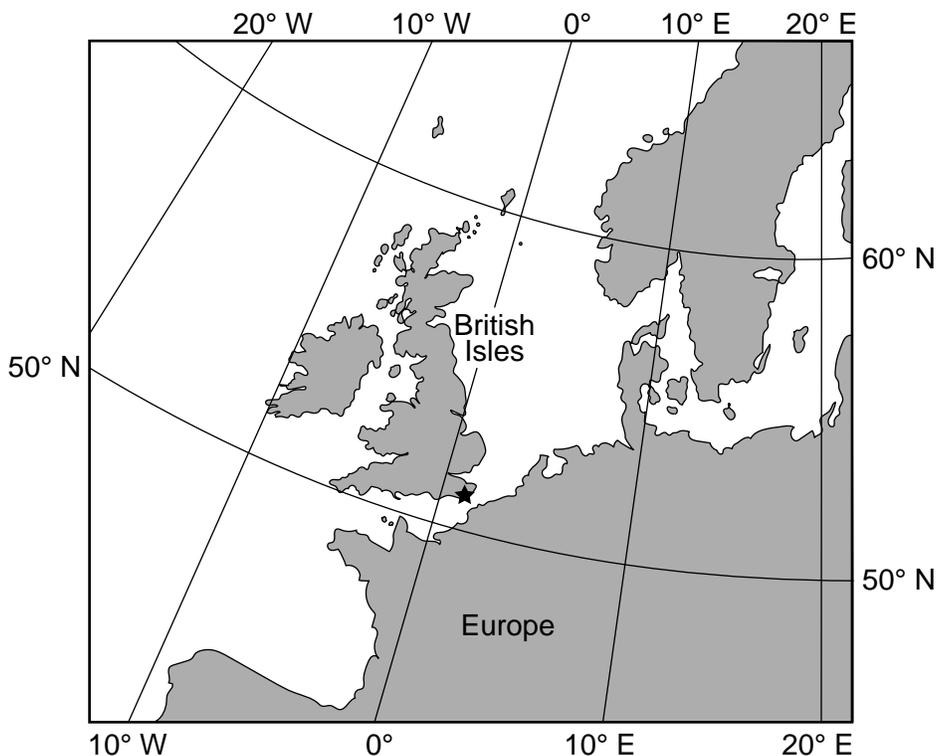
- (1) main sequence
- (2) white dwarf
- (3) giant
- (4) supergiant

47 When viewed from Earth, why does Arcturus appear brighter than Betelgeuse?

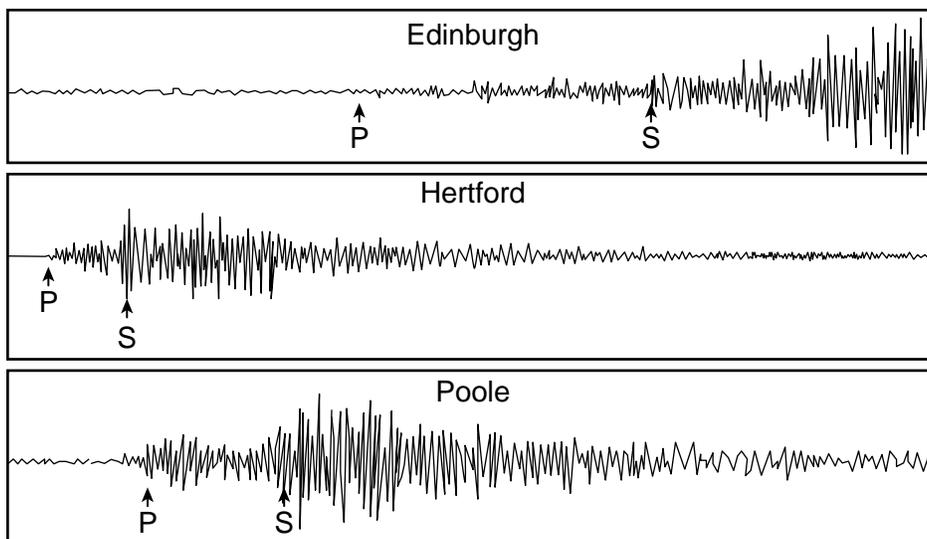
- (1) Arcturus is hotter and farther from Earth than Betelgeuse.
- (2) Arcturus is hotter and closer to Earth than Betelgeuse.
- (3) Arcturus is cooler and farther from Earth than Betelgeuse.
- (4) Arcturus is cooler and closer to Earth than Betelgeuse.

Base your answers to questions 48 through 50 on the map and diagram below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The star (★) on the map shows the location of the epicenter of an earthquake that occurred in the British Isles on April 28, 2007. The diagram represents seismograms showing the arrival of *P*- and *S*-waves recorded from this earthquake at three locations.

Site of April 28, 2007 Earthquake



Seismograms of April 28, 2007 Earthquake from Three Stations



48 What is the latitude and longitude of the epicenter of this earthquake?

- (1) 51° N, 1° E
- (2) 51° N, 1° W

- (3) 1° N, 51° E
- (4) 1° N, 51° W

49 Based on the seismograms, which list shows the three locations from the closest to the epicenter to farthest from the epicenter?

- (1) Edinburgh → Poole → Hertford
- (2) Edinburgh → Hertford → Poole

- (3) Hertford → Poole → Edinburgh
- (4) Hertford → Edinburgh → Poole

50 More earthquakes occur in Iceland and along the west coast of the United States than in the British Isles because Iceland and the west coast of the United States

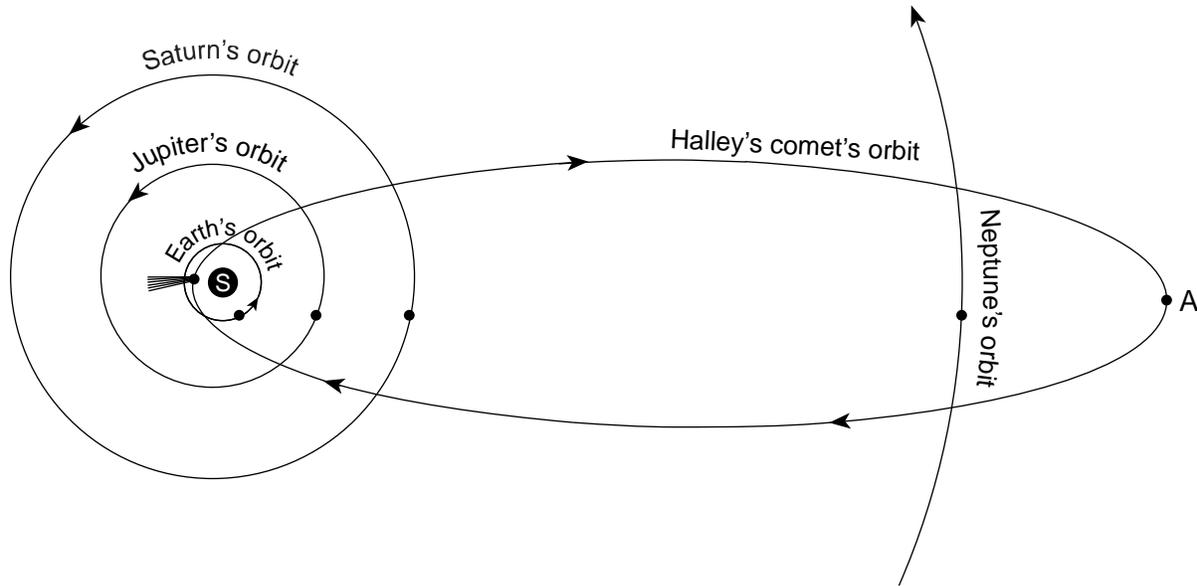
- (1) are located on plate boundaries while the British Isles are not
 - (2) are closer to the asthenosphere than the British Isles
 - (3) have fewer fault zones than the British Isles
 - (4) have less volcanic bedrock than the British Isles
-

Part B–2

Answer all questions in this part.

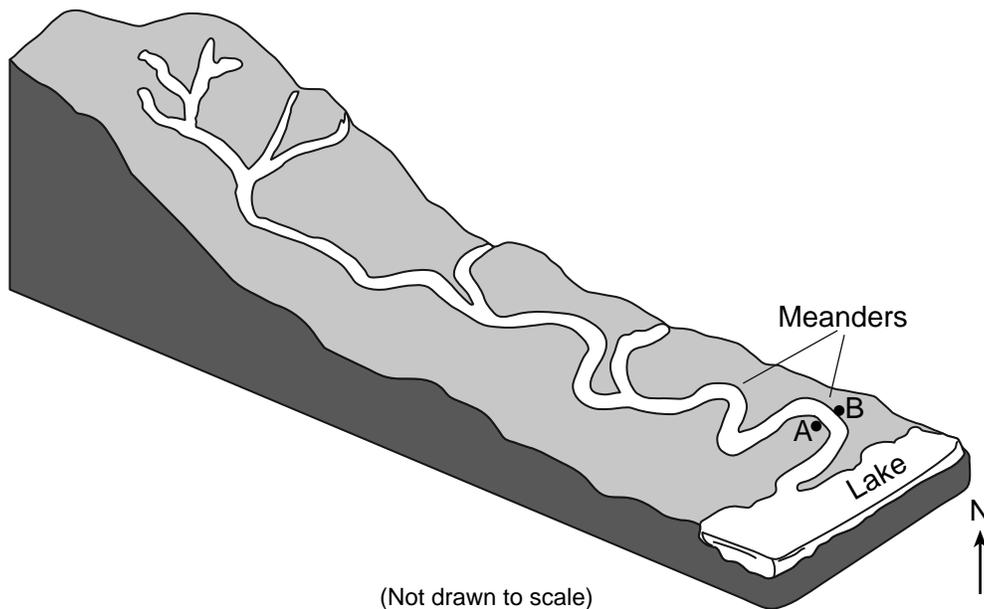
Directions (51–65): Record your answers in the spaces provided in your answer booklet. Some questions may require the use of the *2011 Edition Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science*.

Base your answers to questions 51 through 53 on the diagram below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The diagram represents a portion of our solar system. The Sun (**S**) and the orbits of four planets are labeled. Halley's comet (☄) is shown at perihelion, its closest distance to the Sun. The path of Halley's Comet is also labeled. Letter A represents another location in the orbit of Halley's Comet.



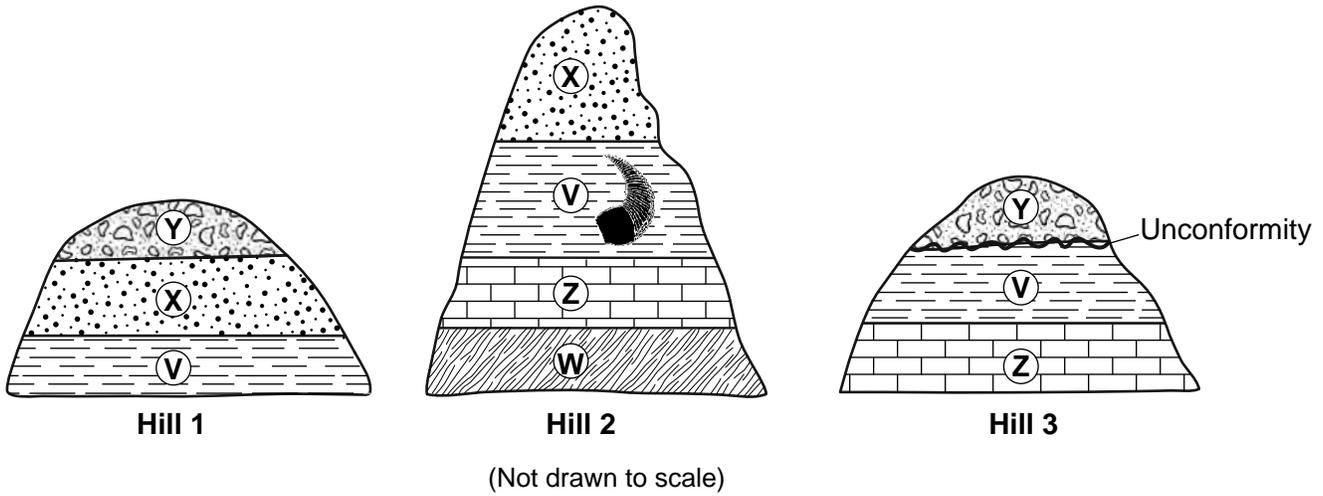
- 51 Describe how the gravitational force between Halley's Comet and the Sun changes as it travels from location A to perihelion and then back to position A again. [1]
- 52 Compared to the terrestrial planets, describe how the mass and density of the Jovian planets are different. [1]
- 53 On the diagram in *your answer booklet*, the shaded distance between 0 mm and 1 mm represents the equatorial diameter of Earth drawn to scale. On this same diagram, starting at 0 mm, shade in the bar labeled "diameter of Sun" to represent the equatorial diameter of the Sun to the same scale. [1]
-

Base your answers to questions 54 through 56 on the block diagram below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The diagram represents a meandering river flowing into a lake. Letters *A* and *B* indicate locations along the riverbank.



- 54 Explain why location *B*, which is located on the outside of a meander curve, has a greater amount of erosion than location *A*. [1]
- 55 In terms of sediment size, describe the pattern of deposition that occurs when the transported sediments enter the lake. [1]
- 56 Describe how the sediment transported in the river weathers and becomes rounded. [1]
-

Base your answers to questions 57 through 59 on the cross sections below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The cross sections represent rock units labeled V, W, X, Y, and Z in three hills in a region. A New York State index fossil is found in one rock layer. No overturning of rock layers has occurred.

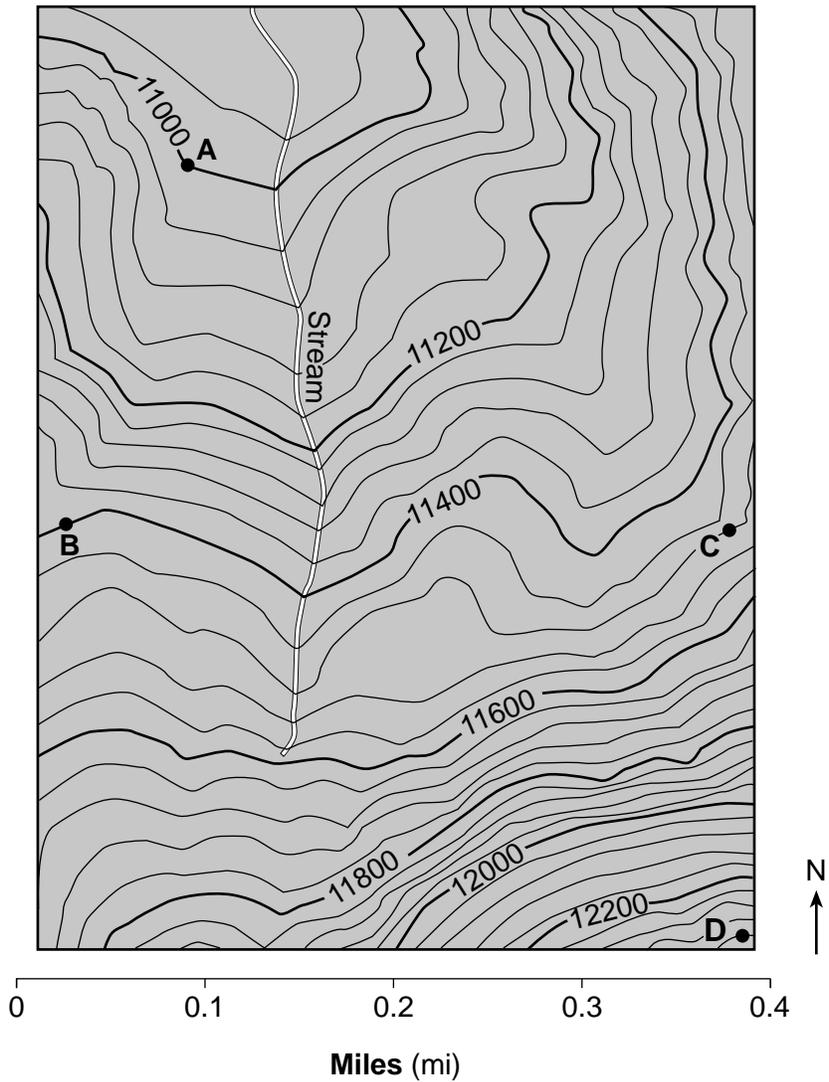


57 Determine the correct relative age sequence of rock layers V, W, X, Y, and Z from oldest to youngest. [1]

58 Explain how rock unit W formed. [1]

59 Describe *one* characteristic of index fossils that allows them to be useful in correlating rock layers. [1]

Base your answers to questions 60 through 62 on the topographic map below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The map shows a portion of the Colorado Rockies in the western United States. Elevations are measured in feet.

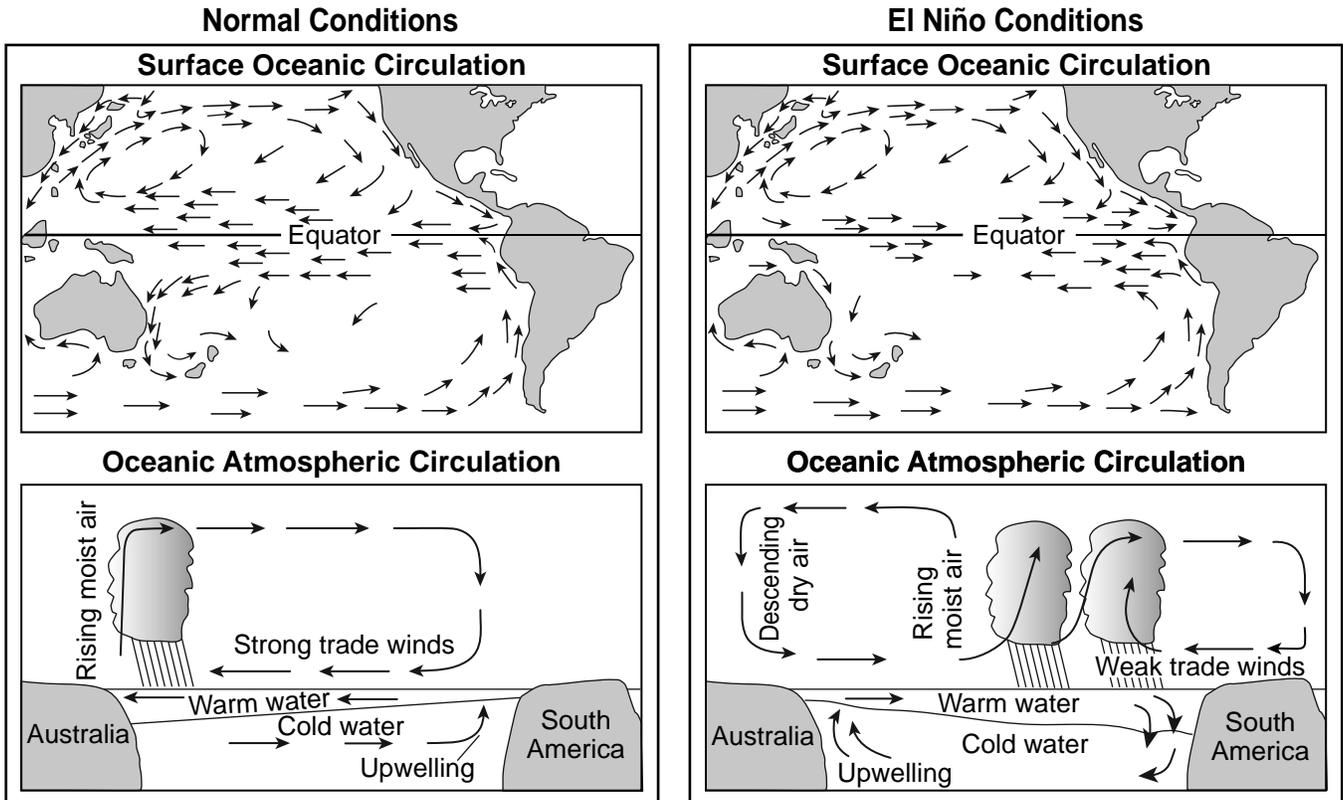


60 Determine the contour interval for this map. [1]

61 Identify the general direction the stream flows on this map. [1]

62 Explain how the contour lines on the map indicate that the slope between points C and D is steeper than the slope between points A and B. [1]

Base your answers to questions 63 through 65 on the two maps and cross sections below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The maps and cross sections represent oceanic and atmospheric circulation during normal conditions and El Niño conditions. Ocean currents and trade-wind directions are indicated with arrows. Clouds indicate regions of frequent thunderstorm activity.



(Not drawn to scale)

63 Describe the change in the strength of the trade winds during an El Niño event. [1]

64 Compared to the general air pressure over Australia under normal conditions, identify how the overall general air pressure over Australia under El Niño conditions is different. [1]

65 Describe what happens in rising moist air that causes clouds to form. [1]

Part C

Answer all questions in this part.

Directions (66–85): Record your answers in the spaces provided in your answer booklet. Some questions may require the use of the *2011 Edition Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science*.

Base your answers to questions 66 through 68 on the weather map in *your answer booklet* and on your knowledge of Earth science. The weather map shows some station model data in and around New York State. The center of a low-pressure system (**L**) is indicated, and two associated fronts are represented by front A and front B.

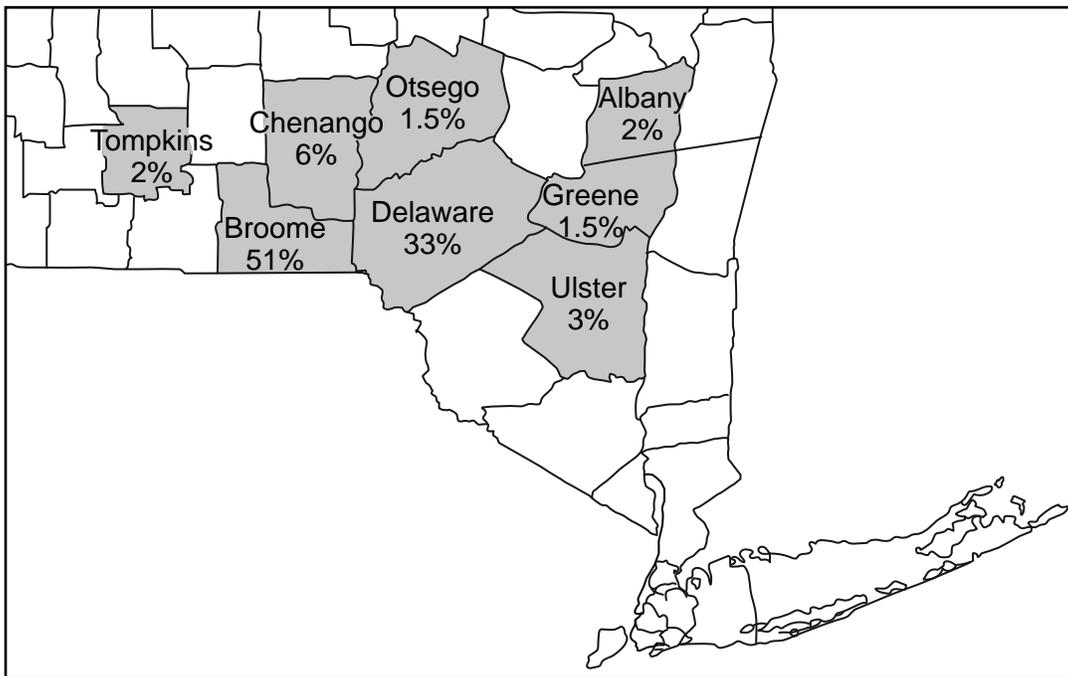
- 66 On the map in *your answer booklet*, draw the 20°F and 40°F isotherms. Extend the isotherms to the edges of the map. [1]
- 67 The air mass located between these two fronts originated along the Tropic of Cancer in the southern Florida region. Write the two-letter air-mass symbol to represent this air-mass. [1]
- 68 Heavy snow with blizzard conditions is forecast for Elmira, New York, during this weather event. Describe *two* emergency preparedness actions that people should take three to six hours before this storm is predicted to arrive. [1]
-

Base your answers to questions 69 through 72 on the passage and map below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The map shows the names of some counties in southeastern New York State and the percentages of bluestone currently being mined in those counties.

New York State Bluestone

Bluestone is the name given to a specific Devonian age sandstone quarried in southeastern New York. Although called “bluestone,” the color varies from greenish gray to grayish-red purple. However, while color is important, it is the mineral composition that makes the rock valuable. Instead of being a quartz sandstone, bluestones are quartz-feldspar sandstones. This mix results in a dense, tough, durable rock ideal for many uses such as street curbing, patio surfaces, and fireplaces. Bluestone was first mined in Ulster County over 200 years ago, but other New York counties now produce a greater percentage of these valuable and versatile rocks.

Percentage of Total Bluestone Mined in Eight New York State Counties



- 69 Identify *two* rock cycle processes that formed the bluestone after the deposition of sand grains. [1]
- 70 State a reason why the color blue is *not* a useful property for the identification of bluestone. [1]
- 71 The quartz and feldspar particles in bluestone average 0.05 cm in diameter. State the minimum stream velocity needed to maintain the movement of these particles to their point of deposition in New York State. [1]
- 72 State the name of the New York State landscape region where the highest percentage of bluestone is currently mined. [1]
-

Base your answers to questions 73 through 75 on the data table below, the grid in your answer booklet, and on your knowledge of Earth science. The data table shows the amount of radioactive uranium-238 and the disintegration product of uranium-238 over five half-lives.

Half-Life	Radioactive Uranium-238 (%)	Disintegration Product of Uranium-238 (%)
0	100	0
1	50	50
2	25	75
3	12.5	87.5
4	6.25	93.75
5	3.125	96.875

73 On the grid in *your answer booklet*, construct a line graph by plotting the disintegration product of uranium-238 for each half-life indicated. Connect *all six* plots with a line. [1]

74 Describe the relationship between the amount of original radioactive isotope and the amount of disintegration product over time. [1]

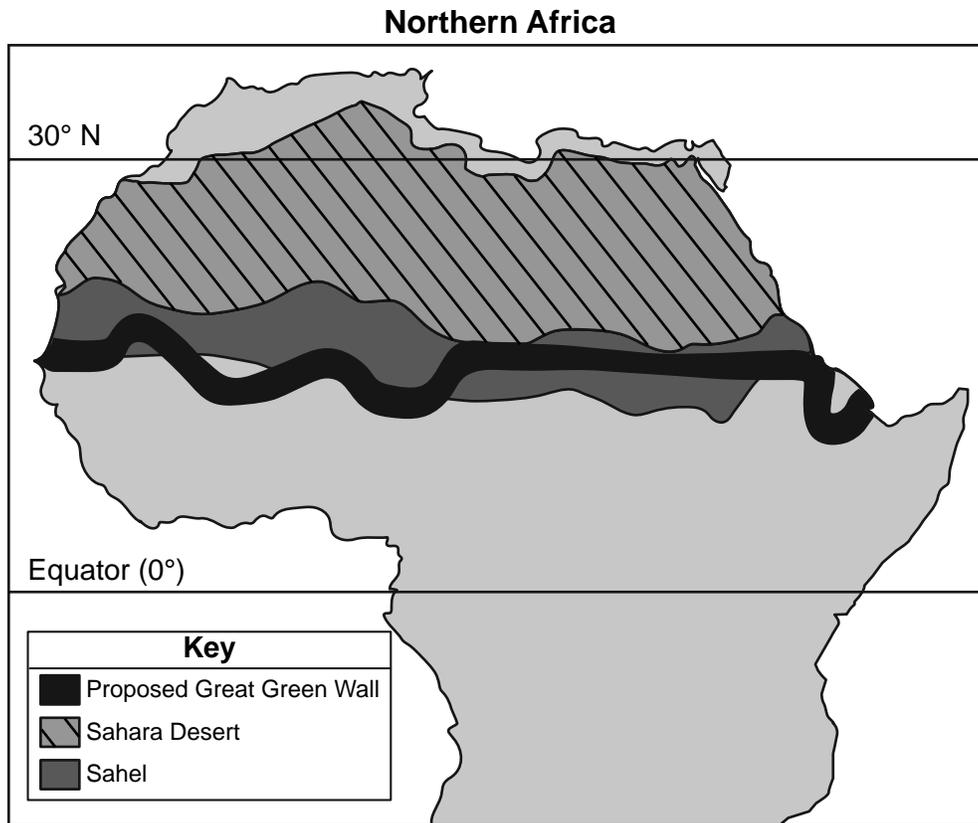
75 Identify the disintegration product for this radioactive isotope. [1]

Base your answers to questions 76 through 78 on the passage and map below, and on your knowledge of Earth science. The map shows the location of the Sahara Desert, the Sahel, and the proposed Great Green Wall.

Great Green Wall

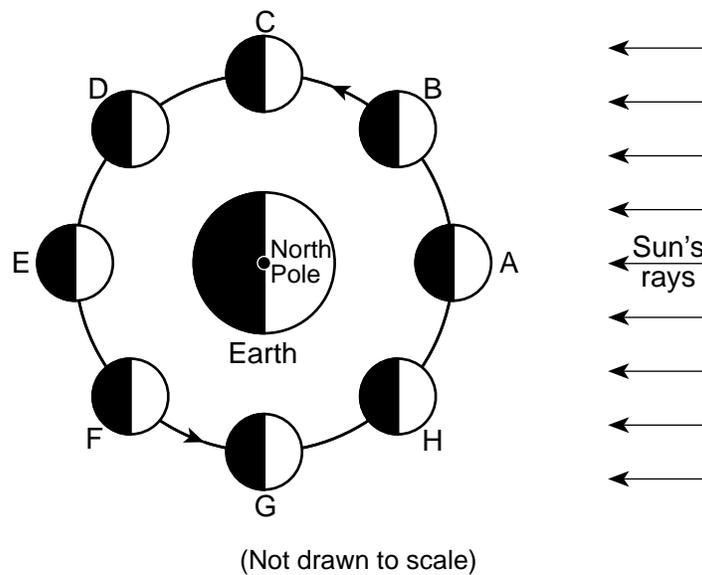
The Great Green Wall is a project to combat the effects of climate change and desertification (becoming a desert) in Northern Africa. The initial idea of this project was to plant a 10-mile wide line of trees resistant to arid conditions along the 4815-mile-long southern border of the Sahara Desert, a region known as the Sahel, to keep the desert from “expanding” southward. This \$8-billion project intends to restore 247 million acres of land in danger of becoming a desert. A secondary effect of this project will be to restore grasslands ruined by decades of overuse. Many years of poor farming techniques and droughts caused by climate change have removed much of the surface vegetation. Fertile topsoil has been lost by winds, making the land less able to support crops and other vegetation.

By 2030, it is expected that these planted trees could absorb approximately 250 metric tons of carbon dioxide as part of the trees’ life process of photosynthesis, thus greatly reducing the effect carbon dioxide has on global warming. This amount is the equivalent of keeping all of California’s cars parked for 3.5 years. Trees will also hold soils in place and prevent topsoil erosion. Deep planting pits and placing stone barriers around farming fields will help raise the level of the water table when rain occurs.



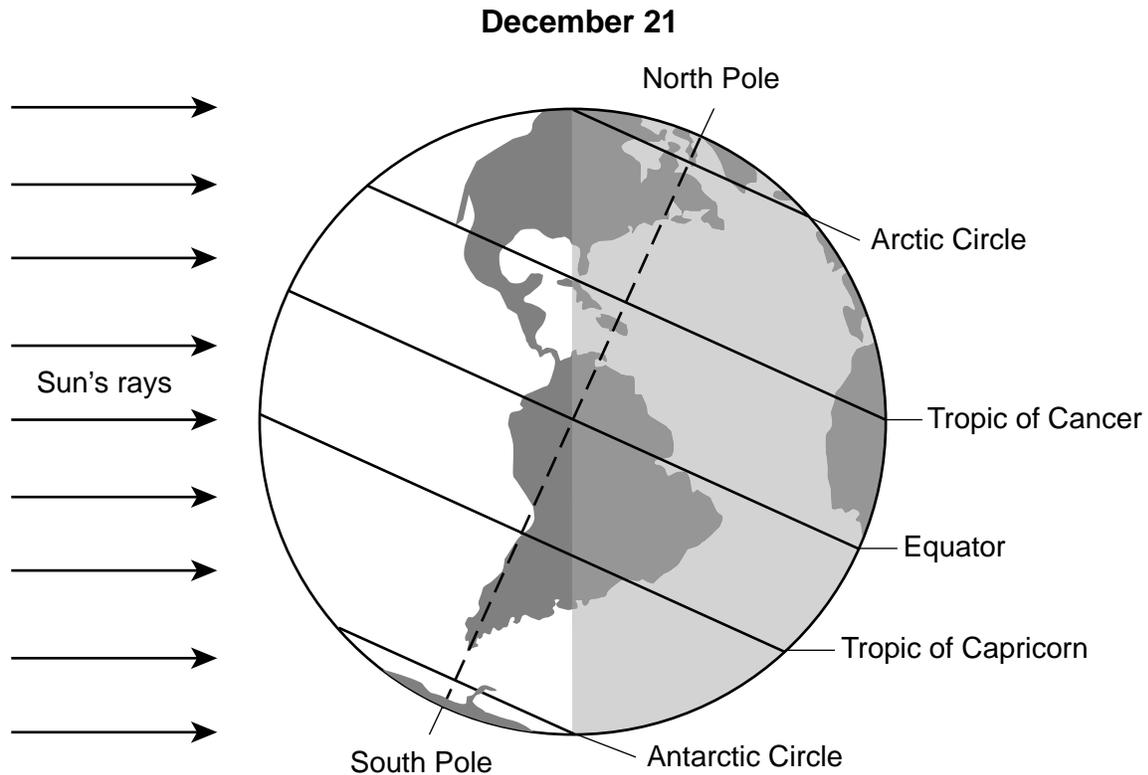
- 76 On the set of axes in *your answer booklet*, draw a line to represent the relationship between the amount of trees in the Great Green Wall and the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed. [1]
- 77 June, July, and sometimes August are the drought season in the Sahel. Describe the relative air temperature and the relative humidity that most likely causes drought conditions in the Sahel. [1]
- 78 Other than evaporation, identify the process that occurs in trees by which water vapor exits the leaves of the trees. [1]
-

Base your answers to questions 79 through 82 on the diagram below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The diagram represents the Moon at eight positions, A through H, in its orbit around Earth.



- 79 On the diagram in *your answer booklet*, shade the portion of the Moon that is in darkness, as viewed from New York State, when the Moon is at position B. [1]
- 80 Identify the letter of the Moon's position in its orbit where a lunar eclipse might be observed from Earth. [1]
- 81 State the number of days needed for the Moon to complete one cycle of phases. [1]
- 82 Explain how the Moon's motions cause the same side of the Moon to always face Earth. [1]
-

Base your answers to questions 83 through 85 on the diagram below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The diagram represents Earth as viewed from space on December 21.



(Not drawn to scale)

- 83 Describe the relationship between latitude in the northern hemisphere and the number of daylight hours on this day. [1]
- 84 Describe the change in the length of an observer's shadow when measured at solar noon on the Tropic of Cancer for the next 3 months. [1]
- 85 Identify the season that is beginning on the Antarctic Circle on this day. [1]
-

PHYSICAL SETTING EARTH SCIENCE

Friday, January 23, 2026 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

ANSWER BOOKLET

Student

Teacher

School Grade

Record your answers for Part B–2 and Part C in this booklet.

Part B–2

51 _____

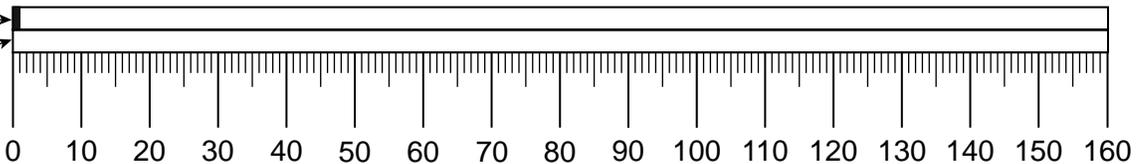
52 Mass: _____

Density: _____

53

Diameter
of Earth

Diameter
of Sun



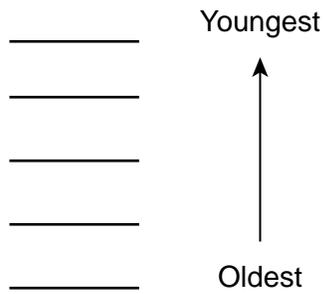
Scale 1 mm = 12,756 km

54

55

56

57



58

59

60 _____ ft

61

62

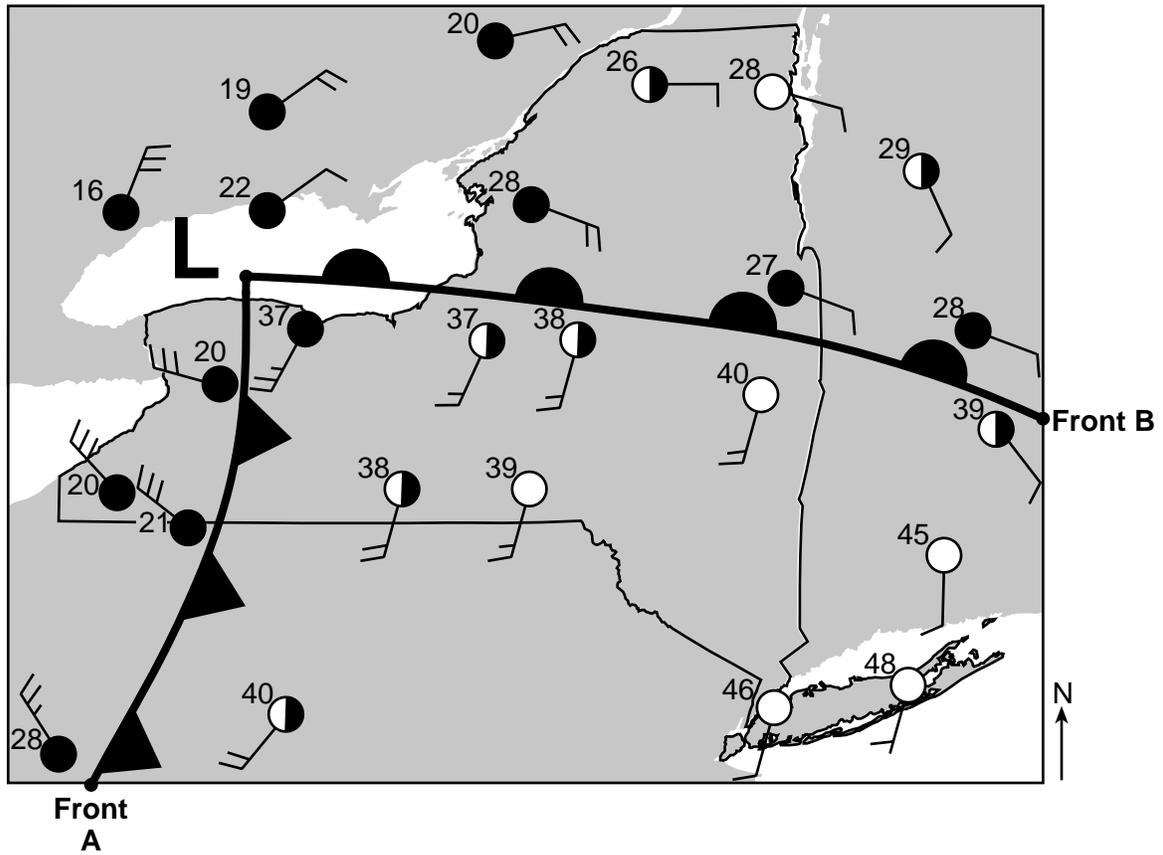
63 _____

64 _____

65 _____

Part C

66



67 _____

68 Action 1: _____

Action 2: _____

69 Process 1: _____

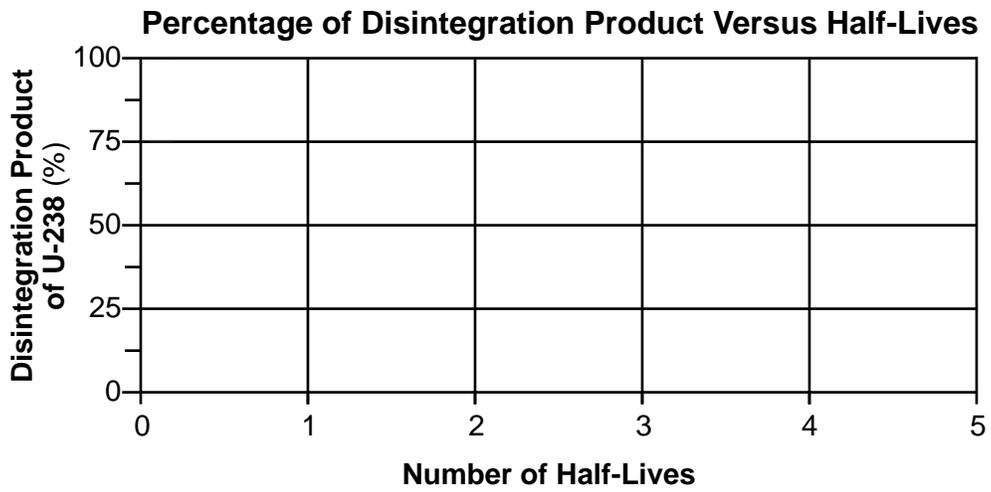
Process 2: _____

70 _____

71 _____ cm/s

72 _____

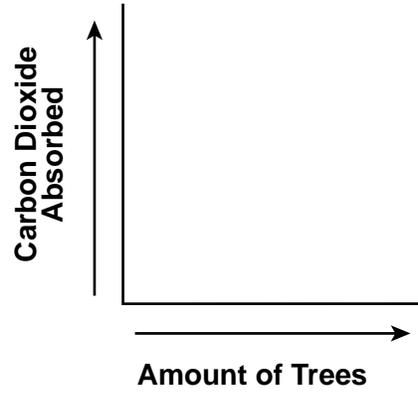
73



74 _____

75 _____

76



77 Relative air temperature: _____

Relative humidity: _____

78 _____



80 _____

81 _____ d

82 _____

83 _____

84 _____

85 _____

Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science – January 2026**Scoring Key: Parts A and B-1 (Multiple-Choice Questions)**

Examination	Date	Question Number	Scoring Key	Question Type	Credit	Weight
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	1	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	2	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	3	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	4	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	5	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	6	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	7	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	8	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	9	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	10	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	11	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	12	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	13	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	14	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	15	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	16	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	17	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	18	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	19	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	20	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	21	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	22	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	23	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	24	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	25	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	26	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	27	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	28	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	29	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	30	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	31	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	32	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	33	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	34	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	35	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	36	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	37	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	38	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	39	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	40	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	41	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	42	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	43	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	44	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	45	4	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	46	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	47	2	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	48	1	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	49	3	MC	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	50	1	MC	1	1

Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science – January 2026

Scoring Key: Parts B-2 and C (Constructed-Response Questions)

Examination	Date	Question Number	Scoring Key	Question Type	Credit	Weight
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	51	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	52	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	53	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	54	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	55	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	56	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	57	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	58	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	59	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	60	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	61	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	62	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	63	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	64	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	65	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	66	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	67	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	68	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	69	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	70	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	71	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	72	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	73	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	74	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	75	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	76	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	77	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	78	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	79	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	80	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	81	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	82	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	83	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	84	–	CR	1	1
Physical Setting/Earth Science	January '26	85	–	CR	1	1

Key
MC = Multiple-choice question
CR = Constructed-response question

The chart for determining students' final examination scores for the **January 2026 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science** will be posted on the Department's web site at <https://www.nysedregents.org/EarthScience/> on the day of the examination. Conversion charts provided for the previous administrations of the Physical Setting/Earth Science examination must NOT be used to determine students' final scores for this administration.

FOR TEACHERS ONLY

The University of the State of New York
REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

PHYSICAL SETTING/EARTH SCIENCE

Friday, January 23, 2026 — 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., only

RATING GUIDE

Directions to the Teacher:

Refer to the directions on page 2 before rating student papers.

Updated information regarding the rating of this examination may be posted on the New York State Education Department's web site during the rating period. Check this web site at: <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations> and select the link "Scoring Information" for any recently posted information regarding this examination. This site should be checked before the rating process for this examination begins and several times throughout the Regents Examination period.

Directions to the Teacher

Follow the procedures below for scoring student answer papers for the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science. Additional information about scoring is provided in the publication *Directions for Scoring Regents Examinations*.

Allow 1 credit for each correct response.

At least two science teachers must participate in the scoring of the Part B–2 and Part C open-ended questions on a student’s paper. Each of these teachers should be responsible for scoring a selected number of the open-ended questions on each answer paper. No one teacher is to score more than approximately one-half of the open-ended questions on a student’s answer paper. Teachers may not score their own students’ answer papers.

Students’ responses must be scored strictly according to the Rating Guide. For open-ended questions, credit may be allowed for responses other than those given in the rating guide if the response is a scientifically accurate answer to the question and demonstrates adequate knowledge as indicated by the examples in the rating guide. Do not attempt to correct the student’s work by making insertions or changes of any kind. On the student’s separate answer sheet, for each question, record the number of credits earned and the teacher’s assigned rater/scorer letter.

Fractional credit is *not* allowed. Only whole-number credit may be given for a response. If the student gives more than one answer to a question, only the first answer should be rated. Units need not be given when the wording of the questions allows such omissions.

For hand scoring, raters should enter the scores earned in the appropriate boxes printed on the separate answer sheet. Next, the rater should add these scores and enter the total in the space provided. The student’s score for the Earth Science Performance Test should be recorded in the space provided. Then the student’s raw scores on the written test and the performance test should be converted to a scale score by using the conversion chart that will be posted on the Department’s web site at: <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations> on Friday, January 23, 2026. The student’s scale score should be entered in the box labeled “Scale Score” on the student’s answer sheet. The scale score is the student’s final examination score.

Schools are not permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions on this exam after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final exam score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student’s final score.

Part B–2

Allow a maximum of 15 credits for this part.

To ensure the accuracy of overlays, select a printer setting such as *full*, *actual size*, or *100%* when printing this document. Do **not** select the *fit to page* setting.

- 51** [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- The gravitational force increases from location *A* to perihelion, and then decreases from perihelion to location *A*.
 - increases, then decreases
 - gets greater, then it gets less
 - As the comet gets closer to the Sun, the force gets stronger; as the comet gets farther from the Sun, the force gets weaker.

- 52** [1] Allow 1 credit for *two* correct responses. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

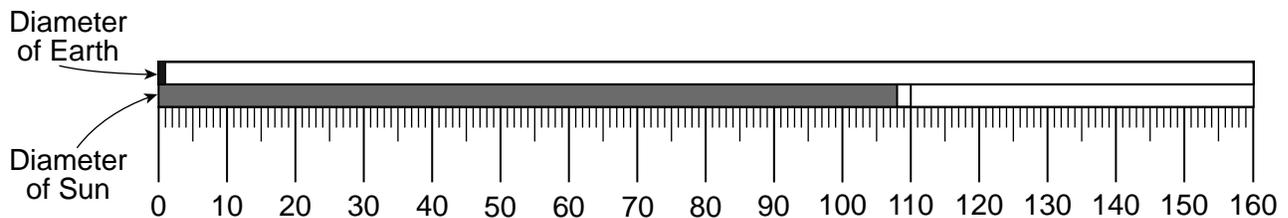
Mass:

- mass is greater
- larger
- more
- Jovian planets have a greater mass.

Density:

- smaller
- less
- Terrestrial planets have a greater density.

- 53** [1] Allow 1 credit for shading the bar labeled “Diameter of Sun” that ends in the clear rectangle area from 108 mm to 110 mm, as shown below:



Scale 1 mm = 12,756 km

Note: Allow 1 credit for a student answer that correctly marks the diameter of the Sun even if the area is not shaded between zero and their mark.

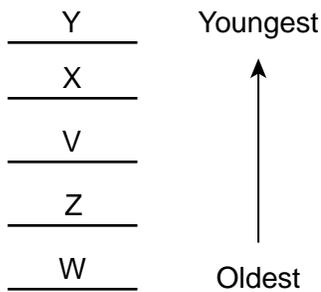
- 54 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- The velocity of the river is greater at location *B* so the water can carry larger and more particles.
 - The velocity of the river is greater on the outside of the curve of the meander.

- 55 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- Particle size decreases as you travel farther off shore.
 - Larger particles are deposited closer to the shoreline and smaller particles are deposited farther out.
 - Sediments are deposited from larger to smaller sizes, horizontally .

- 56 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- The sediments become rounder by abrasion with other sediments.
 - Sharp corners break off or wear off when they hit other rocks or sediments.
 - Particles tumble, bounce, and roll along the bed of the river, chipping off parts to become rounder.
 - Particles collide with other rock fragments or sediments.

Note: Do *not* allow credit for “water erosion” because “water” alone, without sediments, does *not* produce rounding.

- 57 [1] Allow 1 credit for a correct sequence, as shown below:



- 58 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- Schist formed from the metamorphism of clay or feldspar under extreme heat and pressure.
 - formed from the high temperature and pressure conditions
 - regional metamorphism of slate and/or phyllite

- 59** [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- They are distributed over a wide geographic area.
 - They lived for a short period of time.
 - easily recognizable
- 60** [1] Allow 1 credit for 40 ft.
- 61** [1] Allow 1 credit for north *or* northward.
- 62** [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- The contour lines are closer together between points *C* and *D*.
 - The contour lines are farther apart between points *A* and *B*.
 - There are more contour lines between points *C* and *D*.
 - There are more lines closer together.
- 63** [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- During El Niño conditions, the trade winds become weaker.
 - they become weaker
- 64** [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- There is a higher air pressure over Australia during El Niño conditions and a lower air pressure over Australia during normal conditions.
 - During normal conditions, Australia generally has low pressures, and during El Niño conditions the air pressure is greater.
- 65** [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- Air expands and cools, causing water vapor to condense.
 - Air is cooled to the dew point.
 - Condensation occurs when the rising air reaches the dew point.

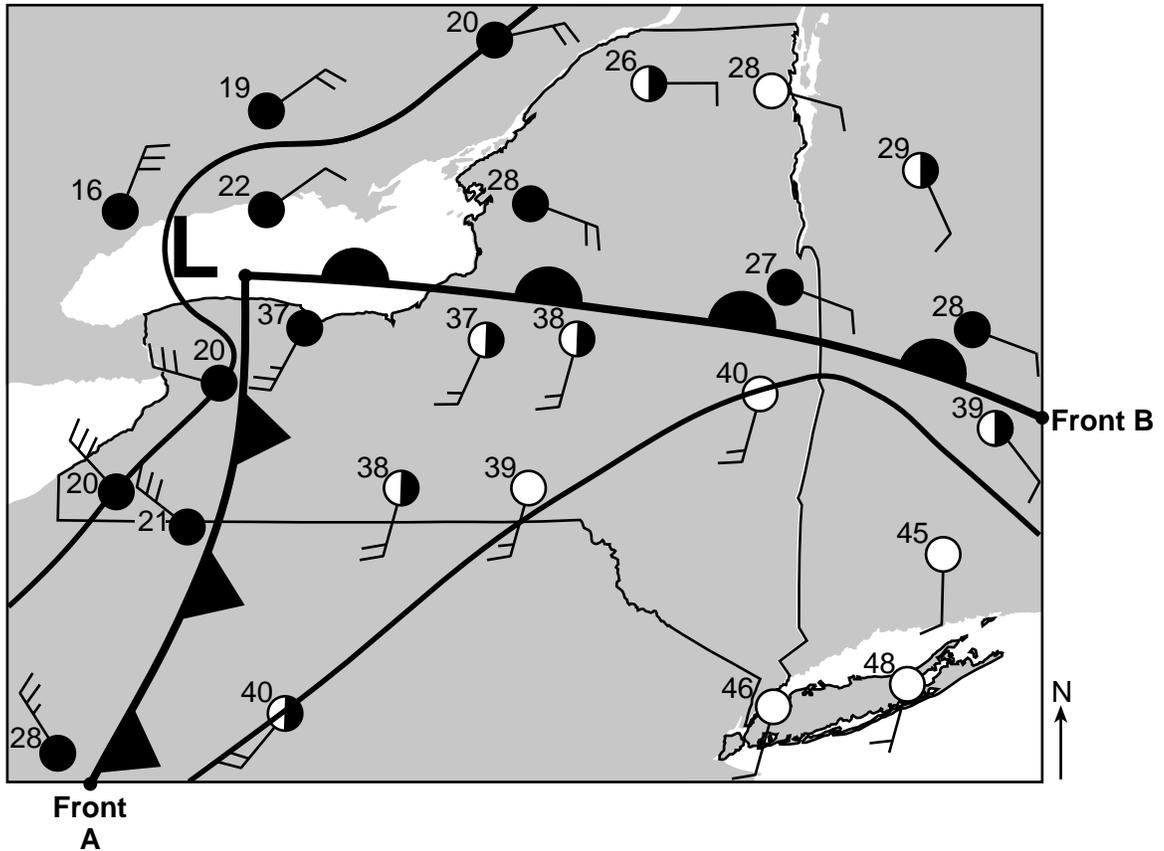
Part C

Allow a maximum of 20 credits for this part.

- 66** [1] Allow 1 credit for correctly drawing *both* isotherms extended to the edges of the map.

Note: If additional isotherms are drawn, all must be drawn correctly to receive credit. Allow credit if the student draws their lines through the numbers instead of through the center of the weather station model.

Example of a 1-credit response:



- 67** [1] Allow 1 credit for mT or cT. Allow credit for either uppercase or lowercase letters.

Note: Do *not* allow credit if air-mass letters are reversed, such as Tm. For students who used the Spanish edition, either exclusively or in conjunction with the English edition of the exam, allow credit for the correct two-letter air-mass symbol as it appears in either the English or Spanish 2011 Edition Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science.

68 [1] Allow 1 credit if *both* responses are correct. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

- Stock up on food and/or water.
- Obtain necessary prescription medications.
- Make sure emergency lighting/flashlights operate.
- Buy or change batteries for electronic devices.
- Make sure generator is working.
- Bring firewood indoors.
- Buy rock salt to melt ice on sidewalks.
- Check on elderly neighbors to see if they need assistance.

69 [1] Allow 1 credit for *two* correct responses. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

- compaction
- cementation
- dewatering
- burial

Note: Do *not* allow credit for deposition or sedimentation, as the question states the sand grains have already been deposited.

70 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

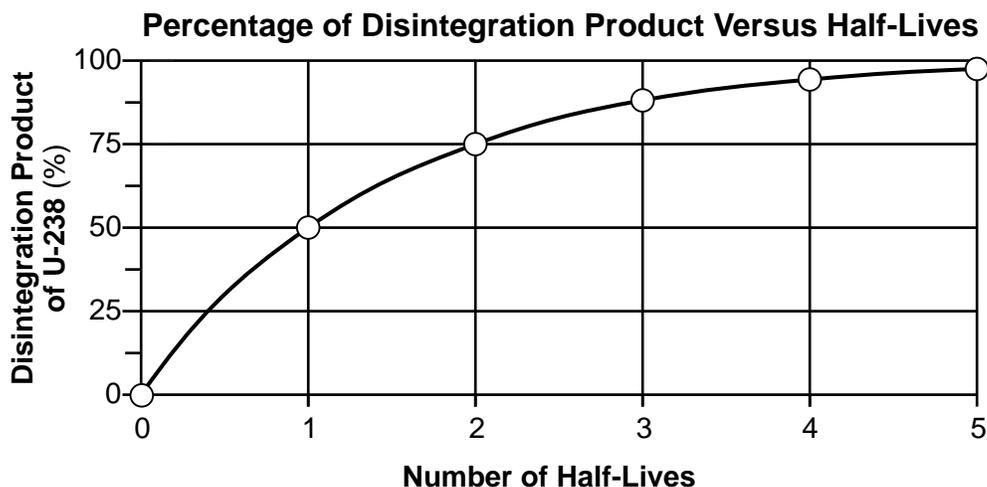
- The color of bluestone varies from greenish gray to grayish red purple.
- Bluestone isn't always blue in color.
- Bluestones occur in many colors.
- Some other types of rock may have the same color as bluestone.

71 [1] Allow 1 credit for any value from 2 cm/s to 4 cm/s.

72 [1] Allow 1 credit for Allegheny Plateau *or* Appalachian Plateau (Uplands).

- 73 [1] Allow 1 credit if the centers of *all six* plots are within or touch the circles shown and *all six* plots are correctly connected with a line that passes within or touches each circle.

Example of a 1-credit response:



Note: Allow credit if the student-drawn line does not pass through the student plots, but is still within or touches the circles.

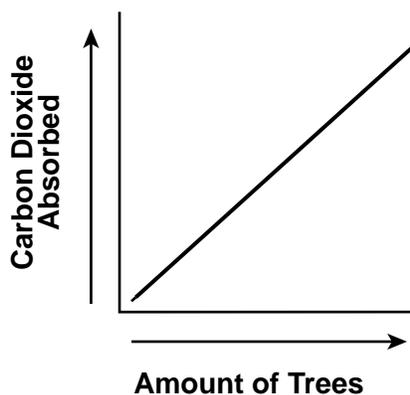
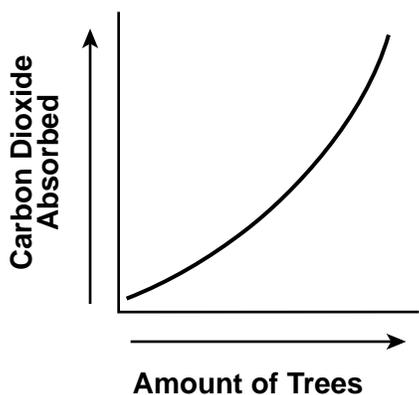
It is recommended that an overlay of the same scale as the student answer booklet be used to ensure reliability in rating.

- 74 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- As the amount of original radioactive isotope decreases, over time, the amount of disintegration product increases.
 - The amount of disintegration product increases as the original isotope decays.
 - inverse relationship/indirect relationship/negative correlation
- 75 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:
- lead-206
 - ^{206}Pb
 - Pb-206

Note: Do *not* allow credit for lead or Pb alone because lead has more than one isotope.

76 [1] Allow 1 credit for a line drawn that represents a direct relationship.

Examples of a 1-credit response:



77 [1] Allow 1 credit if *both* responses are correct. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

Relative air temperature:

- The air temperature is greater.
- higher temperature

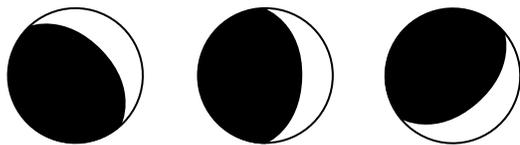
Relative humidity:

- low
- drier air

78 [1] Allow 1 credit for transpiration.

- 79 [1] Allow 1 credit if the student shades more than half of the Moon curving toward the lighted side, leaving a lighted crescent on the right edge, as shown below.

Examples of a 1-credit response:



- 80 [1] Allow 1 credit for *E*.

- 81 [1] Allow 1 credit for any value from 29 d to 30 d.

- 82 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

- The Moon's rate of rotation is equal to its rate of revolution.
- For every one moon revolution it also rotates once.
- One spin on the Moon's axis takes the same time as one orbit around Earth.

- 83 [1] Allow 1 credit Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

- As latitude in the northern hemisphere increases, the number of daylight hours decreases.
- The duration of insolation will be shorter the farther north a location is from the Equator.
- indirect relationship/negative correlation/inverse relationship

- 84 [1] Allow 1 credit. Acceptable responses include, but are not limited to:

- The shadow length will decrease.
- The shadow will be shorter.
- become smaller

- 85 [1] Allow 1 credit for summer.

The *Chart for Determining the Final Examination Score for the January 2026 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science* will be posted on the Department’s web site at: <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/high-school-regents-examinations> on Friday, January 23, 2026. Conversion charts provided for previous administrations of the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science must NOT be used to determine students’ final scores for this administration.

Online Submission of Teacher Evaluations of the Test to the Department

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. Instructions for completing the evaluation form are as follows:

1. Go to <https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/teacher-feedback-state-assessments>.
2. Click Regents Examinations.
3. Complete the required demographic fields.
4. Select the test title from the Regents Examination dropdown list.
5. Complete each evaluation question and provide comments in the space provided.
6. Click the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page to submit the completed form.

Map to Core Curriculum

January 2026 Physical Setting/Earth Science			
Question Numbers			
Key Ideas/Performance Indicators	Part A	Part B	Part C
Standard 1			
Math Key Idea 1	2	43	73, 76
Math Key Idea 2	21		71, 74, 76, 83
Math Key Idea 3		37, 53, 60	
Science Inquiry Key Idea 1	4, 6, 7, 15	50, 54, 56, 58, 59, 62, 65	70, 82
Science Inquiry Key Idea 2			
Science Inquiry Key Idea 3	9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35	37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 50, 52, 53, 58	67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 76, 82
Engineering Design Key Idea 1			
Standard 2			
Key Idea 1			
Key Idea 2			
Key Idea 3			
Standard 6			
Key Idea 1	27	38, 54, 55, 65	69, 77, 78
Key Idea 2	2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35	36, 37, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64	66, 67, 72, 73, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85
Key Idea 3		53	
Key Idea 4		51	
Key Idea 5	2, 12, 19, 21, 23, 26	38, 43, 49, 51, 55, 56, 57, 62, 63, 64	66, 74, 79, 81, 83, 84
Key Idea 6			
Standard 7			
Key Idea 1			
Key Idea 2			68
Standard 4			
Key Idea 1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23	43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 57, 59	73, 74, 75, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85
Key Idea 2	9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34	36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 49, 50, 54, 55, 56, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65	66, 67, 68, 71, 72, 76, 77
Key Idea 3	28, 29, 30, 35	41, 58	69, 70
Reference Tables			
ESRT 2011 Edition (Revised)	9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35	37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 50, 52, 53, 58	67, 69, 71, 72, 75, 82

The State Education Department / The University of the State of New York
Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science – January 2026
Chart for Converting Total Test Raw Scores to Final Examination Scores (Scale Scores)
(Not to be used for the Braille Edition)

To determine the student's final score, locate the student's Total Performance Test Score across the top of the chart and the Total Written Test Score down the side of the chart. The point where the two scores intersect is the student's final examination score. For example, a student receiving a Total Performance Test Score of 9 and Total Written Test Score of 65 would receive a final examination score of 85.

		Total Performance Test Score																
		16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Total Written Test Score	85	100	99	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	95	94	93	91	90	88	87	85
	84	99	99	98	98	98	97	96	96	95	94	93	92	91	89	88	86	84
	83	99	99	98	98	98	97	96	96	95	94	93	92	91	89	88	86	84
	82	98	98	98	97	97	96	95	95	94	93	92	91	90	88	87	85	83
	81	98	98	98	97	97	96	95	95	94	93	92	91	90	88	87	85	83
	80	97	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	86	84	82
	79	97	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	86	84	82
	78	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	85	83	82
	77	96	95	95	95	94	94	93	92	91	91	89	88	87	86	84	83	81
	76	96	95	95	95	94	94	93	92	91	91	89	88	87	86	84	83	81
	75	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	91	91	90	89	88	86	85	83	82	80
	74	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	91	91	90	89	88	86	85	83	82	80
	73	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	90	90	89	88	87	86	84	83	81	79
	72	93	93	92	92	92	91	90	90	89	88	87	86	85	83	82	80	78
	71	92	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	82	81	79	77
	70	92	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	82	81	79	77
	69	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	80	78	77
	68	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	79	77	76
	67	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	86	85	85	84	82	81	80	78	77	75
	66	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	86	85	85	84	82	81	80	78	77	75
	65	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	85	85	84	83	82	80	79	77	76	74
64	88	88	87	87	86	86	85	85	84	83	82	81	80	78	77	75	73	
63	87	87	87	86	86	85	84	84	83	82	81	80	79	77	76	74	72	
62	86	86	86	85	85	84	84	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	75	73	71	
61	86	85	85	84	84	83	83	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	74	72	71	
60	85	84	84	84	83	82	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	73	72	70	
59	85	84	84	84	83	82	82	81	80	79	78	77	76	75	73	72	70	
58	84	84	83	83	82	82	81	80	80	79	78	77	75	74	72	71	69	
57	83	83	82	82	81	81	80	79	79	78	77	76	74	73	71	70	68	
56	82	82	81	81	81	80	79	79	78	77	76	75	74	72	71	69	67	
55	81	81	81	80	80	79	78	78	77	76	75	74	73	71	70	68	66	
54	80	80	80	79	79	78	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	69	67	65	
53	80	79	79	78	78	77	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	68	66	65	
52	79	78	78	78	77	77	76	75	74	74	72	71	70	69	67	66	64	
51	78	78	77	77	76	76	75	74	74	73	72	71	69	68	66	65	63	
50	77	77	76	76	75	75	74	73	73	72	71	70	69	67	66	64	62	
49	76	76	75	75	75	74	73	73	72	71	70	69	68	66	65	63	61	
48	75	74	74	73	73	72	72	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	63	61	60	
47	74	73	73	72	72	71	71	70	69	68	67	66	65	64	62	60	59	
46	73	73	72	72	71	71	70	69	68	68	67	65	64	63	61	60	58	
45	72	72	71	71	70	70	69	68	68	67	66	65	63	62	60	59	57	

**Final Examination Scores
Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science – January 2026 – continued**

		Total Performance Test Score																
		16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Total Written Test Score	44	71	71	70	70	69	69	68	68	67	66	65	64	63	61	60	58	56
	43	70	70	70	69	69	68	67	67	66	65	64	63	62	60	59	57	55
	42	69	69	69	68	68	67	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	58	56	54
	41	68	67	67	67	66	65	65	64	63	62	61	60	59	58	56	55	53
	40	67	67	66	66	65	65	64	63	63	62	61	60	58	57	55	54	52
	39	66	66	65	65	64	64	63	62	62	61	60	59	57	56	54	53	51
	38	65	65	64	64	64	63	62	62	61	60	59	58	57	55	54	52	50
	37	63	63	63	62	62	61	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	52	50	48
	36	63	62	62	61	61	60	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	53	51	49	48
	35	62	61	61	61	60	60	59	58	57	57	55	54	53	52	50	49	47
	34	60	60	59	59	58	58	57	56	56	55	54	53	52	50	49	47	45
	33	59	59	58	58	58	57	56	56	55	54	53	52	51	49	48	46	44
	32	58	58	58	57	57	56	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	48	47	45	43
	31	57	56	56	55	55	54	54	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	45	43	42
	30	56	56	55	55	54	54	53	52	51	51	50	48	47	46	44	43	41
	29	55	55	54	54	53	53	52	51	51	50	49	48	46	45	43	42	40
	28	53	53	53	52	52	51	50	50	49	48	47	46	45	43	42	40	38
	27	52	52	52	51	51	50	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	41	39	37
	26	51	50	50	50	49	48	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	39	38	36
	25	50	50	49	49	48	48	47	46	46	45	44	43	41	40	38	37	35
	24	48	48	47	47	47	46	45	45	44	43	42	41	40	38	37	35	33
	23	47	47	47	46	46	45	44	44	43	42	41	40	39	37	36	34	32
	22	46	45	45	44	44	43	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	34	32	31
	21	45	44	44	44	43	43	42	41	40	40	38	37	36	35	33	32	30
	20	43	43	42	42	41	41	40	39	39	38	37	36	35	33	32	30	28
	19	42	42	41	41	41	40	39	39	38	37	36	35	34	32	31	29	27
	18	41	40	40	39	39	38	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	29	27	26
	17	40	39	39	38	38	37	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	28	26	25
	16	38	38	37	37	36	36	35	34	34	33	32	31	29	28	26	25	23
	15	36	36	36	35	35	34	33	33	32	31	30	29	28	26	25	23	21
	14	35	35	35	34	34	33	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	24	22	20
	13	34	33	33	33	32	31	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	22	21	19
	12	33	33	32	32	31	31	30	29	29	28	27	26	24	23	21	20	18
	11	31	31	30	30	30	29	28	28	27	26	25	24	23	21	20	18	16
	10	29	29	29	28	28	27	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	18	16	14
	9	29	28	28	27	27	26	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	17	15	14
	8	27	27	26	26	25	25	24	23	23	22	21	20	18	17	15	14	12
	7	25	25	24	24	24	23	22	22	21	20	19	18	17	15	14	12	10
	6	24	23	23	22	22	21	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	12	10	9
	5	23	22	22	21	21	20	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	11	9	8
	4	21	21	20	20	19	19	18	17	17	16	15	14	12	11	9	8	6
	3	19	19	19	18	18	17	16	16	15	14	13	12	11	9	8	6	4
	2	18	18	18	17	17	16	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	7	5	3
	1	17	16	16	16	15	14	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	5	4	2
	0	15	15	14	14	13	13	12	11	11	10	9	8	6	5	3	2	0