Captivate
EDUCATION

SAMPLE QUESTIONS
One question from each section of this exam, with its marking scheme, so teachers can see what the full paper is like. Full exam and solutions: captivateeducation.com.au/trial-exams

Geography

Question and Answer Book

Practice examination 1 – 2027

- Reading time is 15 minutes
- Writing time is 2 hours

Approved materials

- Coloured pencils, water-based pens and markers

Materials supplied

- Question and Answer Book
- Data Book

Instructions

- Use the additional space at the end of this book if you need extra space to complete an answer.

Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

Contents

9 questions (80 marks)

Assessment criteria for extended-answer questions

Practice material in the layout of the 2025 VCAA paper – generated 2027. Not a VCAA examination.

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Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.
- Write your responses in English.
- Refer to the Data Book as indicated.

Sample – Question 1 of the 9 questions in this section.

Question 1 (4 marks)

Use Figure 1 on page 2 of the Data Book when responding to Question 1.

a. Identify the land cover type that covered the greatest global area at the Last Glacial Maximum, as shown in Figure 1. 1 mark

b. Describe the change in the global area of forest between the Last Glacial Maximum and the present day, as shown in Figure 1. 3 marks

End of sample questions

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Assessment criteria for extended-answer questions

The extended-answer questions will be assessed against the following criteria, as appropriate:

- application of geographical knowledge and understanding
- demonstration of geographical skills
- description and application of key geographical concepts
- interpretation and analysis of data and other geographical information.

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You may keep this Data Book.

Contents	pages
Figure 1. Land cover change	2
Figure 2. Land cover change	3
Figure 3. Human population	4–5

Refer to the data in this book for each question, as indicated in the Question and Answer Book.

The data in this book is invented for practice. Places named in it are fictional, and countries are anonymised; nothing in it describes a real place or comes from a real source.

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Figure 1. Land cover change

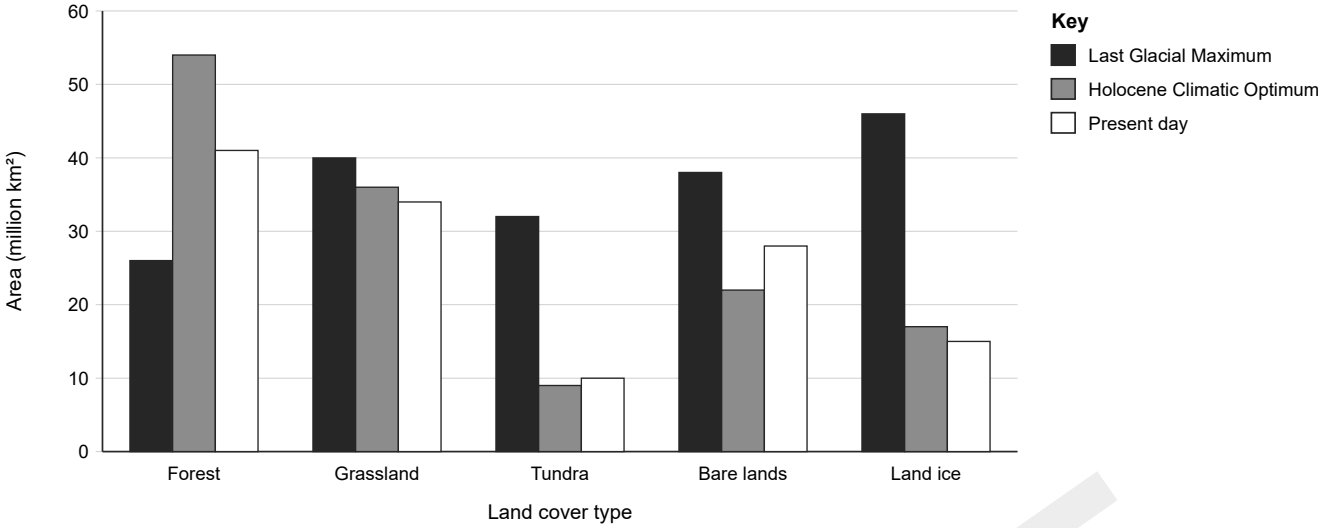


Figure 1. Estimated global area of selected land cover types at the Last Glacial Maximum (about 20 000 years ago), the Holocene Climatic Optimum (about 8000 years ago) and the present day (schematic values)

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Figure 2. Land cover change

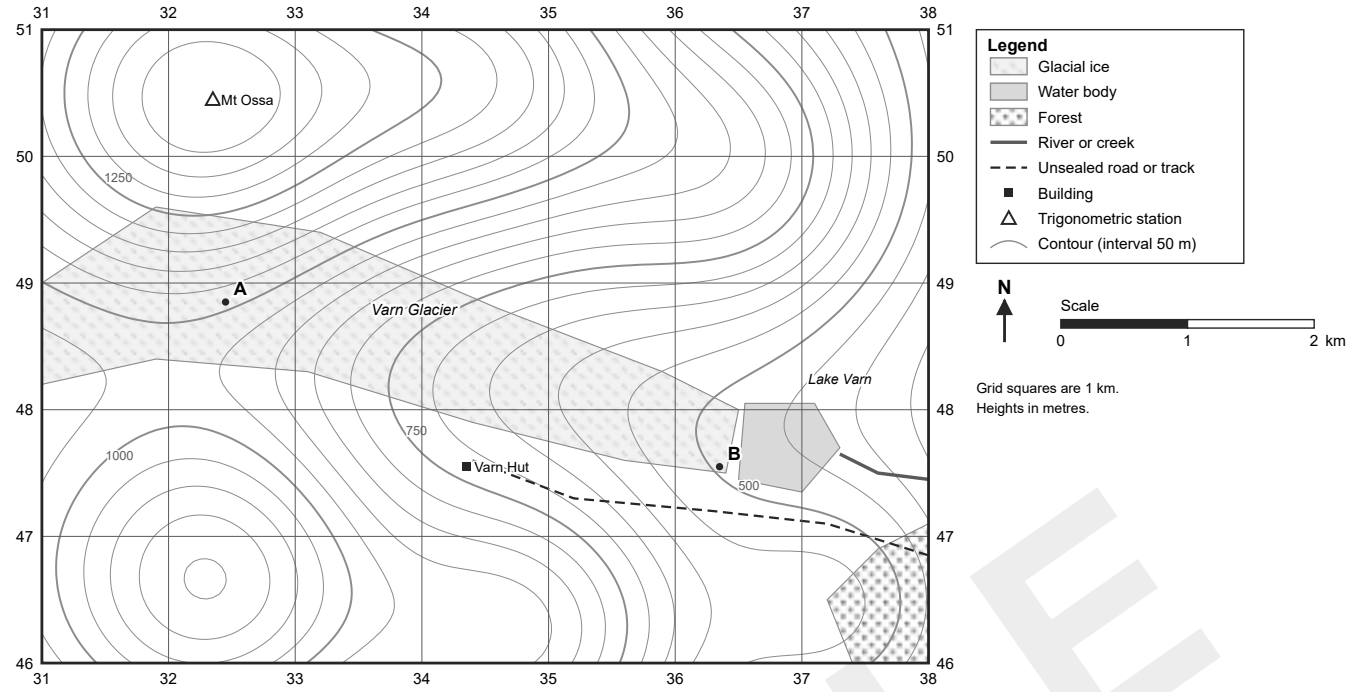


Figure 2a. Topographic map of the Varn Glacier and surrounding area (fictional), 2024

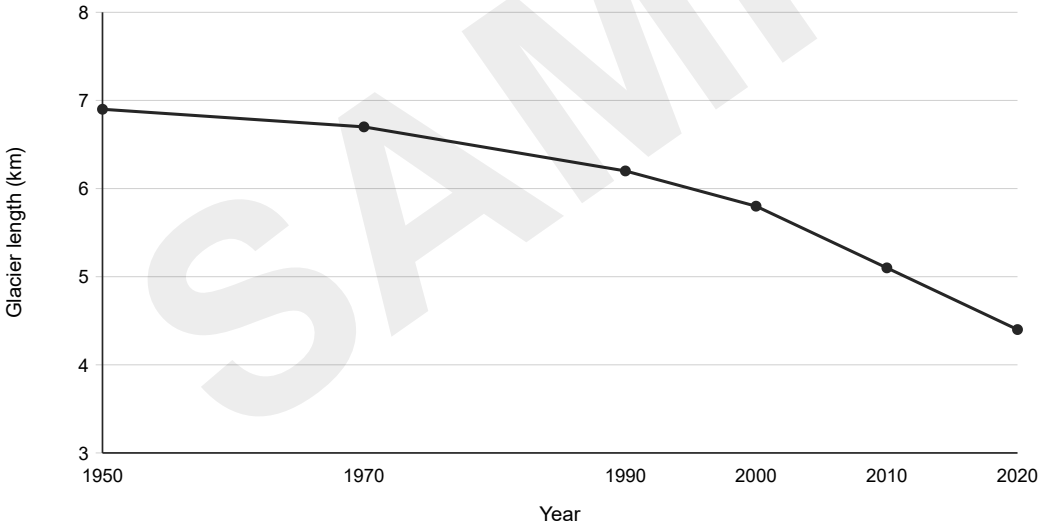


Figure 2b. Length of the Varn Glacier, 1950–2020

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Figure 3. Human population

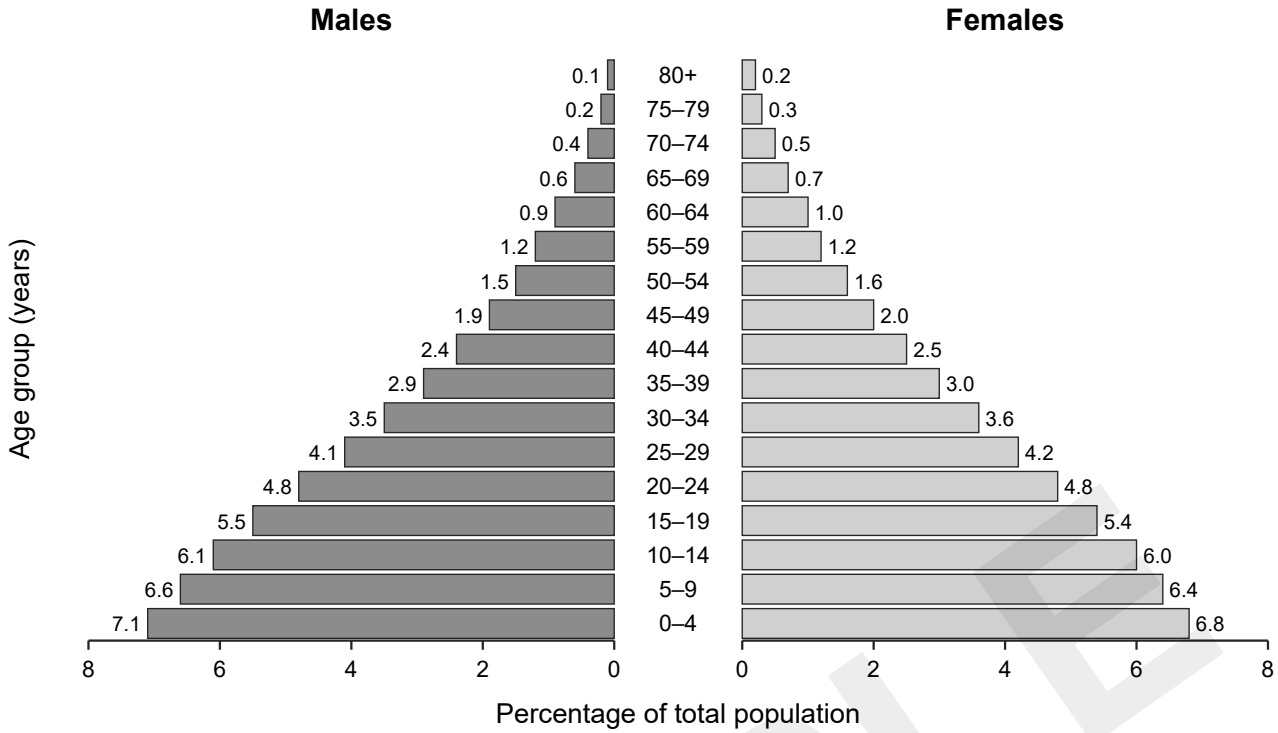


Figure 3a. Population structure of the Northern Region of Country A, 2025

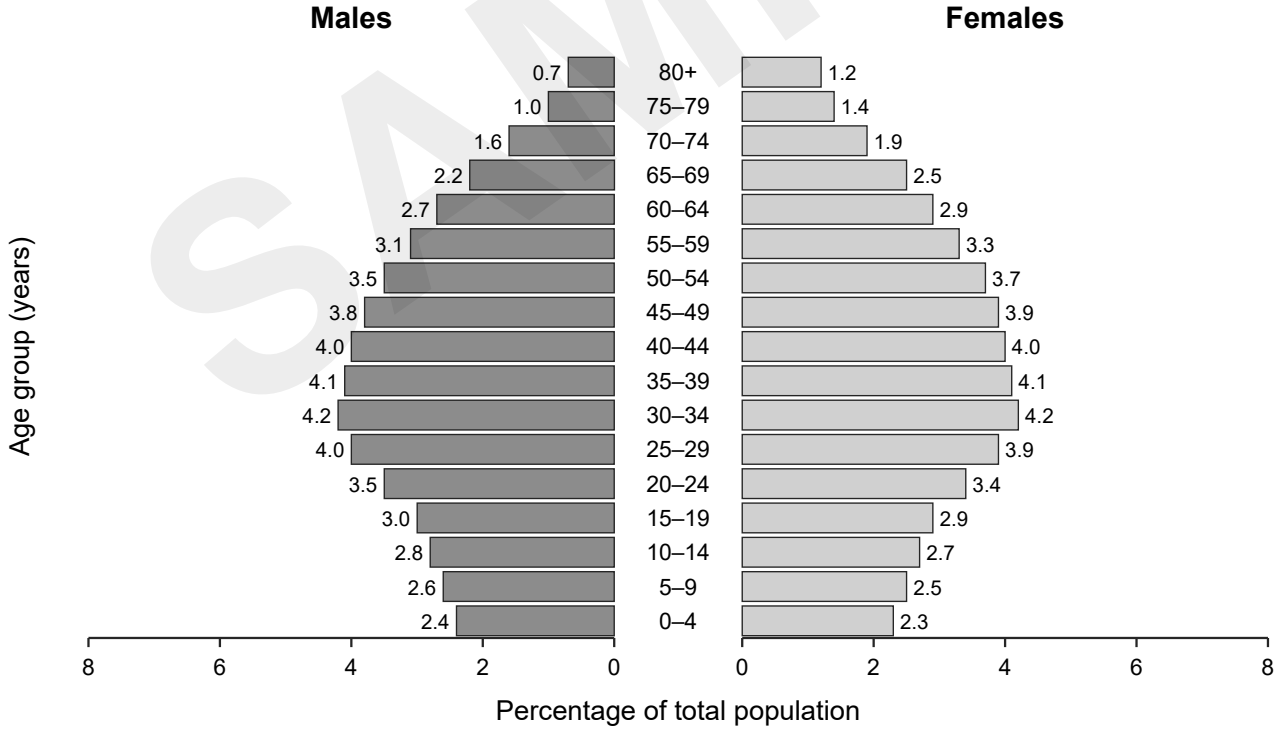


Figure 3b. Population structure of the Southern Region of Country A, 2025

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Region	Crude birth rate (per 1000)	Crude death rate (per 1000)	Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	Total fertility rate (children per woman)	Life expectancy at birth (years)
Northern Region	36	9	48	4.8	64
Southern Region	11	8	6	1.6	79

Figure 3c. Selected population characteristics of the two regions of Country A, 2025

End of Data Book

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Marking scheme for the sample questions

Question 1a. (1 mark)

Identify the land cover type that covered the greatest global area at the Last Glacial Maximum, as shown in Figure 1.

To be awarded full marks, students were required to:

Identify the land cover type with the largest area at the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM).

Figure 1: **land ice** (46 million km² at the LGM; the next largest was grassland at 40 million km²).

Common errors included naming grassland (the largest present-day class of those shown after forest) or reading the Present day bars.

Mark allocation: 1 mark for land ice (accept ‘ice sheets and glaciers’ or ‘land covered by ice’).

Sample full-mark response

> Land ice (about 46 million km²).

Question 1b. (3 marks)

Describe the change in the global area of forest between the Last Glacial Maximum and the present day, as shown in Figure 1.

To be awarded full marks, students were required to:

Describe the change in forest area across all three periods shown, with data from Figure 1 and the direction of each change.

Figure 1: forest covered 26 million km² at the LGM, rose to 54 million km² at the Holocene Climatic Optimum (more than doubling, an increase of 28 million km²), then fell to 41 million km² in the present day (a fall of 13 million km² from the HCO), so present-day forest is still larger than at the LGM.

Common errors included explaining *why* forest expanded (warming after the LGM) or declined (deforestation) — reasons were not asked for — and quoting values without units.

Mark allocation: 1 mark for the increase from the LGM to the HCO with data; 1 mark for the decrease from the HCO to the present with data; 1 mark for describing the overall pattern (rise then fall, present still above the LGM) or the scale of each change.

Responses could have included:

- values with units for each period
- the overall shape of the change, not a list of numbers

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- the scale of change (for example ‘more than doubled’)

Sample full-mark response

> Forest area more than doubled from about 26 million km² at the Last Glacial Maximum to 54 million km² at the Holocene Climatic Optimum, an increase of 28 million km². Since then it has decreased by 13 million km² to 41 million km² today, so present-day forest covers less than at the HCO but still about 15 million km² more than at the LGM.

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