MARKING GUIDE OF GEOGRAPHY END TERM 2 DISTRCT EXAMINATION 2025-2026

MUHANGA DISTRICT

SECTION A: Attempt all Questions (55 marks)

1. Which is NOT advantage of a simple line and curve graph from the list below? **(2 marks)**

A. They are simple to draw or construct.
B. When neatly drawn, they provide a good visual impression.
C. They are easy to interpret.
D. Less time is needed to construct them.
E. Simple calculations are involved.
F. They have a single-purpose service.

2. i) The following are characteristics of planet earth except: **(2 marks)**

A. The only planet known to support life (flora and fauna).
B. It has one natural satellite called moon.
C. It is the third planet from the sun.
D. It is the third largest planet in the solar system.
E. Its greatest part is covered by water, 71% of its surface is covered by water.

ii) At the poles the earth rotates at which speed among the following? **(2marks)**

A. 1000km per hour
B. 100km per hour
C. 10km per hour
D. 0km per hour

3. Use the word(s) given in the brackets to complete the following sentences: **(Meteoroids, Eclipse, Synodic month, the crow flies, Sideral month). (2.5 marks)**

A) **Sideral month** is the period it takes moon to complete one revolution around the earth.

B) **Synodic month**.is the period it takes the moon to go from one phase to the next similar phase.

C) **Meteoroids**. are small bodies often remnants of comets, travelling through space.

D) The shortest distance between two points is sometimes known as **the crow flies**

E) **Eclipse** is the obscuring of one celestial body by another, particularly that of the sun or a planetary satellite.

4. Answer by **True** for correct statement or **False** for wrong statement. **(2.5 marks)**

a) A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly behind the earth into its umbra (shadow). **False**

b) Katabatic winds move from valley to hill top at daytime… **False**

c) A cyclone is a large-scale air mass that rotates around a central region of high pressure… **False**

d) Gutenberg discontinuity is a boundary that separates Crust and Mantle… **False**

e) Closed contours on topographical maps represent steep slopes…**True**

5. Match the name of temperate grassland in column A with its location in column B**. (2.5 marks)**

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
1. Prairies	a. Australia
2. Velds	b. Europe
3. Pampas	c. South Africa
4. Downs	d. North America
5. Steppes	e. South America

1----d
2----c
3----e
4----a
5----b

6. The Earth is described as an oblate spheroid mainly because: **(2 marks)**
A. It is perfectly round from all angles
B. It bulges at the poles
C. It bulges at the equator and is flattened at the poles
D. The Northern Hemisphere is larger than the Southern Hemisphere

7. A rock layer contains fossils of organisms with hard shells, dating approximately 540 million years ago. To which major geological transition does this most likely correspond? **(2 marks)**
A. Beginning of Precambrian time
B. Beginning of Palaeozoic era (Cambrian explosion)
C. Beginning of Mesozoic era
D. Beginning of Cenozoic era

8. i) If compressional forces act strongly on rock layers and the central block remains standing while the adjacent blocks subside, which feature is formed? **(2 marks)**
A. Rift valley
B. Fault scarp
C. Block mountain (Horst)
D. Step fault

ii) Which of the following situations best explains the presence of hot springs in a faulted region? **(2 marks)**
A. Rivers deposit sediments in valleys
B. Faults create lines of weakness allowing heated underground water to rise
C. Fault scarps increase rainfall
D. Compressional forces cool underground water

9. A wide circular depression forms at the summit of a volcanic mountain after a powerful secondary eruption collapses the top. If later filled with water, what feature would result? **(2 marks)**
A. Crater lake
B. Lava plateau
C. Caldera lake
D. Lava dome

10.i) An earthquake has a deep focus at 600 km below the Earth's surface. Which type of earthquake is most likely responsible? **(2 marks)**
A. Volcanic earthquake
B. Plutonic earthquake

C. Isostatic earthquake
D. Reservoir-induced earthquake

ii) A region experiences earthquakes after the construction of a massive dam and reservoir. Which explanation best accounts for this phenomenon? **(2 marks)**
A. Increased volcanic activity
B. Isostatic imbalance due to added water weight
C. Surface wave reflection
D. Decrease in groundwater pressure

11. A soil test reveals a pH of 5.2. A farmer applies lime to the soil. What is the main objective of this action? **(2 marks)**
A. Increase soil salinity
B. Reduce soil porosity
C. Neutralize soil acidity to improve nutrient availability
D. Increase soil temperature

12. i) A city located at 3,000 m above sea level records an average temperature 19.5°C lower than a nearby coastal city at sea level. Which principle best explains this difference? **(2 marks)**
A. Coriolis force
B. Greenhouse effect
C. Normal lapse rate (6.5°C per km)
D. Ocean current influence

ii) A mountain range receives heavy rainfall on the windward side but has dry conditions on the leeward side. Which process explains the dry leeward conditions? **(2 marks)**
A. Convectional uplift
B. Frontal uplift
C. Rain shadow effect due to orographic rainfall
D. ITCZ migration

iii) If cloud cover increases during the night, minimum temperatures tend to be higher than on clear nights. Why? **(2 marks)**
A. Clouds increase wind speed
B. Clouds reflect terrestrial radiation back to Earth
C. Clouds absorb oxygen
D. Clouds increase evaporation

13. i) On a 1:50,000 map, the straight-line distance between two schools measures 8 cm. What is the actual ground distance? **(2 marks)**
A. 2 km
B. 4 km
C. 8 km
D. 16 km

ii) Two students locate a bridge using grid references. One uses a four-figure reference, the other a six-figure reference. Why is the six-figure reference more useful for rescue operations? **(2 marks)**
A. It shows the exact contour interval
B. It identifies the precise position within a grid square

C. It measures altitude
D. It gives the area of the feature

14. i) A topographic map shows a plateau surrounded by steep slopes and sparse settlement. Which factor most limits settlement density? **(2 marks)**
A. High soil fertility
B. Inaccessibility due to steep escarpments
C. Abundant water supply
D. Dense road networks

ii) A settlement on a map is nucleated and located on a gentle slope near a river but away from swampy areas. What is the most likely reason for this location? **(2 marks)**

A. Cultural isolation
B. Avoidance of fertile soils
C. Access to water while avoiding flood risk
D. Presence of steep slopes

15. At a location 45° East longitude, the local time is ahead of Greenwich. If it is 10:00 AM at Greenwich (0°), what is the local time at 45°E? **(2 marks)**
A. 11:00 AM
B. 12:00 PM
C. 1:00 PM
D. 1:00 PM + 1 hour

16.i) Desert vegetation survives mainly due to: **(2 marks)**
A. Broad soft leaves
B. Heavy rainfall
C. Long taproots and small leaves
D. Dense canopy cover

ii) Which of the following is a key characteristic of equatorial rainforests? **(1 mark)**
A. Trees shed leaves in winter
B. Presence of needle-like leaves
C. Evergreen trees with dense canopy
D. Short grasses dominate

17. Math the following effects of over population in Column A and Column B. **(2.5 marks)**

Column A	Column B
1. Food shortage	A. Overcrowded housing areas
2. Unemployment	B. Depletion of natural resources
3. Environmental degradation	C. Limited job opportunities
4. Slum development	D. Increased demand for food supply
5. High dependency burden	E. Low savings and investment

1---D
2---C
3---B
4---A
5---E

18.i) If a country's population growth rate is 3% per year, what is the most likely long-term economic effect if growth is unmanaged? **(1mark)**

A. Increased per capita income
B. Reduced demand for social services
C. Strain on employment and public resources
D. Decreased dependency ratio

ii) A wide-based population pyramid indicates: **(1mark)**

A. Low fertility and long life expectancy
B. High fertility and rapid population growth
C. Population decline
D. Equal numbers in all age groups

iii) Which policy is most effective in reducing high fertility rates in developing countries? **(1mark)**

A. Increasing military spending
B. Expanding female education and employment opportunities
C. Promoting rural-urban migration
D. Encouraging early marriages

iv) Which factor best explains why river valleys are usually densely populated? **(1mark)**

A. High altitude
B. Fertile soils and reliable water supply
C. Cold climate
D. Sparse vegetation

SECTION B: Attempt any three Questions of your choice (45 marks)

19. a) Differentiate briefly three types of volcanoes based on periodicity. **(6marks)**

- **Active volcanoes**
  - These erupt frequently or have erupted in recent historical times.
  - They are likely to erupt again.
  - Example: Mount Etna, Nyiragongo, Nyamuragira.
- **Dormant volcanoes**
  - These have not erupted for a long time, but they are still capable of erupting in the future.
  - They are often called "sleeping volcanoes."
  - Example: Mount Kilimanjaro, Muhabura, Bisoke, gahinga.
- **Extinct volcanoes**
  - These have not erupted for thousands of years and are not expected to erupt again because their magma supply has stopped.
  - Example: Mount Kenya, Sabyinyo.

One well explained type=2marks 3pts*2marks=6Marks

b) Discuss briefly seven impact of volcanic activity on human environment. **(9marks)**

- **Loss of life and property** – Lava flows, ash, and gases can destroy homes, roads, and cause deaths.
- **Soil fertility** – Volcanic ash adds minerals to the soil, making land good for agriculture.
- **Air pollution** – Volcanic gases and ash can cause breathing problems and reduce air quality.
- **Formation of new landforms** – Volcanoes create mountains, islands, and plateaus.
- **Disruption of transport** – Ash clouds can affect roads, visibility, and air travel.
- **Tourism development** – Some volcanoes attract tourists and researchers.
- **Destruction of vegetation** – Lava and ash can burn or bury forests and crops.
- **Water pollution** – Volcanic ash and chemicals can contaminate rivers and lakes.
- **Climate effects** – Large eruptions release ash and gases that may temporarily cool the atmosphere.
- **Geothermal energy source** – Volcanic regions can provide geothermal energy for heating and electricity.
- **Population displacement** – Eruptions can force people to move from dangerous areas.

Introduction=1mark

7pts*1mark=7Marks

Conclusion=1mark

20. After defining Climate, describe briefly any seven factors influencing world climate. **(15 marks)**

Climate is the **average weather conditions of a place recorded over a long period of time (usually about 30 years).**

Factors influencing the world climate are:

1. **Latitude** – Places near the equator receive more heat than those near the poles.
2. **Altitude** – High altitude areas are cooler than low altitude areas.
3. **Distance from the sea** – Areas near seas/oceans have moderate temperatures, while inland areas have extreme temperatures.
4. **Ocean currents** – Warm or cold ocean currents affect the temperature of nearby coastal areas.
5. **Prevailing winds** – Winds carry moisture or dry air, influencing rainfall and temperature.
6. **Relief (mountains)** – Mountains can block winds and cause rainfall on one side and dryness on the other.
7. **Vegetation cover** – Forests increase humidity and rainfall while bare land becomes hotter and drier.
8. **Human activities** – Activities like deforestation and industrial pollution can change climate patterns.
9. **Cloud cover** – Clouds affect the amount of heat reaching and leaving the Earth's surface.
10. **Slope and aspect** – Slopes facing the sun receive more heat than those facing away.
11. **Air masses** – Large bodies of air with similar temperature and moisture influence weather and climate.

One correct definition of Climate=1mark

7pts*2marks=14marks

21. a) Give any five Characteristics of equatorial rainforest. **(5 marks)**

- **High rainfall:** The forest receives heavy rainfall throughout the year (usually over 2000 mm).
- **Dense vegetation:** Forests are thick with tall trees growing close together
- **Evergreen trees**: Trees remain green all year because of constant rainfall.
- Forest grows **Buttress roots:** To support enormous size of trees
- **Layered structure:** Vegetation grows in layers: emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor.
- **Large tree leaves:** Trees have broad leaves to absorb sunlight.
- **Tall trees:** Trees can grow very tall, often over 40–50 meters.
- **Presence of climbers and epiphytes:** Many plants grow on other trees, such as vines and orchids.
- **Low sunlight on the forest floor:** The thick canopy blocks most sunlight from reaching the ground.

5pts*1mark=5marks

b) Explain briefly the significances of natural vegetation to the economic development of the world. **(10 marks)**

- **Source of timber** – Provides wood for construction, furniture, and paper industries.
- **Raw materials for industries** – Supplies rubber, resins, fibers, and oils used in many industries.
- **Supports agriculture** – Vegetation helps maintain fertile soils and protects farmland.
- **Tourism attraction** – Forests and wildlife attract tourists and generate income.
- **Source of food** – Provides fruits, nuts, honey, and other food products.
- **Medicinal resources** – Many plants are used to make medicines.
- **Employment opportunities** – Forestry and related activities provide jobs.
- **Climate regulation** – Vegetation helps control climate and rainfall, which supports economic activities.
- **Source of fuel** – Provides firewood and charcoal used for cooking and heating.
- **Soil conservation** – Roots of plants hold the soil and reduce soil erosion.

- **Water catchment protection** – Forests protect water sources and maintain river flow.

- **Habitat for wildlife** – Supports wildlife which contributes to tourism and ecological balance.

- **Improves air quality** – Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, helping maintain a healthy environment.

One correct definition of Natural vegetation=1mark

One well explained point=1mark 8pts*1mark=8marks

One logical conclusion=1mark

22. a) Differentiate the following population concepts:

i) Optimum population: **(2 marks)**

*The population size that **matches well with the available resources**, allowing the **highest standard of living**.*

ii) Under population: **(2 marks)**

*A situation where the **population is too small to fully use the available resources** of a country.*

iii) Over population: **(2 marks)**

*A situation where the **population is too large for the available resources**, leading to pressure on food, land, and jobs.*

Well explained concept=2marks 3concepts*2marks=6marks

b) Describe the nine factors responsible for unevenly population distribution and density in the world. **(9 marks)**

- **Climate** – Extreme cold, heat, or arid conditions reduce habitability.

- **Relief/Topography** – Mountains and deserts have sparse populations; plains and valleys are more populated.

- **Soil Fertility** – Fertile areas attract farming and settlement; poor soil discourages it.

- **Water Availability** – Proximity to rivers, lakes, or coasts encourages settlement.

- **Employment Opportunities** – Industrial, commercial, or service hubs attract people.

- **Infrastructure** – Good transport, health, and education facilities support higher populations.

- **Historical Settlement Patterns** – Ancient civilizations developed in fertile areas, leading to dense populations.

- **Cultural Preferences** – Some regions are preferred due to religion, traditions, or lifestyle.

Government Policies – Urbanization policies, migration restrictions, or conflict zones affect population distribution.

- **Urbanization & Industrialization:** Cities and industrial regions concentrate populations, leaving rural or resource-poor areas sparsely populated.

- **Natural Disasters** – Areas prone to earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, or volcanic eruptions tend to have low population density.

- **Disease and Health Conditions** – Regions with high prevalence of diseases (e.g., malaria) often discourage settlement.

- **Resource Availability** – Presence of minerals, oil, or forests can attract people for economic activities.

- **Political Stability & Security** – Conflicts, wars, or unstable regions lead to migration and sparse population.

- **Accessibility & Connectivity** – Remote or poorly connected areas (islands, deserts, deep forests) are less populated.

One well explained point=1mark **9*1mark=9marks**

END