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PAPER 1

Practice test · Term 1–2
Version 1.6 · 21 October 2026

Social Sciences: Geography · Grade 5

Map Skills and Physical Features

Term 1–2 | 6 questions | CAPS-aligned

TOTAL 57 MARKS

NAME AND SURNAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

Instructions

1. This question paper consists of TWO sections. Answer all the questions.
2. Answer all the questions on the question paper itself, in the spaces provided.
3. Use the SOURCES and the MAP to answer the questions where the question asks you to.
4. Write neatly and legibly. Work that cannot be read cannot be marked.
5. You may use a pencil and a ruler.
6. This paper covers Term 1 and Term 2 work. Paper 2 covers Term 3 and Term 4 work.

Question	Content of the question	Marks	Obtained
1	Map skills	10	
2	Direction and the compass	8	
3	Physical features of South Africa	12	
4	People change the landscape	8	
5	South Africa in Africa	8	
6	Africa: capitals and physical features	11	
	Total	57	
	Percentage		%

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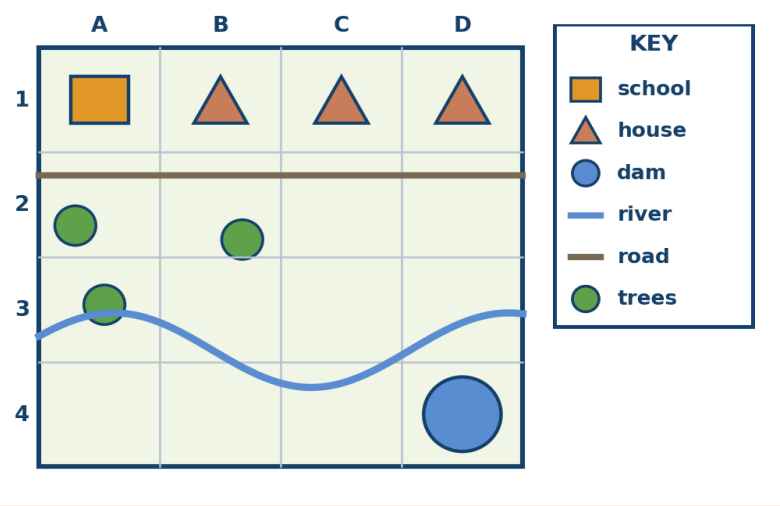
Section A

1 Map skills

10 marks

Study the map in Source A and answer the questions that follow.

SOURCE A · MAP OF THE VILLAGE OF MOOIVLEI



North is at the top of the map. The letters across the top and the numbers down the side give the position of each place.

1.1 Give the grid reference of each place on the map. **(2)**

Place	Grid reference
The school	
The dam	

1.2 In which direction from the school does the dam lie? Explain how you know. **(2)**

1.3 Why does every map need a key? **(2)**

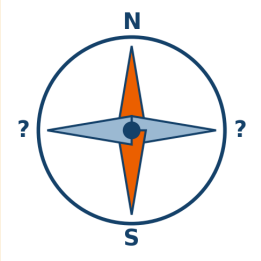
1.4 Name TWO things on this map that have to do with water. **(2)**

1.5 A new clinic must be built in Mooivlei. In which block would you build it, and why? **(2)**

Section B Longer questions

2 Direction and the compass — 8 marks

SOURCE B · THE COMPASS ROSE



Two of the four main directions are missing.

2.1 Fill in the TWO missing main directions. **(2)**

Right-hand side: _____ Left-hand side: _____

2.2 Name the FOUR intermediate directions that lie between the main directions. **(2)**

2.3 In which direction from Johannesburg does Cape Town lie? **(2)**

2.4 Why is it useful to be able to give directions when you show someone the way? **(2)**

3 Physical features of South Africa

12 marks

SOURCE C · THE SHAPE OF THE LAND

South Africa looks like a large shallow bowl. The middle of the country is a high, flat plain called the Interior Plateau.

Around the plateau runs a line of mountains called the Great Escarpment. Its best-known part is the Drakensberg in the east, where the highest peaks lie more than 3 000 metres above sea level.

Between the mountains and the sea lies a narrow strip of lower ground, the coastal plain. Most of South Africa's large cities and harbours lie on this strip or just above it.

South Africa has almost 3 000 kilometres of coastline, with the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Indian Ocean to the east.

A description of South Africa's main landforms.

3.1 What is the high, flat plain in the middle of the country called? **(1)**

3.2 Name the TWO oceans that touch South Africa's coast, and say on which side each lies. **(2)**

3.3 Which mountain range is the best-known part of the Great Escarpment, and how high does it get? **(2)**

3.4 Write down the landform next to each description. **(3)**

Description	Landform
High, flat ground in the middle of the country	
A line of mountains around the plateau	
A narrow strip of lower ground along the sea	

3.5 Why do you think most of South Africa's harbours lie on the coastal plain? **(2)**

3.6 Name TWO ways in which mountains can affect the lives of people in an area. **(2)**

4 People change the landscape

8 marks

SOURCE D · THE NEW DAM

Ten years ago a dam was built on the Kloof River. The valley behind the dam wall is now a large lake.

Two farms and a gravel road that were in the valley now lie under the water. Below the dam the river is much smaller than before.

The town now has water all year round, and farmers below the dam can irrigate their crops.

A change to the landscape.

4.1 Name THREE ways in which the dam changed the physical environment. **(3)**

4.2 Name TWO ways in which the dam helps people. **(2)**

4.3 A new road must be built over a mountain pass. Name THREE ways in which building the road can change the landscape. **(3)**

5 South Africa in Africa

8 marks

5.1 Where does South Africa lie in Africa? **(1)**

5.2 Name the TWO countries that are completely, or almost completely, surrounded by South Africa. Say which one lies completely inside South Africa. **(3)**

5.3 Into which ocean does each river flow? **(2)**

River	Ocean
Orange River	
Great Fish River	

5.4 What is a LANDLOCKED country? Name ONE landlocked country that borders South Africa. **(2)**

6 Africa: capitals and physical features

11 marks

6.1 Write the capital city next to each country. **(4)**

Country	Capital city
Namibia	
Botswana	
Zimbabwe	
Mozambique	

6.2 South Africa has three capital cities. Name all three. **(3)**

6.3 Name Africa's highest mountain and Africa's longest river. **(2)**

6.4 Name Africa's TWO large deserts. **(2)**

Total **57 marks**



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