

KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION (K.C.B.E)

MARKING SCHEME

GRADE 10: GEOGRAPHY – TERM 1 – JANUARY 2026

SECTION A: (35 MARKS)

1. (a) Define Geography as a learning area.

- ✓ Geography is the study of the Earth and its people, places, environments, and the interactions between them.
- ✓ It is the science that examines natural and human phenomena and how they are distributed on the Earth's surface.
- ✓ Geography focuses on spatial relationships, patterns, and processes that shape the physical and human world.

(b) Two branches of Geography they may study

- i. Physical Geography
- ii. Human Geography

Other acceptable answers: Environmental geography, Practical geography, Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

2. (a) Two physical features they might identify

- i. Mountains
- ii. Rivers

Other correct responses: Valleys, hills, lakes, plains, plateaus, escarpments, waterfalls, basins.

(b) Two aspects studied under Human Geography

- i. Population
- ii. Settlement

Other correct alternatives: Economic activities, migration, transport systems, urbanization, trade, agriculture, mining.

3. Factors to consider when choosing a career

- i. Personal interests
- ii. Skills and abilities
- iii. Academic performance
- iv. Job opportunities

Additional acceptable answers: Personality, values, talents, working environment preferences, salary expectations, future growth, passion.

4. (a) Define a map.

A map is a scaled, simplified, and symbolic representation of the whole or part of the Earth's surface on a flat sheet of paper.

(b) Identify types of maps A, B, C

- A: Sketch map
B: Atlas map
C: Topographical map

(c) One use of map scales

- i. They help determine actual distances between places.
- ii. They enable measurement of areas on a map.

Other acceptable answers: Creating accurate representations, comparing sizes, making conversions.

(e) Convert 1:50 000 to direct statement scale

1 cm represents 50 000 cm
 50 000 cm = 500 m = **0.5 km**
 ➔ **1 cm represents 0.5 km**

e) A person who designs and reads maps is known as a:

Cartographer

5. Methods of representing relief on maps

- i. Contours
- ii. Spot heights

Other answers: Trigonometrical points, hachures, shading, form lines, layer tinting, bench marks.

6. Methods of data collection other than questionnaires

- i. Observation
- ii. Interviews

Other possible answers: Research, field trips, experiments, sampling, photographing, reading documents, focus group discussions.

7. Mango harvest data

(a) Mean

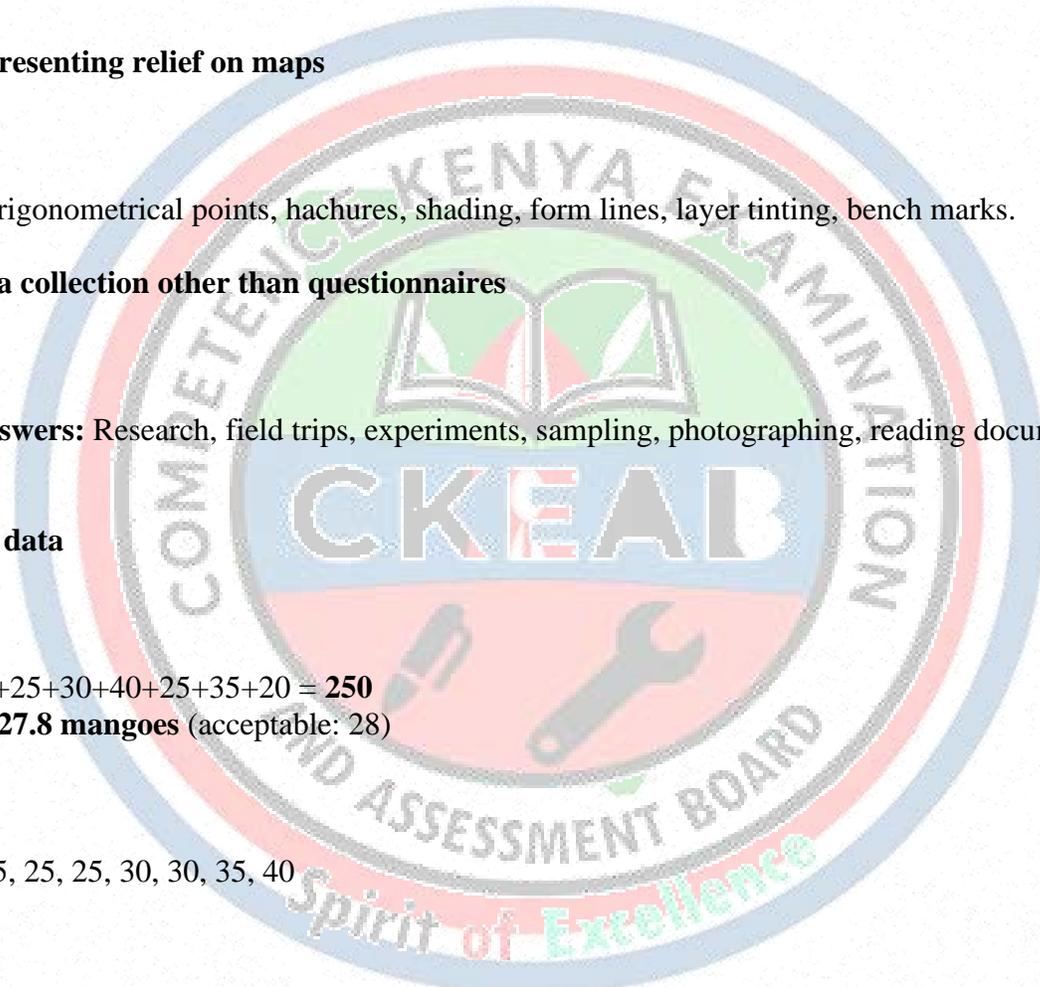
Total = 25+30+20+25+30+40+25+35+20 = **250**
 Mean = 250 ÷ 9 = **27.8 mangoes** (acceptable: 28)

(b) Median

Arrange: 20, 20, 25, 25, 25, 30, 30, 35, 40
 Middle value = **25**

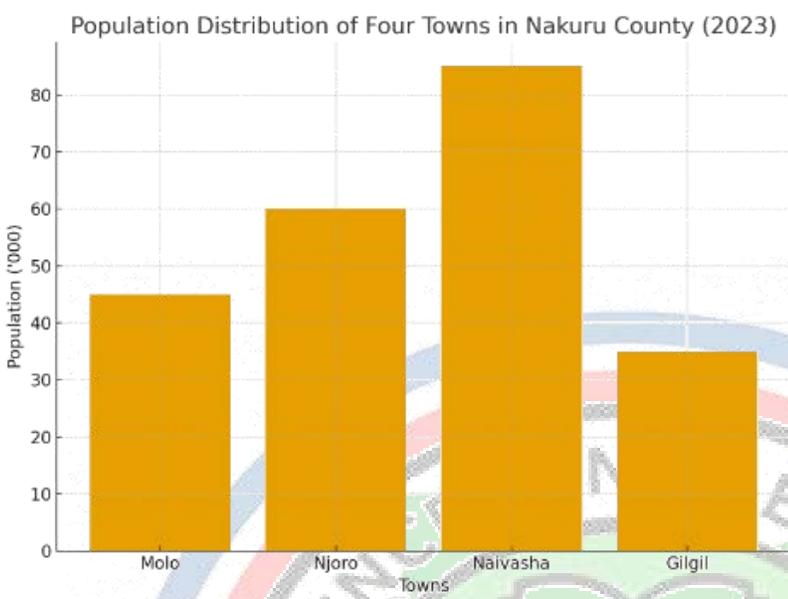
(c) Mode

Most frequent = **25**



8. (a) Simple Bar Graph

(Teacher will award marks for correct bars, labels, axes, title)



(b) Merits of using bar graphs

- i. Easy to draw and interpret
- ii. Clearly compares quantities

Other answers: Attractive visual display, shows differences instantly, easy to read.

10. Importance of studying Geography

- i. Helps understand the environment and how to conserve it.
- ii. Helps in planning and decision-making.

Other correct points: Promotes career development, explains weather and climate, improves global awareness, develops critical thinking, supports disaster preparedness.

SECTION B: MAPWORK (25 MARKS)

11. Study the map of Tambach (1:50,000 sheet 90/3) provided and use it to answer the following questions

i) Identify two types of scale used in the map (2mks)

- ✓ *Linear scale*
- ✓ *Ratio scale*

ii) Name the map title (1mk)

EAST AFRICA 1:50,000 (KENYA)

iii) Give the longitudinal extend of the area of covered by the map (2mks)

- 3500 30'E to 35° 45'E

b i) Identify three relief features found at grid square 0581

(3mks)

- ✓ Hill
- ✓ River valley
- ✓ Steep slopes

ii) Measure the length of the dry weather road D329 from the junction at Chebokokwa to the Northern edge of the map (2mks)

5.6 ± 1km

c) Explain how the following factors have influenced settlement in the area covered by the map

Relief (1mk)

- ✓ few settlement on Eastern side because it is steep
- ✓ few settlement on Elgeyo escarpment because its rugged
- ✓ Few within Kerio valley because its flat/fear of floods

Drainage

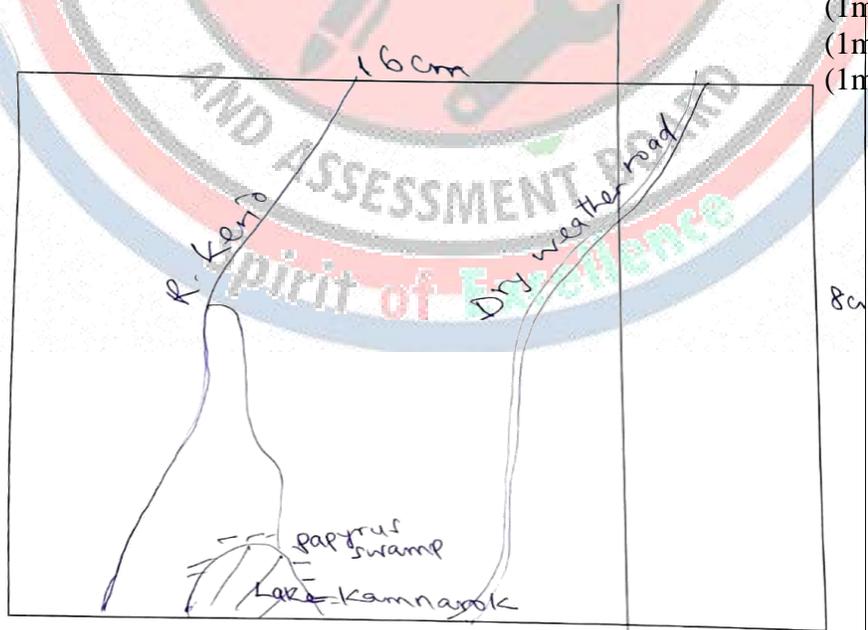
- ✓ Few settlement along seasonal swamps due to fear of floods
- ✓ No settlement along L. Kamnorok

Transport (1mks)

- ✓ There is linear settlement along roads

d) Draw a rectangle measuring 16cm by 8cm to represent the area enclosed by Easting 89 and 05 and Northings 70 and 78. On the rectangle mark and name the following: (1mk)

- i. River Kerio (1mk)
- ii. Lake Kamarock (1mk)
- iii. Dry weather road (1mk)
- iv. Papyrus swamp (1mk)



- Rectangle - 1mk
- River Kerio- 1mk
- Lake Komarok -1mk
- Papyrus swamp- 1mk

e) Citing evidence from the map give two economic activities carried out in the area covered by the map (2mks)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| ✓ Trading | shops |
| ✓ Crop farming | plantation |
| ✓ Forestry | forest |
| ✓ Transportation | road |
| ✓ Livestock rearing | cattle dip |

SECTION C (50 MARKS)

ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS

12. (a) Relationships

i. Geography & Biology

- ✓ Both study living things and their environment.
- ✓ Biogeography explains distribution of plants and animals.
- ✓ Ecology combines biological and geographical knowledge.

ii. Geography & Computer Studies

- ✓ Computer studies support GIS and remote sensing.
- ✓ Computers help in map design, data analysis, and modelling.
- ✓ Digital mapping relies on computer programs.

iii. Geography & Agriculture

- ✓ Geography provides knowledge on climate, soil, relief—major agricultural factors.
- ✓ Helps farmers determine suitable crops and livestock.
- ✓ Weather forecasting influences farming decisions.

(b) Importance of Geography in understanding environmental issues

- i. Helps identify causes and effects of environmental problems.
- ii. Promotes sustainable use of resources.

Others: Supports disaster management, pollution control, and conservation.

13. (a) Characteristics of topographical maps

- i. Show both physical and human features.
- ii. Use contours to show relief.

Other answers: Have accurate scale, detailed, show vegetation, drainage, transport, settlement.

(b) Uses of maps in daily life

- i. Navigation and route planning
- ii. Urban planning
- iii. Resource distribution

Other correct: Environmental management, tourism, military planning, weather prediction.

14. (a) Steps in drawing cross-sections

- i. Place a straight line between two chosen points on the map.
- ii. Transfer contour heights onto a piece of paper.
- iii. Plot the heights on a vertical scale and draw a smooth curve.

(b) Limitations of statistics

- i. May be manipulated or biased.
- ii. Do not show spatial relationships.
- iii. Do not explain causes of phenomena.
- iv. Lack emotional/human elements.

15. (a) Ways data can be presented

- i. Tables
- ii. Graphs (line, bar, pie chart)
- iii. Maps

Other valid: Diagrams, pictographs, histograms.

(b) Methods of analyzing data

- i. Calculating averages
- ii. Comparing variables
- iii. Identifying trends
- iv. Interpreting graphs and tables

16. (a) Careers related to Geography

- i. Meteorologist
- ii. Surveyor
- iii. Cartographer
- iv. Environmental scientist

Other acceptable: Urban planner, GIS expert, geologist, hydrologist, teacher, transport planner.

(b) Importance of Geography in career development

- i. Provides skills like observation, analysis, problem-solving.
- ii. Opens many career opportunities.

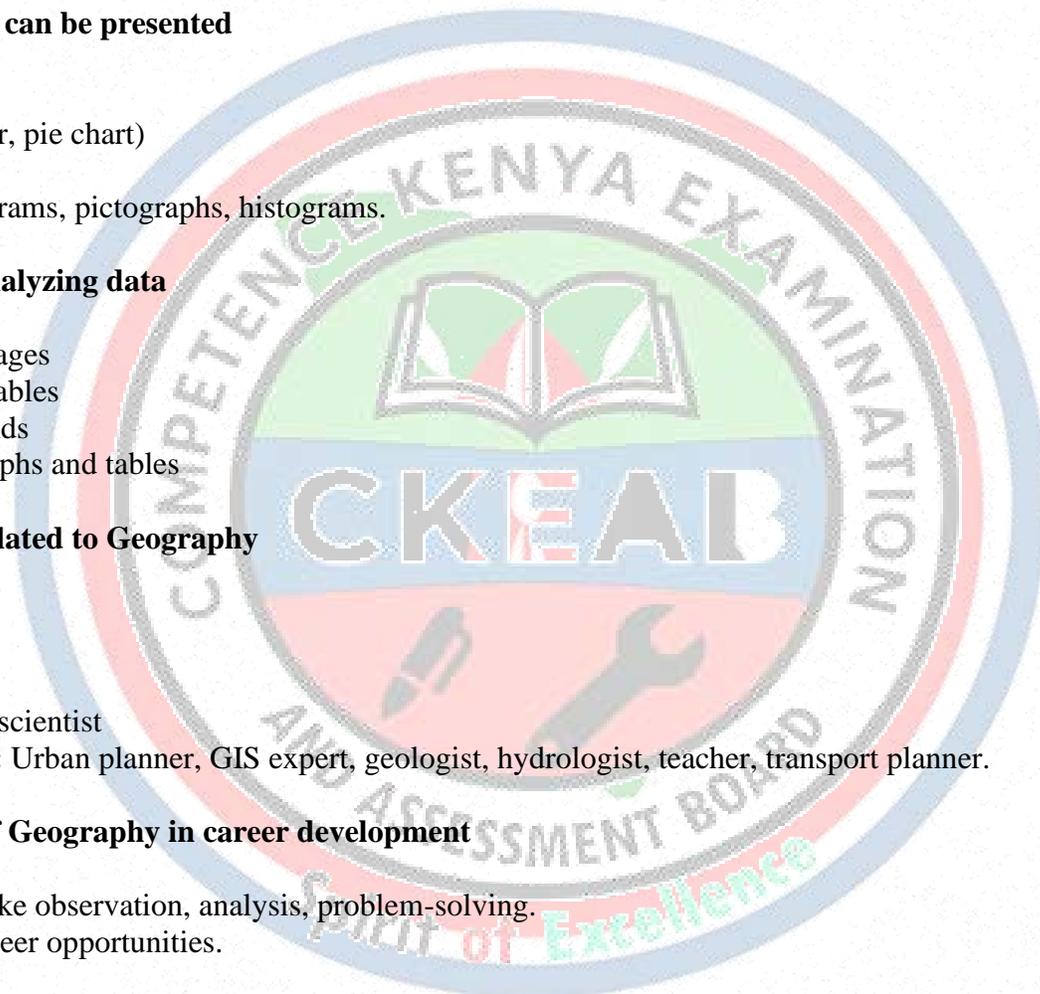
17. (a) Differences

i. Simple vs. Multiple Bar Graph

- ✓ Simple bar graph shows one set of data; multiple shows two or more sets side-by-side.

ii. Line graph vs Compound line graph

- ✓ Single line graph shows one variable; compound shows several lines on the same axes.



(b) Advantages of line graphs

- i. Show trends clearly.
- ii. Easy to interpret changes over time.
- iii. Can compare several variables.

18. (a) Sketch map vs Topographical map

Sketch Map	Topographical Map
Not drawn to scale	Drawn to accurate scale
Simple, rough outline	Detailed with contours, symbols
Few features	Many features
Based on memory	Based on survey

(b) Four marginal information on topo maps

- i. Title
 - ii. Scale
 - iii. Key/legend
 - iv. North arrow
- Others:** Grid lines, publisher, sheet number, date.

(c) Importance of map reading

- i. Helps interpret real-world features.
- ii. Improves navigation skills.

19. (a) Steps in drawing combined bar graph

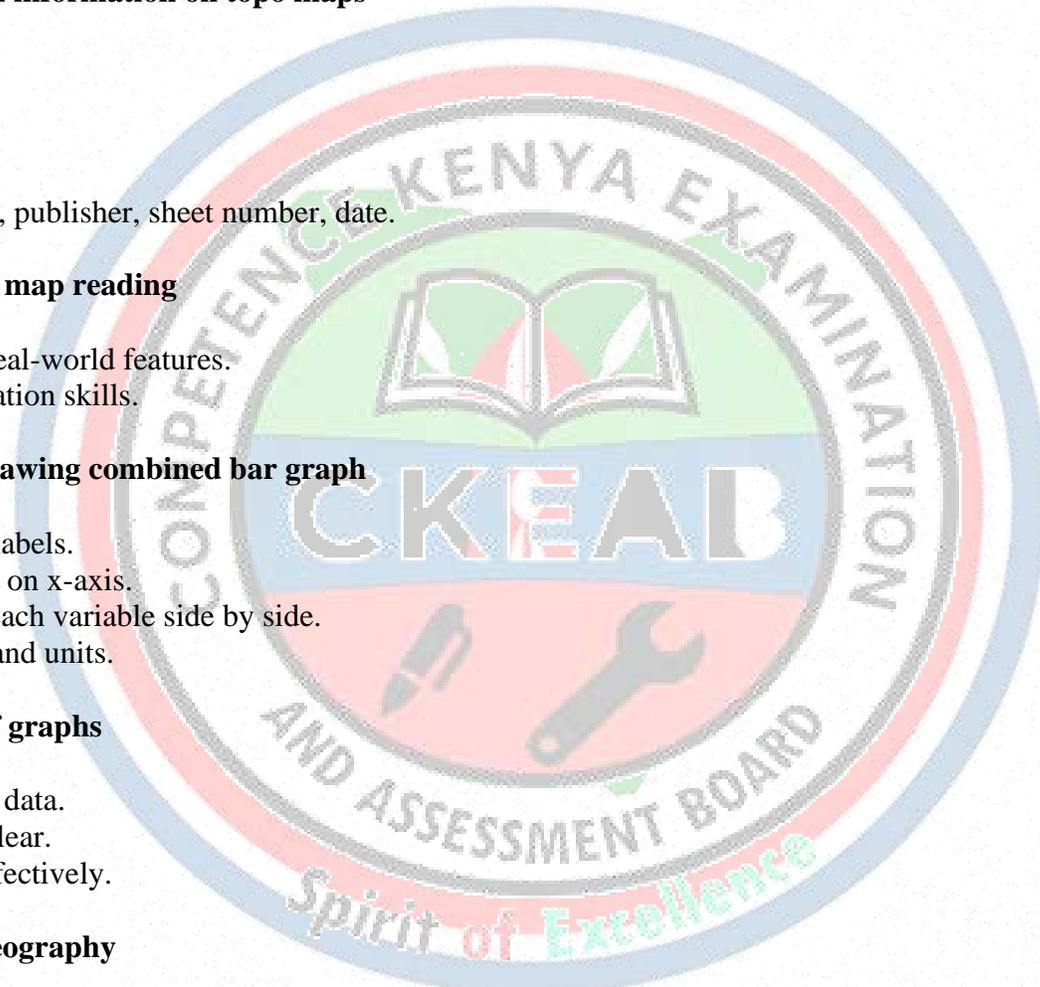
- i. Draw axes with labels.
- ii. Mark categories on x-axis.
- iii. Draw bars for each variable side by side.
- iv. Add title, key, and units.

(b) Advantages of graphs

- i. Easy to compare data.
- ii. Attractive and clear.
- iii. Show trends effectively.

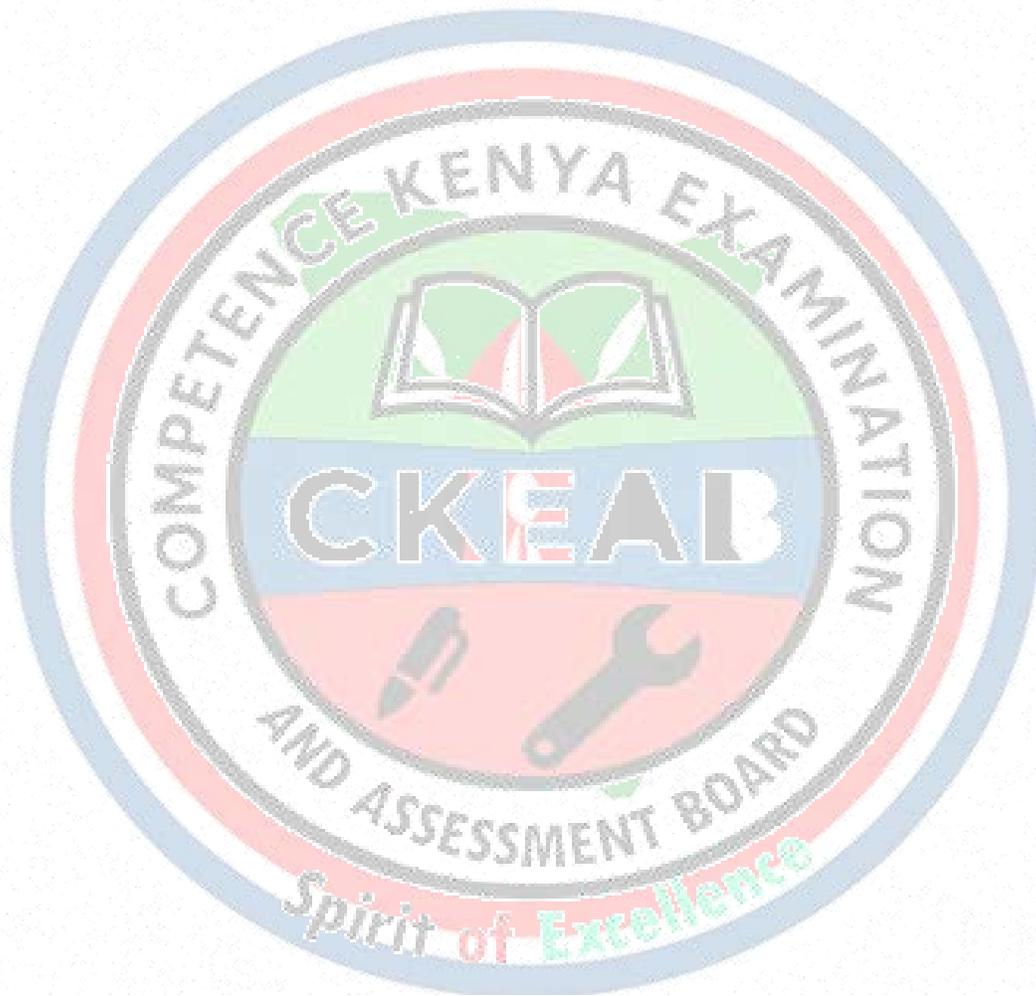
(c) Branches of geography

- i. Physical geography
- ii. Human geography
- iii. Practical geography
- iv. Environmental geography (bonus)



NOTE TO FACILITATORS (TEACHERS):

The marking scheme provided is not exhaustive. Facilitators are advised to use their professional judgment when awarding marks. Any correct, relevant, and scientifically or contextually acceptable answer that demonstrates understanding of the concepts should be credited. Where examples are required, learners may provide other valid examples apart from those listed in the scheme.



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