The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

PHYSICAL SETTING EARTH SCIENCE

Wednesday, January 26, 2005 — 1:15 to 4:15 p.m., only

This is a test of your knowledge of Earth science. Use that knowledge to answer all questions in this examination. Some questions may require the use of the *Earth Science Reference Tables*. The *Earth Science Reference Tables* are supplied separately. Be certain you have a copy of the 2001 edition of these reference tables before you begin the examination.

Your answer sheet for Part A and Part B–1 is the last page of this examination booklet. Turn to the last page and fold it along the perforations. Then, slowly and carefully, tear off your answer sheet and fill in the heading.

The answers to the questions in Part B-2 and Part C are to be written in your separate answer booklet. Be sure to fill in the heading on the front of your answer booklet.

You are to answer *all* questions in all parts of this examination according to the directions provided in the examination booklet. Record your answers to the Part A and Part B–1 multiple-choice questions on your separate answer sheet. Write your answers to the Part B–2 and Part C questions in your answer booklet. All work should be written in pen, except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil. You may use scrap paper to work out the answers to the questions, but be sure to record all your answers on your separate answer sheet and in your answer booklet.

When you have completed the examination, you must sign the statement printed at the end of 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 2001 Earth Science Reference Tables 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, write on your separate answer sheet the *number* of the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question. Some questions may require the use of the *Earth Science Reference Tables*.

- 1 Which planet's orbit around the Sun is most nearly circular?
 - (1) Mercury (3) Pluto
 - (2) Neptune (4) Venus
- 2 How many times will the Sun's perpendicular rays cross Earth's Equator between March 1 of one year and March 1 of the next year?
 - (1) 1 (3) 3
 - (2) 2 (4) 4
- 3 Which star's surface temperature is closest to the temperature at the boundary between Earth's mantle and core?
 - (1) Sirius
 (2) Rigel
 (3) the Sun
 (4) Betelgeuse
- 4 Which graph best represents the relationship between soil particle size and the rate at which water infiltrates permeable soil?



5 The diagram below shows a standard spectrum compared to a spectrum produced from a distant star.



Spectrum from Distant Star



Which conclusion can be made by comparing the standard spectrum to the spectrum produced from this distant star?

- (1) The star's spectral lines have shifted toward the ultraviolet end of the spectrum and the star is moving toward Earth.
- (2) The star's spectral lines have shifted toward the ultraviolet end of the spectrum and the star is moving away from Earth.
- (3) The star's spectral lines have shifted toward the infrared end of the spectrum and the star is moving toward Earth.
- (4) The star's spectral lines have shifted toward the infrared end of the spectrum and the star is moving away from Earth.
- 6 Scientists are concerned about the decrease in ozone in the upper atmosphere primarily because ozone protects life on Earth by absorbing certain wavelengths of
 - (1) x-ray radiation
 - (2) ultraviolet radiation
 - (3) infrared radiation
 - (4) microwave radiation

- 7 It is inferred that during the early Archean Era the atmosphere of Earth contained water vapor, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and other gases in small amounts. These gases probably came from
 - (1) precipitation of groundwater
 - (2) volcanic eruptions
 - (3) evaporation of Paleozoic oceans
 - (4) convection currents in the mantle
- 8 Which ocean current flows northeast along the eastern coast of North America?
 - (1) Gulf Stream (3) California
 - (2) North Equatorial (4) Labrador
- 9 Which type of land surface would probably reflect the most incoming solar radiation?
 - (1) light colored and smooth
 - (2) light colored and rough
 - (3) dark colored and smooth
 - (4) dark colored and rough
- 10 There is evidence that an asteroid or a comet crashed into the Gulf of Mexico at the end of the Mesozoic Era. Consequences of this impact event may explain the
 - (1) extinction of many kinds of marine animals, including trilobites
 - (2) extinction of ammonoids and dinosaurs
 - (3) appearance of the earliest birds and mammals
 - (4) appearance of great coal-forming forests and insects
- 11 What is the approximate location of the Canary Islands hot spot?

(1)	32° S 18°	W	(3)	32°	Ν	18°	W
(2)	$32^{\circ} \mathrm{S} 18^{\circ}$	E	(4)	32°	Ν	18°	Е

12 How long would it take for the first *S*-wave to arrive at a seismic station 4,000 kilometers away from the epicenter of an earthquake?

$(1) 5 \min 40 \sec$	(3) $12 \min 40 \sec \theta$
(2) $7 \min 0 \sec$	(4) 13 min 20 sec

- 13 Which New York State river flows generally southward?
 - (1) St. Lawrence River (3) Genesee River
 - (2) Niagara River (4) Hudson River
- P.S./E. Sci.-Jan. '05

14 The map below shows the stream drainage patterns for a region of Earth's surface. Points A, B, C, and D are locations in the region.



0 10 20 km

The highest elevation most likely exists at point

(1) A	(3) C
(2) B	(4) D

- 15 Outwash plains are formed as a result of deposition by
 - (1) landslides
 - (2) ocean waves
 - (3) winds from hurricanes
 - (4) meltwater from glaciers
- 16 A stream with a velocity of 100 centimeters per second flows into a lake. Which sediment-size particles would the stream most likely deposit first as it enters the lake?

(1)	boulders	(3)) pebbles
(2)	cobbles	(4)) sand

17 The cross section below shows a soil profile.



Bedrock

This soil was formed primarily by

- (1) erosion by glaciers
- (2) erosion by running water
- (3) capillarity and human activity
- (4) weathering and biological activity
- 18 Which type of rock most likely contains fossils?

(1) scoria	(3) schist

- (2) gabbro (4) shale
- 19 In which New York State landscape region is most of the surface bedrock composed of metamorphic rock?
 - (1) Adirondacks
 - (2) Catskills
 - (3) Erie-Ontario Lowlands
 - (4) Newark Lowlands
- 20 A human fingernail has a hardness of approximately 2.5. Which two minerals are *softer* than a human fingernail?
 - (1) calcite and halite
 - (2) sulfur and fluorite
 - (3) graphite and talc
 - (4) pyrite and magnetite

21 The photograph below shows an escarpment (cliff) located in the western United States. The directions for north and south are indicated by arrows. A fault in the sedimentary rocks is shown on the front of the escarpment.



The photograph shows that the fault most likely formed

- (1) after the rock layers were deposited, when the north side moved downward
- (2) after the rock layers were deposited, when the north side moved upward
- (3) before the rock layers were deposited, when the south side moved downward
- (4) before the rock layers were deposited, when the south side moved upward
- 22 Which mountain range resulted from the collision of North America and Africa, as parts of Pangea joined together in the late Pennsylvanian Period?
 - (1) Appalachian Mountains
 - (2) Acadian Mountains
 - (3) Taconic Mountains
 - (4) Grenville Mountains
- 23 Which physical characteristic best describes the rock phyllite?
 - (1) glassy texture with gas pockets
 - (2) clastic texture with angular fragments
 - (3) bioclastic texture with cemented shell fragments
 - (4) foliated texture with microscopic mica crystals

24 The diagram below represents a part of the crystal structure of the mineral kaolinite.



An arrangement of atoms such as the one shown in the diagram determines a mineral's

- (1) age of formation
- (2) infiltration rate

- (3) physical properties
- (4) temperature of formation
- 25 The map below shows the path of a river. The arrow shows the direction the river is flowing. Letters A and B identify the banks of the river.



The water depth is greater near bank *A* than bank *B* because the water velocity near bank *A* is

- (1) faster, causing deposition to occur
- (2) faster, causing erosion to occur
- (3) slower, causing deposition to occur
- (4) slower, causing erosion to occur

- 26 Which home-building material is made mostly from the mineral gypsum?
 - (1) plastic pipes (3) drywall panels
 - (2) window glass (4) iron nails
- 27 The two most abundant elements by mass in Earth's crust are oxygen and
 - (1) potassium (3) nitrogen
 - (2) hydrogen (4) silicon

Base your answers to questions 28 through 30 on the diagram below, which represents the planetary wind and moisture belts in Earth's Northern Hemisphere.



30 The tropopause is approximately how far above sea level?

(1) 12 mi	(3) 60 mi
(2) 12 km	(4) 60 km

31 The diagram below shows four magnified block-shaped sandstone samples labeled *A*, *B*, *C*, and *D*. Each sandstone sample contains quartz grains of different shapes and sizes. The quartz grains are held together by hematite cement.



In which sample did the quartz grains undergo the most abrasion during erosional transport?

32 On the map below, line AB is drawn across several of Earth's tectonic plates in the South Atlantic Ocean.



Which cross section best represents the plate boundaries and mantle movement beneath line AB?



33 The diagrams below show four major types of fault motion occurring in Earth's crust. Which type of fault motion best matches the general pattern of crustal movement at California's San Andreas fault?





34 The cross section below shows the movement of wind-driven sand particles that strike a partly exposed basalt cobble located at the surface of a windy desert.



Which cross section best represents the appearance of this cobble after many years of exposure to the wind-driven sand?



35 Each dot on the graph below shows the result of separate scientific studies of the relationship between the rates of erosion in regions of different relief. Relief is the local difference between the highest and the lowest elevations.



The results of these combined studies indicate that with each 100-meter increase in relief, the rate of erosion generally

- (1) decreases at a rate of 10 cm/1,000 years
- (2) decreases at a rate of 20 cm/1,000 years
- (3) increases at a rate of 10 cm/1,000 years
- (4) increases at a rate of 20 cm/1,000 years

Part B-1

Answer all questions in this part.

Directions (36–50): For *each* statement or question, write on your separate answer sheet the *number* of the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question. Some questions may require the use of the *Earth Science Reference Tables*.

Base your answers to questions 36 through 38 on the diagram below, which represents a model of the sky (celestial sphere) for an observer in New York State. The curved arrow represents the Sun's apparent path for part of one day. The altitude of *Polaris* is also indicated.



36 According to this diagram, what is the Sun's altitude at solar noon?

(1)	23.5°	(3)	48°
(2)	42°	(4)	90°

37 Where is this observer most likely located?

(1)	Massena	(3) Slide Mountain
(2)	Oswego	(4) Mt. Marcy

38 On which date could this observation of the Sun's apparent path have been made?

(1)	March 21	(3) October 21
(2)	July 21	(4) December 21

Base your answers to questions 39 through 42 on the weather map below. The map shows a low-pressure system and some atmospheric conditions at weather stations A, B, and C.



- 39 Which type of weather is usually associated with a cP air mass, as shown near weather station C?
 - (1) moist and cool

(3) dry and cool

(2) moist and warm

- (4) dry and warm
- 40 Which cross section best represents the air masses, air movement, clouds, and precipitation occurring behind and ahead of the warm front located between stations *A* and *B*?





41 The arrows on which map best represent the direction of surface winds associated with this low-pressure system?

 $42\,$ If this weather system follows a normal storm track, the low-pressure center (L) will generally move toward the

(1)	northeast	(3)	southeast
(2)	northwest	(4)	southwest

Base your answers to questions 43 and 44 on the bedrock cross section below. The cross section represents part of Earth's crust where natural gas, oil, and water have moved upward through a layer of folded sandstone and filled the pore spaces at the top of the sandstone layer.



- 43 The final arrangement of the natural gas, oil, and water within the sandstone was caused by differences in their
 - (1) density (3) relative age (2) specific heat
 - (4) radioactive half-life
- 44 The natural gas, oil, and water are trapped within the top of the sandstone and do not move upward through the shale because, compared to the sandstone, the shale has
 - (1) lower permeability

(3) larger pore spaces

(2) less foliation

(4) larger particles

Base your answers to questions 45 through 47 on the map below, which shows the drainage basin of the Mississippi River system. Several rivers that flow into the Mississippi River are labeled. The arrow at location X shows where the Mississippi River enters the Gulf of Mexico.



45 The entire land area drained by the Mississippi River system is referred to as a

- (1) levee (3) meander belt
- (2) watershed
- (4) floodplain
- 46 Sediments deposited at location X by the Missisippi River most likely have which characteristics?
 - (1) angular fragments arranged as mixtures
 - (2) rock particles arranged in sorted beds
 - (3) rocks with parallel scratches and grooves
 - (4) high-density minerals with hexagonal crystals
- 47 The structure formed by the deposition of sediments at location X is best described as a

(1)	moraine	(3)	delta
(2)	tributary	(4)	drumlin

Base your answers to questions 48 through 50 on the reading passage and the drawing below and on your knowledge of Earth science.

Fossil With Signs of Feathers Is Cited as Bird-Dinosaur Link

Paleontologists have discovered in China a fossil dinosaur with what are reported to be clear traces of feathers from head to tail, the most persuasive evidence so far, scientists say, that feathers predated the origin of birds and that modern birds are descendants of dinosaurs.

Entombed in fine-grained rock, the unusually well-preserved skeleton resembles that of a duck with a reptilian tail, altogether about three feet in length. Its head and tail are edged with the imprint of downy fibers. The rest of the body, except for bare lower legs, shows distinct traces of tufts and filaments that appear to have been primitive feathers. On the backs of its short forelimbs are patterns of what look like modern bird feathers.

Other dinosaur remains with what appear to be featherlike traces have been unearthed in recent years, but nothing as complete as this specimen, paleontologists said. Etched in the rock like a filigree decoration surrounding the skeleton are imprints of where the down and feathers appear to have been.

The 130-million-year-old fossils were found a year ago by farmers in Liaoning Province in northeastern China. After an analysis by Chinese and American researchers, the fossil animal was identified as a dromaeosaur, a small fast-running dinosaur related to velociraptor. The dinosaurs belonged to a group of two-legged predators known as advanced theropods . . .

> excerpted from "Fossil With Signs of Feathers Is Cited as Bird-Dinosaur Link" John Noble Wilford New York Times, April 26, 2001

The drawing below shows an artist's view of the dinosaur, based on the fossilized remains.



- 48 During which period of geologic time have paleontologists inferred that the feathered dinosaur mentioned in the passage existed?
 - (1) Cambrian(2) Cretaceous
- (3) Paleogene
- (4) Permian

49 This feathered dinosaur is not considered an index fossil because it

- (1) existed too long ago
- (2) was preserved in ash

- (3) was a land-dwelling animal
- (4) was found in only one area

50 The reference to the bird-dinosaur link is most likely referring to the concept of

(1) plate tectonics

(3) dynamic equilibrium

(2) evolution

(4) recycling

Part B-2

Answer all questions in this part.

Directions (51–62): Record your answers in the spaces provided in your answer booklet. Some questions may require the use of the *Earth Science Reference Tables*.

Base your answers to questions 51 and 52 on the diagram provided *in your answer booklet*. The diagram shows a model of Earth's orbit around the Sun. Two motions of Earth are indicated. Distances to the Sun are given for two positions of Earth in its orbit.

- 51 On the diagram provided *in your answer booklet*, place an **X** on Earth's orbit to indicate Earth's position on May 21. [1]
- 52 Explain why New York State experiences summer when Earth is at its greatest distance from the Sun. [1]

Base your answers to questions 53 through 55 on the field map provided *in your answer booklet*. The map shows elevations, measured in feet, of a number of points in a certain geographic region. Contour lines have been drawn for the 100-foot and 120-foot elevations. Points *A* and *B* represent two spot elevations on the map.

- 53 On the map provided *in your answer booklet*, draw the 60-foot contour line. Make sure that the contour line extends to the edges of the map. [1]
- 54 Toward which general compass direction does Elma Creek flow? [1]
- 55 Calculate the gradient between points A and B. Label the answer with the correct units. [2]
- 56 On the weather map station model provided *in your answer booklet*, using the proper format, record the *six* weather conditions shown below. [2]

Wind: from the northwest Wind speed: 10 knots Barometric pressure: 1022.0 mb Cloud cover: 50% Visibility: 5 mi Precipitation (in the past 6 hours): .45 in Base your answers to questions 57 and 58 on the map and table below. The map shows the name and location of the volcanic peaks in the Cascade Mountain Range of the northwestern United States west of the Yellowstone Hot Spot. The table shows the major eruptions of each peak over the past 4,000 years.



- 57 During which geologic epoch did the volcanic activity shown on the table occur? [1]
- 58 On the cross section provided *in your answer booklet*, place an arrow in the continental crust and an arrow in the oceanic crust to show the relative directions of plate movement. [1]
- 59 Which layer of Earth is composed of both the crust and the rigid mantle? [1]

Base your answers to questions 60 and 61 on the diagram below, which represents a model of the radioactive decay of a particular element. The diagram shows the decay of a radioactive element (_____) into the stable decay element (_____) after one half-life period.



Radioactive Decay Model

- 60 On the diagram provided *in your answer booklet*, shade in the amount of stable decay element present after the second half-life period. [1]
- 61 If the radioactive element in this model is carbon-14, how much time will have passed after one half-life? [1]
- 62 The diagram below shows warm, moist air moving off the ocean and over a mountain, causing precipitation between points 1 and 2.



Describe *two* changes that occur to the warm, moist air between points 1 and 2 that would cause cloud formation. [2]

Part C

Answer all questions in this part.

Directions (63–80): Record your answers in the spaces provided in your answer booklet. Some questions may require the use of the *Earth Science Reference Tables*.

Base your answers to questions 63 through 65 on the reading passage below and on your knowledge of Earth science.

The Blue Moon

A "Blue Moon" is the name given to the second full moon in a calendar month. Because there are roughly 29.5 days between full moons, it is unusual for two full moons to "fit" into a 30 or 31 day month (and impossible to fit into a 28 or 29 day month, so February can never have a Blue Moon). The saying "Once in a Blue Moon" means a rare occurrence, and predates the current astronomical use of the term, which is quite recent. In fact, Blue Moons are not all that rare, on average there will be one Blue Moon every 2.5 years. After 1999, the next Blue Moons will be in November 2001; July 2004; and June 2007. The last one before 1999 was in July 1996.

The term Blue Moon is believed to have originated in 1883 after the eruption of Krakatoa. The volcano put so much dust in the atmosphere that the Moon actually looked blue in color. This was so unusual that the term "once in a Blue Moon" was coined.

"The Blue Moon" David R. Williams nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/blue_moon.html

- 63 Explain why a Blue Moon never occurs during the month of February. [1]
- 64 What is the greatest number of full-Moon phases, visible from Earth, that are possible in a span of 1 year? [1]
- 65 In the space provided *in your answer booklet*, draw the relative positions of Earth, the Moon, and the Sun, as viewed from space, so that a full-Moon phase would be visible to an observer on Earth. Label Earth, the Moon, and the Sun in your drawing. [1]

⁶⁶ The Moon has many more impact craters visible on its surface than Earth has on its surface. State *two* reasons that Earth has so few visible impact craters. [2]

Base your answers to questions 67 and 68 on the map and data table shown below. The map shows some tectonic plates and the boundaries between them. Letters A and B are locations on Earth's surface. The data table shows the depth below Earth's surface of five earthquakes measured from location A toward location B.



Data Table				
Earthquake	Distance from Location <i>A</i> Toward Location <i>B</i> (km)	Depth Below Earth's Surface (km)		
1	100	600		
2	200	400		
3	250	300		
4	300	250		
5	400	60		

- 67 On the grid provided *in your answer booklet*, plot the depths of the *five* earthquakes from location *A* toward location *B*. [1]
- 68 Identify the type of plate boundary or geologic feature found at location B. [1]

Base your answers to questions 69 through 71 on the cross section below, which shows several rock formations found in New York State. The rock layers have not been overturned.



- 69 How does this cross section indicate that the Stockton sandstone is the oldest rock layer? [1]
- 70 State one piece of evidence that supports the fact that the Palisade Sill is younger than the Brunswick sandstone. [1]
- 71 State one tectonic event affecting North America that occurred at the same time as the Palisade Sill intrusion. [1]

Base your answers to questions 72 through 74 on the map below, the graph on the next page, and your knowledge of Earth science. The map shows the length of the growing season in New York State, expressed in days. The growing season is the average number of days between the last frost in spring and the first frost in fall. The graph line shows the relationship between the latitudes of Riverhead, New York; Albany, New York; and Massena, New York; and the length of the growing season at these three locations.



Length of Growing Season (in days)



- 72 For Riverhead, Albany, and Massena, state the relationship between latitude and the length of the growing season shown by the graph. [1]
- 73 The data for Oswego, New York, have been plotted separately on the graph. Explain why the location of Oswego causes it to have a growing season longer than other cities at the same latitude. [1]
- 74 Compare the length of the growing season in a lowland region with the length of the growing season in a mountain region at approximately the same latitude. [1]

Base your answers to questions 75 through 77 on the cross section below and on your knowledge of Earth science. The cross section shows a portion of Earth's crust. The age, in millions of years, of each boundary between the different sedimentary rock layers is shown. The age of boundary X between the sedimentary rock and the metamorphic rock is not shown. Assume no overturning has occurred.



75 Identify the geologic feature represented by boundary X. [1]

- 76 Describe how the rock type below boundary *X* was formed. [1]
- 77 Identify by name one index fossil that existed when the limestone rock shown in the cross section was being formed. [1]

Base your answers to questions 78 through 80 on the diagram and table below. The diagram represents a felsic igneous rock. Letters A, B, and C represent three different minerals in the rock sample. The table describes the physical properties of minerals A, B, and C found in the igneous rock sample.



(Actual size)

Mineral	Key	Physical Properties		
A		pink, cleaves in two directions at 90°		
В		white, cleaves in two directions, striations visible		
С		colorless or clear with a glassy luster		

78 State the texture of this igneous rock. [1]

- 79 On the table provided in your answer booklet, state the names of minerals A, B, and C. [2]
- 80 State two processes responsible for the formation of an igneous rock. [1]

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		ANSWER SHE	ET	
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Reco	ord your answers	to Part A and Par	t B−1 on this answer sh	leet.
	Part A	Part B–1		
1	13	25	36	44
2	14	26	37	45
3	15	27	38	46
4	16	28	39	47
5	17	29	40	48
6	18	30	41	49
7	19	31	42	50
8	20	32	43	Part B–1 Score
9	21	33		
10	22	34		
11	23	35		
12	24	Part A Score		

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Tear Here

Write your answers to Part B-2 and Part C in your answer booklet.

The declaration below should be signed when you have completed the examination.

I do hereby affirm, at the close of this examination, that I had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that I have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination.

Signature

PS/EARTH SCIENCE

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