

PART 3

You should spend about 20 minutes in this part.

Read the text below and complete the following chart with **no more than three words and/or a number** from the text for each answer.

Exploring the Great Barrier Reef: A World Beneath the Waves

The Great Barrier Reef, situated off the coast of Australia, is the world's largest coral reef system, stretching over 2,300 kilometres along the northeastern coast of Australia. This natural

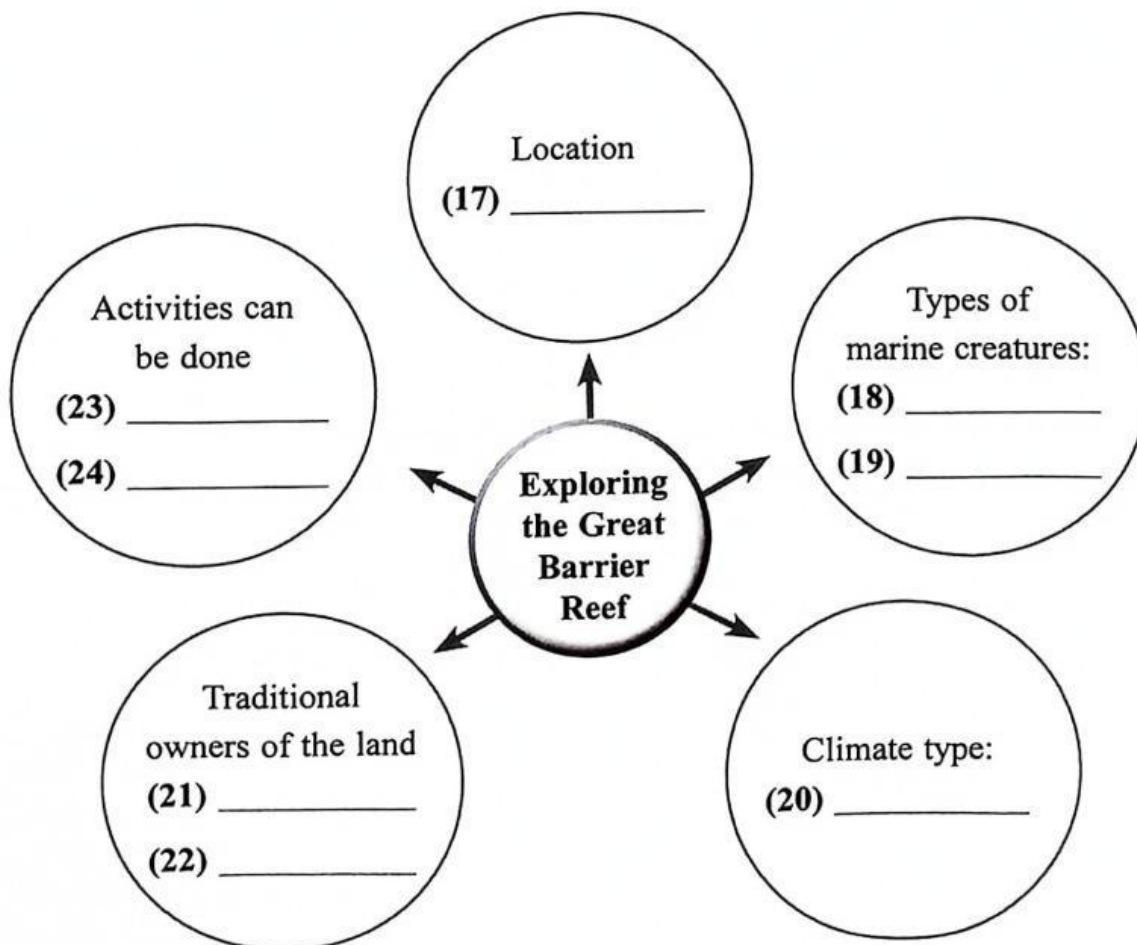
wonder is a paradise for marine enthusiasts and offers a fascinating glimpse into the underwater world.

Within the Great Barrier Reef, you'll encounter a diverse ecosystem teeming with life. The reef is home to over 1,500 species of fish, 400 species of coral, and countless other marine creatures, including sea turtles, dolphins, and sharks. It's a vibrant underwater city where colourful corals sway in the currents and schools of fish dart in and out of crevices.

The climate in the Great Barrier Reef region is tropical, with warm temperatures year-round. During the summer months, temperatures can reach high levels, creating ideal conditions for coral growth and marine life activity. Snorkelling and diving in the clear, turquoise waters of the reef allow students to witness this bustling ecosystem up close.

In addition to its rich marine life, the Great Barrier Reef is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and holds cultural significance for Indigenous Australian communities. Traditional owners of the land, such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, have a deep connection to the reef and its surrounding waters.

Exploring the Great Barrier Reef is an educational and awe-inspiring experience. Whether snorkelling among coral gardens, spotting colourful fish, or learning about indigenous culture, the reef offers endless opportunities for discovery and appreciation of our planet's biodiversity.



[8 marks]