# Tolerance limits for quantitative description

When the description of physical features is part of a question, examiners expect candidates to quantify their descriptions. To describe a feature as 'large', 'wide', 'steep' or 'long' only achieves credit at Level 1. In most cases, quantification allows the descriptive material within the answer to be credited at Level 2. If the answer deals with an actual example, its particular dimensions must be included. For general descriptions, examiners have tolerance limits within which they will credit the material.

## Tolerance limits for quantitative description of glacial erosion features

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|---|---|
| **Arête** | Length: up to 2 km<br>Height: 50–700 m |
| **Corrie** | Diameter: 0.5–1 km |
| **Back wall** | Depth: 100–400 m<br>Angle: between 60° and vertical in parts |
| **Glacial trough** | Width: 0.5–3 km |
| **Roche moutonnée** | Height: 1–10 m<br>Length: 3–30 m |

## Tolerance limits for quantitative description of glacial deposition features

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|---|---|
| **Drumlin** | Width: 25–600 m<br>Length: 50 m to 1.2 km<br>Height: 15–50 m<br>Elongation ration: 2:1–4:1 |
| **Esker** | Length: 500 m to 150 km (when connected with ice sheets)<br>Width: 10–50 m<br>Height: 5–20 m |
| **Kame** | Width: up to 50 m<br>Height: 3–5 m |
| **Kettle hole** | Diameter: 5–100 m<br>Depth: 1–5 m |
| **Outwash plain** | Length: 5–80 km<br>Depth: 1–75 m |
| **Recessional moraine** | Height: up to 15 m<br>Width: across the valley |
| **Terminal moraine** | Height: up to 50 m<br>Width: for ice sheets, up to 100 km but for valley glaciers it is sufficient to state 'across the valley' |
| **Varve** | Thickness: 1 mm to 20 cm |

## Tolerance limits for quantitative description of periglacial features

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|---|---|
| **Ice wedge** | Depth: up to 10 m<br>Width: 0.5– 2 m |
| **Polygon** | Diameter: 5–50 m |
| **Nivation hollow** | Diameter: 5 m to 1 km<br>Depth: 2–20 m |
| **Scree slope** | Angle: 30–35° |
| **Stone polygon** | Width: 0.5–5 m<br>Dome height: 10 cm to 1 m<br>Slope angle: polygons, up to 2°; elongated polygons (garlands), 2–6°; stone stripes, 6–35° |
| **Pingo** | Diameter: 50–600 m<br>Height: 10–60 m |