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The below diagram shows the same region of the surface of the Earth during both the day and the night. The arrowed lines represent the paths of rays of thermal (infrared) radiation. The dotted lines represent radiation which has been partially transmitted through clouds.



In general, daytime temperatures tend to be higher when there is little to no cloud cover. Explain why. You may refer to the above diagram in your answer.

[2 marks]



After the sun has set, surface temperatures tend to fall more rapidly when there is a clear sky. Explain why.

[2 marks]



One of the ways in which astronomers categorise stars is by measuring their colour (or *spectral type*). The way in which the colour of a star depends on its surface temperature is shown in the below diagram. Temperatures have been quoted in kelvin (K).





[2 marks]

BLACK BODY RADIATION

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