

B - Soil texture test

1 - Finger test

Take a small amount of moist soil. Try rolling it into a ball about 1cm diameter

No ball forms, soil breaks up into small parts and individual particles, feels rough and gritty, **no strain on fingers**

Sand

Loamy Sand

Soil is not predominantly rough and gritty, feels grainy, **difficult to roll a ball**

Sandy Loam

Soil not predominantly rough, not grainy, not difficult to roll into a ball; **does not feel smooth and silky**

Sandy Silt Loam

Soil is not predominantly rough, **soil feels smooth, silky and grainy**

Silt Loam

Soil feels smooth and silky, **easily deformed ball**

Clay Loam

Strong ball, smears but does not take a polish

Sandy Clay Loam

As above, **soil also feels rough and gritty**

Silty Clay Loam

As above, **soil also feels smooth and silky**

Clay

Soil is like plasticine, polishes, feels sticky when wet

Sandy Clay

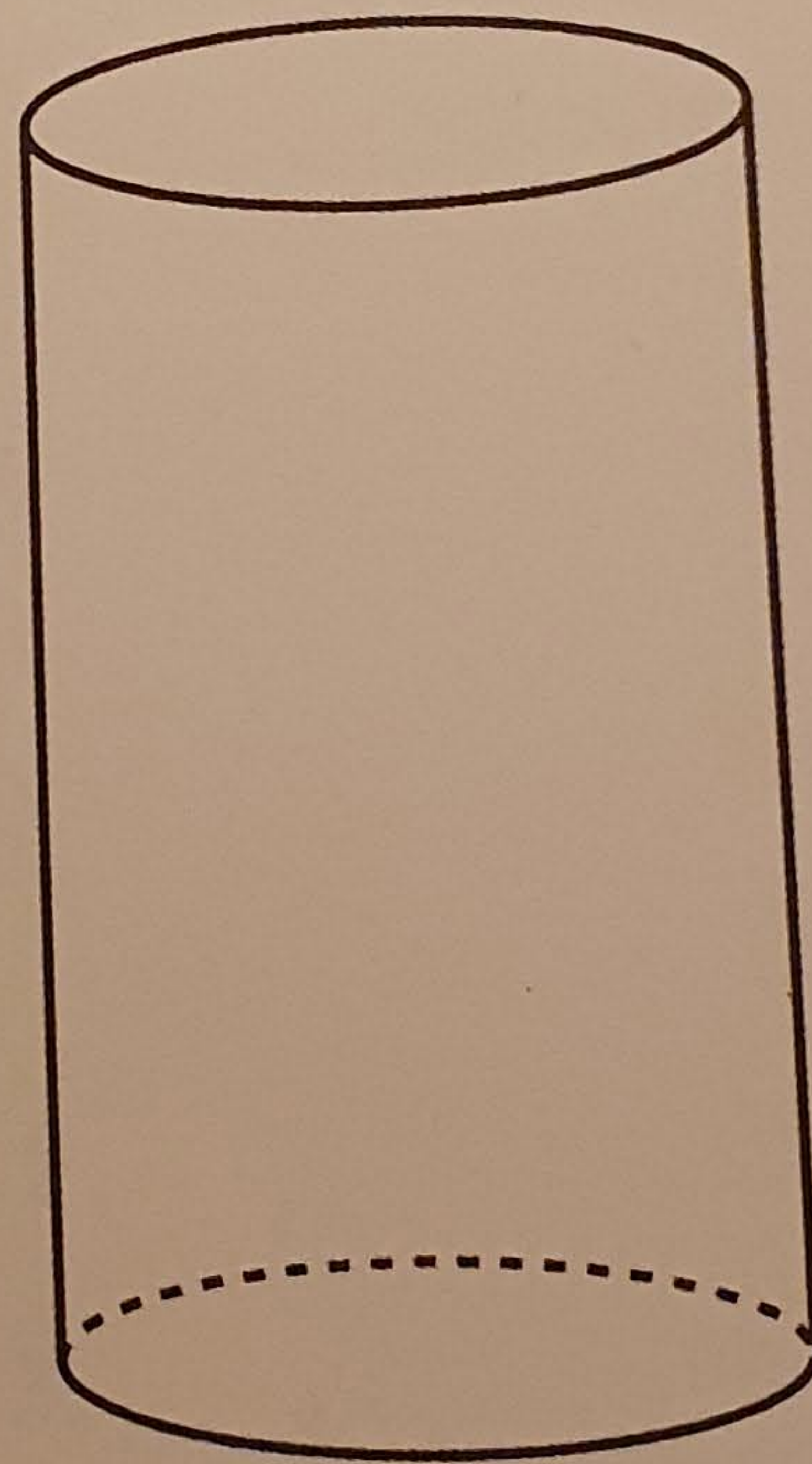
As above, **also rough and gritty**

Silty Clay

As above, **also smooth and buttery**

2 - Jam Jar Test for silica fractions

- ✦ Take half a jar of soil
- ✦ Break up if necessary
- ✦ Remove stones >2mm
- ✦ Stir in water until $\frac{3}{4}$ full, then shake well
- ✦ Leave for 10 seconds then mark level of settled material - Sand
- ✦ Leave 10 mins and mark silt (grains visible), and organic fraction (floating on top)
- ✦ Leave until all particles have settled and mark clay (no structure visible)
- ✦ Write down fractions as percentages
- ✦ The table below gives an indication of soil types - your soil might fall between these categories!



Organic content

Water

Clay - no grain, smooth look

Silt - miniscule grain

Sand - coarse to fine grain

	sand	silt	clay
Sandy soil	80-100%	0-10%	0-10%
Loam	25-50%	30-50%	10-30%
Clay soil	0-45%	30-50%	50-100%