

SLECTED SLORC/SPDC ORDERS

The following are the direct translations of some written orders sent from SLORC army units to villages. These orders include demands for forced labor on roads and at army camps, extortion money, food, building materials, and intelligence. For every order reproduced here, hundreds more are issued every week; these should be seen only as a small representative sampling. Most of the orders are address to Chairman and Secretaries of Village Peace and Development Council (Village PDC) and from the Township Peace and Development Council (Township PDC). These are local levels of SPDC administration. A “village tract” includes all the villages in sub-area of the township. While the Township PDC consists of SPDC officials under direct military control, the Village PDC members are appointed, often against their will, by the local military. They are responsible for providing forced labors, money, materials, intelligence, etc. as demanded by the military and the Township PDC, and they are the first to be arrested and tortured if they fail to do so. These orders show the systematic, widespread, and consistent nature of SLORC abuse throughout all rural areas of the country. Most of these orders were typed, copied and sent to villages throughout the township. Where necessary for safety, details have been blanked out with ‘xxx’ or ‘yyy’.

Order (1)

Stamp:

Democratic Buddhist Karen Army

Come together with the former porters by the name of xxxxx, xxxxx, xxxxx, xxxxx, xxxxx and xxxxx, as soon as you receive this letter without fail.

Action will be taken against you if you fail to comply with this order. That is all. Bring one saw mill owner as well.

[sd.]

Saw Thaung Ngwe

Deputy Battalion Commander

No. 999 Brigade

Division 4, DKBA

Order (2)

Stamp
LIB. 230
Military Command Department
Date: May 2, 1998

To
Chairman
Xxxxx village

Move out your village within next two days. If you fail, we will assumed any village left as an insurgent and shoot any time. We will also burn the whole village.

[sd.]
Intelligence officer
LIB. 230

Order (3)

Township Peace and Development Council
Pa-an town
Letter No. 5/3-5/Oo 6
Date: May 7, 1998

To
Chairman
Ward/village PDC
_____ ward/village
Pa-an township

Subject: Registration of your cultivated land
Ref: District PDC's letter No. 5/3-21/Oo 5 dated April 10, 1998

According to the above-mentioned letter, we have been ordered to clarify the registration of your cultivated land in the ward and village respectively. The order assigned the clerks, managers of the agricultural department, and chairmen of the ward/village PDC to check the registration of the people.

You are therefore assigned to prepare the registration of the cultivated land in your ward/village in order to facilitate the checks by the district PDC members.

(for) Chairman
Kyaw Moe
Secretary

Copies:

Chairman, State PDC

Chairman, district PDC

Manager, Township Agricultural Department, Pa-an town

Director-general, Township Land Survey Department, Pa-an town

Office copy

Order (4)

stamp:

Peace and Development Council

xxxx village

Date: June 1, 1998

To

Villager headman

Xxxxxx village

Subject: To provide bullock-cart

According to the above reference, in order to implement the order by the Township PDC and the military column (12), provide one bullock-cart from your village at 4 p.m. without failure. Bring your own food and supplies.

Not: This is an important and urgent message to comply with.

Do not fail to come at 4 p.m. on Monday (June 1, 1998). We will not take any responsibility if you fail and punishment is then taken by the military. Every village has to provide one bullock-cart each.

Chairman

PDC

xxxxx, Kawkareik township

Order (5)

Township Peace and Development Council

Pa-an town

Letter No. 5/3-5/ Oo 6/6

Date: June 11, 1998

To

Chairman

_____ village

Subject: Duty assignment for the rainy season paddy cultivation

1. Regarding the above-mentioned matter, Pa-an township has been assigned by the authorities to cultivate 97,945 acres of paddy during the 1998-1999 rainy season. In addition to reaching the assigned quota, it needs to work to exploit virgin land and to increase the production of paddy per acre.

2. Every ward and village is obliged to cultivate the quota rate of production per acre as given below:

	Acres	rate of production	baskets
Total of rainy season paddy	1,738	41.80	72,662
(1) 100 baskets rate	-	-	-
(2) 75 baskets rate	140	75.00	10,500
(3) 50 baskets rate	331	50.00	16,550
(4) 36 baskets rate	1,267	36.00	45,612

3. You are required to report the situation of cultivated land in your ward/village track to the concerned officials from Agricultural Department and Land Survey Department every 15 days.

[sd.]

Chairman

Copies:

- (1) State PDC, Karen State, Pa-an town
- (2) District PDC, Pa-an district, Pa-an town
- (3) Township Manager, Myanma Agricultural Department, Pa-an town
- (4) Township Manager, Land Survey Department, Pa-an town
- (5) Office copy

Order (6)

Township Peace and Development Council

Pa-an town

Letter No. 5/3-5/ Oo 6/—

Date: June 15, 1998

To

Chairman

Village PDC

(xxxxxxx, xxxxxxx, xxxxxxx, xxxxxxx, xxxxxxx) village track

Pa-an township

Subject: The meeting

Regarding the above-mentioned matter, the Township PDC chairman and team want to meet with you on June 19, 1998 in order to discuss a matter relating to the sufficient production of paddy in the region. You must be ready for the meeting at the xxxxxxx primary school at 08:30 a.m. on that date, under the arrangements concerning the village PDC.

Note: All village PDC members are required to attend the meeting. At least 100 farmers are also required to attend.

[sd.]
for
Chairman
Kyaw Moe
Secretary

Copies:
Chairman, State PDC, Karen State, Pa-an town
Chairman, District PDC, Pa-an town
Office copy

Ko Kyaw/ 15.6.98

Order (7)

Stamp:
Myanma Police Force
Pa-an district, Thaya Gone Police check-point

To

_____ Village Chairman

Subject: Invitation to meeting

Regarding the above-mentioned matter, the Chairman and Secretary must come without fail to attend the meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the Thaya Gone Police check-point on June 16, 1998. This meeting is in preparation for the meeting with the State PDC chairman and his team at Thaya Gone primary school on June 19, 1998.

[sd.]
Ngwe Htun
Sub-inspector of police
In-charge of check-point
Pa-an township, Thaya Gone police check-point
Date. June 6, 1998

Order (8)

Township Peace and Development Council

Pa-an town

Letter No. 5/3-11/ Oo 6

Date: June 24, 1998

To

Chairman

Village PDC

(xxxxxxx, xxxxxxx, xxxxxxx) village

Pa-an township

Subject: To have the village PDC members on stand-by

The township PDC chairman and his team will come and visit Kan Kaye village on June 25, 1998 to discuss matters relating to the rainy season paddy cultivation and building the Kan Kaye dam. This is to inform you to have all village PDC members ready and on stand-by at the Kan Kaye village PDC office at noon on that date.

[sd.]

(for) Chairman

Kaung Myat

Assitant township officer

Copy:

Office

Order (9)

Stamp:

Democratic Karen Buddhist Army

Date: June 17, 1998

To

Chairman

xxxxxx village track

Request for assistance

Regarding for above-mentioned matter, we require your village track to provide ——— lengths of bamboo for building a fence at our DKBA Brigade (999), Division (4) and for the use of our family members.

Note:

- (1) Your village has 350 households.
- (2) Each household is required to provide 25 bamboo lengths 2.5 yards long.
- (3) This is for building a fence.
- (4) For an other purpose, each household is required to provide another 25 bamboo lengths 2.5 yards long and one long bamboo.
- (5) The bamboo must be sent by July 20, 1998 to the battalion at Naung Lon.

[Sd.]

Saw Ohn Mya
Adjutant
Battalion 4
DKBA

Order (10)

Stamp:

LIB 284

Column 2, Headquarters

Date. July 19, 1998

To

Chairman

xxxxxx village

All fishermen fishing in the Win Yaw River must come and see me at 1:00 p.m. on July 2 with list of other fishermen at Column Headquarters.

[sd.]

Column Commander

No.2 Column

LIB 284

Order (11)

Stamp: DKBA

Date: 29.8.98

To

Elder xxxxxx

This is to inform you to immediately collect 17,500 *kyat* from U xxxxxxxx and 10,000 *kyat* from U xxxxxx in your village and bring the money to the camp. This is ordered by the commander, and must be complied with without fail.

Do without fail.

[sd.]

Captain

Htun Aung

29.8.98

———— Mobile column

Order (12)

Stamp:

LIB. 106

Battalion Office

LIB.106

xxxxx village

Letter 106/52/ Ye 2

Date: September 8, 1998

To

Chairman

Xxxxxx village PDC

Subject: To provide fish and meat for the family members of battalion

Ref: Order 2000/4/ Ye 2 dated August 31, 1998 by Southeast Military Command

Regional Military Command has ordered our battalion to provide free fish and meat to the family members of battalion twice a month, according to the above reference letter.

Our battalion is having a difficulty to provide free fish and meat twice a month, as ordered by the command. We want you to provide one time of fish and meat for our family members.

We will not accept cash but you have to provide 15 viss of pork in every month. Give it on September 15, 1998 and you are required to provide every three month the same amount of meat on every 15th day of month.

[sd]

(for) Battalion Command

LIB. 106

Order (13)

Stamp: DKBA

September 10, 1998

To
Chairman
Xxxxxx village

Ref: Meeting to discuss matters concerning paddy purchasing

In order to discuss the matter of paddy purchasing, you are required to attend a meeting at 12:00 noon in xxxxxxxx village on September 11 (tomorrow) without fail.

Note:

Matters relating to xxxxxxxx 's daughter will be also discussed

Bring the headmen from

(1) xxxxxxxx village

(2) xxxxxxxx village

(3) xxxxxxxx village

(4) xxxxxxxx village

[sd.]

Captain

Htun Aung

September 10, 1998

Battalion (4), Division (3)

999 Brigade

Order (14)

Stamp:

Frontline IB. 206

Column 2

To
Chairman
xxxxxxx village

Date: September 23, 1998

Bring all the propaganda documents and tapes of the KNU today yourselves without fail to xxxxxxxxxx.

You will be held responsible if you fail to do as ordered.

[sd.]

Commander of column

Front IB 206, Column 2

Order (15)

Stamp:

IB 231

Column #1

To:

Village Head

xxxx village

From your village, children, men and all the villagers are absolutely (absolutely) not allowed out of the village on September 27 / 28 / 29, Thadin Kyut Hla Zan [waxing] 7 / 8 / 9. Don't go at all for looking after your cattle, buffaloes, farm affairs or picking vegetables. Inform the village that they will be shot and arrested if the Columns find out [*that they are going out of the village*].

Place: Temporary - Mobile [camp]

Date: September 26, 1998

[Sd.]

Intelligence Officer

IB 231

[Thadin Kyut is a month in the Burmese lunar calendar, so Thadin Kyut waxing 7 / 8 / 9 is the Burmese date to correspond with September 27 / 28 / 29. This order was probably issued because of some military operation which was to happen around the village on those days.]

Order (16)

Stamp:

Myanma Police Force

Pa-an township, Thaya Gone Police check-point

Date: September 30, 1998

Chairman

xxxxxxx village track

Ref: Invitation to meeting

Your village tracks are ordered to form a Karen traditional "don" dance troupe and compete in the Karen State Day competition. In order to discuss matters related to that, please come and meet U xxxxxxx, secretary of township PDC, at the residence of xxxxxxx village chairman. The meeting is at 10:00 a.m. on the October 2, 1998.

[sd.]
Ngwe Htun
Sub-inspector of Police
In-charge of police check-point
Pa-an township, Thaya Gone police check-point

Order (17)

To
Chairman
xxxxxxx village
Date: October 2, 1998

Ref: Second warning for reporting

The above-mentioned chairman is ordered for the second time to come immediately and report as soon as he receives this letter. You will be entirely responsible for the consequences if you fail to report this time.

[sd.]
Battalion commander
No. 1 Division
IB 206

Order (18)

Stamp:
Karen State Police Force
Eindu Police check-point

Chairman
Village PDC
Date: October 8, 1998

Ref: Matter of purchasing paddy

In order to discuss the purchasing of paddy, come without fail to the Aindu police check-point at 10 a.m. on October 10, 1998.

[sd.]
In-charge of police check-point
Einda police check- point
Pa-an township Police Force

Order (19)

Stamp: LIB. 248
Intelligence Department

To
Chairman
Xxxxx village
Date: October 15, 1998

Subject: Provide horses and porters

Regarding the above subject, bring for horses and ten persons from your village at 7 p.m.

[sd.]
(for) Battalion commander
LIB.248

Order (20)

Stamp:
IB 231
Column 1

To:
Village headwoman
xxx [village]

Date. October 15, 1998

You are informed to send again 5 voluntary servants and 5 emergency servants from your village to xxx riverbank today.

[Sd.]
(for) Intelligence Officer
IB 231

[Emergency servants' are forced labourers for one-time 'ad hoc' work, usually as porters hauling shipments of Army rations or maintaining the Army camp. 'Voluntary labourers' are also forced labourers, but in this context he is probably referring to the regular rotations of forced labourers which the village is ordered to provide.]

Order (21)

Date: October 18, 1998

To
Chairman
—— village

Ref: Emergency summons to the chairman and secretary

Regarding this matter, come immediately and report as soon as you get this letter without fail to discuss a very important issue. Report us not later than 09:00 a.m. on October 19, 1998.

P.S. Prepare and bring a list of villagers, their occupations and the number of households in your village.

[sd.]
Division Commander
Division (1)
IB 206

Order (22)

Stamp:
Frontline IB 206
Column Headquarters

To
Chairman
XXXXXX village

Date: October 27, 1998

Collect three porters and take them yourselves to the column commander at Win Yaw Seik Kyi by 8:00 p.m. tonight.

[sd.]
Column Commander
Frontline IB 206

Order (23)

Stamp:
LIB 284

Column (1) Headquarters

Frontline IB 284

Xxxxxx village

Letter No. 284/7/Oo 1

Date: October 29, 1998

Ref: Discussion about porters

Regarding this matter, come and meet me at 12:00 noon on October 29 to discuss the question of portage.

[sd.]

(for) Battalion Commander

Frontline LIB 284

Order (24)

Date: November 5, 1998

To

Chairman

Xxxxxxx

Come with this messenger along with five laborers and two viss of meat to Win Sein village at 2:00 p.m.

Note. Make sure you do not fail to appear.

[sd.]

IB 110

Order (25)

Stamp:

Karen State Police Force

Ein Du Police check-point

To

Chairman

Xxxxxx village

Date: November 20, 1998

Ref: Calling for a meeting

In order to discuss matters relating to the purchase of your quota of paddy with the Township

Paddy Purchasing Team, bring all the paddy mill owners in your village as well as all village PDC members (without fail) to Ein Da village PDC's office at 12:00 noon on November 21, 1998.

[sd.]

Police check-point commander

Ein Du police check-point

Pa-an township Police Force

Order (26)

Stamp:

Village Peace & Development Council

Xxxx village

November 20, 1998

To: Xxxxx village head, you are informed to send without fail 500 wooden planks, length 10 *taun* [*cubits; 10 taun is about 5 meters / 15 feet*], which must arrive on 22-11-98 for A'Su Chaung bridge.

[Sd.]

Chairman

Village Peace & Development Council

xxxx village, Bilin township

Arrange *loh ah pay* workers on the day of construction.

['Loh ah pay' is the term for traditional voluntary merit-making labour, but is used by the SPDC to refer to forced labour. Note that they only have 2 days to cut and deliver all 500 planks. Not only are the villages being ordered to provide the planks for the bridge, but they also have to build it, and they were probably also ordered to pay for it.]

Order (27)

Stamp:

DKBA

Date: November 26, 1998

To

Chairman

Ward PDC

Xxxxxx village track

Assistance required

Regarding this matter, we request your village track to provide 800 thatch for the use of family members from Brigade (999), to be brought to the Naung Lon DKBA office on January 1, 1999.

[sd.]

Captain Saw Ohn Mya
Brigade (999) Division .4
D.K.B.A
Naung Lon

Order (28)

Stamp:
DKBA

Date: November 26, 1998

To
Chairman
Xxxxxx village track

Celebration of New Year

Regarding this matter, collect 20 *kyat* from each household in your village track to contribute to the celebration of New Year and bring the money to DKBA Naung Lon camp on December 12, 1998.

[sd.]

Captain Saw Ohn Mya
Supply Office
No.999, Division 4
DKBA

Order (29)

Stamp:
DKBA

Date: November 27, 1998

To
Chairman
Xxxxxx village track

Assistance for New Year celebrations

Regarding this matter, the DKBA will hold a special New Year celebration at Myaing Gyi Ngu. Collect 100 *kyat* from each household in your village track and bring the money to Naung Long DKBA camp on December 1, 1998.

Note: Comply with this order as it is written.

[sd.]

Captain Saw Ohm Mya
Supply Officer
No. 999 Brigade, Division 4
DKBA

Order (30)

Stamp:

LIB 284

Column (1) Headquarters

Date: December 2, 1998

Chairman

xxxxxxxx

This is to inform you to come and report to our column at Xxxxxx village at 10:00 a.m. on December 13, 1998 (tomorrow) along with two porters from your village.

Comply without fail.

[sd.]

Captin Myat Thu Aung
Kyee- 29083
Intelligence Officer
LIB 284

Order (31)

Stamp:

LIB 4356, Thingan Nyi Naung

To:

Village Head
Xxxxxx village

Subject: Calling for volunteer workers

U yyyy from xxxx village has returned without permission, so you yourself immediately send 1 5 viss [24 kg/ 52 lb] of pork. Come yourself today with one person to take his place as a volunteer worker. If you cannot get pork, [you] must pay fine money of the value of the pork.

You are informed that the village head and the village will be severely punished if they fail.

Place: xxxx village

Date: December 15, 1998

[Sd.]
(for) Battalion Commander
LIB 356

[This order was issued after a villager doing forced labour left to go home before getting permission from the military. Whenever this happens the village is punished and forced to send replacements.]

Order (32)

Stamp: IB 310

Intelligence

Date: December 20, 1998

Chairman

Xxxxxxx village

Ref: Changing porters for military operations

Bring one porter from your village with his own food for rotating use for frontline IB 310. You must bring him yourself.

[sd.]

Intelligence Officer

Order (33)

Stamp:

IB 36

#3 Company

To let the xxxx [village] chairperson, Daw xxxx, know. Tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock send 3 emergency servants from your village for repairing the camp.

Send [them] without fail to repair the camp. It will be two nights long, so they must bring

rations.

Without fail. If *[you]* fail it will be the responsibility of the Chairpersons.

Right on time on 8-1-99 to xxxx camp.

[To..] xxxx [village].

Date: January 7, 1999

Place: xxxx camp

[Sd.]

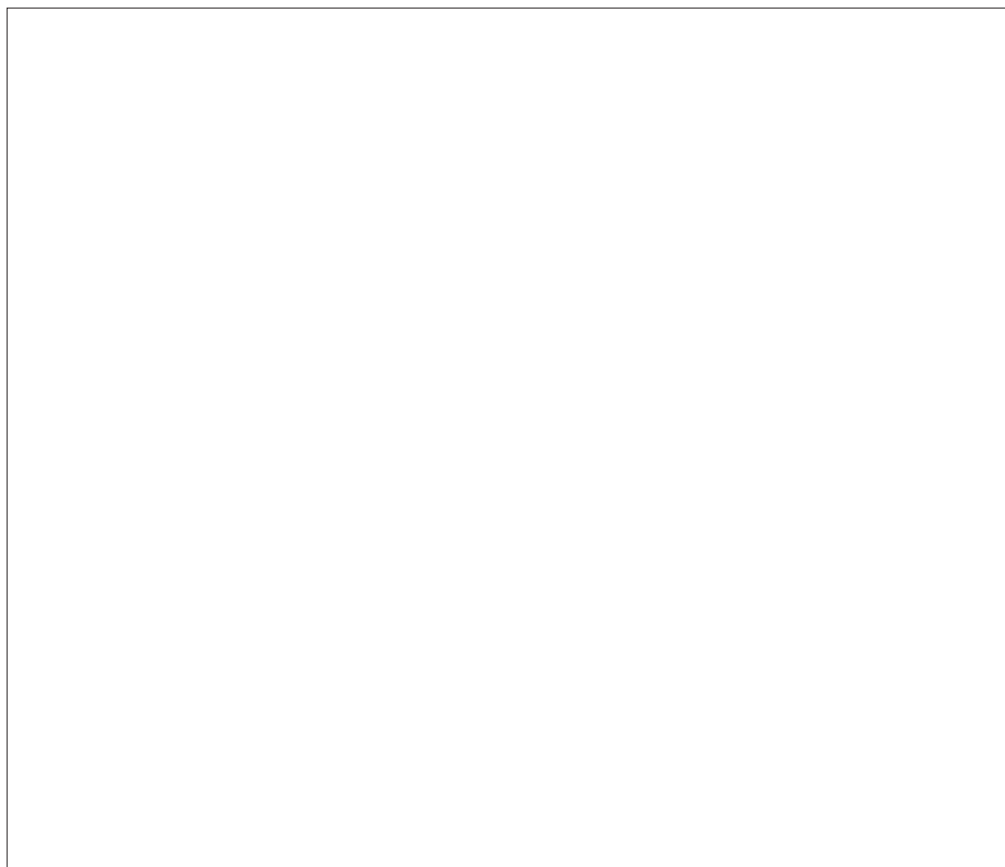
(for) Company Commander

IB 36

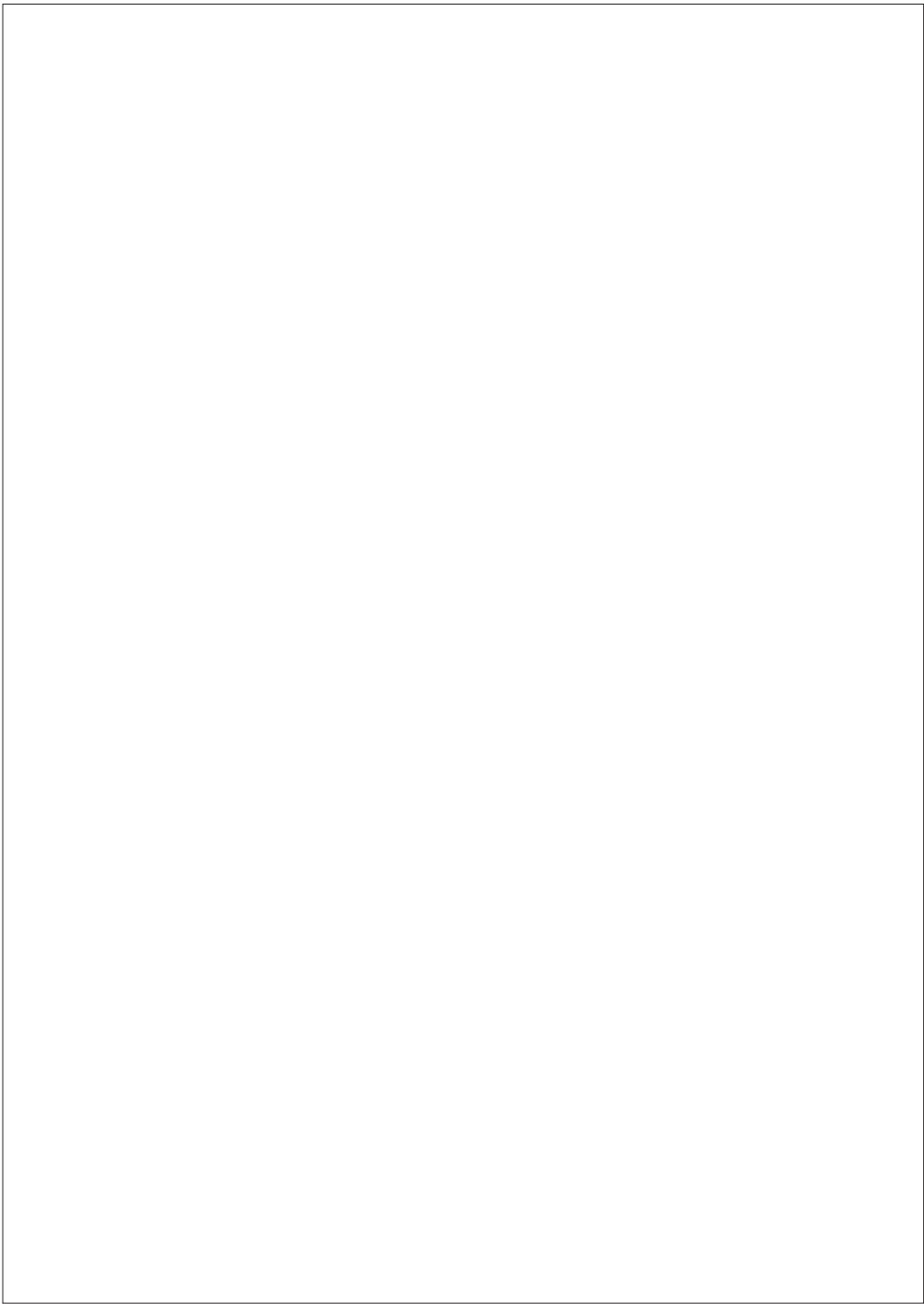
#3 Company

[‘Emergency servants’ are villagers to do a one-time shift of forced labour,]

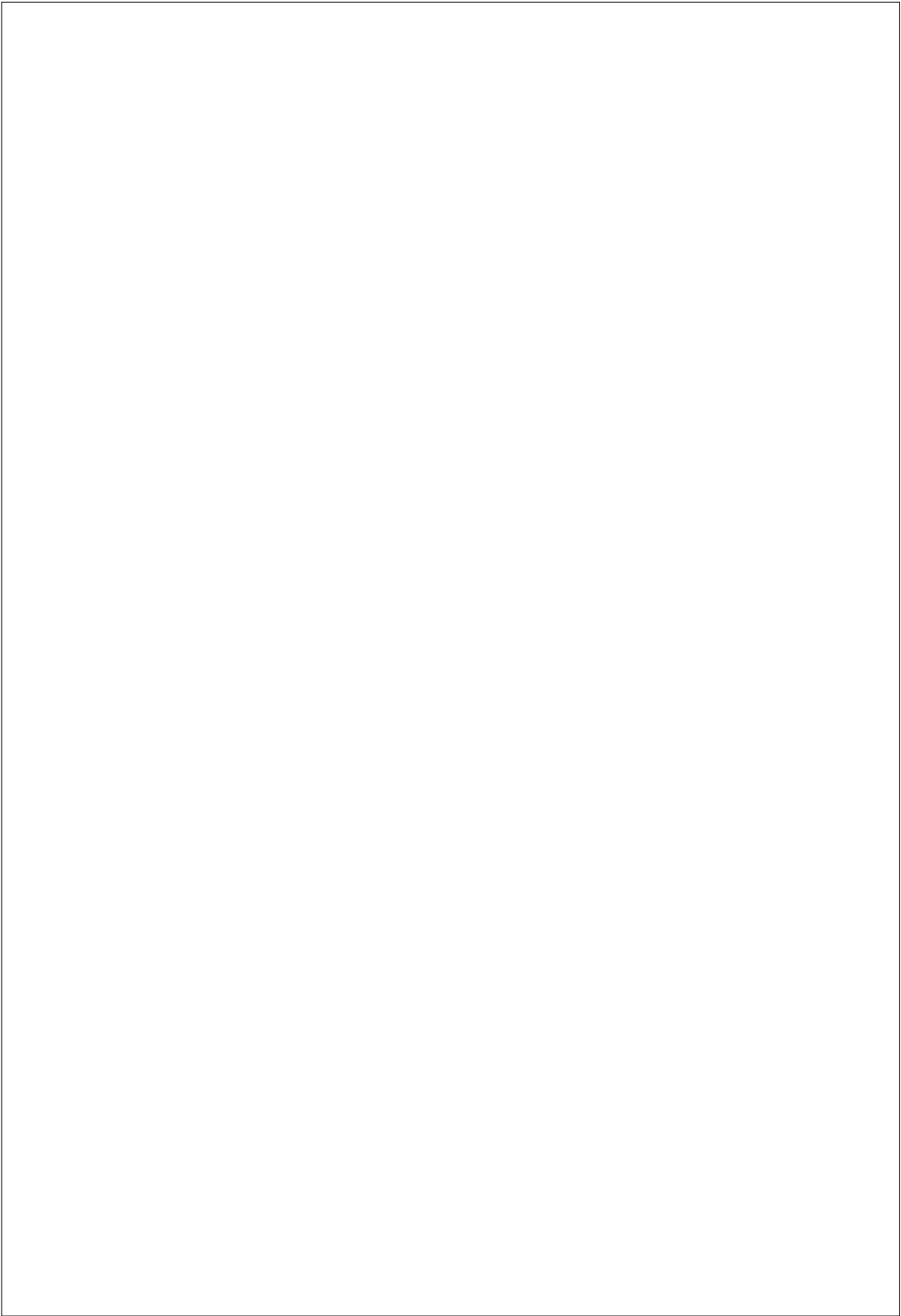
Order (2)



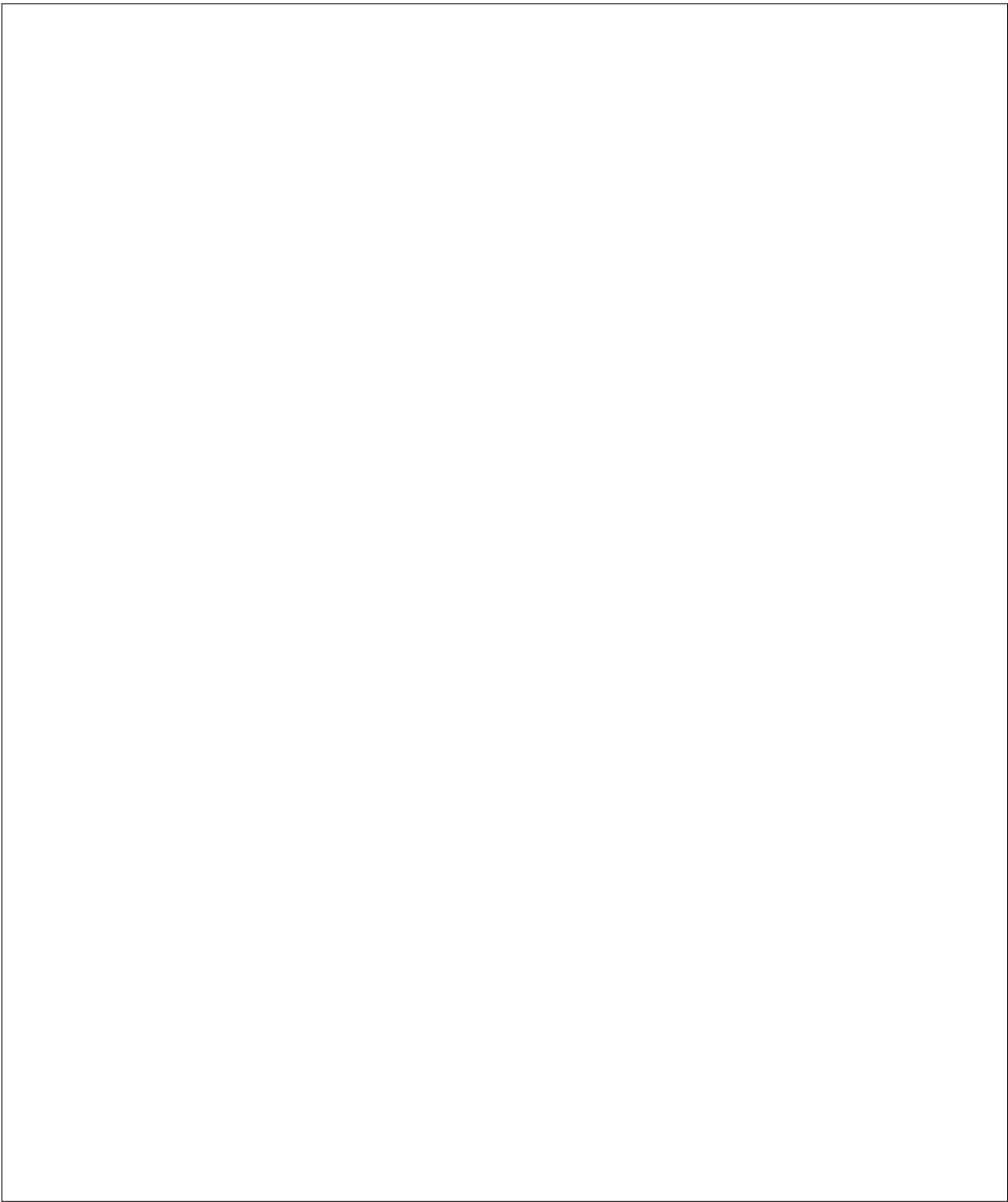
Order (1)



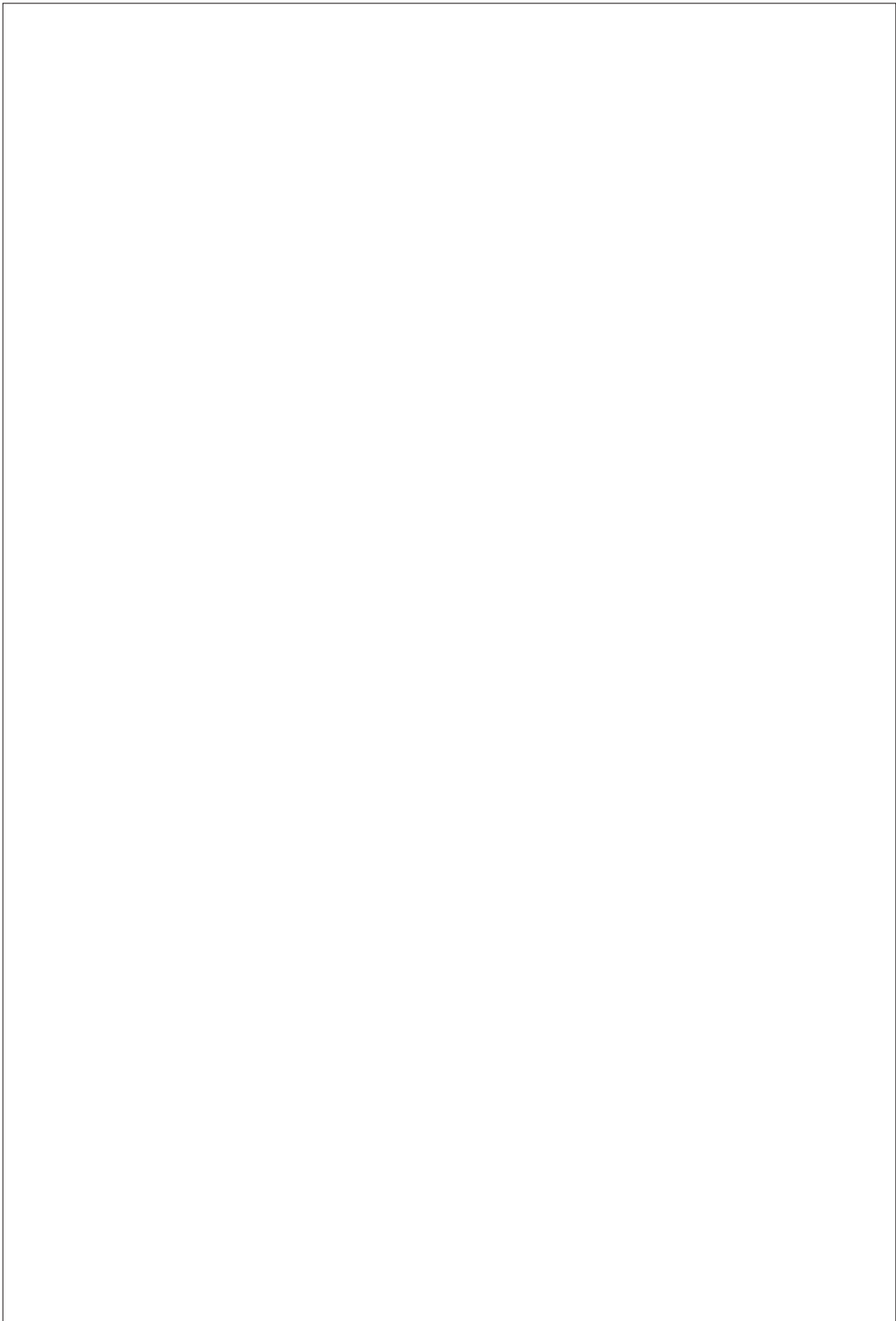
Order (3)



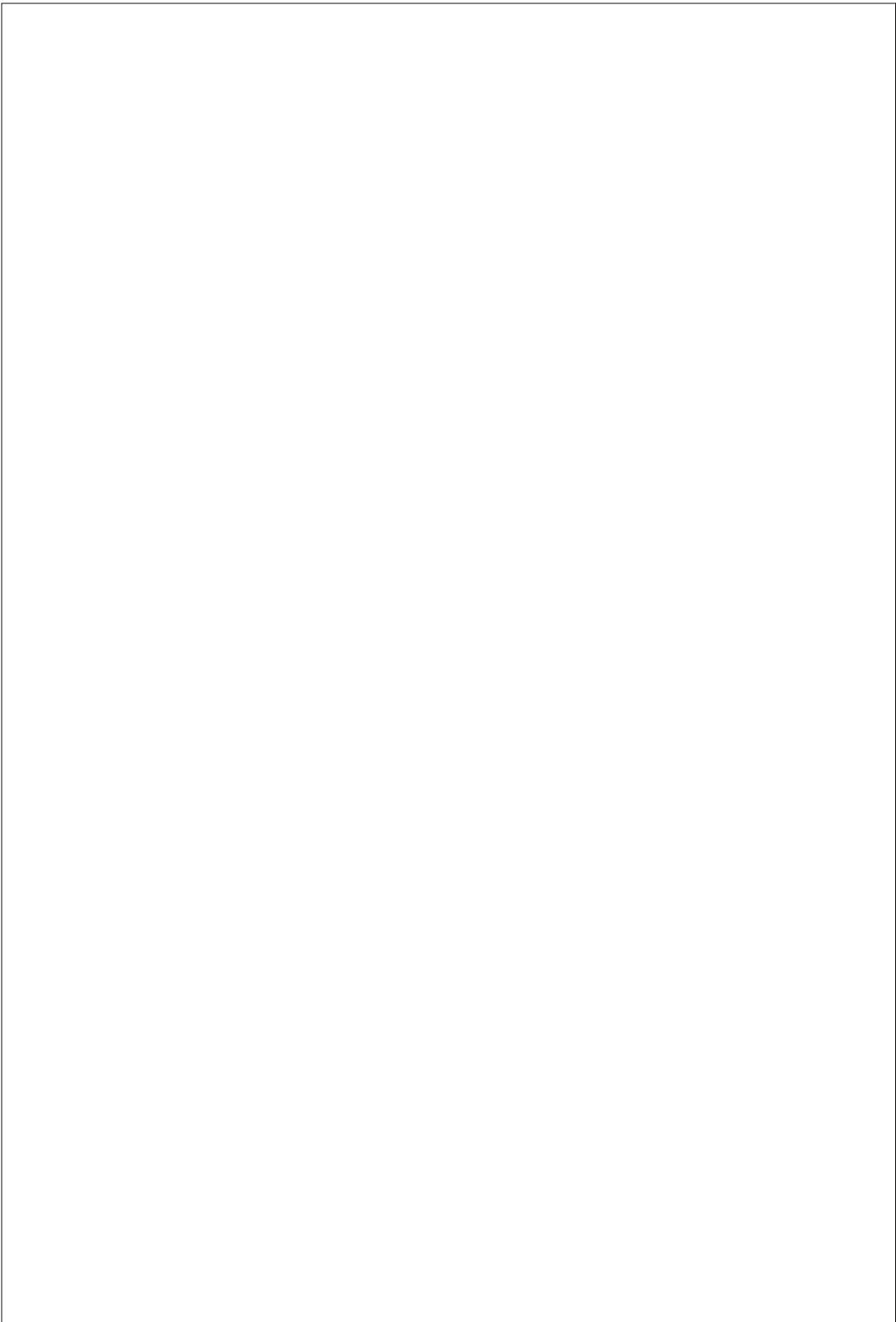
Order (4)



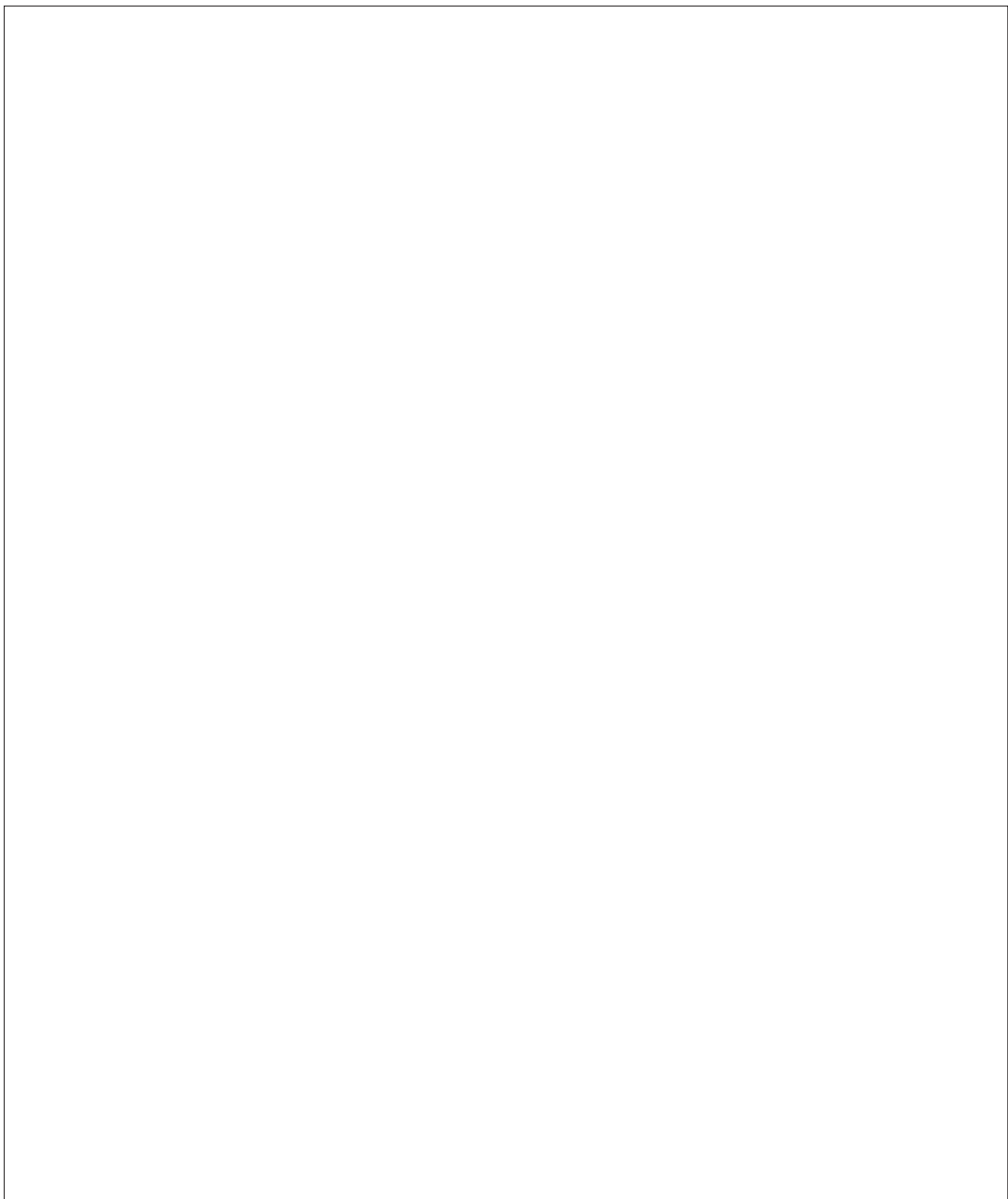
Order (5)



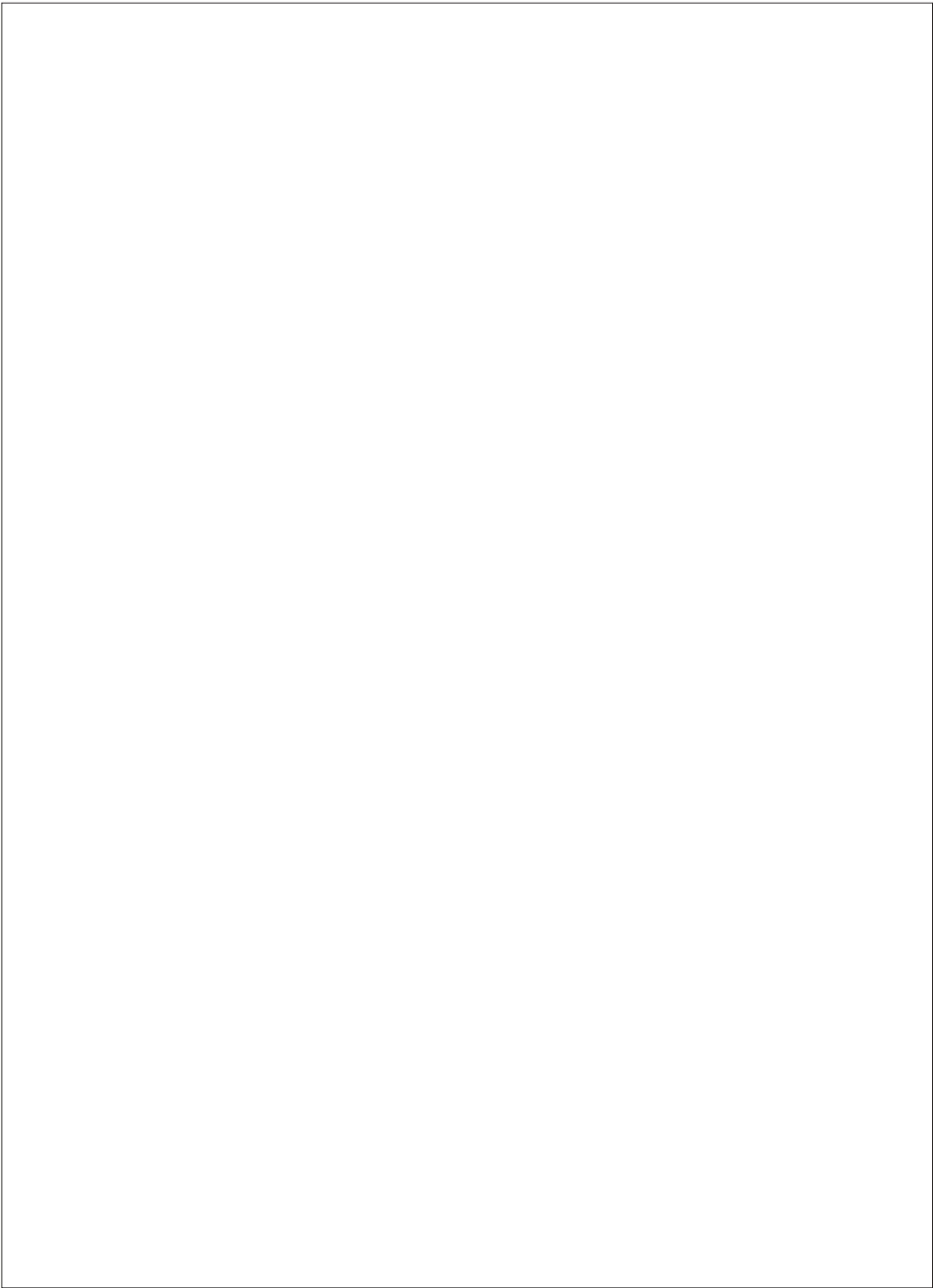
Order (6)



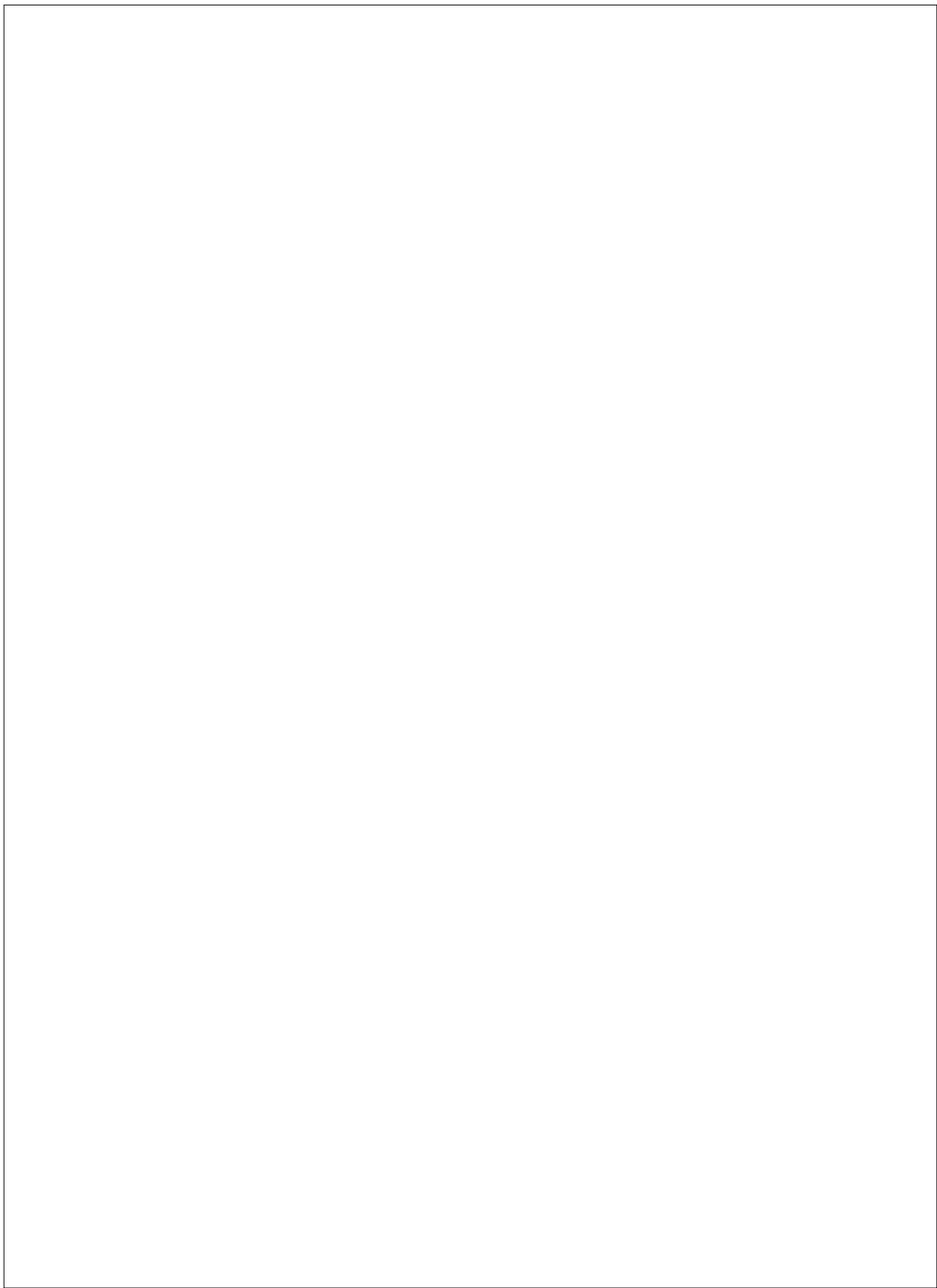
Order (7)

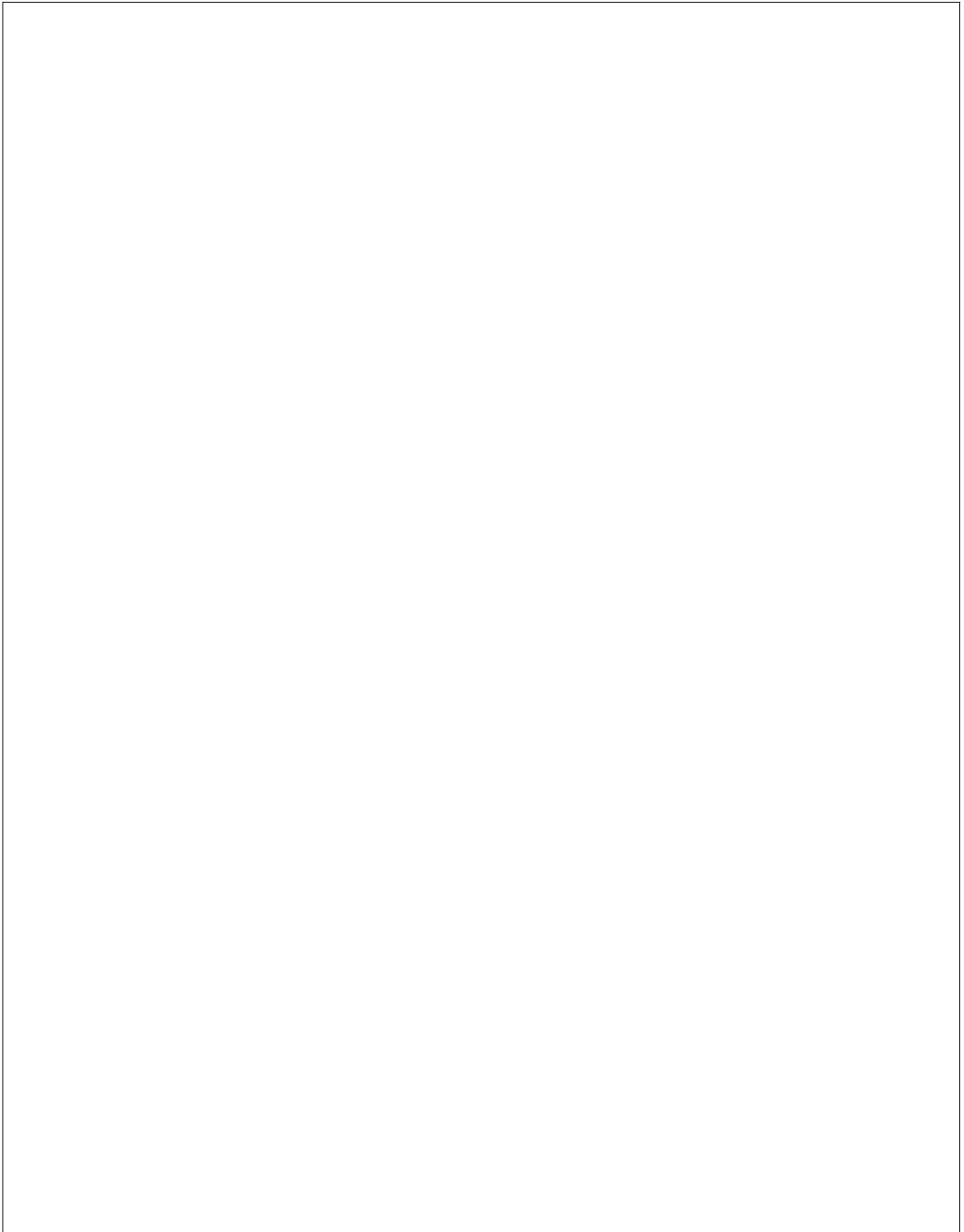


Order (8)

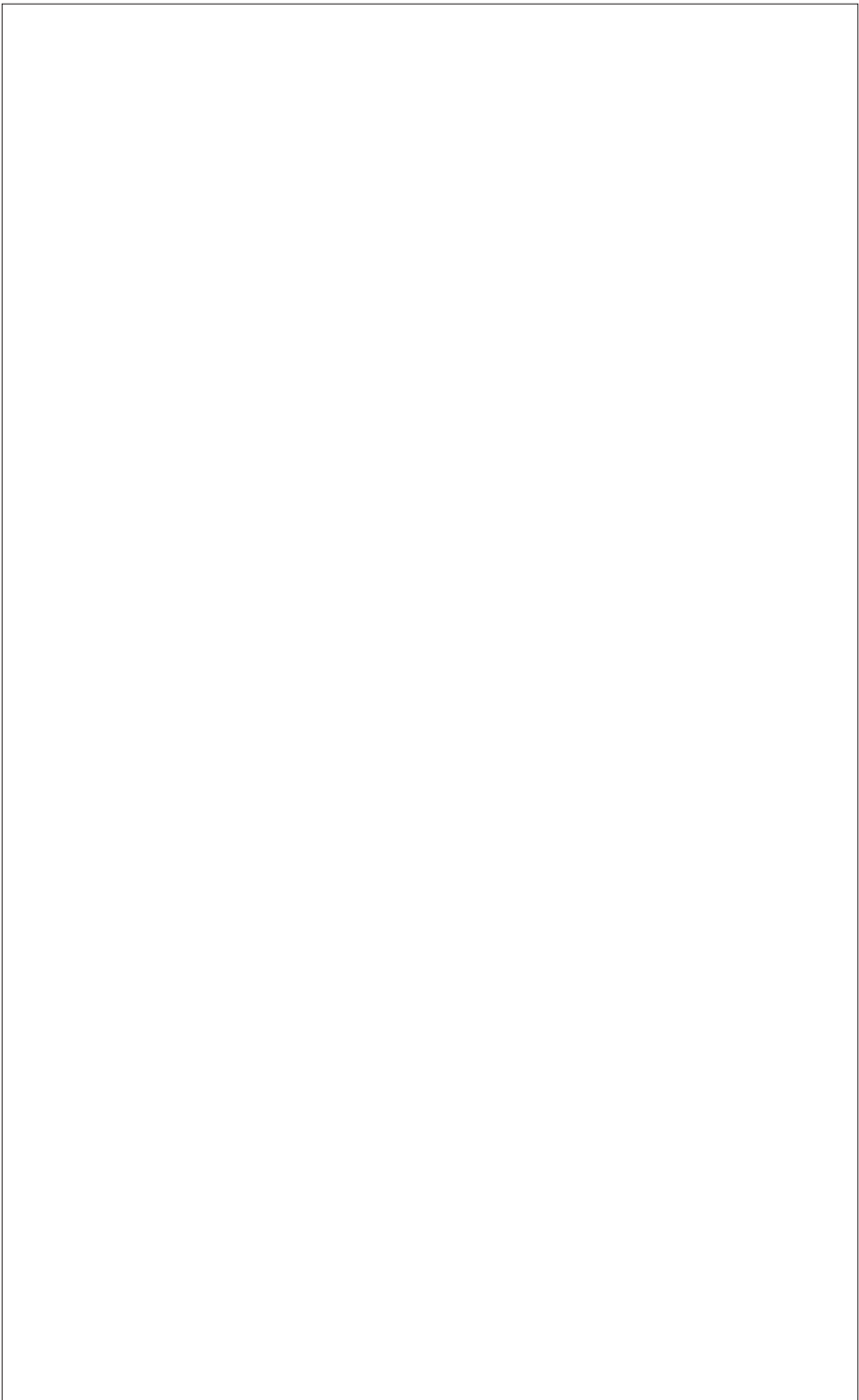


Order (9)



Order (10)

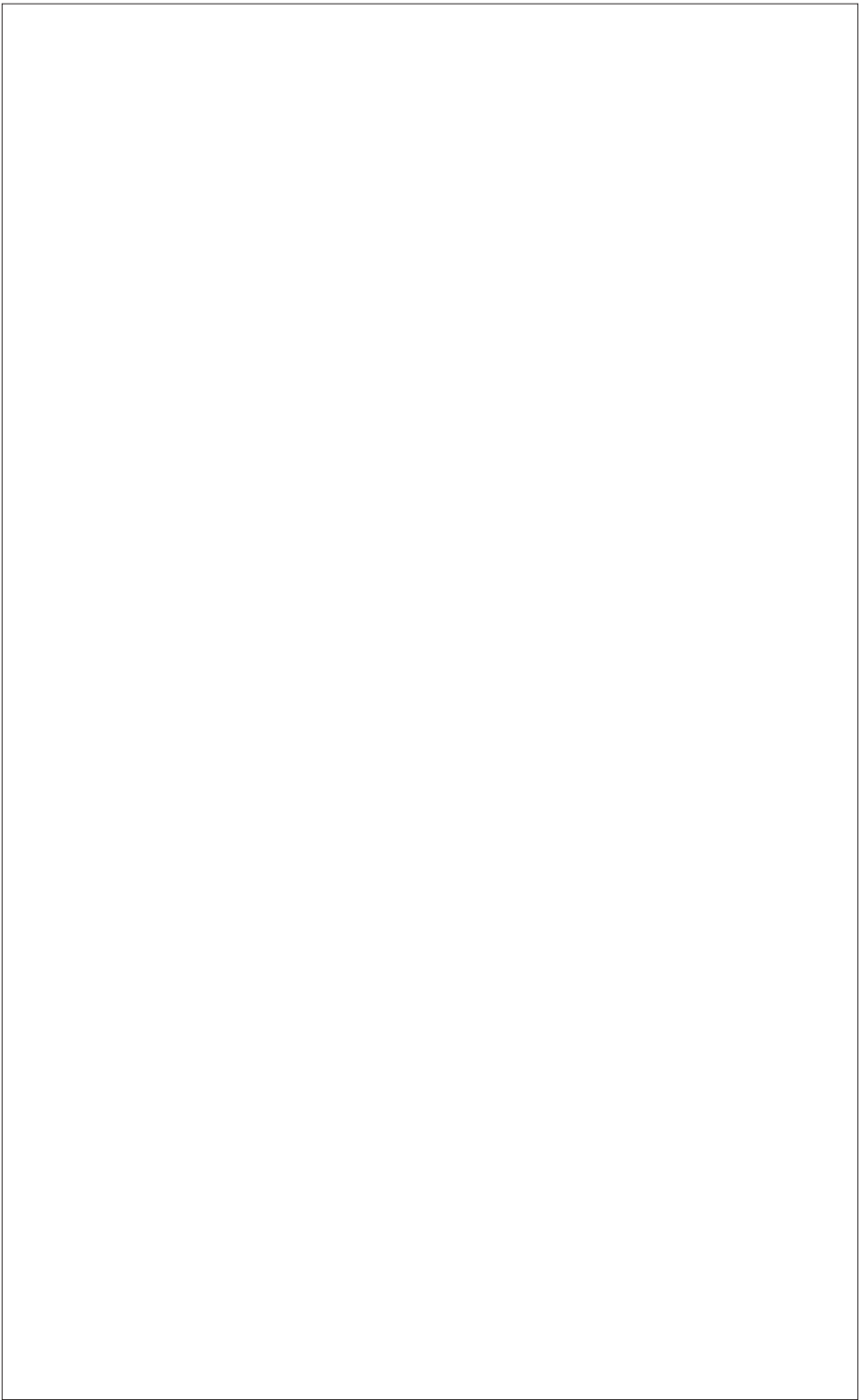
Order (11)



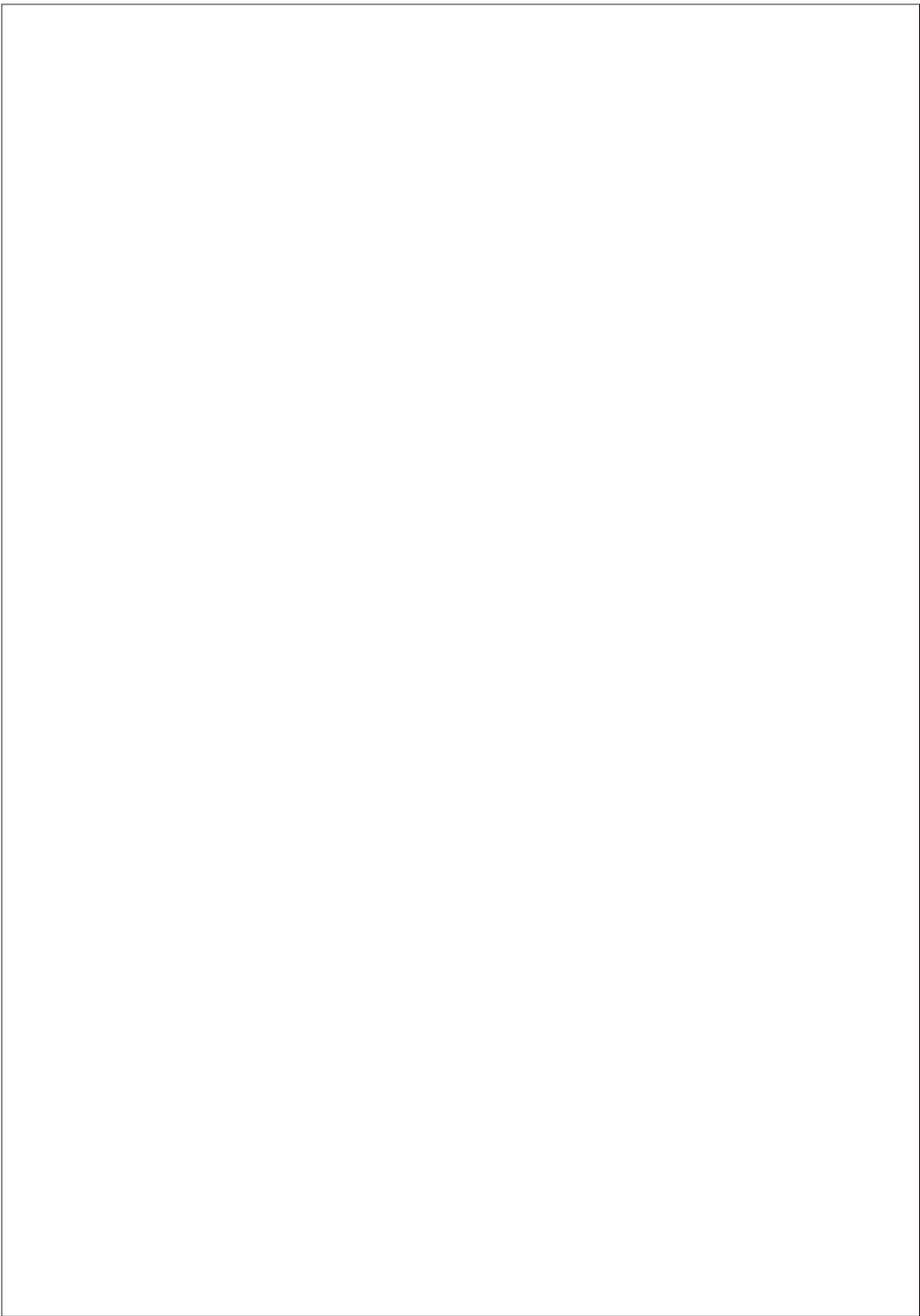
Order (12)



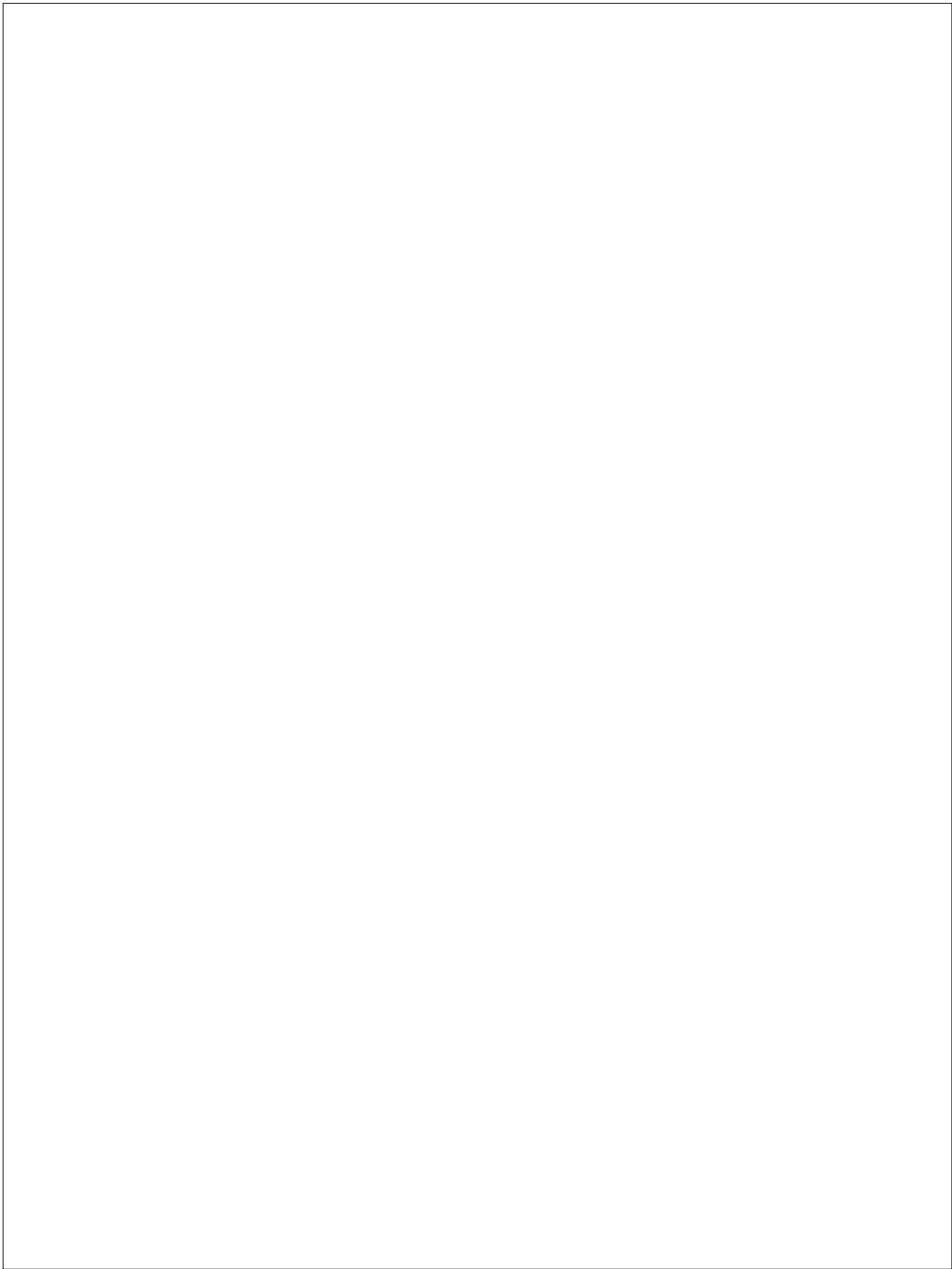
Order (13)



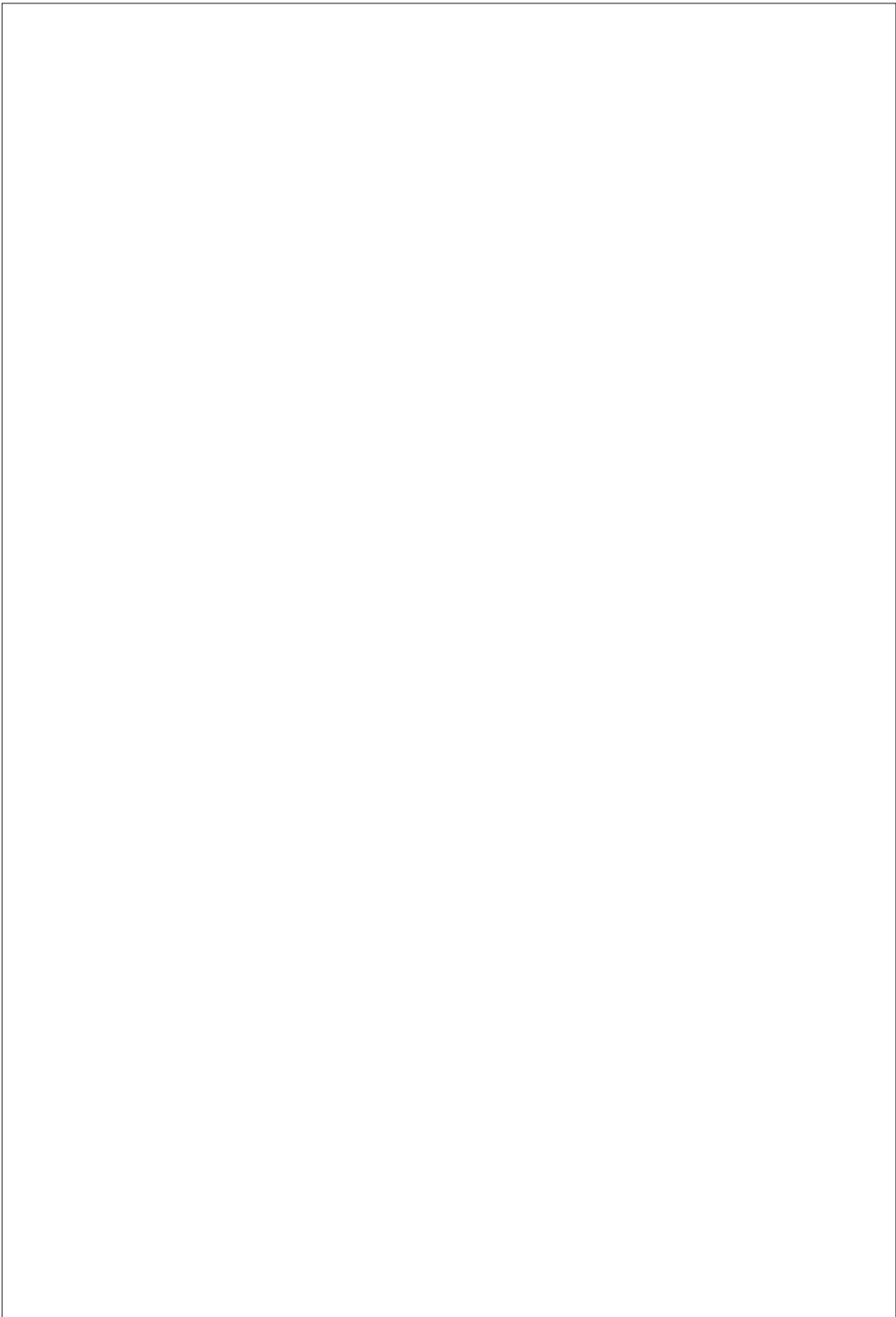
Order (14)



Order (15)

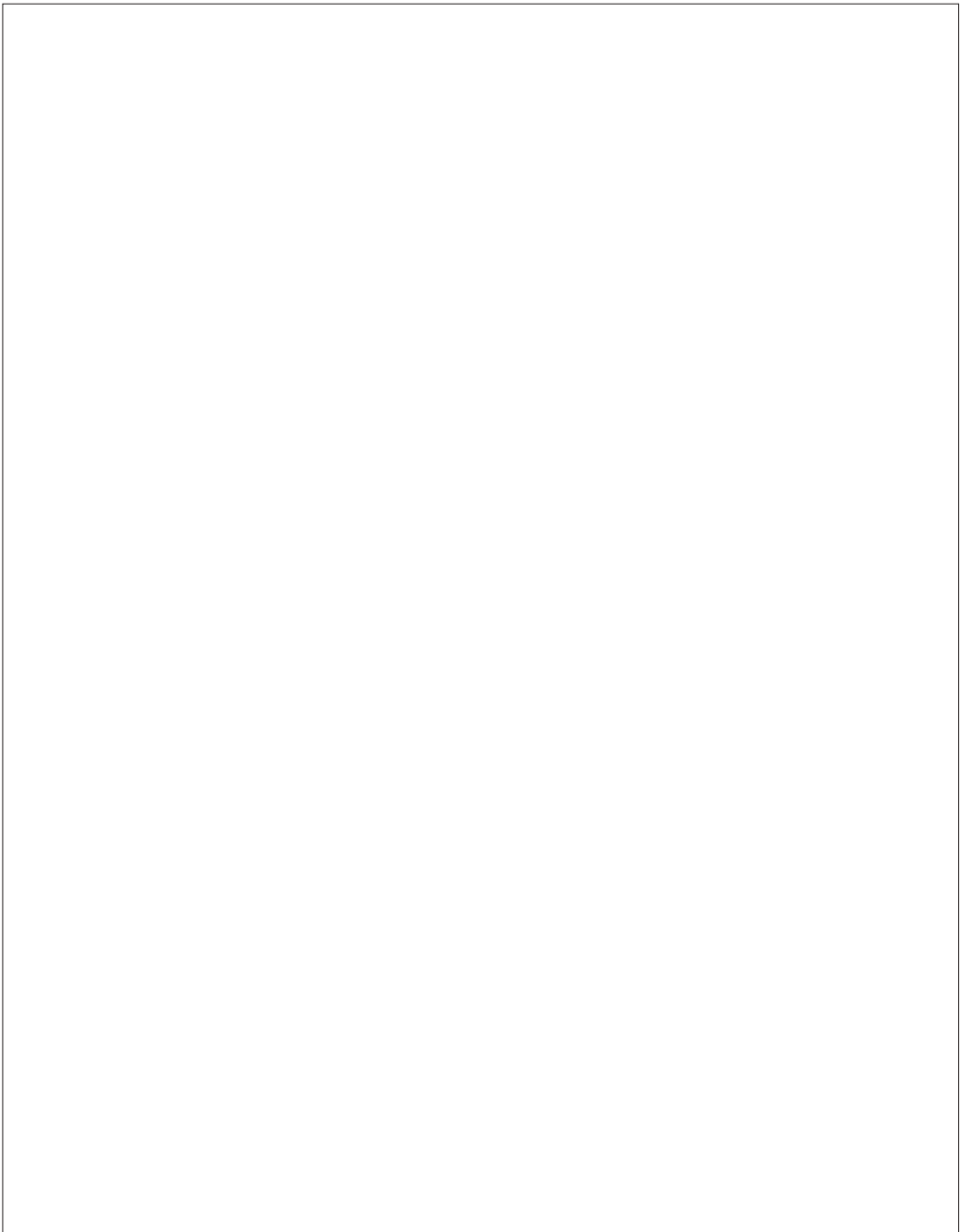


Order (16)

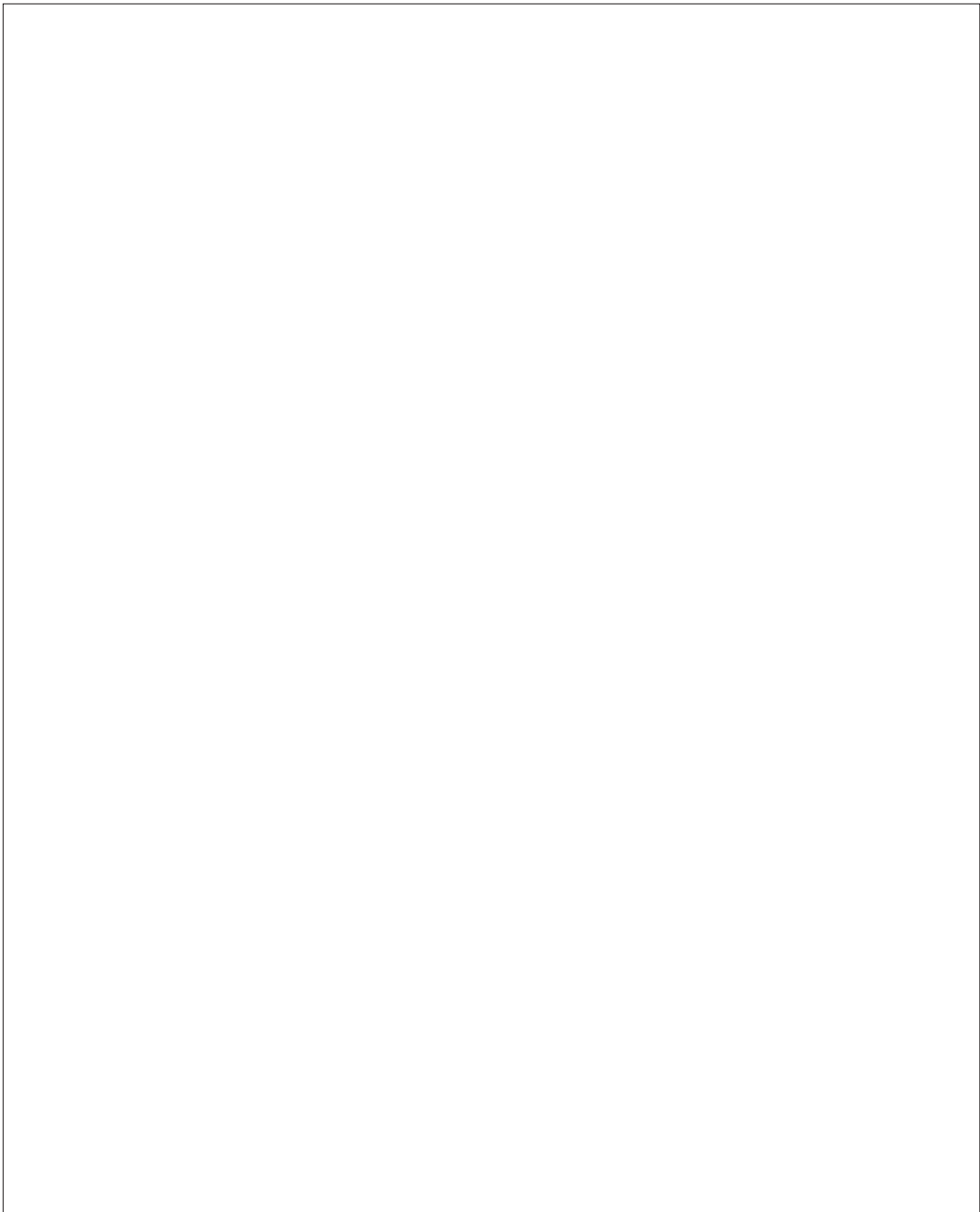


Order (17)

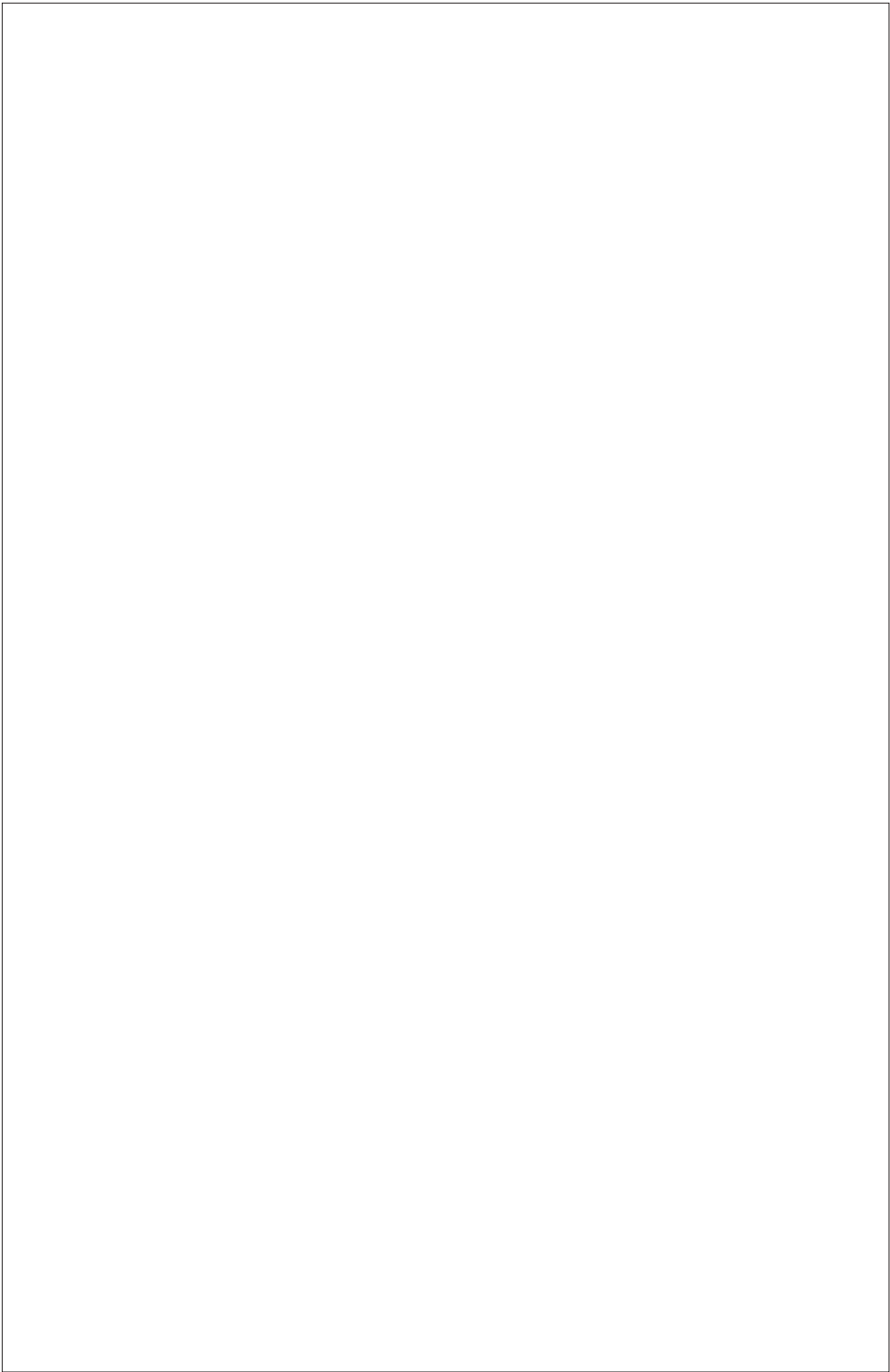


Order (18)

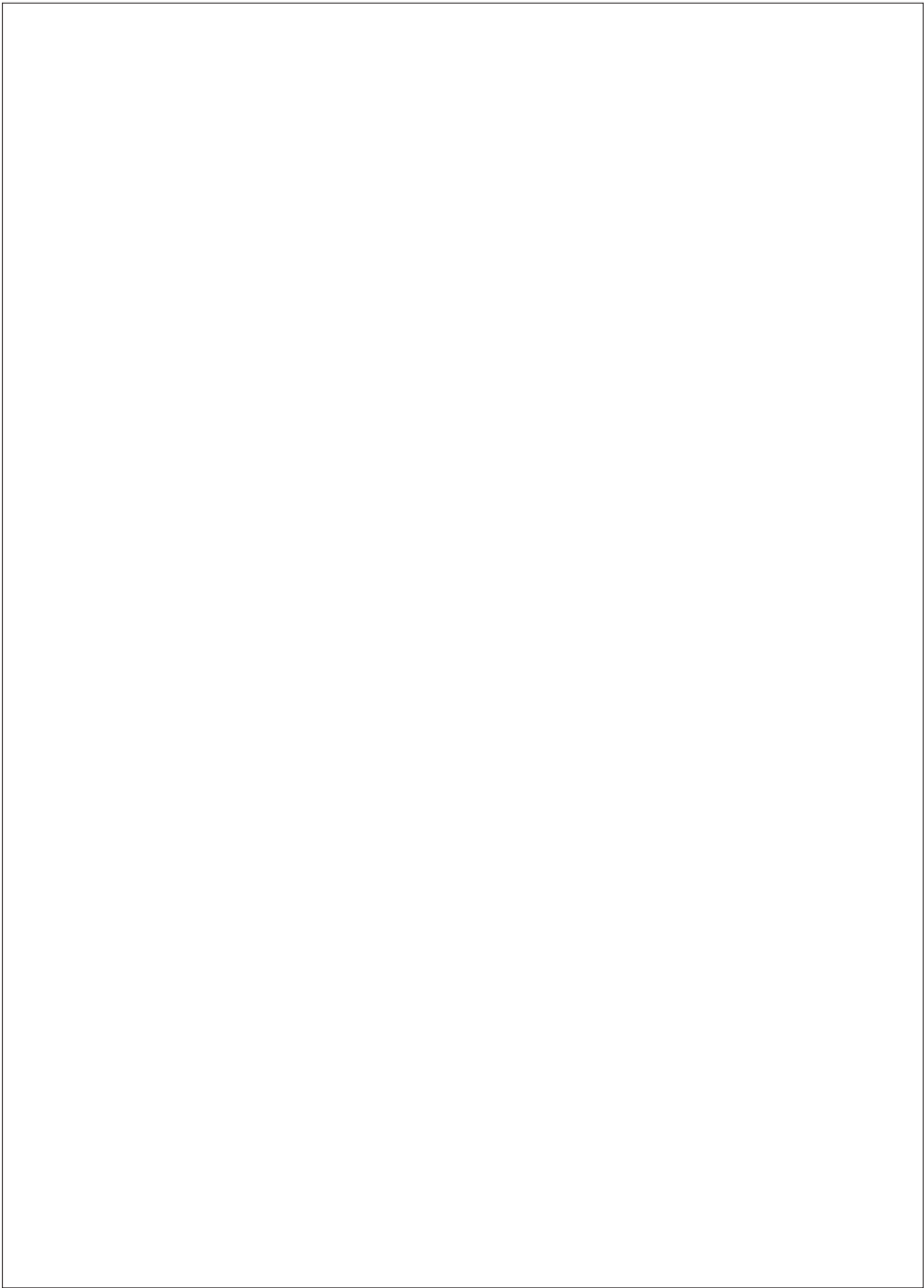
Order (19)



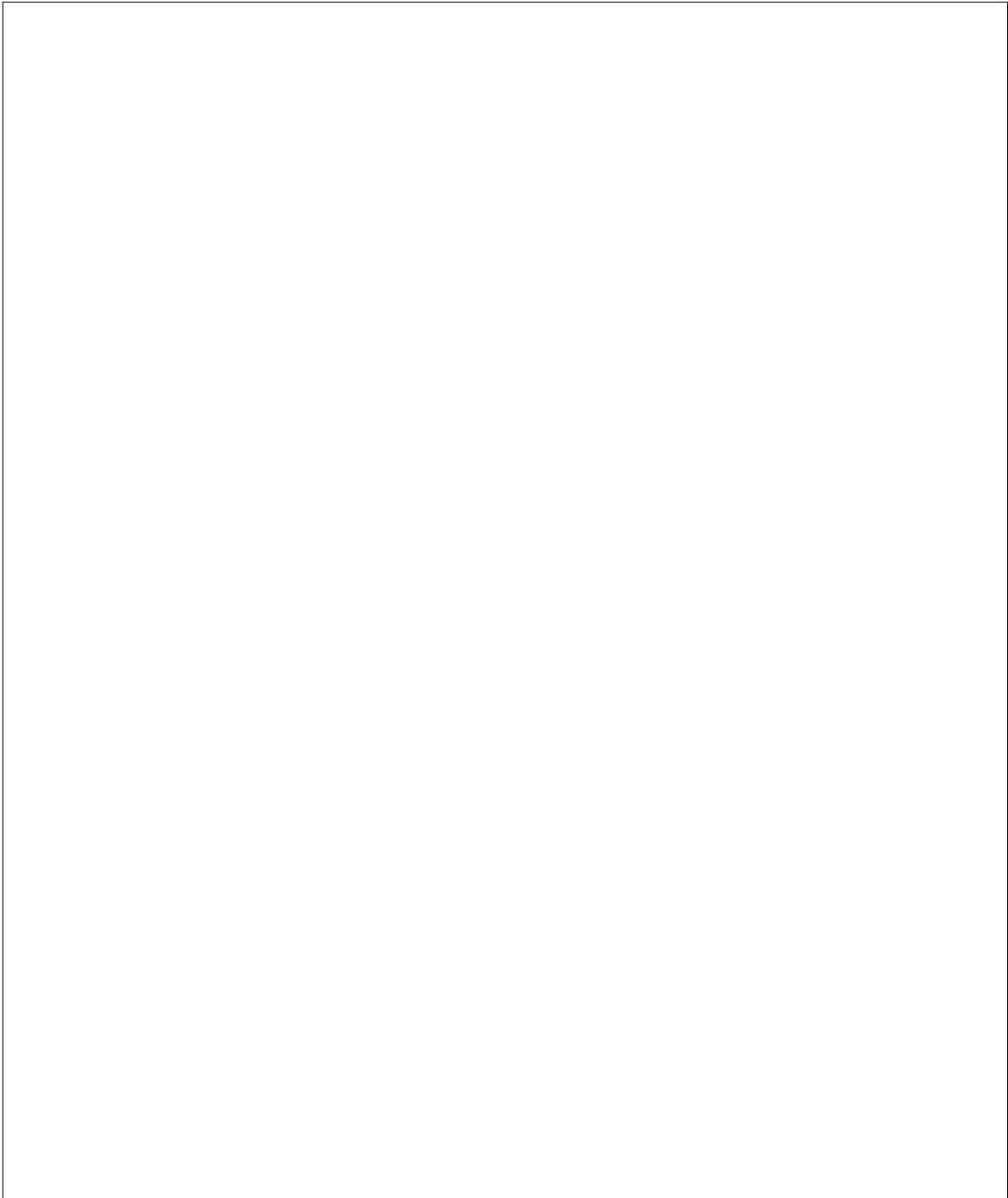
Order (20)



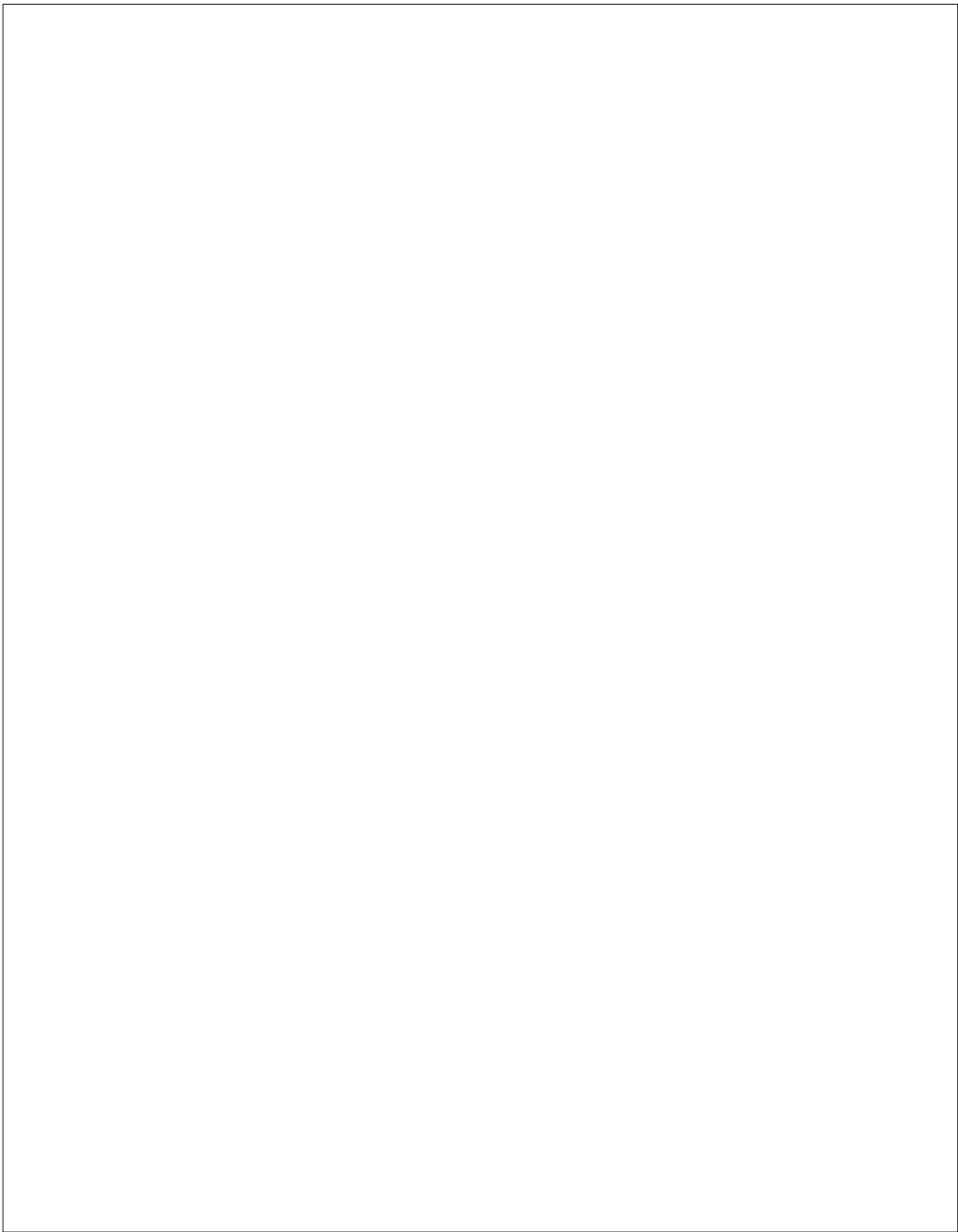
Order (21)

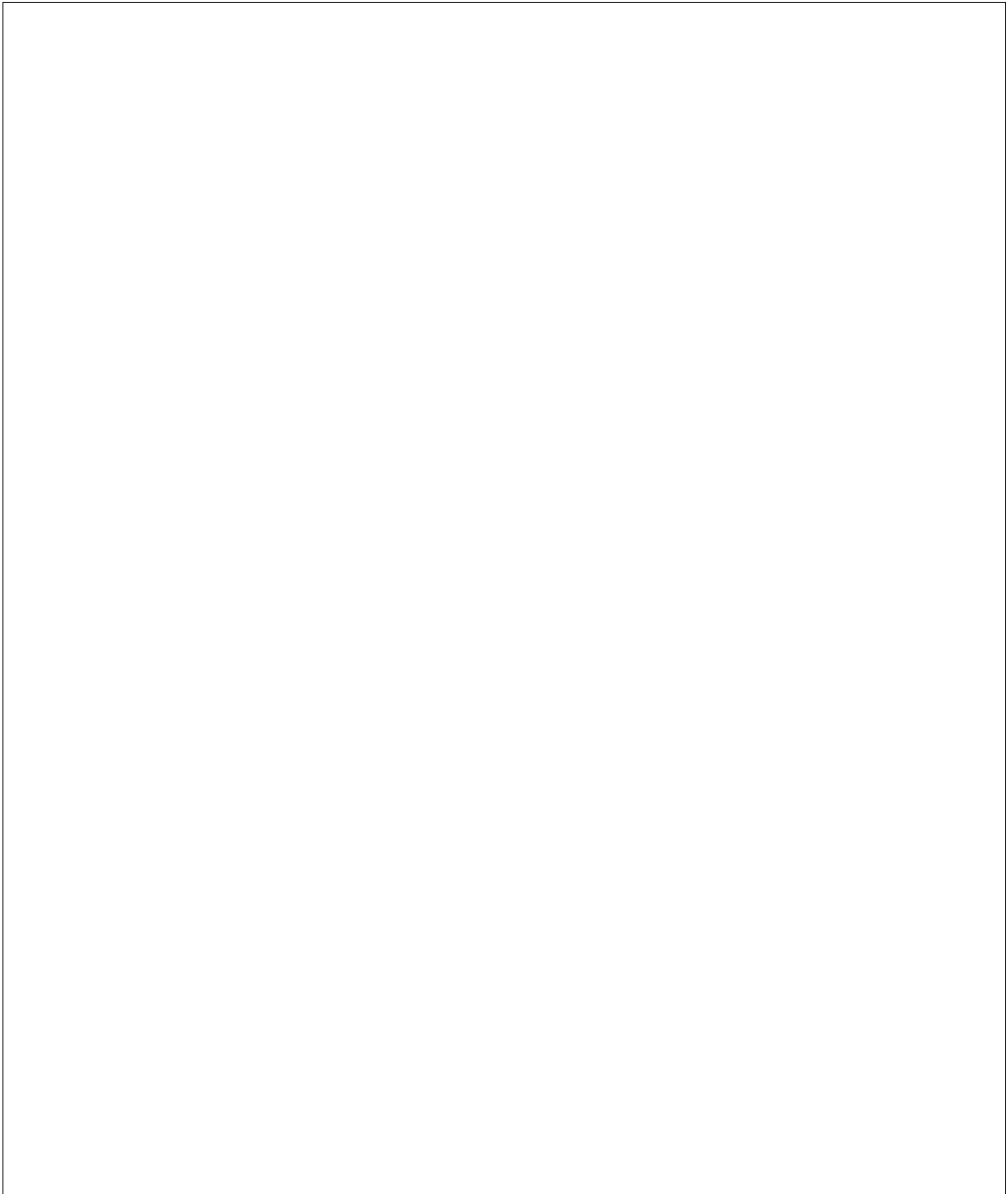


Order (22)



Order (23)

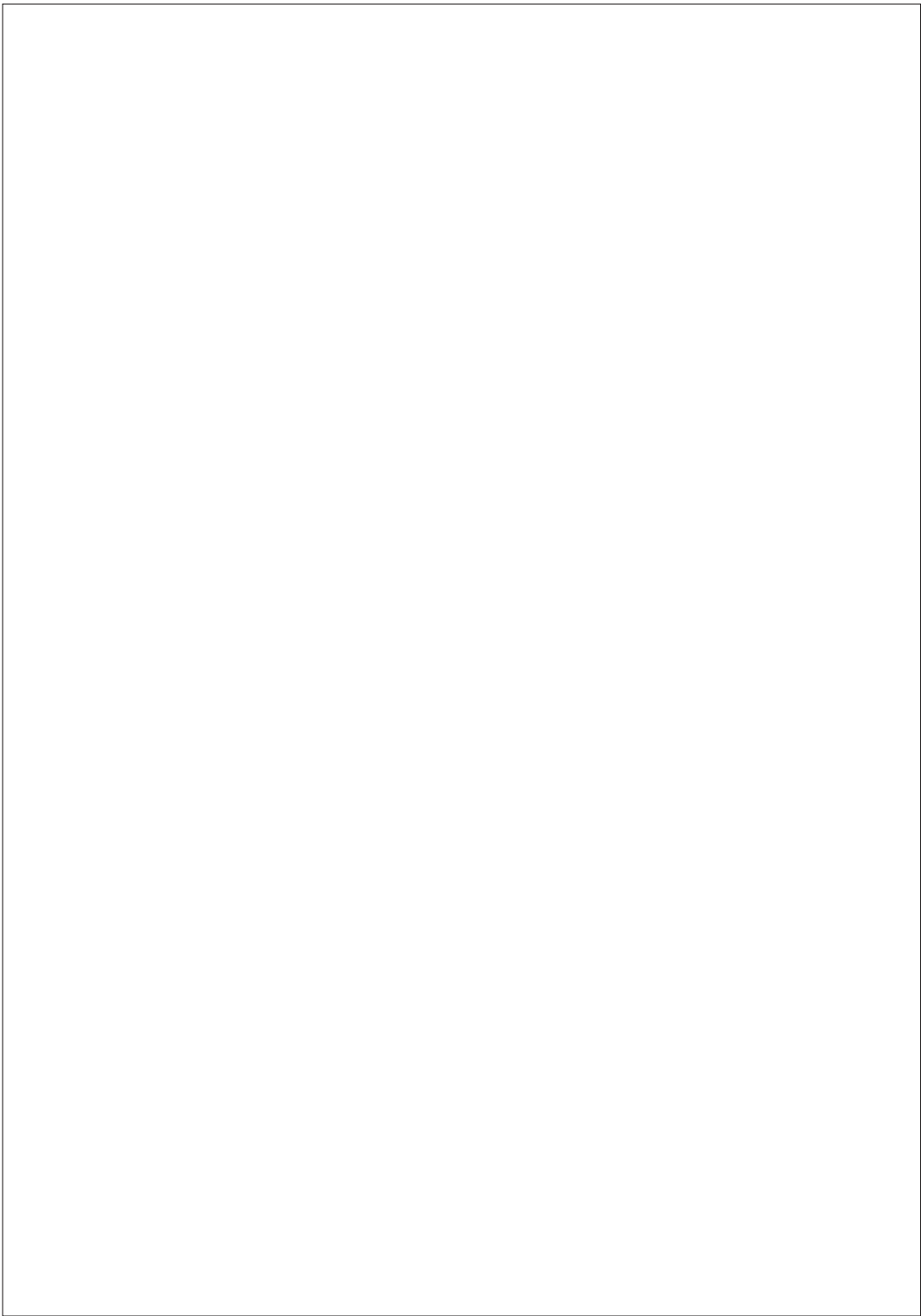


Order (24)

Order (25)



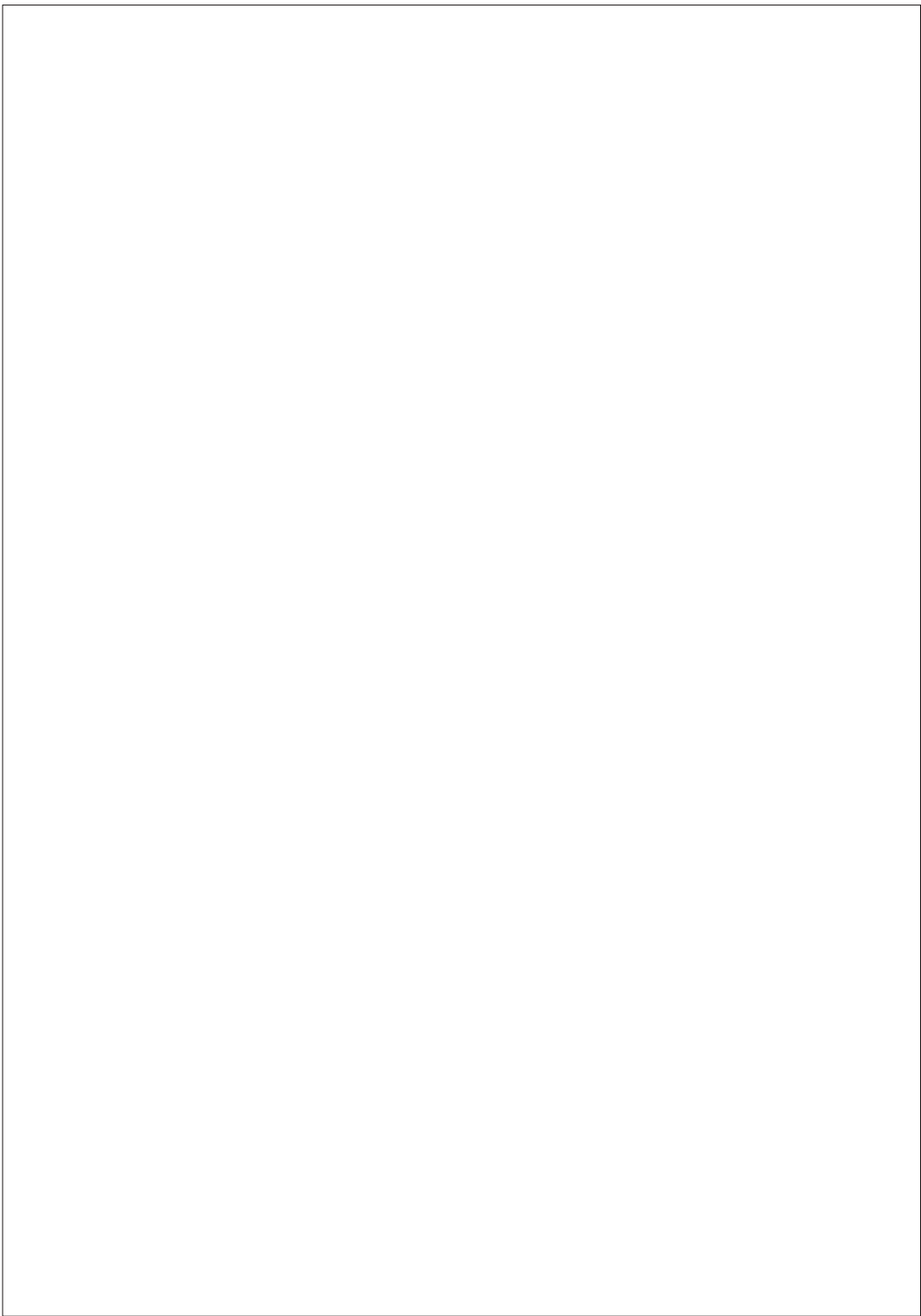
Order (26)



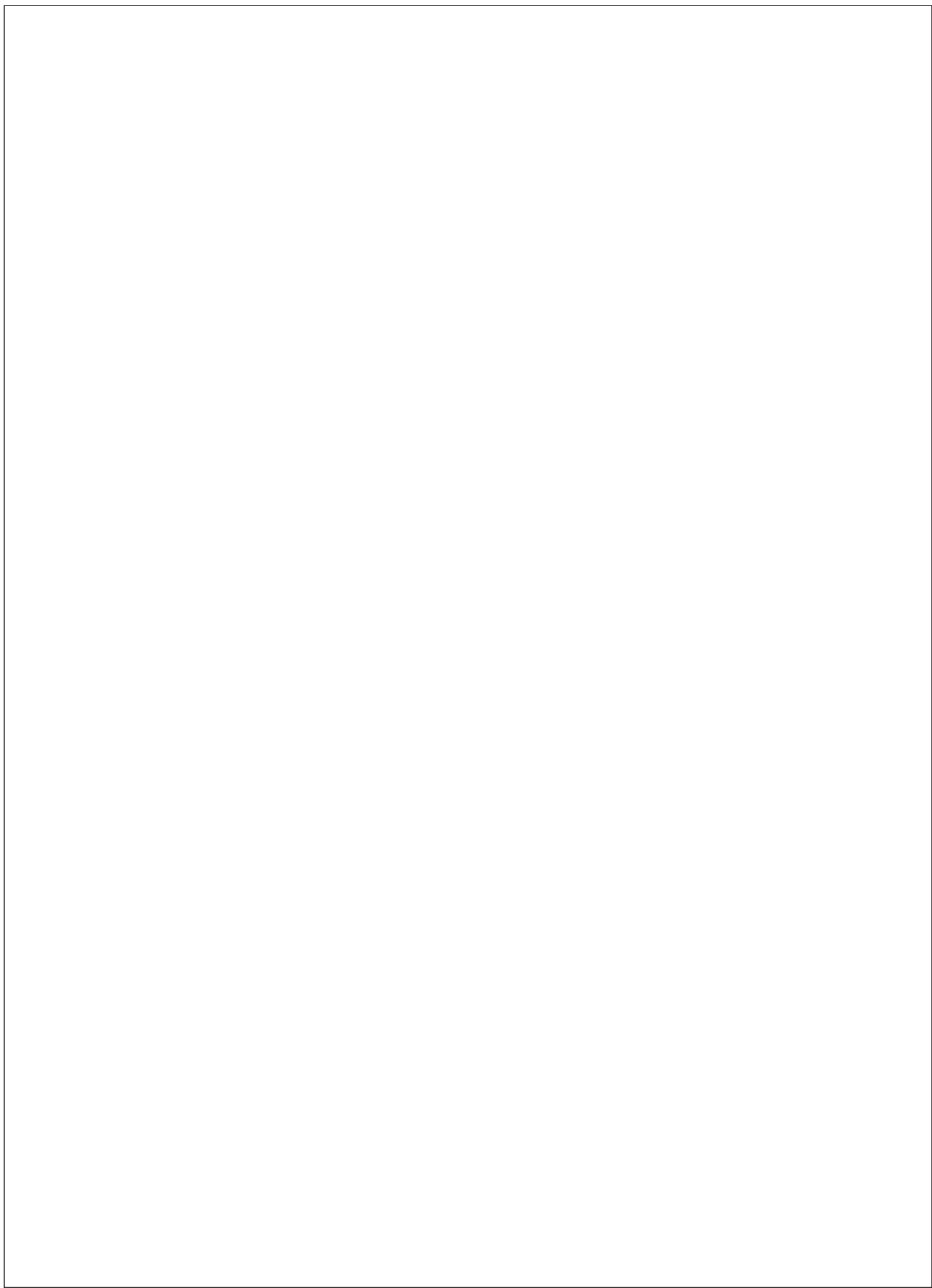
Order (27)



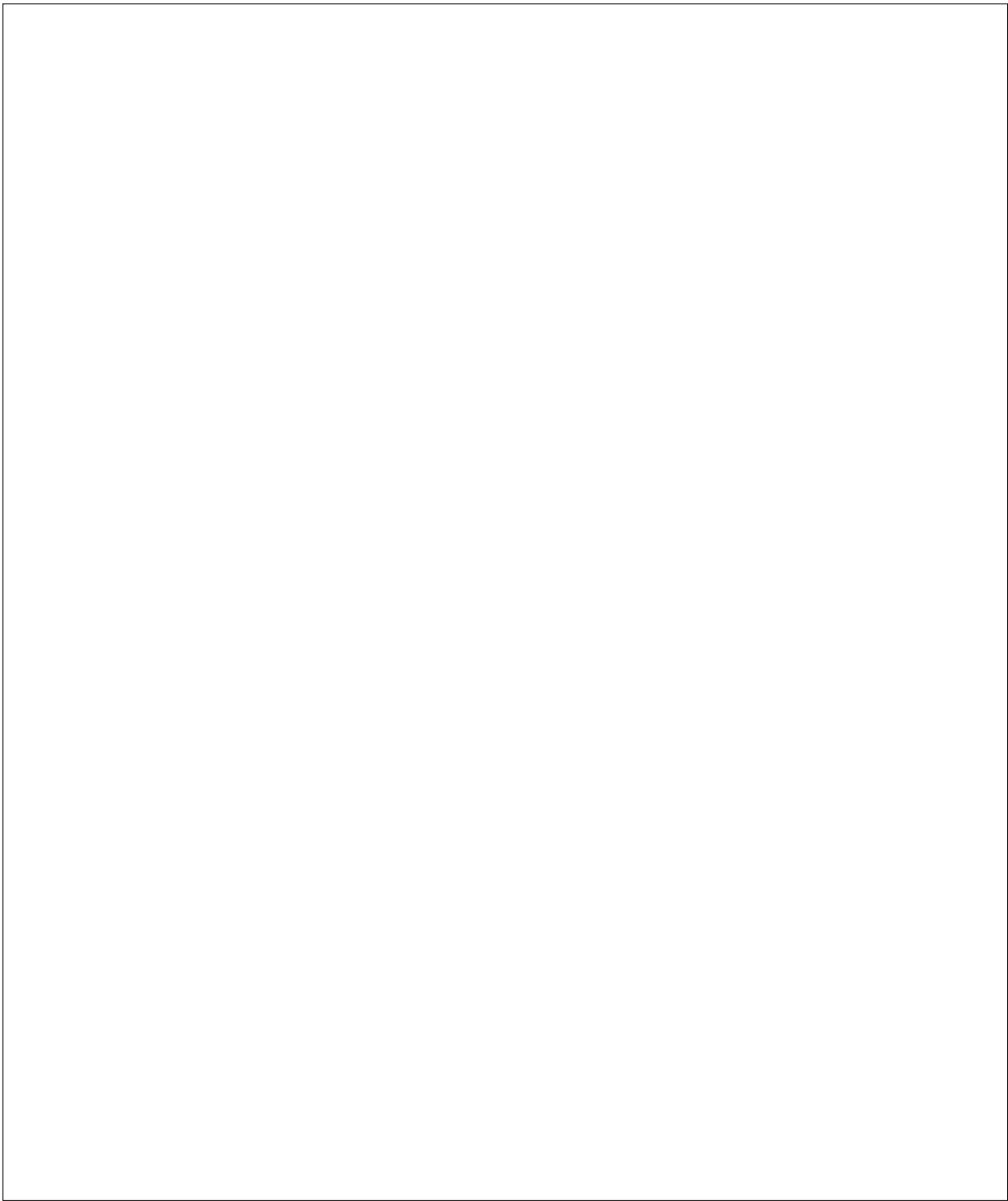
Order (28)



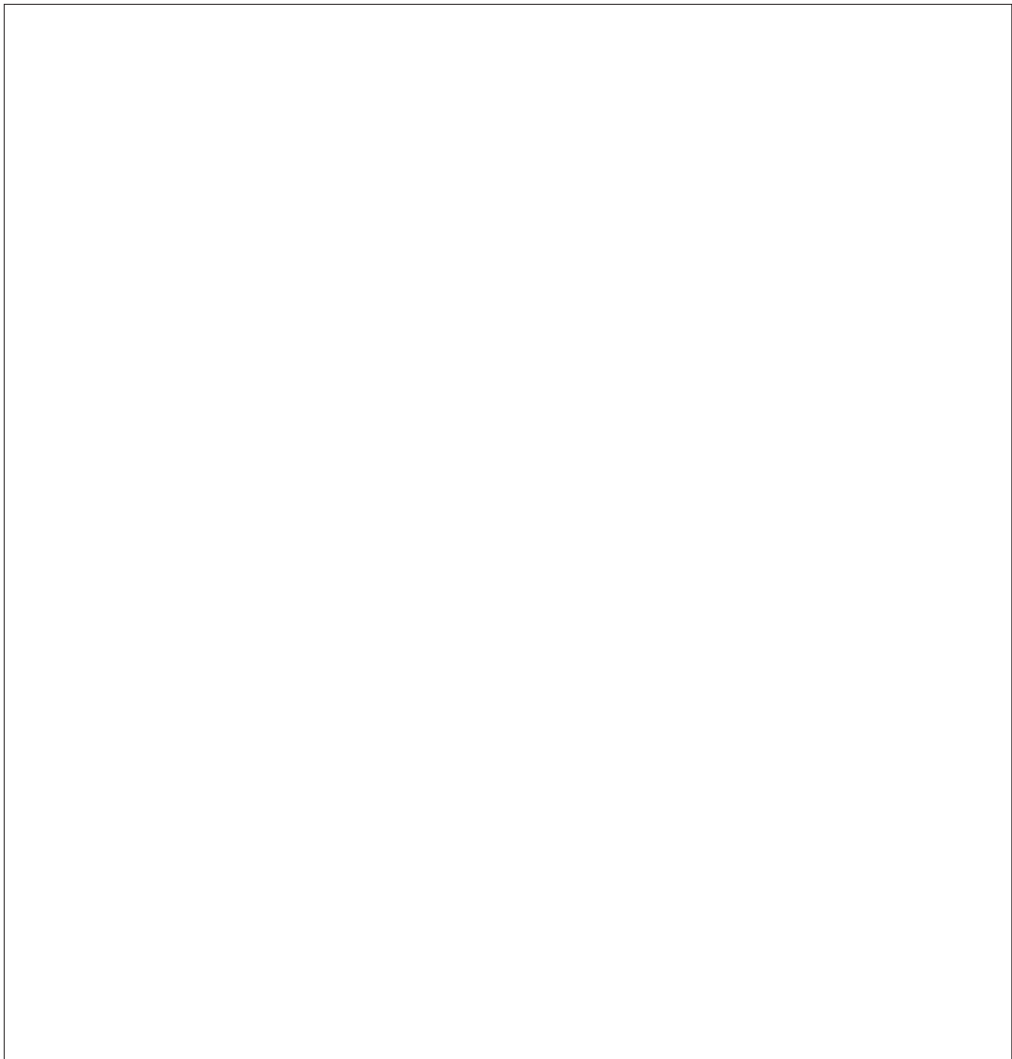
Order (29)



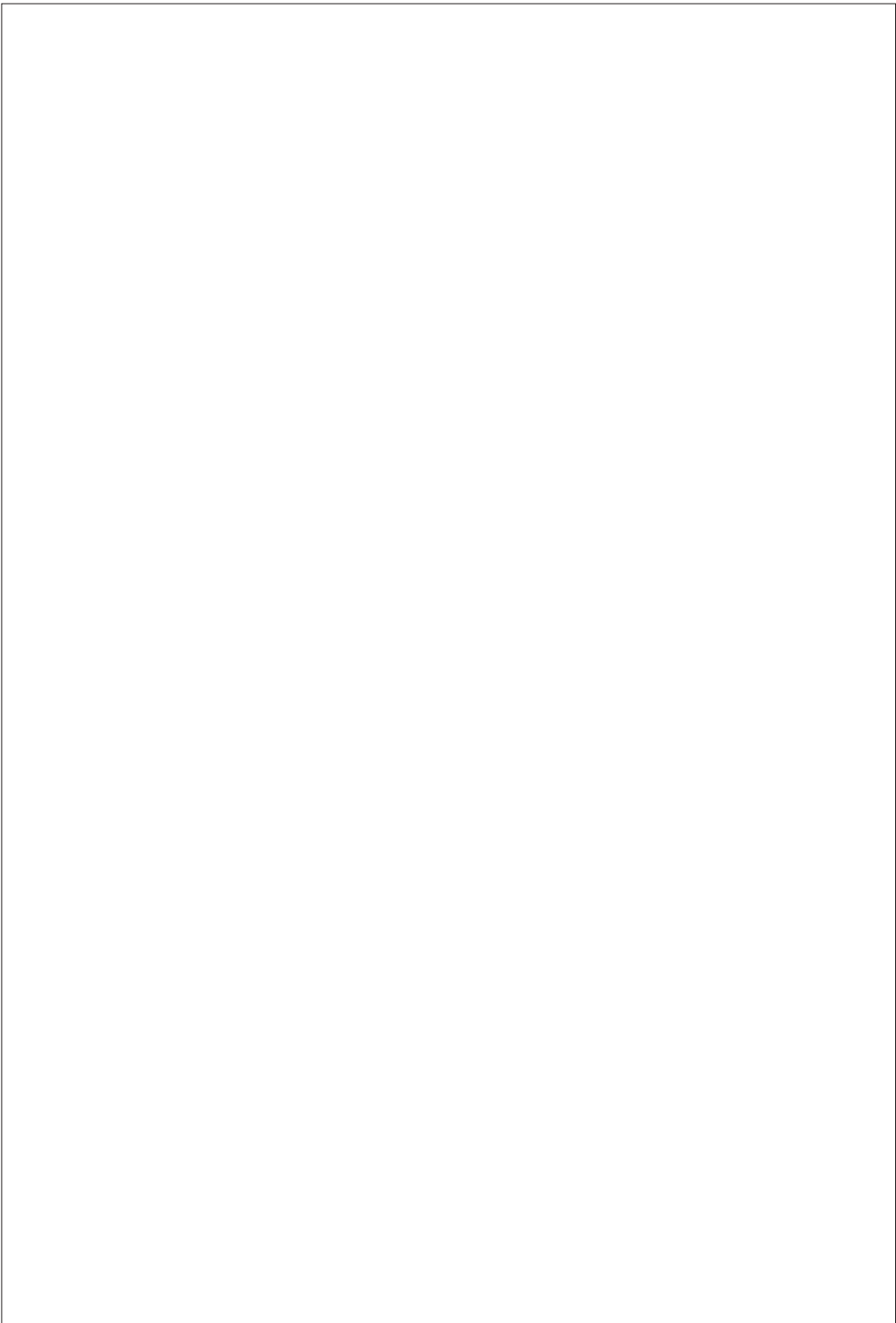
Order (30)



Order (31)



Order (32)



Order (33)

