



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2004

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE -- MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00

YOU MUST ANSWER SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, AND 4

**YOU MUST ALSO ANSWER ANY TWO OF
SECTIONS 5, 6, AND 7**

EACH SECTION CARRIES 60 MARKS

**YOU HAVE, ON AVERAGE, 25 MINUTES
FOR EACH SECTION**

Read this passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

A MYSTERIOUS



LADY!

1 Some time around 1505, Leonardo da Vinci, the great Italian artist, started work on an oil painting of a smiling woman. The picture, which now measures 77 cm by 53 cm, is known as the *Mona Lisa* and it is the most famous painting on planet Earth. All sorts of reasons are given for the *Mona Lisa* being such a popular and well-known painting. Some people say it's because her eyes follow you around the room no matter where you stand, others say it's because her lips appear to quiver as you stare at them, and some art experts claim it's because Leonardo's smoky painting style gives her an air of mystery and excitement. It's said that Leonardo loved this painting so much that he took it with him everywhere he went.



2 He eventually sold it to Louis XII, the King of France, after which the *Mona Lisa* spent her time hanging around posh palaces and magnificent mansions until the time of the French Revolution when the revolutionaries transferred her to the Louvre art gallery in Paris. When Napoleon came to power he took her out of the Louvre and hung her in his own bedroom.

3 Since Leonardo painted her, the *Mona Lisa* has been copied thousands and thousands of times. Her face has appeared on tins of *Mona Lisa* tomatoes, on cocktail napkins, jigsaws, and countless other nick-nacks and household objects.

4 No one's quite sure who the woman, *Mona Lisa*, actually was. Many art experts seem to think she was the wife of a rich merchant called Francesco del Giocondo, which is why she's often referred to as *La Gioconda*. Other people have even said she could have been Leonardo's mother! The thing that really drives people crazy about the *Mona Lisa* is the mysterious smile that plays around the corners of her mouth.

5 In portraits in those days people were normally pictured with stern, unsmiling faces (usually their own). So why was the *Mona Lisa* smirking? Some people have suggested it's because Leonardo employed musicians, comedians and storytellers to entertain her while he was painting her. Others have said that the picture is actually a self-portrait painted by Leonardo wearing a wig and grinning at his own joke. Someone else has claimed that *Mona Lisa*'s strange smile is the result of her efforts to stop her teeth falling out!



Adapted from "Leonardo da Vinci" by Michael Cox.
Published by Scholastic Limited.

A Find answers to the following questions based on the above passage:

- 1** What is the name of the most famous painting on planet Earth? (5)
- 2** Give one reason why the *Mona Lisa* is such a popular painting. (5)
- 3** Who did Leonardo sell the painting to? (5)
- 4** Find another name for the *Mona Lisa* in the passage. (5)

B Give **one** example of humour from the text in paragraph 5.
Give a reason why you think it is humorous. (10)

C In what way does the *Mona Lisa* differ from other portraits painted in Leonardo's lifetime? (10)

D Explain the meaning of the following words as they are used in this passage:

quiver (paragraph 1)

posh (paragraph 2)

nick-nacks (paragraph 3)

mysterious (paragraph 4)

smirking (paragraph 5)

(10)

E Is the **MAIN IDEA** of this passage:

to tell us about portrait painting?

OR

to inform us about Leonard da Vinci?

OR

to show us the funny side of things?

OR

to advise us about painting?

Give **ONE** reasons for your choice. (10)

Write a composition on **ONE** of the following topics.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A “Rise and shine! ” Write a story beginning with these words.
- B My dream holiday would be ...
- C Look at the picture, ‘The Thinking Pig’, on page 1 of **Paper X**. Write out what you imagine the pig’s thoughts are.
- D A Doll’s Life. The rag doll in the picture on page 2 of **Paper X** tells her story.
- E My favourite leisure-time activity.
- F Nobody understands me.
- G The most important people in my life.
- H Write a story about an old lady or an old man.

Answer **ONE** of the following, **EITHER A OR B**.

CHOOSE ONLY ONE TOPIC

A

Look at the picture of the man on page 3, **Paper X**.

You are on holidays in Greece and you have met this interesting man, whose name is Dimitrius. Write a detailed description of him.

OR

B

Write a letter to the “Milan Messenger”, an Italian newspaper, in the hope of finding an Italian penpal.

In your letter, introduce yourself in some detail. Also explain why you are interested in corresponding with an Italian penpal.

Read this poem and then answer the questions which follow:

The Old Lady

The day we went bob-a-jobbing
We met her.
She sat there
In a dainty old chair.
She never moved,
Her faint white hands
Perched on the chair
Like two shot birds.
She was wrapped head to foot
In blankets and shawls
As if she was a hermit crab
In her neutral home.

Wrinkles curved over her soft face
As if a snail had left its trail.
She opened her mouth
and mumbled, 'Hello'.
She looked pleased with herself
Like a child who had just
Learnt to write her name.
Her hair –
What was left of it –
Looked like tiny spiders' webs
Knotting all over.

She took my hand
As if to say, 'Come closer'.
She felt my face
As if wondering whether to buy me or not.
She clutched my hand harder,
Then let go.
I sniffed a pricey perfume
Over her clingfilm skin.
Then with a great sigh
She leaned back into her chair.
I knew then, it was time to go.



*Poem by Robert Adcock
Drawing by David Nichols.*

- A** This poem, by Robert Adcock, describes an old lady. Name two things he noticed about her when he first met her. (10)
- B** What is your favourite word or image from the poem. Explain why. (10)
- C** From your reading of this poem, what sort of person do you think the poet, Robert Adcock, is? (10)
- D** This is a prize-winning poem from a collection called “*Young Words*”. Give **two** reasons why you think this poem won a prize. (10)
- E** Choose any poem you have studied which you feel deserves a prize.
- Name the poem and poet.
 - Describe what the poem is about.
 - Say why you think it deserves a prize. (20)

**YOU MUST ANSWER ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING
SECTIONS 5, 6, AND 7.**

SECTION 5:

MEDIA STUDIES

[60]

Examine carefully the advertisement on page 4 of **Paper X**.

Answer the following questions about the advertisement.

- A** What is the advertisement promoting? Explain your answer. (10)
- B** Look at the logos* at the bottom of the advertisement. Name two groups involved in the promotion. (10)
- C** Which picture on page 4 do you consider to be the most effective **OR** the least effective. Explain why. (10)
- D** Do you think the slogan ‘Let’s get Physical’ is a good slogan? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- E** You are preparing a leaflet on healthy living for distribution in your school.
- (i) Write out five points you would include in the leaflet.
- (ii) Describe or illustrate how you would present these points on the page. (20)

*A logo is a small design used as the symbol of a company or organisation.

SECTION 6:**DRAMA****[60]**

Read this scene adapted from 'Just the Job' by Ann Farquhar-Smith and answer the questions which follow.

Jason O'Reilly has an appointment for an interview with the Personnel Manager at Jackson's. Before the interview, there is a discussion at home with his family.

Scene 1: The O'Reilly Home.

- Jason:* Mom! I've got an appointment for an interview with the Personnel Manager at Jackson's on Tuesday.
- Mrs O'Reilly:* Well done, Jason. An interview means you've nearly got the job.
- Mr O'Reilly:* But he hasn't yet, has he?
- Mrs O'Reilly:* Appearance is most important at an interview, Jason. You'd better think about what you're going to wear.
- Mr O'Reilly:* Your Mother's right. You'll need to wear a suit.
- Jason:* But I haven't got a suit.
- Mrs O'Reilly:* Yes, you have. There's the one you wore to your Aunt Kate's wedding.
- Jason:* That won't fit me. I've grown a bit since then.
- Mrs O'Reilly:* I can let it out. You've not grown that much.
- Julie (Jason's sister):* And you'll have to get your hair cut, and get rid of that ear-ring.
- Jason:* Why? I'm not joining the army. I want a job as a fitter.
- Mrs O'Reilly:* Your sister is right Jason. You've let your hair get out of hand since you left school and that ear-ring does nothing for your image.
- Jason:* What image? I like my hair like this and ear-rings are the fashion.
- Mr O'Reilly:* You may like your hair and that filthy looking stud but the Personnel Manager won't.
- Jason:* I'd rather draw the dole than have a short back and sides.
- Mr O'Reilly:* You can let it grow again after the interview.
- Jason:* I'm not applying to be Managing Director, you know, Dad! Have I got to go to all this trouble?
- Julie:* Why can't you make an effort to do the right thing for once?
- Mr O'Reilly:* With jobs as scarce as they are nowadays nothing should be too much trouble.
- Jason:* And nothing is what I'd like to do!

A What advice is Jason getting at home about his interview? (10)

B From what you read in this piece, would you give the job to Jason?
Explain your answer. (10)

C Imagine that you are the costume designer for this play.
Describe the costume you would design for **ONE** of the following characters:

- Mr O' Reilly
- Mrs O' Reilly
- Julie.

Say why you have chosen your design. (10)

D Imagine **Scene II, "The Interview"**.

Write an opening dialogue (about 10 lines) between the Personnel Manager and Jason. (10)

E Name a **PLAY** or a **FILM** you have studied.

Using **ONE** of the following headings, write about the play or film.

- The scene I liked best
- The character I found most interesting
- Why I found the play/film enjoyable
- Why I did not enjoy the play/film (20)

Read this piece and answer the questions which follow.

FLY, CHEROKEE, FLY

- 1 It started like this: me and Garry Taylor were playing football in the park. I was in goal. I'm always in goal. Garry thinks he's going to be a striker for Arsenal. He likes to prove it by blasting in his 'break the net' shots, which means I have to run miles to fetch the ball. On the night I found Cherokee, the ball had rolled right up to the hedgerows near the bowling greens. And there she was, my special pigeon, hiding in the leaf mould under a hedge.
- 2 'What you looking at, Dazza?' Garry shouted, practising his goal-scoring celebration wiggle. I waved him to be quiet. He pounded up beside me, as usual. I pointed to the huddled shape among the leaves. He went white with fear and grabbed the ball from me. 'Is it a rat?' he hissed, backing off. 'A rat with feathers?' I tutted at him. Garry let out a defensive sniff. He turned his collar up just in case.
- 3 I crouched down slowly. Cherokee was sitting like a nesting bird, but I couldn't see any sign of eggs. She didn't look well. Her breast was puffed out as if she was cold and her feathers looked dull and broken in places. I pushed my hands forward to pick her up. She made a wooing noise and cocked her head. Her copper eye blinked and she tried to stand. 'I won't hurt you,' I whispered, and closed my hands around her. She stretched a pink foot out, but she didn't struggle.
- 4 'If you get bitten and die,' said Garry, 'can I have those trainers with the ticks on the ankles?' 'Quiet,' I shushed him, easing Cherokee out into the open. She blinked again as the light fell on her. Cherokee wasn't like the normal grey pigeons you see. Her wings were a shiny blue-black colour. But her head and breast and tail were white. What you could see of them was white, anyway. 'What you gonna do with it, then?' asked Garry. He was juggling the football and didn't look up. I ran my thumb down the side of her neck. Her feathers felt soft and warm and waxy. I'd never really held a bird before. She weighed about as much as a tennis ball. There was only one thing I could do, really.
- 5 'Fly!' I said, and threw her up into the pale blue sky. I knew it was wrong as soon as I'd done it. Cherokee hadn't got the strength to fly. She flapped like mad and nose-dived to earth. Groggily, she picked herself up and settled in the dirt in a miserable ball.

'What am I going to do now?' I said, as Cherokee huddled back under the leaves.

- adapted from *Fly, Cherokee, Fly* By Chris d'Lacey.

A How did Dazza find Cherokee, his special pigeon. (Paragraph 1) (10)

B Describe Cherokee's appearance when Dazza found her? (Paragraph 3) (10)

C Which of the two boys in the story, Dazza or Garry, do you prefer?
Explain your answer with reference to the story. (10)

D At the end of the story, Dazza asks, 'What am I going to do now...?'
Continue the story, describing what you imagine Dazza does next. (10)

E Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied.

Describe briefly your favourite moment in this novel or short story and explain why it is your favourite.

or

Choose your favourite character from this novel or short story and explain why the character is your favourite.

(20)