



# **Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission**

**JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2009**

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## **ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL**

360 marks

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**WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE, MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00**

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**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 answer the questions which follow it.

## FIFTY YEARS OF TIDY TOWNS

- 1 The first Tidy Towns Competition was held in Ireland in 1958. The focus right from the start was to encourage communities to improve their local environment and make their area a better place to live and work in, and to visit.
- 2 The first competition attracted entries from 52 towns and villages, and was won by the County Donegal town of Glenties. In fact Glenties went on to win the top prize again in 1959, 1960, 1962 and 1995. Over the years the competition has rapidly increased in popularity with an average of 700 entrants each year.
- 3 So many people participate in preparing the local area for the adjudication that it is impossible to accurately estimate the number of people who have been involved, but it is safe to say that in over 50 years it has run into hundreds of thousands.
- 4 The Tidy Towns competition is open to all areas big or small, urban or rural. Places are entered in different categories depending on the size of their population. Categories range from the smallest, Category A, which caters for places with less than 200 residents, up to the largest Category H, which is for areas with more than 25,000 people.
- 5 Judging takes place during June, July and August each year. The prize fund now runs to some €250,000. Prizes are awarded in many different categories including best new entrant, county awards, gold, silver and bronze medals.
- 6 There are separate award sections for island and Gaeltacht entrants. The top prize and title of “Ireland’s Tidiest Town” goes to the highest scoring entrant in the whole competition.
- 7 Praising the Competition, the Minister for the Environment, John Gormley, TD, has said that the original founders were ‘visionaries’ and that the Competition has made Ireland not just a cleaner country, but a more civic-minded and confident place.

Source: *The Irish Times*, Special Report 18 September 2008  
Kieran Fagan (Adapted)

Find answers to the following:

- A**
- 1 Why was the Tidy Towns Competition set up? (5)
  - 2 Which town won the first competition? (5)
  - 3 How many entrants are there on average each year? (5)
  - 4 When does judging take place? (5)
- B** From your reading of the passage give two reasons why the Tidy Towns Competition has been successful? (10)
- C** Explain any TWO of the following in your own words:
- 1 The focus right from the start was to encourage communities to improve their local environment. (paragraph 1)
  - 2 The prize fund now runs to some €250,000. (paragraph 5)
  - 3 ... the competition has rapidly increased in popularity. (paragraph 2)
  - 4 ... preparing the local area for the adjudication. (paragraph 3) (10)
- D** What do you think the Minister for the Environment John Gormley, TD, meant when he said that the original founders were ‘visionaries’? (10)
- E** “The Tidy Towns Competition has made Ireland a better place”.  
Write a paragraph either for OR against this point of view. (10)

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** I have a dream ...
- B** Things that really frighten me.
- C** Write a story which at some point includes the sentence: "You should have seen the look on her/his face..."
- D** The first time I met him/her.
- E** There are no such things as ghosts!
- F** My dream job.
- G** Friendship.
- H** My best present ever.

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** Write a speech for or against the motion that: "Teenagers should be called “screenagers” because they are addicted to screens - T.V., phones, electronic games ..."

You need to:

- decide whether you are for OR against the motion
- think about the points you want to make
- plan the order in which you will make them

Now write the speech in full.

**OR**

- B** Write a letter of application for **ONE** of the following summer jobs:

- Waitress / waiter
- Car wash attendant
- Child minder
- Dog walker

**Read this extract adapted from “*The Door*” by Margrit Cruickshank and answer the questions which follow.**

Ma wasn't in when I got home. I went into the kitchen, took three white bread rolls out of the freezer and defrosted them in the microwave. I filled one with butter and crisps, the second with ham, chutney, peanuts and salad, and the third with banana and raspberry jam: starters, main course and sweet. A man needs sustenance after a hard day at school.

Heaping the whole lot on to a plate with a glass of milk, I went into the den, switched on the television, put my feet up on the couch and watched Jerry the mouse outwit Tom the cat on children's television. Tom fell out of a top floor window into a concrete mixer. It churned a couple of times, then spat him out like a cannonball. He flew through the air, crashed against the garden fence and landed on the gatepost just as Ma's key grated in the front door.

I took my feet off the couch and tried, unsuccessfully, to hide my plate. Too late.

“Hugh! How often do I have to tell you you're not to eat in the drawing room? Why do I have to keep repeating things one million times?”

I smiled up at her. “And it's nice to see you too, Mother dear. Yes, I did have a good day at school. And how was yours?”

“Lousy, And it has certainly not been improved by coming home and finding my one and only son dragging food all through the house and stuffing himself so full he'll leave half his dinner on his plate. You're not a baby any more, you know, that needs feeding every three hours. You're supposed to be almost a man.”

“Thanks for that ‘almost’, Ma. I am touched.”

“You know what I mean. And, if you want to be treated like an adult, behave like one. Take that plate out into the kitchen. And pick up all the crumbs you've dropped on the carpet. Honest, Hugh. You think I have nothing better to do than clean up after you all the time.”

I picked up most of the crumbs and stood up. “You like it. You know you do. Makes you feel wanted.” Ma sighed. “Oh, get out of here. Haven't you any homework to do?”

“Nope. We're in Transition Year, remember? We had three free periods today: I got it all done in school.”

She plumped up the cushions I'd been leaning against. “Transition Year. A waste of time, I call it. You don't seem to do any work at all.”

“Ah but we do. We have Life Skills and Media Studies and Drama and ...”

She grinned. “OK. Then practise your life skills by clearing away the mess I'm sure you've made in the kitchen and peel some potatoes for me.” She gestured at the television, where Tom was climbing up the drainpipe to get at Jerry again. “Or is this part of your Media Studies?”

- A** (i) What did Hugh do when he heard his mother coming in? (5)
- (ii) How did Ma greet Hugh when she arrived home? (5)
- B** From your reading of the first two paragraphs how would you describe Hugh's character? (10)
- C** Would you say that Hugh's home is a happy one? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Would you say that Ma is:
- a typical mother  
**or**  
a very strict mother  
**or**  
a very cheerful and humorous mother
- Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied which deals with an important relationship.
- Name the characters in the relationship
  - Describe how this relationship develops
  - Choose your favourite character in this relationship and explain why this is your favourite character
- (20)

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

**SECTION 5:**

**POETRY**

**[60]**

Read this poem and then answer the questions which follow:

**ONE QUESTION FROM A BULLET**

I want to give up being a bullet  
I've been a bullet too long

I want to be an innocent coin  
in the hand of a child  
and be squeezed through the slot  
of a bubblegum machine

I want to give up being a bullet  
I've been a bullet too long

I want to be a good luck seed  
lying idle in somebody's pocket  
or some ordinary little stone  
on the way to becoming an earring  
or just lying there unknown  
among a crowd of other ordinary stones.

I want to give up being a bullet  
I've been a bullet too long

The question is  
Can you give up being a killer?

*John Agard*



- A** (i) Who is the speaker in this poem? (5)  
(ii) Who is the speaker speaking to? (5)
- B** The Bullet doesn't want to be a bullet anymore.  
Name 2 things it wants to be and from your reading of the poem explain why the bullet wants to be these things. (10)
- C** What message or lesson do you take from the poem?  
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** What is the question the bullet asks and why do you think it asks this question? (10)
- E** Choose a poem you have studied which describes a place **or** a person **or** an event.  
➤ Name the poem and the poet  
➤ Describe what the poem is about  
➤ Say why you liked or disliked the poem you have chosen  
(20)

Read this scene, adapted from *Trouble in the works* by Harold Pinter, and then answer the questions which follow.

*An office in a factory. FIBBS at the desk. A knock at the door. Enter MR WILLS.*

**FIBBS:** Ah, Wills, Good. Come in. Sit down, will you?

**WILLS:** Thanks, Mr Fibbs.

**FIBBS:** You got my message?

**WILLS:** I just got it.

**FIBBS:** Good. Good. (*Pause*) Good. Well now . . . Have a cigar?

**WILLS:** No, thanks, not for me, Mr Fibbs.

**FIBBS:** Well, now, Wills, I hear there's been a little trouble in the factory.

**WILLS:** Yes, I . . . suppose you could call it that, Mr Fibbs.

**FIBBS:** Well, what in heaven's name is it all about?

**WILLS:** Well, I don't exactly know how to put it, Mr Fibbs.

**FIBBS:** Now come on, Wills, I've got to know what it is, before I can do anything about it.

**WILLS:** Well. Mr Fibbs, it's simply a matter that the men have . . . well, they seem to have taken a turn against some of the products.

**FIBBS:** Taken a turn?

**WILLS:** They just don't seem to like them much any more.

**FIBBS:** Don't like them? But we've got the reputation of having the finest machine part turnover in the country. They're the best paid men in the industry. We've got the cheapest canteen in Yorkshire. No two menus are alike. We've got a billiard hall, haven't we, on the premises, we've got a swimming pool for use of staff. And what about the long-playing record room? And you tell me they're dissatisfied?

**WILLS:** Oh, the men are very grateful for all the amenities, sir. They just don't like the products.

**FIBBS:** But they're beautiful products. I've been in the business a lifetime. I've never seen such beautiful products.

**WILLS:** There it is, sir.

**FIBBS:** Which ones don't they like?

**WILLS:** Well, there's the brass pet duck, for instance.

**FIBBS:** The brass pet duck. What's the matter with the brass pet duck?

**WILLS:** They just don't seem to like it any more.

**FIBBS:** But what exactly don't they like about it?

**WILLS:** Perhaps it's just the look of it.

**FIBBS:** That brass pet duck? But I tell you it's perfection. Nothing short of perfection.

**WILLS:** They've just gone right off it.

**FIBBS:** Well, I'm flabbergasted. *(Pause)*  
*(Broken)*. Tell me. What do they want to make in its place?

**WILLS:** Trouble.

- A** This scene is set in an office in a factory.  
List five **props** you would need to stage this scene? (10)
- B** In this scene, which **character**, would you like to play?  
Why would you pick this part? (10)
- C** If you were directing this scene, what instructions would you give the actor playing the part of Mr Wills as regards:  
  - costume
  - tone of voice
  - body language (10)
- D** Write the closing dialogue (about 10 lines) you think would have taken place between Mr Fibbs and Mr Wills. (10)
- E** Name a **PLAY** or **FILM** you have studied in which something unexpected happens.  
  - Describe the unexpected event and explain why it was unexpected.
  - Did the unexpected event add to your enjoyment of the studied play or film?
  - Why / Why not? (20)

- A Look at the slogan on page 1 of Paper X.

**“Stop Child Labour school is the best place to work”**

Do you think this is a good slogan for the campaign?  
Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

- B Which photograph on pages 2 and 3 of Paper X would you consider to be most effective to use in a campaign against Child Labour?  
Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

- C Look at the text on page 1 of Paper X and the photographs on pages 2 and 3 of Paper X.

Which do you think would give the stronger message for the campaign **“Stop Child Labour school is the best place to work”**, the text or the photographs?

Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

- D Examine the photographs on page 3 of Paper X.  
Choose one photograph and state what it tells us about the life of the child, the central figure in the picture.

(10)

- E You are asked by your local community newspaper to write an article to encourage people to sign a petition against Child Labour. You are using the photograph of the child on page 4 of Paper X to illustrate the problem.

- (i) Write an eye-catching caption for the photograph
- (ii) State two convincing reasons you would use in your article to explain why people should sign this petition.

(20)