



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2013

ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER 1

180 marks

WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE - MORNING, 9.30 - 12.00

**YOU MUST ATTEMPT ALL 4 SECTIONS
ON THIS PAPER**

**IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU SPEND ABOUT
HALF AN HOUR ON EACH OF SECTIONS
1, 3, 4, AND ABOUT ONE HOUR ON
SECTION 2**

Read carefully the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.

The following edited extract is adapted from *Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them*, by American writer, Francine Prose. In the first part of the extract below, she describes the bravery a writer needs to begin to write a novel. In the second part, she discusses the rewards that great literature can offer a reader.



1. When we think about how many terrifying things people are called on to do every day as they fight fires, defend their rights, perform brain surgery, give birth, drive on the freeway, and wash skyscraper windows, it seems frivolous, self-indulgent, and self-important to talk about writing as an act that requires courage. What could be safer than sitting at your desk, lightly tapping a few keys, pushing your chair back, and pausing to see what marvellous tidbit of art your brain has brought forth to amuse you?
 2. And yet most people who have tried to write have experienced not only the need for bravery but a failure of nerve as the real or imagined consequences, faults and humiliations, exposures and inadequacies dance before their eyes and across the empty screen or page. The fear of writing badly, of revealing something you would rather keep hidden, of losing the good opinion of the world, of violating your own high standards, or discovering something about yourself that you would just as soon not know- those are just a few of the phantoms scary enough to make the writer wonder if there might be a job available washing skyscraper windows.
 3. All of which brings up yet another reason to read. Literature is an endless source of courage and confirmation. The reader and beginning writer can count on being heartened by all the brave and original works that have been written without the slightest regard for how strange or risky they were, or for what the writer's mother might have thought when she read them.
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4. In the late 1980s, I taught at a college two and a half hours from my home. I travelled down once a week, stayed overnight, came back. Through most of the winter I commuted by bus. The worst part was waiting in the New Rochelle bus station. The bus was often late, so I wound up being in the station, on average, forty minutes a week.
 5. Although the bus station was a glassed-in corner storefront, none of the windows opened so the only time air moved was when someone came through the door. There was a ticket counter, a wall of men's magazines, a phone and a rack of dusty candy. The station was never crowded. Usually, I bought a soda and a greasy sugar cookie to cheer myself up and read *People* magazine because I was scared to lose touch with my surroundings for any longer than it took to read a *People* magazine article. Behind the counter worked a man about sixty and a woman about fifty, and in all the time I was there I never heard them exchange one word that was not about their jobs. Behind them was a TV, on constantly, and it will give you an idea of what kind of winter I had when I say that the first ten times I saw the Challenger Space Shuttle* blow up were on the bus station TV. I was having a difficult time in my life, and every minute that kept me from getting home to my family was painful.

6. Finally the bus came, and the two bus drivers who alternated. There was the nasty younger one who seemed to slip into some kind of trance between Newburgh and New Paltz and went slower and slower up the road, and the kindlier older one who looked like a villain in a Victorian melodrama and had a fondness for an aerosol spray that smelled like a cross between cherry candy and insect repellent. The bus made Westchester stops for the first half hour before it even got to the highway.
7. As soon as I was settled and had finished my soda and cookie and magazine, I began reading the short stories of Anton Chekhov. It was my ritual, and my reward. I began to read where I'd left off the week before, and I never had to read more than a page or two before I began to think that maybe things weren't so bad. The stories were not only profound and beautiful, but also involving, so that I would finish one and find myself, miraculously, a half hour or so closer to home. And yet there was more than the distraction, the time so painlessly and pleasantly spent. A sense of comfort came over me, as if in those thirty minutes I myself had been taken up in a spaceship and shown the whole world, a world full of sorrows, both different and very much like my own, and also a world of promise. I began to think that maybe nothing was wasted, that someday I could do something with what was happening to me, to use even the New Rochelle bus station in my work.
8. Reading Chekhov, I felt not happy, exactly, but as close to happiness as I knew I was likely to come. And it occurred to me that this was the pleasure and mystery of reading, as well as the answer to those who say that books will disappear. For now, books are still the best way of taking great art and its consolations along with us on a bus.

*In January 1986 the Space Shuttle *Challenger* broke apart just seventy-three seconds after take-off, leading to the deaths of its seven crew members.

*This text has been adapted from the original,
for the purpose of assessment, without the author's prior consent.*

Answer the following **three** questions:

1. In the first three paragraphs Francine Prose tries to convince the reader that writing is an act that requires courage. Outline in your own words, two of the points she makes in support of this view. (10)
2. Contrast Francine Prose's experience of reading *People* magazine with her experience of reading Anton Chekhov's short stories. (15)
3. What aspects of Francine Prose's personality, as revealed in this extract, do you think would be of assistance to her as a writer? Explain your answer with reference to the text. (15)

Write a prose composition on any **one** of the following titles. Except where otherwise stated, you are free to write in any form you wish e.g. narrative, descriptive, dramatic, short story, etc.

1. What books mean to me.
2. History repeating itself.
3. In Section 1 of this examination paper, Francine Prose mentions a man and a woman who work behind the counter in the bus station. Write **four** diary entries for **either** the man or the woman in which you reveal that he or she has a much more interesting life than Prose imagines.
4. Terrifying things people do every day.
5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion: "Sport brings out the best in people".
6. Write a story which includes the phrase, "He had the audience's undivided attention ..."
7. Write a story entitled 'Success!' that includes **all** of the following elements:
 - An interesting relationship
 - A character facing a challenge
 - An argument
 - A problem solved.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. You are helping to organise a talent show in your school to raise funds for a local charity. Write the text for a flyer, to be distributed to the students in your school, explaining how the event will be run and encouraging them to participate in the talent show. Your flyer should also explain why the charity that you have chosen is a good cause to support.

OR

2. You have just had a bad experience in a local restaurant. You were not satisfied with the response of the restaurant's staff to your complaints at the time. Write **a review** on the restaurant's web page in which you outline your complaints and describe the response of the staff. You should also suggest ways for the restaurant to improve the service that it provides to its customers.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

1. Read carefully the newspaper report on **Page 4** of **Paper X** which accompanies this paper.
 - (a) Do you think that this report is from a tabloid or a broadsheet newspaper? Give reasons for your answer, supported by reference to the newspaper report. (10)
 - (b) What do you think newspaper editors could do to encourage more young people to read newspapers regularly? Explain your answer. (10)
 - (c) You are a newspaper journalist covering a real or imaginary dramatic incident. Write the front-page news report you would submit for publication in **either** a tabloid **or** a broadsheet newspaper. You must include a headline with the report. (20)

OR

2. Examine carefully the images on **Page 2** and **Page 3** of **Paper X** which accompanies this examination paper. The images show anti-littering campaigns run by two city councils. Limerick City Council used a **traditional poster campaign**, while Dublin City Council opted for a **guerrilla advertising campaign**. In guerrilla advertising, events are staged which surprise, shock or amuse people in order to draw attention to a product, campaign or issue.
 - (a) In your view, who is the target audience in the case of each of the anti-littering campaigns shown? Explain your answer. (10)
 - (b) Using your knowledge of advertising and media studies, outline one way Dublin City Council could continue its anti-littering campaign. (10)
 - (c) In your view, what are the advantages **and** disadvantages of the two types of campaign illustrated on **Page 2** and **Page 3** of **Paper X**? Explain your answer. (20)

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