



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2007

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 6 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 answer the questions which follow it.

THE WONDERS OF THE MODERN WORLD

In 200 B.C., a list was made of the most impressive and beautiful man-made objects in the world. These were called “The Seven Wonders of the World”. They were all statues or buildings such as the Pyramids of Egypt. In our time, there have been remarkable technical and scientific achievements too. These achievements are so extraordinary that they deserve to be called the Wonders of the Modern World. Here are seven of these modern wonders:

- 1. Computers:** They have already revolutionised the way we live, work, play and communicate. Even so, it is still early days for computers and every week we hear of new developments.
- 2. Space Travel:** In 1969, an American astronaut, Neil Armstrong, stepped out of his space capsule on to the moon’s surface and made his famous statement: “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” Now anybody can enjoy a short trip into space. The only problem is that it costs several million euro!
- 3. Medical Science:** Surely nothing has done more for the comfort and happiness of people than the advance of medical knowledge! How many million people have benefited from the humble aspirin? How many lives have been saved by antibiotics? Over the last hundred years average life expectancy has risen dramatically from about 50 in 1907 to about 75 today – all thanks to medical science.
- 4. Holidays:** Yes – holidays! In fact there have always been holidays. Two thousand years ago in Ancient Rome, there were more than one hundred and fifty holidays a year. But a holiday simply meant a day off from work. One hundred years ago, only the very rich could travel abroad. Now, holiday makers from all walks of life travel to all parts of the world.
- 5. The Olympic Games:** It is certainly true that the Olympic Games are now highly commercialised. Nevertheless, every country in the world takes part in them. Every four years for a short period, we see these countries come together in peace and friendship and we can feel hope again for the future of mankind.
- 6. Agriculture:** In 1724, the famous Irish writer, Jonathan Swift, wrote: “Whoever makes two blades of grass or two ears of corn grow where only one grew before serves mankind better than the whole race of politicians.” In Europe, farmers have done this, thanks to scientific approaches to farming and to the development of new machinery. Today, we cannot eat all the food we produce. If only a way could be found to share this surplus food with those parts of the world where there is still famine!
- 7. We are still here:** The last wonder of the modern world is simply that we are still here. There are all sorts of weapons of mass destruction that could destroy the population of the world, but these have not been used – yet! This is surely the greatest wonder of all.

Adapted from “Wonders of the Modern World” by Ann Halliday

Find answers to the following:

- A**
- 1 According to the passage, what list was made in 200 B.C.? (5)
 - 2 What did “a holiday” mean in Ancient Rome? (5)
 - 3 According to the writer, what problem is associated with the Olympic Games? (5)
 - 4 Who, according to Jonathon Swift, does more for people than politicians? (5)
- B** According to the passage, what is the chief difference between the Wonders of the Modern World and those of the Ancient World? (10)
- C** Explain any TWO of the following in your own words:
- 1 It is still early days
 - 2 One giant leap for mankind
 - 3 Average life expectancy
 - 4 Holiday makers from all walks of life
- (10)
- D** Which one of the seven wonders of the modern world is in your opinion the most important? Give a reason for your answer. (10)
- E** Choose a wonder of the modern world that you would add to the list given above. Explain why you would add this wonder. (10)

SECTION 2:

PERSONAL WRITING

[60]

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** Living in the city or in the country.
- B** Life without my mobile phone.
- C** My biggest disappointment in the world of sport.
- D** “You can’t go out wearing THAT!”
Write a story which includes this sentence.
- E** Laughter is the best medicine.
- F** I can’t wait for the holidays.
- G** Things that make me happy.
- H** Look at Page 4 of Paper X.
Continue the conversation you imagine Rex and Tyra are having.

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** Recently, during a party in a friend's house, you dropped a plate of greasy chips and tomato ketchup on the sofa and carpet. Write a letter of apology to your friend's parents.

You should:

- introduce yourself
- explain what happened
- apologise
- offer to help.

OR

- B** **For or against**

You are taking part in a debate. The motion for debate is:
"Full driving licences should not be issued to people under twenty."

You need to:

- decide whether you are **for** or **against** the motion
- think about the points you are going to make
- plan the order in which you will make them.

Now write your **SPEECH** in full.

Examine carefully the photographs numbered 1 – 12 on pages 2 and 3 of Paper X. Then, answer the questions below.

A Photographs 5, 7, 8 and 10 can be grouped together under a heading such as ‘Sport’. Using the numbers, select one group from the remaining photographs, and give the group you have selected a suitable title. (10)

B Of all of the photographs, which **one** do you think is best? In your answer you should refer to:

- image
- use of colour
- message.

(10)

C Photograph number 12 carries the caption, ‘Colourful Costa Rica’. Write appropriate captions for **two** other photographs. (10)

D Which photograph do you think would be the most suitable for any **one** of the following? Give reasons for your choice.

- an advertisement for a new health drink

OR

- a campaign to protect animals

OR

- fund-raising for a project of your choice

OR

- a campaign for greater safety in sports.

(10)

E You are designing a poster to promote more active participation in sports in your school. The heading of the poster begins with the words: “Get up from your sofas and ...” Complete this slogan. (5)

Now, write five sentences for this poster describing the benefits of active participation in sport. (15)

**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:

Pachy, the Dinosaur.

Among the later dinosaurs
Though not the largest, strongest,
PACHYCEPHALOSAURUS had
The name that was the longest.

Yet he had more than syllables,
As you may well suppose.
He had great knobs upon his cheeks
And spikes upon his nose.

Ten inches thick, atop his head,
A bump of bone projected.
By this his brain, though hardly worth
Protecting, was protected.

No claw or tooth, no tree that fell
Upon his head *kerwhacky*,
Could crack or crease or jar or scar
That stony part of Pachy.

And so he nibbled plants in peace
And lived untroubled days.
Sometimes, in fact, as Pachy proved,
To be a bonehead pays.

- RICHARD ARMOUR
(From *A Dozen Dinosaurs* by Richard Armour. 1967)

- A** Referring to the poem, write a description of the dinosaur, Pachy. (10)
- B** (i) What words or lines in the poem tell us that Pachy was not very brainy? (5)
- (ii) Was Pachy violent? Base your answer on the poem. (5)
- C** Write five pairs of rhyming words from this poem. (10)
- D** What is your favourite stanza in this poem? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** Think about poems you have studied and choose **one** which is amusing **OR** contains vivid descriptions.
- Name the poem and the poet.
 - Describe how the poet succeeds in making the poem you have chosen either amusing or vivid. (20)

[Turn over

Read this scene, adapted from *The Tiger's Bones* by Ted Hughes, and then answer the questions which follow.

The Master, a very famous scientist, has detected a meteor approaching Earth at a speed of thousands of miles per second. The play opens with Dully, a young man that everybody considers to be a fool.

DULLY: *(Yawns, gazes happily into the distance. Birdsong–dawn chorus.)*
Dawn—must be God's own favourite hour of the twenty-four. I think so. And the birds seem to think so—they're bubbling over.

Enter JITTERWIT in a feverish hurry and VON GONKTOP who is carrying an enormous telescope.

JITTERWIT: Where's the Master? What's going on? Don't just sit, fool. Get everything ready.

VON GONKTOP: Where's the Master? Isn't he here yet? No? Are you ready, fool?

DULLY: *(calmly)* I'm always ready, Mr. Von Gonktop.

JITTERWIT: Aren't we going to look through the telescope this morning?

VON GONKTOP: I've already looked.

JITTERWIT: Well?

VON GONKTOP: Worse than ever. Closer than ever. Bigger than ever. Now it has a big blue spiky ring round it.

JITTERWIT: A blue ring! That wasn't there yesterday.

VON GONKTOP: Yesterday it wasn't as close, was it? It's travelling at thousands of miles a second. Straight towards us. Soon it will be here, it will arrive and – Bang! Whooof!

Enter the MASTER—a bearded scientist.

MASTER: Well, and how is my little meteor this morning?

JITTERWIT: Master, can I ask a question?

MASTER: Hurry up. We must get to the exact point where the meteor first makes contact with the earth.

JITTERWIT: Master, I know your calculations are infallible, but—can't it possibly, just by a hairsbreadth, miss us?

VON GONKTOP: The Master's calculations cannot fail.

MASTER: Out of the question. *(Master exits)*

VON GONKTOP: This meteor will shatter the whole earth into red-hot dust. Let's go!

JITTERWIT: Aaaaah! We're finished! One more hour and everything's finished.

DULLY: Don't you take it to heart. Don't get worked up.

JITTERWIT: Why shouldn't I get worked up? That meteor is rushing to swallow us up, bigger every minute.

DULLY: Well I can't see this meteor. Let me look through the telescope.

JITTERWIT: Look, nitwit, look.

DULLY: Ah, yes.

JITTERWIT: Ah yes, he says. Aren't you scared out of your wits? What are you doing? What are you doing? Unscrewing the telescope?

DULLY: Well, look. There's your meteor inside the telescope.

JITTERWIT: Aaaaaah!

DULLY: It's a spot of fungus growing on the lens. You see, yellow-centre, then a blue ring.

JITTERWIT: Ooooh! It's a blot of penicillin! Our meteor's nothing but a spot of fungus! The master's been deceived by a mushroom!

- A** 1. Think about the character Dully. How do the two characters, Jitterwit and Von Gonktop behave towards him? (5)
2. How does Dully appear to you, a member of the audience? (5)
- B** Jitterwit's name suits him perfectly. Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- C** If you were directing this play, what instructions would you give to the actor playing the part of Master regarding:
- tone of voice?
 - body language?
 - costume? (10)
- D** Read the last eight lines of the extract again. How do you think the audience feels at this stage surprised or angry or amused? Explain your choice. (10)
- E** 1. Name a play or film you have studied in which something very unexpected happens. Describe the unexpected event and explain why it was unexpected. (10)
2. Did the unexpected event add to your enjoyment of the studied play or film? Explain why/why not? (10)

Read this extract adapted from *"A Taste for Quiet and Other Disquieting Tales"* by Judith Gorog, and answer the questions which follow.

The surprising thing about Melinda Alice was her power: no one trusted her, but no one avoided her either. She was always included, always in the middle. If you had seen her, pretty and witty in the centre of a group of students walking past your house, you'd have thought ... "there goes a natural leader."

Melinda Alice had left for school early. She wanted to study alone in a quiet spot because there was going to be a big maths test, and Melinda was not prepared. That "A" she wanted really mattered to her, so Melinda Alice walked to school alone, planning her studies. She didn't usually notice Nature much, so she nearly stepped on a beautiful snail that was making its way across the sidewalk.

"Ugh, yucky thing!" thought Melinda Alice, then stopped.

Not wanting to step on the snail accidentally was one thing, but now she lifted her shoe to crush it.

"Please don't," said the snail. .

"Why not?" retorted Melinda Alice.

"I'll give you three wishes," replied the snail evenly.

"Agreed," said Melinda Alice. "My first wish is that my next ... " she paused a split second,

"...my next thousand wishes come true!"

She smiled triumphantly and opened her bag to take out a small notebook and pencil.

Melinda Alice was sure she heard the snail say, "What a clever girl," as it made it to the safety of an ivy bed beside the sidewalk.

During the rest of the walk to school, Melinda was occupied with wonderful ideas. She would have beautiful clothes. "Wish number two ... that I will always be perfectly dressed," and she was just that. True, her new outfit was not a lot different from the one she had worn leaving the house, but that only meant that Melinda Alice liked her own taste.

After thinking awhile, she wrote, "Wish number three ... I wish for pierced ears and small gold earrings." Her father had not allowed Melinda to have pierced ears, but now she had them anyway. She felt her new earrings and shook her beautiful hair in delight. "I can have anything: iPod, CDs, Plasma TV, DVDs, scooter, car, anything! All my life!" She hugged her books to herself in delight.

By the time she reached school Melinda was almost an altruist.* She could wish for peace. Then she wondered, "Is the snail that powerful?" She felt her ears, looked at her perfect blouse, skirt, jacket, shoes. "I could make people beautiful, cure the sick. . ." She stopped. The wave of altruism had washed past. "I could pay people back who deserve it!" Melinda Alice looked at the school, at all the kids. She had an enormous sense of power. "They all have to do what I want now." She walked down the crowded halls to her locker. Melinda Alice could be sweet; she could be witty. She ... The bell rang for class. Melinda Alice snatched her books, slammed the locker shut, and just made it to her seat.

"Hey, Melinda Alice," whispered Fred, "you know that big maths test next period?"

"Oh, no!" grimaced Melinda Alice. Her thoughts raced; "That damned snail made me late, and I forgot to study ... I'll blow it."

Melinda Alice groaned aloud ... "I wish I were dead!"

(*an altruist is a person who wants to do good for everybody.)

- A** Would you like to have Melinda Alice as a friend? Explain why or why not, basing your answer on the short story above. (10)
- B** Melinda Alice was sure she heard the snail say, “What a clever girl”
What do you think the snail *really* thought of Melinda Alice? (10)
- C** Does the ending of this story surprise you? Why/ Why not? (10)
- D** What do you think the author’s message is in this story? (10)
- E.** Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied in which there is an element of fantasy.
- Describe the element of fantasy in the novel or short story.
 - Describe how the life of an individual or of a group of people is changed by the element of fantasy.

OR

Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied in which something extraordinarily good or bad happens to an individual or a group of people.

- Describe what happened.
- Explain what caused it to happen.
- Describe how the life of the individual or of the group was changed by what happened.

(20)

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