



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit  
State Examinations Commission**

**JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2011**

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**ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL**

360 marks

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**WEDNESDAY, 8 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.

### ***Artemis Fowl* is voted top Puffin book of all time**

1. Irish author Eoin Colfer's bestseller *Artemis Fowl* has been voted 'Britain's all-time favourite Puffin book', beating classics such as Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and Clive King's *Stig of the Dump* for the award. Colfer's book was chosen by 68% of those who voted in an online poll. Puffin organised the vote to celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday as a publisher of children's books. Puffin offered readers a selection of seven books, one from each decade of its existence, from which to choose a winner.
2. The result came as a surprise to the Wexford author, who said he was "over the moon" at the news. "Once you see Roald Dahl on a list, you just write yourself off immediately," he said. Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* came a distant second with 13% of the vote. "I'm alive and I've a mailing list, so that was a bit of an advantage!" joked Colfer.
3. Colfer said that having his book published by Puffin was an honour in itself. The 45-year-old writer said it was a thrill for his book *Artemis Fowl* to appear on the list with such prestigious books as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Stig of the Dump* and *Goodnight Mr. Tom*. In fact *Stig of the Dump* was one of his favourite books when he was a child. "I remember my mother gave it to me when I was sick one week, and I read it three times," Colfer said.
4. He described the award as "the most important" of all the prizes he's won in his professional life. "In a way it gives the book a permanence I never thought it would get. It is forever now in the Puffin box set along with *Treasure Island*, *Stig of the Dump* and *Wind in the Willows*. It's a pat on the shoulder that goes on for decades, rather than weeks," said Colfer.
5. Published in 2001, *Artemis Fowl* was Colfer's first story in a series about a young criminal mastermind who starts out by kidnapping a fairy to rebuild his family fortune. The *Artemis Fowl* books have sold some 20 million copies worldwide. Managing editor of Puffin Books, Francesca Dow, said *Artemis Fowl* is very much a book for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She described *Artemis Fowl* as "inventive, fast, funny and written in an engagingly fresh way."

Source: *The Irish Times* (Adapted).

Find answers to the following:

- A**
- 1 What award did Eoin Colfer's book, *Artemis Fowl*, win? (5)
  - 2 How was the winner decided? (5)
  - 3 How many books could people choose from when they voted? (5)
  - 4 For how long have Puffin been publishing children's books? (5)
- B** From your reading of the passage what evidence is there that Eoin Colfer likes the book, *Stig of the Dump*? (10)
- C** Explain any TWO of the following in your own words:
- 1 "...beating classics..."
  - 2 "...came a distant second..."
  - 3 "...you write yourself off..."
  - 4 "...criminal mastermind..." (10)
- D** From your reading of the passage give two reasons why Eoin Colfer was pleased to have won the competition. (10)
- E** In paragraph 5, what reasons are given for the popularity of *Artemis Fowl*? (10)

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A**      The Prize
  
- B**      My favourite things
  
- C**      Write a story which at some point includes the sentence: “Don’t do it ... I’m warning you!”
  
- D**      The stranger
  
- E**      Fame
  
- F**      The Ticking Clock
  
- G**      Everyone should have a pet
  
- H**      What a mess!

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

You and your friends are putting together a school magazine.  
You have been asked to write something for the music page.  
Write a review of a music album that you would recommend to your friends.

In your review you should

- Give some facts about the album
- Explain why people would like this album.

**OR**

Your local newspaper is running a competition called 'Local Hero'.  
Write a letter outlining the reasons why a person you know should get the prize.

In your letter you should

- Say who the person is
- Give reasons why that person should win the 'Local Hero' prize.

Read this extract, adapted from *Natasha's Will* by Joan Lingard, and answer the questions which follow.

*Sonya and her brother, Alex, live in a large house that belonged to Natasha, an old lady they used to look after. Natasha has recently died.*

The car pulled up in front of the house. Sonya ran across the lawn to meet it; Alex came from the stable. They reached the car at the same time.

The two men climbed out. Their limbs seemed to be stiff, as if they had driven a long way. The driver twitched his shoulders and rubbed the small of his back. He was dressed in fawnish-brown tweed with a cap to match; his passenger wore a dark, pinstripe suit.

'Hi!' It was Sonya who greeted them. She was the one in the family always readiest to talk. Alex liked to stand back until he summed people up.

'Good afternoon,' said the man in the pinstripe suit. He had a very smooth, even voice.

'Can I help you? Are you interested in our B&B?'

The tweedy one was surveying the landscape, letting his eyes sweep down over the lawn to the loch. 'Nice situation,' he commented. He seemed to be speaking more to himself than to them.

'It's fantastic,' enthused Sonya. 'We love it. You can watch the sun set over the water on fine evenings. Two of our guest bedrooms look over the loch.'

But the man was no longer admiring the view. He had put his back to it and was scrutinizing the front of the house. It was a large, well-proportioned building in grey stone, dating back to the early part of the eighteenth century.

'Needs a bit of work doing to it,' his companion observed. 'The windowsills haven't been painted in a while. Guttering needs attention. Maybe even the roof.'

'The old girl probably didn't bother about it much in her later years. She was ninety odd, you know.'

Sonya felt herself bristling. Had he meant Natasha? Who did he think he was to refer to her as 'the old girl'!

'It's a fine house, though,' said pinstripe. 'Excellent example of its era, I would say. A most desirable property.'

*Property!* That was the first note to strike a chill into their hearts. Brother and sister turned to look at each other. Alex's frown was black.

'I'm sure we can offer you some compensation'.

'It's ours!' cried Sonya. 'Natasha said she was leaving it to us. She told me she was! She put it in her will. She wanted us to live on here after her.'

'Where's the will then?' asked pinstripe, turning his palms upward as if ready to receive it. His hands looked thin and dry.

- A**
- i. Where was Alex when the car arrived? (5)
  - ii. What did the driver do when he first got out of the car? (5)
- B** Why have the two men come to Natasha's house?  
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- C** Was Natasha's house a nice house? (10)  
Give reasons for your answer.
- D** 'It's ours!' cried Sonya. 'Natasha said she was leaving it to us. She told me she was!'  
Why do you think Sonya cries out like this? (10)
- E** Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied where a character is faced with a difficult situation.
- Name the character
  - Describe the difficult situation
  - Explain what you learnt about the character from the way he/she dealt with the difficult situation.
- (20)

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

**SECTION 5:**

**POETRY**

**[60]**

Read these stanzas, taken from the poem *The Cat* by Ted Hughes,  
and then answer the questions which follow.

**The Cat**

You need your Cat  
When you slump down  
All tired and flat  
With too much town

With too many lifts  
Too many floors  
Too many neon-lit  
Corridors

Too many people  
Telling you what  
You must do  
And what you must not

With too much headache  
Video glow  
Too many answers  
You will never know

Then stroke the Cat  
That warms your knee  
You'll find her purr  
Is a battery

For into your hands  
Will flow the power  
Of the beasts who ignore  
These ways of ours

*Ted Hughes*



- A** (i) How does the poet feel when he first gets home from town? (5)
- (ii) What makes the poet feel better after he gets home? (5)
- B** What are the things about town that the poet does not like? (10)
- C** Do you think that the poet likes cats? (10)  
Give reasons for your answer.
- D** From your reading of the whole poem, explain what the poet means by  
“You’ll find her purr  
Is a battery” (10)
- E** Choose a poem you have enjoyed which describes a person **or** a time of year.  
➤ Name the poem and the poet  
➤ Describe what the poem is about  
➤ Explain why you enjoyed this poem  
➤ Describe one detail from the poem that gave you a really  
good sense of that person **or** time of year. (20)

Read this scene, from Stuart Paterson's stage adaptation of Michael Morpugo's novel, *Kensuke's Kingdom*, and then answer the questions which follow.

***Michael, his mother, and the family dog, Stella, have arrived at a repair shed where Michael's father has a surprise for them.***

FATHER: There's someone I want you to meet. She's called Peggy Sue. She's been looking forward to meeting you ... I've told her all about you ...

***He pulls away the sheets to reveal a gleaming boat with the name 'Peggy Sue' painted on it. Michael and his mother stare in amazement.***

FATHER: So there you are ... what do you think?

MOTHER: (*Utterly stunned*) She's a yacht!

MICHAEL: She's fantastic!

FATHER: I've had her checked out. She's a Bowman. Best make, best design there is, and the safest ...

MOTHER: (*Still unable to take it in*) She's a yacht!

FATHER: You know what I couldn't take? After the factory closed the only wage coming into our house was Michael's paper round.

MICHAEL: I didn't mind ...

FATHER: I know you didn't, but I did. It drove me mad, so I started to think ...  
What's always been the most special thing for us?  
Sailing our dinghy on Sundays, right?  
All three of us, and Stella, on the reservoir.  
And then I thought, why not make our whole life special, not just Sundays?  
We've got the redundancy money, there's a bit saved, the money I got from the car ...  
I know, we could do what everyone else does and put it in the bank, but what for? Just to watch it dribble away until there's nothing left?  
Or we could do something really special with it, a once-in-a-lifetime thing.  
We could sail around the world. Africa, South America, Australia, the Pacific.  
We could see places we've only dreamed of.

MOTHER: Around the world?

FATHER: I know – you're thinking we've only sailed a dinghy, he's gone crazy, it's too dangerous, we'll be flat broke ...

MOTHER: I'm not leaving my home. I was born there. I'm not leaving.

FATHER: It wouldn't be for ever ... a year, maybe eighteen months!  
And we'll train before we go ... learn to be proper sailors.  
You, Mum, you'll do your Yachtmaster's certificate. Oh, didn't I say?  
You'll be skipper, Mum. I'll be first mate and handyman.

FATHER:     *(continuing)* Michael, you'll be cabin boy ...  
                   And Stella - I know it's a terrible insult - but you'll have to be ship's cat.  
                   A few month's training and we'll be off round the world.  
                   Linda, the world! What do you think?

MICHAEL:    Fan-tas-tic!

*But his mother has not given her reply.*

FATHER:     It'll be the adventure of a lifetime. It's our one chance, Linda. We'll never get another. What do you say?

MOTHER:     *(after a pause)* I'll be skipper you say?

FATHER& MICHAEL: *(in unison)* Aye, aye, cap'n!

- A**       From your reading of this scene, what type of man is Michael's father? (10)
- B**       From your reading of this scene, what type of person is Michael? (10)
- C**       Do you think Michael's father wants the mother to be skipper? (10)  
             Give reasons for your answer.
- D**       Imagine you have been asked to direct this scene
- Describe two props that you would like to have on stage
  - Describe the costume you would like the father to wear
  - What instructions would you give about how Mother should react when she first sees the yacht. (10)
- E**       Name a **PLAY** or **FILM** you have studied in which there is a likeable character
- Describe the character
  - Describe the ending of the play or film
  - Would you change the ending? Why / Why not? (20)

**A** Look at the slogan on page 2 of Paper X

**Lose yourself in  
VIKING & MEDIEVAL  
DUBLIN**

Do you think it is a good slogan for this tourist attraction?

Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

**B** In your opinion, which photograph on page 3 of Paper X would be most likely to interest tourists in this attraction?

Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

**C** Look at page 3 of Paper X.

Which do you think tourists would find more useful: the text or the floor plans?

Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

**D** Examine the use of colours and types of print on page 3 of Paper X.

Do you think these are effective in attracting the reader's attention?

Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

**E** You have been asked to write a radio advertisement to promote a tourist attraction

As part of your advertisement

- Write your own slogan for the tourist attraction you are promoting
- Give one convincing reason why people should visit this attraction
- Give two pieces of information about this attraction that tourists would find useful.

(20)