



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit  
State Examinations Commission**

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**JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2003**

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**ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER 1**

180 marks

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**WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE - MORNING , 9.30 - 12.00**

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**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 article (in edited form) by Cyril Kelly and then answer the questions that follow.

## Eating An Ice Cream Cone

It was a sweltering day and the sash-windows of our third class were opened as wide as possible to gulp any stray puff of fresh air. Outside, swallows were arcing like black bolts of voltage against the blue sky. Master McMahon had had to call on all his stamina and wizardry to keep forty of us on our collective mettle since early morning. But, as the minute hand of the school clock ticked towards three, there was one delightful twist left in the day.

Pressing the blackboard firmly against the easel, he wrote the title of the story we were getting for homework, namely "Eating an Ice Cream Cone". Then turning to face us and, without uttering a word, he pushed up the white cuffs of his shirtsleeves as far as they would go. In the expectant hush, he slowly undid the strap of his rectangular watch and placed it on the table.

From that moment his stern eyes no longer needed to demand our attention. He had become a nine-year-old boy approaching the high windowsill of our classroom to buy a cone. Nobody in the class dared to blink, I hardly allowed myself to breathe. We saw him proffer his money up to some shopkeeper who must have been as gigantic as Fionn MacCumhaill. We were parched as we waited for him to be served. Occasionally, the raucous call of a rook ripped the backdrop of silence which was the only prop for his performance.

As our mime artist turned away from the counter, we were entranced by his widening, expectant eyes. We salivated as, firstly, he licked his lips and then fastened a fond smile on his upheld fist. We, too, agonised on how to best tackle this cone which had materialised before our hungry eyes. Should he lick the quiff of soft ice cream that drooped with a cowlick at the apex, or should he tackle the fronds melting over the crisp edge of the cone?

Forever the *agent provocateur*\* against predictability, he suddenly raised the ice cream, got his mouth under the golden tip and snipped off the plain bit at the end. The crumbling cone crackled in every inner ear and brought more water to our teeth and we watched as, manfully, he tried to suck the ice cream through the small opening in the end.

The other classes were on their noisy way out of the building but Master McMahon remained motionless, with his knees bent for balance, his head thrown back and his face upturned towards the ceiling. Frozen for a moment in that pose, he was the strong man in the circus, the base of the human pyramid, supporting the combined expectancy of forty spellbound boys. As he resumed sucking for ice cream, his cheeks grew more and more hollow. We could feel the ice cream offering stout resistance and we were craning forward on the edges of the benches, almost asphyxiated with anticipation, our cheeks also concave with phantom pain.

\*One who provokes others into action.

At last with a resounding pop, his cheeks relaxed and we knew that he had, finally, sucked an air hole through the dense ball of ice cream. The relief in that classroom was audible. What an expression of Dennis the Menace satisfaction Master McMahon had on his face! As he put on his watch again and before we could stretch out of our trance, he pointed to the words on the board and said: “Tomorrow I’ll give the price of an ice cream to any boy who makes me taste the flavour of vanilla from his story.”

Answer the following **three** questions:

1. Master McMahon wants the boys to make him, “Taste the flavour of vanilla from his story.” What kind of writing is he trying to encourage from his pupils when he says this? Explain your answer. (10)
  
2. The writer uses many attractive images in his writing. Pick out one that you particularly enjoyed and say why you liked it. (10)
  
3. In this passage Cyril Kelly recalls an incident from his childhood. Do you think he is a good storyteller? Support your answer with reference to the text. (20)

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.

You will be rewarded for:

- A personal approach to the subject
- An appropriate style
- Liveliness and a good choice of words
- Organisation and accuracy

1. It's a weird and wonderful world.
2. The motion for your next debate is: "Irish people do not make foreigners feel welcome."  
Write the speech you would make for **or** against the motion.
3. You have had a serious argument with a friend. You want to make up. Write the dialogue that takes place between you.
4. Look at the picture on **Page 1 of Paper X** which accompanies this paper and write a composition inspired by it. You should give the composition a title of your choice.
5. A summer's evening.
6. Your friend's parents invited you to go to Disneyland in Florida with them. Your parents allowed you to go, but said you must pay for your own airline ticket. Tell the story of how you raised the money.
7. The Time Machine.
8. I wish I could live that day again.

**SECTION 3:****FUNCTIONAL WRITING****[30]**

Study the picture on **Pages 2 and 3** of **Paper X** and answer **one** of the following questions.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
  - Clarity of expression
  - An appropriate tone
  - Good grammar, spelling, punctuation and correct use of capitals
1. Write a speech to be delivered to your classmates, giving your views on how books help to open up the world for people.

**OR**

2. Imagine the girl in the picture is your pen pal. Write a letter telling her about a good book you have enjoyed recently.

**SECTION 4:****MEDIA STUDIES****[40]**

Examine carefully the advertisement that appears on **Page 4** of **Paper X**, which accompanies this examination paper, and answer the following **three** questions.

1. Is there anything about the advertisement that suggests to you that it might be a “spoof” or a parody of a genuine advertisement? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
2. What features of a genuine advertisement can you identify in it? (15)
3. Rewrite the text which describes the “Conch 35Z Wavecrasher” so that it reads like a proper advertisement for a mobile phone. (15)

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