



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2015

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 3 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.

Journalist Patrick Kidd tells his readers about how watching the film *Frozen* has had a lasting effect on him.

My Earworm

1. Disney films have always been known for their catchy songs. From 'Heigh-Ho' in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* to 'Circle of Life' in *The Lion King*, Disney creates songs that linger. But now, eighty years after Walt Disney started on his first feature film, 'Let It Go' from the film *Frozen* could be the best song of them all.
2. If you've seen the Disney film *Frozen* you're probably already unable to stop yourself humming the first line – "Snow glows white on the mountain tonight." The power ballad that Elsa the snow queen sings in the wilderness has taken over my life. At odd moments in the office or on the train, I'll find myself suddenly wanting to throw back my hair and belt out a line or two from it. "*Let it go, let it goooo. Turn awaaaay and slaaaam the doo-oor. I don't care what they're going to say. Let the storm rage on.* (Pause and wink at the camera). *The cold never bothered me anyway.*" Just typing this makes me want to stand up and sing!
3. If this is all a mystery to you and you value peace and harmony, stay away from this song. Do not seek out the video. Avoid the many joke versions of it, even though the one sung in 25 languages is fabulous. Keep away from iTunes.
4. If only this song would move on out of my head. An earworm is a song or tune that gets stuck in your head and will not leave no matter how hard you try. The term "earworm" was first used in the 1980s but the phenomenon has existed since man first bashed out a beat on a rock. Five months is long enough to be living with this earworm.
5. It would be alright if 'Let it Go', which won an Oscar, was a rotten song. Quality control would eventually drive it out of my head. But it's actually a rather brilliant song. From the whispering introduction, to the gathering plinky-plunky pace of the second verse, then – BOOM – into the atomic chorus — it's just too good!
If you've not yet been frozen by this song, let it go!

Based on an article from *The Times*.

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

Find answers to the following in the above text:

- A**
- 1** What is the name of the song that the writer can't get out of his head? (5)
 - 2** What film is it from? (5)
 - 3** What is the name of the character who sings this song? (5)
 - 4** When does the author say that the term 'earworm' was first used? (5)

B In paragraph 2, what evidence is there to suggest that the song 'Let It Go' is stuck in the writer's head? Support your answer with reference to the extract. (10)

C Explain any **TWO** of the following in your own words:

- 1** "Disney creates songs that linger."
- 2** "... belt out a line or two from it."
- 3** "Quality control would eventually drive it out of my head."
- 4** "... the whispering introduction ..." (10)

D Do you think, 'My Earworm' is a good title for this article? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

E Based on your reading of the passage, which **one** of the following words would you choose to describe the writer Patrick Kidd?

- Funny
- Imaginative
- Musical

Give reasons for your answer. (10)

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** The old woman sitting quietly
- B** Music I like
- C** *“Put that camera away!” she snapped.*
Write a story which at some point includes the above sentence.
- D** Too much television is bad for you
- E** Three Wishes
- F** Write a story that includes both of the following elements:
- An accident
 - and**
 - An act of courage
- G** It’s great to be young!
- H** Look at the photograph on **Page 2 of Paper X**. Write a composition based on this photograph.

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

A You have been asked to write a **review** of the best film you have ever seen for a film review website.

In your **review** you should:

- Describe what happens in the film
- Explain some of the reasons why you think it is the best film you have ever seen.

OR

B Write a **letter** to the editor of your local newspaper about the problem of litter in an area near to where you live.

In your **letter** you should:

- Describe how bad the problem is
- Suggest some of the steps that could be taken to solve the problem.

Read this extract, adapted from the novel *Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo and answer the questions which follow.

It is war time. During the war children were sent to live with families in the countryside for safety. David and Tucky are two young boys from London. In this extract they meet the man they will be staying with, for the first time.

A huge, bearded man in a great woolly coat and knee-length boots strode into the hall followed by a lanky-looking black and white sheepdog. Everyone gawped.

"I'm sorry to be late."

"You are Mr Reynolds I presume," Miss Evers' voice was stiff with anger.

"I am, my dear, and who may you be?"

"Mr Reynolds, these children have been up for over fifteen hours now. They have travelled nearly three hundred miles. You keep them waiting for another two hours or more and all you can say is you're sorry."

Mr Reynolds looked down at Miss Evers. "Lady, I've said I'm sorry. There's nothing more I can say if that won't satisfy you." Then he looked up and walked towards the two boys who had stood up by this time.

"Sorry to keep you," he said, looking from one to the other. He had bright blue eyes and the lines on his face disappeared into a beard that was flecked with white at the chin. There was wet mud down the front of his coat and David noticed a broad gold wedding ring on his hand as he ruffled the dog's neck.

"Mr Reynolds," one of the village ladies came up beside him. "Mr Reynolds, which one will you have?"

"Which one?"

"You put yourself down for one, Mr Reynolds. You said you only had room for one."

"You want me to choose between these two boys, is that it?"

No one replied. He looked from David to Tucky and back again to David. "This is just like the market day," he said, shaking his head. Mr Reynolds went on, looking at Tucky, "this one's taller." He reached out and gripped David's arm. "He's a bit skinny, you know, not much meat on him."

"Mr Reynolds," Miss Evers stamped her foot in fury. "Mr Reynolds, this is a serious matter."

"You're right lady, no doubt about it. It's a serious matter. I'm supposed to look at two young lads, face to face mind you and then pick out one and not the other. Right enough, that's serious. It's revolting that's what it is. And what happens to the one I don't choose, eh? How do you think he'll feel?"

"As a matter of fact," said Miss Evers quickly, "we don't know what will happen to him."

"You don't know!"

"There's been a mistake, a muddle over numbers, and one of these two boys has nowhere to go ... I don't suppose you'd consider taking them both on, would you? They're great friends at school."

Mr Reynolds considered the two boys carefully. "I'll tell you one thing for certain, it'll be both of them or neither. There'll be no choosing. What about asking them? They might not like the look of me — have you thought of that?"

No one said anything, so he asked them direct. "Well? What do you think? I'm a farmer, forty-two years old, married, no children. My name's Jerry Reynolds, I have ninety-six acres — barley, sheep, milking cows, a few beef cattle and since the war began, a few acres of potatoes. 'Tis only a small cottage and you'll have to do your bit about the farm. Well? What d'you say?"

Tucky looked at David and David looked back at him. It was the first good moment of the day — each understood instinctively what the other wanted.

"We'll go with you, mister," David said.

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

- A**
- 1** What is Mr Reynolds wearing when the boys see him for the first time? (5)
 - 2** What animal follows Mr Reynolds into the hall? (5)
- B** *It's revolting that's what it is.*
In your view, what is it that Mr Reynolds thinks is revolting? (10)
- C** From what you have read in this passage, did you like the character of Mr Reynolds?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Imagine that you are either David **or** Tucky.
Write a short letter to your family at home in London. Based on what you have read in this extract, explain how you are feeling and describe some of the things that have happened to you since you came to live in the countryside. (10)
- E** Name a **NOVEL** or a **SHORT STORY** you have studied where a character faced a **challenge**.
- Name the character and describe a challenge he or she faced.
 - What did the character do to try to deal with this challenge?
 - Did you like the way the character tried to deal with this challenge? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

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

SECTION 5:

POETRY

[60]

Read this poem and answer the questions which follow it.

TIME TO DUST THE DAFFODILS

1. My gran's too old
to go out
in the cold garden
planting bulbs,
but she likes
spring flowers.
2. She has a box
of plastic daffodils
on sticks
that she hides away
in the winter.
3. When she notices
that spring is coming
she takes them out,
dusts each one carefully,
4. then plants them
underneath her window.
5. Passers-by pause
to admire them.
'How lovely, Mrs Paradine!
Why do your daffodils
always bloom earlier
than mine?'

Irene Rawnsley



Read this scene from *Seventeen* by Michael Gow and answer the questions which follow it.

The day before her seventeenth birthday Ella is on her way to school when she notices two strangers outside her house. The strangers (Dan and Sal) start questioning her about her house.

Scene 1 — On the street

Dan: This house, well, how long have you lived here?

Ella: My whole life ...

Dan: Well, actually, our mum lived here. A long time ago.

Ella: Really?

Dan: Really, yeah.

Ella: Well ... okay.

Dan: And she's not well, okay?

Ella: I'm sorry.

Dan: And she's not well ... and she's been recalling the old days and she's been talking about this house where she lived and how lovely it was and the lovely garden with the lovely trees and everything and how lovely the street was. So we thought if we could take a few pictures for her it might cheer her up. Do you see?

Ella: Yes. I'm sorry she's not well.

Dan: Yeah, yeah, really sad, actually, so would that be alright? If we took a couple of pictures to show her? We've taken pictures of the street and everywhere around here.

Ella: Mum and Dad changed a lot of this house, it's very different.

Dan: Exactly – we could show her all the developments, she'll love to see that, won't she?

Sal: Yes, yes she will.

Scene 2 — In the kitchen — Later that night during dinner

Dad: Cheer up Ella.

Ella: I'm okay.

Dad: You don't look it.

Ella: I'm okay. Except –

Mum: Yes?

Ella: Something weird happened today. There were these people outside the house when I left for school.

Mum: What were they doing there?

Ella: Just standing there.

Mum: Did they scare you?

Ella: Not scare, it was just strange, they said their mother used to live in this house. They said they wanted to take a photo to show her. She's not well, she's been talking about this place, about the garden, all the trees.

Mum: There weren't any trees when we moved in. The whole place was cement from the front gate to the back fence. There wasn't a tree in the whole street.

Dad: The whole suburb.

Ella: I *knew* it was weird.

Mum: You don't know who they were?

Ella: No.

Mum: Never seen them before?

Ella: No. Do you know who they might be?

Mum: No, why would I? Of course I don't know.

Dad: But it's made you very anxious.

Mum: I don't like the idea of strangers hanging around.

Dad: Ella. If you see them again, come straight to us. Yes?

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

A From your reading of this extract, which **one** of the following words do you think best describes Ella?

- Curious
- Kind
- Nervous

Give reasons for your answer based on what you learn in the extract. (10)

B Based on the above extract, do you think Ella's mum is right to be worried?

Give reasons for your answer. (10)

C **1** Imagine you are directing this scene. What would you instruct the actor playing Dan to do when he says the following line?

**“ ... she's been talking about this house
where she lived and how lovely it was ...”**

Give a reason for your answer. (5)

2 Imagine you are directing this scene. What would you instruct the actor playing Ella to do when she says the following line?

“I *knew* it was weird.”

Give a reason for your answer. (5)

D Imagine Ella meets Dan outside her house the following day. Based on what you have read in the above passage, write out the conversation that you think might take place between them. You should write about **ten** lines. (10)

E Name a **PLAY** or **FILM** you have studied where there is an important **friendship** between two characters.

- Name the two characters who have an important friendship.
- Which of the two characters did you prefer? Give a reason for your answer.
- Describe a moment in the play or film when you see how important their friendship is. (20)

SECTION 7:**MEDIA STUDIES****[60]**

Examine carefully the magazine cover for *Horrible Histories Magazine* on **Page 3** of **Paper X** and then answer the questions below.

A Look closely at **Page 3** of **Paper X**.

1 What prize can readers win with this issue of *Horrible Histories Magazine*? (5)

2 What king can you read about in this issue of *Horrible Histories Magazine*? (5)

B **1** Do you like the way images are used on this magazine cover?
Give a reason for your answer. (5)

2 Do you like the way words are used on this magazine cover?
Give a reason for your answer. (5)

C Look at the magazine cover on **Page 3** of **Paper X**.
Who do you think would be most likely to read this magazine?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)

D In your view, which **one** of the following words best describes the magazine?

- Funny
- Interesting
- Frightening

Give reasons for your answer based on what you can see on **Page 3** of **Paper X**. (10)

E You have been asked to make a radio advertisement to sell the next issue of *Horrible Histories Magazine*.

- Suggest a slogan you would use in the advertisement to encourage people to buy the magazine.
- Explain why you think your chosen slogan would encourage people to buy the magazine.
- Describe one sound effect you would use in the advertisement.
- Give a reason why it would be a good sound effect in this advertisement. (20)