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**JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2001**

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**ENGLISH – FOUNDATION LEVEL**

**360 marks**

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**WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE – MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00**

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**YOU MUST ANSWER SECTIONS 1, 2 AND 3**

**YOU MUST ALSO ANSWER ANY THREE OF  
SECTIONS 4, 5, 6 AND 7**

**SPEND A LITTLE OVER 20 MINUTES  
ON EACH SECTION**

**NOTE:** No marks will be awarded to candidates who answer this examination paper in a language other than English.

Read this piece and then answer the questions.

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

*The writer tells us about his summer holidays. He describes the house where he stayed and the room in which he slept.*

- 1 As a child, I spent five or six weeks of every summer in a house that was under the hills and near the sea. The house stood on the road that went down to the beach. And it was a magical house. It was the only slated house in the village. All the others were thatched. It looked tiny on the outside, but it was very roomy inside. Two doors opened from the tiled hall. The one on the left led to the big kitchen, off which there was a tiny bedroom. The one on the right led to the big sitting-room, off which was another tiny bedroom.
- 3 The big bedroom under the roof was known as *The Loft*. Here my aunt put up her nephews from the city during the summer holidays. We all loved *The Loft*. It was long, low, cool, and dark as the hold of a ship. Sleeping in it was like sleeping on board ship. The beds were as low as bunks. They had a sunken floor of their own below the level of the floor. One tiny window was like a porthole and looked down the road to the sea. It was so small that two loaves of bread would have blocked its light. Overhead was the sloping slate roof.



- 2 In one corner of the sitting-room was a ladder. You had to look hard to see it, because it was covered completely with the same flowery wallpaper as the room itself. The ladder was almost perpendicular. Its foot was so close to the wall that you had to squeeze your way on to the lowest rung. If you were old, or fat, or bad on your feet, you couldn't climb it at all. If you did climb it, you were in the big bedroom under the roof.
- 4 At night, we lay in bed and looked up at the little window. In the twilight, it changed colour just like a theatre spotlight. The purple of the hills was in it, and the gold of the corn. Later still, when the light faded, you could see a sprinkling of stars on the blue cushion of the sky.

-- adapted from *Bright Intervals*  
by John D. Sheridan.

**A** Find answers to these questions --

- 1 How long was the writer's summer holiday? (5)
- 2 Where was the holiday house situated? (5)
- 3 How did it differ from other village houses? (5)
- 4 Who owned this holiday house? (5)

**B** In **Part 2**, the writer describes the ladder in the sitting-room. Mention any TWO things he tells us about the ladder. (10)

**C** Describe the big bedroom known as *The Loft*. Use your own words and only the details you find in **Part 3**. (10)

**D** In the picture, the artist draws the scene described in **Part 1**. In what ways are the *picture* and the *description* --

- **like** each other?
- **not like** each other?

(10)

**E** *And it was a magical house. (Part 1)*

Is the author right to call the house *magical*, do you think? Give a reason for your answer. (10)

Write about one page on ONE of the following:

A My best holiday

B I scored the winner!

C My School                      OR    My House                      OR    My Bedroom

D **Me:**                      *I'm off on holidays tomorrow!*  
**Friend:**                      *Hols! Lucky you! Where?*

Write the rest of this conversation.

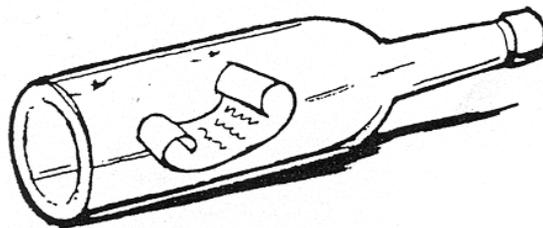
E My friend

F The day I got into trouble

G *Slowly, I climbed the ladder . . .*

Continue this story.

H You find this bottle on a beach.



Write out what you imagine is the page of writing inside the bottle.

Answer EITHER A or B.

First, look at the three drawings on Page 1 of Paper X.

**A A REPORT OF WHAT HAPPENED**

Imagine you were on the beach too.  
You saw what happened.

The Gardaí ask you for a report of what happened.  
Write the report.

OR

**B RULES FOR SWIMMERS.**

A warning notice is to be put on this dangerous beach.  
Write FIVE *Rules for Swimmers* to be put on the warning notice.

Which of the *Rules* do you think is the most important?  
Explain why you think it is most important.

**Answer ANY THREE of the Sections 4, 5, 6, 7 which follow**

**SECTION 4:**

**DRAMA**

**[60]**

Read part of **SCENE 1** from *Island* by Michael Barwis.  
Then answer the questions.

**1** **SCENE 1 : A Traffic Island**

*Facing audience, a traffic light stuck at red.  
A tape recording of traffic is used all the time.*

*Sisters, Linda and Penny have entered, pushing bicycles.  
Their younger brother Jimmy follows, carrying a bag.  
At this point, all three are stranded on the traffic island.*

- 2** **LINDA** C'mon Penny. The lights'll change soon!  
**JIMMY** You'll have a long wait!  
**PENNY** What do you mean?  
**JIMMY** They aren't going to change!  
**PENNY** Don't be silly. Of course they'll change.  
**JIMMY** They won't.  
**PENNY** (*Doubtfully*) How do you know?

- 3** **JIMMY** Oh, I just know. We're on a desert island!  
**LINDA** Don't be daft.  
**JIMMY** You'll see.

*Traffic noise up. Jimmy searches in his bag, and takes out a telescope. Noise down.*

**JIMMY** There you are. We're shipwrecked. I told you.  
**LINDA** And I'll tell you something, you silly little fool . . .  
(*Shouts*) **JIMMY!** WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

*Jimmy is climbing up the traffic light. He looks around through the telescope.*

- 4** **LINDA** Jimmy! Come down you little monkey.  
(*He takes no notice.*) What d'you think you're doing?  
**JIMMY** I'm on Spyglass Hill. Looking out for the enemy.  
**LINDA** He's gone mad. Leave him there.  
**JIMMY** Enemy approaching. Prepare to defend the island!  
**LINDA** C'mon Penny!

*Linda pushes her bike forward. Penny follows. A screech of brakes!*

- 5** **LINDA** (*Screams*) MIND, Penny . . .  
**JIMMY** Ya see! The enemy. I told you.  
**PENNY** Linda, what if he's right?  
**JIMMY** We're marooned! Shipwrecked!  
**PENNY** Do you think it's true, Linda? Will we get off the island?

*Girls hesitate, looking at each other.*

- A** Could a scene like this really happen?  
Why or Why not? (10)
- B** In this scene, the girls behave differently to Jimmy.  
Do you agree? Or disagree? Explain. (10)
- C** List all the *props* needed for this scene.  
Which is the most important *prop*, do you think?  
Explain why. (10)
- D** **JIMMY** *Enemy approaching. (Part 4)*  
In this scene, what *enemy* is Jimmy talking about?  
What is your opinion of this *enemy*? (10)
- E** From a **PLAY** or a **FILM** you have studied,  
pick your favourite character and describe --
- how this character dresses
  - how this character speaks
  - how this character behaves
  - how others react to this character (20)

Read this piece from *A Spoonful of Jam* by Michelle Magorian.  
Then answer the questions.

### TRAPPED FOR HOURS

*Elsie Hollis is being bullied by Marjorie Bush and her gang. They pounce on her, drag her to a ruined house and lock her into a coal bunker.*

- 1 Elsie had no sooner been shoved into the coal bunker than she heard the entrance being blocked with rubble. For what seemed like hours, she listened to the gang talking outside. Every now and then they would call her names or make jokes about her size, throwing things at the bunker. Marjorie shouted that if Elsie tried to escape, she would drop a live rat into the bunker. Elsie believed her.
- 2 After a while there was silence. Elsie sat there, crouched in the dark. She leaned her head against the brick wall. The dust was choking her. Because of the heatwave outside, the coal bunker felt like an oven inside. She was sweating so much she could even feel it trickling down her back.
- 3 Elsie tried to think. By now her mum would be angry with her for being late. Dad and Harry, her brother, would still be at the factory. She counted on her fingers the things she had in her favour. One, I'm alive. Two, my spectacles ain't smashed. Three, lots of people will miss me some time and come looking for me. But the coal-black darkness was frightening. Hot tears suddenly spilled down her face. They wouldn't dream of looking for her in a coal bunker. She could be there for weeks.
- 4 Elsie gathered in her knees and rested her face on them. It was the nearest she could get to hugging herself. She dropped off to sleep, dreaming about her part in the school play. She awoke with a start. She heard the sound of scratching and scraping outside. She felt sick. Had Marjorie returned with a rat? Terrified, she heard the rubble being removed from the bunker. Suddenly the lid was lifted and a flashlight dazzled her eyes. 'No!' she shrieked.
- 5 'Elsie?' Looking down at her with blazing eyes was a very familiar face. Two muscular arms reached down for her and pulled her out. It was her dad.

-- adapted from *A Spoonful of Jam* by Michelle Magorian

**A** Marjorie Bush and her gang are bullies.  
What nasty things did they do to Elsie Hollis? (10)

**B** What was it like inside the coal bunker? (**Part 2**) (10)

**C** In the bunker, what were Elsie's thoughts and feelings? (10)

**D** Make clear what your own feelings are --  

- towards Elsie Hollis
- towards Marjorie Bush

 (10)

**E** Think of the *people* in a novel or a short story you have studied.  
Describe briefly any **ONE** of the following --

a person you liked

**OR**

a person you did not like

Say why you liked or disliked this person. (20)

Read this poem and then answer the questions.

### THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

- 1 There's a new kid on the block,  
and boy, that kid is tough,  
that new kid punches hard,  
that new kid plays real rough.
- 2 That new kid's big and strong,  
with muscles everywhere,  
that new kid tweaked my arm,  
that new kid pulled my hair.
- 3 That new kid likes to fight,  
and picks on all the guys,  
that new kid scares me some,  
that new kid's twice my size.
- 4 That new kid stomped my toes,  
that new kid swiped my ball,  
that new kid's really bad,  
I don't care for her at all.

*-- Jack Prelutsky*

**A** List **THREE** details about ‘*the new kid on the block.*’ (10)

**B** Copy out **ONE** verse. Now, circle words that *rhyme*.  
Explain *rhyme*. (10)

**C** Which words does the poet *repeat* over and over?  
Why does he do this, do you think? (10)

**D** Explain why this poem --

*pleased you,*

**OR**

*annoyed you,*

**OR**

*bored you.* (10)

**E** Think of the **POEMS** you have studied.  
Name a poem about which you think **ONE** of the following is *true*.

*The poem I studied was --*  *not so good.*

**OR**

*The poem I studied was --*  *fairly good.*

**OR**

*The poem I studied was --*  *very good.*

**OR**

*The poem I studied was --*  *brilliant.*

Give **THREE reasons** for your opinion. (20)

Examine carefully **Pages 2, 3 and 4** of **Paper X**.  
Then answer the questions.

*Each page shows an artist's design for the front cover of a book.  
Although each design is different, all are for the same book.*

- A** Write down the *title, author* and *publisher* of the book. (10)
- B** In what ways are the covers *different*? (10)
- C** Which is the *best* cover design, do you think?  
Give a reason for your opinion. (10)
- D** *Each cover is meant to grab the attention of a different age group.*  
What do you think? Explain. (10)
- E** Which kind of book do you prefer?
- A book with lots of pictures
- OR**
- A book with some pictures
- OR**
- A book with no pictures

Give **TWO** reasons for your opinion.

You should refer to a book you have studied or read. (20)