



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2005

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

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 piece and then answer the questions.

“SINK-EATING”

- 1 Eating as we once knew and enjoyed it has become a thing of the past. A recent survey revealed that the average lunch break in Ireland has slipped to under thirty minutes. But we don't need a survey to tell us that. More meals are eaten in cars than at tables nowadays. A trip around country roads any morning reveals the litter of these moving diners of the night before – plastic cups stained with lipstick, crumpled cartons with the partly chewed remains of instant food, plastic bottles, soiled paper napkins and the menus of some fast food takeaways. The owners of these takeaways are responsible for the ruination of decent society.
- 2 Nowadays, family meals taken together are unknown. For breakfast, people have pieces of equipment in their cars from which they suck coffee between inhaling exhaust fumes from the lorry they are stuck behind. I recently stood beside a woman in a lift as she ate her breakfast. She began tucking into a sandwich at ground level and had just finished brushing away the crumbs when we reached Floor 16.
- 3 In place of family meals to-day, we have “sink-eating” – meals reduced to a moment grabbed between the fridge and the kitchen sink.
- 4 Despite the fact that we are now living about twice as long as we did a hundred years ago, we seem to be unable to allow enough time to sit down at the table and enjoy the glories of a meal with the rest of the family. It's no coincidence that divorce rates have increased in direct ratio to the decline in family meals. The family that ate together, stayed together. Once we started “eating on the hoof” – eating while moving around – the family as we knew it was finished. Now, I get sad watching old Hollywood movies and seeing a family all sitting down together and eating in a formal setting. It doesn't happen anymore.

Source: *Irish Independent*, 7 August 2004.
Peter Cunningham (Adapted)

Find answers to the following:

- A**
- 1 What, according to the writer, has become a thing of the past? (5)
 - 2 What has a recent survey revealed? (5)
 - 3 Who or what, according to the writer, is responsible for the ruination of “decent society”? (5)
 - 4 Name two places where breakfast is eaten nowadays. (5)
- B** What do we discover about people’s eating habits if we drive along any country road? (paragraph 1) (10)
- C** Explain any **TWO** of the following in your own words:
- 1 Moving diners (paragraph 1)
 - 2 The lorry *they are stuck behind* (paragraph 2)
 - 3 She began *tucking into a sandwich* (paragraph 2)
 - 4 “sink-eating”(paragraph 3) (10)
- D** Is the **MAIN IDEA** of this piece to:
- advertise fast food?
- OR**
- tell us how families used to eat?
- OR**
- amuse us?
- OR**
- tell us how bad fast food is for us?
- Give **TWO** reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** In your opinion, was this article written by a teenager or an older person? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** If I were the Taoiseach ...
- B** Travelling on the school bus.
- C** The day that the plants in the garden began to talk.
- D** “The first time we met ...”
Continue the story.
- E** “And the winners are”
Describe a competition in which your class **OR** your school **OR** your club has taken part.
- F** Write a story which at some point includes the sentence: “I was bitterly disappointed.”
- G** The best time of the day.
- H** “My God, Nathu! They’re like nothing I’ve ever seen!”

Look at the cartoon on page 1 of **Paper X** and write an account of what you think has surprised the speaker so much.

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** You disagree strongly with the writer of the article in **Section 1**, “Sink-Eating”.

Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper stating your point of view.

OR

- B** Write a speech for or against the motion that “**All soft drinks machines should be banned in schools**”.

You should be either totally **for** or totally **against** this motion. State clearly and convincingly the reasons for your point of view.

Read this extract carefully and answer the questions which follow it.

WALTER'S STORY

1. I was twelve years old when I first succeeded in flying. The man in the black suit who called himself Master Yehudi taught me to do it and I'm not going to pretend I learned the trick overnight. Master Yehudi found me when I was nine, an orphan boy begging on the streets of St Louis, Missouri, U.S.A. on a cold Saturday night in November.

"You're no better than an animal," he said. "If you stay where you are, you'll be dead before winter is out. If you come with me, I'll teach you how to fly and we'll both end up millionaires."

2. These were the first words that Master Yehudi spoke to me and even though many, many years have passed since that night, it's as if I can still hear the words coming from the master's mouth. At first, I thought he was just another Saturday night drunk.

"Ain't nobody can fly, mister," I said. "That's what birds do and I sure as hell ain't no bird. And anyway, why do you need *me*?"

"Because you're the answer to my prayers, son. That's why I want you. Because you have the gift."

"Gift? I ain't got no gift. And anyway, what would you know about it? You only started talking to me a minute ago."

"That's where you're wrong," he continued. "I've been watching you for a week. I even had a long conversation with your Uncle Slim and your Aunt Peg this morning. Your uncle is sure a nice piece of work. He's willing to let you go without a penny changing hands. Imagine that, boy. I didn't even have to pay for you!"

3. I suddenly realised that this was not just another Saturday night drunk and when Master Yehudi sprang the news on me that my aunt and uncle wanted to be rid of me, I felt as if I had been punched in the face. I was tough for my age and even though Aunt Peg and Uncle Slim weren't much, they were the only family I'd got and it was this that made me ready for anything – even a crazy thing like vanishing into the night with a stranger.
4. "Okay, mister," I said, dropping my voice and giving him my best cut-throat stare, "you've got yourself a deal. But you'd better come through with what you say. I might be small, but I never let a man forget a promise."

From *Mr Vertigo* by Paul Auster (*Adapted*).

- A**
1. Where did Walter first meet Master Yehudi? (5)
 2. What did Master Yehudi promise Walter? (5)
 3. Why did Master Yehudi pick out Walter? (5)
 4. What agreement did Master Yehudi make with Walter's Uncle Slim? (5)
- B** "I suddenly realized that this was not just another Saturday night drunk."
What made Walter realise this? (10)
- C** Walter tells us that he was "tough". (Paragraph 3)
Would you agree with his opinion of himself? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied in which the writer describes **one** of the following:
- an interesting character.
 - the achievement of something that seemed impossible.
 - an adventure.
- Describe how the writer tells us about **one** of these events in the novel or short story you have chosen. (20)

**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:

An African Thunderstorm

- 1 From the west
Clouds come hurrying with the wind
Turning
Sharply
Here and there
Whirling
Like a madman chasing nothing.
The Wind whistles by
And trees bend to let it pass.

- 2 In the village
Screams of delighted children
Toss and turn
In the din of the whirling wind,
Women –
Babies clinging on their backs –
Dart about
In and out
Madly.
The Wind whistles by
While trees bend to let it pass.

- 3 Clothes wave like torn flags
As zig-zag blinding flashes
Rumble, tremble, and crack
Amidst the smell of fired smoke
And the pelting march of the storm.

David Rubadiri
(Adapted)

- A** (i) Where is the storm coming from? (5)
- (ii) With what is the storm compared in stanza 1? (5)
- B** In stanza 2, how do:
- (i) the children react to the approaching storm? (5)
- (ii) the women react to the approaching storm? (5)
- C** In stanza 3, is the storm described as being:
- exciting? OR frightening? OR violent?
- Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Which line in the poem gives us the best idea of the wind's speed?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** Think about poems you have studied and choose one which best describes an exciting person **OR** an exciting event.
- Name the poem and the poet.
- What is the poem about?
- What is special about the exciting person **OR** event in this poem which makes you remember it so well? (20)

SECTION 6:**DRAMA****[60]**

Read this scene adapted from Brian Friel's play, *Lovers*. Then answer the questions.

Joe Brennan, aged seventeen and a half, and Mag Enright, aged seventeen, are sitting on a hilltop on a beautiful June morning. They have gone up there to study for their Leaving Certificate which will begin in a few days. Joe and Mag are going to be married in three weeks time.

Mag: I love the view of Ballymore from up here – the town, the lake, even the people. But when I'm down among them, I can't stand them. I bet that's how God feels at times too. Wouldn't you think so?

Joe: *(Trying to study)* I don't know how God feels.

Mag: Why not?

Joe: Because I'm not God.

Mag: Oh! You're so clever.

Joe: Look Mag, we came up here to study. What are you going to do first?

Mag: French. And then Maths and then Irish. And then English language and literature. After lunch Geography and History of the World. I have a planned programme for myself. What are you starting with?

Joe: Maths.

Mag: Then what?

Joe: That's all.

Mag: Only Maths?

Joe: Huh-huh.

Mag: Then, that's what I'll do too. *(Really worried)* My God, if the volume of a cone doesn't come up, I'm scootified! *Joe... (Pause. There is silence for few seconds)*

Joe: What?

Mag: What's the difference between language and literature?

Joe: Stupid!

Mag: What?

Joe: *(Flings his book from him in annoyance)*

You-are-a bloody-pain-in-the-neck. You haven't shut up for a minute since we got here! You have done no work yourself and you have wasted my morning too! So, will you shut up!

Mag: (*With dignity*) I will. I certainly will. (*Brief pause*). But before I go silent for the rest of the day, there's something I want to get clear between us, Joe Brennan. (*Pause*) Joe, you never proposed to me.

Joe: Huh?

Mag: You haven't *asked* me to marry you. Our children will want to know. Especially the girls.

Joe: What are you raving about?

Mag: Propose to me!

Joe: God!

Mag: Now!

Joe: You really are...

Mag: Ask me!

Joe: Will-you-marry-me. Now!

Mag: Thank you, Joseph. I will.

Joe: Crazy! Absolutely, totally crazy!

- A** In the last line, Joe tells Mag that she is “Crazy! Absolutely, totally crazy!” Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- B** How would you describe Joe’s character? What does he say and do in this scene which leads you to this opinion of him? (10)
- C** In what tone of voice do you think Joe speaks to Mag in this scene:
 Annoyed? Mocking? Loving? Amused?
 Give reasons for your choice. (10)
- D** Imagine the scene where Mag announces to her parents that she and Joe are going to get married.
 Write the dialogue (about 10 lines) you think would have taken place between Mag and her parents. (10)
- E** Name a **PLAY** or a **FILM** you have studied.
 Pick the scene you remember best from the play or the film and write about
- what exactly happened
 - how any **ONE** character behaved
 - what especially makes you remember the scene you have chosen. (20)

- A** Look carefully at pages 2 and 3 of **Paper X**. Now, match the cartoons lettered A - F with the captions numbered 1- 6.
One match has been made for you as an example.

Example: B → 6

Now write the remaining five matches in your answerbook. (10)

- B** Which of the cartoons A – F do you find the funniest?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)

- C** Look carefully at cartoon G on page 3 of **Paper X**. Now, write a suitable caption for this cartoon. (10)

- D** Refer to cartoons 1 and 2 on page 4 of **Paper X**. Which cartoon do you think is better?
Give reasons for you answer. (10)

- E** Look at picture 3 on page 4 of **Paper X**. It shows that there has been an accident at sea.

Write a headline and a description of the accident for the front page of your local newspaper. (20)