



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2012

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 6 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**

[Turn over

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

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU

Merrion square in Dublin and the streets around it have been packed this weekend for the annual Street Performance World Championship. There are snake charmers and magicians, fire eaters and sword swallows. There are people, like the Space Cowboy from Australia, who consider it a perfectly fine idea to juggle with a chainsaw. “Don’t worry”, he jokes with the crowds watching him, “I’ve everything under control. I’m a professional ... idiot.”

After a dramatic build-up, the Space Cowboy finally gets around to juggling his chainsaw while balancing on a three-metre-high unicycle. As the chainsaw is propelled from the Space Cowboy’s hand into the air and back into his hand, a teenage girl jumps up from the grass, cheering and punching the air, summing up the general reaction of the crowd. No surprise, then, that, for the third time in the history of the festival, the Space Cowboy has been voted World Street Performance Champion – a hat-trick for a man who also happens to do a neat line of tricks with hats.

Part of the joy of the street performance festival is watching and eavesdropping on the audience as they watch and enjoy the performances. Some people are doubled over with laughter, grinning madly and leaning on each other for support – an entertaining display in its own right. As Goliath, the World’s Smallest Strongman, attempts to bend an iron bar with his head, two five-year-old boys have a conversation:

Mark: “Oh. My. God!”

Izaak: “How does he do that?”

Mark: “Look! He’s doing it with his neck now.”

Izaak: “He is amazing.”

Mark: “Oh. My. God!”

When festival-goers have had their fill of dodgy jokes, death-defying acts and astonishing juggling, more genteel pursuits are on offer, such as the old-fashioned wooden games dotted around the park. Cousins Elizabeth and Mark, who are nine and ten, play a giant game of Mastermind. Mark says he likes the festival because “everyone jokes around and you don’t know what they’ll do next.”

Earlier, Elizabeth was picked out of the crowd by an act called the Unknown Stuntmen. “They wanted to jump over my head,” she said. “I was really nervous, but they did it.”

Organisers have gone to impressive lengths to create a grin-inducing atmosphere for the 165,000 people who have come to the Dublin festival. As happened last year, there is an attempt to break a world record. This year it is about gathering the biggest bunch of Wallys together, so lots of festival-goers are wearing red-and-white costumes and round black spectacles in honour of the comic-book character, Wally, from the *Where’s Wally?* series.

by Róisín Ingle

Adapted from The Irish Times

Find answers to the following in the above text:

- A**
- 1** What does the Space Cowboy juggle? (5)
 - 2** What other types of street performers were at the festival? (5)
 - 3** What other activities do the festival organisers provide? (5)
 - 4** What world record attempt did people participate in? (5)
- B** What evidence is there that the Space Cowboy was a popular performer? (10)
- C** Give **two** reasons why people go to the Street Performance festival. (10)
- D** What do you think the writer means when she says: ‘Organisers have gone to impressive lengths to create a grin-inducing atmosphere’? (10)
- E** Explain any **TWO** of the following in your own words:
- 1** Eavesdropping
 - 2** Hat-trick
 - 3** Death-defying acts
 - 4** Genteel pursuits (10)

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** You never know what you might find

- B** The risk was worth it

- C** “How did he do that ... he’ll never get away with it ...?”
Write a composition which includes the above sentence.

- D** City life

- E** Looking forward to the future

- F** The toughest challenge of my life

- G** Happiness is ...

- H** Look at the photograph on page 4 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 take part in a debate.
The motion for the debate is ‘Mobile phones make life better.’
- Write out what you plan to say either **for** or **against** this motion.

OR

- B** You have just found out about a training course you would like to do.
Write a letter of application for this course.
- In your letter you should
- Outline the reason why you would like to do this course.
 - Describe the qualities you have that make you suitable for the course.

[Turn over

Read this poem and then answer the questions which follow it.

At the End of a School Day

It is the end of a school day
and down the long drive
come bag-swinging, shouting children.
Deafened, the sky winces.
The sun gapes in surprise.

Suddenly the runners skid to a stop,
stand still and stare
at a small hedgehog
curled-up on the tarmac
like an old, frayed cricket ball.

A girl dumps her bag, tiptoes forward
and gingerly, so gingerly
carries the creature
to the safety of a shady hedge.
Then steps back, watching.

Girl, children, sky and sun
hold their breath.
There is a silence,
a moment to remember
on this warm afternoon in June.

Wes Magee

A Describe the children's mood at the end of the school day. (10)

B 1. Why did the children stop running? (5)
2. What did the girl do? (5)

C Why did everyone and sky and sun 'hold their breath'? (10)

D 1. Compare the first stanza to the last stanza. What has changed? (5)
2. Do you think this is a good ending? Give reasons for your answer. (5)

E Choose another poem you have studied which describes an animal **or** an event.

- Name the poem and the poet.
- Describe the animal **or** event.
- Did you like the poem? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

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

SECTION 5:

FICTION

[60]

Read carefully this extract, adapted from *Trash* by Andy Mulligan, and answer the questions which follow it.

Raphael and his friend, Gardo, are 'dumpsite boys'. Every day they go to the city dump to find anything that can be sold. One day they find something that could be the answer to their problems – or it could bring very big trouble to their lives.

TRASH

So where do we start?

My unlucky-lucky day, the day the world turned upside down? That was a Thursday. Me and Gardo were up by one of the crane-belts. These things are huge, on twelve big wheels that go up and down the hills. They take in the trash and push it up so high you can hardly see it, then tip it out again. They handle the new stuff and you're not supposed to work there because it's dangerous. You're working under the trash as it's raining down, and the guards try to get you away.

Gardo's fourteen, same as me. He's thin as a whip, with long arms. He was born seven hours ahead of me, onto the same sheet, so people say. He's not my brother but he might as well be, because he always knows what I'm thinking, feeling – even what I'm about to say. The fact that he's older means he pushes me around now and then, tells me what to do, and most of the time I let him. People say he's too serious, a boy without a smile, and he says, 'So show me something to smile at.' He can be mean, it's true – but then again he's taken more beatings than me so maybe he's grown up faster. One thing I know is I'd want him on my side, always.

We were working together, and the bags were coming down – some of them already torn, some of them not – and that's when I found a 'special'. A special is a bag of trash, unsplit, from a rich area, and you always keep your eyes wide for one of them. I can remember even now what we got. A cigarette carton, with a cigarette inside – that's a bonus. A zucchini that was fresh enough for stew, and then a load of beaten-up tin cans. A pen, probably no good, and pens are easy to come by, and some dry papers I could stick straight in my sack – then trash and trash, like old food and a broken mirror or something, and then falling into my hand ... I know I said you don't find interesting things, but, OK – once in your life ...

It fell into my hand: a small leather bag, zipped up tight and covered in coffee grounds. Unzipping it, I found a wallet. Next to that, a folded-up map – and inside the map – a key. Gardo came right over, and we squatted there together, up on the hill. My fingers were trembling, because the wallet was fat. There were eleven hundred pesos inside and that – let me tell you – is good money. A chicken costs one-eighty ... one hour in the video hall, twenty-five.

I sat there laughing and saying a prayer. Gardo was punching me and I don't mind telling you, we almost danced.

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

- A** Why is the dumpsite a dangerous place? (10)
- B** Describe the kind of person Gardo is. (10)
- C** What evidence is there that Raphael and Gardo have a good friendship? (10)
- D**
- 1 What was in the leather bag that Raphael found?
 - 2 Why do you think it might bring trouble to their lives? (10)
- E** Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied in which two characters have a good relationship.
- Describe the relationship the two characters have.
 - Does this relationship make the novel or short story interesting? Explain why / why not. (20)

[Turn over

Read this scene, adapted from *Lovers* by Brian Friel, and then answer the questions which follow it.

Mag and Joe are about to finish school. They are also planning to get married and move in together. They meet on a hill near where they live and look down at the town.

Joe Know something Mag?

Mag Mm?

Joe I think I should forget about studying and London University and all that.

Mag If that's what you want.

Joe It's maybe not what I want. But that's the way things have turned out. A married man with a family has more important things to occupy his mind besides bloody books.

She gives him a brief squeeze. But she has not heard what he has said. Pause.

Joe See the sun glinting on the headstones beside the chapel.

Mag Some day we'll be buried together.

Joe You're great company.

Mag I can't wait for the future, Joe.

Joe What's that supposed to mean?

Mag suddenly leaps to her feet.

Mag The past's over! And I hate this waiting time! I want the future to happen – I want to be in it – I want to be in it with you!

Joe You've got sunstroke.

Mag Come on, Joe! Let's begin the future now!

Joe You're nuts.

Mag Where'll we go? What'll we do? Let's do something crazy!

Joe Mad as a hatter.

Mag The lake! We'll dance on every island! We'll stay out all night and sing at the moon. *(Joe does a wolf howl up at the sky)* Come on, Joe! While the sun's still hot!

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, what sort of person do you think Joe is?
Quote from the extract in support of your answer. (10)
- B** From your reading of this extract, what sort of person do you think Mag is?
Quote from the extract in support of your answer. (10)
- C** Do Mag and Joe have a good relationship?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Imagine you have been asked to direct this scene. What instructions would you give to the actor playing Joe
- when he says he should forget about “London University and all that”?
 - when Mag says “Come on, Joe! Let’s begin the future now”? (10)
- E** Name a **PLAY** or **FILM** you have studied that had some suspense **or** mystery in it.
- Describe the suspense **or** mystery.
 - Did this suspense **or** mystery add to the play or film? Explain why / why not.
 - How did the play or film end?
 - Do you think this was a good ending?
Give reasons for your answer. (20)

[Turn over

Examine carefully the Facebook page of the Royal Shakespeare Company on **Page 2** of **Paper X**, and the Royal Shakespeare Company's website page on **Page 3** of **Paper X**. Then, answer the questions below.

- A** (i) According to the text on the Facebook page on **Page 2** of **Paper X**, where is the Royal Shakespeare Company based? (5)
- (ii) According to the text on the Facebook page on **Page 2** of **Paper X**, what does the Royal Shakespeare Company do? (5)
- B** From your study of the Facebook page on **Page 2** of **Paper X**, do you think that using a Facebook page is a good way for the Royal Shakespeare Company to advertise? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- C** Compare the Facebook page of the Royal Shakespeare Company on **Page 2** of **Paper X** with the Royal Shakespeare Company's website page on **Page 3** of **Paper X**. Which do you think people would find more useful? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Look again at the Royal Shakespeare Company's website page on **Page 3** of **Paper X**. What features are eye-catching? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** You have been asked to create a website page **or** a Facebook page to promote a local youth group.
- i. Which way of promoting the youth group would you consider to be more suitable – a website page or a Facebook page? Give reasons for your answer.
- ii. What information about the youth group would you give on your choice of page?
- iii. What eye-catching features would you include on your choice of page? (20)