



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2013

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 5 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.

In this passage the author describes what life was like in his home village when he was a boy.

Our Home in Slovakia

1. I loved our home in Slovakia. Apart from the pub and the church, there was the school and a whole host of specialised tradesmen. There was Mr Perutka, the carpenter, who made my skis and toboggan. He could turn his hand to anything, from a fancy cabinet to a sturdy wheel for a hard-working cart. I can't remember the name of the blacksmith, but I loved to watch him work as he folded iron like it was pastry.
2. Our village was such a special place and never more so when, during the summer, my cousins visited from the city, making me realise all over again what a paradise surrounded me. My mother would bring us scoops of her ice-cream in our very own tea house, the small wooden structure in the back garden which contained a round table and bench upon which eight excited kids could just about fit. If we were still hungry, we had a variety of fruit to choose from – I needed only to stretch out my hand to grab cherries, grapes and gooseberries, and in autumn, apples from the apple tree with its spidery branches that dangled low enough for us to help ourselves.
3. A little stream ran through the village where we'd swim and fish for hours on end. Then we'd return home with tiny fish in the palms of our hands, excitedly ambushing my mother at the door: 'You have to fry these because we want to eat them for dinner!' Thanks to the warm weather I went barefoot all summer. In between football matches and fishing for dinner, I loved to follow my father around, checking out the crops and then hanging out with the man who took the cows out to pasture. Because I was the boss's son, he made me whistles from the willow branches that dangled at either side of the stream.
4. Winters were also special and meant just one thing: snow – and lots of it. It started to fall in November and would cut us off from everywhere else, blocking the roads and making it impossible to travel by bus or car. Even as a young child I appreciated the stillness of the village when the snow served as a sort of muffler against noise. The world seemed like such a softer place under the blanket of white. My mother had the carpenter make us a fine toboggan which was bigger than everyone else's – Miki and I would follow her to the top of the hill, near the church, and then we would all climb on for the breathtaking descent.

Adapted from *I Was a Boy in Belsen* by Tomi Reichental

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

Find answers to the following:

- A**
- 1** What was Mr Perutka's job? (5)
 - 2** Where was the tea house? (5)
 - 3** Where did the author go to swim and to fish? (5)
 - 4** Why was it impossible to travel by bus or car during the winter? (5)
- B** In paragraphs 2 and 3, what evidence is there that the author enjoyed the summer in his home village? (10)
- C** Explain any **TWO** of the following in your own words:
- 1** “ ... he folded iron like it was pastry ... ”
 - 2** “... making me realise ... what a paradise surrounded me.”
 - 3** “... excitedly ambushing my mother at the door ...”
 - 4** “... the snow served as a sort of muffler against noise ...” (10)
- D** Based on what the writer says in paragraph 4, would you like to visit his village in the winter? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** What impression do you get of the young boy in this passage? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** A Face in the Crowd
- B** The Old Photograph
- C** "It was the worst time ever to have no credit on my phone!"
Write a story which at some point includes the above sentence.
- D** A Blanket of Snow
- E** A Person I Admire
- F** It was a good lesson to learn
- G** How I like to spend my spare time
- 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** Your friend is coming to stay with you this summer. Write an informal letter to your friend suggesting some of the activities the two of you might do during his or her visit.

In your letter you should:

- Describe some of the activities that you have planned
- Explain why you think that your friend might like these activities.

OR

- B** You have been asked to give a talk to first year students, welcoming them to your school.

In your talk you should:

- Describe some of the things that will be new to them in secondary school
- Give the first year students some tips to help them to settle in.

Read this extract, adapted from the novel *A Greyhound of a Girl* by Roddy Doyle and answer the questions which follow.

Mary is a fourteen year old schoolgirl. She is on her way home from school when she meets an unusual woman.

“That’s a wet day.”

Someone had just spoken to Mary. But she couldn’t see anyone. She was alone on the street just outside her house.

Then she saw the woman. She must have been behind one of the trees, Mary thought.

The woman was old. But, actually, she wasn’t.

Mary knew what it was, why the woman seemed old. She was old-fashioned. She was wearing a dress that looked like it came from an old film, one of those films her mother always cried at. She looked like a woman who milked cows and threw hay with a pitchfork. She was even wearing big boots with fat laces.

A bird above them must have flown away quickly, because the leaves shook and dropped loads of water on to their heads. Mary laughed – she felt the raindrops – but the woman didn’t seem to notice. Nothing about her was wet.

“It’s a wet day, alright,” she said. “Did you get loads of homework, did you?”

“The usual,” said Mary.

“What’s the usual when it’s at home?”

Mary laughed again. The woman sounded like her grandmother. But then that made her sad, and angry again. She was going to cry – she thought she was.

“What’s wrong with you?” said the woman.

“My granny’s not well,” said Mary.

“Sure, I know,” said the woman.

“Well why did you ask then?” said Mary.

“God, you’re a rip, alright.”

“What does that mean?”

“You’re a cheeky young lady,” said the woman.

“Everyone says that,” said Mary. “That I’m cheeky. But I’m not. I’m just honest.”

“Good girl yourself.”

Mary looked at the woman again. She wasn’t old at all. She looked younger than Mary’s mother, although it was hard to tell with adults what age they were. Mary was sure she’d never seen this woman before.

Never talk to strangers she’d always been told. But she did – now.

“How do you know about my granny?” Mary asked the woman.

“Ah sure, I just do,” said the woman.

She stood back and shimmered – kind of – as if she was stepping behind a sheet of clear plastic.

“It’s life,” she said – and she was solid again, and smiling.

But Mary was a bit scared, and cold. “I have to go,” she said.

“Right, so,” said the woman ... “Off you go, so. I’ll see you the next time.”

The next time? Mary should have been worried, even frightened. She *was* worried and a bit frightened. But not nearly as much as she thought she should have been.

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- A**
- 1** What was the weather like on the day Mary met the woman? (5)
 - 2** Where did Mary think the woman had been standing? (5)
- B** At first Mary thinks the woman she meets is old. Why does Mary think this? (10)
- C** Which **one** of the following words best describes the woman Mary meets?
- mysterious
 - friendly
 - lonely
- Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Why do you think Mary isn't more frightened of this unusual woman? (10)
- E** Name a **NOVEL** or a **SHORT STORY** you have studied where **something unexpected happens**.
- Describe what happens.
 - Did the unexpected event make the story more interesting?
Explain 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.

The Performing Bag

The plastic bag that once was full
Of coloured sweets was empty and lost
And lay against the playground wall,
Flat and still among the dust.

But a wind came up the road,
Brushing back the hair of the grass,
Trying to unbutton people's coats
And teasing the leaves as it passed.

It felt its way inside the bag
Like a hand inside a glove
And like a puppet waking up
The plastic bag began to move.

As the air inside it puffed it out,
The bag that was lying sad and flat
Began to waggle its corners about
And nodded its head this way and that.

It dodged its way between the children
Who watched it carried high in the sky
And disappear on the hand of the wind,
Waving them goodbye.

Stanley Cook

- A**
- 1 What used to be in the plastic bag? (5)
 - 2 Where was the plastic bag lying? (5)
- B** Describe **two** of the things the wind does in Stanza 2. (10)
- C** In Stanza 3, which **one** of the following descriptions do you prefer?
Give reasons for your answer.
- "It felt its way inside the bag
Like a hand inside a glove" *Or* "And like a puppet waking up
The plastic bag began to move." (10)
- D**
- 1 In Stanza 1, describe the mood of the bag in the playground. (5)
 - 2 In Stanza 5, describe the mood of the bag in the sky. (5)
- E** Choose a poem you have read which is **either** happy **or** sad.
- Name the poem and the poet.
 - Describe what happens in the poem.
 - Pick one detail from the poem which shows that it is **either** happy **or** sad.
Explain your choice. (20)

Read this scene from *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell and answer the questions which follow it.

Edward Lyons is eight years old. His family has decided to move house. He comes to say goodbye to his best friend, Mickey Johnstone. Mrs Johnstone does not like the two boys being friends.

Mrs Johnstone Now listen, Eddie, I told you not to come around here again.

Edward I'm sorry, but I just wanted to see Mickey.

Mrs Johnstone No. It's best ... if ...

Edward I won't be coming here again. Ever. We're moving away. To the country.

Mrs Johnstone Lucky you.

Edward But I'd much rather live here.

Mrs Johnstone Would you? When are you goin'?

Edward Tomorrow.

Mrs Johnstone Oh. So we really won't see you again, eh ...

Edward shakes his head and begins to cry.

Mrs Johnstone What's up?

Edward *(Through his tears)* I don't want to go. I want to stay here where my friends are ... where Mickey is.

Mrs Johnstone Come here. *(She takes him, cradles him, letting him cry.)* No, listen ... listen, don't you be soft. You'll probably love it in your new house. You'll meet lots of new friends and in no time at all you'll forget Mickey ever existed.

Edward I won't ... I won't. I'll never forget.

Mrs Johnstone Shush, shush. Listen, listen, Eddie, here's you wantin' to stay here, and here's me, I've been tryin' to get out for years. We're a right pair, aren't we, you and me?

Edward Why don't you, Mrs Johnstone? Why don't you buy a new house near us?

Mrs Johnstone Just like that?

Edward Yes, yes.

Mrs Johnstone Hmm.

Edward Yes.

Mrs Johnstone Would you like a picture of Mickey, to take with you? So you could remember him?

Edward Yes please.

She removes a locket from around her neck.

Mrs Johnstone See, look ... there's Mickey, there. He was just a young kid when that was taken.

Edward And is that you, Mrs Johnstone?

She nods.

Edward Can I really have this?

Mrs Johnstone Yeh. But keep it a secret, eh, Eddie? Just our secret, between you and me.

Edward *(Smiling)* All right, Mrs Johnstone.

He puts the locket round his neck.

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- A** From your reading of this scene, what kind of person is Mrs Johnstone?
Quote from the scene in support of your answer. (10)
- B** Based on the above scene, write the diary entry Edward might make after this conversation with Mrs Johnstone. (10)
- C** If you were directing the beginning of this scene, what instructions would you give to the actor playing Mrs Johnstone about **tone of voice** and **body language** when she says:
"Now listen, Eddie, I told you not to come around here again."? (10)
- D** If you were directing the end of this scene, what instructions would you give to the actor playing Mrs Johnstone about **tone of voice** and **body language** when she says:
"Yeh. But keep it a secret, eh, Eddie? Just our secret, between you and me."? (10)
- E** Name a **PLAY** or **FILM** you have studied in which there is a friendship between two characters.
 - Name both of the characters.
 - Which of the two characters did you prefer?
Give reasons for your answer.
 - Do you think it is a good friendship?
Give reasons for your answer. (20)

Examine carefully the brochure for Fota Wildlife Park on **Page 2 and Page 3 of Paper X**. Then answer the questions below.

A Look closely at **Page 2 of Paper X**.

- 1** What is the new website address of Fota Wildlife Park? (5)
- 2** Name **one** other way Fota Wildlife Park uses the internet to let people know about the park. (5)

B Do you like the way that the brochure uses images on **Page 2 of Paper X**? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

C Look at the slogan at the top of **Page 2 of Paper X**.

'A Wild Day Out'

Do you think it is a good slogan for a wildlife park? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

D Look at the text and the pictures on **Page 2 and Page 3 of Paper X**. Who do you think this brochure is aimed at? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

E You have been asked to design a poster to advertise a popular tourist attraction. *You may not use Fota Wildlife Park in your answer.*

- Name the tourist attraction (the attraction can be real or imaginary).
- Describe one image you would include on the poster and explain your choice.
- Write a slogan to use on the poster for the tourist attraction.
- Explain why this would be a good slogan. (20)