



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2003

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 4 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.

IRELAND'S ENVIRONMENT – TAKE ACTION NOW

- 1 Protecting our environment is important for human health and well-being. In Ireland, we have a beautiful natural environment that we can enjoy and pass on to future generations. A clean environment is vital for Ireland's green image.
- 2 Across the world, human impact on the environment has grown steadily, particularly over the course of the twentieth century. Ireland was spared serious pollution from the Industrial Revolution such as occurred in other countries. Consequently, the quality of the environment in Ireland has remained relatively good.
- 3 In recent times, however, population growth, urbanisation and agricultural development have caused serious environmental problems.
- 4 Surveys show that a majority of Irish citizens now consider environmental pollution to be an urgent problem. However, we need to become better informed about our environment and especially about the role that each of us can play in its protection.
- 5 Perhaps you'd like to take action to improve the environment but you just don't know where to start. Maybe you think that the environmental problems we face are too big for you to change anything. Well, this is not so. Each one of us can help. It simply involves taking simple steps around the house and in the school or workplace every day.
- 6 If you take some of the 8 easy steps listed on this page, not only will you help the environment, but you will also save money!



It's easy to make a difference.

8 easy steps to a better environment

- 1 Shop for the environment. Cut down on packaging. Buy goods and packaging that are made from recycled materials.
- 2 Do the right thing. Recycle.
- 3 Buy reusable shopping bags.
- 4 Don't Litter and don't tolerate those who do.
- 5 Water is life. Think about it and use it carefully.
- 6 Dispose of old paint and waste liquids properly. Don't pour them down the drain.
- 7 Leave the car at home from time to time.
- 8 Save energy. Use it sparingly.

-- Sources: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Information on the Environment (ENFO) Brochures. (*adapted*)

A Find answers to the following --

- 1 Why, according to this article, should we protect our environment? (5)
- 2 During which century has “human impact on the environment” been greatest? (5)
- 3 Explain why pollution in Ireland was not as bad as in other countries. (5)
- 4 What has caused serious environmental problems in Ireland in recent times? (5)

B The first of the 8 easy steps to a better environment tells us to “shop for the environment.” Explain how this can be done. (10)

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

- 1 Ireland’s green image (Part I)
 - 2 Recycle (Step 2)
 - 3 don’t tolerate (Step 4)
 - 4 Use it sparingly (Step 8)
- (10)

D Which one of the 8 steps is, in your opinion, the most important? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

You have been asked to add two more steps to the 8. Write the two steps you would add. (10)

E Would this article concerning the dangers to our environment cause you to take notice and do something? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

SECTION 2:**PERSONAL WRITING****[60]**

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC.

- A** Thoughts in a traffic jam.
- B** “Do not go outside! Do not go outside! Close all windows and doors...” The message was repeated over and over again, on all T.V. and radio stations. Continue the story.
- C** Why I would not want to travel to Mars **OR** to live in another country.
- D** Life can't really be enjoyed until you leave school.
- E** Write a story which at some point includes the sentence: “I was only messing – honestly!”
- F** Imagine that you are a refugee or an asylum seeker who has recently arrived in Ireland. Write about your impressions of Ireland and the Irish people, your experiences in this country, your fears and your hopes.
- G** Find **Picture 9** on **Paper X, page 4**. It is a famous painting by the artist, Munch, called “The Scream”. Write the story which you imagine gave rise to this painting.
- H** Write a conversation which might take place between any two of the rubbish items in **Picture 5, Paper X, page 2**.

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC.

A

Look at **Picture 8 on page 4 of Paper X.** You are a resident in this locality and you are very upset by the dumping of all this rubbish.

Write a letter to your local county council or corporation.

In it, you should:

- describe the problem
- state your annoyance
- make suggestions for dealing with the situation.

OR

B

Write out your argument for **OR** against the motion that:

Footballers **OR** Top Models **OR** Pop Stars are paid too much.

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

Read this piece and then answer the questions.

THANK YOU MA'AM

1. She was a large woman with a large handbag that had everything in it but a hammer and nails. It had a long strap, and she carried it slung across her shoulder. It was about eleven o'clock at night, dark, and she was walking alone, when a boy ran up behind her and tried to snatch her handbag. The strap broke and he lost his balance, fell on his back on the sidewalk and his legs flew up. The large woman simply turned around. She reached down, picked the boy up by his shirt front, and shook him until his teeth rattled.
2. After that the woman said, "Pick up my handbag, boy, and give it here." She still held him tightly. Then she said, "Now ain't you ashamed of yourself?" Firmly gripped by his shirt front, the boy said, "Yes'm." The woman said, "What did you want to do it for?" "Lady, I'm sorry," whispered the boy. "Um-hum! Your face is dirty. I got a great mind to wash your face for you. Ain't you got nobody at home to tell you to wash your face?" "No'm," said the boy. "Then it will get washed this evening," said the large woman, starting up the street, dragging the frightened boy behind her.
3. The boy looked as if he were fourteen or fifteen, frail and willow-wild, in tennis shoes and blue jeans. The woman said, "You ought to be my son. I would teach you right from wrong. Least I can do right now is to wash your face. Are you hungry?" "No'm," said the being-dragged boy. "I just want you to turn me loose." "When I get through with you, sir," the large woman said, "you are going to remember Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones."
4. Sweat popped out on the boy's face and he began to struggle. Mrs. Jones stopped, jerked him around in front of her and continued to drag him up the street. When she got to her door, she dragged the boy inside and into a large room at the rear of the house. She said, "What is your name?" "Roger," answered the boy. "Then, Roger, you go to that sink and wash your face," said the woman, whereupon she turned him loose—at last. Roger looked at the door—looked at the woman—looked at the door—and *went to the sink*.
5. "Let the water run until it gets warm," she said. "Here's a clean towel." "You gonna take me to jail?" asked the boy, bending over the sink. "Not with that face, I would not take you nowhere," said the woman. "Here I am trying to get home to cook me a bite to eat, and you snatch my handbag! Maybe you ain't been to your supper either, late as it be. Have you?" "There's nobody home at my house," said the boy. "Then we'll eat," said the woman. "I believe you're hungry—or been hungry—to try to snatch my handbag!"

-- adapted from a short story, "Thank You Ma'am"
by Langston Hughes

- A** What hints do you find throughout this passage that Mrs. Jones was indeed “a large woman”? (10)
- B** What evidence do we have that Roger is not well cared for at home? (10)
- C** Our impression of Mrs. Jones changes as we read this extract. How does she change? (10)
- D** In **Part 4** Roger has the opportunity to escape – but he doesn’t. Why do you think he doesn’t? (10)
- E** Think about a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied in which a friendship develops or fails between two people.
Say who the people are and why, in your opinion, the friendship developed or failed.

OR

You are surprised or upset by the behaviour of one of the characters in a novel or short story you have studied.

Explain why such behaviour caused you to be surprised or upset.

(20)

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

SECTION 5:

DRAMA

[60]

Read this scene adapted from “*Master Harold*”... *and the boys* by Athol Fugard.
Then answer the questions.

This play is set in South Africa. Sam is a waiter in a café. Hally is the café owner’s son.

- 1. HALLY** It started off like another of those useless nothing-to-do afternoons. I’d already been down to Main Street looking for adventure, but nothing had happened. So as usual: “See what’s cooking in Sam’s room,” I said. This time it was you on the floor. You had two thin pieces of wood and you were smoothing them down with a knife. It didn’t look particularly interesting, but when I asked you what you were doing, you just said, “wait and see, Hally. Wait...and see”... in that secret way of yours.

SAM So, what happened?

HALLY You were whistling while you worked away! God, it was infuriating! I could have brained you! It was only when you tied the two pieces of wood together in a cross and put that down on the brown paper that I realized what you were doing. “Sam is making a kite,” I said.

SAM Yes.
- 2. HALLY** I’ll be honest with you Sam, I had no hopes for it. In fact, I was scared that we were going to make fools of ourselves if we tried to fly it from the hill. I was praying quietly that there wouldn’t be any other kids around to laugh at us.

SAM (*Enjoying the memory as much as Hally*). Yea, I could see that. You refused to carry it.

HALLY Do you blame me? Can you remember what the poor thing looked like? Tomato-box wood and brown paper! Flour and water for glue! Two of my mother’s old stockings for a tail and all those bits and pieces of string you made me tie together so that we could fly it! Hell, no. It was like asking for a miracle to happen.
- 3. SAM** Then the big argument when I told you to hold the string and run with it when I let it go.

HALLY I was prepared to run, all right, but straight back home.

SAM (*Knowing what’s coming*). So, what happened?

HALLY Come on, Sam, you remember as well as I do.

SAM I want to hear it from you.

(Hally pauses. He wants to be as accurate as possible).
- 4. HALLY** You went a little distance from me down the hill, you held it up ready to let it go... “This is it,” I thought. “Like everything else in my life, here comes another fiasco.” Then you shouted, “Go, Hally!” and I started to run. (*Another pause*) I don’t know how to describe it, Sam. Yes! The miracle happened! I was running, waiting for it to crash to the ground, but instead, there was something alive at the end of the string, tugging at it as if it wanted to be free. You came up and joined me. You were laughing.

SAM So were you. And shouting, “It works, Sam! We’ve done it!”

- A** “You refused to carry it.” **(Part 2)**
Why did Hally refuse to carry the kite? (10)
- B** “The miracle happened!” **(Part 4)**
What was the miracle Hally refers to? Why did he think it was a miracle? (10)
- C** In what tone of voice do you think Hally’s last speech should be spoken? **(Part 4)**
Explain your choice. (10)
- D** How would you describe Sam’s character?
What does he say or do in this extract which leads you to your opinion of him? (10)
- E** From a **PLAY** or a **FILM** which you have studied, describe a scene where something happens which makes one of the characters happy or sad.
- Say:
- what happened in the scene,
 - which other characters were involved,
 - what made the character happy or sad. (20)

Read this poem and then answer the questions.

This poem describes the loneliness and isolation of a refugee in a new country.

*Refugee Blues*¹

- 1 Say this city has ten million souls,
 Some are living in mansions, some are living in holes:
 Yet there's no place for us, my dear, yet there's no place for us.

- 2 Once we had a country and we thought it fair,
 Look in the atlas and you'll find it there:
 We cannot go there now, my dear, we cannot go there now.

- 3 Stood on a great plain in the falling snow;
 Ten thousand soldiers marched to and fro:
 Looking for you and me, my dear, looking for you and me.

- 4 The consul² banged the table and said:
 “If you've got no passport you're officially dead”:
 But we are still alive, my dear, but we are still alive.

- 5 Came to a public meeting; the speaker got up and said:
 “If we let them in, they will steal our daily bread”;
 He was talking of you and me, my dear, he was talking of you and me.

- 6 Saw a poodle in a jacket fastened with a pin,
 Saw a door opened and a cat let in:
 But they weren't refugees, my dear, but they weren't refugees.

*W.H. Auden (1907–1973)
(Abridged and adapted)*

Glossary:

¹Blues = music with a slow, sad rhythm.

²Consul = a government official who deals with refugees and asylum seekers

- A** Who is the speaker in this poem and who do you think he/she is speaking to? (10)
- B** How does the speaker feel about the country he/she has been forced to leave? (10)
- C** Why does the speaker mention a cat and a poodle in stanza 6? (10)
- D** Read stanza 3 of the poem. Describe the speaker's feelings in this stanza. What words convey this feeling? (10)
- E** Name a **POEM** you have studied which made you feel sad **OR** angry.
- i. What was the poem about?
 - ii. Explain how the poet made you feel this sadness or this anger.
- (20)

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

Examine carefully **Pages 1, 2, 3 and 4** of **Paper X**.
Then, answer the questions.

A Stop it.... don't drop it! (Picture 3, **Page 1**) is a slogan.

Examine the slogans on all four anti-litter posters on **Page 1**.
Which is the best slogan?
Say why you think it is the best.

(10)

B Look at pictures 6 and 7 on **Page 3**.

i. What do you imagine the woman in picture 6 is saying or thinking?

(10)

ii. What do you imagine the woman in picture 7 is saying or thinking?

(10)

C Refer to the four words

■ Rethink ■ Reduce ■ Reuse ■ Recycle

as used in picture 5 on **Page 2**.

What message do you take from **each** of the four words?

(10)

D You have been asked to design a poster encouraging people not to waste water.

Describe the poster you would design.

Explain your ideas in designing it.

Write a slogan for the poster.

(20)