



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2005

ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER 1

180 marks

WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE - MORNING, 9.30 - 12.00

**YOU MUST ATTEMPT ALL 4 SECTIONS
ON THIS PAPER**

**IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU SPEND ABOUT
HALF AN HOUR ON EACH OF SECTIONS
1, 3, 4, AND ABOUT ONE HOUR ON
SECTION 2**

Read carefully the following essay (in adapted form) by Kate Thompson and then answer the questions that follow.

Holidays

I have always hankered after luxury and I'm convinced that it is because, as a child, my parents used to take us on camping holidays. Not the kind of camping holidays that are commonplace today, you understand – the kind of holidays where you pitch your tent on a site with 'facilities' such as showers and laundries and restaurants and shops. Oh, no! Our tents were ex-army, as were our camp beds. OUR camping holidays would have made the *Royal Marines* look like *My Little Pony Camp!* Comfort was not a criterion in our accommodation arrangements.

Catering arrangements were equally unsophisticated. My mother heated up tins of dubious stew over a Primus stove and gathered water from rivers. Like a latter day Amazonian she hacked branches for firewood and foraged for edible mushrooms and berries in the local woodland. Luck rather than any detailed knowledge of nature's bounty was probably all that stood between us and a severe dose of food poisoning. Mother loved these family adventures and would frequently recall them in vivid detail many years later.

My father despised namby-pambyism. He was an early advocate of self-sufficiency and environmental awareness. His sense of humour occasionally baffled us. When he sent me and my brother off in the rain to chase after lambs up Mount Errigal, instructing us to bring one home for dinner, we didn't realise he was joking. We really feared for those lambs. Perhaps it was these childhood experiences that later led my brother to adopt a vegetarian diet.

Each time we went away on one of our so-called 'holidays', one of my chores was to go to the local farm with a jerry can for milk. So was it any wonder, as I grew up and all my friends started going on exotic holidays to places like Tenerife, that I fantasised about talcum-powder beaches and palm trees and sun loungers? Later when my husband and I were struggling actors, *any* holiday was a rare luxury. Ironic, because when you are between acting jobs you have all the time in the world to take off on holiday, but never enough money to go anywhere exotic.

We did get to head to the West of Ireland a lot – my mother-in-law had a mobile home in a glorious situation overlooking Clew Bay – but that never seemed like a *proper* holiday. We still had to cook

and clean and keep an eye on our daughter Clara and the hordes of friends who would join her – and back then mobile homes were hardly the last word in luxury. It has been there for thirty years now and has what might be euphemistically described as a ‘lived-in’ look. While beauty-board, swirly acrylic carpets and Crimplene curtains may have been the last word in caravan furnishings back in the seventies, I understand that mobile homes these days come with Jacuzzis, teak decking and state-of-the-art entertainment systems for your amusement in the event of rain. We had jigsaws, a couple of decks of cards and Cluedo – with Mrs White and the lead piping missing.

My father might have applauded our austerity. I still hankered after luxury.

Answer the following **four** questions:

1. What impression of Kate Thompson’s parents do you form from reading this passage?
Support your answer with reference to the text.

(10)

2. Explain what the writer means when she says,
“Our camping holidays would have made the *Royal Marines* look like *My Little Pony Camp!*”

(10)

3. Thompson refers to the ‘so-called’ holidays of her childhood.

Based on your reading of the passage, briefly describe the kind of holiday you think she would have liked.

(10)

4. Despite its lack of luxuries, the author appears to remember her holidays in her 1970s mobile home fondly.

Why do you think this might be so? Give reasons for your answer based on your reading of the text.

(10)

SECTION 2:**PERSONAL WRITING****[70]**

Write a prose composition on any **one** of the following titles. Except where otherwise stated, you are free to write in any form you wish e.g. narrative, descriptive, dramatic, short story, etc.

1. The best **OR** worst holiday I have ever had.

2. A case of mistaken identity.

3. You have been granted three wishes: one for yourself, one for Ireland and one for the World. What are your wishes and why?

4. Write a modern version of **ONE** of the following;
 - Little Red Riding Hood
 - OR**
 - The Three Little Pigs
 - OR**
 - The Emperor's New Clothes
 - OR**
 - Any other fairytale

5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion, "Transition Year should be made compulsory".

6. "My mouth was dry and my heart beat so hard I thought it would burst from my chest ..."
Continue with this story.

7. You have spent the summer travelling around Ireland. Write a number of diary entries recording your impressions.

SECTION 3:**FUNCTIONAL WRITING****[30]**

Study **Pages 1 and 4** of **Paper X** and answer **ONE** of the following questions.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling, punctuation and correct use of capitals

1. Look at the collection of coastal images that appear on Page 1 of Paper X. These images appear on the cover of a brochure about the area. Write a text for the brochure promoting the area as a tourist destination.

OR

2. Look at the Food Pyramid that appears on Page 4 of Paper X. The recommended servings on the right state the fundamentals of a healthy diet.
Using the information provided, write a short article for your school magazine promoting healthy eating.

SECTION 4:**MEDIA STUDIES****[40]**

Examine carefully the advertisements that appear on **Page 2 and Page 3** of **Paper X**, which accompanies this examination paper, and answer the following **three** questions.

1. In your opinion is the target audience (target market) the same for both of these advertisements?
Explain your answer with specific reference to each advertisement. (10)

2. Comment on the visual images used in both of these advertisements. (15)

3. Which of the two advertisements do you find more appealing?
Give reasons for your answer. (15)

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