



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2015

ENGLISH – FOUNDATION LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE – MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00

YOU MUST ANSWER SECTIONS 1, 2, AND 3

**YOU MUST ALSO ANSWER ANY THREE OF
SECTIONS 4, 5, 6, AND 7**

**SPEND A LITTLE OVER 20 MINUTES
ON EACH SECTION**

In this passage celebrities talk about their favourite outdoor places. Read the passage and then answer the questions that follow.

Favourite Places

1. There's always something special about being outside, enjoying nature. Being in the garden or walking through the local park can calm a busy mind. Here, some busy people talk about the places they go to escape from the stress of everyday life.
2. Michelle O'Doherty's life has been very busy lately but she has loved her time working on TV3's programme *Exposé*. During her months in Dublin, she enjoyed winding down from a busy day in the TV3 studio with a wander along her favourite beaches – Sandymount or Dollymount. "I go there and walk for hours. The water calms me. I think it's the noise of the ocean and the lovely sea breeze," she says.
3. Although she's still only 18, Joanne O'Riordan has given a speech at the United Nations, met with the President and written her own weekly newspaper article. "I rarely get much time to myself but when I do manage it, I try to grab a nice moment of peace in the corner of the garden. It's full of flowers and very colourful, and there's a little seating area that my brother built. I usually go there during the summer when the weather is fine, or on a nice mild day. It's lovely to chill out there – but if it's wet or cold, then, like other teenagers, I retreat to my bedroom, put on my headphones and it's a case of - world off and switch off."
4. *Winning Streak* presenter Sinead Kennedy spends much of her life travelling between Cork and Dublin, but when she gets a spare moment, she likes to spend it by the sea – preferably on a surfboard. "I love surfing but I'd like to be better at it. However, I don't have enough time to practise and get really good. You need to surf two or three times a week to become anyway good at it, but I only get to surf once in a blue moon. When I'm by the sea though, I feel my worries slipping away – especially when I'm surfing because I'm trying so hard to keep my balance that I've no time to think about anything else!"

Adapted from an original article on www.irishexaminer.com

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

- A.** Find the answers to the following questions:
1. What television programme does Michelle O'Doherty work on at TV3? (5)
 2. Who built the seating area in Joanne O'Riordan's garden? (5)
 3. Where does Joanne go when it's wet or cold? (5)
 4. What two cities does Sinead Kennedy travel between? (5)
- B.** What impression do you get of Joanne O'Riordan from your reading of this passage?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- C.** How does surfing help Sinead Kennedy to forget her worries? (10)
- D.** Which way of relaxing, described in the passage, would appeal to you most?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E.** Think of a place that you like to go to relax.
Write about ten lines explaining why you have picked your chosen place. (10)

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

Write about one page on **ONE** of the following topics:

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A.** My favourite season
- B.** The Journey
- C.** The day it all went wrong
- D.** **Teacher:** *This is your last chance to tell me what happened.*
Student: *I told you already - it had nothing to do with me ...*
Write the rest of this conversation.
- E.** A person I admire
- F.** Write a story that has **all** of the following:
- A surprise meeting with an old friend
and
 - A disappointed person
and
 - An exciting ending.
- G.** *When I turned around there was no sign of Pat ...*
Continue this story.
- H.** A day by the beach

Answer EITHER A or B:

- A. Your family has decided to move to another country. Before you leave your school the principal asks you to write a short **article** for the school magazine about your memories of the school and your hopes for the future.

In your **article** you should:

- Say how long you have been at the school
- Describe a special day you remember in the school
- Explain how important your school friends are to you
- Explain what you are looking forward to in the future.

OR

- B. The presenter of your favourite radio show is running a competition asking listeners to name, 'The Best Song of all Time'. The listener with the best suggestion will win €500 to spend on whatever they want. Write the letter you would send to the presenter, suggesting a song you think is the best song of all time.

In your **letter** you should:

- Name the song you think should win
- Describe what the song is about
- Explain why you think the song you suggest is the best song of all time
- Explain what you would spend the prize money on.

Answer ANY THREE of the Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 which follow.

SECTION 4:

FICTION

[60]

Read this passage, adapted from *The Legend of Spud Murphy* by Eoin Colfer, and then answer the questions that follow.

Will and his brother Marty were scared when their mother decided that they should join the library. They had heard frightening stories about Mrs Murphy the librarian, whom others had nicknamed Spud Murphy. In this passage, Will describes the first time they meet Spud Murphy.

‘What do you want?’ said a voice from the library.

My heart speeded up at the very sound of that voice. It was like two pieces of metal being rubbed together. I held my breath and looked across the huge room. An elderly woman was leaning on a massive wooden desk, her knuckles bigger than acorns. Her grey hair was tied back so tightly that her eyebrows were halfway up her forehead. She looked surprised and angry at the same time. It was Spud Murphy without a doubt.

‘I said, what do you want?’ she repeated, banging the desk with an ink stamp.

We walked across to her desk, clinging to each other like two frightened monkeys. There was a whole box full of ink stamps on the desk, and two more hooked into her belt like pistols.

Spud Murphy glared down from a great height. She was big. She was taller than my dad, and wider than Mum and my two aunties strapped together. Her arms were skinny like a robot’s and her eyes were like two black beetles behind her glasses.

‘Mum says we have to join the library,’ I said.

‘That’s all I need,’ grumbled Spud. ‘Two more pests messing up my shelves.’ She took a pen and two cards from her drawer.

‘Name?’

‘M-M-Mrs Murphy,’ I stammered.

Spud sighed. ‘Not my name! Your names.’

‘Will and Marty Woodman!’ I shouted like an army cadet.

We had given our names, and our address was next. I was a bit worried about that.

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- A. 1. What are the names of the two boys in this story? (5)
2. What is the first question the boys are asked by the librarian? (5)

B. Which **one** of the following words best describes how the boys felt in the library?

Excited **or** Frightened **or** Nervous

Give reasons for your answer. (10)

C. Imagine that you are the librarian, Spud Murphy.
Write a diary entry describing a day at work in the library. (10)

D. Do you like the way the writer describes Spud Murphy in this extract?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)

E. Think about a **NOVEL** or a **SHORT STORY** you have studied:

- Name the Novel **or** Short story
- Describe a **surprising event** that happens to a character in the novel or short story
- Explain how the character deals with the surprising event. (20)

Read this **POEM** and then answer the questions.

WINTER DAYS

Biting air

Winds blow

City Streets

Under snow

Noses red

Lips sore

Runny eyes

Hands raw

Chimneys smoke

Cars crawl

Piled snow

On garden wall

Slush in gutters

Ice in lanes

Frosty patterns

On window panes

Morning call

Lift up head

Nipped by winter

Stay in bed

By Gareth Owen

- A.** 1. What is the weather like in stanza 1? (5)
2. What does the poet decide to do in the final stanza? (5)
- B.** What effect does Winter have on people in this poem? (10)
- C.** Which image, do you think, best describes Winter in the poem? (10)
Give reasons for your answer.
- D.** You have been asked to **paint a picture** based on one stanza in the poem. (10)
Which stanza would you chose? Describe the picture you would paint.
- E.** Think about another **POEM** you have studied that describes **Nature**.
- Name the poem and the poet.
 - Describe what takes place in the poem.
 - Choose one image from the poem that you particularly liked and explain what it was you liked about it. (20)

Read this scene, adapted from *A Pony for Sean*, by Patricia Keiller, and then answer the questions.

Sean Keenan has just bought a horse called Midnight. He has been learning to ride it in secret. He does not want his parents to find out as they would be angry. He is not doing well at school. His sister Mary has just seen him in a public park, riding Midnight.

Mary: Sean! Sean! Was that you on that horse?

Sean : Mary! What are you doing here?

Mary : I was just walking in the park. I thought I recognized you in the distance. But I didn't think it was you, because you were on the horse. I didn't even know you could ride.

Sean: So I surprised you then?

Mary: Yes, what's really surprised me is just how well you can ride. Have you been taking lessons, and whose horse is it anyway?

Sean: I haven't been taking lessons. The pony is mine, and I come here every day before and after school to ride him, and take care of him.

Mary: The horse is yours! And you've been coming here every day to ride him and look after him! So that's what you've been keeping a secret from Mam and Dad.

Sean: Please don't tell them! Promise you won't!

Mary: I won't if you don't want me to. But I think it's only a matter of time anyway before they find out. You can't keep something as big as a horse a secret forever, Sean. If I keep your secret Sean, can you keep one of mine?

Sean : Mary, I'm not a little kid, you know. I can keep things to myself if I want.

Mary: I've just been offered a place at drama school.

Sean: That's great! Do you think Mam and Dad will be pleased?

Mary: Well, I'm not sure about Mam, but I don't think Dad will be. He wants me to go on to university to become a lawyer or a doctor, or something like that.

Sean: So you're not going to tell them about the offer?

Mary: Oh, I will, eventually. When I think the right moment has come.

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- A.** 1. What secret is Sean keeping from his parents? (5)
2. What has Mary just been offered? (5)
- B.** What impression do you get of Sean from your reading of this extract?
Explain your answer. (10)
- C.** You have been asked to film this scene for television.
- Describe the setting you would use for the scene.
 - Describe what Sean should be doing at the start of the scene.
 - What tone of voice should the actor playing Mary use when she first sees Sean? (10)
- D.** Sean and Mary return home. They decide to tell their parents their secrets. Write about ten lines of the conversation that you think would take place. (10)
- E.** Think about a **PLAY** or a **FILM** you have studied where a character felt either:
- Excited **or** Frightened
- Name the play or film
 - Describe the character who felt excited **or** frightened in the play or film
 - Describe a part of the play or film when the character felt excited **or** frightened
 - Did this part of the play or film change the character in any way?
Give reasons for your answer. (20)

Look carefully at the poster on **Page 2 of Paper X**.

- A.**
1. What telephone numbers should you dial in an emergency? (5)
 2. What does it mean if there is no flag flying at the beach? (5)
- B.** Look carefully at the nine pictures for the safety tips on **Page 2 of Paper X**. Choose **one** of the pictures. Describe the picture and explain the safety tip. (10)
- C.** Which **one** of the following do you think would be the best place to display this poster?
On the Internet **or** In a Magazine **or** In a Library
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D.** Imagine that safety tip number ten on the poster is:
Never swim too soon after eating.
Describe the picture you would use with this safety tip. (10)
- E.** You have been asked to create an advertisement for radio to encourage people to be safe:
At School **or** In the Home **or** On the Internet.
- State which **one** you are choosing for your advertisement.
 - Write a slogan to be used in the radio advertisement.
 - Write the rest of the script for the radio advertisement.
 - Describe the music or sound effects you would use in the radio advertisement. (20)