



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2010

ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER 1

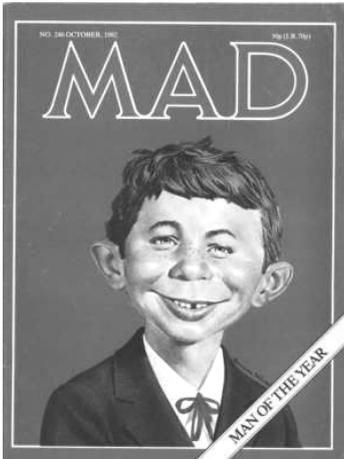
180 marks

WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE - MORNING, 9.30 - 12.00

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

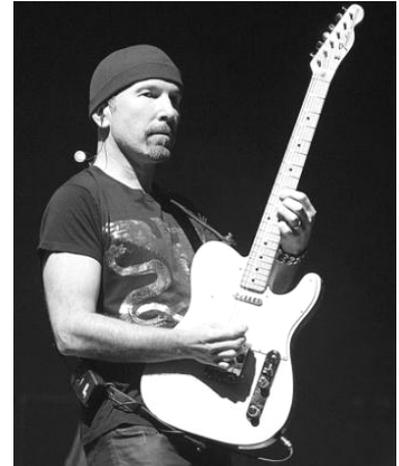
**IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU SPEND ABOUT
HALF AN HOUR ON EACH OF SECTIONS
1, 3, 4, AND ABOUT ONE HOUR ON
SECTION 2**

Read carefully the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.



*The following edited extract is from the book **U2 BY U2**, written by band members **Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen** with **Neil McCormick**.*

*The book tells the story of this highly successful Irish rock band. In this extract band member, **The Edge (David Evans)**, talks about his youth and his introduction to music.*



I was a very cute toddler; I've seen the photographs. But then at around the age of five something started to happen that radically changed my appearance. We are not talking here about some accidental injury or anything medical, but a gradual transformation. My appearance started to inspire a certain mild alarm in adults who caught sight of me for the first time and to elicit sympathetic and vaguely disappointed looks from my parents. My head grew, quite quickly, to an unfeasibly large size. It was not a disagreeable head, in certain contexts it was quite handsome, but from the age of five as a result of this unusual development I started to look unnervingly like the kid on the cover of *Mad* magazine. Along with the head came the teeth, or specifically my two big front teeth. No matter what form of mouth management I employed, there was just no hiding them, so by the time I was seven the full *Mad* magazine look was complete.

This was made all the more difficult by the fact that my best friend Shane Fogarty, a person from whom I was pretty much inseparable from the age of two, was like a good looking actor complete with cornflower-blue eyes and perfect teeth. He knew it, as did everybody else. A year older than me, Shane was super-popular, a great athlete and in many ways my nemesis*. It's funny how even as a young kid you pick up on these things. I went through some very formative years as the proverbial ugly duckling with my mate Shane a constant reminder that I was nothing special. The upshot was that I grew even more shy and awkward. I think that kind of experience is either the making or the breaking of you. And in my case having a very supportive home life helped a lot, but I didn't see that at the time.

Music was big in our house. When I was two my mother used to turn on the TV so I could play drums (knitting needles and a few biscuit tins) along to the sound track. My mother must have suspected I had an ear for music because she bought me a little Spanish guitar when I was seven years old. For me, this was completely fascinating. I couldn't tune it, I didn't even know how to hold it, but it was so cool – that much I did know. I would wave it around and pretend to the gullible youngsters on our street that I could play. That first guitar of mine was really little more than a toy. The first proper guitar that came into our house was bought by my mother at a jumble sale for a pound. Never in the history of the Malahide parish bring-and-buy sales has one pound been as well spent, and given back as much value. It was rough, but it played in tune, and when we replaced the rusty wire strings with some nylon Spanish guitar strings it sounded decent enough.

I learnt my first chords on that guitar, tutored very effectively by my brother Richard, and pretty soon I started working out how to play whole songs. My brother and I always had a very close rapport, and very similar sense of humour and general outlook. I was interested to discover that I could do a lot with that instrument, and I drove everyone in the house mad by playing it at all times, while doing all manner of other tasks. I could eat toast and play guitar, get dressed without missing a note. I would play along every evening while the family watched TV providing a kind of silent-movie-era soundtrack. My poor mother gave up shouting at me to stop.

It is hard to explain the significance of music for all of the kids in our area. There was nothing else nearly as important in terms of establishing your identity. I would have huge arguments with my friends about who was the best band in the world, or what was the best record ever made. The TV music shows *Top of the Pops* and *The Old Grey Whistle Test* were considered unmissable. The British music papers NME and Sounds were read from cover-to-cover, mostly courtesy of our friend Fergus Crossan who had a part-time job and could afford such luxuries. Another friend, David ‘Barney’ Barnett, told me he was in a band. When I went over to his house and saw him drumming with his band I was absolutely stunned. I knew I had to get into a band. I felt like I had found my niche.

*Nemesis- an opponent who cannot be beaten or overcome

Answer the following **three** questions:

1. Trace the growing importance of music during the course of Edge’s youth. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
2. Basing your answer on evidence from the passage, do you think Edge was a happy teenager? (15)
3. This passage is written in an autobiographical style. Identify two aspects of this style evident in the passage and comment on their effect on you as a reader. (15)

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. Music in my life.
2. Write a composition beginning with the lines, 'I was a very cute toddler; I've seen the photographs.'
3. The beauty of quiet places.
4. My most useful possessions.
5. You and some friends enter a major talent competition. Write a series of diary entries recording your experiences.
6. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion: 'All teenagers should have to participate in sport'.
7. A talent I would like to have.
8. Write a story which includes the words, 'I wish I had listened'.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

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

1. Imagine you are a journalist with your school magazine. Write a report of a recent sports event involving your school team. Try to capture the atmosphere of the event for your readers.

OR

2. A major music magazine is running a competition called **TOP TALENT 2010**. Using **no more than 150 words** readers are invited to nominate their favourite band or solo act for the competition, describing their talent, their achievements, what qualities make them **TOP TALENT**, etc.
Write the 150 words you would use to nominate your favourite band or solo act.

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

1. Examine carefully the advertisements that appear on **Pages 2 and 3 of Paper X** which accompanies this examination paper, and answer the following questions.
- (a) i) What is the advertisement on **Page 2 of Paper X** advertising? (5)
ii) What is the advertisement on **Page 3 of Paper X** advertising? (5)
 - (b) Do you think the target market is the same for both of these advertisements? Explain your answer. (10)
 - (c) Compare the visual imagery used in both of these advertisements and decide which one you find most effective. Explain your answer with reference to both advertisements. (20)

OR

2. Reviews of concerts, plays, books and movies are a common feature across a variety of media.

Read the extract from Tony Clayton-Lea's review of a *Snow Patrol* concert at the Olympia, Dublin that appears on **Page 4 of Paper X** which accompanies this examination paper, and answer the following questions.

- (a) From the extract identify **two** typical features of a review by a music or theatre critic and explain why you think these are typical features. (20)
- (b) To what extent would you be influenced by either a good or a bad review of a play, concert, or movie you had intended to go to see? Explain your answer. (20)

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