



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2016

ENGLISH – FOUNDATION LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 8 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**

Read this passage about Brian Toomey's recovery from a horse-riding accident and then answer the questions.

BRIAN TOOMEY'S STORY



1. Under Brian Toomey's mop of curly brown hair is a long scar. He parts his hair to show the scar he got from a fall from his horse in 2013. The scar was caused when doctors had to remove part of his skull. The fall was so bad that doctors gave him a three per cent chance of survival. In total he spent 157 days in hospital. Yet here he is now, fit and well and making jokes. He has also won back his jockey's licence.
2. Just two years after his accident, he passed all the medical tests to once again become a professional jockey. *Solway Dandy*, the horse from which he fell was fine. Toomey says he feels no fear now as he practises with his new horse, galloping along the beach as if nothing had happened. *King's Grey* his spectacular new eleven year old horse is taken for a paddle in the sea as the salt water is good for horses' legs. Brian is cool and confident as the horse bounces with excitement because it's the first time the horse has ever seen the sea. Doesn't Brian worry that he's taking too much of a risk? He has fallen six or seven times in training since recovering from the accident.
3. When he got out of hospital he became good at pretending he felt better than he did. "I was keeping everything to myself. I didn't want to let my friends and family know how badly it was affecting me. I didn't like to talk about it so it was harder than I let on. I became more determined and I'm going to try harder than before... I feel lucky."
4. "People ask me why I want to go back doing horse racing. I tell them it's my passion. I'm not interested in anything else." To him, racing is his life. What do his parents think about it? "They're happy but only because I am happy," he says. "Of course they'll be worried; they're only human. They know horse racing is all I ever wanted and never for a second did they try to put me off."
5. He is a bit nervous about the race on Sunday which will be his first professional race since the accident. He knows all eyes will be on him. "It's a small race but it's the biggest race I'll have ever run."

Adapted from an original article by Carol Midgley in *The Times*.

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

- A** Find answers to the following questions:
1. What is Brian Toomey's job? (5)
 2. How long did Brian Toomey spend in hospital? (5)
 3. What is the name of Brian Toomey's new horse? (5)
 4. What important event takes place for Brian on Sunday? (5)
- B** How did Brian behave with other people when he got out of hospital? (10)
- C** What impression do you get of Brian from reading this passage?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Based on what you have read in this article, would you like to be a professional jockey? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** Write a short conversation that you think might take place between Brian and his parents on the night before his race on Sunday. (10)

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

A The Race

B Write a story that has **both** of the following:

- A young person
- and**
- A journey.

C A person I look up to

D **Margaret:** *It's pointless. We are never going to be good enough.*

Frank: *Yes we will. We just have to try harder than before.*

Write the rest of this conversation.

E The day it all went wrong!

F The Open Gate

G *Slowly the train pulled away. I was all alone...*

Continue this story.

H My Proudest Moment

Answer EITHER A or B:

A You have been asked to design a **leaflet** to attract visitors to Ireland.

For this **leaflet** you should complete the following tasks:

- Explain why you think Ireland would be a good place to visit
- Describe one picture you would use on the leaflet
- Describe one attraction in Ireland that you think visitors should not miss
- Give any important information you think visitors should know about Ireland.

OR

B As a birthday treat, you have just been brought to a place you always wanted to visit. Write a **diary entry** describing your thoughts and feelings about the experience.

In your **diary entry** you should:

- Describe the place you were brought to as a treat
- Explain who brought you to the place and how you felt about them
- Describe what you did when you got there
- Describe what you thought and felt about this experience when you returned home.

SECTION 4:

FICTION

[60]

Read this piece, adapted from *Mr Nobody's Eyes*, by Michael Murpurgo, then answer the questions.

Harry is not getting on well at school. He is not happy at home as he does not like his stepfather, Bill. He misses his father who died in the war. In this extract, Harry is in trouble with his teacher, Miss Hardcastle, for leaving the school yard without permission.

1. Miss Hardcastle was known to everyone as The Dragon, and with good reason. To get caught by The Dragon was always painful. She dealt with things herself and in her own special way. Harry knew that only too well as he was marched along the corridor and into the classroom. "Deliberate defiant disobedience!" The Dragon was working herself into a temper with every word. He knew now he had to expect the worst. She reached for a long ruler from her desk. "There'll be a letter to take home for your father," she said. "He's not my father," Harry said quietly. "What did you say?" "He's not my father. My father's dead." "Are you arguing with me?" Her lips were tight with fury. "No, Miss." Harry knew he was stupid to have started it, but would not let anyone call Bill his father, not even The Dragon.
2. Harry looked at her, his eyes hard with anger. His mouth and his eyes were full of tears that he must not let out. He glared up at her, his huge eyes pools of dark anger. Miss Hardcastle seemed suddenly troubled and looked away, muttering to Harry to go and sit down and that he must pick up his letter before he went home. It was over.
3. The last thirty minutes of school were spent writing lines. Harry could not see for the tears in his eyes, tears that dropped from time to time onto his copy book. He would wipe them away and hope nobody noticed. Miss Hardcastle was waiting for him outside the staffroom. "Haven't got all day," she said and she handed him the letter. "Go straight home now, it's foggy outside." He was surprised by the gentleness and concern in her voice.
4. Harry ran out of the school gates and down the road. He thought of the lectures waiting for him when he got home and handed over the letter. The lectures would not be from his mother, never from her, always from Bill or Bill's mother, Granny Wesley. He couldn't go back home and face that, not yet. Harry found the park gates more by luck than anything else. You could hardly see because of the fog.
5. Harry didn't see anyone in the park, not until he reached the bench by the duck pond. Someone was sitting there, a man who seemed to be talking to the ducks perhaps, or himself. "Ocky, you come out of there, you hear me!" Harry could see the man better now. He was dressed in a long coat with a fur collar and he wore a wide black hat. "Ocky, Ocky, I think there's someone here," the man whispered, leaning forward. "You'd better come out here Ocky, before they see you."
6. A head came up first out of the bin, the head of a black monkey with a pink face and large pink ears that stuck out. The monkey had a cigarette packet in one hand and a newspaper in the other, and was looking directly at him. Harry wasn't sure, but it seemed as if the little eyes that stared back at him were flashing yellow.

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- A**
1. Who was known as The Dragon? (5)
 2. What did the monkey have in each hand? (5)
- B** From your reading of this extract, what impression do you get of Miss Hardcastle? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- C** Miss Hardcastle has given Harry a letter to bring home, describing how he has been behaving in school and what she thinks about it. Write the letter you think Harry brought home from his teacher. (10)
- D** *Harry wasn't sure, but it seemed as if the little eyes that stared back at him were flashing yellow.*
- Write about ten lines, describing what you think happened next in the story. (10)
- E** Think about a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied.
- Name the novel **or** short story.
 - Describe what happens at the start of the novel **or** short story.
 - Did the start of the novel **or** short story make you want to read more of the story? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

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

Playgrounds

1. Playgrounds are such gobby places.
 Know what I mean?
 Everyone seems to have something to
 Talk about, giggle, whisper, scream and shout about,
 I mean, it's like being in a parrot cage.

2. And playgrounds are such pushy places.
 Know what I mean?
 Everyone seems to have to
 Run about, jump, kick, do cartwheels, handstands, fly
 around,
 I mean, it's like being inside a whirlwind.

3. And playgrounds are such patchy places.
 Know what I mean?
 Everyone seems to
 Go round in circles, lines and triangles, coloured shapes,
 I mean, it's like being in a kaleidoscope*.

4. And playgrounds are such pally places.
 Know what I mean?
 Everyone seems to
 Have best friends, secrets, link arms, be in gangs,
 Everyone, except me.

 Know what I mean?

Berlie Doherty

* Toy telescope you look through to see colourful patterns.

- A** 1. What does everyone seem to do in Stanza 1? (5)
2. What is the playground compared to in Stanza 2? (5)
- B** What impression of the playground does the poet give in Stanza 4?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- C** Choose the stanza that you think best describes the playground as a lively place.
What words or images help to give this description? Explain your answer. (10)
- D** Imagine you are the poet looking at what is going on in the playground.
Write a diary entry, based on this poem, describing what you think and how you
feel about what you see. (10)
- E** Think about another **POEM** you have studied that is about an **interesting person**.
- Name the poem and the poet.
 - Describe the interesting person in the poem.
 - What did you find interesting about the person?
Explain your answer. (20)

Read this scene, adapted from *The Granny Project* by Anne Fine, then answer the questions.

Ivan, Sophie, Tanya and Nicholas have just found out that their parents plan to put their grandmother into a nursing home. They don't like the idea. The children decide to have an emergency meeting to find a way to stop this happening.

Ivan: Meeting! Meeting! Take your places.

The children quickly form a semicircle and sit down.

Ivan: Ready?

All: Ready.

Ivan: Good. Right. First thing. Do we care?

All: Yes we do.

Ivan: Good. Right. Next thing. Can we stop them?

All: Yes, we can.

Ivan: Good. Right. Last thing. How?

Silence.

Tanya: I could have one of my tantrums. Or my nightmares. My tantrums and nightmares really get on their nerves.

Nicholas: They really get on mine as well. I vote against that.

Ivan: How about a strike? No helping out, no washing up, no going down to the shops, till they back down.

Nicholas: They're tougher than we are. We'll starve and live in even more of a mess than we do now, and they'll still win. I vote against that.

Ivan: Do you have any brilliant ideas of your own?

Nicholas: Give them the silent treatment. Don't say a word to either of them until they change their minds.

Ivan: You must be mad. They'd simply be grateful for all the peace and quiet. They've often said as much. Sophie, you're supposed to be the brains here. Sophie?

Sophie is sunk in thought. All of a sudden she lifts her head.

Sophie: I've got it!

All: What?

Sophie: This project that was set for homework last week...

Ivan: The one that counts for fifty marks?

Sophie: That's the one. You and me Ivan, we'll team up for it. We'll work together on a joint project, double the length.

Ivan: On what?

Sophie: On old people in the community.

Ivan begins to grin. Tanya and Nicholas look blank.

Sophie: We'll get all the statistics and stuff from newspapers and reference books. That won't take long. But half the project, a good half of it, will be a clear and full description –

Ivan: Of one particular family!

Sophie: A family with a real old person living in it. Our family.

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- A** 1. Who is supposed to be the brains of the family? (5)
2. How many marks does the project count for? (5)
- B** What ideas did the children suggest to stop their parents putting their grandmother into a home? (10)
- C** You have been asked to play the part of one of the characters in this scene. Which one of the characters would you like to play? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** As part of their project, the children decide to make a short film clip about their grandmother. Suggest two things that the film would show and explain why you have chosen them. (10)
- E** Think about a **PLAY** or a **FILM** you have studied where there is an exciting moment.
- Name the play or film.
 - Describe the exciting moment.
 - What made the moment exciting?
 - If you were directing the play or film, what would you do to make this moment even more exciting? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

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

- A** 1. Name the event this poster is advertising. (5)
2. When is the event taking place? (5)
- B** Where can you get more information about this event? (10)
- C** What parts of this advertisement, do you think, would make people notice it?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Who do you think would be most likely to go to this event?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** You have been asked to design a **webpage** to promote a school talent show.
- Give your webpage a catchy name.
 - Describe the images you would put on the webpage.
 - Give two pieces of information people will need to know, in order to take part in the talent show.
 - Describe the prizes that can be won. (20)