Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2007

ENGLISH - HIGHER LEVEL - PAPER 1

180 marks

WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE - MORNING, 9.30 - 12.00

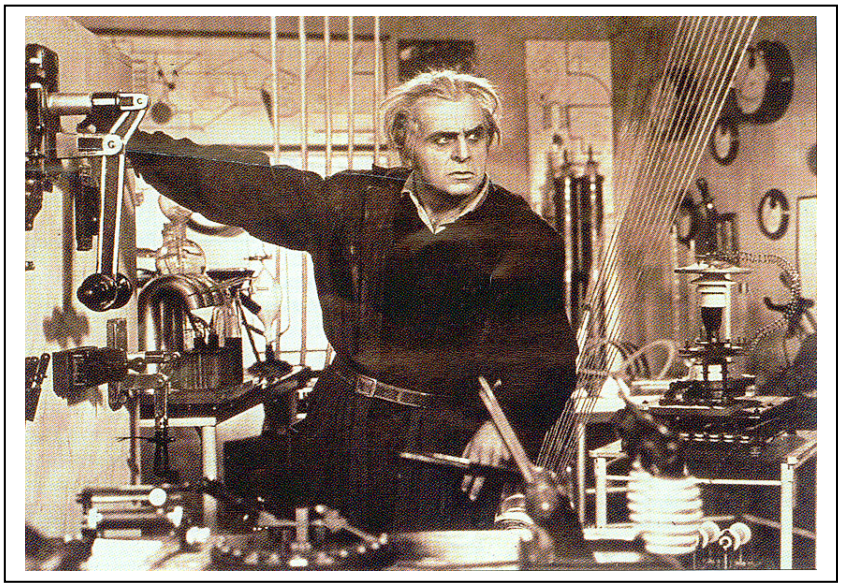
YOU MUST ATTEMPT ALL 4 SECTIONS ON THIS PAPER

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

SECTION 1: READING [40]

Read carefully the following article (in edited form) by Christopher Frayling and then answer the questions that follow.

Capturing the Image of Science on Film



1. Most of the scientists portrayed on the big screen have been mad, bad or dangerous to know. The roll-call includes doctors Frankenstein, Jekyll and Strangelove, and goes right back to the origins of cinema as fairground entertainment.

2. The pioneer French animator Georges Meiles featured numerous top-hatted, umbrella-waving astronomers and engineers in his early shorts, and they all came over as vaudeville turns. The first ever version of Frankenstein was made in 1910, for Edison's studio; the "creature" of the novel turned into a pantomime "monster", who emerged from an alchemist's cauldron.
There were a few ever-so-noble 1930's and 1940's biopics such as *Louis Pasteur* and *Madame Curie.* These were the sort of films that attracted Academy Awards, and gave work to characters who liked dressing up in lab-coats and mutton-chop whiskers and looking through microscopes. But, mostly, films have told audiences that science and technology are likely to be very bad for them.
Do these images matter? How do they relate to the agenda of anxiety presented daily by the media? Why is it that though the particular science may change – poison gas in the 1920's, medicine in the 1930's, nuclear physics in the 1950's, biology since the 1980's – the stereotype has remained so constant?

3. Forty years ago, David Wade Chambers conducted a celebrated project in which he asked 4807 schoolchildren aged 5-11 in the Montreal area to draw a scientist without hesitating. Their gut reaction was, especially among the 9-11 year olds, to resort to the off-the-shelf cultural stereotype: Einstein hair, coke bottle spectacles, white lab-coat, bubbling glassware and in some cases a door marked "secret". The scientists were also male (only 28 out of 2000 girls surveyed drew a female). A couple of years ago I arranged a similar smaller scale test at a school in England. I honestly thought the findings would have changed. After all, in recent years heroic scientists – albeit mavericks who take on the establishment – have become more common in film, not to mention the gungho attitude towards technological progress in *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* and countless comic-book derivatives.

4. I was wrong. Roughly the same proportion of 9-11 year olds drew lunatic or manic scientists in white lab-coats – although there were more female lunatics, the scientists were younger and they wore branded t-shirts or shoes. The style of drawing owed more to cheap sci-fi animation and a new character had appeared: the laboratory rat. Also, the stereotyping seemed to be starting younger – among the 7-9 year olds. Here was a clue perhaps. The 1960's movie stereotype had migrated towards children's cartoons, comics, computer games and stand-up comedians (Eddie Murphy as *The Nutty Professor*, Steve Martin as *The Man With Two Brains*).

5. I've tried to track the origins of the stereotype's main components: the hair, the disability, the lab-coat and the glassware, because these are evidently cultural phenomena. The person who actually taught the children science was a woman, she didn't wear a lab-coat or spectacles, bubbling glassware was discouraged and there were no laboratory rats. So the stereotype is being carried by the culture rather than by personal experience.

6. The frizzy hair of course comes via Albert Einstein – a symbol of the brilliant but unruly brain beneath it. Einstein still has the highest recognition factor worldwide of any scientist of the modern era. His playful and awe-inspiring image has come to stand for the good eccentric scientist who may be incomprehensible but is somehow doing good for us all. Einstein's kindly and wise eyes were copied for the design of ET's; his forehead was the inspiration for Yoda's in Star Wars. Even his hair has survived on such admirable, eccentric film characters as the original Doctor Who, Doc Brown in *Back to the Future* (1985), and Einstein in the 1995 movie *IQ*.

Answer the following **three** questions:

1. "Mostly films have told audiences that science and technology are likely to be very bad for them."

What evidence can you find in paragraph 1 and 2 of the passage in support of this statement? (10)

2. Research has discovered that there has been very little change over the years in the style of drawing used by children to represent scientists.

(a) What changes are outlined in paragraph 4 of the passage? (5)

(b) What, according to the author, has influenced the children's style of drawing scientists? (10)

3. (a) Outline the stereotypical image of scientists given in paragraph 5. (5)

(b) Do you think that this image is a fair or accurate one? (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. A teenager's guide to life.

2. You are an alien visiting earth for a day. Write about your experiences, especially your reaction to human behaviour.

3. How best to spend a Saturday afternoon.

4. Science's contribution to the modern world – a mixed blessing.

5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion, "Second level education in Ireland is a good preparation for life".

6. " The day started the same as any other, nobody could have known that by evening …" Continue this story.

7. As a result of an accident in chemistry class your teacher has shrunk to a fraction of his/her normal size. **WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?**

SECTION 3: FUNCTIONAL WRITING [30]

1. Look at the material adapted from the Irish Cancer Society's Sun Smart campaign that appears on **Page 2** of **Paper X**.

Write a set of instructions – one instruction for each picture – designed to help people enjoy the summer sun safely.

(Make sure to put the number of each picture beside the instruction associated with it.)

OR

2. Write a list of safety guidelines to be displayed on a poster **EITHER** in your school's Science Lab **OR** in the Woodwork, Metalwork or Home Economics room.

SECTION 4: MEDIA STUDIES [40]

Martyn Turner's cartoon on **Page 1** of **Paper X** shows aliens viewing planet Earth in the future. Examine the cartoon and

(a) State briefly what you think the cartoonist's message is. (20)

(b) Imagine that one of the aliens in the cartoon is a journalist. Write a brief article that he/she/it might write for the front page of *The Martian Times* on his/her/its return home. (20)

Note: The Stern Report mentioned in the cartoon refers to a recent report by economist Sir Nicholas Stern on the effect of human activity such as global warming on the world's climate.

OR

1. (a) Write the text for a radio advertisement for a new chocolate bar called "Yummy". Remember the message is going to be heard not seen. (20)

(b) Suggest the type of voice most appropriate for the voice-over for your advertisement. Indicate any music or sound effects you think might make it more effective. Explain your choices. (20)

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