

**AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS  
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1995**

**ART (Including Crafts)**

**IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION or STILL LIFE - ORDINARY LEVEL**

WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE - MORNING 9.30 to 12.00

100 marks are assigned to this paper.

Write your Examination Number clearly in the space provided on the drawing paper. You may work on the reverse side of the paper if you wish.

The use is allowed of tracing paper, coloured papers, texturing materials or other materials normally required to answer the question.

Candidates who select Still Life are required to bring appropriate objects of their own selection and set up their own groups in time for the commencement of the examination.

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**DESCRIPTIVE PASSAGE**

Containing Starting Points

**N.B. Your starting point must be stated on the back of your work.**

The life of the town centred around the river. Old stone walls guided the swift, clear water from the falls to the mud flats along the estuary out into the bubbling sea. Ferns and small flowers grew in crevices in these walls and people passing always looked down at the swirling water as it curled its way over the stones where the river weeds gave way to the seaweed. The fingers of the sea tide came in as far as the foot of the falls.

Long ago people had crossed here at low tide and the large stepping stones were still usable, but 500 years ago a new bridge had changed all that, and lorries trundling down the hill into the town never feared for the steady stone arches carrying them over.

The town seemed to be divided in two, from the hilly small streets that curved up the slope to the monastery, where the monks once tended a corn mill, to the town of shops and cafes by the quayside where the boats, yachts and trawlers were moored. Some said that on late August evenings the monks could still be seen with sacks of corn going towards the mill, black silhouettes against the pink cloud-strewn sky, or maybe they were cows that people saw munching rich aftergrass as they walked along the curve of the evening world.

At this time the town by the quayside was full of visitors with maps and cameras, packs on their backs and rain coats on the ready. They mingled with the fishermen returning from the estuary with its flocks of birds wheeling against the setting sun. The fishing on the coast was rich and varied and the quayside reflected the diversity of the craft using the harbour. Shell encrusted nets, crates and lobster pots piled up beside fishing rods, and baskets. Packets of lures lay beside oil cans, while boots and oilskins draped the bollards and the piles of coloured rope.

When the cool night air swept in from the sea and the street lights switched on all the people suddenly filled up the pubs, shops and cafes looking for food, drink, sweets, ice cream and chocolate. Only the herons were left in the mud flats standing like old posts in the reedbeds, watching the colour drift away from the sky and the shadows grew so long they vanished. Then they too would open their great wings and flap noiselessly away. Later the trawlers might slip out on the high tide their lights twinkling like stars on the black ocean.

**ONE QUESTION ONLY TO BE ATTEMPTED**

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Select a starting point from a passage above.

1. Draw or paint a picture you have in mind after reading the descriptive passage.  
OR
2. Draw or paint a still-life group of objects contained in or suggested by the descriptive passage.  
OR
3. Make an abstract composition suggested by the descriptive passage.