

**AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 1999**

M.62

This paper should be handed to candidates on 7 May, 1999.

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

FRIDAY 14 MAY - 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.

Write the title of the paper - "Still Life" or "Imag Comp" - on the drawing sheet immediately below your Examination Number.

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.

DESCRIPTIVE PASSAGE

Containing Starting Points

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

The ferry to the island took about 15 minutes - the same number of years since I had been back there. Sitting on the deck of the ferry, I could see the island ahead of me. Its two great hills rose out of the sea, covered in trees and ferns almost to their summit. I could see the town and harbour nestling under these two giants shining in the early morning sun. A number of fishing boats were moored in the harbour waiting for the next night's fishing. Their shimmering reflections in the still water were beautifully abstract; shapes distorted and elongated, colours merged and blended. Brown, green and ochre sea-weed surrounded the half-submerged rocks. A herring gull was perched on a brightly painted buoy, and a flock of oystercatchers (or gulls, or other birds) flew by. Kevin was watching all this bird-life through a telescope, which he had set up close to the harbour wall. Eileen was scanning the distant waves with binoculars. She is keen to get good views of many of the sea-birds that hover over the foam-flecked water, or dive into the green waves to catch a fish. The sun glitters on the water. The sky is blue, sketched with a few white clouds.

As we approached the harbour I began to wonder how much had changed since I had left the island. I could see that the fishermen still stacked the night's catch in boxes on the harbour wall. There were all sorts of wonderful looking fish - including crab, lobster, cod and monkfish.

Walking up the main street brought back many memories. I could see that Harbour House tearooms, a small stone building with a slate roof, was still open. Outside on the pavement a couple of European students were sitting under a sunshade drinking tea. On the table, beside the cups and saucers and milk and other things, was a guidebook and a baseball cap.

Further up the road I could see that the town now had a bookshop. A selection of hardback books were displayed in the window - some stacked, some with their pages open. I could see from a number of books displayed that horror writing was just as popular on the island as anywhere else.

I stopped at a small house at the top of the hill. It had two small windows upstairs and there were red geraniums in pots on the windowsills of the larger downstairs windows. A climbing rose surrounded the open door and cats basked on the stone step. There were two striped deck-chairs in the small lawn, which was edged with flowers. The house was surrounded by some large trees, their leaves blowing in the morning breeze. The garden had a stone wall in front of it with a red gate. Two elderly women stood talking at the gate, their shopping bags on the ground beside them. Some of the shopping had spilt on to the ground. I could see fresh fruit and vegetables, the usual Friday morning shopping. It was good to be home.

ONE QUESTION ONLY TO BE ATTEMPTED

Select a starting point from the Descriptive 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.