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LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2001

English – Ordinary Level – Paper I

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 6th June — Morning, 9.30 – 12.20

- This paper is divided into two sections, Section I COMPREHENDING and Section II COMPOSING.
- The paper contains **three** texts on the general theme of THE FUTURE.
- Candidates should familiarise themselves with each of the texts before beginning their answers.

- Both sections of this paper (COMPREHENDING and COMPOSING) must be attempted.
- Each section carries 100 marks.

SECTION I — COMPREHENDING

- Two Questions, A and B, follow each text.
- Candidates must answer a Question A on one text and a Question B on a different text. Candidates must answer only one Question A and only one Question B.
- **N.B.** Candidates may NOT answer a Question A and a Question B on the same text.

SECTION II — COMPOSING

- Candidates must write on **one** of the compositions 1 – 7.



SECTION I

COMPREHENDING (100 marks)

TEXT 1

My Future . . .

This is an interview with a Sixth Year student, named Sarah. She is asked about herself; her past, her future plans, hopes, and ambitions. The interview appeared in her school's graduation night magazine.



Q1. *What positive memory will stay with you as you grow older?*

- A.** My best memories were taking part in school shows – in particular, “Grease”! The absolute thrill of being on stage and performing for people – it still makes my heart beat fast. I’d so love to do it again. I think of the fun we had, the terrible nerves and the great friendships that came from it. And I’ll always remember the climax, the last night of the performance: then suddenly the anti-climax. It’s over and we’ll never do it again. Tears come into my eyes even now!

But I’ll never forget those times. And maybe in years to come when my grandchildren are sitting on my knee and we’re watching Olivia Newton-John on TV, I can look at them and say there was a time when I had long black hair and fitted into those P.V.C. pants!

Q2. *What hopes do you have for the world? Can you see yourself making any difference to the world, however small?*

- A.** I can’t see the world changing that much in my lifetime. I would love if there was peace and unity between everyone everywhere. I’d like to see a world ban on landmines and something done about the health of children in the Third World.

As for me, I might make a difference to the world if I go into the area of science in college. It’s difficult to know your future but I’d like to get involved in inventing things to help the people of Africa, in particular. I saw a programme about a radio that worked without batteries and I thought I’d like to invent something like that.

Q3. What skills do you have and how do you think they will help your future life?

A. Well, I know I have good communication skills because doing speech and drama has helped me with that. I suppose these skills will help me if I'm going for a job interview. And in life in general you have to be able to interact and get on with people – I think I can manage that! Also I'd say I was a good listener (well maybe you should ask my friends) and I think this will help me to learn and to continue to develop myself as a person. Friendliness and tolerance (up to a point!) are skills I also have. I see these being particularly useful in the work situation. In the future being able to get along as part of a team will be very important.

Q4. What would you like to do for the next four years?

A. What a broad question! Ideally, I'd like to go to college here in the town and I wouldn't mind having a career lined up after four years. But there's another little piece inside me that wants to go a bit crazy for a year – maybe off to Canada or Australia to my sister in Sydney. I'd love to try for a part in a musical there so that I could get that "buzz" from acting again. Ideally, I'd like to explore different paths and not feel under pressure to get a certificate. Just for a while I'd like to have no watch and be disorganised!!! Stuck to no time limits or final dates.

N.B. Candidates may NOT answer Question A and Question B on the same text.

Questions A and B carry 50 marks each.

Question A

- (i) Why is the memory of her school show so important to Sarah? Give reasons. (10)
- (ii) Do you share Sarah's view of the future as she outlines it in her answer to Question 2? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iii) "Just for a while I'd like to have no watch and be disorganised!!!" What do you think Sarah means by this? (10)
- (iv) In her answer to question 3, Sarah says she has "good communication skills". From what you have read of the whole interview do you agree with her opinion of herself? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

Question B

Imagine you were asked to give an interview during your final term in school. Write the answers you would give to QUESTIONS 1 and 2 of the interview with Sarah. (50)



TEXT 2

THE FUTURE IS HERE . . .

The following is adapted from an article by Peter Cunningham. It first appeared in the Irish Independent, October 11, 2000.

The writer has experienced the new “computerised hotel” on his travels in France. If these new hotels are a sign of the future then he is not in favour of it.



1. The time is fast approaching when direct human contact, like a smile or a handshake, will be a thing of the past. These days when you ring a company you are more likely to be answered by a tape recorded voice rather than a real person. The same goes for booking a theatre or a concert ticket; the robot's voice is everywhere.
2. The Internet, that monster created by the computer, is fast replacing human contact. Now, it seems we are ruled by machines. And yet, although nowadays you may make your hotel reservation by Internet, at least on reaching your hotel you will be greeted by another member of the flesh and blood brigade – won't you?

Let me break the news gently; not any more.
3. The fully computerised hotel has arrived. In place of the kind welcome of the hotel receptionist whose gentle smile makes the journey you have made seem worthwhile, there is a smudgy keypad and a fuzzy screen...and silence.
4. Recently I made the journey to France by ship on the M.V. Normandy. Now there's a good old fashioned workhorse of a ship sailing ten months of the year between Rosslare and Cherbourg. Nothing flash. Nice reliable people running it – even asked me if I'd like an Irish paper to read. They made me feel cared for and important.
5. I intended to drive to the South of France but there was an accident somewhere on the motorway which led to a thirty mile tailback so I had to spend the night in the city of Orleans. It was past midnight and raining as I reached the outskirts of the city looking for a place to stay. I pulled up at the door of one hotel – the sign said “Full”. Five hotels later and the story was still the same. And then from the corner of my eye, stuck in behind a closed pizzeria and a warehouse, I saw what looked like a heap of big plastic boxes heaped one on the other. A passer-by assured me it was a hotel.
6. This – “Hotel” – my tongue fights not to say the word – is run by a computer. That's right. No people. No nice offers of the newspaper. Just a big TV screen near the front door. In goes my credit card. “We have 3 rooms left. Do you wish to proceed?” And so on. I took a room and entered.
7. Now I've stayed in some bad hotels in my time but nothing came close to this. Even the flea pit in the Gulf of Siam whose layout looked like the doodlings of a mad budgie, even it had nice people running it. But this place was eerily quiet as I walked to my bedroom door. Another code opened it and it shut behind me like the door of a cell. Inside, the walls were made of cream, moulded plastic and so was the bedside locker, the toilet and the shower. I kept waking every half hour for fear I would smother in this plastic box. I left before dawn next morning and as I did so I could swear that a computer-enhanced voice said “Have a nice day!”. If this is the future I'll stick to the past!

N.B. Candidates may NOT answer Question A and Question B on the same text.

Questions A and B carry 50 marks each.

Question A

- (i) Read paragraphs 1 and 2 again. Why does the writer say that we are “ruled by machines”? (10)
- (ii) How is the writer’s experience on the M.V. Normandy different from his experience in the computerised hotel? Explain your answer. (10)
- (iii) Do you think the writer, Peter Cunningham, tells his story well? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (iv) From the list below choose the word which best expresses the writer’s main feeling about the future.
 - *angry*
 - *disappointed*
 - *amused*Give reasons for your choice. (20)

Question B

Answer (i) OR (ii).

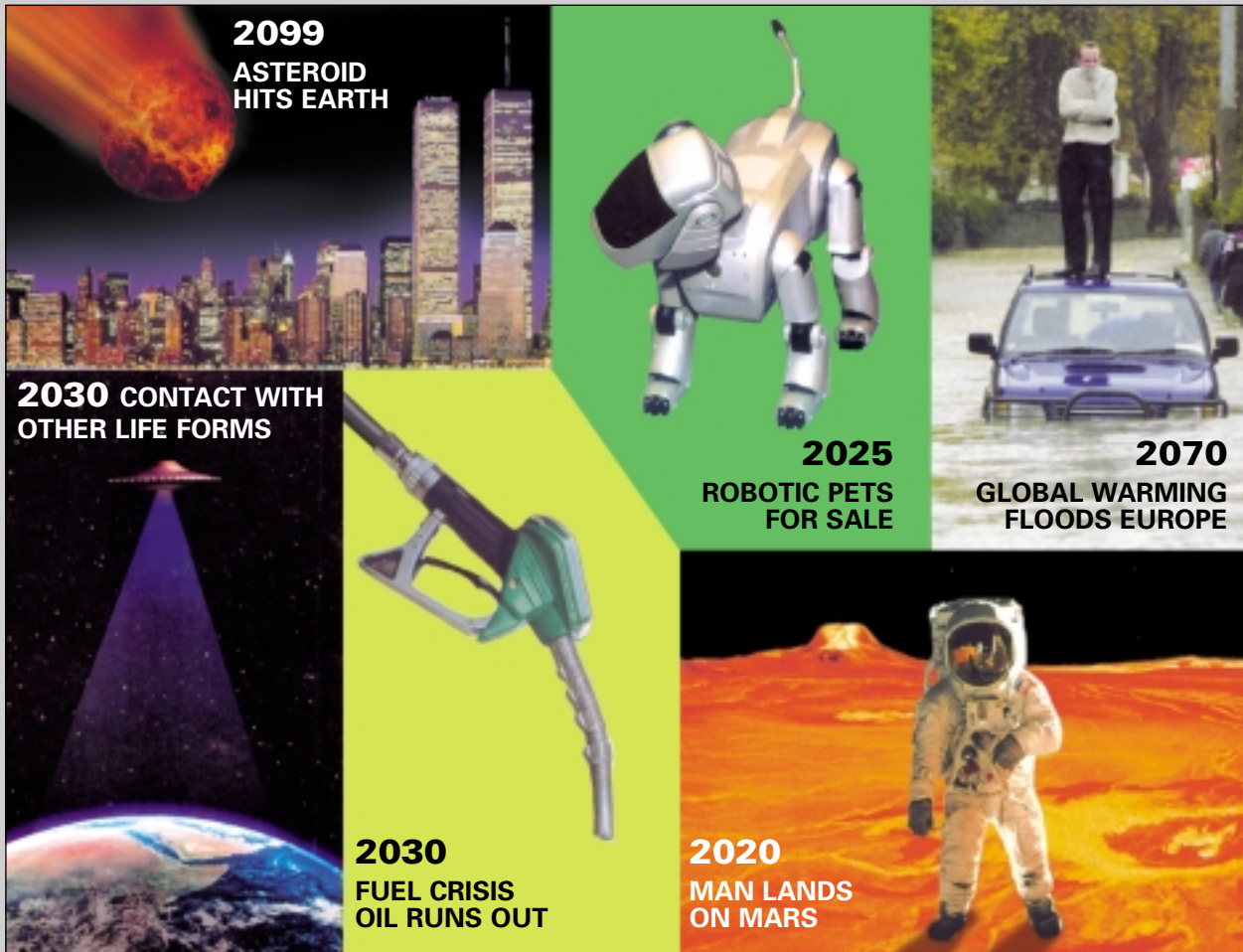
- (i) Computer Games – do they have a good or a bad effect on young people? Write an article for a newspaper expressing your view on this question. (50)
- OR**
- (ii) Imagine you are the writer of TEXT 2. Write a letter to the owner of the “computerised hotel” complaining about your experience. (50)



TEXT 3 FUTURE TIMES



CALENDAR OF THE FUTURE



HERE ARE SOME PREDICTIONS MADE BY SCIENTISTS

POSITIVE PREDICTIONS:

- 2020** First landing on Mars by humans
- 2025** Robotic pets available
- 2028** Household robots go on sale in shops – they open your door, welcome guests, prepare meals
- 2030** First contact with intelligent life in our galaxy
- 2034** Cure for cancer found
- 2035** Men and women will be able to have the perfect body
- 2085** World conference opens to ban war forever
- 2099** Last smoker in the world stops smoking

NEGATIVE PREDICTIONS:

- 2030** Fuel crisis as world oil supplies run out
- 2055** Third World progress stopped by Global Warming
- 2070** Global Warming out of control – Raining almost constantly in Europe
- 2080** New super-bug escapes from American laboratory – many die
- 2099** Asteroid collides with Earth – China, America devastated . . .

N.B. Candidates may NOT answer Question A and Question B on the same text.

Questions A and B carry 50 marks each.

Question A

- (i) Look at the images. In your opinion, do they represent an exciting or a frightening view of the future? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (ii) (a) Choose an image that best captures your sense of the future. Explain your choice. (10)
(b) Write a description of the image you have chosen in (a) above. (10)
- (iii) In the **Calendar of the Future** which prediction do you think is most likely to come true? Give reasons. (20)

Question B

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter with a tabloid newspaper. You have been sent to report the story behind one of the images or predictions. Write the headline you would use and a short exciting report. (150 – 200 words). (50)



SECTION II

COMPOSING (100 marks)

Write a composition on **any one** of the following.

Each composition carries 100 marks.

The composition assignments below are intended to reflect language study in the areas of information, argument, persuasion, narration, and the aesthetic use of language.

1. “I’d so love to do it again.” (TEXT 1)

Write an account of your experience of a concert or any live performance you have seen. The account is to appear in a popular magazine for older teenagers.

2. “It was past midnight and raining as I reached the outskirts of the city looking for a place to stay.” (TEXT 2)

Write a story based upon this experience.

3. “The future is bleak.”

Write the speech you would make in a school or public debate for or against this motion.

4. My Future Plans...

Write a personal essay for your school magazine in which you outline your plans for the future.

5. “2030 – First contact with intelligent life in our galaxy.” (TEXT 3)

Write an account of our first meeting with intelligent life. You may write it as

(a) A Captain’s Log

OR

(b) An exchange of messages between Earth and the Aliens.

6. “This is my life...”

Imagine you are in the world of one of the pictures in TEXT 3. Tell your story.

7. “The end of the world...”

Write how you imagine the world or our civilisation may end. You may write it as a news report or as an article for a magazine.

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