

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2002

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 5th 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 CHANGE.
- 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 I

CHANGING HOUSE

In this extract, Lisa Newman and her family are leaving their old home and moving to a new area. She is having a last look at her room after the removal men have left. She also imagines how her home will change under its new owners. The extract is taken from *The Four-Storey Mistake* by Elizabeth Enright.



1. “Well thank goodness there aren’t going to be any more children here anyway!” said Lisa crossly. She spoke crossly because she was sad and she preferred sounding cross to sounding sorrowful, even though there was no one in the room except herself. Nobody and nothing for that matter; her words had that sad ringing echo that is heard only in entirely empty rooms.

2. Almost all her life Lisa had shared this room with her older sister Mona, and today they were going to go away and leave it. Forever. She looked carefully around because it is important to see clearly when one is looking at something for the last time. How strange it seemed with all the furniture gone; smaller somehow. In the long window

always had. For hundreds and hundreds of nights its gentle flapping had been the last sound she heard before she slept. Goodbye, old room, thought Lisa sentimentally.

3. She sighed again and went out of the room for the last time. “The last time”, she’d been saying that to herself all day. She had paid a farewell visit to every single room of the house, from the playroom to the boiler room in the basement. All of them looked bare and cold and friendless.

4. That morning the removal men had swarmed through the house, rolling up carpets, packing big boxes, lumbering up and down the stairs with couches and chests of drawers on their backs like

huge snails. Everything about the removal men was huge: their big striped aprons, their swelling necks and biceps, and their voices. Especially their voices; they had bawled at each other like giants shouting from mountain tops. “Give us a hand with the piano, Joe”, or “Careful of that corner, Tom. Don’t knock the leg off that chair”. But now they had gone, and all the furniture with them – swallowed up in two vans the size of Noah’s Ark. Now the house was an echoing shell, lonely and desolate.

5. Soon the painters and plasterers and carpenters would come into the house. They would patch up the ceiling, prop the sagging staircase, paint, and polish, and mend until every sign of the

Newman family was gone; the iodine stain on the floor, the plasticine mark on the office ceiling, the height-measuring mark of each Newman child on the upstairs bathroom door and all the dozens of other souvenirs left by four busy children in a home. It seemed so sad that everything must change.

6. The people who had bought the house were old; a doctor and his wife. They were really well off. How quiet the house would be in future with new, rich, thick carpets. Old feet would go slowly up and down the stairs, doors would never slam, meals would be served on time by noiseless servants.

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) From what you have read in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, what feelings does Lisa have on leaving her old home? (15)
- (ii) Read paragraph 4 again. How does the writer give us a clear impression of the removal men at work? Support your answer by reference to paragraph 4. (15)
- (iii) From your reading of the passage, what differences do you notice between Lisa’s family and the new owners of the house? (20)

Question B

Write about changes you would like to make to your room, **or** to your home, **or** to the area in which you live. (50)

TEXT 2 MOVING ON ...

This extract has been adapted from an article that first appeared in *The Irish Times*, September 8, 2001. Written by journalist Mary Hannigan, it is based on an interview she conducted with the young international athlete, Erin Kinnear.

1. When Erin Kinnear retired from her first competitive sport she gave no thought to settling for spectator status or taking to her armchair in front of the telly. She was, after all, only eleven at the time and had plenty of energy to burn.



2. By then, though, she had devoted more than half her life to gymnastics and had decided it was time to move on. “Too much pressure,” she said. She could have chosen a less-taxing sport, one that would just keep her fitness gently ticking over, but instead she opted for propelling herself, at great speed, into the skies above with the assistance of a fibreglass pole – pole-vaulting. “Honest, it’s great fun,” insists the 16-year-old pole-vaulter.



3. A member of Lagan Valley Athletics Club in her native Belfast, Erin only took up pole-vaulting in May of last year when she was encouraged to give it a go at a local “Come Try It Day”. In less than twelve months she had equalled the Irish

record and she then broke it (3.41 metres), despite having been laid off for several weeks in the winter with a snapped ligament in her foot.

4. “It’s a lovely feeling, building up the power and speed,” she says. “In goes the pole and *WHOOSH!* You’re airborne! It’s just so exciting and I think it’s a good sport to watch too. If you were afraid you wouldn’t do it. Anyway, you’re concentrating so hard on what you are doing that you don’t think about anything else, not even the pole snapping in half!!!”



5. By her own admission she was a very hyperactive child, so when she discovered gymnastics at the age of five in the local leisure centre it came as an almighty relief to her parents. “Mum thought it might get rid of my energy, which it did – well, some of it anyway. I sat at the side watching the older girls for a while; I was a bit too shy to get involved, but loved it then when I started.”

6. Kinnear first represented Northern Ireland in gymnastics when she was eight but by eleven she wanted to try another sport. Yet she remained involved with her first sporting love by coaching younger children in gymnastics.

7. "After giving up competitive gymnastics, I gave hurdling a go for six months but I had a feeling I'd never be fantastic at it so I moved on to swimming. I'll try anything! And I wasn't too bad at it. The butterfly was my best stroke. I have good strong shoulders... But I found swimming a bit boring. Up and down the pool, up and down."



8. Since she took up pole-vaulting Erin's progress has been very impressive. She had no difficulty in meeting the qualifying height for The World Youth Championships in Hungary in July (3.20 metres). "That was nerve-racking because I was up against girls who'd been pole-

vaulting for years. It was a great experience. I came 18th out of 29, which I was happy with because of the high standard."

9. "I just want to get better and better now and work really hard at it. I try not to think too far ahead but, of course, the Olympics is the big dream. But for now my ambition is to make it to the World Juniors in Jamaica next year and we'll see what happens after that."

10. Will schoolwork get in the way? "Yeah, I've my GCSEs this year so there'll be a lot of exam stress but I'm determined to cope." And what about future studies? "Well, I'm hoping to do physiotherapy, concentrating on sports injuries, so I'll work hard for that. I'll manage the two, though. I just love my sport and I want to give it everything; I have to become as good as I can be."

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 Paragraph 4 again. Why does Erin find pole-vaulting such an attractive sport? Refer to the paragraph in your answer. (10)
- (ii) Besides pole-vaulting she gave three other sports a try - gymnastics, hurdling, and swimming. Why did she not continue with each of these three? (15)
- (iii) In your opinion, what is Erin's attitude to change? Give examples from the text. (10)
- (iv) What impression of Erin as a person do you get from reading the passage? Explain your answer. (15)

Question B

Imagine you are a radio or TV commentator for a sporting or non-sporting event. Write the commentary you would give on one important moment during that event. (50)

TEXT 3 CHANGES

PAIR 1



PAIR 2



PAIR 3



PAIR 4



PAIR 5



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) Which pair of images do you think is best at expressing the idea of change? Explain your choice. (15)
- (ii) Choose another pair of images and clearly describe each image in it. (15)
- (iii) Imagine you wanted to use any one of the pairs of images in a magazine you are editing. Write the title you would give to the pair and explain why you think the title is a good one. (20)

Question B

OLD MONEY – NEW MONEY!

Write two or three diary entries recording your own or your family's experiences during the first week of the changeover to the euro. (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. “Goodbye, old room, thought Lisa sentimentally.” (TEXT 1)

Write about a time in your life when you experienced a change that you felt was important to you.

2. “...everything must change.” (TEXT 1)

Write the speech that you would give to a group of your classmates about things you would change in the world.

3. “I’ll try anything!” (TEXT 2)

Write an account of any activity that you really enjoy. You may write about it as a personal essay or as a series of diary entries.

4. “Honest, it’s great fun ...” (TEXT 2)

Write a story suggested by this remark.

5. “Too much pressure...” (TEXT 2)

Write about an occasion in your life when you felt you were put under too much pressure.

6. **Write a short story based on one of the images in TEXT 3.**

7. “... time to move on ”. (TEXT 2)

**Imagine you could travel back in time or forward in time.
Write an account of your experiences.**