



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2004

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 9th 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 MONEY.
- 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

“If only she had more money...”

O. Henry's short story, *The Gift of the Magi*, is set in New York about 100 years ago. Jim and Della are a young married couple. They live in a cheap, rented apartment, and are very short of money, as Jim has taken a big drop in pay. Here is the first part of the story, in edited form.

1. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until her cheeks burned. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it.

2. Della finished her cry and powdered her face to hide the blotches. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. She had spent many a happy hour planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare. Something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim. If only she had more money. If only...

3. Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the mirror. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her



face had lost its colour within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length. She stood for a long moment in front of the mirror, looking at her beautiful hair, and she thought of how Jim loved to see it like this, rippling and shining like

a cascade of brown water. And then she tied it up again nervously and quickly. Once, she hesitated for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

4. Then on went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street. She knew exactly what she was looking for. She stopped at the sign that said:

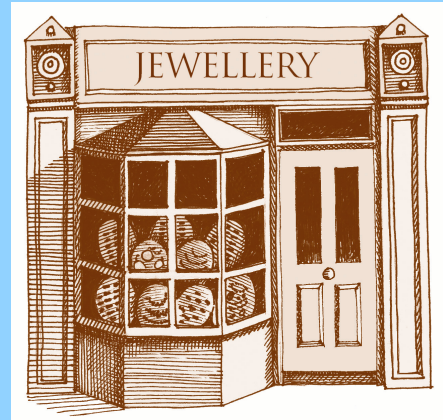
Madame Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds.

One flight up Della ran, and waited to catch her breath, so she could say the words clearly.

‘Will you buy my hair?’ asked Della.

‘I buy hair,’ said Madame. ‘Take yer hat off and let's have a sight of the looks of it.’

Down rippled the brown waterfall.
'Twenty dollars,' said Madame, lifting
the mass of hair with a practised hand.
'Give it to me quick,' said Della.
Now she had enough money to buy the
beautiful chain in the jeweller's window,
the chain that would be perfect for Jim's
gold watch.



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

Questions A and B each carry 50 marks each.

Question A

- (i) What details in Paragraphs 1 and 2 show that Della is poor? (15)
- (ii) How do you know from Paragraph 3 that Della's decision to cut her hair is a difficult one for her to make? (15)
- (iii) How do you think Jim will react when he realises what Della has done? Refer to the text to support your view. (20)

Question B

Problem Page

Imagine Della writes to the problem page of a magazine asking if she should sell her hair to buy Jim a present. Write **the letter of advice** that the problem page would send to Della. (50)

TEXT 2

Here is a newspaper article, in edited form, about the billionaire Chuck Feeney.

THE SILENT GIVER

Chuck Feeney has already given away \$3 billion through his foundation "The Atlantic Trust" - and there's a few billion more to come.....

The Simple Life

Charles (Chuck) Feeney is a short man with greying hair and blue eyes. He is wearing an open-neck check shirt and off-the-peg blazer when I meet him in his office in New York. He has refused all requests for interviews until he agreed to meet me and talk about his passion for giving away his money.

I discovered that the stories told about his simple way of life are true. His reading glasses cost \$9 and he paid just \$15 for his plastic watch!

"If I can get a watch for \$15 with a five year battery that keeps perfect time, what am I doing messing around with a Rolex?" he says, adding in jest, "Do you want to buy it? I have two."

He doesn't own a car and it's true he flies economy class preferring to spend \$1,250 on his recent flight to San Francisco rather than \$5,000 on a first class seat. "It would be different if it got me there quicker," he says.

Chuck Feeney's foundation is currently worth \$3.6 billion but its founder lives quietly in an apartment. "I wouldn't be comfortable in an 8,000 square foot home," he says. "You couldn't find anybody in it!" In fact, he is so quiet about his giving that few people even know his name.



Giving it all away

Feeney was not born rich. He grew up in a poor neighbourhood in New Jersey. His vast wealth came from his clever business idea in the 1960s to open Duty Free shops selling cut-price perfume and tape-recorders at airports and ports. About the same time people began to travel more and so his business boomed. By 1988 *Forbes* magazine included him in its 400 richest people list.

But last year, this quiet man, Chuck Feeney, shocked the world of business by promising to give nearly all his money to charitable causes in the next 15 years. He wants to help the world's poor and start educational projects for young people.

Giving while Living

He has always secretly given to good causes throughout his life and his first gift was for a schoolyard in a poor neighbourhood school and later a Maternity hospital in Vietnam. However, because he is Irish–American (his grandmother was from Kinawley, Co. Roscommon) he has given much to Ireland. His donations have built new libraries and research laboratories in many Irish universities.

“I love to go to a college and see the young people learning. I know that I have

helped them to dream better dreams,” he says after visiting the University of Limerick to which he has given generously.

As I left my meeting with Chuck I was struck by how ordinary he seemed despite his great wealth. His parting words to me summed up the man, “If you have a lot of money think about giving it away while you’re alive because you’ll get a lot more satisfaction than if you wait till you’re dead. Giving while living has given me a lot of pleasure.”

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) How does the writer show that Chuck Feeney has a simple way of life? Give examples from the text. (15)
- (ii) “Giving while Living” is Chuck Feeney’s motto. Do you think these words suit him? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iii) In your opinion, how well does the cartoon express the central idea of the passage? Explain your answer. (20)

Question B

A Community Project in your Area

Your community has been offered €100,000 for use on any local project. Write **the speech** you would make to a meeting of your Local Community Association in which you outline the project that you think the money should be spent on.

(50)

TEXT 3 HOPING FOR MONEY

Here are four pictures of situations in which people are hoping for money. Look at them and the answer the questions.



The Busker



The Charity Collectors – Daffodil Day



The Beggar and the Businessman



The Gambler

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) “Hoping For Money”. Which of the four images do you think shows this most strongly? Give reasons for your choice. (15)
- (ii) Write a clear description of any ONE of the four images. (15)
- (iii) Look at the image of The Beggar and The Businessman. Imagine that you are either the beggar or the businessman. Write down what your thoughts are at this moment. (20)

Question B

Imagine you are one of the people in Text 3. Write **three short diary entries** covering a week in your life. (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. “Twenty dollars a week doesn’t go far.” (TEXT 1)

Write an article for students giving them advice about making the most of the money they have. You may take a serious or a light-hearted approach.

2. “She had spent many a happy hour planning for something nice for him.”(TEXT 1)

Write about an experience that showed you the importance of giving. You are free to write about any kind of giving.

3. “Suddenly she whirled from the window...” (TEXT 1)

Write about a time when *you* acted on impulse.

4. “...to dream better dreams...” (TEXT 2)

Write a speech you would give to a group of young people in which you encourage them to follow their dreams.

5. “I wouldn’t be comfortable in an 8,000 square foot home.” (TEXT 2)

Write a personal account of what home means to you.

6. “...giving it all away...” (TEXT 2)

Write a short story based on the idea of “giving it all away”.

7. **Write a narrative or short story based on any of the images in Text 3.**

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