



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2006

## English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 7 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 FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.
- 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)

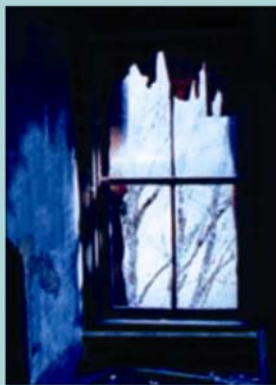
### TEXT I

## MASTERING FEAR

This is a feature article compiled by Transition Year (TY) students who carried out research on young people's childhood fears and how they overcame them.

### T.Y. INVESTIGATES

No matter how secure our lives are, we can never be truly free from fears. We all know the big fears that most people share – fear of war or failure, for instance. However, we want to investigate the little fears and so in this article we have gathered information from senior students about the fears they experienced during childhood.



These are shown in the table on the left. [See survey result] We also spoke to a group of parents to find out how best to help children cope with the most common fear – Fear of the Dark.

But first we did a vox pop on students' childhood fears and how they overcame them. Do their fears match yours? Find out.

#### SURVEY RESULT

##### Top 10 Childhood Fears

- 1 The Dark
- 2 Monsters
- 3 Spiders
- 4 Water
- 5 Heights
- 6 Being lost
- 7 Ghosts
- 8 Clowns
- 9 Dogs
- 10 Cats

#### STUDENT MEMORIES – VOX POP

*When I was small I used to be afraid of the TV character, Bear in the Big Blue House! He used to come to the front of the TV screen and sniff. I'd run a mile at this! I finally beat my fear when my mam told me it was only a puppet. James*

*I was afraid of the monster under my bed! I would switch my light off and scurry and jump into bed as fast as possible. That way the monster couldn't grab my feet! Crazy! But I grew out of the fear eventually. Joe*

*I used to have the light on as I hated the dark. Problem was my horrible sister slept in the same room and wanted the light off. I gave in and finally my dad convinced me that I was at home and had nothing to be scared of. Neasa*

*My worst fear was of clowns. If I saw one at a circus or in McDonalds I just freaked and clung onto my dad. I hated the fact that their faces never changed. I just got over my fear one day when my Dad started talking to a clown about the weather and he told me his real name was Mick. What a relief! Lisa*

## PARENTS' VIEWS

### Fear of the Dark

Many children feel afraid of the dark. A toddler or preschooler tends to be fearful of unfamiliar things that they don't understand or can't control. Their imaginations are very active and they do not always distinguish between fantasy and reality. This means that they may believe that monsters are under the bed waiting to spring once the light goes out. If not addressed a child's fear may linger and continue to disrupt their bedtime routine and sleeping habits. There are many ways that parents and older family members can help the child overcome fear of the dark.

### Be sensitive

Always handle your child's fears with sympathy and understanding. If you aren't afraid of the dark you may find yourself ridiculing or dismissing your child's feelings, or even becoming angry.

The first step to helping your child is to accept that their fears are real ones and to respond to them sensitively. Encourage older brothers and sisters to reassure the frightened child.

### Suggestions for all the family

- ▶ Ask the child to tell you about the fear. Encourage openness.
- ▶ Show the child that you understand the fear but don't necessarily share it.
- ▶ Reassure them that they are safe.
- ▶ Explain that there are no such things as monsters.
- ▶ If your child is afraid of the dark because of the possibility of intruders, show them how secure the house is.
- ▶ Ask your child for suggestions as to what would make them feel more secure. Perhaps they would feel more secure if they took special toys to bed.
- ▶ Talk to your child honestly about such issues.
- ▶ Never mention the Bogey Man.

**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) Do you think the TY group was successful in gathering information from students about the fears they experienced during childhood? Give a reason. (15)
- (ii) Which of the student memories did you find most interesting? Explain your choice. (15)
- (iii) What is the main difference between the material written by the students and the writing in the section entitled "Parents' Views"? (20)

### Question B

#### A Class Talk

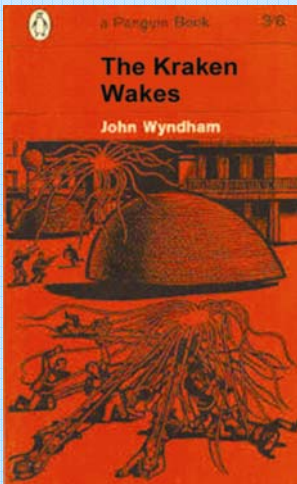
Imagine you were asked to give a talk to younger students about how they might deal with some common childhood fears. Write the talk you would give. (50)



## TEXT 2

# INVASION!

This story is adapted from John Wyndham's *The Kraken Wakes*. It is a story of the invasion from outer space by an alien life form trying to destroy the human race. In this extract, Mike, the narrator, and Phyl, his girlfriend, are investigating the problem on the island of Escondida in the Gulf of Mexico. They are relaxing and listening to a guitarist when ...



1 Suddenly the evening changed as the distant player dropped his guitar with a clang. Down by the waterfront a voice called out. I could not make it out but it was alarming. Then we heard the sound of breaking crockery. A woman screamed.

We turned to look at the houses that screened the little harbour. "Listen!" said Phyl. "Mike, do you think -?" She broke off at the sound of a machine gun firing. "It must be! Mike, they must be coming!"

2

There was an increasing racket in the distance. In the Square itself windows were opening, people calling questions from one to another. Half a dozen soldiers arrived carrying a rocket launcher and laid themselves down on the cobbles, their weapon aimed at the opening to the Square. Except for a few sounds of sobbing, a tense expectant silence held the whole scene. And then in the background one became aware of a grinding, scraping noise; not loud but deep and threatening.

3

Then we had our first sight of an alien. It was like a huge dark beetle, a curve of dull, grey metal sliding into the Square,

demolishing a shop-front as it came. More rockets were fired but they seemed to thud into the metal without any effect.

Slowly, heavily, this strange shape was joined by two others in the Square. They seemed to move into position like troops about to attack.

"Look!" said Phyl. "This one's bulging."

She was pointing to the nearest one. The previously smooth surface at the top of the sea-tank began to bulge and out came a large white ball.

"They're all doing it now – look, and there's two more," screamed Phyl.

4

Slowly the first ball began to float in our direction and then suddenly something happened to it. It did not exactly explode. Nor was there any sound. Rather it seemed to turn inside out with a vast number of long white arms like an octopus waving in the air. Our instinctive reaction was to jump back from the window away from it. We did.

Four or five of the arms, like long white whiplashes, flicked in through the window and dropped to the floor. Almost as they touched it they began to withdraw except for one that had grasped Phyl's foot. It was already contracting, pulling her towards the window. She pulled back.

"Mike!" she cried. "O Mike!"

The thing was tugging hard and she had already been dragged a couple of yards towards the window. She rolled to one side and tore at the arm. For a second it let go of her as if to get a better grip. I grabbed a kitchen knife, rushed towards her and brought it down with full force cutting it in two. It and its companions withdrew.

### 5

But outside in the Square there was complete chaos. With nowhere to escape to people were being caught by the arms. I saw a man rush forward to try to pull a screaming woman away, but when he touched the arm of this thing, another instantly flashed out and grabbed him. Both were pulled along the street. I will never forget their dying screams.

### 6

It was morning before the attack ended. Strangely there were no bodies to recover although hundreds had been killed.

On the news we heard of many attacks on coastal towns throughout the world. It would be many months before the world would sleep easy again; many months before these monsters were defeated.



**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) What happened in part 1 of this story that ended the quietness of the evening? Give a reason. (15)
- (ii) How does the writer show the atmosphere of tension and fear in Parts 2 and 3 of the extract? (15)
- (iii) Which of the six sections of this story would make the best material for a scene in a film called “Invasion!”? Give reasons for your choice. (20)

### Question B

#### **You Were There! – A Newspaper Report**

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter on the island with Phyl and Mike. Based on some of the events in the extract, write a newspaper report. (50)

**TEXT 3**  
**THE HORROR INDUSTRY**



Note: In this text there is a short written piece as well as the visual part.

## THE EXCITEMENT OF HORROR

Why do so many people watch horror movies? Why do they devour horror novels and comics? What is the fascination?

In normal circumstances we run a mile from the things that frighten us. But with horror movies and stories we are drawn like moths to fire.

Has it got something to do with the generally peaceful lives we lead? Everything is so well organised, so controlled, and so predictable.

So we scurry off to scary movies to savour (at a safe distance) the delights of danger, the fear of some dreadful surprise, the mystery of what's outside the darkened window.

And when the movie or the story is ended we can turn out the light and wonder if just maybe there is something out there in the dark just waiting to get us!

**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) According to the writer, why do we love horror films and novels? Explain your answer. (15)
- (ii) Do you think that the visual text helps to support the writer's view? Give a reason. (15)
- (iii) Write a response to the collection of images using **one** of the following prompts:
  - *They are funny because...*
  - *They are scary because...*
  - *They are exciting because...*(20)

### Question B

#### Review

Write a review for your school magazine of any film that you have enjoyed. Your review should encourage other students to go and see it. (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. “When I was small...” (TEXT 1)

**Tell about some of your best and worst experiences of being a young child.**

2. “What a relief!” (TEXT 1)

**Write a short story ending with the above phrase.**

3. “...the big fears that most people share...” (TEXT 1)

**You are a newspaper reporter. Write about an important world event or issue which frightened people or worried them.**

4. “We also spoke to a group of parents...” (TEXT 1)

**Write out the talk you would give to parents about your experience of being a teenager.**

5. “Suddenly the evening changed...” (TEXT 2)

**Write about a time when you experienced change in your life.**

6. “What is the fascination?” (TEXT 3)

**Write an account of some pastime or hobby that fascinates you.**

7. **Write a short story based on one or more of the images contained in TEXT 3.**



**Blank Page**

**Blank Page**

**Blank Page**

**Blank Page**