



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2008

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 4 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 LIFESTYLES.
- 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

PARADISE

This story is adapted from a short story by John Boyne. It captures some of the problems of modern living.



For years Ben was kept awake at night by cars pulling into and out of the twenty-four hour parking-lot next to his home. He would only have drifted off to sleep for a few minutes, when he would suddenly be awakened by the revving engines or the sound of noisy customers coming back to collect their cars. Ben was exhausted all the time. He decided he would have to do something about it. At first he wrote a letter to the council, stating his concerns and seeking their assistance; they wrote back to apologize for their complete inability to help. No one, they said, could stand in the way of business. Next he called a late-night phone-in show and told the rest of the nation's insomniacs (*people who have trouble sleeping*) about his troubles. A man who identified himself as Big Dave appeared on the line to say that there were many things he could do to help Ben, for a price.

Finally, he described to the owner of the parking-lot how his life was being destroyed by the lack of sleep. 'Maybe you could close in the evenings', suggested Ben. 'Six would be perfect but I could live

with seven or eight. I understand that business is business'. 'It wouldn't be much of a twenty-four hour parking-lot', came the reply, 'if we closed at all, now would it?'

Ben agreed and decided that he had no choice but to move. He placed his home on the market but interested buyers were put off by the parking-lot next door. 'Take 40% off your asking price', advised one lady, 'and I'll consider making an offer'. Ben, tired and fed up, called her an unpleasant name and closed the door in her face. Two hours later her husband, a rather small man, arrived and caused trouble.

Time went by, years really, and Ben rarely got more than two or three hours sleep a night. His work suffered, his social life became non-existent and he took to the drink. He read of a Prime Minister who had never slept for more than two or three hours a night. Some argued that this might have explained some of his strange decisions.

One morning a sign appeared outside the parking-lot which stated that it had closed for business. The cars stopped coming. The street fell quiet. Slowly, over a matter of months, Ben's sleeping habits improved and before long he was sober and working as a cartoonist with a local newspaper. A week or two later he

met a kind lady, and romance blossomed. This was the happiest Ben had ever been. At long last, his life was back on track.

A year later a new building sprang up where the parking-lot had been: the foreman told him that it was to be a nightclub. 'It's called Paradise', he said.

'Is that some sort of joke?' asked Ben. It was true, he decided as he sat awake in his apartment (half-drunk for he had gone back on the drink), alone (for his girlfriend had left him), and with only empty days ahead of him (for he had lost his cartooning job): you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.

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) Describe **two** aspects of modern living which are captured in this short story. (15)
- (ii) In your opinion, how well does the cartoon express the central idea of the story? Explain your answer. (15)
- (iii) The title of the story is *Paradise*. Suggest an alternative title for this short story. Explain your choice. (20)

Question B

Noisy Neighbours

Imagine that you live beside the "neighbours from hell".

Write the letter you would send to the police complaining about this problem. (50)



TEXT 2

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

A group of young people was asked to do some research on which new technologies might influence our lifestyles in the future. Here are some of the most popular findings.

Flying Cars: future transport or futile dream?



Looking from the balcony of her 83rd storey penthouse, the young executive scans the sky ahead, the keys to her new Porsche itching in her hand. Stepping into her garage she opens the driver's door, sits inside, flicks on the ignition and listens as the four turbofans blast into life. Releasing the skybrake, the Porsche hovers effortlessly, mere inches above the ground, before she floors the gas pedal and launches powerfully into the crimson sky.

The science fiction future as imagined by children growing up between the 1950s and 1980s is already here. We have the flat screen televisions mounted on the wall like canvases. We have the personal communication devices and we've managed to cram jukeboxes inside them – we call them iPhones! But we're missing something. *Popular Science*, the magazine that has fed our technological fantasies for generations, put it best when it asked in March 2006, "Where's My Flying Car?"

While it's still not possible to walk into your local car dealer and fly out with a vertical take-off and landing vehicle that drives through all three dimensions, there are engineers across the world dedicating their lives to making the dream possible. But a flying car that can be piloted as easily as a family saloon still seems a long way off.

House Robots



The human race has always been very good at inventing machines to do the jobs it hates. Robots are excellent at doing tasks that bore us complex humans – vacuuming, mowing the lawn, entertaining children. It is only a matter of time before we have domestic robots, because modern lifestyles leave little time for the daily grind of housework. British technology experts already believe that we will

have robot servants or 'house-bots' in our homes within the next ten years. They believe that there is a wider acceptance of this technology now. Robots will be linked into the home's own technology and broadband internet service and will effectively become the technology hubs of the new home. Voice commands to the robot will be translated into wireless signals to turn on the washing machine, or vacuum the floor.

The Japanese are looking increasingly to robots to help them with their manpower problems. As Japan has an increasingly ageing population, they are designing robots which can help look after the elderly. Already they have robots that can run, lean over and pour tea. They predict that by 2016 robots will be able to make beds and lift and carry. It is safe to say that advances in technology will change the way we live.

Mobile Phones



The biggest and most obvious change is the rapid take-up of mobile phones. Twelve years ago, they were only for the wealthy, and had a 'yuppie' image. Seven years ago, they were still rare. Now there are more mobile phones than households in Ireland and numbers are still growing. Today's latest model is new for just a few weeks, and out-of-date in a few months. The next generation of mobile phones will be multi-functional devices. They are designed to include computing functions and will be able to replace other devices such

as laptops and other entertainment tools. The latest design is a clamshell phone, and should be on our shelves within the next three years. On this phone the buttons on the bottom half are replaced by a rugged touch screen which changes according to what you're using it for. So, when you're playing music, the touch screen looks like an iPod. When you're watching TV, you turn the phone sideways and the touch screen morphs into channel-switching controls. When you surf the web, it becomes an ordinary keyboard. It's a neat idea and in every case leaves the top screen free for whatever content you're viewing or accessing. Some people predict that eventually mobile phones will be able to translate languages, breaking down barriers between people. Others are creating a new chip for phones which would contain our bank details, thus replacing the need for credit cards or wallets. Future mobile technology will be very exciting.

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) In your opinion, which of these inventions is likely to have most influence on your lifestyle in the future? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (ii) Which of the technologies as described above do you think will be least useful? Explain your answer. (15)
- (iii) Describe another invention which in your opinion would be of great benefit to mankind. (20)

Question B

Looking Back

Write about an invention **from the past** which you think has had the greatest influence on our present-day lifestyle. (50)



TEXT 3

PICTURES OF IRISH LIFESTYLE 2008

A special friend from a different world

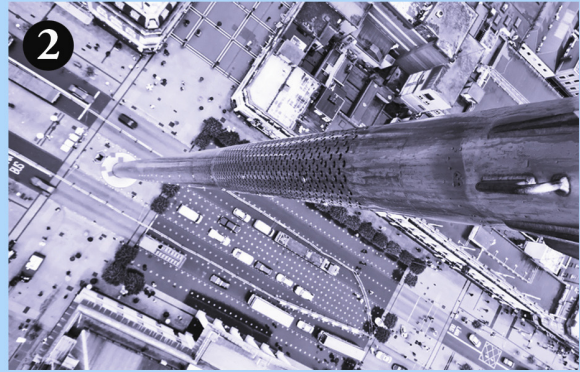
Shot on the west coast of Ireland, as a dolphin takes more interest in the swimmer, rather than the other way round.



1

The Spire, O'Connell St., Dublin

A wonderful new take on a well known landmark.



2

A well earned break

A young girl taking a well earned break while clearing up leaves.



3

Model goalie gives it extra

The solitude and determination of a camogie player as she strikes the ball with what seems like a perfect swing.



4

Grab life with both hands

A relationship between man and boy on Ireland's south east coast, as they stride to avoid the incoming tide.



6

It's in the net

Rock pools are still a source of fascination to children.



5

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

Questions A and B carry 50 marks each.

In 2007, Halifax Bank ran a competition to design a calendar for 2008. The photographs in the text were some of the winning entries submitted by amateur photographers.

Question A

- (i) If you were one of the judges of the competition, which of these photographs would you select as an overall winner? Explain your decision. (15)
- (ii) Choose another one of the photographs [apart from the one chosen at (i)] and say which month on the calendar you think it would suit best. Explain your choice. (15)
- (iii) Do these photographs convey a positive **or** negative impression overall of modern Irish lifestyle? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

Question B

Write the talk you would give to your classmates encouraging them to take up photography as a hobby. (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. '...he had no choice...' (TEXT 1)

Write a short story which contains the above phrase.

2. 'It's called Paradise...' (TEXT 1)

Write a personal account of your idea of paradise.

3. '...breaking down barriers...' (TEXT 2)

Write an article for a school magazine in which you make suggestions to students on how to welcome newcomers into the school community.

4. '...robot servants or 'house-bots' in our homes...' (TEXT 2)

Write a short story based on this idea.

5. 'A special friend...' (TEXT 3)

Write a personal account of what friendship means to you.

6. 'Grab life with both hands.' (TEXT 3)

Write the speech you would give to a group of young people on the importance of having a positive attitude towards life.

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

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