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Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle Final Examination 2026

English

Ordinary Level

Wednesday 3 June Morning 9:30 – 11:30

180 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth

For example, 3rd February 2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

The theme for this examination paper is
Interesting Worlds

Instructions

There are **four** sections in this paper.

Section A	Responding to Visual Texts	35 marks	2 questions
Section B	Writing for a Variety of Purposes	60 marks	4 questions
Section C	Exploring and Using Language	40 marks	3 questions
Section D	Analysing and Creating	45 marks	3 questions

Answer all 12 questions.

The questions do not all carry equal marks. The number of marks for each question is stated at the top of the question.

You should spend about 20 minutes on Section A, 40 minutes on Section B, 25 minutes on Section C and 30 minutes on Section D.

When answering on studied material, you must use texts in line with what is prescribed for this year's examination.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. You may lose marks if you do not do so. You are not required to use all the space provided. You should read each question in full before beginning your response.

Extra pages are provided if needed. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.

You may only use blue or black pen when writing your answers. Do not use pencil.

This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

Section A	Responding to Visual Texts	35 marks

Suggested time for Section A: 20 minutes

Look carefully at the poster below, then answer the questions that follow.

Question 1 **(15 marks)**

(a) According to the poster, what food does a red fox eat?

(b) According to the poster, where does a red fox live?

(c) In your opinion, what makes the red fox a good survivor? Explain your answer with reference to the poster.

Question 2 **(20 marks)**

Look carefully at the poster "Red Fox Facts", on page 3.

You have been asked to make a **short film** about the life of a red fox.

- Give your film a name.
- Describe two scenes from your film. You should refer to storyline and sound for each scene.

Optional Rough Work

Name of film:

Scene 1

Scene 2

Additional writing space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Section B	Writing for a Variety of Purposes	60 marks

Suggested time for Section B: 40 minutes

Read the following diary entry taken from the novel, *Molly Malone & Bram Stoker in The Riddle of the Disappearing Dickens*, by Alan Nolan. The diary entry is written by twelve-year-old Abraham (Bram) Stoker, the night before he leaves for London with his parents and best friend Molly Malone to collect his brother Thornley from boarding school.

The Diary of Master Abraham Stoker
Thursday 23rd of July 1859
19 Buckingham Street, Dublin

Dearest Diary,

Well, my old friend, the day is **almost** here. Tomorrow morning, I will **embark** on a brand-new adventure — I shall, for the first time in my twelve years, leave the country of my birth and travel to another. Isn't it simply thrilling?

Goodbye to the Reverend Woods' famously boring school; farewell to dreary old Dublin; and good riddance to 19 Buckingham Street! At least, farewell, goodbye and good riddance for a few days. The next time I write in your pages, my most Dearest Diary, I shall be on my way to LONDON!

At six o'clock in the morning, I shall rise and dress and have breakfast, and then Mama, Papa and I will travel to Kingstown by carriage to catch the half-past-eight steamboat to Holyhead. There we will board a train bound for the biggest and most important city in the world. Our **mission** is to collect my older brother Thornley from Withering Hall boarding school and bring him home to dear old Dublin for the summer holidays.

And if that isn't exciting enough, Dear Diary, my parents and I will not be travelling alone! Much to my surprise and delight, Mama has said I may bring a guest. I have **selected** who else but my best friend and fellow adventurer … Miss Molly Malone!

Oh, Diary, I find myself practically shaking with excitement and shivering with anticipation! I have long **desired** to become a writer, and where better to find stories to tell and adventures to be had than the greatest city in the whole, wide world — London!

Until we speak, or should I say *write* again,
Your friend,
Bram.

Question 3 **(10 marks)**

The following words appear in bold in the extract printed on page 8. For each option, tick ✓the box that shows the meaning of the word as it is used in the passage.

Tick **one** box only in each case.

(a) Almost

- never ☐
- nearly ☐
- over ☐

(b) Embark

- stare ☐
- start ☐
- stop ☐

(c) Mission

- chance ☐
- time ☐
- purpose ☐

(d) Selected

- chosen ☐
- forgotten ☐
- ignored ☐

(e) Desired

- regretted ☐
- wanted ☐
- hated ☐

Question 4 **(15 marks)**

(a) How is Bram going to travel to Holyhead?

(b) From your reading of Bram's diary entry, how would you describe Bram's character? Give reasons for your answer.

Optional Rough Work

Question 5 **(15 marks)**

Imagine you have been on an exciting journey. Write a diary entry describing your thoughts and feelings about this journey. Answering space for this question continues on page 12.

Optional Rough Work

Answering space for this question continues on page 12.

Question 6 **(20 marks)**

Read parts **(a)**, **(b)** and **(c)** before starting your answer.

(a) Name a novel or short story you have studied that takes place in an interesting time and place.

Name of novel or short story:
Name of author:

(b) Describe what is interesting about the time and place in which this novel or short story takes place.

Optional Rough Work

(c) Imagine you had to live in the world of your chosen novel or short story. Explain why you would or would not like living in this world. Give reasons for your answer.

Optional Rough Work

Section C	Exploring and Using Language	40 marks

Suggested time for Section C: 25 minutes

Read the poem, "Leaves", by Elsie N. Brady, and answer the questions that follow.

Leaves

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colours gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow.

Question 7 **(10 marks)**

In each case below, tick ✓ the box that identifies the correct poetic technique as used in the poem.

Tick **one** box only in each case.

(a) 'To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care'

- simile ☐
- end rhyme ☐
- sibilance ☐

(b) 'Content to sleep, their work well done'

- personification ☐
- end rhyme ☐
- sibilance ☐

(c) 'Twisting, turning…'

- onomatopoeia ☐
- assonance ☐
- alliteration ☐

(d) '… trees stand stark…'

- enjambment ☐
- simile ☐
- sibilance ☐

(e) 'To wait, like children, for the snow'

- simile ☐
- repetition ☐
- onomatopoeia ☐

Question 8 **(10 marks)**

Look carefully again at the poem, “Leaves”, on page 15. Answer the questions below.

Optional Rough Work

(a) What picture does the poet give us of the leaves in stanza 1?

(b) What journey do the leaves go on in stanza 2?

Question 9 **(20 marks)**

Choose a memorable poem that you have studied. You may not use the poem printed on this paper.

(a) Name the poem and the poet.

Poem:
Poet:

(b) Explain how the poet made this poem memorable. In your answer, you should refer to the theme and imagery in your chosen poem.

Optional Rough Work

Section D	Analysing and Creating	45 marks

Suggested time for Section D: 30 minutes

Read the following drama extract from *When We Imagine* by Joseph Arnone. In it, two friends, Jesse and Felix, have a strong bond.

Jesse: I come here to the swimming pool by myself sometimes, stare up at the moon from my float and imagine things.

Felix: What you imagine?

Jesse: Recently, I imagined myself being a world-famous inventor, like Einstein, doing something great for once. What d'you imagine?

Felix: Nothin'.

Jesse: You don't ever let your mind wander?

Felix: No.

Jesse gets her float. She places it in the pool.

Jesse: Get on the float.

Felix: Nah.

Jesse: Come on, Felix. Get on my float and close your eyes.

Felix goes into the pool, climbs on top of the float and closes his eyes.

Felix: Now, what?

Jesse: Imagine.

Felix: Imagine, what? How?

Jesse: Okay, okay. Imagine a beach, any beach, there's no right or wrong beach 'cause it's your beach, got it? Look around your beach, what do you see?

Felix: Um, I see the ocean, the sand, birds, I guess –

Jesse: NO, no, no. You're just saying what you know exists at the beach. I want you to invent your own beach. What colour is the ocean?

Felix: Grey.

Jesse: Imagine your ocean being sky blue, like a rich, bright, deep ocean blue… see it?

Felix: Oh wow, yeah, I see it now.

Jesse: What colour is the sand?

Felix: The sand is brown.

Jesse: That's boring! Come on… give me a colour that feels more alive.

Felix: Uh, how about orange?

Jesse: Orange sand is awesome. Now, what do you want to do at this beach?

Felix: I wanna go surfing, but I've never been surfing.

Jesse: Doesn't matter. In your imagination, you can go there! You can do anything! Go for it.

Felix: The waves are massive.

Jesse: Make them even bigger!

Felix laughs. Jesse is laughing as well.

Question 10 **(5 marks)**

Based on your reading of the drama extract, on pages 20 and 21, decide if each of the five statements below are true or false.

Choose the correct answer by placing a tick ✓ in the appropriate box.

(a) Jesse sometimes comes to the swimming pool and looks at the moon.

True ☐ False ☐

(b) Before this particular night, Felix regularly let his mind wander and imagine things.

True ☐ False ☐

(c) At first, Felix is very excited to get on the float.

True ☐ False ☐

(d) Jesse asks Felix to imagine his own beach.

True ☐ False ☐

(e) Jesse and Felix enjoy their time together that evening.

True ☐ False ☐

Question 11 **(20 marks)**

(a) Describe the relationship between Felix and Jesse. Refer to the extract to support your answer.

(b) Imagine you are Felix. You would like to thank Jesse for her encouragement at the swimming pool. Write the content of a voice message you would send to Jesse's phone to thank her.

Optional Rough Work

Question 12 **(20 marks)**

Read both parts of the question carefully before starting your answer. Choose a film or play you have studied and answer parts **(a)** and **(b)** below. You may not use the extract printed on pages 20 and 21.

(a) Name the film or play. Name two characters who have an important relationship in your chosen film or play.

Name of film or play:
Name of characters:

(b) Describe why this was an important relationship in your chosen film or play. Refer to the film or play to support your answer.

Optional Rough Work

Additional writing space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Additional writing space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Acknowledgements

Images
p.3, https://i.pinimg.com/736x/d3/0e/f3/d30ef3de0b95519ec71c70724d9a1782.jpg
p.6, https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/movie-camera-clipart
p.8, https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/horse-carriage-silhouette
p.15, https://www.elitetreecare.com/2017/09/3-early-leaf-drop-factors/

Texts
p.3, https://i.pinimg.com/736x/d3/0e/f3/d30ef3de0b95519ec71c70724d9a1782.jpg
p.8, Alan Nolan. *Molly Malone & Bram Stoker in The Riddle of the Disappearing Dickens*. Dublin: The O'Brien Press, 2024
p.15, Elsie N. Brady, "Leaves", https://www.pinterest.com/pin/autumn-poem-the-leaves-by-elsie-n-brady--9148005512487363/
p.20 and 21, *When We Imagine*, by Joseph Arnone. https://www.monologueblogger.com/you-don't-ever-let-your-mind-wander/

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English

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