



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Art

Visual Studies

Higher Level

Friday 12 June Afternoon 2:00 - 4:30

150 marks

Examination Number

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Date of Birth

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

Centre Stamp

Instructions

There are **three** sections in this examination paper:

Section A	Today's world	50 marks	7 short answer questions.
Section B	Europe and the wider world	50 marks	6 long answer questions.
Section C	Ireland and its place in the wider world	50 marks	6 long answer questions.

Answer questions as follows:

- Section A – Today's world: Answer **any five** questions.
(All questions carry equal marks – 10 marks each).
- Section B – Europe and the wider world: Answer **one** question.
- Section C – Ireland and its place in the wider world: Answer **one** question.

Refer where indicated to the **illustrations on the accompanying sheet** for Section A.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. There is space for extra work at the end of the booklet. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.

You may use labelled sketches and diagrams to support your answer if you wish. Space for sketches and diagrams is made available at the end of each section. Please ensure that the question number (and part if necessary) is clearly labelled on each sketch or diagram.

Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil, including colouring pencil, for sketches and drawings only. Do not use paint or any other wet media.

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**Today's world****50 marks**

Answer **any five** questions in this section.

Question 1**10 marks**

The Men / Na Fir by Ally Nolan is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Discuss this artwork using the following headings: colour, pattern, use of materials.

(b) What do you think the work is about? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 2

10 marks

Memories of Home by Kate Beagan is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Discuss this painting using relevant art elements and design principles.

(b) Explain the advantages of painting a landscape *en plein air* (out of doors).

Question 3

10 marks

Several years after launching a trial, Ireland is the first country in the world to make a *Basic Income for the Arts* scheme permanent, starting in 2026. This means that visual artists on the scheme will receive a guaranteed payment each week. This scheme is being praised worldwide.
(Adapted from www.artnews.com)

- (a) What are the benefits for visual artists of having a guaranteed income through this scheme?
Give reasons for your answer.

- (b) In your opinion, how will this scheme benefit Irish society?
Give reasons for your answer.

Question 4**10 marks**

Royal Courts of Justice, London by Banksy is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Describe this artwork using the following headings: setting, colour, composition.

(b) In your opinion, what is the work about? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 5**10 marks**

The Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin and the Crawford Art Gallery in Cork are currently closed to the public for renovations.

- (a)** Explain how a gallery or museum could continue to engage with the general public while closed. Justify your answer.

- (b)** In your opinion, what do galleries and museums need to consider when putting an artefact into storage? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 6**10 marks**

A Week at the Knees by Alex Chinneck is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Describe this sculpture using the following headings: form, location, scale.

(b) In your opinion, what is the work about? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 7**10 marks**

Grillagh Water House by Patrick Bradley Architect is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Describe this building using the following headings: form, use of materials, colour.

(b) Discuss the relationship between the building and the landscape. Use evidence from the illustrations to support your answer.

Optional Answer Space for sketches, diagrams, etc.
Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Answer **one** question from this section.

Question 8 **Romanesque and Gothic (c.1000 – 1500s)**

How important were space and light in the design of Gothic Cathedrals?

- Refer in your answer to specific examples.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, materials and techniques.

Question 9 **The Renaissance – Proto, Early, High Renaissance & Mannerism (c.1300 – 1600s)**

Describe and discuss the development of sculpture during this period.

- Refer in your answer to named artists and their artworks.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, materials and techniques.

Question 10 **Baroque (c.1600 – 1700s)**

Describe and discuss how Baroque art **and/or** architecture convey ideas of grandeur, power, and spirituality.

- Refer to named artists and their artworks **and/or** architects and their architecture.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, materials and techniques.

Question 11 **Realism, Impressionism and Post-Impressionism (c.1850 – 1900s)**

Describe and discuss how artists reflected the social realities of 19th-century Europe in their work.

- Refer in your answer to named artists and their artworks.
- Include discussion of context, subject matter, art elements and design principles, media and techniques.

Question 12 **Modernism (c.1900 – 1960s)**

Examine the influence of Primitivism on the art of this period.

- Refer in your answer to named artists and their artworks.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, media and techniques.

Question 13 **Post 1960**

Compare and contrast the work of **two** visual artists of this period who have explored social issues in their artwork.

- Refer in your answer to named artists and their artworks.
- Include discussion of subject matter, areas of practice, art elements and design principles, media and techniques.

Optional Planning Space.

Answer for Question

Optional Answer Space for sketches, diagrams, etc.
Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Answer **one** question from this section.

Question 14 **Pre-Christian (c.4000 BCE – 500 CE)**

In your opinion, can the people who created Ireland's megalithic monuments be considered inventors, engineers and artists?

- Refer in your answer to named examples.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, materials and techniques, art elements and design principles.

Question 15 **Insular Art (c.500 – 1100s)**

Compare and contrast **one** manuscript from this period with **one** metal artefact from this period.

- Refer in your answer to named artefacts.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, materials and techniques, art elements and design principles.

Question 16 **Late Medieval Architecture and Art (c.1100 – 1550s)**

How did patronage influence Late Medieval Irish architecture **and/or** art?

- Refer in your answer to named examples.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, materials and techniques, art elements and design principles.

Question 17 **Georgian period (c.1720 – 1800s)**

What were the key influences that shaped the Irish art **and/or** Irish architecture of this period?

- Refer in your answer to named examples.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, materials and techniques.

Question 18 **Irish Art and Modernism (c.1880 – 1960s)**

Compare and contrast the artwork of **two** Irish female Modernist artists from this period.

- Refer in your answer to named artists and their artworks.
- Include discussion of context, art elements and design principles, innovation and invention, media and techniques.

Question 19 **Post 1960**

Describe and discuss the artwork of **two** Irish visual artists from this period that explore the theme of identity.

- Refer in your answer to named artists and their artworks.
- Include discussion of context, art elements and design principles, innovation and invention, media and techniques.

Optional Planning Space.

Answer for Question

Optional Answer Space for sketches, diagrams, etc.
Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Additional Answer Space: Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

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Acknowledgements

Text

Page 5: Question 3

Adapted from <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/ireland-basic-income-artists-program-permanent-1234756981/>

(Accessed: 10 Dec. 2025)

Images

Page 3: Question 1

<https://allynolan.squarespace.com/portfolio>

(Accessed: 10 Dec. 2025)

Page 4: Question 2

<https://thekilkennyartgallery.com/collections/kate-beagan/oil-painting>

Photographed by Charles Emerson

(Accessed: 10 Dec. 2025)

Page 6: Question 4

<https://www.vulture.com/article/banksy-new-mural-explained.html>

<https://www.graffitistreet.com/how-did-banksy-do-it-the-mystery-behind-the-royal-courts-of-justice-mural/>

(Accessed: 10 Dec. 2025)

Page 8: Question 6

<https://www.dezeen.com/2025/05/20/alex-chinneck-week-at-the-knees-clerkenwell-design-week/>

(Accessed: 10 Dec. 2025)

Page 9: Question 7

<https://www.metaltechnology.com/projects/architects-home-is-a-grand-design/#>

<https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/interior-design/a6292-10-innovative-shipping-container-homes/>

Photographed by Aidan Monaghan.

(Accessed: 10 Dec. 2025)

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Leaving Certificate – Higher Level

Art Visual Studies

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