



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2026

Art

Visual Studies

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

Question 1 **10 marks**

Portrait of Sir David Attenborough by David Copley is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Describe this painting using the following headings: subject matter, composition, colour.

(b) This painting is a portrait of Sir David Attenborough. What does it tell us about him?
Give reasons for your answer using evidence from the illustration shown.

Question 2

10 marks

A shopping bag from IKEA, designed by Diana Ordóñez, is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Discuss this shopping bag using the following headings: pattern, colour, mood.

(b) In your opinion, what imagery inspired this shopping bag?
Give reasons for your answer using evidence from the illustration shown.

Question 3**10 marks**

In an interview in August 2025, actor Brendan Gleeson called for an Arts Section similar to the Sports Section, to be included in news programmes in Ireland.

Adapted from www.thejournal.ie

- (a)** What would you include in an Arts Section (with art/craft/design) on a news programme in Ireland? Give examples.

- (b)** Why would an Arts Section (with art/craft/design) on news programmes be a good idea? Give reasons for your answer.

Question 4**10 marks**

Mar, an artwork by Alejandro Durán, is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

- (a)** Describe this artwork using the following headings: use of materials, colour, space/composition.

- (b)** What do you think this artwork is about?
Give reasons for your answer.

Question 5**10 marks**

A mural called *Balor*, is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

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

(b) Why do you think murals are important to Irish towns and cities?
Give reasons for your answer.

Question 6**10 marks**

Creative Calling: Careers for the Curious, had a stand at the Higher Options and WorldSkills Ireland 2025 event in the RDS. It featured live demonstrations and visual displays, highlighting the wide range of creative careers in the arts, cultural and creative industries.

Adapted from www.screenireland.ie

- (a) Why is it important for young people to learn about creative careers (for example: designers / fine artists / craftspeople)? Give reasons for your answer.

- (b) Describe how creative careers (for example: designers / fine artists / craftspeople) can have a positive impact on a business.

Question 7

10 marks

A wallpaper design called *Fruit Looters* is **illustrated on the accompanying sheet**.

(a) Discuss this artwork using the following headings: imagery, colour, pattern.

(b) What kind of interior **or** room do you think that this wallpaper would suit?
Give reasons for 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)**

Describe and discuss Romanesque sculpture during this period.

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

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

Give an account of Michelangelo's work.

- Refer to **two** named 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 the main characteristics of Baroque Art.

- Refer to named artists and **two** named artworks.
- Include discussion of context, subject matter, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles.

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

Describe and discuss how Claude Monet's paintings were seen as new and innovative.

- Refer to **two** named artworks.
- Include discussion of context, subject matter, art elements and design principles, materials and techniques.

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

Examine the work of **one** of the following artists: Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí, Edvard Munch, Käthe Kollwitz.

- Refer to your selected artist and **two** of their named artworks.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, materials and techniques.

Question 13 **Post 1960**

Describe and discuss the work of **one** artist whose artworks communicate ideas about social issues.

- Refer to **one** named artist and **two** named artworks.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, media and techniques.

Optional Planning Space.

Answer for Question

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

Section C**Ireland and its place in the wider world****50 marks**

Answer **one** question from this section.

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

Describe and discuss the development of metalwork during this period.

- Refer to **two** specific metal artefacts from this period.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, style and techniques.

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

Describe and discuss one chalice **and** one brooch from this period.

- Refer to **two** named artefacts.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, techniques and decoration.

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

How did religion influence the art **and/or** architecture of Late Medieval Ireland?

- Refer to **two** specific examples from the Late Medieval period.
- Include discussion of context, art elements and design principles, decoration, materials and techniques.

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

Describe and discuss the main features of Irish Georgian country houses.

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

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

How did Jack B. Yeats communicate emotion and ideas in his paintings?

- Refer to **two** named artworks.
- Include discussion of context, subject matter, style, art elements and design principles.

Question 19 **Post 1960**

Describe and discuss the work of **one** female Irish artist from this period.

- Refer to **two** named artworks.
- Include discussion of context, innovation and invention, art elements and design principles, media and areas of practice.

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.

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

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Acknowledgements

Text

Page 5: Question 3

Adapted from: <https://www.thejournal.ie/news-segment-arts-6793628-Aug2025/>
(Accessed: 02 Nov. 2025)

Page 8: Question 6

Adapted from: <https://www.screenireland.ie/news/minister-odonovan-welcomes-creative-careers-initiative-at-higher-options-and-worldskills-ireland-events-in-the-rds-dublin>
(Accessed: 03 Dec. 2025)

Images

Page 3: Question 1

<https://therp.co.uk/portfolio/david-cobley-rp-neac-rwa/>
(Accessed: 02 Nov. 2025)

Page 4: Question 2

<https://www.happymundane.com/2023/05/ikea-omsesidig-collection/>
<https://www.ikea.com/global/en/stories/design/ikea-collection-omsesidig-captures-the-art-of-celebration-in-print-230223/>
(Accessed: 02 Nov. 2025)

Page 6: Question 4

https://www.weltkulturenmuseum.de/en/exhibitions/online/?exhibition=HLIB_online_durch_die_Ausstellung_360°_en
<https://alejandroduran.com/exhibition-gallery?itemId=plolzup6kuh9d6sbh869r27urs6sk9-j22c6-m7p74-jpe5r>
(Accessed: 02 Nov. 2025)

Page 7: Question 5

<https://streetartcities.com/markers/b1f22bbb-558a-4d40-9568-f3af09d4df04>
(Accessed: 02 Nov. 2025)

Page 9: Question 7

<https://www.timorousbeasties.com/view-product/fruit-looters-wallpaper?item=14632>
(Accessed: 02 Nov. 2025)

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Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

Art Visual Studies

Friday 12 June

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