



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2018

## English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

**Total Marks: 200**

**Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 INSPIRING PEOPLE.
- 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.

## TEXT 1 – JOANNE O’RIORDAN

The following text is based on edited extracts from a speech given by Joanne O’Riordan at the United Nations in New York when she was sixteen years old.

1. “Good afternoon everyone! My name is Joanne O’Riordan and firstly I’d like to thank all of those at the United Nations, and the people from the International Telecommunication Union, for this amazing opportunity to speak to you today. Being invited to New York during the week of my 16th birthday is simply unbelievable. As you can see I was born without my limbs but my motto in life is, No Limbs No Limits. The disability I have is known as Total Amelia and it is one of the rarest conditions known. I believe there are only seven people in the world living with this condition and there is no medical explanation as to why I was born this way. However, my family and I have never allowed it to hold me back.

2. From an early age I have always relied on the use of technology in all aspects of my life, be it at home, in school or when interacting with others. My parents have told me that when I was one I first began to explore the use of technology with our old computer. Today I can type 36 words a minute and for someone with no limbs, I think that’s an incredible achievement in itself.

3. All my young life I’ve struggled and overcome barriers. I’m always finding new ways or methods that would allow me to be the same as any other person. I’m very lucky that I have the support of my family, as they have never allowed anyone to hold me back. They have done everything in their power to ensure that I would not lose out on my education, and technology was key in helping me. A system was set up which allows my schoolbooks to be put on CD. This enables me to do all my work through a computer.



4. It took months to get it right but it ultimately changed my life. I discovered that with one flick of my hand I was able to do all the things my other friends were doing with their fingers. I was able to be as good as them, if not better. My quality of life has changed dramatically and only the other day I told my mother that technology is the limb I never had. I can use my mobile phone or laptop, send texts, tweets and update my Facebook. Without this technology in my life I would not be achieving my full potential. Believe it or not I simply use my upper and bottom lip, chin, nose and hand to do most of this.

5. Technology has opened up a world of possibilities, through which I have excelled in both my education and socially. It is fair to say that I have been given the opportunities to grow, learn and adapt my lifestyle in a way that helps me, but I know there are children and adults out there all over the world who do not have the same chances in life as I do. I’m asking the Girls in Technology who are here today, and who are the leading women within their field, to start doing what I do in my life – ‘Think outside the box’. Think of ways and means that you can make technology more accessible to those who

really need it. It is my wish and it's my challenge to you, and to others out there, to build me a robot.

6. Yes, that's right, a robot! The main thing the robot would do is pick up the objects I drop, such as a pen, knife, fork, or my phone. It would become my hands and legs. The challenges I face every day get bigger and far greater to overcome. I know I can overcome these challenges but I need your help. I can't rely on my parents, my brothers, sister and others all my life. Can I? Certainly not and I don't want to! I want to live an independent life, just like you.

I don't want to live in the shadow of others because I want to make my own journey in life and I know if I'm given that chance I can and will succeed.

7. I know that there must be someone out there in the world who can do something like this to make life much easier. It would not just help me, but indeed others who are in similar situations. Life is about living and let's face it, technology is not just a way of life, it's a way of living! Just because I have no limbs does not mean I will be limited. And neither should you! Thank you!"

**N.B. Answer ONLY ONE Question A and ONLY ONE Question B.**

### Question A – 50 Marks

- (i) From your reading of TEXT 1, what impression do you form of Joanne O’Riordan? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Based on your reading of TEXT 1, do you think Joanne O’Riordan is an effective communicator? Make at least two points explaining your response, supporting your answer with reference to Joanne’s speech. (15)
- (iii) (a) The documentary film made about Joanne O’ Riordan’s life is entitled, *No Limbs No Limits*. Imagine a documentary is to be made about your life. Suggest a title for the documentary. The title you choose should reveal something about yourself. Outline two reasons why you think this would be a good title for your film. (10)
- (b) The theme of this examination paper is “Inspiring People”. Identify someone, other than Joanne O’Riordan, Gary or Paul O’Donovan or Kailash Satyarthi, who inspires you and explain why you find this person inspiring. (10)

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

### Question B – 50 Marks

Joanne O’Riordan’s life has been greatly improved due to the talents of a wide range of scientists and others with training in **STEM** subjects (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**athematics). Write **an article for your school’s website** in which you outline your own experience of any of the **STEM** subjects and explain why you would or would not encourage students to study these types of subjects for their Leaving Certificate.

## TEXT 2 – GARY O'DONOVAN

This adapted text is based on an interview by Larry Ryan with rower, Gary O'Donovan, who, with his brother, Paul, won a silver medal for rowing at the Olympic Games in 2016. The original article appeared in *The Irish Examiner* newspaper.

### Headline – *The Big Interview: How Paul's Drive Ignited the Champion in Gary O'Donovan*

1. Gary O'Donovan has rowed at least 20 kilometres this morning, soaked the pain away in the shower and has half an hour before he lifts weights. He leads the way to the kitchen at the National Rowing Centre at Farran Wood, near Cork City, mixes his porridge and prods the microwave. The first thing that screams there's more than glamour and awards shows in his life right now are his hands. They are destroyed, with blisters on blisters. "Ah, that's standard," he says, "you just roll a load of tape around the blisters and put a bit of tissue or something soft between it and the tape."

2. Gary explains how his training works, "Sometimes, I go home after the first session and have a nap. Today I'll stick around and do some weightlifting. I'll go home after the weights, have the dinner and probably go on the rowing machine this evening for an hour or two — 16 or 18 kilometres. I might only do 16 kilometres after doing weights. If I didn't do the weights, I'd do 20 to 22 kilometres. We've been doing it all our lives. We normally take a couple of weeks off after the World Championships but even then, we're eager to get back and we're thinking, what would we be doing if we weren't rowing?"

3. Teddy O'Donovan took his sons, Gary and Paul, rowing for the first time when they were seven and nine. They enjoyed it and they were naturals. Yet, something separated the brothers. On RTÉ Radio, Paul recalled the time Gary was out the night before a National Championship, slept through his alarm, missed his race and got the club fined. That kind of thing didn't happen to Paul, who had been targeting the



**Gary O'Donovan (left) with his brother, Paul.**

Olympics since he was 12. Gary explains, "I always put in the time. I was coming out the same time as Paul, going home the same time, going in the water with him, putting in the same distance as him. I just didn't have that same intent. Then Paul started doing really well and I could see the intensity with which he trained. It was more a change of mindset than anything. I thought, I'm here anyway, I'm doing the same mileage, I might as well put in the same effort, mentally and physically." His younger brother still serves as an inspiration. Gary says, "If you can beat him, you've a good chance of being the fastest in the world."

4. Gary is keen to give credit to his fellow rowers. He says, "It's important to appreciate it's not just myself and Paul that are the Irish rowing team. We spent the 12 months before the Olympics in Rio rowing with the rest of them. We were all racing against each other and putting pressure on each other. That competition helps us get faster." Gary talked about the preparation involved in rowing. "We are in complete control of everything. We have our warm-ups, our pre-race nutrition and our weight management really well controlled."

5. He knows it would be easy to make the whole thing sound too difficult, “When youngsters come here to race or train they might be thinking, these guys must train so hard, it must be so demanding, imagine the focus and the determination required, but we have a great time as well. For people to see the fun makes it more of an achievable target. We put a big emphasis on having a bit of fun. We have a brilliant time. I don’t think we’d come out here all the time if we weren’t having fun.”

\*“Pull like a Dog” was an expression used by the brothers to describe their rowing.

6. Asked about the best fun the brothers have had, Gary responds, “We’ve done a lot of cool things. It’s hard to pick one moment. The homecoming to Skibbereen from the Olympics was cool. *The Graham Norton Show*, that was cool. There was the People of the Year awards and we filmed a documentary over the last few months too, a day-in-the-life job telling our story. It’s called *Pull like a Dog\**, it’s the story of where we came from.”

**N.B. Answer ONLY ONE Question A and ONLY ONE Question B.**

### Question A – 50 Marks

- (i) From your reading of TEXT 2, what impression do you form of Gary O’Donovan? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Based on your reading of the above article, including its headline, do you think it originally appeared as a front-page news article or as an article in the Sports Section of the newspaper? Make at least two points explaining your choice, supporting your response with reference to both the article and its headline. (15)
- (iii) (a) The documentary film made about the O’Donovan brothers is entitled, *Pull like a Dog*. Imagine a documentary is to be made about your life. Suggest a title for the documentary. The title you choose should reveal something about yourself. Outline two reasons why you think this would be a good title for your film. (10)
- (b) The theme of this examination paper is “Inspiring People”. Identify someone, other than Joanne O’Riordan, Gary or Paul O’Donovan or Kailash Satyarthi, who inspires you and explain why you find this person inspiring. (10)

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

### Question B – 50 Marks

Imagine you are representing your school in the final of a competition. You are free to choose any type of competition; sports related, debating, singing, etc. Write **three diary entries** in which you record the details of your training or preparation for the final, reflect on the challenges you have faced during the competition, and consider what inspires you to keep working hard in advance of the final.



## TEXT 3 – KAILASH SATYARTHI

This text consists of two elements; edited extracts from an interview with Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kailash Satyarthi (Source: [unesco.org](http://unesco.org)) and an image based on a poster from a United Nations campaign against child labour.

1. Kailash Satyarthi is a human rights activist from India who has been a leader in the global movement to end child slavery. He gave up a career as an electrical engineer to begin a campaign against child slavery. He developed the campaign, Global March Against Child Labour. His work has led to the rescue of over 80,000 child slaves. The number of child labourers globally has gone down in the last 15 years, from almost 260 million to 168 million. The number of children out of school has also dropped, from 130 million to about 58 million. In 2014, Kailash Satyarthi shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Malala Yousafzai.

2. ***What compelled you to make such a radical career change from an engineer to campaigning for children's rights?***

On my very first day of school I saw a boy of my age sitting outside – he was a shoe-maker and I could not understand why he was sitting outside and why all of us were going to school with new uniforms, new books and dreams. One day I gathered all my courage and ran straight to his father and asked him why he didn't send his son to school. He looked at me as if it was a really tough question. Then he replied: "Babuji [Sir], I have never thought about it. My father, my grandfather and I started working as children and so did my son. Don't you know that we are born to work?"

This is a question to which I am still trying to find the answer – why are some children born to work at the expense of their schooling, childhood and freedom? And why are others born with dreams and a future? I made up my mind that I was not born to become an engineer and that I was not going to set out on a typical career path.

**Kailash Satyarthi**

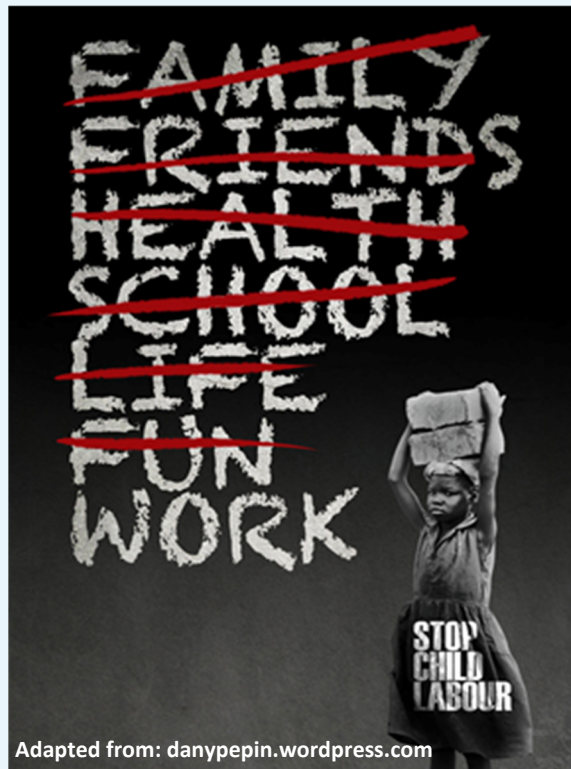
Adapted from: [Wikipedia.com](http://Wikipedia.com)



3. ***What advice would you give young people today who want to pursue a career as social activists and want to make an impact upon the world?***

I would say that, in spite of all the intolerance and violent attitudes, most young people are still very idealistic. They are looking for a better life for themselves, for their community and the world. We should give these young people voices, build their leadership abilities, and give them the driving seat to become pioneers and champions for their cause. Involving young people in the betterment of the world is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity we should all work on together.

Sometimes I tell young people that we live in the age of 3-D. We wanted to see our televisions in 3-D; even our smartphones will be converted into 3-D. So I have my own 3-D suggestion for young people. The first 'D' is to Dream – dream big, dream for something better; dream for betterment of yourself and for the whole world, for all of humanity. The second 'D' is to Discover – every young person has tremendous potential inside, and it has to be discovered and explored. The third 'D' is Don't be lazy – act now on what you believe in. Time is running out.



**N.B. Answer ONLY ONE Question A and ONLY ONE Question B.**

**Question A – 50 Marks**

- (i) From your reading of the written text on Page 6, what impression do you form of Kailash Satyarthi? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Look at the image that appears on Page 7. Outline two or more reasons why you do or do not think this poster is effective in communicating a message against child labour. Support your answer with reference to both the words and images in the poster. (15)
- (iii) (a) Imagine you are the director of a documentary film about Kailash Satyarthi's campaign against child slavery. Suggest a title for the documentary. The title you choose should reveal something about Satyarthi's work against child slavery. Outline two reasons why you think this would be a good title for your film. (10)
- (b) The theme of this examination paper is "Inspiring People". Identify someone, other than Joanne O'Riordan, Gary or Paul O'Donovan or Kailash Satyarthi, who inspires you and explain why you find this person inspiring. (10)

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

**Question B – 50 Marks**

Based on what you have read in TEXT 3, you have decided to write **a letter to the editor of a national newspaper**. You want to encourage people to become more aware of the problem of children working in poor conditions in developing countries. In your letter you should give some information about this problem and express your strong views on the subject.

## SECTION II

## COMPOSING

**(100 marks)**

Write a composition on **any one** of the following composition assignments in **bold print** below.

Each composition carries 100 marks.

The composition assignments are intended to reflect language study in the areas of information, argument, persuasion, narration, and the aesthetic use of language.

1. In TEXT 1, Joanne O’Riordan outlines the significant impact technology has on her life.

**Write a speech, to be delivered to your classmates, in which you outline the impact, both positive and negative, that technology has on your life. Your speech can be serious or amusing or both.**

2. Gary and Paul O’Donovan, who feature in TEXT 2, are two of Ireland’s most famous brothers.

**Write a short story in which confusion arises because the two central characters, brothers or sisters, are identical twins. Identical twins are twins who look exactly alike.**

3. In TEXT 3, Kailash Satyarthi says that many young people are looking for a better life for themselves, for their community and the world.

**Write an article for a magazine popular with young people, in which you outline what you think you, and young people generally, could do to help build better lives for people in your community, and in the world generally.**

4. Family, friends, health, school, fun and work are all listed on the poster in TEXT 3.

**Write a personal essay in which you discuss the importance of at least three of the following in your life: family, friends, health, school, fun and work.**

5. In TEXT 3, Kailash Satyarthi observes that, “Time is running out.”

**Write a short story which involves a race against time to prevent a disaster.**

6. In TEXT 1, Joanne O’Riordan outlines some of her many achievements in life.

**Write a personal essay in which you discuss what you have already achieved in life and what you hope to achieve in the future.**

7. In TEXT 2, Gary O’Donovan makes several references to his brother, Paul.

**Write a personal essay in which you share your thoughts on the subject of having or not having brothers or sisters.**



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Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

**English**

Wednesday 6 June

Morning 9.30 – 12.20