



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2008

---

## ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

---

**WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE, MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00**

---

---

**YOU MUST ANSWER SECTIONS 1, 2, 3, AND 4**

**YOU MUST ALSO ANSWER ANY TWO OF  
SECTIONS 5, 6, AND 7**

**EACH SECTION CARRIES 60 MARKS**

**YOU HAVE, ON AVERAGE, 25 MINUTES  
FOR EACH SECTION**

Read this passage carefully and answer the questions which follow it.



## PIRATES

Pirates are the robbers of the sea. They have flourished for thousands of years wherever rich, defenceless ships have sailed. Pirates have always been eager to get their hands on anything of value from gold bars and coins to spices and silks and, nowadays, arms and electronic equipment. The most famous pirate stories are about rough villains swigging rum beneath their black flag with its skull and crossbones, while their terrified captives are forced to walk the plank, and parrots squawk of buried treasure and revenge.

The ideal pirate hunting ground is to be found where there is a busy, narrow shipping channel, plenty of hidden coves for unloading booty,\* and waters that are not very well patrolled. The best known haunts for pirates were the Indian Ocean, the seas of the Far East and, most famous of all, the Caribbean.

Pirates make wonderful subjects for films. Film makers are usually more concerned with a good story than with telling the truth and the pirates that they show have perfect, gleaming white teeth and well groomed hair; they are always ready to rescue beautiful women and act like gentlemen – a far cry from reality!

The world of the pirate has almost always been exclusively male. However, there have been some remarkable exceptions such as Grace O'Malley, the "Pirate Queen" from County Galway who attacked English ships for a period of over twenty-five years during the sixteenth century.

Piracy still exists even though modern means of patrol have made piracy a much more risky business than it was in the past. However, the pirates of today use very high-tech equipment, and attacks by them on merchant ships off the coasts of Brazil, West Africa, the islands of Southeast Asia and the Caribbean are still alarmingly common. The smaller the vessel, the more likely it is to be attacked. Speed is the principal tactic. Pirates roar out from concealed inlets in high-speed power boats and threaten their victims with guns and rockets.

So it seems that as long as there are ships carrying valuable cargo, there will be pirates.

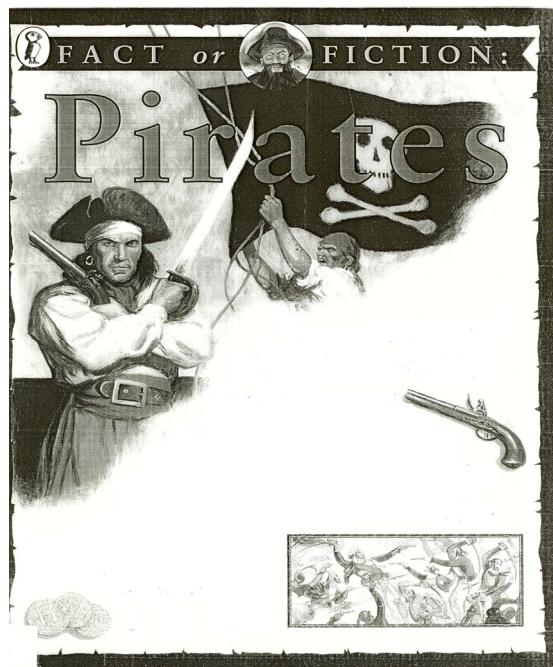


***Pirates – Fact or Fiction*** by Stewart Ross  
(adapted)

\*booty – stolen property

Find answers to the following:

- A      1    What is a pirate? (5)  
      2    What sea was the most famous haunt of all for pirates? (5)  
      3    Who was Grace O'Malley? (5)  
      4    Where, in the world today, do pirates attack merchant ships? (5)
- B      What are the ideal conditions that help pirates to carry out their attacks? (10)
- C      What differences are there in the images of pirates which we get from stories and those which we get from films? (10)
- D      Why do pirates still flourish to-day? (10)
- E      Explain any **TWO** of the following in your own words:  
  
1    They have flourished for thousands of years.  
2.   Well-groomed hair.  
3.   The world of the pirates has almost always been exclusively male.  
4.   Speed is the principal tactic. (10)



## **SECTION 2:**

## **PERSONAL WRITING**

**[60]**

Write a composition on **ONE** of the following topics.

**PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC**

- A**      What I like or dislike about Ireland.
  
- B**      The most exciting present I have ever received.
  
- C**      Changes I would like to see in my community **or** neighbourhood.
  
- D**      “Why can’t I go? Everybody else is.....”  
Write a composition which includes the above sentences.
  
- E**      Why I would/would not like to be a teacher.
  
- F**      The trouble with adults is.....
  
- G**      The day that our cat **or** dog began to talk.
  
  
- H**      My attempts at . . .  
Cooking **or** Babysitting **or** Painting my room.

Answer **ONE** of the following, **EITHER A OR B.**

**PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC**

- A** On a phone-in programme on your local radio, you hear several speakers strongly criticising the behaviour of local teenagers.

You intend to phone the programme presenter and make your views heard.

Write out in full what you plan to say to the programme presenter.

**OR**

- B** **FOR or AGAINST**

You have been chosen as a member of your class debating team.  
The motion for debate is:

“Teenagers today are too easily influenced by celebrities”

Write out your SPEECH in full.

[Turn over

Read this poem about the poet's grandfather and then answer the questions which follow:

## My Gramp

My gramp has got a medal.  
On the front there is a runner.  
On the back it says:  
*Senior Boys 100 yards*  
*First William Green*

I asked him about it,  
but before he could reply  
Gran said, 'Don't listen to his tales,  
The only running he ever did  
was after the girls.'

Gramp gave a chuckle  
and went out the back  
to get the tea.

As he shuffled down the passage  
with his back bent,  
I tried to imagine him,  
legs flying, chest out,  
breasting the tape.

But I couldn't.



*Derek Stuart*

- A** What kind of medal has the poet's Gramp got? (10)
- B** What are your favourite words or images from the poem?  
Explain why they are your favourite. (10)
- C** From your reading of the poem, what kind of relationship did the poet's Gran and Gramp have? (10)
- D** The last line of the poem is: "But I couldn't".  
What couldn't the poet imagine and why couldn't he imagine it? (10)
- E** Choose a poem you have studied which describes home **or** family **or** friends.
- Name the poem and the poet.
  - Does the poem give us a happy or a sad picture of the home or family or friends?  
Explain your answer.
  - How well does the poet succeed in making this poem happy or sad?  
Explain your answer.
  - Did you like or dislike this poem? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

**YOU MUST ANSWER ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING  
SECTIONS 5, 6, AND 7.**

**SECTION 5:**

**FICTION**

**[60]**

**Read this extract carefully and answer the questions which follow it.**

*Kidnapped and taken to H.I.V.E. where he will be trained in everything villainous by Dr. Nero and his staff, Otto finds himself on an island far away from his family, friends and home, and so must work with a group of other kidnapped students to break out before it's too late*

**H.I.V.E**  
**(Higher Institute for Villainous Education)**



Otto woke up with a dreadful headache and was shocked to find that he was in a helicopter.

"Where am I?" Otto whispered to himself. He had no idea how he came to be there.

The helicopter was preparing to land on what appeared to be the crater of an active volcano. They began to descend into the boiling black clouds and, to Otto's surprise, they weren't burnt to a cinder but continued their descent.

Suddenly, the clouds disappeared and beneath them lay a cavernous flood-lit bay on which they landed.

Immediately, several dozen heavily armed men in orange jumpsuits approached the helicopter. One of them opened the door and gestured to Otto to get out. As he alighted he heard a sudden grinding noise and looked up to see two huge panels sliding together and closing off the crater entrance to the landing bay. Otto shuddered with fear. He was now totally sealed off from the outside world. "Proceed up the stairs," the guard ordered gruffly and, as Otto reached the top, heavy metal doors rumbled open. He entered another enormous floodlit cavern, at the centre of which was a stage. Around this stage about twenty boys and girls stood whispering nervously together. Guards, who looked like thugs, stood around the room watching them carefully.

A door hissed open and a tall, dark-haired, imposing man strode purposefully into the room. Everything about this man was impressive, from his immaculate black suit and blood red shirt to his handsome face and his look of cool calculation.

"Welcome, ladies and gentlemen to your new home," he began. "I am Dr. Nero and I am the founder and controller of this Institute. Your lives, as you once knew them, are now over. You have all been carefully selected from around the world because you are unique and special. Each one of you has within you a rare talent for the supremely villainous. Here, we want to see you blossom into all that you can be, to make you the very worst that you can be. Today, all of you have the unique privilege of becoming the newest students of the world's first and only school of applied villainy. Welcome to H.I.V.E, The Higher Institute of Villainous Education!". He looked around him at the stunned boys and girls and asked with a cold smile: "Now, are there any questions?"

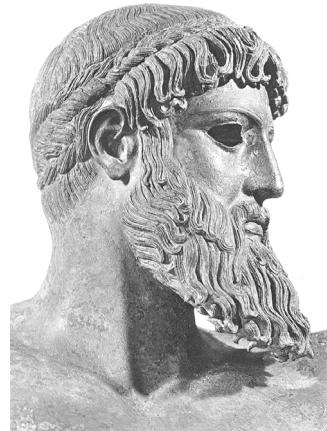
**(Adapted from H.I.V.E. by Mark Walden)**

- A** In the first fifteen lines of this extract, what evidence is there that we have entered a strange world? (10)
- B** Does the writer succeed in convincing you that Dr. Nero is a nasty character? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- C** Would you say that the tone of this extract is:
- frightening  
or  
ridiculous  
or  
amusing?
- Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** This extract is taken from the opening chapter of the novel. Would you be interested in continuing to read this book? Why / Why not? (10)
- E** Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied in which something strange or unexpected happens.
- Describe the event which happens
  - How were people's lives affected by this event?
  - Did the author succeed in convincing you that this strange or unexpected event could really have happened? Explain why / why not. (20)

Read this scene and then answer the questions which follow.

***Zeus, the most powerful of all the gods of ancient Greece, and Queen Hera are seated on golden thrones in the heavens. Zeus is very obviously bored.***

<b>Zeus</b>	(Yawning) I'm bored Hera, terribly bored. Everything is so boring now that we have peace and the war with the Titans has ended.
<b>Hera</b>	Mmmm... Yes, it is rather quiet in the heavens at the moment. Well, let me see.... We could go hunting. I hear it's a great year for asteroids and you've got those fantastic new thunderbolts ... or, I know, let's go chariot-racing on Planet Pluto.
<b>Zeus</b>	No. Been there, done that... ( <i>Walks about restlessly and begins to fidget with some golden statues. Looks up and begins to speak excitedly</i> ) I know what I'll do. I'll create a race of people who will live on Planet Earth and who will obey me and build temples dedicated to me. These people will be made of gold. Yes, I'm going to create ...The Race of Gold!.
<b>Hera</b>	But Zeus, beautiful gold people won't want to work or obey you or worship you and we don't want another rebellion. You know that we nearly lost the war with the Titans because of your crazy tactics.
<b>Zeus</b>	(Furiously) Silence! Are you questioning my judgement? I'll show you. I'll show all those minor league gods what I, Almighty Zeus, can do. ( <i>Summons a thunderbolt and creates two very beautiful gold people, a man and a woman</i> )
<b>Man of Gold</b>	(Strutting proudly across the stage) My name is Oro, don't you think that I am exquisite?
<b>Woman of Gold</b>	My name is Orla. Look at me! I'm the most perfect work of creation. I shall be the goddess of the Universe.
<b>Oro</b>	We're absolutely gorgeous.
<b>Orla</b>	Awesome!
<b>Oro</b>	Fabulous, absolutely!
<b>Zeus</b>	(Very impatiently) You two – I didn't create you to spend all your time admiring yourselves. You're here to worship me. Go and build me a marble temple on that mountain top below ... Get moving! ... Now!
<b>Orla</b>	Me? ... Build? You're joking Zeus. I am far too beautiful and too precious to get my hands dirty. No way, Zeus!



Oro	Me? . . . A construction worker! Can you see me in a hard hat? Ha! . . . Ha! <i>You should be building temples for us.</i>
Zeus	What! . . . Me? The God of Gods? How dare you speak to me like that?
Orla	Yes, old god. Look at you, old and wrinkled and grey and pretty stupid too. You're past it, Zeus. <i>You should be worshipping us!</i>
Zeus	( <i>Angry and humiliated</i> ) I'll show you... ( <i>Picks up a thunderbolt and turns the Gold People to stone</i> ) That'll show you who's in charge up here! Oh, heavens! Now I have to start all over again. Let me see – what shall I use this time? Iron? Perhaps.
Hera	No dear, not Iron! Iron people will manufacture weapons and you know where that will lead, don't you?
Zeus	What about Silver?
Hera	Too impractical! Silver people would be too dreamy. Pretty but useless.
Zeus	( <i>Dejected, sitting with his head in his hands, looks down on Earth</i> ) I've got it! I'll make the Earth people from clay!
Hera	Oh yes Zeus! What an unusually bright idea you've got. These people won't be too beautiful or dangerous....a humble, useful sort of species....

Based on “*The Race to live*” by Geraldine McCaughrean

- A Did Zeus make a mistake in creating the Gold People, Oro and Orla.  
Explain why/why not? (10)
- B From your reading of this extract, who do you think is the wiser – Zeus or Queen Hera?  
Explain your answer. (10)
- C If you were offered a part in this play, which character would you choose to be?  
Give reasons for your choice. (10)
- D Continue the drama. Write about eight lines of the dialogue which could take place between Zeus and the People of Clay after he has created them. (10)
- E Name a **PLAY** or **FILM** you have studied in which a character has an important dream or ambition which he/she succeeds or fails in making real.
- What was the dream or ambition?
  - How did it succeed or fail?
  - What effect did this success or failure have on the character in question?
  - Would you recommend this film or play to your friends? Why / Why not? (20)

Examine carefully the advertisements on pages 2 and 3 of Paper X. Then, answer the questions.

**A** Look at the advertisement on page 2 of Paper X.

- (i) According to the text in this advertisement on page 2, what are the advantages of owning your own car? (5)
- (ii) Are you convinced by this advertisement that it is better to own your own car than to take public transport? Give reasons for your answer. (5)

**B** Which of the two advertisements on pages 2 and 3 of Paper X communicates its message more successfully?

Give reasons for your answer. (10)

**C** Give examples of exaggeration in the advertisements on pages 2 and 3 of Paper X. Give a reason why advertisements make use of exaggeration. (10)

**D** Suggest two ways for improving the message in either advertisement.

You should refer to:

- texts
  - images
- (10)

**E** You have been asked to design a poster encouraging people to drive carefully.

- Describe or draw the poster you would design.
- Explain your ideas for the design.
- Write a slogan for the poster. (20)