



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2010

ENGLISH - ORDINARY LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 9 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.



NOT A DROP TO DRINK

By Marie Noonan

Travelling around China, with three children aged 9, 10 and 12, might seem like holiday madness - a foolproof way to ensure friction, illness and a lot of discomfort. While we had moments of mutiny from the children, we also had tremendous fun, especially when we visited the city of Jinhong in Southwestern China.

Like all the best adventures, our visit was almost accidental. Flicking through a Chinese guidebook, our 10 year old was grabbed by an account of a water-splashing festival in Jinhong. Could we go? The timing was right and, consulting the map, it didn't seem very far.

The festival ran over three days with a real carnival atmosphere – fireworks, dragon-boat racing on the Mekong river and parades of local people in traditional dress. The variety of food being sold on the streets was incredible – strange fruit, seeds, quail eggs, dumplings, barbecued fish and lots of unidentifiable meat being roasted over charcoal. It was a far cry from the burgers and chips of Irish festivals.

Our highlight was the much anticipated water-splashing festival, which was confined to the last day. The idea of splashing water is to wash away the demons of the previous year and herald the happiness of the new.

The instant we stepped outside our lodgings, at about 7.00 a.m. we were drenched to the skin and surrounded by hordes of grinning Chinese determined to wish us luck and happiness by soaking us even more. We were blessed (or attacked) by kids holding water guns, and basins of water were thrown at us from the roof. Everyone was dripping but we were wetter than most.

Through this mayhem I spotted a fire truck with its hose aimed at us. “Take cover,” I shouted as we dodged behind a life-size ornamental elephant. “We need more ammunition,” yelled our 12 year old, “and bigger guns.” The price of big guns had at least tripled since the day before.

Eventually, we braved it down to the main square, working as a team, and we certainly “blessed” lots of people. People of all ages ran laughing through the streets to the sound of beating drums, Chinese chimes and raucous screaming.

The children, who often had water-fight parties in our garden at home, were ecstatic at the idea of a whole city being turned into a giant water fight for a day. “Can we come back again for more good fortune?” asked the children.

Despite the drenching, or maybe because of it, we never felt luckier in our lives.

Adapted from The Irish Times

Find answers to the following:

- A**
- 1** For how long did the festival run? (5)
 - 2** According to the writer of the passage, what problems might occur when travelling around China with children? (5)
 - 3** What city did the family visit for the festival? (5)
 - 4** What was there to see during the festival? (5)
- B** Why do people splash each other with water during the festival? (10)
- C** Find **two** pieces of evidence which show that the children enjoyed the water-splashing festival in Jinhong. (10)
- D** What do you think the writer means when she says: “Despite the drenching, or maybe because of it, we never felt luckier in our lives”? (10)
- E** Explain any **TWO** of the following in your own words:
- 1** It was a far cry from the burgers and chips of Irish festivals.
 - 2** The much anticipated water-splashing.
 - 3** Through this mayhem.
 - 4** We certainly “blessed” lots of people. (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 travel.

- B** What an adventure!

- C** Why I think everyone should be involved in sport.

- D** “I don’t believe it! That’s impossible!”
Write a composition which includes the above sentences.

- E** With friends like that, who needs enemies?

- F** Teenage years – a survival guide.

- G** Our local festival.

- H** And the winner is . . .

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

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

- A** The President of Ireland is visiting your area and you have been asked to make a speech welcoming her.

Write out in full what you plan to say.

OR

- B** Some of the shops in your area do not have good access or facilities for wheelchair users. Write a letter of complaint to one of these shops.

You should

- Outline the problems wheelchair users have in the shop
- Describe the changes you think they should make.

Read this poem and then answer the questions which follow:

My Dad is **Amazing!**

My dad's **amazing** for he can:

Make mountains out of molehills,
Teach Granny to suck eggs,
Make Mum's blood boil
And then drive her up the wall.

My dad's **amazing** for also he:

Walks around with his head in the clouds,
Has my sister eating out of his hand,
Says he's got eyes in the back of his head
And can read me like a book.

But,
The most **amazing** thing of all is:

When he's caught someone red-handed,
First he jumps down their throat
And then he bites their head off!

Ian Souter

A What effect does the Dad in the poem have on the Mum? (10)

B If you were an artist and you were asked to illustrate one stanza from this poem, which stanza would you choose? Give reasons for your choice. (10)

C According to this poem, what is the most amazing thing of all about the Dad? Why is it the most amazing thing about him? (10)

D Would you describe this poem as mainly:

- amusing
- or
- descriptive
- or
- childish.

Give reasons for your choice. (10)

E Choose a poem you have studied which describes a member of a family.

- Name the poem and the poet.
- Describe the family member.
- How does the poet feel about that family member?
- 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.

Maria Andanu Okrie is a young African refugee who is living in the remote village of Culduagh. She has had to flee her country, Malanga. In this excerpt, Jonah Kegale, a member of the dreaded Malangan secret police, is about to abduct Maria and to hold her hostage. Maria is on her way to visit her only friend, David O'Brien.

OUT OF THE FLAMES

Maria desperately wanted to see David and was tempted to walk all the way to the O'Briens. But fear prevented her and to make matters worse, it began to rain.

On the point of turning back to the hostel, she heard a vehicle approach. It was a camper van. It slowed and stopped. The driver wound down the window.

"Hi there," he said. "I'm looking for the O'Briens' place. Ye wouldn't know where they live, would ye?"

Maria felt apprehensive, yet there was no real reason for it. The driver, who was a stranger to her, certainly seemed friendly.

"Sure how would ye know," he said. "'Tis a local I should be asking. Anyway I think I'm on the wrong road entirely. I'd best turn around and go back."

Now Maria thought herself foolish for feeling suspicious. "This is the right road," she said.

"Thanks a million," he said. "The rain's a terror isn't it? Take care now."

He began to pull away, then stopped.

"Are ye going up the road?" he asked. "Can I give ye a lift?"

The rain was falling heavily now and she was getting wet. There wouldn't be any danger. This man driving the camper van seemed much friendlier than many of the locals.

"Thanks," Maria said on impulse. "I'm going to O'Briens too."

"Well now," he said, "isn't that a bit of luck! Hop in there in the back out of the rain."

There was a sliding door on the side of the vehicle and he caught the handle and pulled the door back. "Hop in there," he said.

Maria moved forward, she stepped up and pulled herself inside. But as she entered, she sensed another presence and immediately knew something was wrong. Then she saw Jonah Kegale. Fear took over. Maria tried to scream. Kegale pounced and grabbed her, then dragged her like a rag doll towards the rear of the vehicle. Maria found her voice and screamed. He struck her viciously across the face. The blow stunned her and she tasted the salty tang of blood. He struck her again, knocking her sprawling. Kegale stared down at her and his eyes were ablaze with hatred. He was the realization of all her fears and terrors, part of her nightmares since she had left Malanga.

*Adapted from: **Out of the Flames** by Vincent McDonnell. O'Brien Press.*

A How does the driver of the camper van succeed in gaining Maria’s trust? (10)

B What evidence is there in this extract that Maria is frightened and lonely in Culduagh? (10)

C For Maria, Jonah Kegale was “the realization of all her fears and terrors”. How does the extract show that she was right to feel this way? (10)

D The blurb on the back cover of this novel describes it as “an action-packed story of conflict, danger and courage”. What evidence can you find in this extract of:

- conflict
or
- danger
or
- courage? (10)

E Name a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied in which a character faces:

- terror
or
- racism
or
- betrayal.

How does the character cope with the problem?

Do you think that the novel or short story has a good ending? Explain why/why not. (20)

Read this scene adapted from *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller and then answer the questions which follow.

Two men, Keller and Chris, are in the garden. Bert, a local kid of about 8 years old runs in to talk to Keller

- Bert** (*jumping on Keller's back*) You're finally up!
- Keller** (*swinging Bert round and putting him down*) So what's new this morning Bert?
- Bert** Nothin'.
- Keller** (*winking at Chris and pretending to speak crossly to Bert*) Then you couldn't have made a complete inspection of the block. In the beginning, when I first made you a policeman you used to come in every morning with something new. Now, nothing's ever new.
- Bert** Except some kids from Thirtieth Street. They started kicking a can down the block, and I made them go away because you were sleeping.
- Keller** (*laughing*) Now you're talking, Bert. Now you're on the ball. First thing you know I'm liable to make you a detective.
- Bert** (*pulling Keller down and whispering in his ear*) Can I see the jail now?
- Keller** Seeing the jail ain't allowed, Bert. You know that.
- Bert** (*disappointed*) Aw, I betcha there isn't even a jail. I don't see any bars on the cellar windows.
- Keller** Bert, on my word of honour there's a jail in the basement. I showed you my gun, didn't I?
- Bert** But that's a hunting gun.
- Keller** (*importantly*) That's an arresting gun!
- Bert** Then why don't you ever arrest anybody? Tommy said another bad word to Doris yesterday, and you didn't even demote him.
- (*Keller chuckles and winks at Chris again, who is enjoying all this*)
- Keller** Yeah, that's a dangerous character, that Tommy. What word did he say?
- Bert** Oh, I can't say that.
- Keller** Well gimme an idea.

Bert	<i>(backing away quickly in great embarrassment)</i> I can't. It's not a nice word.
Keller	<i>(coaxingly)</i> Just whisper it in my ear. I'll close my eyes. Maybe I won't even hear it.
Bert	I can't, Mr. Keller.
Chris	<i>(laughing)</i> Don't make him say it.
Keller	Okay Bert. I take your word. Now go out and keep both eyes peeled.
Bert	<i>(interested)</i> For what?
Keller	For what! The whole neighbourhood is depending on you. A policeman don't ask questions. Now peel them eyes!
Bert	<i>(mystified but willing)</i> Okay!

- A** How would you describe the neighbourhood in which Keller, Chris and Bert live? Quote from the extract in support of your answer. (10)
- B** From your reading of this extract, what sort of man do you think Keller is? (10)
- C** What effect does Bert's arrival on the scene have on the two men? (10)
- D** From your reading of the extract what sort of boy do you think Bert is? (10)
- E** Name a **PLAY** or **FILM** you have studied in which there are two very different characters.
- Describe the differences between these characters.
 - How did these differences influence the outcome of the play?
 - Which of the two characters did you prefer? Explain why.
 - Did you find the outcome of the play satisfactory or disappointing? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

[Turn over

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

A Look at the poster on page 3 of **Paper X**.

- (i) According to the text in this poster, when can people see *As You Like It*? (5)
- (ii) From your study of this poster, would you expect this play to have a happy ending or a sad ending? Explain your answer. (5)

B Look at the poster for *Romeo and Juliet* on page 2 of **Paper X**.

What contrasts do you see in the images in this poster? (10)

C From your study of these two posters, what features do you think the two plays – *As you like it* and *Romeo and Juliet* – have in common? Give reasons for your answer.

(10)

D Look again at the two posters on pages 2 and 3 of **Paper X**. Which poster do you think is more interesting? Give reasons for your opinions. (10)

E You have been asked to design a poster for a school play or a show or a concert.

- Describe or draw the poster you would design.
- What information would you include on the poster?
- Explain your ideas for the design. You should mention:
 - use of colour
 - size of lettering
 - illustrations
 - eye-catching qualities for young people. (20)