



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle 2017
Final Examination

English

Ordinary Level

Wednesday, 7 June – Morning 9:30 to 11:30

180 marks

Examination Number				

Centre Stamp

The theme for this examination paper is
Following your Passions

Instructions

There are four sections in this examination paper.

Section A	Reading and Responding Imaginatively	50 marks	3 questions
Section B	Appreciating Visual Genres	60 marks	5 questions
Section C	Choosing the Words and Tone to Use	35 marks	4 questions
Section D	Writing for a Variety of Purposes	35 marks	4 questions

Answer all sixteen questions.

The questions do not all carry equal marks. The number of marks for each question is stated at the top of the question.

You should spend about 30 minutes on Section A, 35 minutes on Section B, 20 minutes on Section C and 30 minutes on Section D.

When answering on studied material, you must use texts in line with what is prescribed for 2017.

Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. You may lose marks if you do not do so. You are not required to use all of the space provided.

Extra pages are provided if needed. Label any extra work clearly with the question number and part.

Read the following extract from an interview with Irish film director John Carney.



In this interview Irish director John Carney talks about his latest film *Sing Street*, which tells the story of a Dublin teenager who forms a band in order to impress a girl.

What was your audition process like? What were you looking for?

I was looking for kids that had character. I wanted kids that had their own stories and were able to tell stories, all that sort of stuff, really. Apart from musical skill, which was important, most of all I was looking for kids who could make me laugh.

You've said this film is partly based on your own life. What was the biggest difference between your own life story and the story the film tells?

The biggest difference is that the main character, Conor, is an incredibly handsome kid who is so full of confidence. I wasn't like that at all. I had an inner belief in myself, but I didn't walk around with that swagger. I didn't look that way. As soon as Ferdia* got the part of Conor, the film changed. We decided to just go with the ridiculous confidence Ferdia has. He's hilarious. Kids nowadays have that sort of confidence.

*Ferdia – The actor who played the part of Conor in *Sing Street*.

You had huge success in 2007 with your earlier film ‘Once’. Do you get tired of people always talking about that film?

No, I’m absolutely fine with that. It’s the thing that’s allowed me to make more films, and it’s allowed me to travel, and it’s allowed me to buy a house. *[Laughs]* It’s allowed me to not worry every day about money. And as a creative person — that’s a massive thing. Every painter and poet and artist and musician wonders, "Can I afford to continue to do this?" And *Once* is the thing that allows me to make films.

Did U2 have any involvement in the film, ‘Sing Street’?

They were actually very helpful early on in the film. Bono and Edge were both really helpful in terms of pitching story ideas, and talking about bands in the '80s, and talking about youth. They set up the ultimate pop band, really, so I’d be a fool not to pick their brains. You know, I was in bands, but I wasn’t in a successful band in the sense that U2 is successful. Bono could give us a good idea of what it’s like to succeed as a band. Also, the point of my film is that these kids are in a good band. They do become good, and U2 did become good.

People keep comparing ‘Sing Street’ to another film about a Dublin band, ‘The Commitments’. What do you think?

The Commitments and *Sing Street* couldn’t be more different. In *The Commitments*, they’re a cover band, doing cover versions of old soul songs – other people’s songs. That’s fine, and it’s very funny and enjoyable. But we’re telling the story of a creative process – of writing love songs to get the girl, to improve your life, to get off the island, and to be a success. *Sing Street* is set in Ireland, but in a sense it’s a film about the American Dream – at the end Conor is punching the air and heading off to follow his dreams.

Question 1

20 marks

Base your answers on the text printed above. Place the correct letter in the box provided.

(a) Why did the Dublin teenager in the film *Sing Street* form a band?

- A. To impress a girl
- B. To make money
- C. Because he was bored
- D. Because he liked U2

- (b) When John Carney was auditioning actors for his film, what was he was looking for 'most of all'?
- A. Kids with musical talent
 - B. Handsome kids
 - C. Kids from Dublin
 - D. Kids who could make him laugh
- (c) What was the name of the earlier film that John Carney directed?
- A. *The Commitments*
 - B. *Once*
 - C. *Frozen*
 - D. *The American Dream*
- (d) What is the difference between the band in *The Commitments* and the band in *Sing Street*?
- A. The band in *The Commitments* was American
 - B. The band in *Sing Street* wrote their own songs
 - C. The band in *The Commitments* wrote their own songs
 - D. The band in *The Commitments* admired U2

Question 2

10 marks

How were the members of U2 helpful to John Carney when he was writing and directing the film *Sing Street*?

Question 3

20 marks

You have been given the job of directing a film or play that you studied.

- (a) Name the film **or** play that you studied: _____
- (b) Name an important character from your chosen film or play: _____
- (c) Describe a key moment in the film or play where your named character plays a significant role.

Optional rough work

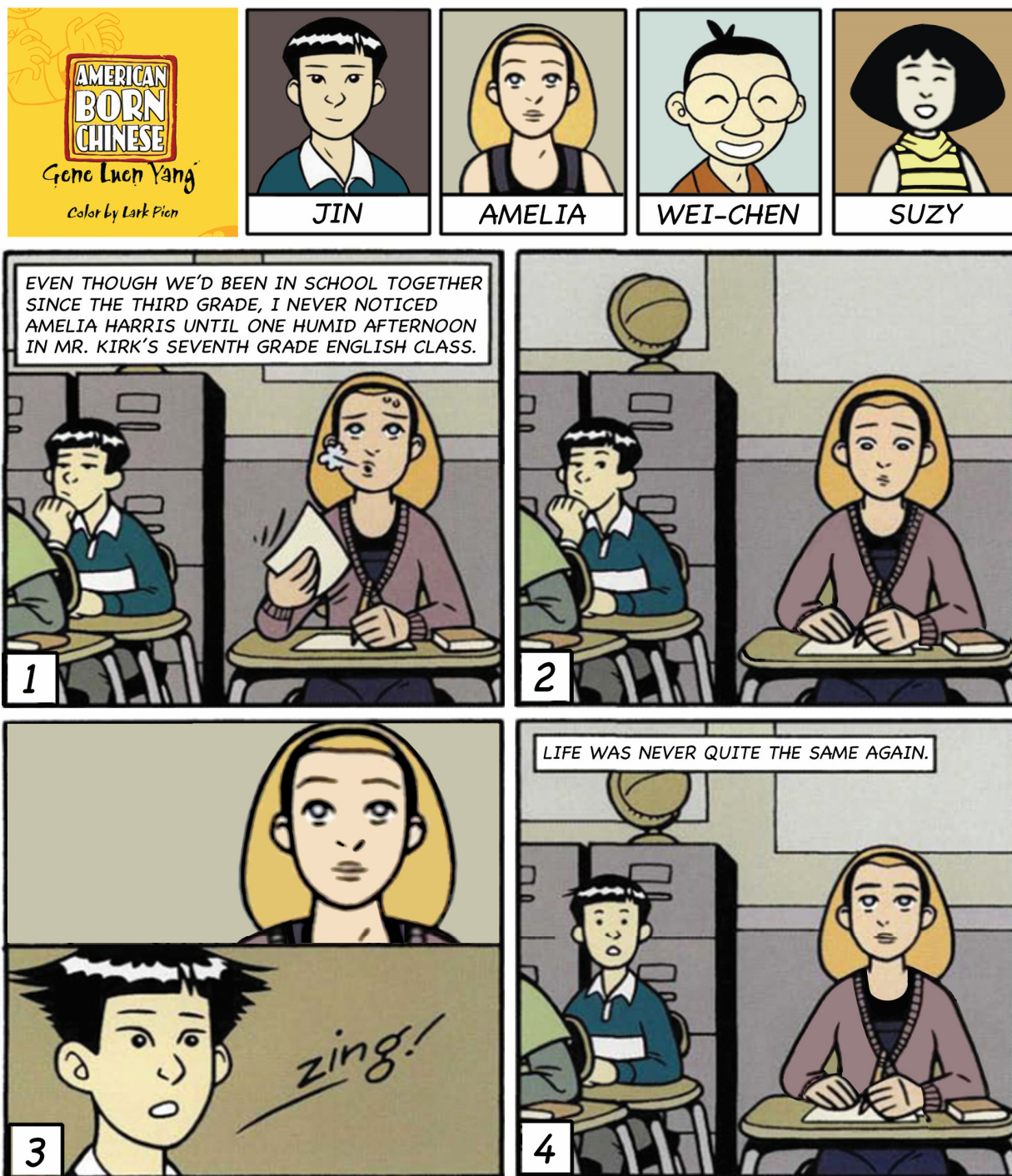
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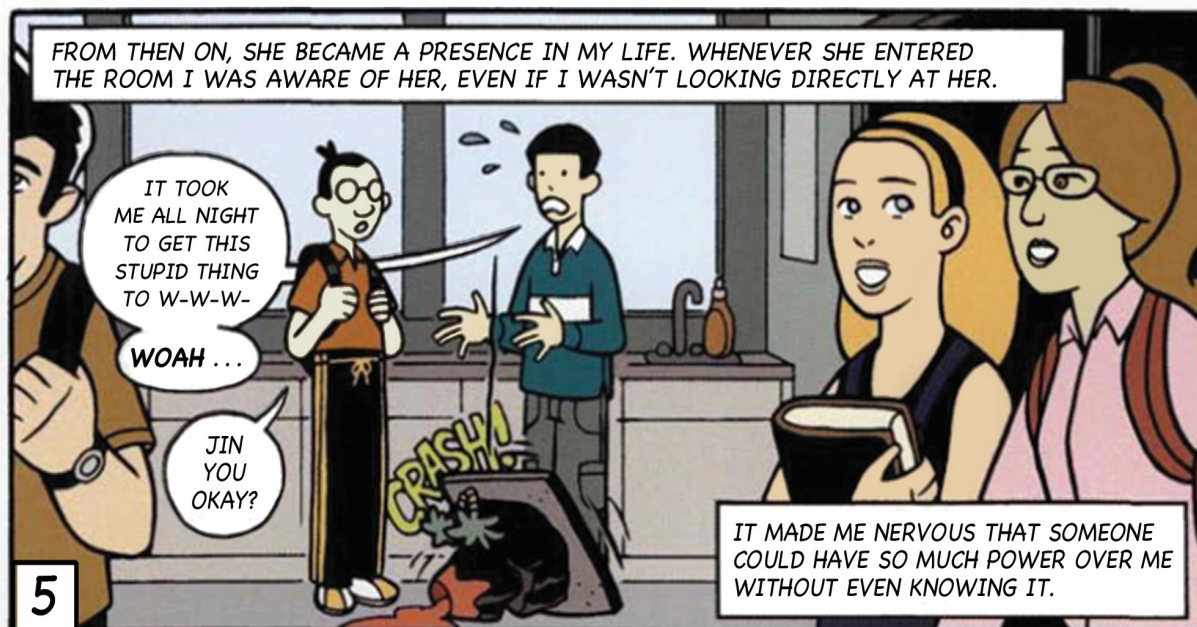
- (d)** Did you like or dislike what your named character did in the key moment you have described? Give a reason for your answer.

- (e)** Give one piece of advice to an actor playing the part of your named character, about how he or she should act during this key moment. Why do you think this piece of advice would help the actor to play the part well?

[illegible]

Read the following extract from the graphic novel, *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang.







Question 4

10 marks

Describe what happens in the first four frames of this story (page 9).

Optional rough work

Question 5**5 marks**

Look at frames 8 and 9. Which one of the following two words do you think best describes Wei-Chen's reaction when Jin tells him about Amelia?

- Mean
- or
- Funny

Give a reason for your answer.

Question 6**10 marks**

Look at the next frame in the story which shows Jin lying in bed the night he has discovered that his friend Wei-Chen now has a girlfriend. Fill in the thought box with what you think Jin may have been thinking.

Optional rough work



Question 7**5 marks**

This is an extract from a graphic novel. Graphic novels use a mixture of pictures and text to tell a story. Do you like this way of telling a story? Give a reason for your answer.

Question 8**30 marks**

Choose a novel or a short story you have studied.

(a) Name of novel or short story: _____

(b) Author: _____

(c) Describe a moment in the story that you particularly enjoyed reading.

Optional rough work

[illegible]

(d) Why did you enjoy your chosen moment? Give reasons for your answer.

[illegible]

(e) Do you think the author is a good writer? Give reasons for your answer.

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Additional writing space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

[illegible]

Read the following two newspaper reports, one from a broadsheet paper and one from a tabloid paper.



REPORT A

GREEN ARMY GOES BARMY AFTER WIN

The Lille Stadium was rocked off its feet last night as Ireland produced one of the great football nights in the country's history.

A Green Army of 15,000 fans were sent into raptures as a brilliant Robbie Brady goal was enough to slay the Italians and send the fans into Euro 2016 heaven.

Brady's header six minutes from time was met with absolute bedlam in the stands as

Irish fans danced and cheered the team on to victory.

"This is one of the best nights of my life," fan John Connolly said proudly.

Irish fans now face a trek to Lyon to take on hosts France on Sunday.

The Irish fans were in fine voice throughout the match. However, the fans vented most of their anger at the referee, who denied two penalties near the stroke of half time.

REPORT B

REMAINING IN EUROPE

Republic of Ireland 1 Italy 0

The Republic of Ireland will play tournament hosts France in the next round of Euro 2016 after another famous 1-0 victory over Italy, this time on an emotional night in Lille.

Twenty-two years after Ray Houghton proved the hero against Italy in the World Cup game in Giant's Stadium, New Jersey, it was the turn of Robbie Brady to write his name into sporting history last night.

But Brady was only one of many Irish heroes in the game, including manager Martin O'Neill, who made sweeping changes to the team that lost to Belgium and was rewarded with a performance of great courage and skill. The victory leads on to Lyon where the Republic will play France next Sunday, kicking off at 2pm.

From the start last night, the Republic responded to assistant manager Roy Keane's call for physicality, threatening to turn the game into a football version of the Battle of the Somme.

Question 9

5 marks

The broadsheet and tabloid newspaper reports above are about the same event. State in one sentence what that event was.

Question 10

10 marks

State whether the following is true or false, by writing either T (true) or F (false) in the box provided.

Report A is from a tabloid newspaper.

☐

Explain your choice.

Report B is from a broadsheet newspaper.

☐

Explain your choice.

Question 11

10 marks

Write an opening paragraph for a newspaper report about **one** of the topics below. You should include an appropriate headline.

- Musician wins major award
- Fan meets his or her hero
- Sportsperson achieves huge success

Optional rough work

Headline:

[illegible]

10 marks

A friend

The organisers of the event.

Optional rough work

Additional writing space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

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Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions.

Sporty People

I took her for my kind of person
And it was something of a shock
When my new friend revealed
That, once upon a time,
She was a Junior County Tennis Champion.

How could that happen?
How could I accidentally
Make friends with a tennis champion?
How could a tennis champion

Make friends with me?

She wasn't stupid. She read books.
She had never been mean to me
For being bad at games.
I decided to forgive
Her unfortunate past.

Sporty people can be OK -
Of course they can.
Later on, I met poets
Who played football. It's still hard
To get my head around that.

Wendy Cope



Question 13

5 marks

What was the poet shocked to discover about her friend?

Question 14**5 marks**

Do you think the poet likes sporty people? Give a reason for your answer.

Question 15**15 marks**

The theme of this paper is *Following Your Passions*. Choose a poem you have studied that you would recommend to others. You may not use the poem printed on this paper in your answers.

(a) Title of poem: _____

(b) Name of poet: _____

Optional rough work

(c) Why would you recommend your chosen poem to others?

- (d)** You are making a short film, based on your chosen poem, to put online. What would you show in this film to help others to enjoy the poem?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Question 16

10 marks

You are the host of a TV chat show, interviewing a person who has followed their own passion in life.

- (a) Name the person: _____ (The person can be real or imaginary.)
- (b) What is your chosen person passionate about? _____
- (c) Part (c) of this question is on page 26.

Optional rough work

- Host: Good evening, my guest on tonight's show is a person I admire greatly, please welcome ...

[illegible]

Acknowledgements

Images

Image on page 3: *Sing Street*. John Carney. The Weinstein Company, 2016

Images on pages 9, 10, 11, 14: Gene Luen Yang: *American Born Chinese*

Image on page 18: skysports.com

Image on page 23: freepik.com (15 February 2017)

Texts

Interview with John Carney from *www.theverge.com*

Gene Luen Yang: *American Born Chinese*

Cope, Wendy: *Sporty People*

The Irish Times, The Irish Daily Star

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