



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle Final Examination 2023

English

Higher Level

Wednesday 7 June Morning 9:30 – 11:30

180 marks

Examination Number

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Day and Month of Birth

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For example, 3rd February is
entered as 0302

Centre Stamp

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The theme of this examination paper is
The Art of Storytelling

Instructions

There are **four** sections in this paper.

Section A	Understanding Characters and Film	40 marks	2 questions
Section B	Narrative in Poetry	50 marks	3 questions
Section C	Appreciating Story	55 marks	2 questions
Section D	Shaping Stories and Emotions	35 marks	3 questions

Answer **all** 10 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 25 minutes on Section A, 30 minutes on Section B, 35 minutes on Section C and 25 minutes on Section D.

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

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. You should read each question in full before beginning your response.

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



You may only use blue or black pen when writing your answers. Do not use pencil.

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.

Where used in a question on film, the term 'character' is understood to refer to both real people and fictional characters.

Suggested time for Section A: 25 minutes





Read the following five writing tips for creating characters in stories. These tips were inspired by tweets written by a Pixar screenwriter for film. Pixar movies appeal to audiences of all ages. Answer the questions that follow.



 **Buzz Lightyear**
@bzlightyear 4d 

1. Remember that the audience will admire characters for trying, more than for their successes.

16:45 · 10 Mar, 2020

6 Likes





   



 **Buzz Lightyear**
@bzlightyear 3d 

2. Stack the odds against your character. What happens if they don't succeed? Give the audience a reason to root for the character.

13:00 · 11 Mar, 2020

10 Likes





   



 **Buzz Lightyear**
@bzlightyear 2d 

3. Give your characters strong opinions. Passive characters might seem likeable to you as you write, but it's boring to the audience.

10:20 · 12 Mar, 2020

4 Likes





   



 **Buzz Lightyear**
@bzlightyear 1d 

4. Give characters real emotions. This lends credibility to even the most unbelievable situations.

18:40 · 13 Mar, 2020

8 Likes





   

 **Buzz Lightyear**
@bzlightyear 3h 

5. Come up with an interesting ending for your character. The ending will affect the audience's ultimate view of the character.

13:00 · 14 Mar, 2020

7 Likes

Question 1**(20 marks)**

Choose a film you have studied.

Title of film:
Director:

Choose **two** of the tips on page 3 that you think apply to characters in a film you have studied. With reference to your studied film, describe how these tips apply. In your answer you may refer to one character or more than one character.

Optional Rough Work

Question 2

(20 marks)

Film directors often create key moments through the use of striking visual images. With reference to one or more key moment(s) from the film you have studied, explain how the director’s use of striking visual images makes your chosen moment(s) engaging for the viewer.

Optional Rough Work

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

Suggested time for Section B: 30 minutes

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

An Apology

Sincere apologies, too late I know, for not getting engaged
on the night we'd planned, Christmas Eve 1962. I had the ring
in my pocket, the one we'd bought together that November
from the little jewellers on Whitefriargate in Hull. Remember?

After Midnight Mass, arm-in-arming back to ours,
we linger outside the gates of Seaforth Park. The moon
smiling and expectant. No wind, no people, no cars.
Sheets of ice are nailed to the streets with stars.

The scene is set, two lovers on the silver screen.
A pause, the copy-book kiss. Did angels sing?
This was my moment, the cue to pledge my troth*,
to take out the blue, velvet box, and do my stuff.

But marriage was a bridge I feared might be detonated,
And I had this crazy idea that if I didn't mention it, then you
wouldn't either. That we'd collude in romantic amnesia.
That life would go on as before. What could be easier?

Christmas passed. Enraged, you blew up. I felt the blast.
We got engaged. It didn't last.

Roger McGough

* Promise to marry/propose

Question 3**(10 marks)**

In this narrative poem we hear the story from the man's perspective. Tell the story from the woman's perspective. Write in the first person.

Optional Rough Work



[illegible]

Question 4

(15 marks)

Roger McGough uses vivid imagery in this poem. Identify the two images that appealed to you the most. Explain your choices with reference to the poem.

Optional Rough Work

Question 5**(25 marks)**

Read all parts of this question carefully before writing your answers in the appropriate spaces below.

You may not use the poem printed on this paper when answering this question.



Narrative poems often tell interesting personal stories.

Choose a poem you have studied that tells a personal story.

Title of poem:
Name of poet:

- (a) Outline what happens in your chosen poem and explain what the poem reveals to you about people. Support your response using suitable quotation from the poem.
- (b) In your view, does the poet use imagery effectively to tell the personal story? Explain your answer using suitable quotation from the poem.

Answer space for part (a)

Optional Rough Work

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

Suggested time for Section C: 35 minutes

Read the following extract from Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*. The old king, Hamlet's father, has died and has been replaced by Claudius, Hamlet's uncle. In this scene, the ghost of the old king tells Hamlet the story of how he died. Answer the questions that follow.

Ghost: I am thy father's spirit,
Doomed for a certain term to walk the night...
I am forbid
To tell the secrets of my prison house,
I could a tale unfold whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood,
Make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres,
Thy knotted and combined locks to part
And each particular hair to stand on end...
But this eternal blazon must not be 10
To ears of flesh and blood. List, List, O, listen!
If thou didst ever thy dear father love –

Hamlet: O God!

Ghost: Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder.

Hamlet: Murder?

Ghost: Murder most foul, as in the best it is.
But this most foul, strange and unnatural.

Hamlet: Haste me to know't, that I, with wings as swift
As meditation or the thoughts of love,
May sweep to my revenge. 20

Ghost: I find thee apt...
Now, Hamlet, hear.
'Tis given out that, sleeping in my orchard,
A serpent stung me. So the whole ear of Denmark
Is by a forged process of my death
Rankly abused. But know, thou noble youth,
The serpent that did sting thy father's life
Now wears his crown.

Hamlet: O my prophetic soul! My uncle?



Question 6**(20 marks)**

In the case of parts (a) to (c), indicate the correct answer by placing a tick ✓ in the appropriate box. Tick **one** box only in each case.

(a) If Hamlet's father was to describe the world he now inhabits, how would Hamlet react?

Hamlet would be horrified. ☐

Hamlet would be comforted. ☐

Hamlet would want to join him. ☐

(b) According to the following lines what does Hamlet intend to do:

*Haste me to know't, that I, with wings as swift
As meditation or the thoughts of love,
May sweep to my revenge. (Lines 18 – 20)?*

He will take action speedily. ☐

He will think about his next move very carefully. ☐

He will get away from this ghost as quickly as possible. ☐

(c) Which one of the following is the best explanation of the lines:

*So the whole ear of Denmark
Is by a forged process of my death
Rankly abused. (Lines 24 – 26)?*

Hamlet's father's death is a hot topic of conversation in Denmark. ☐

The people of Denmark are outraged by Hamlet's father's death. ☐

The people of Denmark have been lied to about how Hamlet's father died. ☐

(d) Explain what you think Hamlet means when he says: 'O my prophetic soul! My uncle?' at the end of the extract.

- (e) Portraying ghosts on stage is challenging for theatre directors. Describe **one** way a ghost could be represented effectively on stage for a modern audience.

Question 7

(35 marks)

Following your study of English for Junior Cycle, you have been asked to give a talk to a group of young readers about:

The Art of Good Storytelling.

Write the text of the talk you would deliver, discussing at least three aspects of the art of good storytelling in either the prescribed Shakespearean play **or** one of the novels that you have studied.

Optional Rough Work

Title of text used:

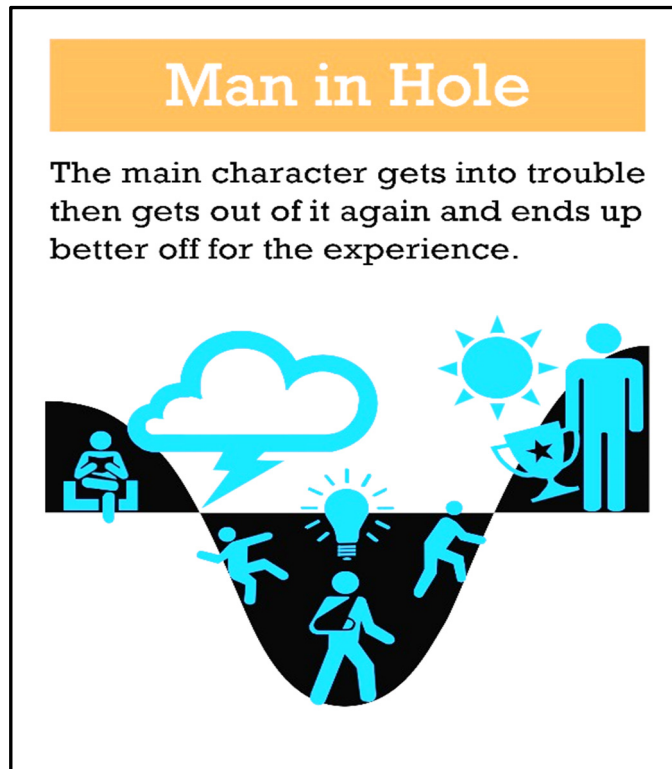
Additional writing space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Suggested time for Section D: 25 minutes

Question 8

(10 marks)

All well-written stories have a shape or structure. One popular shape for a story is called the **Man in Hole** shape. Study the graphic image below which illustrates the three steps that a typical **Man in Hole** story takes. Complete the task that follows.



Starting with Step 1 below, outline a plot summary for a story using the three steps presented in the **Man in Hole** graphic above.

Optional Rough Work

Step 1: It was an ordinary day for Alex until...
Step 2:
Step 3:

Question 9

(5 marks)

Rewrite the following text, adding capital letters, commas, inverted commas, apostrophes and full stops correctly. You should create three lines of direct speech.

tell me a story jane implored youre too old for stories her father sighed ill never be too old for stories jane insisted

Question 10**(20 marks)**

Choose either picture **A** or picture **B** below. Imagine that your chosen picture shows a character in a short story you are writing. Write the opening paragraph for that story in which you make this character either a villain or a hero. You may include dialogue in your paragraph.



Optional Rough Work

Chosen character:

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

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

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

Acknowledgements

Images

Images on page 3: <https://www.iposters.co.uk/toy-story-buzz-lightyear-124955>
Image on page 9: www.independent.ie
Image on page 12 : www.selfpublishbooks.ie
Image on page 16: www.laughingelephant.com
Image on page 22: Man in Hole (adapted from): www.washingtonpost.com
Images on page 24: shutterstock.com; stayglam.com

Texts

Acuna, Kirsten. 22 Storytelling Tips For Writers From A Pixar Storyboard Artist: businessinsider.com
Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*, Arden. London: Bloomsbury, 2016
McGough, Roger. An Apology. Collected Poems. London: Penguin Books, 2004

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Junior Cycle Final Examination – Higher Level

English

Wednesday 7 June

Morning 9:30 – 11:30