



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2009

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 3rd June – 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 CONNECTIONS.
- 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.



SECTION I

COMPREHENDING (100 marks)

TEXT I

YouTube – CONNECTING OUR WORLD



Irish Independent journalist, Gemma O'Doherty, interviewed Chad Hurley. He, along with his partners, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim, came up with an idea which has connected millions of people on the website, YouTube. The following edited extract is based on that interview.

Q1. How did YouTube come about?

YouTube started with such a simple idea. We had videos we wanted to share with our families and friends but found there wasn't really a way of doing that on the internet. We thought it would be interesting to see if we could figure out a way that would make it simple to share home-made video material. My friend Steve Chen and I put our heads together and started coming up with new ways of putting video onto the net. We wanted to give our website mass appeal, to make our website easy to use, without the need for any special software.

Most importantly we did not charge people for the service. Within months the site was flooded with videos and there was no shortage of viewers willing to watch them. They were able to send each other links to the website. We were in the right place at the right time. People had started getting their own devices, like mobile phones and digital cameras, which enabled them to make videos to share with one another. We knew we were on to something special.

Q2. Why is YouTube so popular?

The website has become the first stop for young people who want to watch a video on the internet. Thanks to YouTube, the dream of creating television on demand suddenly became a reality. Every single minute, ten hours of new material ranging from shaky home videos to concert clips, is put onto the website. It is a place where ordinary people can be turned into celebrities with an audience of 100 million viewers.

Q3. What makes YouTube so successful?

This is a multi-tasking generation. Young people are capable of dealing with multiple things at once. They're not just sitting behind their computer; at the same time they may be watching TV or talking on their mobile phone or reading a magazine. The internet revolution is all about connecting people. If you look at the success of social networking, like Facebook or text messaging or email, it's all about communication. That has been the key to YouTube's success. It's a great way to connect with other people. What we're seeing with this generation is the sharing of ideas, thoughts and experiences.

Q4. How do you protect your website from misuse?

We are fully aware that the website has the potential to be dangerous. We have made it clear what's acceptable to put on YouTube and what's not. Content that is violent or hateful or generally unsuitable we can remove in a matter of minutes.

Q5. What does the future hold for YouTube?

People are always going to want quality information and entertainment be it from newspapers, television or magazines

and certainly that demand is not going to disappear. YouTube is adding to the choice. We are continuing to work on our website which is still so young. The speed of connection to the website will continue to improve. It will be increasingly possible to connect from wherever you are at any time. It's a chance for different cultures to talk to each other. Every day YouTube gets bigger and as a result I'm working harder!

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

Questions A and B carry 50 marks each.

Question A

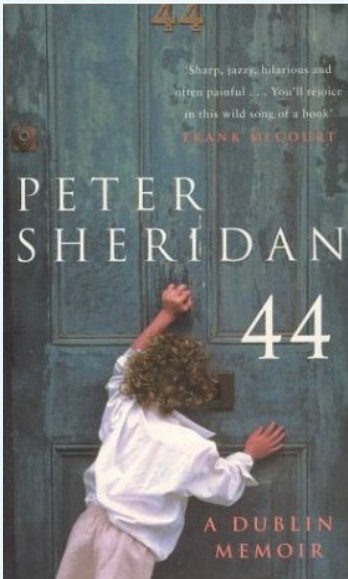
- (i) Having read the entire interview, what do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of YouTube? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) The picture that accompanies this text shows YouTube inventor Chad Hurley, Planet Earth and computer screens. Do you think this is a suitable picture to accompany the interview? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iii) In this interview, what does Chad Hurley tell us about the public's response to the development of YouTube? (20)

Question B

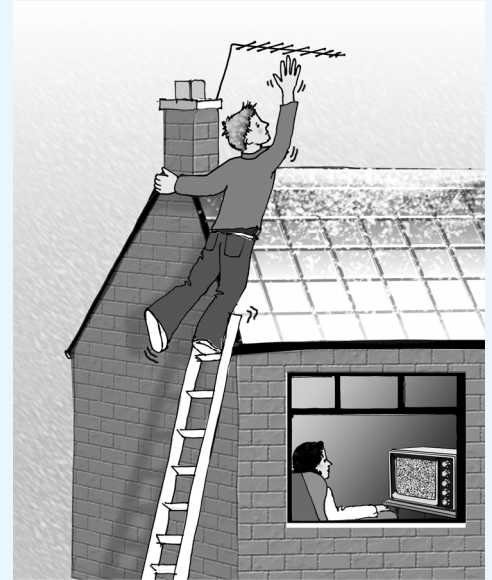
You have won a competition entitled 'Be a Celebrity for a Day'. Write out **two diary entries** or **two blog entries** about your experience. (50)

TEXT 2

THE FAMILY'S FIRST TELEVISION



In the following adapted extract from *44, A Dublin Memoir*, Peter Sheridan describes the arrival of the family's first television set on New Year's Eve, 1959. Peter, his brothers, Johnny and Shea and sister Ita help their father and Uncle Paddy to get it working.



1. New Year's Eve, 1959. A light snowfall. We were waiting for our first images on our new television. Da said we'd be watching pictures from the BBC by five o' clock. I watched my father and his brother Paddy attach the aerial to the chimney and in no time the cable was lowered down the back wall, taken in through the kitchen window and plugged into the back of the television set. The entire family sat in a big semi-circle and stared at it. Ma was in the armchair by the fire with Frankie asleep in her arms. Da reached out to turn it on. His hand was still blue with the cold. He couldn't grip the switch. He blew on his fingers and tried again. The click sounded like an explosion. A small dot appeared in the centre of the screen. It was magic. The dot disappeared and we all let out a sigh of disappointment. Just as quickly the whole screen lit up and we all sighed again with excitement. But to our disappointment, no picture filled the screen – only a snow of black and white dots appeared. Da took off his woollen cap and threw it in my lap. "Get that on, son, you're going up to the aerial."

2. The roof was like a scene from Mars. Da had rigged up a light and had it hanging from the chimney stack. This cast huge shadows over the snow. Every time they moved the light, the shadow of the aerial seemed like a giant centipede about to enter our house.

Da and Uncle Paddy warmed their frozen hands on candles they had set in bean cans. They looked like zombies who'd been attacked by the abominable snowman. I knew not to look down. To look straight ahead, like Da told me. I was shaking with fear. I reached the chimney and felt the fishbone aerial against the top of my head. Each time I slid up those few feet, the aerial swayed gently under my weight. "Now son, listen to me, very gently reach up your hand and turn the aerial towards England." I'd have flown to England if he'd asked me. I turned it in a straight line. Da sent the message down the line of communication he had established.

"Have we a picture?"

Johnny at the top of the ladder shouted down to Ita at the bottom.

"Have we a picture?"

Ita ran into Shea who was in charge of the tuning.

"Have we a picture?"

Shea turned the button fully one way, then the other. Word came back up the line.

– "Snow."

– "Snow."

– "Snow."

– "Snow."

3. “There’s your problem. There’s your problem, right there. The church is blocking your signal,” Paddy said to Da. “The church stands directly between you and a perfect picture.”

Da saw it immediately.

“The signal is going to hit them houses and bounce over there.” Paddy turned the light southwards. “It’s going to re-form over there, do a little jazz dance and work its way into us from the direct opposite side.”

Paddy turned the light towards me. The two of them shouted at me with one voice.

“Turn it around son, turn it around.”

I turned the aerial in the complete opposite direction. Word went down the line. Word came up the line.

– “There’s a picture!”

– “There’s a picture!”

– “There’s a picture!”

– “There’s a picture!”

4. Half an hour into 1960 we all sat staring at the television. The sound was perfect. A man was describing the celebrations in Trafalgar Square. There was definitely something on the screen. Outlines that looked like human beings. I went right up close but all I could see were dots and lines. Paddy touched something at the back of the set and there it was – a perfect picture. Well, nearly perfect. Lots of snow but a definite picture. We all clapped. It was a woman on a horse. She looked majestic. We stayed glued to the television. The music blared out and the Queen inspected the guard. Da and Paddy stood behind us.

I couldn’t wait for the rest of the 1960s to begin.

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

Questions A and B carry 50 marks each.

Question A

- (i) What do you learn about the Sheridan family from your reading of the extract? Support your answer with reference to the extract. (15)
- (ii) This extract is full of detailed description. Choose your favourite detail/description from the passage and explain why you liked it. (15)
- (iii) How does the writer create an atmosphere of suspense and excitement in paragraph 2 of the extract? (20)

Question B

Imagine you are the young Peter Sheridan. Write the **letter** he might have written to his grandmother describing the events that took place in his house on New Year’s Eve, 1959 and his role in them. (50)

TEXT 3

These images represent different types of connections

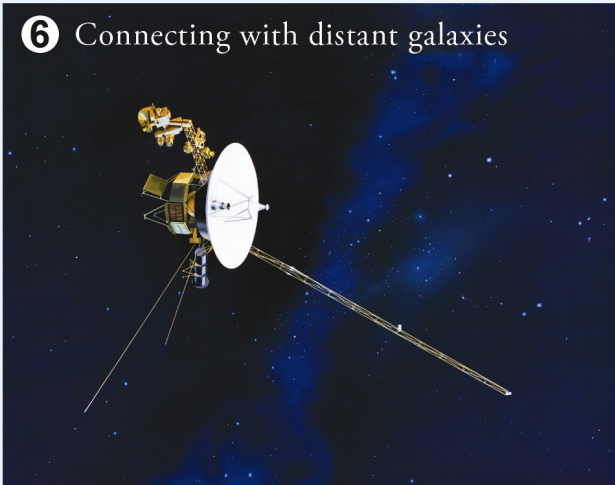
① Connecting with friends



② Connecting through sport



③ Connecting with distant galaxies



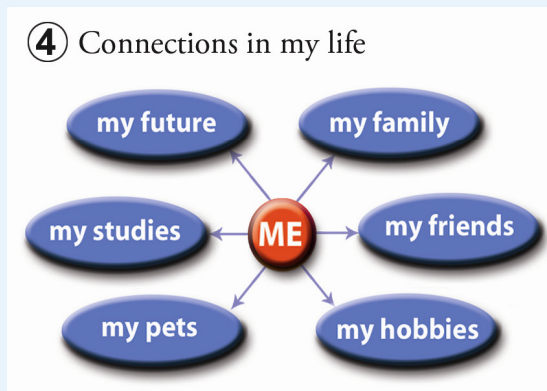
④ Connecting with the past



⑤ Connections with foreign places



⑥ Connections in my life



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

Questions A and B carry 50 marks each.

Question A

- (i) Choose **one** of the images from Text 3 and explain why you think **it is** or **is not** a good illustration of that type of connection. (15)
- (ii) If you were asked to replace **one** of the images illustrating a connection in Text 3, which one would you choose to remove?
Describe the image you would use as a replacement.
(**N.B.** The caption should remain the same.) (15)
- (iii) Which **one** of the different types of connection represented in Text 3 do you find most interesting? Explain your answer. (20)

Question B

Write the short **talk** you would give to your class on **one** of the following topics:

- letter writing is a thing of the past
 - the internet can be a fascinating place
 - there is nothing in newspapers to interest young people
- (50)



SECTION II

COMPOSING (100 marks)

Write a composition on **any one** of the following.

Each composition carries 100 marks.

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

1. “We were in the right place at the right time.” (TEXT 1)

Write about a time when you found yourself in the right place at the right time.

2. “This is a multi-tasking generation.” (TEXT 1)

Write an article for a magazine about what it is like being a teenager in the twenty-first century.

3. “New Year’s Eve... A light snowfall.” (TEXT 2)

Write a personal account of your favourite memories of Christmas and the New Year.

4. “They looked like zombies who’d been attacked by the abominable snowman.” (TEXT 2)

Write a short story inspired by the above sentence.

5. “I couldn’t wait for the rest of the 1960s to begin.” (TEXT 2)

Write a talk you would give to your classmates about what you imagine life will be like in the year 2060.

6. “Connections with foreign places” (TEXT 3)

Write a narrative or short story inspired by image 3.

7. Look at the images in Text 3. (TEXT 3)

Write a personal account of an experience that showed you the importance of connections.

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