



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2007**

## English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

**Total Marks: 200**

**Wednesday, 6 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 SUCCESS.
- 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**

#### **THE RESCUE**

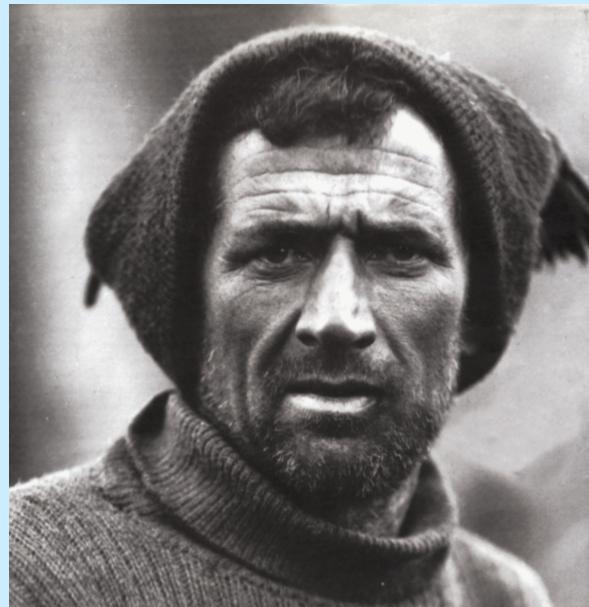
This true story is adapted from Michael Smith's biography of Tom Crean, the Antarctic explorer. On 4 January, 1912, a three-man party — Crean, Lashly and Evans — set out on a punishing 750-mile journey across the South Pole. However, only 35 miles from base camp, disaster struck. Evans fell ill. Crean was forced to make the rest of the dangerous journey on his own. The survival of all three men depended on Crean's success.



1. Crean now took the bravest decision of his life and volunteered to make the solo walk to Hut Point. Lashly had offered to go but Crean had told him to remain and look after the very frail Evans. Then Lashly stuffed Crean's pockets with the only food they could find. Before he left, Crean ducked his head inside the tent to say goodbye to his two companions. They watched the courageous Irishman stagger forward in knee-deep snow, to begin his lonely march for survival.
2. Crean was bitterly cold, thirsty, starving and physically drained as he began his journey. The travelling was hazardous. His thighs frequently sank in the soft snow and there was the ever-present fear of crashing through a crevasse. The wind was blowing up the drifting snow and blinding Crean. A blizzard could be seen approaching in the distance. In his tiredness, Crean frequently slipped on the glassy ice. He scrambled down the hill as the wind picked up and made his way slowly towards the hut.
3. Then to his utter relief, Crean saw dogs and sledges in the distance out on the sea-ice. He somehow found enough strength to reach the camp. When Crean finally stumbled into the hut, he fell to his knees, almost delirious with hunger and exhaustion. Inside, he found the Russian dog-driver, Dimitri, and Atkinson, the one doctor within 400 miles of Hut Point. He blurted out the alarming news about his two companions and collapsed on the floor. A rescue party set off immediately to find Lashly and Evans.

4. Lashly had wisely torn up an old piece of clothing and attached it to a long piece of bamboo so that the recovery party would not miss the tiny green tent on the vast Barrier landscape. After hours on the Barrier, the two men had almost given up hope of being rescued. Suddenly the howling and yelping of Atkinson's dogs which galloped right up to the tent door shattered the stillness and silence. One animal stuck his head through the little tent flap and licked the face and hands of the stricken Evans. To hide his emotions, Evans grabbed his ears and sank his face into the hairy mane of the grey Siberian dog. Then both men laughed uncontrollably. They never

should have doubted the courage and determination of the Irishman. They couldn't believe that they had been saved. It was as if a heavy weight had been lifted from their shoulders.



**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) In paragraph 2, how does the writer convey the harshness of the Antarctic landscape? (15)
- (ii) How is the excitement of the rescue shown in paragraph 4? (15)
- (iii) If you had been on this expedition, would you have preferred to be making the dangerous journey to base camp alone, or to wait to be rescued? Explain your answer. (20)

### **Question B**

#### **Diary Entries**

Imagine that you are Lashly. Write **two** diary entries describing your thoughts as you wait to be rescued. (50)

## TEXT 2

### A CHAMPION ON THE RUN

This interview is based on a recent article in *The Irish Examiner*, in which the World Champion hurdler, Derval O'Rourke, discusses her recent success on the track.

#### Q1. *Are you a very competitive person?*

Off the track, I'm not competitive at all. I wasn't that competitive in school or in college either. However, when it comes to running, I'm always setting new targets for myself. I always feel things could be done better, done more professionally. I suppose I push myself very hard. If you want to win races, you have to be very driven. Every professional athlete wants to win. There's always pressure. Even after a win, I don't really dwell on it. I start focusing on the next race. When I retire I'll probably sit down and think 'that was marvellous', but not now. For now, it's all about hard work and commitment.

#### Q2. *Why did you decide to be a hurdler rather than a sprinter?*

I find it a real challenge. For me, sprinting can be a bit boring, but the hurdles break up the race for you. When you get into a rhythm, it feels magical to run that fast and get over obstacles at the same time. It almost feels more natural than sprinting.

#### Q3. *What do you have to do in order to be a successful athlete?*

Compared to a normal person I'm very healthy, but for an elite athlete trying to be a world champion, everything has to be precise. Diet is extremely important. My nutritionist, Andrea Cullen, has designed a plan for me, which I stick to rigidly. Then it's all about training. People forget how technical hurdling is. They have no idea how hard you have to work on technique. It takes months of preparation to build up to a big race.



#### Q4. *Who are your sporting heroes?*

Sonia O' Sullivan, obviously. I have huge admiration for Paula Radcliffe. I have a lot of time for Padraig Harrington because I know how hard he works. What impresses me isn't someone who is hugely gifted or talented, but someone who does everything they can – training, rest, hard work - with a little talent to improve themselves. Muhammed Ali famously said 'the fight is won a long way from the limelight, in unglamorous preparation'. Champions make a lot of sacrifices in their lives for their sport. They dedicate all of their young lives to it. Being successful comes before everything else. Athletes have to spend a lot of time away from home, away from friends and family. For me that's the hardest thing.

#### Q5. *How are you coping with your new-found fame?*

No one had heard of me until I took silver at Gothenberg. I appeared once on the Late Late Show and instant fame followed. Now I'm recognized all around the country. Nine out of ten times it's fine. Mostly, people are really

nice. The odd time I'll be in a shop and someone will just stare and nudge their friends and say: 'It's that runner.' I get really embarrassed at that. It's a bit intimidating. They must think I'm deaf. Sometimes people call out at you in the street. I don't like that type of attention.

On the plus side, I get a lot of good-luck cards. Recently while I was injured I was going through them. I couldn't believe how kind people could be.

Irish people really love sport and back you all the way. They let you know that they're proud of you and that's lovely. I really appreciate the support I get from my fans.

It makes all the difference to me. I feel very lucky to have been given this success in life and to be doing the thing I love best.



**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) From your reading of O'Rourke's responses to Q1 and Q2 in the interview, what impression of her do you get? (15)
- (ii) What does she see as the advantages and disadvantages of being famous? (15)
- (iii) Would you like to be a world champion athlete? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

### **Question B**

#### **A Feature Article**

Write a feature article for a daily newspaper entitled: 'Staying Fit and Healthy'.

(50)



## TEXT 3

### THE MANY FACES OF SUCCESS

Here are some images of people who have had success in their lives.



1 Getting the Cup



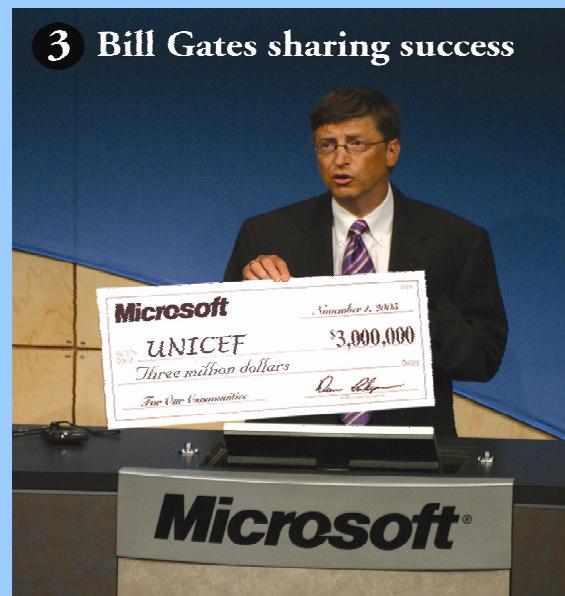
2 Crossing the line



6 First past the post



5 Young Scientist winner 2007



3 Bill Gates sharing success



4 Results day – celebrating success

**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) Which image best captures the idea of success for you? Explain your answer. (15)
- (ii) Choose one of the 6 images in Text 3 and clearly describe what you see. (15)
- (iii) You have been asked to add another image of success to this collection. What image would you choose? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

### **Question B**

#### **Newspaper Report**

Imagine you are a journalist reporting on one of the events featured in Text 3.  
Write your report. (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.** ‘...the bravest decision of his life...’ (TEXT 1)

**Tell about a time in your life when you had a difficult choice to make.**

- 2.** ‘...his lonely march for survival.’ (TEXT 1)

**Write a speech for a debate in which you argue for or against the motion:  
*that people should not take unnecessary risks.***

- 3.** ‘Irish people really love sport...’ (TEXT 2)

**Write an account of the most exciting sporting event you witnessed  
or took part in.**

- 4.** ‘No one had heard of me...’ (TEXT 2)

**Write a short story which begins with the above phrase.**

- 5.** ‘Bill Gates sharing success....’ (TEXT 3)

**Write the talk you would give to a class about the importance of  
helping others.**

- 6.** ‘The many faces of success.’ (TEXT 3)

**Write a personal account of what success means to you.**

- 7.** **Write a short story based on one of the images contained in TEXT 3.**

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