



# Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2005

## English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, 8 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 FREEDOM.
- 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

#### What Freedom means to me...

Here is a selection from the responses made by a group of young people to the question “What does freedom mean to you?”

1.  When I think of freedom, I think of all those people who are not free and how lucky I am to be able to feel safe to walk down the street or get the bus to college. I think of those in areas of conflict and how every day they are taking their lives into their hands just by going to get the groceries. I also see those who are not allowed to voice their opinions for fear of being arrested or killed. This is not the way people should live in the world today. Each person should have at least the basic freedoms: freedom from fear, freedom from poverty, and freedom to choose the life he or she wants to lead.

Maria, 21

2.  When I hear the word freedom I think of not being restricted, not having to worry about anything. I feel that freedom is a state of mind, a place inside your head where everything is calm and relaxed. When I think of freedom, I think of open green fields and bright sea-spray on a sunny day. Freedom is how I feel when I go fishing on the mountain lake. I love the soothing sound of the water against the boat, the clear blue sky, and me at peace with myself. It's an inward state like being on The Lake Isle of Inisfree!

Jason, 20

3.  It's being allowed to do what I want when I want. It's not being told I have to wear this or that but being allowed to wear what I want when I want. It's not being held back from the things I like to do. It's being able to say what I think. It's being left alone not having anyone looking over my shoulder all the time. And then there's the phone! Mobile topups cost me a fortune so I need to use the house phone a lot. Freedom would be my own phone in my own room.

Rebecca, 13

4.  To me freedom is having the choice to be an individual. Of course everyone *is* an individual. However, each person has the choice as to whether or not they want to express their individuality. Unfortunately not many people want to express it, they are quite happy to follow the crowd. They can't bear the thought of not being accepted if they think, look, or act differently. I decided from a very early age to be myself and I am very lucky to have a group of friends who don't follow the crowd. They are just themselves too. We wear what we like and listen to what we like whether it's “in” or not. In fact most of the time we get to do as we choose.

Saki, 17

5.



There is no such thing as freedom. People only think they are free – it's an illusion. So you are free to buy what you want? Yes? But they only make the things they want you to buy. Take the music industry. Unless a band is going to make a fortune for the label, then they don't get a chance of a recording contract. In that way so much

good music never gets heard. So you have a vote? Well isn't that great! When you look at the parties and their different policies, beware, because when they get into government they never seem to change the way that wealth is shared out. The rich keep getting richer and the poor struggle. Freedom? It's a dream.

Mike, 23

**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 of the 5 views of freedom given above is closest to your own view? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (ii) Which view of freedom is least like your view? Give reasons for your answer. (15)
- (iii) Do you think that the age of the writer has an influence on the way he or she expresses his or her opinion? Give reasons. Refer to **two** of the responses in your answer. (20)

### **Question B**

#### **Greater Freedom for Students**

Write a report to your school principal suggesting ways in which more freedom could be given to senior students in your school. (50)

## TEXT 2

### NOT SO FREE...

*The writer of the following extract is anonymous. He was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment in 1945 for fraud. In the extract he describes his experience of being taken by train from Dublin to Portlaoise prison. This extract, in adapted form, was first published in a magazine called The Bell.*

1. We arrived at Kingsbridge railway station and got out of the prison van. We were being transferred from Mountjoy jail to the prison in Portlaoise. Being a special category first offender, I was handcuffed alone. The other two prisoners were also first offenders but unlike me they were housebreakers and so were in a lower class and would not be allowed to associate with me. My crime was considered a “clean crime”. They were handcuffed together, and as one man was very fat and the other very small they had extreme difficulty getting down from the van. They were like two animals dragging against one another over a fence as they struggled down.

2. When we got on the station platform our ordeal and agony really began. In our dreadful prison clothes and horrible caps we stood out starkly from other people. The warder seemed to think that there was a special carriage reserved for us. To make matters worse the Mallow races were on that day and the train was crowded with race goers. Out on the platform the warder walked us slowly up and down the length of that long train but still failed to find the reserved carriage. Every head was out of the carriage windows to stare at our embarrassment.

3. One of the Gardai who accompanied us was a decent man with human feelings and he turned angrily on the warder.

“For God’s sake do something, and stop making a show of these poor devils before the whole train.”

The warder grunted and pushed us into what seemed a fairly empty looking carriage. People crowded around us. A tall thin crank of a man demanded angrily that we be removed.

“I am keeping these seats for my friends. They will be back in a moment,” he said.

A lady held up a little child to see what the row was about.

“Who are those funny men, Mammy?” said the child.

“Hush darling,” whispered the mother soothingly, “I think they are lunatics!”

The warder hustled us out again. Up and down the platform again, up and down until, at last, a railway official found us seats.



4. From the time we left the station until we reached our destination that warden never stopped talking. His dull monotone voice haunts me to this day. I saw another passenger looking frequently at his watch.

“If this blasted train doesn’t hurry up I’ll be late for the first race,” he said.

What he said made me think about the time, so short ago, when I was a free man and when every moment seemed important to me too.

5. And now as I look back, time was soon to have little or no meaning for me. In prison we got an hour and a half for meals that took five minutes to eat. We were brought to the chapel half an hour before

Mass began. If we complained of the slightest ailment we were locked up as “Sick in Cell” until the doctor saw us hours afterwards. We were locked up every Sunday, Church Holyday, and Bank Holiday from 12.30 in the afternoon until 7 o’clock next morning.

6. On my very first day in prison, I was given my prisoner number (No. 8663) and I was locked in my cell at three o’clock on a glorious summer afternoon. I felt the heat of the sun against my cell wall and with nothing to do I got into bed and thought miserably about the three long years to come.

**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 paragraphs 2 and 3, how does the writer feel about his situation? Support your answer by reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) What impression of life in prison do you get from the writer’s account in paragraphs 5 and 6? (15)
- (iii) A reader of this passage has said that prisoners should never be treated this way. What do you think? (20)

### **Question B**

#### **A Prisoner’s Diary**

Imagine you have been sentenced to life in prison. Write a diary entry for **each** of your first three days as a prisoner.

(50)

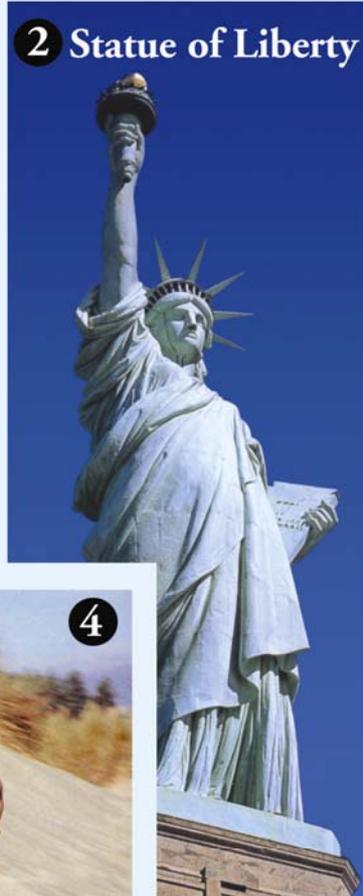
# TEXT 3

## IMAGES OF FREEDOM

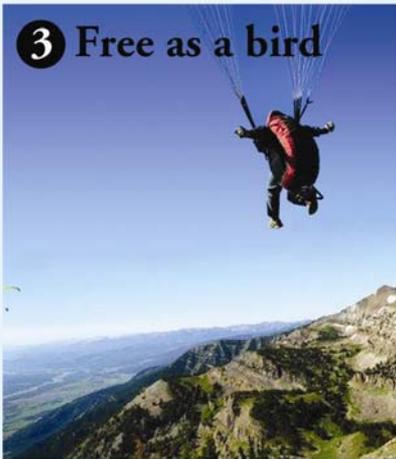
**1** Freedom of the wild



**2** Statue of Liberty



**3** Free as a bird



**4**



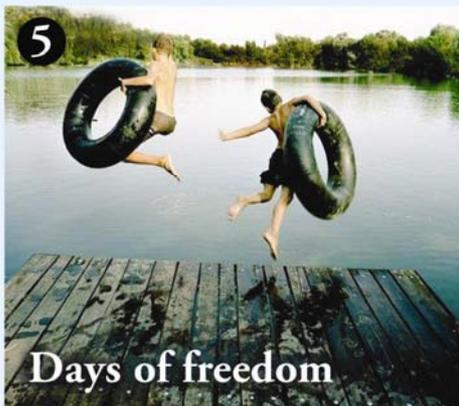
Running free

**6**



Freedom lost

**5**



Days of freedom

**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) Select the image from Text 3 that best expresses the idea of freedom for you.  
Give a reason for your choice. (15)
- (ii) Choose **one** of the other images from the text and write a clear description of it. (15)
- (iii) Imagine you were asked to add another image of freedom to the collection.  
What image would you suggest? Explain why you would choose that image. (20)

**Question B**

Imagine you were using **one** of the images 1 to 5 in Text 3 to promote a particular holiday.  
Write a short advertisement to promote that holiday.

(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. “And then there’s the phone!” (TEXT 1)

**Write an account of the importance of the mobile phone (or any communications technology) in your life.**

2. “What freedom means to me...” (TEXT 1)

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

3. “I love the soothing sound of the water against the boat, the clear blue sky, and me at peace with myself.” (TEXT 1)

**Write about the things that make you happy.**

4. “...every moment seemed important to me...” (TEXT 2)

**Write a speech you would give to a group of young people on the things that you think are important in life.**

5. **Write a story based on any of the images in Text 3.**

6. “Every head was out of the carriage windows to stare at our embarrassment.” (TEXT 2)

**Write about a time when you felt embarrassed.**

7. “For God’s sake do something...” (TEXT 2)

**Write a short story beginning with the above phrase.**

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