



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2016

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Wednesday, June 8th – 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 DEAR DIARY.
- 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.



TEXT 1 – A TRAVEL BLOG

This text is an edited adaptation based on an extract from the website, travelblog.org. This entry, along with the images, was posted by a young New Zealand couple, Anna and Chris, on October 8th, 2010. In it they share some of their adventures in China.

1. At midnight our train crossed the border from Mongolia and we woke up in China the next day. We passed fields of crops, small gardens, tiny villages, chicken coops, noodle shops, busy towns, back streets and restaurants. There was life everywhere – from people harvesting in the fields, mothers clutching babies and teenagers texting on their phones, to the wrinkled old folks sitting on their little seats on the side of the road, simply watching the world go by.

2. As we finished the final leg of the Trans-Mongolian journey, the train began passing some amazing scenery as we neared Beijing. The mountain gorge that we passed was a welcome change from the Gobi Desert and a pleasant surprise. At the first sight of the Great Wall of China creeping over the mountains, we all sat with our noses against the window.

3. The other surprise was the colour of the skies. If we experienced skies this colour in New Zealand we would call it fog or mist and after a day it would clear. In China the grey skies are caused by pollution and they appear to last for days on end. We had never seen anything like it – an absolute greyness that blocks out the sun and reduces visibility to about a kilometre. We passed huge smoking coal-fired power stations with chimneys sending grey clouds of smoke into the sky. It is hard to imagine what it must be like to live under these clouds. It actually felt dirty being outside.

4. Our hostel turned out to be one of the best parts of our stay in Beijing. We got

such a warm welcome. It was a sweet little place in one of Beijing's Hutong districts [an area of narrow streets with traditional courtyard houses]. Neither of us had realised that the first to the seventh of October is a massive public holiday in China and every single attraction in the city was jam-packed with tourists.

5. The Forbidden City was a heaving mass of people. We arrived an hour and a half before opening time and stood in a queue to buy our tickets. Well, we tried to stand in line but pretty quickly learnt that pushing is actually big business in China. Ticket touts make money by pushing in, buying as many tickets as possible and then selling them to people who don't want to line up. The young guy in the line next to us said he was embarrassed and angry because he knew how bad this behaviour looks to Westerners.

6. After such a long and stressful start, the Forbidden City failed to live up to expectations but thankfully everything else in Beijing was fantastic. On our first day we ran into Thomas, the guy we toured Mongolia with, and spent the day walking the back streets and lovely old Hutong districts. The back streets were fantastic, quietly humming with small businesses, old people playing board games, small dogs, and people going about their everyday life. We took in a few of the tourist sites, including the Bell and Drum Towers and the Lama Temple which was much calmer and had lots more atmosphere than the Forbidden City.

7. After six days, we'd hardly even

scratched the surface of Beijing. You could spend weeks here and not see everything on your list. Despite the huge crowds and the pollution, we met some really lovely locals and our first impressions of China have been good. Beijing has obviously done a lot since the Olympics and getting around was really

easy with many of the street signs now in English writing as well as in Chinese. Public toilets were clean absolutely everywhere and the taxi drivers all used their meter and gave a receipt at the end of the journey. Not a bad start to the China adventure.

IMAGE 1



**Yay! Got it all to ourselves.
Posing like fools on the Great Wall of China**

IMAGE 2



The long walk home ... Great Wall of China

This text has been adapted, for the purpose of assessment, without the authors' prior consent.

N.B. Answer ONLY ONE Question A and ONLY ONE Question B.

Question A – 50 marks

- (i) From reading this blog, and looking at the two images and their captions, what impression do you form of the bloggers, Chris and Anna? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Do you think that Chris and Anna formed a mainly positive or a mainly negative view of China? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (iii) (a) Imagine that you are one of the bloggers, either Chris or Anna, and you are travelling in Ireland. Write an entry for your blog, in which you record some of your experiences and your views on Ireland. (10)
- (b) If you were planning a trip, either in Ireland or abroad, do you think you would find social media (such as travel blogs, Facebook, etc.) useful when planning and organising your trip? Explain your answer. (10)

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

Question B – 50 marks

A travel company is running a competition for Leaving Certificate students. The prize is a post-examination holiday to a destination chosen by the winner. Entrants are required to outline where they would like to go, give reasons why they would like to travel there, and explain why they deserve to win the holiday. Write the **competition entry** you would submit.

TEXT 2 – TWO DIARIES FROM 1916

This text is an edited adaptation of extracts from Mick O’Farrell’s book, *The 1916 Diaries*. The book reproduces the personal diaries of Irish Volunteer Seosamh De Brún and British Officer Samuel H. Lomas, giving eye-witness accounts of the Easter Rising.

Seosamh De Brún’s Diary

1. Monday, 24th April Easter Monday

Emergency mobilisation. Excited & hurried movements. “We are in action, boys”, Commandant Hunter says. Excitement, fear, nervousness amongst us at unexpected development.

Barricades in Blackpitts Road. The people don’t understand: criticism & jeers. Tomorrow they will cheer us.

Ordered to ‘fall back’ to Jacob’s Biscuit Factory, inside: relief, darkness & nervousness. Jacob’s is a vast place.

A big place for a small number of men to defend. Sleep in snatches.

2. Tuesday, 25th April

Barricading. Strengthening our position. Volunteers brave & hopeful.

My colleague Paddy Callan is nervous. Can’t sleep & bad digestion. He was calm yesterday. Reaction I suppose today.

I review my life. I believe I was fated to be here today. I could not have escaped it.

Tuesday passes. Better sleep.

No night attack. Men settling down. News favourable, coming in often – keeps up our spirits. We now thoroughly realise our position and are becoming reconciled to it. We believe we are going to make a sacrifice.

3. Wednesday, 26th April

Paddy Callan is quite calm today. Poor man. Like me he did not expect to be engaged in Revolution so suddenly. We are becoming ‘soldiers’ now. The Volunteer ‘feeling’ is past. Some of our

fellows quite young but magnificent courage. We are beginning to know each other: talk, fun & good spirits. Supplies here in Jacob’s are perfect: tons of flour, sugar & biscuits.

After tea, inspection of position.

Attack expected. Men of our section nervous. Officers also apprehensive.

1 a.m. New barricades finished, jaded tired. Sleep in equipment. No soft bed now.

4. Thursday, 27th April

No attack. A few hours improved rest, good wash & shave.

1st watch, until 1 p.m.

Heavy firing on my post, not certain if in building. Suspense, tension. Darkness & silence save for the rattle of rifles & machine guns. Machine guns seem to be distinctive. Plug. Plug. Plug ...

Myriad soft sultry sounds of bullets perforating walls. Expect to be riddled though inside building.

Guard ended. Not fearful but highly strung. Can’t sleep expecting attack, which does not come.



Jacob’s Biscuit Factory source: dublincity.ie

Sergeant-Major Lomas' Diary

1. **Monday, 24th April** **Watford, England**

8.30 p.m. Received orders to prepare for a sudden move. 12 Midnight. All packed and ready to move.

2. **Tuesday, 25th April** **Dublin, Ireland**

3.50 p.m. Moved off Liverpool Dock and after an uneventful journey sighted Kingstown Harbour [now called Dún Laoghaire].

3. **Wednesday, 26th April**

5.30 a.m. Men very tired but quite cheerful ... 5 p.m. We left Donnybrook and kept on the outskirts of Dublin. The people who we passed were exceptionally kind, giving tea, water, food and cigarettes. We could hear

firing in the distance but we were not troubled. 7.50 p.m. We arrived at British Military Headquarters at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, thoroughly tired out.

4. **Thursday, 27th April**

12 Noon. Marched out from the Royal Hospital. All along the road there was constant sniping. We arrived at Dublin Castle without any casualties. 2 p.m. Had dinner and a short rest ... 6 p.m. On arrival at Moore Street I was instructed to make a barricade right across the street. To find material for this the furniture from a butcher's shop was used. During the whole of the time firing was being carried out by both sides. The barricade being made as safe as possible, I found an armchair used for the barricading, and so slept peacefully until 5.30 a.m.

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N.B. Answer ONLY ONE Question A and ONLY ONE Question B.

Question A – 50 marks

- (i) From your reading of Seosamh De Brún's diary extracts, describe the mood amongst the Volunteers, and the conditions they experienced inside Jacob's Biscuit Factory. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) What similarities and differences do you notice between the experiences recorded by De Brún and Lomas in their diaries above? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (iii) (a) Imagine that you are Paddy Callan, a friend and fellow Volunteer mentioned by Seosamh De Brún. Based on what you have read above, write your own diary entry recording your feelings and experiences on any one of the dates given above. (10)
- (b) What can you learn about the people and events of 1916 from reading the diary entries above that you might not learn from other sources, such as newspaper reports or history textbooks? Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)

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

Question B – 50 marks

Imagine that you are a journalist in 1916. Based on the diary extracts above, write a **newspaper article**, either broadsheet or tabloid, in which you report on the events that took place in Dublin between the 24th and the 27th of April, 1916.

TEXT 3 – KEEPING A DIARY

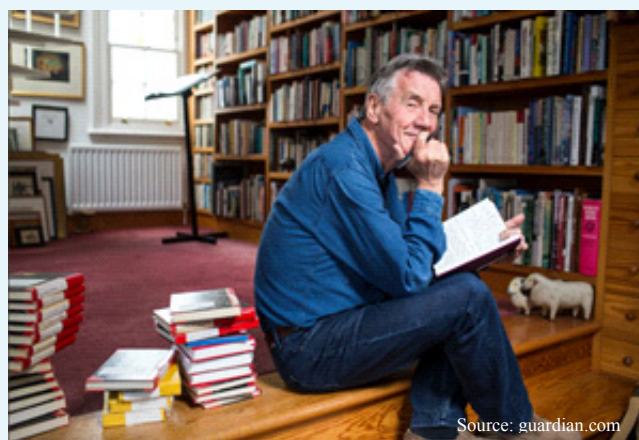
This text is an edited adaptation of an article by Michael Palin from *The Guardian* newspaper. Michael Palin is famous as a member of the Monty Python comedy group and for his TV travel documentaries. Here he writes about his experience of keeping a diary for almost fifty years, and offers advice to would-be diary keepers.

1. When I began to keep a diary in April 1969, I could scarcely have imagined that decades of my life would not only be recorded but later published for all to see. I was twenty-five years old when I took a crisp new ring-backed notepad, headed the page “1969”, and wrote more in hope than in expectation.

2. I have always been attracted to lists, and the ultimate for any list keeper is to keep a record of what you’ve done each day. A diary, in fact. All I’d lacked in the past was the will to keep at it. Very little happened on that first day of the new diary, or so it seemed at the time. Yet when I re-read my diary entry for Thursday, April 17th, 1969, my diary reminds me that I had David Jason [Del Boy in *Only Fools and Horses*] around for lunch, and took a phone call about a possible new show with John Cleese [Basil in *Fawlty Towers*, *Monty Python* member]. If I had not kept a diary I would never remember all this.

3. That’s the attraction of a diary. It remains in its own time. It reflects only what happened on that particular day. It doesn’t flatter and it isn’t influenced by what happened later. In that way it’s the most truthful record of real life, and that’s why I’m so glad I persevered with it.

4. There are times when I’ve had to drive myself to do it. Times when I had so little time to write that I just jotted down a few notes, but mostly I’ve tried to approach each morning’s entry as a story of the day that has just passed, without limits and without self-censorship. And composing a story a day is not a bad discipline for any would-be writer.



The (not so) secret diaries of Michael Palin, aged 72 and a half.

5. I never wrote with the idea of publication in mind. I don’t think I even wrote for another reader. Occasionally I would read a piece to my wife, usually to settle an argument about what we had or hadn’t done. But the longer I kept the diaries the more I saw them gathering some sort of historical relevance. Something that happened the day before might have little significance at the time, but twenty-five or thirty years later it acquires an extra dimension.

6. Thanks to the diaries I can remember things that I would almost certainly have forgotten. For a diarist, life ceases to be an indistinct blur. Experiences are there in sharp focus; some an immeasurable pleasure, others a profound pain. Which is the way life is. This is why diary-keeping is often prescribed as a therapy for those with depression, or those who feel their lives are somehow out of control. I encourage you to do as I did all those years ago; get your own notebook out and write down the year and the day and what happened to you in the last twenty-four hours.

And keep on doing it. I try and get down what I can remember in thirty minutes maximum.

7. I've found the diary habit very helpful to my own development as a writer. You have to be able to think clearly and edit as you go. An online blog is fine, but I feel very strongly that it's not the same thing as writing down your own experiences in your own hand, in your own chosen notebook. Handwriting is so much more personal. It expresses your personality. I can tell from mine how I was feeling at the time – sometimes hurried and rushed, sometimes relaxed and expansive.

8. You may find it hard, as I did, to find time to write. You may get discouraged by

days when nothing seems to happen. Don't give up. I found that details of what you ate or who you were with or what music you were listening to might seem insignificant at the time, but as the years go by these are the things you, and others, really want to know about. Tastes and circumstances change so fast that it is often hardly believable that this is what we did then, this is how we lived, this is what we were all worried about. The diarist keeps tabs on us all.

9. Keeping a diary means that all that seeing and hearing, loving and laughing, excitement and embarrassment, gladness and gloom that go to make up a life are not forgotten. In short, a diary blows away the mists of time, and offers your life back to you.

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N.B. Answer ONLY ONE Question A and ONLY ONE Question B.

Question A – 50 marks

- (i) What do you learn about Michael Palin from reading the above text? Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) In the above extract, Michael Palin suggests many reasons why keeping a diary is a good idea. Outline three of the reasons he gives. Support your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (iii) (a) Imagine that you have found an old diary that you kept when you were in First Year in secondary school. In it you recorded the feelings and experiences that were important to you at that time. Write an entry from that diary. (10)
- (b) Having read the above article, you decide to keep a daily diary. Would you prefer to keep a private notebook or to create an online blog to share with others? Explain your answer. (10)

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

Question B – 50 marks

Write an **article**, to appear either in your school magazine or on your school's website, in which you offer advice to your fellow students on finding a part-time job for the summer holidays. Your advice should include tips about where to find work, how to make a successful application and how to prepare for an interview.

Write a composition on **any one** of the following composition assignments in **bold print** below.

Each composition carries 100 marks.

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

1. In TEXT 3, Michael Palin warns us that we may get discouraged by days when nothing seems to happen.

Write a personal essay about the pleasures of life's lazy days.

2. Chris and Anna go on an exciting journey in TEXT 1.

Write a short story in which the main character goes on an exciting journey and learns some valuable lessons along the way.

3. TEXTS 1, 2 and 3 all feature or refer to diary entries.

Imagine that it is the year 3016 and you are living in a city on Mars. Write three diary entries in which you describe the world in which you live, give details of your daily life and your hopes for the future.

4. Kindness is mentioned in TEXT 2.

Write a personal essay about your own experience of any two of the following: kindness; patience; generosity; tolerance and forgiveness.

5. Chris and Anna learn about many different aspects of China while on their travels in TEXT 1.

Write an article for a travel magazine, in which you encourage young people to visit Ireland, telling them why they should come here, and what you recommend they should see and do during their visit.

6. TEXT 2 features two men who hold opposing points of view.

Write a short story which features two characters who hold opposing points of view.

7. In TEXT 3, Michael Palin says he is glad he persevered and continued writing his diary.

Write a speech, to be delivered to your class, in which you talk about at least one occasion in your life when you were glad you persevered with something.

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