



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle Final Examination 2024

English

Higher Level

Wednesday 5 June Morning 9:30 – 11:30

180 marks

Examination Number

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Date of Birth

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For example, 3rd February
2005 is entered as 03 02 05

Centre Stamp

The theme for this examination paper is
Interesting Interactions

Instructions

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

Section A	Appreciating Character	75 marks	4 questions
Section B	Responding to Literary Texts	45 marks	2 questions
Section C	Showing Critical Appreciation	60 marks	3 questions

Answer all **nine** questions.

The questions do not carry equal marks. The number of marks for each question is stated at the top of the question.

You should spend about 45 minutes on Section A, 30 minutes on Section B and 40 minutes on Section C.

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

Write your answers in the space 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.

Suggested time for Section A: 45 minutes

Read the following extract from *Timon of Athens*, a play by William Shakespeare. Answer the questions that follow.



Timon is a wealthy man and an important citizen of Athens. A messenger gives Timon news from his friend Ventidius, who is in prison.

Timon: Imprisoned is he, say you?

Messenger: Ay, my good Lord; five talents is his debt,
His means most short, his creditors most strait.
Your honourable letter he desires
To give to those who have shut him up,
Which failing, periods his comfort.

Timon: Noble Ventidius – well.
I am not of that feather to shake off
My friend when he must need me. I do know him
A noble man, a gentleman that well deserves help,
Which he shall have. I'll pay the debt and free him.

10

Messenger: Your lordship ever binds him.

Timon: Commend me to him; I will send his ransom,
And being franchised bid him come to me.
'Tis not enough to help the feeble up,
But to support him after. Fare you well.

Messenger: All happiness to your honour.

The Messenger leaves and an Old Athenian arrives with a request for Timon.

Old Athenian: One only daughter have I, no kin else.

The maid is fair, of the youngest for a bride,
And I have bred her at my dearest cost
In qualities of the best. This man of thine, Lucilius,
Attempts her love. I prithee noble lord,
Join with me to forbid him her resort
Myself have spoken in vain.

20

Timon: The man is honest.

Old Athenian: Therefore he will be, Timon.
His honesty rewards him in itself;
It must not bear my daughter.
Call the man before thee.

Timon: Attends he here or no? Lucilius!

30

Enter Lucilius

Lucilius: Here at your lordship's service.

Timon: Love you the maid?

Lucilius: Ay, my good lord, and she accepts it.

Timon: *(To the Old Athenian)* This gentleman of mine hath served me long.
To build his fortune I will strain a little,
For 'tis a bond in men. Give him thy daughter;
What money you bestow, in him I'll counterpoise
And make him weigh equal with her.

Old Athenian: Pawn me to this your honour, she is his.

Timon: My hand to thee, mine honour on my promise.

40

Lucilius: Humbly I thank your lordship; never may
That state or fortune fall into my keeping,
Which is not owed to you.

Question 1 (10 marks)

Based on your reading of the above extract, place a tick ✓ in the box beside the correct answer.
Tick **one** box only in each case.

(a) Why is Ventidius in prison?

Ventidius married a rich man's daughter. ☐

Ventidius owes a debt he cannot pay. ☐

Ventidius stole money. ☐

(b) Which one of the following reasons does Timon give for helping Ventidius?

Ventidius is a noble man. ☐

Ventidius knows a lot of important people. ☐

Ventidius is his loyal servant. ☐

(c) What does the Old Athenian ask Timon to do?

The Old Athenian asks Timon to lend him some money to pay for his daughter's wedding. ☐

The Old Athenian asks Timon to tell Lucilius to stop seeing his daughter. ☐

The Old Athenian asks Timon to marry his daughter. ☐

(d) Which is the best explanation of the following lines spoken by the Old Athenian:

His honesty rewards him in itself;

It must not bear my daughter (L 27-28)?

Honesty is a virtue the Old Athenian wishes his daughter possessed. ☐

Honesty is its own reward, it doesn't mean Lucilius deserves to marry the Old Athenian's daughter. ☐

The Old Athenian hopes that his daughter will choose an honest husband. ☐

(e) At the end of this scene what does Timon decide to do to satisfy the Old Athenian?

Timon orders Lucilius not to see the Old Athenian's daughter again. ☐

Timon suggests that Ventidius would be a better match for the Old Athenian's daughter. ☐

Timon proposes to give Lucilius enough money to match the wealth the Old Athenian intends to give to his daughter. ☐

Question 2

(20 marks)

Imagine you are presenting Timon with a *Person of the Year Award*. Based on what you have read in the above extract write the presentation speech you would deliver to highlight his qualities.

Optional Rough Work

Question 3

(20 marks)

Study the pictures below showing scenes from two different stage productions of *Timon of Athens* and answer the questions that follow.

Picture A



Picture B



- (a) If you were directing a Shakespearean play would you use traditional clothes (as in Picture **A**) or modern clothes (as in Picture **B**) for the actors' costumes? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

Optional Rough Work

- (b)** Name a character from a Shakespearean play you have studied. Make **one** suggestion for this character's costume that you think would reflect something important about this character to the audience. Explain your suggestion.

Title of play:
Name of character:

Optional Rough Work

Question 4

(25 marks)

(a) Using a play **or** a novel you have studied, describe one key moment when a strong relationship is apparent between two characters.

Title of play or novel:
Name of playwright or author:

Optional Rough Work

(b) Do you think both of the characters benefitted equally from this relationship? Explain your answer using your chosen text as support.

Optional Rough Work

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

Suggested time for Section B: 30 minutes

Read this passage from *The World's Greatest Teen Detective* by Derek Landy and answer the questions that follow.

Evan Pearse is only fifteen but he has a remarkable ability to solve puzzles. When the local Garda station is ransacked and burgled, Evan is called in to help.



Detective Inspector Dempsey stood in the middle of Rush Garda Station, drank his coffee and waited to be hit by a sudden bolt of keen insight. This morning, like every other morning, keen insight failed to strike.

Annie walked over, her steady footfall disturbing not one sheet of paper on the floor, not one overturned chair or trashed computer screen.

'He's here,' she said.

Annie went off to document the damage, and Evan Pearse shuffled in. Dempsey relaxed at the sight of the boy. Fifteen years old, yet to reach his growth spurt and sporting a delicate array of spots across his chin, Evan surveyed the scene with a lack of interest.

'Evan,' Dempsey said warmly, 'good of you to come.'

'Mum made me.' Evan's tone was sullen. He was in one of *those* moods.

'Oh,' said Dempsey.

'I was playing X-Box. I was on a record-breaking streak.'

Dempsey checked his watch. 'I didn't think you got up this early.'

'Haven't been to bed yet. Don't want to sleep.'

'Right ...'

'I'm doing my best not to blink.'

'Well, we all appreciate you coming out here to help.'

Evan grunted, shoved his hands in his pockets.

'Did your mother tell you what happened?' Dempsey asked.

'Only thing she ever tells me is to tidy my room. I need to move out, get my own place.'

Dempsey frowned. 'You're fifteen.'

Evan rolled his eyes. 'Whatever. What happened here?'

Dempsey shouted, 'Annie, do me a favour? Find out if anything else happened in town last night. Break-ins, thefts...'

'Sure,' Annie said, and flashed Evan a smile. Evan blushed madly and turned away, then froze. His head tilted. He looked at the floor.

'What is it?' asked Dempsey.

'Sand.'

'Seriously? How did you see that?'

'Just did. My eyes aren't dried out from old age.'

'Again, Evan. I'm thirty-five.'

Question 5

(20 marks)

Do you agree that Derek Landy makes effective use of dialogue in this passage? Support your answer with reference to the passage.

Optional Rough Work

Question 6

(25 marks)

Imagine the writer wanted to continue this passage by adding another descriptive paragraph, giving the reader a more detailed impression of Detective Inspector Dempsey. Based on your reading of the passage, write a **paragraph** describing Dempsey, that would be in keeping with the style of this passage. You may include dialogue in your text.

Optional Rough Work

Suggested time for Section C: 40 minutes

Read the following passage from *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

In this extract, a young boy, Pip, has an unexpected encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard.

“Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the church porch. “Keep still, you little devil, or I’ll cut your throat!”

A fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron shackle on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars; who limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.

“Oh! Don’t cut my throat, sir,” I pleaded in terror. “Pray don’t do it, sir.”

“Tell us your name!” said the man. “Quick!”

“Pip, sir.”

Question 7

(20 marks)

How does Dickens use language to make the man a threatening character in this passage? Support your answer with reference to at least **two** examples from the text.

Question 8

(20 marks)

‘Interesting interactions create interesting poems.’

Choose a poem you have studied where the poet captures an interesting interaction between people, or, between people and the world around them.

Title of the poem:
Name of the poet:

- (a)** Describe the interesting interaction that the poet captures in your chosen poem. Support your response with reference to the poem.

Optional rough work

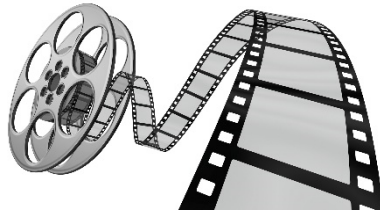
- (b) Discuss **one** poetic technique used by the poet to make it an interesting interaction. Refer to the poem to support your response.

Optional rough work

Question 9

(20 marks)

Describe a scene in the film that you studied that has a powerful atmosphere and outline the ways in which the film makers created that atmosphere.



Name of the film:

Optional rough work

[illegible]

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

Page 3: attpac.org
Page 8: bbcshakespeare.blogspot.ie; Geraint-Lewis photoshelter.com
Page 15: clipartmag.com
Page 24: <https://pxhere.com/en/photo/1566355>

Texts

Page 3: Shakespeare, William. *Timon of Athens*. London, Sygnet Classic, 1965.
Page 15: Landy, Derek. *The World’s Greatest Teen Detective*, Colfer, Eoin, (compiler). Once Upon a Place, Dublin, Little Island Books, 2015.
Page 19: Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*, London, Penguin Popular Classics, 1994.

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