



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle Final Examination 2025

English

Higher Level

Wednesday 4 June Morning 9:30 – 11:30

180 marks

Examination Number

----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Date of Birth

		/			/		
----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------	---	----------------------	----------------------

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

Centre Stamp

The theme of this examination paper is

Perception

Instructions

There are **four** sections in this examination paper.

Section A	Appreciating language	45 marks	3 questions
Section B	Writing to explain and comment	40 marks	2 questions
Section C	Appreciation of character, setting and story	40 marks	2 questions
Section D	Listening and writing with imaginative purpose	55 marks	3 questions

Answer all **ten** questions and all parts of each question.

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

You should spend about 30 minutes on Section A, 30 minutes on Section B, 25 minutes on Section C and 30 minutes on Section D.

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

Write your answers in the spaces 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: 30 minutes

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

Snow Story

If I had one wish it would be
to have been born two or three
hundred years earlier in Japan.

I'd adopt a new name:
Banana Tree or Blue Ink Pot,
or even Cup of Tea

and talk to crickets and swallows
knowing that the Milky Way
was reflected in their eyes, too.

I might take to the road,
the one to the Deep North
or live in seclusion complaining of too many visitors.

I would study how a tree
stands for itself and nothing else
and try to learn from it.

I'd teach important things
like *ideograms, meaning "polite frog"
or "snail climbing Mount Fuji"

and on my wanderings fix my broken sandal thongs
or tears in my knapsack,
listening to the small songs of the insects.

At the end of my life I might find myself alone
living in a grain store with snow
falling through holes in the roof.

By Eva Bourke

* Ideogram – A sign or symbol that can be used to represent a particular word/idea. The ideogram on this page can represent snow.



Question 1

(10 marks)

In this poem, the speaker is reflecting on her life and wishing she lived in a simpler time. Which part of her reflection do you find most interesting? Explain your choice.

Optional Rough Work

Question 2

(15 marks)

Identify the following three terms as they are used in the poem. Explain how the use of each impacted your understanding of the poem.

- Tone
- Enjambment / run-on lines
- Symbolism

Optional Rough Work

Question 3**(20 marks)**

Select any **two** poems you have studied as part of your course. Outline how each poem gave you a broader understanding of the world. You may not use the poem on page 3.



Optional Rough Work

Name of poem 1:

Name of poet:

Name of poem 2:

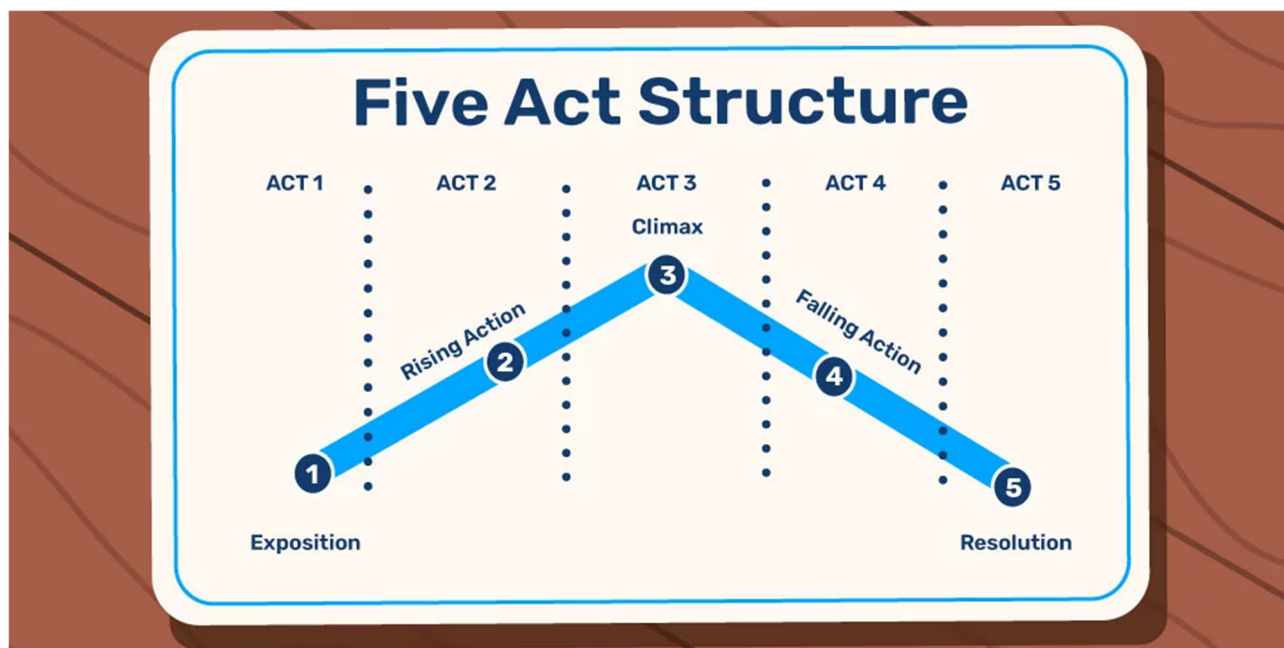
Name of poet:

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

Suggested time for Section B: 30 minutes

Consider the graphic below and read the following overview of the structure of Shakespeare's plays. Then answer the questions that follow.

Shakespeare's plays broadly follow the same five-act structure:



Act 1: Exposition – Typically a central protagonist begins to take action to change the world they are in and begin their journey of self-discovery.

Act 2: Rising Action – It is common for complications to arise, or for the protagonist to encounter obstacles.

Act 3: Climax – This is the turning point of the play. The climax typically has the greatest amount of suspense.

Act 4: Falling Action – The protagonist's struggles are often resolved, and the audience can begin to see the consequences of the protagonist's actions.

Act 5: Resolution – The author's opinion about the subject matter is revealed, and sometimes a moral or lesson is learned.

Question 4

(15 marks)

Plays are often most enjoyable because of their moments of suspense. Select a specific moment of suspense from the Shakespearean play you have studied from the prescribed list. Describe this moment and explain why this moment has a sense of suspense.

Optional Rough Work

Name of the play:

Question 5

(25 marks)

Based on the same play, reflect on the **resolution** of the play (see page 10). What is the moral or lesson an audience might learn from the resolution? Support your answer with reference to the text.

Optional Rough Work

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

Section C**Appreciation of character, setting and story****40 marks****Suggested time for Section C: 25 minutes****Question 6****(25 marks)**

Choosing a central character from **either** a film or novel you studied from the prescribed list, write a short essay on how your perspective (opinion) of this character developed as you studied the text.

Your essay may use whatever points you feel relevant but may include reference to:

- key decisions this character makes
- dialogue from this character
- how this character interacts with other characters.

Film/Novel:
Central character:

Optional Rough Work

[illegible]

Question 7**(15 marks)**

Using a short story that you have studied, outline how the setting has a vital influence on a character's actions.



Optional Rough Work

Name of the short story:

Author:

[illegible]

Suggested time for Section D: 30 minutes

Femi Bankole and Leon Diop host *The Black & Irish Podcast*. On this episode of the podcast they are talking to Nigerian-born and Dublin-based writer, actor and director Derek Ugochukwu.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.

**Adapted Extract:**

Leon: From your experience of someone who has come to Ireland quite recently ... for any kind of, like, aspiring writer/actor/director, what would be your advice to them?

Derek: Know your voice. You know ... you know, don't be fazed by a lot of pressure in the industry ... the not knowing. The whole identity thing of not knowing how to fit in. Just know what it is you want to say.

And train. Train. That way when you get good, people will know you for the quality of the work you do. No one is going to come to your bedroom with a script and say 'come act'. No. They want to see that you are trained. Just because we are looking for diverse people doesn't mean like ... you know? We want to be top of our game ... we want to set the bar high, just so we cannot be ignored.

Question 8

(15 Marks)

Based on the interview to this point, what question could Leon ask next? Write the question and explain your choice.

Optional Rough Work

Question 9**(15 marks)**

You have been asked by the RTÉ media department to write a short and creative social media post, advertising this podcast. The post will be accompanied by a link to the episode and the picture of Derek Ugochukwu (below). The social media post should aim to:

- attract people to listen to the podcast
- get reposts from other social media users.

Write the text of the post below.



Optional Rough Work

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

Question 10

(25 marks)

The extract below comes from the graphic novel *Global* by Eoin Colfer, Andrew Donkin and Giovanni Rigano. Inspired by the visual and written information supplied in the graphic novel extract, write a diary entry from this character's perspective just after this moment.



Optional Rough Work

Diary entry

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

[illegible]

Acknowledgements

Image credits

p.3 <https://kanji-symbol.net/2011/snow-2/>

p.7 <https://copilot.microsoft.com/images/create>

p.10 <https://bookbird.io/story-structures/#Five-Act-Structure>

p.19 <https://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2017/05/29/short-story-a-whole-new-world.html>

p. 22 <https://www.rte.ie/radio/podcasts/series/33229-black-irish/>

p.24 <https://www.screendaily.com/features/rising-stars-ireland-2023-derek-ugochukwu-writer/director/5179094.article>

p.26 https://www.amazon.co.uk/Global-Eoin-Colfer/dp/1444951912/ref=asc_df_1444951912/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=649692225117&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=5064392978476722982&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9040157&hvtargid=pla-1733006588817&psc=1&th=1&psc=1

Text credits

p.3 <https://thegalwayreview.com/2016/11/18/1473/>

p.10 <https://www.storyboardthat.com/articles/e/five-act-structure>

p.22 <https://www.rte.ie/radio/podcasts/22219766-film-industry-profile-derek-ugochukwu/>

p.26 https://www.amazon.co.uk/Global-Eoin-Colfer/dp/1444951912/ref=asc_df_1444951912/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=649692225117&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=5064392978476722982&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9040157&hvtargid=pla-1733006588817&psc=1&th=1&psc=1

Material may have been adapted, for the purpose of assessment, without the authors' prior consent.

Do not write on this page

Copyright notice

This examination paper may contain text or images for which the State Examinations Commission is not the copyright owner, and which may have been adapted, for the purpose of assessment, without the authors' prior consent. This examination paper has been prepared in accordance with Section 53(5) of the *Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000*. Any subsequent use for a purpose other than the intended purpose is not authorised. The Commission does not accept liability for any infringement of third-party rights arising from unauthorised distribution or use of this examination paper.

Junior Cycle Final Examination – Higher Level

English

Wednesday 4 June

Morning 9:30 – 11:30