Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Junior Cycle 2018
Final Examination
English

Ordinary Level
Wednesday, 6 June – Morning 9:30 to 11:30
180 marks

Examination Number				

Centre Stamp

Cumulative total	
Note: The mark above must equal the mark awarded in the **Total** box.	

For the Examiner only			
Section	Question	Examiner	Adv.
A	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
B	5.		
	6.		
	7.		
	8.		
C	9.		
	10.		
	11.		
	12.		
D	13.		
	14.		
Assessment Task	AT		
Total			

The theme for this examination paper is

Freedom

Instructions

There are four sections in this examination paper.

Section A	Responding to Poetry	40 marks	4 questions
Section B	Reading and Responding Imaginatively	65 marks	4 questions
Section C	Writing for a Variety of Purposes	40 marks	4 questions
Section D	Understanding Key Moments in Drama	35 marks	2 questions

Answer all 14 questions.

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, 35 minutes on Section B, 30 minutes on Section C and 20 minutes on Section D.

When answering on studied material, you must use texts in line with what is prescribed for 2018.

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.

Section A — Responding to Poetry — 40 marks

Suggested time for Section A: 30 minutes

Read this poem carefully and answer the following questions based on it.

Getting Dressed



Whose idea was it
And why do we all play along
pretending that having fun
is doing something wrong?

I watch my daughter dress at weekends
her five year old wardrobe grab.
She comes out of her bedroom
in a glittered dress and swimming cap
a pair of reindeered Christmas tights
star sunglasses on her beaming face

I'm in a plain t-shirt and jeans again.
I'm the caged* one.
She is sane.

* Trapped

By Hollie McNish

Question 1 **5 marks**

In the poem, what is the difference between the way that the poet dresses and the way that her daughter dresses?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 2 **5 marks**

Why do you think the poet feels 'caged'? Explain your answer.

Question 3 **10 marks**

Do you think that young people today are free to dress as they wish? Explain your point of view.

Optional rough work

Question 4 **20 marks**

Choose a poem you have studied where the poet expresses a strong feeling about something he or she has experienced. You may not use the poem printed on this paper.

Optional rough work

(a) Title of poem: _____

(b) Name of poet: _____

(c) What was the poet feeling?

(d) Why do you think the poet was feeling that way?

(e) Did you think the poet had chosen a good title for his or her poem? Give a reason for your answer.

(f) Did you like or dislike the poem you have chosen? Explain your answer.

Additional Writing Space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Section B Reading and Responding Imaginatively 65 marks

Suggested time for Section B: 35 minutes

Read the following extract from Michael Morpurgo's short story, *I Believe in Unicorns* and answer the questions.



My name is Tomas Porec. I was seven years old when I first met the unicorn lady. I believed in unicorns then. I am nearly twenty now and because of her I still believe in unicorns.

My little town, hidden deep in its own valley, was an ordinary place. But when I was seven it was a place of magic and wonder to me. I tobogganed the slopes in winter and swam in the lake in the summer.

I never did like school though. It wasn't the school's fault, nor the teachers'. I longed always to be outside, running free up in the hills. I loved my free time. As soon as school was over, it was back home for some bread and honey – then off out to play.

But one afternoon my mother wanted to do some shopping in town and asked me to go with her.
"I hate shopping," I told her.
"I know that, dear," she said. "That's why I'm taking you to the library. It'll be good for you. There's a new librarian and she tells stories after school. Everyone says she's brilliant."
My mother walked me up the steps into the library. "Be good," she said and she was gone.

I could see an excited huddle of children, jostling to get a better look at something. It was a unicorn, carved out of wood and painted white. He was so lifelike that if he'd got up and trotted off I wouldn't have been at all surprised. Beside the unicorn stood a lady with a smiling face, a bright flowery scarf around her shoulders. She sat down slowly on the unicorn, folded her hands in her lap and she told a story. I wanted to hear her, everyone did, because every word she spoke sounded true. After she had finished no one spoke.

Then a hand went up. It was a small boy from my school, Milos with the sticky-up hair. "Can I read a story, miss?" he asked. So, sitting on the unicorn he read us his story. One after another, they wanted their turn on the magical unicorn. I longed to have a go myself, but I didn't dare. I was afraid of making a fool of myself. The hour flew by.

One afternoon the unicorn lady took out from her bag a rather old and damaged-looking book, all charred at the edges. It was, she told us, her very own copy of *The Little Match Girl* by Hans Christian Andersen. "Why has it been burnt?" I asked her.

"This is the most precious book I have, Tomas," she said. "When I was very little there were wicked soldiers in my town who were frightened of the magic of stories, because stories make you think and dream; books make you want to ask questions. And they didn't want that. One night I was with my father watching them burn a great pile of books, when suddenly my father ran forward and plucked a book out of the bonfire. The soldiers beat him but he held on to the book and wouldn't let go of it. It was this book. Tomas, would you like to come and sit on the unicorn and read it to us?"

I had never been any good at reading out loud. But now, sitting on the magic unicorn, I heard my voice strong and loud. It was like singing a song. The words danced on the air and everyone listened.

Question 5 **20 marks**

Base your answers on the text printed above. Place a tick ✓ in the box beside the correct answer. Tick one box only in each case.

(a) What age does the narrator Tomas tell the reader that he is now?

nineteen	☐
twenty	☐
twenty-one	☐
thirty	☐

(b) Why did Tomas not like school?

He didn't like reading.	☐
He always wanted to be outside.	☐
He had no friends there.	☐
The teachers were not nice.	☐

(c) Which of the following statements is false?

Tomas's mother left him at the library because she thought it was good for him. ☐

Tomas's mother left him at the library because she wanted to go shopping. ☐

Tomas's mother left him at the library to do his homework. ☐

Tomas's mother left him at the library to hear the unicorn lady's stories. ☐

(d) Why was Tomas frightened to read a story while sitting on the magic unicorn?

He was scared of the unicorn lady. ☐

He was afraid of making a fool of himself. ☐

He thought that storytelling was just for younger children. ☐

He was too busy tobogganing. ☐

Question 6 **10 marks**

Why do you think *The Little Match Girl* was the unicorn lady's most precious book? Explain your answer.

Question 7 **10 marks**

Tomas tells us that he loved his free time. Explain how you like to spend your free time.

Optional rough work



Question 8 **25 marks**

Read parts (c), (d), (e) and (f) below and then choose a novel or a short story you have studied.

(a) Name of novel or short story: _____

(b) Author: _____

Optional rough work

(c) If you could ask a character from your chosen text an interesting question about something he or she did, what would the question be?

Name of character: _____

What is the interesting question you would ask?

_____

_____

_____

(d) What answer do you think the character would give? You may answer as the character.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(e) Would you like to have this character as a friend? Give a reason for your answer.

(f) If you could add a completely new character to the novel or short story you have chosen, what would that character be like and what would he or she do? Explain your answer.

Additional Writing Space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Section C — Writing for a Variety of Purposes — 40 marks

Suggested time for Section C: 30 minutes



Optional rough work

Question 9 **10 marks**

Study the advertisement for camping equipment shown above. Why do you think the phrase *ENJOY FREEDOM* is used in this advertisement? Explain your answer.

Question 10 **10 marks**

Picture A and Picture B show people enjoying two different types of freedom. Write a descriptive paragraph based on **one** of the two pictures below.

Picture A



Picture B



Optional rough work

Descriptive paragraph for Picture: ___

Question 11 **15 marks**

You and your classmates are going to travel along part of *The Wild Atlantic Way** next weekend. You all meet at break time to try to decide whether to camp or to stay in hotels. You know what you would prefer to do. Write out the talk you would give to persuade your classmates to agree with you.



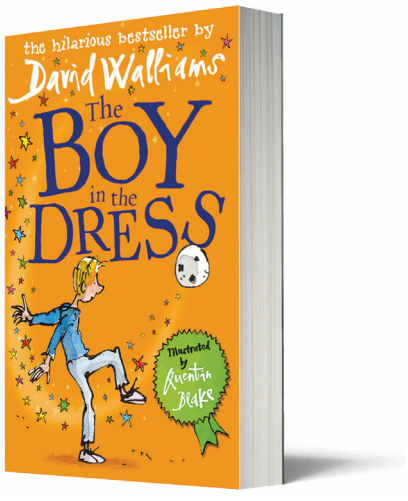
Optional rough work

**The Wild Atlantic Way* is a route along the west coast of Ireland that is popular with tourists.

Question 12 **5 marks**

Rewrite the following passage adding capital letters, full stops and inverted commas where necessary.

david walliams published his first book, The Boy in the Dress in 2008 Since then he has written many more books, some of which were illustrated by quentin blake



Additional Writing Space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

Section D Understanding Key Moments in Drama 35 marks

Suggested time for Section D: 20 minutes

Question 13 **20 marks**

Choose a moment in a play you have studied when something important happens.

(a) Title of play: _____

(b) Name of playwright: _____

Optional rough work

(c) What happens at your chosen moment? Give your answer in one sentence.

_____

_____

_____

(d) Why is it important? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(e) Imagine you are directing a performance of the play and you have the freedom to stage your chosen moment in any way you like. Explain what you would do to make the moment interesting for the audience.

Optional rough work

Question 14 **15 marks**

You are writing a play called '*Freedom*'. Write a conversation that takes place in the opening scene of the play, featuring the characters from **one** of the pictures below. In the conversation your characters should discuss how they would like to enjoy the freedom of summer.

Picture A



Picture B



Picture C



Optional rough work

Conversation for picture: ___

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Additional Writing Space. Label all work clearly with the question number and part.

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Acknowledgements

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Texts
Morpurgo, Michael. *I Believe in Unicorns.* London: Walker Books, 2006.
McNish, Hollie. "Getting Dressed" www.holliepoetry.com (29/2/16)

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Junior Cycle Final Examination – Ordinary Level

English

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