



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2020

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 200

Duration: 2 hours 50 minutes

- This paper is divided into two sections, Section I COMPREHENDING and Section II COMPOSING.
- The paper contains **three** texts on the general theme of **TRAVEL**.
- 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

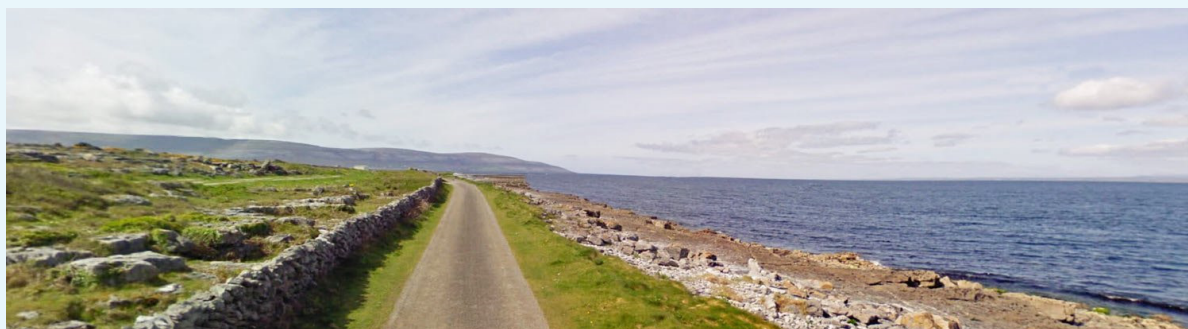
- Two questions, A and B, follow each text.
- Candidates must answer a Question A on one text and a Question B on a different text. Candidates must answer only one Question A and only one Question B.
- **N.B.** Candidates may NOT answer a Question A and a Question B on the same text.

SECTION II – COMPOSING

- Candidates must write on **one** of the compositions 1 – 7.

TEXT 1 – TRAVELLING IN CLARE

This text is adapted from an article by John G O' Dwyer which appeared in the *On the Move* series in the *Irish Times*. It is about a walking trip by the Flaggy Shore in County Clare.



1. There is something about the Burren that draws me again and again, for no matter how often I come there are invariably new attractions to explore. Today I am heading for the north coast of Clare and a tiny peninsula that I have never visited before. A person who did visit was Seamus Heaney, who wrote about his experience and encouraged others to follow in his poem, "Postscript":

"And some time make the time to drive out west

Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,
In September or October, when the wind
And the light are working off each other..."

When I arrive to do the poet's bidding it is not autumn but winter, and the wind and light aren't working off each other. A sea mist sits heavy over the Flaggy Shore, which could, at that moment, be more accurately described as the foggy shore.

2. Fear not, I have a plan B for such an eventuality: a retreat to the nearby chocolate factory, where I while away fog time with a delicious warm drinking chocolate. As I set off on my ramble, the mist retreats, and a sliver of golden sunshine lights the ocean. Now I can observe the extraordinary landscape that was born in the bed of a warm ocean over 300 million years ago

when Ireland was located near the equator. This teemed with life and gradually the shell, bone and plant remains were deposited along with the sediments on the seabed. Over millions of years these hardened into limestone pavements, which moved north as the great landmasses disintegrated. The evidence of this journey is now written by fossils embedded within the rocks that litter the shoreline to my right.

3. I pass a sign for Mount Vernon House, the summer home of renowned playwright Lady Augusta Gregory. Her literary friends Shaw and Yeats visited here, and found inspiration for some of their finest works between the sea and the sky. This place also inspired Seamus Heaney, who famously observed a slate grey lake:

"... lit, By the earthed light of a flock of swans".

Sure enough, the fresh waters of Lough Murree soon come into view with an obliging bevy of the purist white swans, nonchalantly nourishing from grey tinted waters.

4. Onwards, then, by the lakeshore to reach a junction where I take the left option towards Finavarra Point. Here a stout Martello tower was constructed as a defensive structure at a time when there was

widespread fear that Napoleon, a small man with a very large hat, was about to invade Ireland. Yet Napoleon's army never did make it to Clare, with the result that, now without purpose, the tower is locked into a vacant stare towards the handsome hills of the north Burren. Retracing my steps from Finavarra, I enjoy superb views of the Burren's finest hills. Back at my starting point, the open fire of a local pub beckons irresistibly. I dive in and enjoy thick seafood chowder, followed by steaming coffee. Relaxed, I then watch through the great

windows as the languid evening sun goes down on Galway Bay.

5. Flaggy Shore Walk Information

Start point: the harbour, Newquay, Co Clare, which lies due north on the N67 between Lisdoonvarna and Kinvarra.

Suitability: easy 9km outing using minor roads and country lanes, with virtually no climbing required.

Time: two hours

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

Question A – 50 Marks

- (i) Based on your reading of TEXT 1, what impression do you form of the writer, John G. O'Dwyer? Make three points in your response, supporting your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Which **two** of the following terms would you choose to describe John G. O'Dwyer's writing about his trip to the Flaggy Shore? Descriptive Informative Entertaining.
Explain your choice, supporting your response with reference to the text. (15)
- (iii) (a) Based on what you have learned from TEXT 1 above, would you like to visit the Flaggy Shore? Explain your answer with reference to Text 1. (10)
- (b) Recommend **one** place in Ireland, other than the Flaggy Shore, that you think tourists should visit when they come to Ireland. Give reasons explaining why you think tourists should visit this location. (10)

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

Question B – 50 Marks

You have had a good experience while travelling on public transport in Ireland because a member of staff was particularly helpful. Write **a letter** to the Customer Care Department of the transport company involved in which you: give a detailed description of when and how the staff member helped you on your journey, explain how much you appreciated this thoughtfulness, and outline how you would like to express your appreciation to the person who helped you.

TEXT 2 – TRAVELLING IN TURKEY

This text is adapted from an essay by Alice Waters from a collection of travel writing entitled, *The Kindness of Strangers*. It gives an account of her youthful adventures in Turkey.

1. I have told this story many, many times. It was in my early twenties. It was the summer after I completed Montessori training in London and I had decided I was going to be a teacher. I was driving across Turkey with my friend Judy Johnson in a beat-up Morris Minor. A couple of friendly young Frenchmen were covering the same route, shadowing us in another car. They were both named Jean-something, I think. None of us spoke Turkish. Actually, none of us knew much about Turks or Turkish history. We were just curious and trying to be polite.

2. God knows they were polite to us! Much more than polite, in fact. The Turks were hospitable in every way. They gave us the very best of everything they had. Once, I'll never forget, when we were camping out in the countryside near some goatherds, we woke up in the morning to find that a bowl of fresh goat's milk had been slipped under the door-flap of our little tent while we slept. This is how we were treated everywhere. In one village we were invited to join a wedding celebration. We all feasted and danced for three days.

3. From Turkey, we went on to Corfu where we lived for a while on practically nothing, watching the sun and the moon rising and setting over the Aegean. We ate fish fresh out of the sun-struck sea and picked fruit ripening under the brilliant sky. For the first time in my life, I fully was part of the natural rhythm of a place, and life itself seemed entirely worth living.

4. But the story I started out to tell happened on the way to the Turkish town of Cappadocia. This was over thirty years ago, but there were drivable roads all the way. It was not a particularly out-of-the-way or adventurous destination, but even so, this

was long before *Star Wars* was filmed there. The road was long, hot, dusty, little-trafficked and very sparsely populated.

5. And then we ran out of petrol. Or at any rate, the tank was so low that we could not safely go any farther, so we pulled up at the only petrol station for miles and miles. There was a petrol pump, and a little building and an oil company sign. The Frenchmen pulled in behind us after a few minutes and their tank was low too. A shy, big-eyed boy appeared, nine or ten years old and wearing an embroidered cap, and he mimed that there was no petrol to pump. And we mimed that we supposed we would have to wait. Would that be all right? There was petrol on the way, wasn't there? Then, fingers pointing to mouth, where could we get something to eat?

6. This is the part of the story I have to act out to make you understand Solemnly the boy leads us indoors and into a backroom. There are benches against the wall which are covered with beautiful old rugs, a portable heater in the corner made out of an old petrol can, birdcages hanging from the low ceiling, and a baby brother. Clearly the parents are away and the big brother has been left behind to baby-sit and turn away customers, and to offer the typical hospitality of rural Turkey.

7. The boy builds a fire out of pine cones, puts on a kettle and makes us tea. Then he produces a small piece of cheese and carefully cuts it into even smaller pieces, which he offers us with great seriousness. We drink the tea and eat the tiny pieces of dry cheese. And that's all that happens in this story. Selfishly, we asked if there was anything else to eat, and there wasn't, and we waited for hours and hours, wondering

if the parents would ever come back.
I remember sleeping on the carpeted bench.
We eventually flagged down a passing
trucker and persuaded him to share some
of his petrol so we could drive on.

8. But in the important part of
the story, all that happens is the
birdcages hang from the ceiling and
the boy makes us tea and thoughtfully
shares his humble lunch. We realise he
is giving us everything he has, and he
has done this with absolutely no
expectation of anything in return.
That's all. A small miracle of trust and a
lesson in hospitality that changed my life
forever.



Walking tour in Cappadocia, Turkey

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

Question A – 50 Marks

- (i) Based on your reading of TEXT 2, what impression do you form of the writer, Alice, and her travelling companions? Make three points in your response, supporting your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Which **two** of the following terms would you choose to describe Alice Waters' writing about her travels? Descriptive Informative Entertaining.
Explain your choice, supporting your response with reference to the text. (15)
- (iii) (a) Based on what you have learned from TEXT 2 above, would you like to visit the places identified in the text? Explain your answer with reference to TEXT 2. (10)
- (b) Recommend **one** place in Ireland, (other than the Flaggy Shore, featured in TEXT 1), that you think tourists should visit when they come to Ireland. Give reasons explaining why you think tourists should visit this location. (10)

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

Question B – 50 Marks

Imagine you won a competition run by your local radio station. The prize was a ticket for an inter-railing holiday, travelling by train across several European countries of your choice. After you return home you are invited to give a talk about your travels on the radio. Write **the text of the talk** you would give to the listeners in which you: describe how you felt on the night before you left on your journey, tell listeners about some of your adventures, and explain how you have benefitted from the experience.

TEXT 3 – TRAVELLING IN THE ARCTIC

This text is based on edited extracts from a collection of writing by A.A. Gill, entitled *A.A. Gill is Further Away*. In the text the writer shares highlights of his trip to Svalbard.



1. The cold places of the world are disappearing. The heat is winning. The frozen lands are retreating, melting before our eyes. We need to feel the intense cold while stocks last. So when someone asked, did I want to go to the Arctic, specifically to Svalbard, I said yes, absolutely yes. I happened to bump into Sir David Attenborough. 'I'm going to Svalbard,' I said, and instead of glowing enthusiastically, a shadow of alarm crossed his familiar face.

'Really?' he whispered. 'It's very cold. Very, very cold. Why are you going there?'

'To look for polar bears,' I answered, like a perky Cub Scout.

His eyebrow twitched: 'Polar bears are dangerous, you know, really quite dangerous. And the thing about extreme cold is everything is fine until it's not. You walk along and it's okay, but lose a glove and you'll lose your hand.'

2. I discovered that going to a frozen land is all about the kit. The lists, the on-line hunting, the finding, the ordering, the unpacking, the trying on. The kit in the corner of my office grows and grows like a glacier of wool and feathers, Gore-Tex and Velcro. Eventually I packed all of my gear into my new waterproof bag and staggered to Heathrow airport.

3. Svalbard is a Norwegian word which means 'cold coast'. When the Norwegians call something cold, it's not just chilly. This is the furthest north anyone lives permanently. It is 78 degrees north – the pole is 90 degrees. Above us there are only a few seals, walruses and a couple of hunters. Svalbard is too extreme even for Eskimos. Before the 1920s, when Norway gained control of the area, this had been no-man's-land, visited only by whalers and explorers. Svalbard is the end of the line at the edge of the habitable world. For me it's more exciting than a month of white Christmases. I lie in my little hotel room and stare out at the blinking northern sky, sleepless with anticipation.

4. The next day we are taught how to get dressed. This is what I had to get into to go out: two pairs of long-johns, both merino wool; one thin merino vest; one waffled wicking T-shirt; one zip-up thick wool jersey; two pairs of woolen socks; one pair of ski tights; one pair of regular trousers; one pair of down-filled waterproof over-trousers; a down waistcoat; a down parka with a tunnel hood and fur trim; a pair of boots the size of two garden sheds, with silver thermal inner slippers; two balaclavas; silk inner gloves and huge mittens on a string, like I had in primary school. Finally a hat made out of sea-otter skin with fox-fur flaps, and sunglasses so dark it's illegal to drive in them. But I only have to do it once. For the next week most of this stays on. In the Arctic, nobody can smell you. Except the polar bears.

5. We get our snowmobiles, which are motorbikes on skis. Though easier to drive than a shopping trolley, they are difficult to steer and flip over easily. The locals speed along with their rifles in holsters at their sides

You're not allowed to leave town without a gun because of the threat of attack from Polar bears. The day is blue and white. The air sparkles with the diamond dust of fine ice crystals. We speed through the long valley out of town into the wilderness. Even the faintest sliver of exposed skin would be frostbitten in minutes. I discover with joy that the mittens I tracked down on an Alaskan website, and which look like black crab claws, keep my hands constantly warm. Everyone else has to count their fingers.

6. We stop on a frozen seashore, boulders of wind-scarred ice caught in a freeze-framed ocean. This is a place of solemn grandeur. We get off our machines and the world is suddenly still and silent, but we are not quite alone. At our feet are tracks – crisp and sharp and not yet smudged by the wind. Polar bear. They are huge. I place my

black cartoon hand in one. In the huge print my hand looks like a child's. This foot is the size of a hubcap. The Norwegians pull out their rifles. You can sense the silent padding, imagine the swaying head. A polar bear can smell a human from fifteen miles away.



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

Question A – 50 Marks

- (i) Based on your reading of TEXT 3, what impression do you form of the writer, A.A. Gill? Make three points in your response, supporting your answer with reference to the text. (15)
- (ii) Which **two** of the following terms would you choose to describe A.A. Gill's writing about his trip to the Arctic? Descriptive Informative Entertaining.
Explain your choice, supporting your response with reference to the text. (15)
- (iii) (a) Based on what you have learned from TEXT 3 above, would you like to visit Svalbard? Explain your answer with reference to TEXT 3. (10)
- (b) Recommend **one** place in Ireland, (other than the Flaggy Shore, featured in TEXT 1), that you think tourists should visit when they come to Ireland. Give reasons explaining why you think tourists should visit this location. (10)

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

Question B – 50 Marks

You own a holiday company called Arctic Adventures which offers trips to Svalbard, a location featured in TEXT 3 above. Write **the text for a promotional leaflet** in which you describe the types of holidays offered by your company, explain the various activities available, and outline the extensive safety measures in place. The leaflet should include various contact details to facilitate bookings.

SECTION II

COMPOSING

(100 marks)

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. TEXTS 1, 2 and 3 all deal with the theme of travel.

Write a short story in which a character finds a time machine and uses it to travel back to witness, or participate in, an interesting moment in Ireland's past. Your story may be serious or humorous or both.

2. All of the places the writers travel to in TEXTS 1, 2 and 3 are located on planet Earth.

Write a personal essay in which you discuss whether or not you find the idea of travelling to distant stars and planets appealing and explain why you would or would not be prepared to undertake such a journey.

3. In TEXT 3, we learn about A.A. Gill's trip to Svalbard to look for Polar bears.

Imagine you are with A.A. Gill on the trip to the Arctic described in TEXT 3. Inspired by TEXT 3, write three diary entries in which you describe your adventures and reflect on your experiences while on the trip.

4. In TEXT 2, Alice and her friends are treated with friendliness, generosity and hospitality.

Write a personal essay about your own experiences of friendliness, generosity and hospitality.

5. In TEXT 1, we read how Lady Gregory was visited by her famous friends, Shaw and Yeats, at her home in County Clare.

Write a short story in which the close friendship between two life-long friends comes under pressure when one of the friends becomes rich and famous.

6. In TEXTS 1, 2, and 3, we encounter various writers on their travels.

Write an article, to be published in a travel magazine, in which you celebrate the joys of travelling, consider what we can gain from experiencing other cultures, and urge people to be considerate both of others and of the planet while on their travels.

7. In TEXT 2, we read about Alice Waters' experiences of meeting other young people while on her travels.

Imagine you are part of a school exchange trip to Turkey. You have been asked to give a talk to the students in the Turkish school in which you explain what normal everyday life is like for people of your age in Ireland. Write the text of the talk you would deliver.

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Acknowledgements

Images and texts that appear on this examination paper were sourced as follows:

Text 1 <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/travel/walk-for-the-weekend-flaggy-shore-walk-co-clare-1.4168586>
Image: <https://www.wildatlanticwayonline.com/clare-limerick-wild-atlantic-way/discovery-points/flaggy-shore/>

TEXT 2: D. George (Ed.), *The Kindness of Strangers*, Lonely Planet Publications, 2008
Image: <http://turkeytourstravel.com/en/turkey-tours/cappadocia-tours/daily-cappadocia-tour-772.html>

Text 3: A.A. Gill, *A.A. Gill is Further Away* Kindle Edition Weidenfeld & Nicolson; UK ed. edition (2011)
Image 1: <https://en.visitsvalbard.com/visitor-information/activity-providers/better-moments>
Image 2: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-7769221/Discovering-Svalbard-Norway-polar-bears-outnumber-people.html>

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Leaving Certificate – Ordinary Level

English

2 hours 50 minutes