



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission**

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2014

ENGLISH – FOUNDATION LEVEL

360 marks

WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE – MORNING, 9.30 to 12.00

YOU MUST ANSWER SECTIONS 1, 2, AND 3

**YOU MUST ALSO ANSWER ANY THREE OF
SECTIONS 4, 5, 6, AND 7**

**SPEND A LITTLE OVER 20 MINUTES
ON EACH SECTION**

Read this piece, adapted from *The Urban Animal, The Natural World* and then answer the questions.



A Night On The Town

1. As the sun sets and people settle down for the night, other animals emerge from their daytime hiding places. Animal sounds are easier to hear at night because there is less traffic – the hoot of an owl, the snuffling of a badger, the fluttering of a moth or the scream of a fox. Many animals find it easier to hide from their enemies in the darkness.
2. Night-time animals have keen senses, especially of hearing and smell, to help them search for food or mates and to detect danger. Badgers often visit towns for food. Badgers eat many things. They love earthworms but will also eat insects, small mammals, birds, fruit, vegetables and seeds. They have even been seen crunching glass bottles and chewing golf balls.
3. House mice can live almost anywhere. They have good eyesight and a particularly good sense of smell. They can also run fast. As well as eating our food, mice can be a problem because they spread disease and even set off burglar alarms as they patter around the house at night. However, to most city dwellers, it is the strange, blood-chilling screams of foxes in the middle of the night that are most familiar. Foxes have adapted well to city living because they are not fussy about where they live or what they eat. Some foxes are commuters, only coming into town at night to eat.
4. Bats and owls also come out at night to hunt for food. Owls hunt for the many rodents scurrying around town at night, offering them an easy meal. Bats, despite their image of mystery and strange happenings are keen to avoid their human neighbours. They prefer to roost in modern, clean houses rather than dusty and draughty old ones. They use their sensitive ears to pick up the echoes of sounds they make and this helps them to find food in the dark.

This text has been adapted from the original, for the purpose of assessment, without the author's prior consent.

A Find answers to the following questions:

1. What happens when the sun sets? (5)
2. Why are animal sounds easier to hear at night? (5)
3. Name five foods that badgers eat. (5)
4. Where do bats prefer to roost? (5)

B According to the article, why do some animals come out at night-time? (10)

C According to the article, what problems can mice cause people? (10)

D Which of the animals, do you think, is best suited to life in the city?

Give reasons for your answer. (10)

E Do you think that these animals make the city

Frightening **or** Dangerous **or** Interesting?

Give reasons for your answer. (10)

Write about one page on **ONE** of the following topics.

PICK ONLY ONE TOPIC

A The Pet Shop

B Write a story that has **all** of the following:

- Interesting characters
and
- An interesting place
and
- A surprise ending.

C The Rescue

D Boy: *You'll never get away with it. No way, never!*

Girl: *Oh yeah? Just watch me.*

Write the rest of this conversation.

E Trouble at school

F Dreams

G *I opened the door slowly, afraid of what I might find ...*

Continue this story

H Lost in the City

Answer EITHER A or B:

- A** Your cousin lives in another country and has just missed a big family party. Write a **letter** to your cousin describing the party.

In your **letter** you should:

- Tell your cousin what the party was for
- Describe where the party was held
- Describe the people at the party
- Tell your cousin what you enjoyed about the party.

OR

- B** You have been asked to write an **article** for your school's website about the day a celebrity visited your school.

In this **article** you should:

- Name the celebrity and explain why he or she is famous
- Describe the preparations made for the visit
- Explain what happened on the day
- Describe what you enjoyed about the day.

Answer ANY THREE of the Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 which follow.

SECTION 4:

FICTION

[60]

Read this piece, adapted from *Born to Run*, by Michael Morpurgo, then answer the questions.

Becky lives with her mother and stepfather Craig on a farm. They train and race greyhounds. When Becky's greyhound Alfie is hurt, Craig tells her that he has found a new home for Alfie. Later that day, Becky secretly follows Craig and discovers him putting Alfie's body into a grave.



1. Craig and her mother were in the sitting room with the TV on. To avoid them, Becky went in the back door and up the back stairs to her bedroom, where she sat on her bed to write the letter she would be leaving behind. She kept it short. She folded the letter and slipped it under her pillow. Later her mother called her down for supper. She went because she didn't want to cause suspicion, and because she was hungry, and because she didn't know when she would be eating again.
2. She tried not to look at Craig at all but their eyes did meet once, and she stared at him, telling him with that one look just how much she hated him. She hardly said a word to anyone all through the meal and afterwards went upstairs just as soon as she could. Hidden away in the bottom of her cupboard was her rucksack already packed, and all the clothes she was going to wear later that night were ready under her bed.
3. It was a long wait. When she got up she trod lightly down the stairs. It was a clear moonlit night. As she crossed the yard, she began whispering to the dogs to let them know it was her. The last thing she wanted was for them to start barking. There was a whimper or two as she let Brighteyes out of his kennel, but nothing more. She put on his coat, and then with Brighteyes on her heels, she was running up the farm track and away.
4. At the top of the hill she stopped for one last look at the farm below her. "I'm sorry Mum," she breathed. Then she hitched up her rucksack and set off down the road that would lead to wherever she was going. Where that would be she had no idea. All she knew was that she and Brighteyes were walking the road that led to the rest of the world, and they would follow wherever it went.

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- A** 1. What did Becky do when she went to her bedroom? (5)
2. What was hidden in her cupboard? (5)

B What impression do you get of Becky?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)

C "*She kept it short. She folded the letter and slipped it under her pillow.*"
Write the letter that you think Becky left behind her. (10)

D "*All she knew was that she and Brighteyes were walking the road that led to the rest of the world ...*"
Write the next ten lines of this story, describing where you think Becky and Brighteyes went and what might have happened to them. (10)

E Think about a **NOVEL** or **SHORT STORY** you have studied.

- Name the Novel **OR** Short story.
- Describe a difficult decision that the main character had to make.
- Do you think this character made the right decision?
Give reasons for your answer. (20)

Read this **POEM** and then answer the questions.

First And Last



I like to be first in the playground,
I like to stand by the tree,
I like to imagine that all this space
Belongs entirely to me.

I walk from the tree to the waste-bin,
I walk across to the hedge,
I zig-zag across to the bushes
And then I go right round the edge.

When my friends arrive in the playground,
That's when the real games begin.
But I'm not a very fast runner
So I don't often try to join in.

Sometimes they say, "Are you playing?"
As I practise bouncing my ball,
But they always ask too many people.
I'd rather stay by the wall.

And when I hear the whistle
At precisely five to nine,
And everyone rushes and pushes,
I choose to be last in the line.

I like to be last in the playground,
I take a last look around, and then,
I promise myself that tomorrow
I'll be first in the playground again.

June Crebbin

- A** 1. Where does the poet like to stand? (5)
2. What does the poet like to imagine? (5)
- B** 1. What time does the whistle go? (5)
2. Where does the poet stand in the line? (5)
- C** Which stanza did you like best in this poem? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** Imagine you are a teacher in this school. Describe what you think and feel as you watch the children playing in the playground. (10)
- E** Think about another **POEM** you have studied that you found **interesting**.
- Name the poem and the poet.
 - Describe what happens in the poem.
 - Explain what you found interesting about the poem. (20)

Read this scene, adapted from *Free* by David Grant, then answer the questions.

A second year class realises that their teacher isn't coming to class. They discuss what to do for fun during their free class.

Dan: You know that old lady in the office? The grumpy one. What's-her-name?

Liam: Mrs Dixon? She's horrible.

Gemma: What about her?

Dan: She's got a tin of biscuits. A big tin.

Silence. They look at each other confused.

Liam: **(laughing)** Ooh, she's *lucky!*

Dan: But they're not *just* biscuits... they're *The Principal's* biscuits. We should nick them. And eat them. Now that *would* be a challenge.

They are quiet as they think about it.

Lisa: **(hopefully)** Are there any... chocolate biscuits?

Dan: Hundreds of them.

Katie: But Mrs Dixon sits at that desk all day.

Dan: And that's the challenge!

Katie: And if she catches you she'll peel you, cook you and eat you alive.

Gemma: That's the challenge.

Liam: But it's just stupid. Pointless.

Dan: That's the whole point ... stupid.

Gemma: Whoa, whoa, whoa! There's nothing stupid about biscuits.

Ben: If you want to do something serious, we could start a fire.

Silence. Nervous glances from everyone.

Gemma: Is he joking?

Liam: You can never tell with Ben, can you?

Dan: So, the biscuits it is then. Next question, who?

Liam: What do you mean, who?

Dan: Who's going to go and steal the biscuits?

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- A** 1. Who is Mrs Dixon? (5)
2. Who owns the biscuits? (5)
- B** Why does the class think that stealing the biscuits is a challenge? (10)
- C** From your reading of this scene, what impression do you get of Dan?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- D** You have been asked to write the **next scene** which takes place
in the office. Dan has decided to try and steal the biscuits himself.
- Describe who is in the office and what is happening at the start of the scene.
 - Write the text of a short conversation between Dan and Mrs. Dixon.
 - Describe what happens at the end of the scene. (10)
- E** Think about a **PLAY** or a **FILM** you have studied.
- Name the play or film.
 - Describe a part of the play or film where a character did something dangerous **OR** something bad.
 - How did you feel about the character at the end of the play or film?
Give reasons for your answer. (20)

Look carefully at the magazine cover on **Page 2** of **Paper X**.

- A**
1. Name the magazine. (5)
 2. What comes free with this magazine? (5)
 3. Name **two** things you can win. (5)
 4. What issue is on sale on the 16th of January? (5)
- B** Name three of the stories that you can read about inside this magazine. (10)
- C** Look carefully at the magazine cover on **Page 2** of **Paper X**.
1. Describe the main image on the front cover of this magazine. (5)
 2. Suggest **one** other image you could use on the front cover to make it more eye-catching. (5)
- D** Who do you think would be most likely to read this magazine?
Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- E** You have been asked to design a cover for a different magazine about **animals**.
- Give your magazine a name.
 - Describe the images you would put on your magazine cover.
 - Describe two free gifts that you would offer to your readers. (10)