

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Candidates are requested to attempt ALL sections and to read carefully the instructions within each section. ALL answers are to be written on the booklet provided.

Section A: Composition

Choose **one** of the following titles and write a composition about it of about **200 words**. You are requested to pay attention to orthography, phrase and sentence construction as well as to the organisation of the composition. This section contains **40 marks**.

- a. If I were a rich man
 - b. My best friend
 - c. When I look through the window
 - d. A ghost story
 - e. An adventurous journey
 - f. Our countryside
- (40 marks)**

Section B: Comprehension

Read carefully the following extract and then answer **all** the questions that follow. This section contains **40 marks**.

I don't think that Peter and I ever really expected to meet our cousins who lived in County Cork. Of course, it had been spoken about often enough, for every few months mother said:

"We ought to make an effort to go to Ireland, or else we should ask the children to come here."

But that was always the end of it. Father only got a fortnight's holiday and we usually went to a little village on the north-east coast, three or four miles from Scarborough, to be near our grandparents – father's father and mother.

Mother's sister Dorothy had married an Irishman and they had settled at Glengarriff on Batry Bay. Aunt Dorothy never came back to England and she didn't write often. Mother said that letter-writing wasn't her strong point. But we knew that Brian was nearly my age and Maeve just a few months younger than Peter.

Before I tell you about our adventures in Ireland I had better explain that I am Penelope Barron – always called Penny – and I am fourteen now, while my brother Peter is thirteen. But when we went to County Cork last summer we were nearly a year younger. I am quite

tall, with fair hair and brown eyes and Peter is so like me that people often take us for twins. We wish we were, because it always sounds rather fun to have a twin.

Anyway, to get back to last summer, we were feeling rather dismal, because father had just discovered that he couldn't have his holidays until the end of September, when, of course, we'd be back at school. And into the midst of our gloom came one of Aunt Dorothy's infrequent letters. It was lying on the mat when we came in from school and we knew at once whom it was from, because it had an Irish stamp and the postmark was in Gaelic. No one else ever wrote to us from Ireland.

I took it out to mother, who was picking raspberries for lunch. She dropped it into her pocket and said:

"I wonder what it's like living in Ireland?" I said to Peter, as I arranged the salad in a dish and finished laying the table.

(from Mabel Ethel Allan, *The Mystery of Derrydane*)

1. Answer the following questions:
 - a) What is the name of Peter's sister?
 - b) Why did they wish to go to Ireland?
 - c) Whom had their mother's sister married?
 - d) How old was Peter's sister when they went to Ireland?
 - e) In which season did they go to Ireland?
 - f) Why did people often take Peter and his sister for twins?

(5 marks x 6 = 30 marks)
2. Choose the correct word from the brackets:
 - a) Peter's family lived in (France, Wales, England).
 - b) Their father had a (week's, fortnight's, month's) holiday every year.
 - c) Their cousin Maeve was a few (days, weeks, months) younger than Peter.
 - d) Their mother picked (blueberries, raspberries, strawberries) for lunch.
 - e) Mother put her sister's letter in her (bag, pocket, drawer).

(2 marks x 5 = 10 marks)



Section C: Language

Answer **all** the exercises that follow. This section contains **20 marks**.

1. Choose the appropriate word from the following list to complete the sentences. Write **only** your answers. **DO NOT COPY** the sentences again.

out - between - lots of - make up - which - among - on - few - yet - little

- a) Has the headmaster arrived _____?
- b) You can find the glass _____ the top of the shelf.
- c) The phrase "let a cat _____ of the bag" refers to disclosing a secret.
- d) The teacher distributed the books _____ all the students.
- e) "Let's keep this _____ us two," warned Gerard.
- f) Although a lot of people gathered at the meeting only just a _____ addressed the Committee.
- g) Since he is such a good doctor, Dr. Camilleri has _____ patients.
- h) The labourer gets _____ money when one takes into account the number of hours.
- i) On arriving late for the date Marthese had to _____ an excuse.
- j) The girls all gave answers, none of _____ was correct.

(10 marks)

2. Choose the correct meaning from the brackets:

- a) **Umpteen** means (a great many, simple, generous).
- b) **Display** means (game, building, show).
- c) **Utility** carries the same meaning as (reality, usefulness, relaxation).
- d) **Avoid** and (look into, agree with, keep away from) mean the same thing.
- e) **Hazard** has the same meaning as (danger, pleasure, amenity).

(10 marks)

Total: 100 marks

Examination for the Post of Security Guard within the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change

Subject: English

Date: Friday, 9 August 2019

Time: 11:00 – 12:30 (One and a half hours)

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER