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GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

Qualifying Examination for Supply Learning Support Educators

April 2023

Subject: English Language

Time: One hour and thirty minutes

Instructions to candidates:

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Read the instructions for each section carefully.

Answer Section A on the booklet provided, clearly indicating the question you are answering.

Answer Sections B and C in the space provided in this paper.

Section 1: Long Writing Task (40 marks)

On the booklet provided, write between 180 and 200 words on **ONE** of the tasks below. **Indicate the title chosen by writing the number of the title on the booklet.**

You are advised to

- pay attention to layout, paragraphing, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation;
- keep your writing to the number of words indicated.

You will be penalised if you write less than 180 or more than 200 words.

1. Installing security cameras in the workplace is a complex issue. Write an article for a local newspaper in which you discuss the advantages and disadvantages of security cameras in the workplace.

OR

2. You are a member of the school council at a secondary school. Since the school does not have a hall, the Head of the school has asked you to find a hall elsewhere for the school concert. Write an assessment report in which you provide information about the venue and give reasons for your recommendation.

Section 2: Reading Comprehension and Summary (50 marks)

Read the following text carefully and answer all of the questions that follow on the lines provided.

By [Nicola Brady](#) 9 May 2021 • 5:00am

It is no secret that Dublin is a city made for late nights. So, it should come as no surprise to learn that Sunday mornings are taken at a slower pace. You won't find many souls pacing the streets until noon, and in fact, many of the shops don't open until lunchtime, either. The streets, usually thick with people, are suddenly quiet, the sound of birdsong replacing the hum of voices. All of which makes it the perfect time to head out and explore. Once the street cleaners have swept the city clean, it's yours for the taking.

A. _____

While Dublin has definitely caught the brunch bug, things don't get busy until the early afternoon, which means getting a table before noon is easy. Down in Portobello, Hubbard on Harrington Street offers dishes with a Middle Eastern edge: think eggs and halloumi in a chilli relish. Just around the corner, Good Morning on Pleasants Street is a favourite, where locals gather for eggs and kale. If your visit happens to coincide with a fresh batch of sticky cinnamon buns coming out of the oven, there's no point trying to resist – as soon as that sugary-spiced scent hits the air, you'll want **one** in your hand.

15 If you're feeling peckish even earlier, head to Bread 41 on Pearse Street, a hip bakery where they grind the flour on-site with **their** own stone mill. If you fancy a bite to eat on the go, grab a coffee and a cruffin, and set off for a stroll.

B. _____

20 Sunday morning is the best time to take in Dublin's excellent city parks. Even on the nicest of days, **they** are somehow blissfully calm, with only the odd dog walker around. Located in the heart of Dublin, many are accessible on foot. Stephen's Green is the better known – take a stroll around the periphery to read up on Dublin's history on the informative plaques, then head to the main pond, where the city's notorious seagulls have learnt to impersonate ducks to get fed. Head north, past the Georgian townhouses, and you'll reach perhaps the prettiest of all the parks, Merrion Square. The meticulous planning of the plant beds means that something is always in bloom, from the leafy bamboo in winter to the branches heaving with blossom in spring. Dotted around **its** edges you'll find statues commemorating figures as diverse as the revolutionary Michael Collins and the comedian Dermot Morgan.

C. _____

30 On the edge of Merrion Square, the National Gallery houses an extensive collection of art, with pieces from artists from Ireland and around the world. While the more historical pieces are held within the ornate space of the main building, you'll find modern work displayed in the light-flooded courtyard. Time your visit right for the gallery's standout piece by Frederic Burton. This delicate watercolour is displayed for two hours every week to protect it from the light. One of those hours falls on a Sunday, when the doors are opened at 2pm.

D. _____

35 Up on Parnell Square, the Hugh Lane (opens at 11am) isn't just one of the finest galleries in Dublin. On Sundays, it's also the setting for a concert, with an array of musicians performing at noon. While the acoustics in this space could make a howling cat sound impressive, the talent chosen makes it the best bargain in town – think renowned pianists and string quartets. While it's technically free, a €2 donation is suggested. By midday, the buskers of Grafton Street will be setting up shop, so head down **there** to see who snagged
40 a pitch – many a top musician started out by laying a cap on this very spot.

E. _____

45 Many of Dublin's markets have been forced out of their locations or driven to closure. Though the reopening location is yet to be set in stone, the Dublin Flea Market (third Sunday of the month; opens 11am) will hopefully be back this year, after a previous relocation in 2020. Beloved by Dubliners, it is a treasure trove of stalls, where people flit between antique stands and racks of vintage clothes. On non-market days, the antique shops of Francis Street fit the bill nicely, stacked high with heirlooms. Powerscourt Centre on William Street, is one of the finest townhouses in Dublin, filled with tiny boutiques and independent shops. There's often live music at lunchtime, too.

Adapted from: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk>

1. Underline the correct answer.

a. In which section of an online newspaper would you find this article? (1 mark)

- i. News
- ii. Travel
- iii. Money

b. The main purpose of this article is to (1 mark)

- i. persuade.
- ii. instruct.
- iii. entertain.

c. Which is the best title for this article? (1 mark)

- i. Dublin – the perfect place for art lovers
- ii. A shopping experience in Dublin
- iii. How to spend a Sunday morning in Dublin

2. Why is it well known that life is slow on a Sunday morning in Dublin? (1 mark)

3. Give **TWO** reasons why the writer feels that Sunday morning is the perfect time to head out and explore. (1 mark)

4. Between lines 1 and 6, find a phrase of four words which tells the reader that Dublin is ready to be explored. (1 mark)

5. What does the writer mean by the phrase, 'has definitely caught the brunch bug' (line 7)? (1 mark)

6. Are the following statements True (T) or False (F)? **Underline** the correct answer and **give a reason from the text.** (9 marks)

a. Hubbard and Good Morning are far from each other. **True / False** because

b. Good Morning is popular with Dubliners. **True / False** because

c. Cinnamon buns are baked on Sunday on a regular basis. **True / False** because

d. Bread 41 offers a takeaway service. **True / False** because

e. The seagulls at Stephen's Green imitate the ducks in the pond. **True / False** because _____

f. It is intentional that there are flowers in bloom throughout the year at Stephen's Green. **True / False** because

g. The watercolour by Ted Baker is the main attraction at the National Gallery. **True / False** because

h. The place where Dublin's Flea Market will reopen later this year has been decided. **True / False** because

i. When it reopens, Dublin's Flea Market will be held at the beginning of each month. **True / False** because

7. Give a reason why the writer suggests going to see the buskers on Grafton Street. (1 mark)

8. In your own words, explain why the writer describes the lunchtime concert at Hugh Lane as the 'best bargain in town' (line 37). (2 marks)

9. What do the following words found in bold in the text refer to? (3 marks)

- a. It (line 1): _____
- b. one (line 13): _____
- c. their (line 15): _____
- d. they (line 18): _____
- e. its (line 25): _____
- f. there (line 39): _____

10. Between lines 28 and 48, find ONE word which means: (6 marks)

- a. sizeable: _____
- b. decorated: _____
- c. amazing: _____
- d. obtained: _____
- e. earlier: _____
- f. move quickly and lightly: _____

11. a. Give TWO reasons why Dublin's open markets are in decline. (2 marks)

b. List TWO items that can be bought at Dublin's Flea Market. (1 mark)

12. **Based on the information in the text**, fill in the missing information below. (4 marks)

| | |
|---|--|
| a) Name the café in Dublin where you would take a friend with a sweet tooth. | |
| b) Your friend is a foodie who enjoys posting online pictures of fashionable places. Name a place in Dublin where your friend could go. | |
| c) Your friends are visiting Dublin and is free from noon to 3pm. Name one activity for them to do. | |
| d) Your friends are a history buff with a special interest in family history. Name one place in Dublin that would interest them. | |

