



Qualifying Examination for the Post of Correctional Officer within the Correctional Services Agency

Sample Paper 2024

Subject: English

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

This examination paper consists of TWO sections (Section A and Section B). Candidates are requested to attempt ALL sections and to read carefully the instructions within each section.


Write your answers in the space available on the examination paper.

Section A: Reading

50 marks


Task A1 Read the text below and answer the questions which follow.

10 marks




YOUR ESSENTIAL TRAVEL GUIDE TO
Ireland


WHAT YOU'LL NEED



Passport
MIGHT BE REQUIRED




€
EUROS



Irish Gaelic and English
LANGUAGE

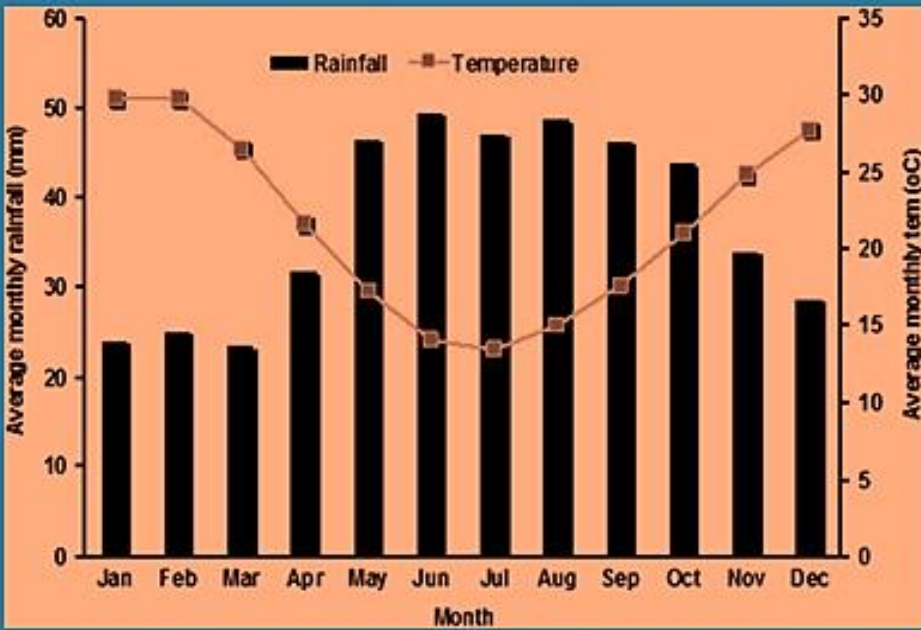
THINGS TO SEE



BUCKET LIST

<p>SMELL</p> <p>WOODLAND - KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK</p> <p>FRESH INGREDIENTS - DUBLIN FOOD CO-OP</p> <p>SEA AIR - CURRACLOE BEACH</p> <p>TASTE</p> <p>COLCANNON BARM BRACK IRISH STEW BOXTY SPICED BEEF GUR CAKE</p>	<p>FEEL</p> <p>BRAVE - AT CLIFFS OF MOHER</p> <p>ADRENALINE - OVER WATER ZIP-LINE</p> <p>CULTURAL - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND</p> <p>HEAR</p> <p>SOUND OF - IRISH COAST</p> <p>GRAZING ANIMALS - WOODVILLE FARM</p> <p>CHATTER - AT AN IRISH PUB</p>
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AVERAGE WEATHER FORECAST



Month	Average monthly rainfall (mm)	Average monthly temp (°C)
Jan	24	30
Feb	25	30
Mar	24	25
Apr	32	20
May	46	15
Jun	49	14
Jul	47	14
Aug	48	16
Sep	46	20
Oct	44	24
Nov	34	27
Dec	29	29

Adapted from: www.theculturetrip.com

Look at the infographic and underline the correct answer.

5 marks

1. The aim of the Travel Guide is to (entertain, instruct, inform) readers.
2. A passport is required by (all, some, no) travellers.
3. Cork Butter is (the only food museum, one of the two food museums, one of the many food museums) on the map.
4. (Kinnitty, Moynalty, Titanic Belfast) is on the coast of the island.
5. Ben Bulbin is (close to, far from, on the way to) Cork Butter Museum.

6. According to the information provided in the infographic, are the following sentences True (T) or False (F)? Tick (✓) the correct answer below. 5 marks

		T	F
a.	Curracloe Beach is recommended for adventure sports.		
b.	Visiting an Irish pub is recommended for its special drink.		
c.	To appreciate the sound of grazing animals, it's best to visit the National Park.		
d.	June and August are the months with the most rainfall during the year.		
e.	July is the second warmest month of the year.		

Task A2

(40 marks)

Read the text below and answer all the questions that follow.

Section A

I'm **Marisa Williams** and I started my career as a Correctional Officer. During my 20 years, I served as a Sergeant in a control centre. There, I was responsible for the count in the prison facility. In 2012, I was promoted to caseworker, supervising the transfers of inmates here.

I like the opportunities the job has given me, including keeping the public safe for which I've been trained by the Crisis Negotiations Team. I must say the benefits and the pay are a plus, not to mention the chance to advance in **my** career.

Despite the negativity **you** hear about working here, I'm motivated by the facility's mission to ensure the safety of employees and inmates. I like the challenges of the job, and the camaraderie that my colleagues and I share, especially the sense of humour that we develop to survive. I thrive on the unspoken bond developed between us, knowing that though **we** may not always agree, when the need arises, we work together for the common good. So, if you're after a career that includes being part of a team, this is for you!

Section B

I'm **Tara Kraemer**, a nurse at the facility for over 7 years.

Correctional Nursing can be a challenging yet fulfilling career. Making the career change from a hospital to a prison required courage but it's been rewarding.

Our nurses come from all specialties, from acute care to psychiatry. **Our** diverse backgrounds allow us to care for inmates with the utmost skill. We are proficient in medication management and emergency responses, to name a few of our responsibilities.

We use our skills to triage emergencies and save lives. Correctional Nurses are faced with unique circumstances daily. We rise to these challenges with pride and integrity. I believe it takes a special type of nurse to work here and we have the best of the best.

Section C

I'm **Kyra Prall**, a Sergeant at Stillwater. I joined the facility 16 years ago and I worked my way up from Correctional Officer. My sister took up a position in 1991, preceded by my father eight years earlier. So, growing up at home allowed me to understand the impact officers can have on people's lives. I've heard countless stories about how conversations with **those** housed at Stillwater affected the inmates' decision-making.

As I got older, I decided to take up the same career as my family. Since 2004, I've experienced the same stories and have seen firsthand how important being positive is. This motivates me to continue working in **this** field.

On a personal level, my mother battled arthritis for 30 years, and without my health benefits, it would've been impossible to give her the necessary care. I'll always be grateful for this, and I can't complain about retiring at 55 with a pension either!

Over the years, I've been part of multiple teams which allowed me to develop life-long friendships. My colleagues and I trust each other to keep everyone safe, and work towards the development of healthy living, which I believe will help our communities be safer.

Adapted from <https://mn.gov/doc/>

Underline the correct answer.

1. Which is the best title for the text? 1 mark
 - a. How to make a drastic career change
 - b. The latest job opportunities at a facility
 - c. What it means to work in a facility
2. Which page in the Employment Section would you click on to read this text? Copy the correct answer on the line below. 1 mark



3. Below are the missing subheadings for sections A to C in the text. Write the correct letter of each paragraph in the space below. One subheading is extra. 3 marks

Subheadings	Paragraph
Love being in uniform	
A bold move	
Following in their footsteps	
It's better than you think	

4. Tick (✓) the 6 correct answers.

6 marks

Who	Marisa	Tara	Kyra
has been working at the facility longest?			
joined the facility last?			
describes the relationship with her colleagues?			
directly persuades the reader to take up the job?			
refers to the many responsibilities of her job?			

5. Explain what Marisa's job as a caseworker includes.

1 mark

6. Underline the correct answer. 1 mark

The phrase *I thrive on the unspoken bond* (Section A) means that:

- a. Marisa feels good when she speaks to her colleagues about their relationship.
- b. The team has developed a relationship which helps Marisa do well at her job.
- c. The relationship between colleagues at the facility requires more communication.

7. In between 60 to 70 words, summarise the reasons why Marisa likes her job.

10 marks

8. Why does a nurse at the facility require particular skills?

1 mark

9. In your own words, explain what the writer means by 'I've heard countless stories about how conversations with those housed at Stillwater affected the inmates' decision-making.'

2 marks

10. Write a phrase of 3 words which shows Kyra is happy about early retirement. 1 mark

11. Are the following statements **True** (T) or **False** (F)? Circle the correct answer and give a reason.

6 marks

a. Marisa is specially trained to keep inmates and the public safe.

T/F because _____

b. Nurses at the facility have received the same training.

T/F because _____

c. Tara speaks highly of the nurses she works with.

T/F because _____

d. Kyra has been a correctional officer for 16 years.

T/F because _____

e. Kyra's sister and their father joined the facility at the same time.

T/F because _____

f. Kyra struggled to provide her ill mother with the expenses of healthcare.

T/F because _____

12. What do the following words, found in bold in the text, refer to?

3 marks

a. my _____

d. Our _____

b. you _____

e. those _____

c. we _____

f. this _____

13. From Sections B and C, find ONE word which means:

3 marks

a. critical _____

d. honesty _____

b. highly skilled _____

e. directly _____

c. examine patients to decide who is most seriously ill _____

f. fought _____

14. Which one of the following images is the reader least likely to find on the website where this text was published? Tick (✓) the correct box below. 1 mark



a.



b.



c.



d.

Section B: Writing

Task B1

Answer the following question.

50 marks

10 marks

Yesterday a fight broke out at your workplace and your direct superior asked you to fill in the Incident Report Form below.

INCIDENT REPORT FORM	
Title	_____
Time of Incident:	_____ Date of Incident: _____
Venue:	_____
Name of Officer filling in this report:	<u>Sam White</u> _____
Brief Description of Incident:	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Witnesses: (Names and Contact numbers)	_____
	<u>Pat Stone 99999991</u> _____
	<u>Jordan Peters 99999992</u> _____

Task B2

40 marks

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the titles below.

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.

- a. You are Andy Smith and you have been invited to a team-building activity by the Secretary of the Human Resources Department at your workplace. Write an email to the Secretary in which you decline the invitation and give reasons why.

Start your email by copying the details below.

From: andysmith@dmail.com
To: alexdobbin@hr.com
Subject: Team-building Activity

or

- b. You are Max Newton and you have been asked to review the new kitchen at work. Write an email to your higher rank, Luca Butler, reviewing the kitchen and giving further recommendations.

Start your email by copying the details below.

From: maxnewton@dmail.com
To: lucabutler@stpcompany.com
Subject: New Kitchen Review

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