



**English
Junior Certificate
Higher Level**

**Past Exam Questions on
Functional Writing**

Section 3 Part (1): Functional Writing 2013 Paper 1

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. You are helping to organise a talent show in your school to raise funds for a local charity. Write the text for a flyer, to be distributed to the students in your school, explaining how the event will be run and encouraging them to participate in the talent show. Your flyer should also explain why the charity that you have chosen is a good cause to support.

Section 3Part (2): Functional Writing 2013 Paper 1

2. You have just had a bad experience in a local restaurant. You were not satisfied with the response of the restaurant's staff to your complaints at the time. Write a review on the restaurant's web page in which you outline your complaints and describe the response of the staff. You should also suggest ways for the restaurant to improve the service that it provides to its customers.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2012 Paper 1

Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. Your school has decided to remove the books from your school library and turn the space into an Internet access facility for students. Write an article for your school magazine in which you respond to this decision.

OR

2. Look at the images on Page 3 of Paper X that accompanies this examination paper. These images appear in the prospectus for Kildeasy Secondary School. Using the images as a starting point, write a piece, suitable for publication in the school's prospectus, representing a student's experience of the school.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2011 Paper 1

Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. Read the letter on Page 2 of Paper X written by the broadcaster, John Kelly, to his younger self. This letter is adapted from *With Love from me ... to me. A Letter to my Sixteen-Year-Old Self* edited by Joseph Galliano.

Write a letter to your imaginary future son or daughter offering him or her advice on some significant milestones in his or her life. You might include such events as: first day at school, first disco, sitting the Junior Certificate examinations, etc.

OR

2. Write a review of one of the following for your school magazine: a mobile phone, an MP3 player, a games console or an electronic reader.
Your answer should include an introduction, description, evaluation and recommendation.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2010 Paper 1

Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. Imagine you are a journalist with your school magazine. Write a report of a recent sports event involving your school team. Try to capture the atmosphere of the event for your readers.

OR

2. A major music magazine is running a competition called **TOP TALENT 2010**. Using **no more than 150 words** readers are invited to nominate their favourite band or solo act for the competition, describing their talent, their achievements, what qualities make them **TOP TALENT**, etc.
Write the 150 words you would use to nominate your favourite band or solo act.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2009 Paper 1

Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. You have been asked by the Principal of your school to speak to the students preparing to take their Junior Certificate examinations in June 2010. Based on your experience of preparing for your own Junior Certificate examinations write the text of **the talk** you would give to the students offering them guidance and encouragement.

OR

2. In Section One of this examination paper Michael Morpurgo writes about the elements that he considers important to produce a piece of writing.
Write a **letter** to the author in which you recount a time when you feel you wrote particularly well and explain what you think contributed to the success. In your letter you may, if you wish, comment on the earlier passage by Morpurgo or seek his advice as a writer.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2008 Paper 1

Answer either Question 1 or Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. You are a member of your school's Student Council. As there are now students from a range of different nationalities attending the school, your Principal has asked the Council to come up with some suggestions to help your school to develop as an intercultural community.

Write a report to be submitted by the Student Council to the Principal outlining your ideas.

OR

2. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is running an international competition to send one student from Ireland on the next moon mission. You wish to enter the competition.

The following are the competition entry requirements:

1. Entries should be between 170 and 200 words
2. You should outline
 - Your suitability for the mission
 - Why you wish to participate in the mission

Complete your competition entry.

Section 2: Personal Writing 2008 Paper 1

Write a prose composition on any **one** of the following titles. Except where otherwise stated, you are free to write in any form you wish e.g. narrative, descriptive, dramatic, short story, etc.

1. “December 27th 1831. Left Devonport bound for Tierra del Fuego. The weather does not look kind with a westerly gale blowing hard. The Beagle is a fine ship - a ten-gun brig - however ...”
Continue this diary entry written by Charles Darwin’s assistant.
2. An undiscovered paradise.
3. Write a composition including the line, “It was the unfairness of it all that annoyed me most.”
4. What the world needs now.
5. I could hardly sleep with excitement. Only three more days to go ...
Continue this composition.
6. Look at the picture on Page 4 of Paper X, which accompanies this examination paper, and write a composition inspired by it.
7. Write a speech for or against the motion: ‘Young people are not taken seriously in Ireland.’
8. The most interesting place **OR** places I have ever been.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2007 Paper 1

1. Look at the material adapted from the Irish Cancer Society's Sun Smart campaign that appears on Page 2 of Paper X.

Write a set of instructions – one instruction for each picture – designed to help people enjoy the summer sun safely.

(Make sure to put the number of each picture beside the instruction associated with it.)

OR

2. Write a list of safety guidelines to be displayed on a poster **EITHER** in your school's Science Lab **OR** in the Woodwork, Metalwork or Home Economics room.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2006 Paper 1

Answer **either** Question 1 or Question 2.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling and punctuation.

1. A national newspaper has organised a 'Person of the Year' award. Write a letter to the editor nominating the person you think is most deserving of this award. You should explain why you think this person deserves the award.

OR

2. Most books and DVDs have a short blurb on the outside of the back cover. Typically this is a brief text which describes and praises the plot, characterisation, acting, etc. Write such a blurb for any book or DVD of your choice.

Section 3: Functional Writing 2005 Paper 1

Study Pages 1 and 4 of Paper X and answer ONE of the following questions.

You will be rewarded for:

- Well-structured answers
- Clarity of expression
- An appropriate tone
- Good grammar, spelling, punctuation and correct use of capitals

1. Look at the collection of coastal images that appear on Page 1 of Paper X. These images appear on the cover of a brochure about the area. Write a text for the brochure promoting the area as a tourist destination.

OR

2. Look at the Food Pyramid that appears on Page 4 of Paper X. The recommended servings on the right state the fundamentals of a healthy diet.
Using the information provided, write a short article for your school magazine promoting healthy eating.