



**English
Junior Certificate
Higher Level**

**Past Exam Questions on
Personal Writing**

Q1 – 7 Section 2 2013 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. What books mean to me.
2. History repeating itself.
3. In Section 1 of this examination paper, Francine Prose mentions a man and a woman who work behind the counter in the bus station. Write **four** diary entries for **either** the man or the woman in which you reveal that he or she has a much more interesting life than Prose imagines.
4. Terrifying things people do every day.
5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion: "Sport brings out the best in people".
6. Write a story which includes the phrase, "He had the audience's undivided attention ..."
7. Write a story entitled 'Success!' that includes **all** of the following elements:
 - An interesting relationship
 - A character facing a challenge
 - An argument
 - A problem solved.

Q1 – 7 Section 2 2012 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. As part of your job as a newspaper journalist you get to work on a major news story. Write a composition based on your experience.
2. Not all beauty is found in nature. Write a composition in which you describe and explain the beauty that you find in man-made objects, e.g. buildings, machinery, technology, etc.
3. Write a composition inspired by the following phrase: ‘...it was immediately clear that only a super-human force could have been responsible...’
4. Write a story involving a case of mistaken identity.
5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion: ‘Too many young people today have unhealthy lifestyles’.
6. The importance of friends in my life.
7. Write a short story inspired by the image that appears on Page 2 of Paper X that accompanies this examination paper.

Q1 – 7 Section 2 2011 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. The best advice I was ever given.
2. Things that fill me with wonder.
3. Write a story that features a most unlikely hero or heroine.
4. My recipe for happiness.
5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion, “Social networking sites have had a predominately negative impact on the lives of teenagers”.
6. Write a story beginning, “I knew I would need a lot of courage to get through the day ...”
7. Write a composition including at least 5 of the following words or phrases:
 - Oddly shaped
 - little red car
 - only another 800 to go
 - silver key
 - storm-laden clouds
 - without stopping to think
 - the smallest one imaginable
 - black then purple then green
 - with a deafening pop
 - invincible
 - it shimmered and floated
 - a single earring

Q1 – 7 Section 2 2010 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. Music in my life.
2. Write a composition beginning with the lines, 'I was a very cute toddler; I've seen the photographs.'
3. The beauty of quiet places.
4. My most useful possessions.
5. You and some friends enter a major talent competition. Write a series of diary entries recording your experiences.
6. Write a speech for OR against the motion: 'All teenagers should have to participate in sport'.
7. A talent I would like to have.
8. Write a story which includes the words, 'I wish I had listened'.

Q1 – 7 Section 2 2009 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. Magical moments from my childhood.
2. My secret life as a superhero.
3. Things that make me angry.
4. Write a composition including the line, “That really was the last straw”.
5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion, “Mobile phones should be banned in schools”.
6. The rudest person I have ever met.
7. Look at the picture on **Page 2** of **Paper X**, which accompanies this examination paper, and write a composition inspired by it.

Q1 – 7 Section 2 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.

Q1 – 7 Section 2 2007 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. A teenager's guide to life.
2. You are an alien visiting earth for a day. Write about your experiences, especially your reaction to human behaviour.
3. How best to spend a Saturday afternoon.
4. Science's contribution to the modern world – a mixed blessing.
5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion, "Second level education in Ireland is a good preparation for life".
6. "The day started the same as any other, nobody could have known that by evening ..."
Continue this story.
7. As a result of an accident in chemistry class your teacher has shrunk to a fraction of his/her normal size. **WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?**

Q1 – 8 Section 2 2006 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. The pet (real or imaginary) that I would most like to keep.
2. The talking goldfish.
3. Fictional characters I would like to meet.
4. A day in my life that I would like to relive.
5. Write a composition including the line, "It had been a lot of hard work and had taken ages but, in the end, it was worth the effort."
6. Everyone deserves a second chance.
7. Look at the picture on Page 1 of Paper X, which accompanies this examination paper, and write a composition inspired by it.
8. Write a speech for or against the motion: 'Having a job during the school year is bad for Second Level students.'

Q1 – 7 Section 2 2005 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. The best **OR** worst holiday I have ever had.

2. A case of mistaken identity.

3. You have been granted three wishes: one for yourself, one for Ireland and one for the World. What are your wishes and why?

4. Write a modern version of **ONE** of the following;
 - Little Red Riding Hood
 - OR**
 - The Three Little Pigs
 - OR**
 - The Emperor's New Clothes
 - OR**
 - Any other fairytale

5. Write a speech for **OR** against the motion, "Transition Year should be made compulsory".

6. "My mouth was dry and my heart beat so hard I thought it would burst from my chest ..."
Continue with this story.

7. You have spent the summer travelling around Ireland. Write a number of diary entries recording your impressions.