GrindSpot
ONLINE GRINDS PLATFORM

LEAVING CERT 2027

LEAVING CERT ENGLISH

Exam Ready

Dyslexia friendly
large, clear text · room to write

Ordinary Level · Paper 1 · Workbook A

Built from 9 years of real Leaving Cert papers: what comes up, how it's marked, and the practice to nail it.

- **9** years of exam trends, question by question
- **36** exam-style drills with model answers
- **1** full practice paper, 200 marks
- ✓ marking guide for the practice paper



Know what's coming.
Walk in ready.

Original GrindSpot material written in the style of the Leaving Certificate examination. Not an official SEC paper.

What comes up

2017 to 2026

We read every Ordinary Level Paper 1 from the last 9 exams (no exam in 2020) and noted the task in each question. Each number is how many questions in that year's paper asked for it. We counted tasks, not subjects: a Question A counts once for each task its parts set, a Question B or composition once for its form.

	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Years
Question A: personal response	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	**9/9**
Question A: understanding the text	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	**9/9**
Composition: personal essay	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	**9/9**
Composition: short story	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	**9/9**
Question A: visual image	1	1	3	1	3	3	2	1	1	**9/9**
Composition: article or opinion piece	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	**9/9**
Composition: speech or talk	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	**9/9**
Question A: style and language	–	3	–	–	–	2	2	2	2	**5/9**
Question B: letter or email	1	1	1	–	1	1	–	1	1	**7/9**
Question B: other task	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	2	1	**5/9**
Question B: article	1	1	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	**4/9**
Question B: diary, blog or personal account	–	1	1	–	–	1	1	–	–	**4/9**
Question B: speech or talk	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	1	**3/9**
Question B: report, review or proposal	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	**2/9**
Composition: other	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	**1/9**

Darker = more questions. Source: State Examinations Commission papers, 2017 to 2026, read and grouped by GrindSpot. Every question we counted is listed at **grindspot.ie/exam-trends**. A guide to what has come up, not a prediction of what will.

Question A keeps its shape: what the text says, then your own opinion and experience.

Images every year. 16 Question As in 9 years asked about an image.

Style questions are back: in 2018 and every year since 2023.

At least two personal essays and two short stories in every paper.



Image A · Rowing on the River Corrib

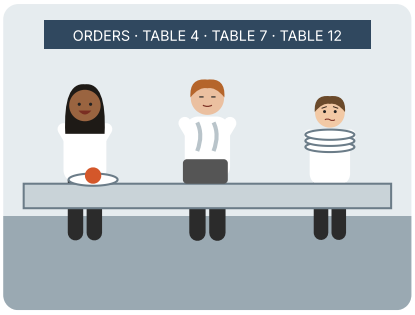


Image B · Saturday night in a restaurant kitchen

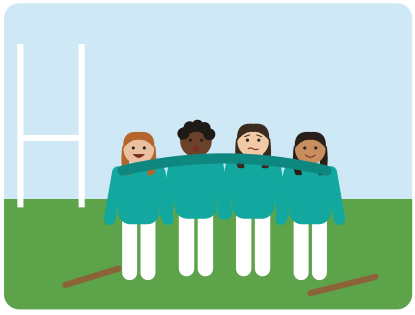


Image C · The team talk before the final



Image D · Tidy Towns volunteers with newly planted trees

TEXT 3 · Question A (50 marks)

(i) Which two of the sayings in TEXT 3 do you think give the best advice about teamwork? Explain your choices. Which one saying do you agree with least? Explain why. 15

(ii) Which two images in TEXT 3 do you think show teamwork best? In both cases, describe what you see and explain your choice. 15

(iii) **(a)** Describe a person you know who is a good team player. Explain what makes them good at it. 10

(b) You have been asked to add one more image to TEXT 3. Describe what it would show and explain why you would add it. 10

TEXT 3 · Question B (50 marks)

Your school is starting a Tidy Towns group. Write the text of a talk you would give at assembly to encourage students to join. In your talk you should: explain what the group will do, describe the benefits for the town and for the students who take part, and tell students how to sign up. Your talk may be serious or light-hearted.

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Ordinary Level · Paper 2 · Workbook A

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- **9** years of exam trends, question by question
- **32** exam-style drills with model answers
- **1** full practice paper on the 2027 course
- ✓ marking guide for the practice paper



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TOPIC 8

The prescribed poem

Worked answers →

In the real exam

Every paper, 2017 to 2026: 50 marks on one printed poem: an image, the theme or tone, then a creative task.



Fionn's tip: The poem is printed on the paper, so quote it. This drill uses a different course poem from the practice paper. In Question 2, get the form right.

1. Read this poem from your course.

> **An Irish Airman Foresees his Death · W.B. Yeats**
>
> I know that I shall meet my fate
> Somewhere among the clouds above;
> Those that I fight I do not hate,
> Those that I guard I do not love;
> My country is Kiltartan Cross,
> My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,
> No likely end could bring them loss
> Or leave them happier than before.
> Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,
> Nor public men, nor cheering crowds,
> A lonely impulse of delight
> Drove to this tumult in the clouds;
> I balanced all, brought all to mind,
> The years to come seemed waste of breath,
> A waste of breath the years behind
> In balance with this life, this death.

Pick one image or phrase and explain why it appeals to you.

2. What is the tone of "An Irish Airman Foresees his Death"? Use two quotations.

There is no single right answer in English. For each question this guide gives **what a good answer would include** (the kind of points examiners look for, not a full list), then **the marks** and a guide to how marks are awarded, in the style of the SEC marking schemes (our guide, not an official scheme). Longer answers are marked on **P** Clarity of Purpose, **C** Coherence of Delivery, **L** Efficiency of Language Use (30% each) and **M** Accuracy of Mechanics (10%). Answer the question asked and back up every point with a moment from the text.

Section I · The Single Text (60 marks: two questions of 30)

How to answer. Name characters and describe real moments from your text. Do what each part asks: "three moments" means three, each explained. The examples below use *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Sive* and *Othello*; the same approach works for every text.

Q1 (a) e.g. Walter Younger in *A Raisin in the Sun*: at the start, frustrated and selfish, obsessed with the liquor store; at the end, he refuses Mr Lindner's money and Mama says "He finally come into his manhood today": he puts family pride first.
(b) e.g. in *Othello*, the moment Othello demands "ocular proof" and Iago describes the handkerchief: the audience knows it is a lie.
(c) e.g. ask Mena in *Sive*, "Did you ever feel sorry for selling Sive to Seán Dóta?", because she seems hard but was once poor and unhappy herself.
Q1: 10 marks per part (P + C 6, L + M 4) · *Good answer:* a clear point, a specific moment, and an explanation · *Weaker:* general statements with no moments

Q2 An article: a headline, an opening that states your view, three moments, a conclusion. e.g. *A Raisin in the Sun*: strength (Mama uses the insurance money to buy a house for the whole family; the family moves together at the end) and problem (Walter loses the money to Willy Harris; arguments over Beneatha's plans).
Q3 Three decisions, each with what it shows and its result: e.g. *Sive*: Mike and Mena agree to the match for money (greed); Nanna helps Sive and Liam (love); Sive runs out into the night (despair), with the tragic result.
Q4 A talk: greet the book club, recommend the text, give reasons from characters, story and themes, and end with an invitation to read it.