**Narrative / Descriptive / Aesthetic Language**

**Past Leaving Cert Questions.**

Comprehensions:

What features of good descriptive writing are evident in this passage?

Would reading this extract encourage you to read the novel in full?

What kind of world has been created by the author in this extract?

Question B:

**2014**

Inspired by Seamus Heaney’s essay about the importance of objects from the past, your class has decided to organise an exhibition celebrating the significance of objects from childhood in the lives of well-known people.

Write the letter you would send to a well-known person, inviting him or her to contribute an object from his or her childhood and a written explanation regarding its personal significance. In your letter, you should explain the inspiration for the project and include, as an example, a piece you have written about an object from your childhood that is of significance to you.

**2012**

Write a letter to Margaret Laurence in response to Text 1, commenting on what you find interesting in the extract and telling her about your home place and its impact on you.

**2011**

Write a talk, to be delivered to your School Book Club, on the enduring appeal of the mysterious in books, films, etc. You might refer to some of the following aspects of the mystery genre in your answer: setting, tension, suspense, dialogue, characterisation, atmosphere, music, special effects, etc.

**2011**

Imagine you are Sarah, the young girl in Text 3 above. Based on your reading of this extract, write two diary entries, one shortly before and one shortly after your journey to Dublin.

**2009**

Imagine you are making a cartoon film (featuring animals as characters) **either**to promote **or**oppose zoos. Write the **script of a scene (in dialogue form)**between two of the animal characters.

**2008**

Write **two**diary entries: **one written by Alexander**, recalling his encounter with Eva in Tompkins Square Park and the **second by Zach**, giving his thoughts on hearing that Eva has purchased the violin.

**2006**

Imagine that, in an attempt to control his feelings, the boy writes into his diary an account of the incident and his reactions to it. Write out his diary entry.

**2006**

Write **three diary entries**that Margaret Ann might have written over a series of Saturday evenings.Your writing should relate to her experience as described in the passage.

**2003**

Imagine that you have discovered a time capsule containing a number of items from the distant **or**more recent past. Write a letter to a local or national newspaper announcing your find & describing the items in the capsule.

**2003**

You have been asked to give a short talk on radio about an interesting journey you have made. Write out the text of the talk you would give.

**2002**

Write three or four diary entries that record the details of a disastrous holiday (real or imaginary) that you experienced.

**2001**

Imagine your local radio station is producing a programme entitled Comic Moments in which a person from the community introduces his/her favourite moment from the world of radio, television or live performance. Write the text of the presentation you would like to make.

**2001**

Choose one of the people pictured in Text 4 and write 4 short diary entries that your chosen person might write on one important day in his/her life.

**Essay Titles:**

**Short Story** – every year there’s been at least one, and often two out of seven titles.

If asked for a story based on one of the images, you must say which image.

**Personal Essay** – every year there’s at least one.

**Magazine Articles** – some articles call for a very personal approach e.g. “Write an article about the beginning and ending of a relationship”

**Descriptive essay** – this appeared for the first time in 2011.

**2013**

Write a short story in which a central character is either manipulated or is manipulative.

**2013**

Write a short story about a reunion.

**2013**

Write a descriptive essay based on a variety of glimpsed moments.

**2013**

Write a personal essay in which you explore the storytelling evident in music and song and its impact on you as a listener.

**2013**

Write a personal essay about the tension you find between the everyday treadmill and the gilded promises of life.

**2012**

Write a short story inspired by the phrase “an inferior rock band howling for fame”

**2012**

Write a short story in which a young character is eager to leave home.

**2012**

Write a personal essay on what you consider to be the marvels of today’s world.

**2011**

Write a descriptive essay about twenty-four hours in the life of a town or city.

**2011**

Write a story to be included in a collection of modern fairytales.

**2011**

Write a short story in which a mystery is solved.

**2011**

Write a personal essay about your clothes, what they mean to you and what they say about you.

**2010 + 2004**(performance)

Write a personal essay about your experience (as performer and/or audience member) of the dramatic arts: plays, musicals, concerts, comedy, etc.

**2010**

Write a short story in which two unusual or eccentric characters meet for the first time.

**2009**

Write an opinion piece for a popular magazine entitled “Indecision – my own and other people’s”.

**2009**

Write a short story in which a photograph, or a set of photographs, plays a part in the plot. Your story may be prompted by one or more of the photographs in TEXT 3.

**2008**

Write a short story in which the central character is a rebellious teenager (male or female)

**2008**

Write a personal essay in which you describe a place that you consider beautiful.

**2007**

Write a personal essay on the idealism and passions of youth.

**2007**

Write a magazine article (serious or light-hearted) entitled: “The Modern Shopping Centre”.

**2007**

Write an article for a popular magazine on the importance of the imagination.

**2006**

Write an article for a popular magazine on the importance of romance in our lives.

**2005**

Write a personal essay on the part which other people’s expectations play in our lives.

**2005**

Write a short story suggested by one or more of the images in TEXT 2.

**2004**

Write a personal essay in which you explore some of your earliest memories of childhood.

**2004**

“ ‘See you later, Paul,’ said one of the girls. There was a titter of laughter.”

Write a short story suggested by these words

**2004 + several other years**

Write a short story suggested by one or more of the images in TEXT 3.

**2003**

Imagine you are a member of Tim Severin’s crew on board the new Argo. Write a letter (or series of letters) to a personal friend or family member in which you describe some of your adventures.

**2003**

“…huge funds of energy but very little money.”

Using this as your title, write a personal essay.

**2002**

Write an article for a popular magazine or journal in which you explore the aspects of your own family that are special to you.

**2002**

“After the war” Write a short story inspired by this title.

**2002**

Write an article (serious or lighthearted) about the beginning and ending of a relationship in your life.

**2001**

Write a personal essay in which you explore your sense of what it means to be Irish.