



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2022

English - Ordinary Level - Paper 1

Total Marks: 140

Wednesday, June 8 – Morning, 9.30 – 12.20

- This paper is divided into two sections, Section I COMPREHENDING and Section II COMPOSING.
- The paper contains **three** texts on the general theme of **EXPLORING FRIENDSHIP**.
- Candidates should familiarise themselves with each of the texts before beginning their answers.
- Both sections of this paper (COMPREHENDING and COMPOSING) must be attempted.
- Section I, Comprehending, carries 40 marks.
- Section II, Composing, carries 100 marks.

SECTION I – COMPREHENDING

- Two Questions, A and B, follow each text.
- Candidates must answer **ONE** question in Section I:
either one Question A **OR one** Question B on **ONE** text.

SECTION II – COMPOSING

- Candidates must write on **one** of the compositions 1 – 7.

Do not hand this up.

This document will not be returned to the
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TEXT 1 – HUMANS AND AI ROBOTS: FRIENDS OR FOES?

This text is based on information from a variety of sources and raises the question, will human beings and artificially intelligent (AI) robots be friends or foes in the future? The text also features two images of AI robots.

1. Whether we like it or not, it seems inevitable that humans will co-exist with artificially intelligent (AI) robots in the future. This raises an important question: can humans and such robots ever be friends or will the relationship be a destructive one?

2. Studies suggest that as we engage more and more with robotic machines, such as lawn mowers or AI vacuum cleaners, people develop emotional bonds with these devices. Some owners of AI vacuum cleaners display gratitude toward their devices. They believe that because their machine works hard it should take breaks, just as a human would. Our relationship with AI robots will continue to evolve as our engagement with these devices extends beyond merely useful machines. A variety of robotic pets already on the market can provide companionship without the need for feeding, cleaning or exercise that a more traditional pet would require. These practical alternatives to real animals will enable people who might not be able to keep a regular pet to enjoy an equivalent experience with a robotic one in the future.

3. By now we have become quite familiar with AI assistants that have human names, such as Alexa or Siri. While many people regard these as useful devices, few would think of them as having human qualities and even fewer would regard them as friends. This long-established divide between humans and robots underwent a seismic change in 2017 when Sophia, an incredibly lifelike AI robot developed by Hanson Robotics, was offered citizenship by

Saudi Arabia. Described as a “humanoid”, Sophia has become one of the best-known AI robots in the world and has revolutionised the way in which we think about AI robots and their relationship with us.

4. In the light of these developments, it is perhaps not surprising some experts have suggested that AI robots should have visible bar-codes, or other clear signage, to alert any humans interacting with them of their robotic, non-human status. As intelligent robots grow increasingly sophisticated, concerns also grow that they may pose a growing risk to human employment. While many people are happy to see dangerous or unpleasant jobs done by non-humans, a less friendly view may be taken if AI robots pose a significant threat to human jobs in sectors such as retail, hospitality and health care.

5. The film industry may offer us some insight into what our future life with AI robots could be like. The AI computer, HAL, in Stanley Kubrick’s classic film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, provides a rather frightening view of the relationship between humans and AI robots. HAL begins to think on its own and show signs of emotion, which it has not been programmed to do. Ultimately HAL, in order to protect itself, murders the humans it was designed to assist. Does this film provide a warning for the future which we would be wise to heed?

6. The 2012 movie, *Robot and Frank*, offers us a more hopeful prospect. The movie’s main character, Frank, is suffering from early symptoms of dementia. Frank’s

son buys his father a home robot that can talk, cook and clean. It reminds Frank to take his medicine. Although initially unhappy with the arrangement, Frank slowly starts to see the robot both as a functional tool and a companion. By the end of the film, a close bond has developed between a man and a machine. With the number of older people in our society increasing, it is possible that in



IMAGE 1 An AI robotic vacuum cleaner

the future AI robots could provide some of the care and companionship they will require. There is little doubt that in the future artificially intelligent robots will play an increasing role in our lives. We must work to ensure that our future relationship with them is a happy one for us all.

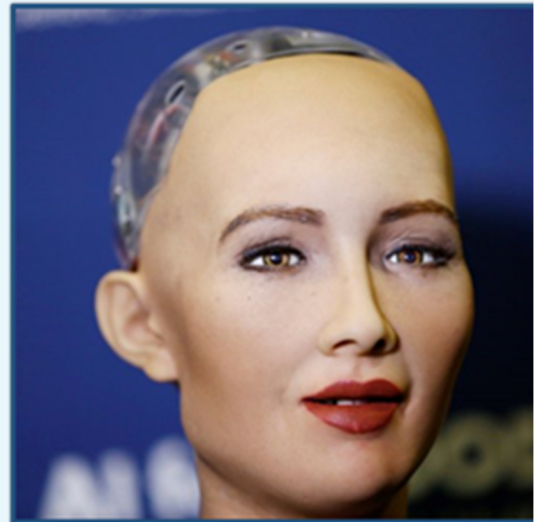


IMAGE 2 AI robot, Sophia

N.B. Answer only ONE question in Section I, either one Question A OR one Question B on ONE text.

Question A – 40 Marks

- (i) Based on your reading of TEXT 1, explain what you learned about the changing relationship between humans and artificially intelligent (AI) robots. Make three points in your response. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
- (ii) With reference to the text and images in TEXT 1 above, explain the reasons why you find the possibility of friendship with artificially intelligent robots exciting or frightening or both. (10)
- (iii) (a) What is the most important quality you look for in a friend? Explain why you think this particular quality is important. (10)
- (b) International Friendship Day is celebrated annually in many countries. Explain at least one way in which you think this day could be celebrated in your school or workplace. (10)

N.B. Answer only ONE question in Section I, either one Question A OR one Question B on ONE text.

Question B – 40 Marks

You work for a robotics company and you have been asked to test a new robotic pet called Compu-Cat. Having lived with this artificially intelligent robotic cat for a week, you must submit **a report** on Compu-Cat, using the following headings: What I liked and disliked about Compu-Cat; How I think Compu-Cat could be improved; Who I think might buy this product. Write the report you would submit.

TEXT 2 – SHOULD WE TRY TO BEFRIEND EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS?

TEXT 2 is based on an article by science writer and journalist, Ilima Loomis. It explores differing views on human contact with alien beings. The text also includes two images of extra-terrestrial beings.

1. For more than half a century, astronomers have been listening to space. They use powerful radio telescopes, hoping to pick up signals from civilizations in distant space. The trouble is, they've never heard a single ping or beep in reply. It seems that exactly zero aliens want to talk to us humans.

2. Scientists disagree on how to get the conversation started. Some want us to simply introduce ourselves nicely. They think Earthlings should start beaming signals out into the universe. Maybe it would improve our chances of hearing back from aliens if we let them know we're friendly and want to chat. There are others who think transmitting signals could be dangerous, because we don't know who's out there. Some warn that such signals could pose an environmental hazard and should be subject to rigorous testing and careful oversight.

3. Many scientists question the wisdom of advertising our presence at all. If the aliens aren't exactly friendly, do we really want to shout out to anyone listening: "Here we are! Come invade our planet!"? The late Stephen Hawking, a theoretical physicist, was convinced that humans should not try to contact alien life forms. "We only have to look at ourselves to see how intelligent life might develop into something we wouldn't want to meet," Hawking said in 2010. He famously compared humans meeting aliens to Native Americans meeting Christopher Columbus: "That didn't turn out so well," he said. Hawking was referring to the fact that Europeans coming to the "New World" brought diseases and technology, such as guns, that led to the destruction of the Native Americans' way of life.

4. Some scientists argue that, at the very least, people around the world should discuss the idea of alien contact and decide as a species whether we should try to actively put ourselves on the cosmic radar screen. Most scientists involved in this kind of work have agreed to a plan that lays out what should be done if aliens contact us. Step one involves telling other scientists so they can confirm the discovery. Douglas Vakoch, who is president of an organisation involved in messaging extra-terrestrials, would like to see alien contact policies debated and agreed by the United Nations.

5. So why do we even want to talk to aliens? Vakoch says that the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence is part of humanity's larger quest to explore the universe, and understand the nature of life. "Perhaps more importantly," he says, "it holds a mirror up to ourselves." Throughout human history, any time civilizations have met, they have exchanged ideas, knowledge and technology. "Meeting a more advanced culture could give our species a new perspective about life on Earth," says Vakoch. He adds, "it might also show us new tools to solve Earthly problems."

6. In any case, it may already be too late to hide from advanced space civilizations. Any life forms intelligent enough to visit Earth would already have the technology to pick up the various signals we've been transmitting around and beyond our planet for 100 years. Potentially, radio and television signals may already have attracted attention. Some experts believe that even now aliens may be watching our TV shows and listening to our music. Aliens might also

have noticed the signals flying around between satellites or the powerful radar pings from huge radio telescopes, like those at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. It is even possible that aliens could be planning to visit. We have no way of

knowing whether they would come in peace or simply be looking for lunch. Hopefully any potential visitors will be vegan! Either way, humankind will undoubtedly be changed forever by any contact between us and an alien race.



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2

N.B. Answer only ONE question in Section I, either one Question A OR one Question B on one text.

Question A – 40 Marks

- (i) Based on your reading of TEXT 2, explain what you learned about the possible consequences of contact between humans and aliens. Make three points in your response. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
- (ii) With reference to the text and images in TEXT 2 above, explain the reasons why you find the possibility of friendship with extra-terrestrial beings exciting or frightening or both. (10)
- (iii)
 - (a) What is the most important quality you look for in a friend? Explain why you think this particular quality is important. (10)
 - (b) International Friendship Day is celebrated annually in many countries. Explain at least one way in which you think this day could be celebrated in your school or workplace. (10)

N.B. Answer only ONE question in Section I, either one Question A OR one Question B on ONE text.

Question B – 40 Marks

It is 3022 and many humans now live on the Moon. You work for an interstellar travel agency, based on the Moon, called GO GALAXY. You have been asked to write **the text for a radio advertisement** promoting holidays to planet Earth. Write the text for the radio advertisement in which you: outline the many and varied attractions for holiday-makers on planet Earth, explain the different holiday options available through your company and encourage early booking through a range of special offers.

TEXT 3 – A TRUE FRIEND OF THE EARTH

This text is based on edited extracts from an interview by journalist, Simon Hattenstone, with Greta Thunberg. In it, Greta talks about friendship and the impact of her activism on her life. The text also includes two images of Greta Thunberg.

1. In 2018, Greta Thunberg was an unknown 15-year-old terrified that we were destroying the planet and furious that adults were letting it happen. Her fury was particularly directed at those with power. She decided to take action. She tweeted her plan to engage in a weekly school strike to draw attention to what she saw as the climate emergency. She didn't expect anyone to take notice, as she was small, rarely spoke and described herself as "that girl in the back who never said anything."

2. Thunberg spent the first day of her strike sitting cross-legged on her own outside the Swedish parliament alongside a sign that read "Skolstrejk för klimatet" ("School strike for climate"). The next week a few others joined her – fellow students, teachers and parents – and her campaign began to attract media interest. She began a regular Friday strike, calling it Fridays for Future, encouraging other students to join her. By 2019, her protest had spread to more than 70 countries. On one memorable Friday in 2019, 4 million people joined a school strike across 161 countries – the largest climate demonstration in history. Within a year, Thunberg had become one of the most famous people on Earth. She has been nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize and has addressed many important gatherings.

3. In a thunderous speech at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, she told the great and the good: "This is all wrong. I shouldn't be standing here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you? You have stolen my

dreams and my childhood with your empty words." It was an extraordinary sight – the schoolgirl rebuking the world's leaders in the language of a furious parent. When she finished speaking, the very people she was condemning gave her a standing ovation.

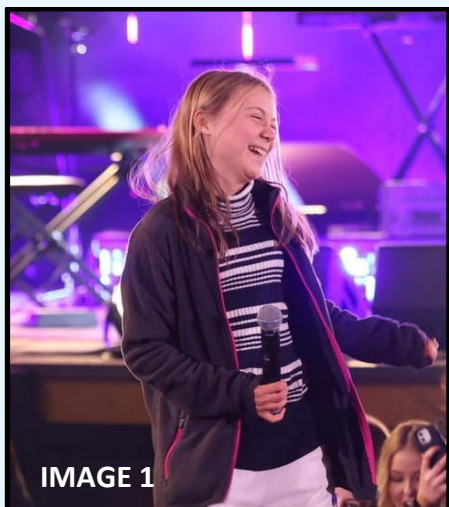
4. Greta talks about the activists she has met, and how they have inspired her. Is there a sense of solidarity between fellow activists? "Definitely. We have daily contact. We don't just campaign together, we are also friends. My best friends are within the climate movement. I talk lots to friends. We are very silly. Maybe people have an idea that climate activists are serious, but that's not the case." Do you really speak to your climate activist friends every day? "Yes, many times a day." Do you have parties? "Since we are spread all over the world it's hard to do that, but we have Zoom calls and movie nights online and lots of chats."

5. Asked if she was friendly with any young people before she became an activist she replies, "No. I had friends, but I didn't have friends my own age. I was a good friend with my teacher, and I had friends when I was younger. Then I didn't. It was a strange feeling having always been the quiet person in the back to become someone lots of people actually listen to."

6. Greta's story is remarkable. Not just the fantastical stuff – the little girl who conquered the world – but the smaller, more personal story. Asked if she had wanted friends when she didn't have any she replied, "I think I did, but I didn't have the courage to make friends. Now, when I have got many friends, I really see the value of friendship."

Greta adds, “apart from the climate, almost nothing else matters. In your life, fame and your career don’t matter at all when you compare them with friendship.”

So the best thing that has come out of your activism has been friendship? “Yes,” she says. “Definitely. I am very happy now.”



N.B. Answer only ONE question in Section I, either one Question A OR one Question B on ONE text.

Question A – 40 Marks

- (i) Based on your reading of Text 3, explain how Greta Thunberg has benefitted from her work as a climate activist. Make three points in your response. Support your answer with reference to the text. (10)
- (ii) With reference to the text and images in TEXT 3 above, explain the personal qualities displayed by Greta Thunberg that you think would contribute to making her a good friend. (10)
- (iii) (a) What is the most important quality you look for in a friend? Explain why you think this particular quality is important. (10)
(b) International Friendship Day is celebrated annually in many countries. Explain at least one way in which you think this day could be celebrated in your school or workplace. (10)

N.B. Answer only ONE question in Section I, either one Question A OR one Question B on one text.

Question B – 40 Marks

Your local climate action group has decided to honour Greta Thunberg with a special award and to invite her to speak at an event at which the award would be presented to her. You have been nominated to write **a letter** to Greta inviting her to attend this event. In your letter you should: provide some background information about your climate action group, explain the reasons why the group has decided to honour her with a special award and provide her with information and details about the event.

SECTION II

COMPOSING

(100 marks)

Write a composition on **any one** of the following composition assignments in **bold print** below.

Each composition carries 100 marks.

The composition assignments are intended to reflect language study in the areas of information, argument, persuasion, narration, and the aesthetic use of language.

1. TEXTS 1, 2 and 3 all deal with the theme of Exploring Friendship.

Write a personal essay in which you consider the sort of friend you would like to be, how you think you can best support your friends during difficult times and reflect on how you benefit from being a good friend to others.

2. In TEXT 3 we learn that, as a teenager, Greta Thunberg challenged those in power.

Write a short story, set in an imaginary country, where all of the laws are made by teenagers. Your story may be serious or humorous or both.

3. In TEXT 2, we learn about how alien beings might interact with humans.

Friendly aliens have contacted the European Space Agency and you have been asked to give a talk to a group of our new extra-terrestrial friends in which you explain some of the positive and negative aspects of being human. Write the text of the talk you would give.

4. TEXT 1 considers the developing relationship between humans and AI robots.

Write a short story in which a human character teams up with an Artificially Intelligent (AI) robot to solve a mystery.

5. In TEXT 3, we learn that Greta Thunberg was furious about inaction on climate change.

Write a personal essay about some of the major issues and the minor irritations in life that make you furious.

6. In TEXT 3, we learn that in 2019, 4 million people across 161 countries participated in a school strike protesting against climate change.

Your school's Student Council has organised a debate amongst students to decide whether or not to participate in the next global school strike against climate change. Write the speech you would give in which you argue either for or against participating in this action.

7. In TEXT 2, we read that scientists worldwide search for evidence of extra-terrestrial life.

Irish scientists have discovered that many alien spaceships are heading towards Earth at a phenomenal speed. The aliens' intentions are unknown. Write a front-page article for a national newspaper (either broadsheet or tabloid) in which you break this incredible news to the world.

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Acknowledgements

Images and texts that appear on this examination paper were sourced as follows:

TEXT 1 draws on information from the following sources:

<https://www.analyticsinsight.net/will-you-befriend-a-robot-like-a-human-friend-a-surprising-reality/> by Apoorva Komarraju

<https://www.sdentertainer.com/lifestyle/humans-friends-with-robots/> By John Breau

Image 1: https://www.irobot.ie/roomba/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA2ZCOBhDiARIsAMRfv9KDRRzXTnrJRzz5uKJ9pO4mVr0FEyF8sGR84tMlGGwnSvB0MW5kaAlU1EALw_wcB

Image 2: REUTERS/DENIS BALIBOUSE <https://www.newsweek.com/sophia-saudi-robot-baby-future-family-725254>

TEXT 2: <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/should-we-call-out-space-aliens>

Image 1: <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/the-big-questions/why-these-scientists-fear-contact-space-aliens-n717271>

An illustration of aliens. Science Picture Co./Getty Images (Edited)

Image 2: <https://deadline.com/2020/06/netflix-boards-eone-kids-animation-alien-tv-1202949253> (Edited)

TEXT 3: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2021/sep/25/greta-thunberg-i-really-see-the-value-of-friendship-apart-from-the-climate-almost-nothing-else-matters>

Image 1: <https://nypost.com/2021/10/19/greta-thunberg-rickrolls-at-climate-concert-in-sweden/> Rick Astley responded to Greta Thunberg's "Never Gonna Give You Up" cover by thanking her in Swedish.BACKGRID

Image 2: Thunberg leads a school strike and sits outside of the Swedish Parliament. Photograph: Michael Campanella/The Guardian

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English

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