



Gymnasium Kirschgarten

English

Written Matura Exam

May 30, 2017

Name: _____

Grade: _____

A. Reading		45
B. Use of English		45
C. Writing Task		48
total		138

Write all answers in the spaces provided in these copies.

Make sure your writing is neat.

There are blank sheets of paper after each section for your notes.

A. READING COMPREHENSION

A.1. Read the following text carefully.

"It was not the drug, but the criminalisation of it that killed my son"

I had been expecting Scott's death for some time. But when it came, just a month from his 34th birthday, it was none the less devastating. The blow was felt more keenly by his four siblings, especially his elder sister, Fiona, who was closest to him and who had tried so hard for so long to help him. But none of them, all drug-free, had suspected that he was so far down the road. The last time I saw him, just four days before he died, I knew he would not see 40 and said so. No one wanted to believe me.

Up to his early teens, his school reports would have won him a place in heaven. He was everything any parent would have wished for - sensitive, conscientious, well fitted into school life and so on. Then a fellow pupil, a doctor's son, took some Valium tablets from his father's surgery and gave some to Scott. There was the wholly-to-be-expected flurry of panic-stricken letters between headmaster and parents, and the guilty boys were separated.

But Scott had tasted the forbidden fruit and, for reasons he could never explain then or later, the taste and the danger appealed. None of the other lads involved ended up on drugs, only Scott. After another episode with pills when he was about 15, I sought advice from friends, doctors and psychiatrists. There was much hand-wringing but nothing else.

Taking a stronger tack, I marched him off to Cambridge police station, where I had arranged for a chief inspector to receive us in full uniform. A stern lecture concluded with Scott being banged up in a cell for five minutes to give him a taste of what the future might hold. He was singularly unimpressed. It began to dawn on me that the son I once had, anxious to please, keen to play by the rules, was now rapidly slipping away. Why? What had we done? What made him different from the rest of the family? We didn't know then and we don't know now.

At age 17 came his first arrest for possession of amphetamine sulphate. Stories in the local papers, family tears, public disgrace, embarrassment, humiliation for him, and more hunting around to find someone, some place, some service to help him. Nothing. A year later he was in court again on a similar charge, and this time he was found a place in a probation hostel. For a time, it looked as though he might find a new direction, but on his release he headed for London and we lost him for good.

In the years up to his death, he kept in touch by letter and telephone, particularly with Fiona, and occasionally he would visit, or he and I would meet in a pub somewhere. His conversation was always about the pain of existence in a world where two-thirds starved so one-third could live well. He hated war, poverty and injustice, and felt powerless to alter things. But he would always try to get back home for the family Christmas, and we took heart from that, happy that he hadn't rejected us completely.

On his last but one visit, I found him trying to steal from a handbag in the kitchen. I said nothing because his confusion and embarrassment said enough for both of us. I knew then, with total heartsink, that he was on heroin, because that's what heroin addicts have to do - steal from anyone or anywhere for cash to buy their stuff. This constant scraping

around and the toxicity and the malnutrition is what eventually kills the addict. At his death, this tall, handsome, unaggressive misfit, who found the world so difficult to live in, had 29 convictions for theft, all to buy adulterated¹ drugs.

45 He spent the last five weeks before his death on remand² for theft. He turned out to be innocent and was released. I picked him up and drove him to his flat. He was drawn and tired. He didn't want to come for a meal, he said, he just wanted to get his head down. My last words to him were: "Well, make sure you keep your head down." His parting words were: "Don't worry, dad. I'll be all right." Four days later he died, asleep in the arms of the old harlot, heroin.

50 On the wall of his flat we found this hand-written valediction to the drug:

*The hot chills and cold sweats, the withdrawal pains,
Can only be stopped by my little white grains.
There's no other way and no need to look,
For deep down inside you know you are hooked.
55 You'll give up your morals, your conscience, your heart,
And you will be mine until death us do part.*

60 So why, in the wake of so much pain, do I want to see drugs legalised? Because I believe it was not the drug itself - unlike alcohol and tobacco, heroin has no known long-term side effects - but the criminalisation of it that killed my son. In fact, a number of things contributed to his death: he was stupid enough to use heroin in the first place; he had spent five weeks in prison without drugs; on release his body could not take his normal dose (the coroner's³ view); and the heroin was toxic (revealed by the inquest pathology report).

65 I am convinced that he would be alive today if all drugs had been legalised and controlled, because he would have had no need to steal and would not have been in prison, the heroin would have been controlled and therefore not toxic, and proper treatment would have been available under such a regulated system.

70 Drugs, for me, should be a public-health rather than a criminal matter. First, they should be removed from the monopoly clutches of crime. Second, the billions saved in the costs of law enforcement, street crime and property theft should be redirected towards regulation, licensing, education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. The present uncontrolled drugs free-for-all will mean that thousands more will follow my son to the grave, victims of criminally supplied impure drugs, unless western governments recognise that the so-called "war against drugs" is unwinnable and wholly counterproductive.

75 Many will ask how this can be morally justified. My view is that there is more moral justification in trying to cut crime and save lives than in leaving things as they are - under the control of criminals. Those who believe legalisation will make more hard drugs available to more young people overlook the fact that drugs of all kinds are more available to more young people now than ever, even with prohibition in force. There is
80 not a whit of evidence to support the idea that there is some massive reservoir of disaffected youth about to rush out and die. There are more pushers out there than chemists' shops, so those who want to use hard drugs are using them now and will continue to use them come what may. Therefore we should make sure the drugs they use are safe. This can only be done under legalised regulation.

85 Just like alcohol prohibition in America, attempts at enforcement have served largely to

¹ adulterated = made impure by adding another substance of poorer quality

² on remand = in custody waiting for trial

³ coroner = an official who holds inquests into violent, sudden, or suspicious deaths

90 demonstrate the lethal impotence of the law. We are beginning to see US-style gang warfare in our towns and cities. Apart from the health costs, multibillion-pound drug cartels, by bribery and terror, are undermining and corrupting law-enforcement and political systems across the world. Prohibition is simply fuelling this fire. We are spending billions dribbling water in at one end while criminals are making billions pouring their toxic fuel in at the other.

95 Prohibition did not work in the past and it will not work in the future, simply because - now as in 1920s America - crime is controlling the supply. Therefore the link with crime must be broken. This would be a first step to removing the drugs issue from the monopoly control of crime and putting it where it belongs - in the area of public health, where it can be most effectively dealt with. Drug abusers, like alcoholics, should be treated as patients needing help rather than criminals to be punished. At present, we cannot control the drugs supply, either in quantity or quality, because we are not in charge of it. The Al Capones⁴ are.

100 So we must dump prohibition and go for control by legalisation. Setting up a royal commission would be a good start. Decriminalisation will not provide a long-term answer because it leaves the offence on the statute book⁵ and leaves supply in the hands of crime. It will mean repealing or amending a number of United Nations treaties, including the
105 1961 100 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which prevents the unilateral legalisation of hard drugs by individual governments. But the drugs laws provide governments with powerful enforcement tools which are often used for non-drug purposes so these are tools that will not be surrendered easily. Further, there are lots of people who live off drug prohibition who will not want to give up their seats at a number of influential tables.

110 I am no advocate of drugs - I wish to God people wouldn't use them - because for my son the drugs road led to a very dead end. But that need not be so for thousands like him if we take control of the supply. At least we will be sure that they will get treatment and the chance of rehabilitation. And for those foolish enough to keep using, we will be sure that what they take will not kill them.

(adapted from The Guardian)

A.2. Questions and comments

Answer the following questions *in your own words*, using full sentences. Keep to the number of sentences indicated after each question. 1/3 of the points will be given for language, 2/3 for content. If the content is not acceptable, no points will be given at all.

a. According to the text: Describe what is known of Scott's family background and his teenage life before he came into contact with drugs. Answer in 40 - 60 words / 3 - 4 sentences. (3 points)

⁴ Al Capone = famous US gangster and Chicago Mafia boss (1899 – 1947)

⁵ the statute book = a nation's laws regarded collectively

b. According to the text: Describe the father's reactions to Scott's growing addiction. Answer in 40 - 60 words / 3 - 4 sentences. (3 points)

c. According to the text: According to the father, who profits from the present criminalisation and prohibition of illegal drugs? Answer in 40 - 60 words / 3 - 4 sentences. (3 points)

d. According to the text: What reasons are given or can be inferred from the text for Scott's interest in and fascination for drugs? Answer in 70 - 90 words / 5 - 7 sentences. (6 points)

g. Try to imagine that you are a hardliner (either for or against the legalisation of drugs): What are your most important arguments? Your answer has to include arguments not mentioned in the text! Answer in 100 - 130 words / 8 - 10 sentences. (9 points)

h. Is drug addiction an illness? Provide a positive or negative answer (i.e. you are not allowed to provide positive and negative answers!) Make sure your answer includes arguments not mentioned in the text! Answer in 100 - 130 words / 8 - 10 sentences (9 points)

points:
max. 45 points

B. USE OF LANGUAGE

B.1. Explanations

Explain the meaning of the following words as they are used in the text. Do not use the word asked for in your explanation. Use paraphrases, synonyms or antonyms. Give only one answer. Your answer must reflect the grammatical form of the word. 1 point / answer; 0.5 point will be deducted for language mistakes.

a (line 4) siblings

b (line 9) sensitive

c (line 15) appealed

d (line 21) it began to dawn on me [you are allowed to use "to" in your answer]

e (line 35) alter

f (line 36) took heart

g (line 42) misfit

h (line 57) in the wake of

i (line 69) removed

j (line 86) lethal impotence

points:

max. 10 points

B.2. Word Formation

Use the word to the right of the text to form a word that fits into the corresponding gap. The missing word may be a noun, adverb, adjective, or verb and it may be either positive (e.g. *helpful*) or negative (e.g. *unhelpful*). The exercise begins with an example. 1 point / answer. No points will be given if the spelling is incorrect.

<p>All around the world, cannabis is a very <u>popular</u> (1) drug which is mainly used for _____ (2) purposes and is second only to alcohol, caffeine and tobacco. In the United States alone, it is believed that over 100 million Americans have tried cannabis, with 25 million Americans having used it within the past year. The psychoactive effects of <i>cannabis</i> are known to have a biphasic nature. Primary psychoactive effects include a state of _____ (3), and to a lesser degree, euphoria from its main psychoactive compound, tetrahydrocannabinol. _____ (4) psychoactive effects, such as a facility for philosophical thinking, introspection and metacognition have been reported among cases of anxiety and paranoia. Finally, the tertiary psychoactive effects of the drug cannabis, can include an increase in heart rate and hunger, believed to be caused by 11-OH-THC, a psychoactive metabolite of THC _____ (5) in the liver. Normal cognition is restored after _____ (6) three hours for larger doses via a smoking pipe, bong or vaporizer. However, if a large amount is taken _____ (7) the effects may last much longer. After 24 hours to a few days, minuscule psychoactive effects may be felt, depending on dosage, _____ (8) and tolerance to the drug. _____ (9) forms of the drug cannabis exist, including extracts such as hashish and hash oil which, because of appearance, are more susceptible to adulterants when left _____ (10). Cannabidiol (CBD), which has no psychotropic effects by itself (except for a small stimulant effect, similar to caffeine), attenuates, or reduces the higher anxiety levels caused by THC alone. Cannabis has a lower risk factor for dependence _____ (11) to both nicotine and alcohol. However, everyday use of cannabis can in some cases be _____ (12) with psychological withdrawal symptoms such as _____ (13) and insomnia, and evidence could suggest that if a user experiences stress, the _____ (14) of getting a panic attack increases. However, cannabis withdrawal symptoms are _____ (15) mild and never life-_____ (16).</p>	<p>(1) popularity (2) recreation (3) relax (4) second (5) production (6) approximation (7) oral (8) frequent (9) variety (10) regulation (11) comparison (12) correlation (13) irritable (14) likely (15) type (16) threat</p>
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points:

max. 15 points

Notes:

B.3. Transformations

Complete the second sentence so that it has *the same meaning* as the first sentence, using the word given. *Do not change the word given.* You must use between three and eight words, including the word given. Contractions such as *it's* or *don't* count as two words. 1 point / answer. 0.5 point will be deducted for language mistakes.

e.g. It is mandatory to wear a helmet while riding a bike.

MUST

A helmet *must be worn* while riding a bike.

1 We started smoking years ago.

FOR

We _____ years.

2 The price was much higher last month.

HIGH

The price _____ it was last month.

3 When we were younger we played and laughed a lot together.

USED

When we were younger _____ and laugh a lot together.

4 For me to live on almost no money at all is normal.

USED

I _____ almost no money at all.

5 Perhaps he bought the pills from one of his so-called friends.

HAVE

He _____ from one of his so-called friends.

6 The beach was fun even though it was too cold.

FACT

_____ too cold, the beach was fun.

7 I'm really glad that I'm going to see you again so soon.

FORWARD

I'm really _____ you again so soon.

8 Did you ever buy illegal drugs yourself?

WHETHER

She asked me _____.

9 We would never have succeeded without her moral support.

SHE

We would never have succeeded _____.

10 I'm scared: What does Trump's triumph mean for us?

ABOUT

_____ Trump's triumph means for us scares me.

11 When somebody speaks down to me like this, I hate it.

BEING

I hate _____ to like this.

12 Because they are so afraid of break-ins my parents paid a security firm to install an alarm system in their house.

HAD

Because they are so afraid of break-ins my parents _____
_____ an alarm system in their house.

13 You should have spoken to Scott sooner.

SPOKEN

If _____ to Scott sooner.

14 "You never accept any help," Fiona said to her brother Scott.

ACCUSED

Fiona _____ any help.

15 If you really want to throw your whole life away, there's nothing I can do.

INSIST

If you _____ your whole life away, there's nothing I can do.

16 If he is having so many problems at school, maybe some private tuition would help him.

FROM

Maybe he would _____ tuition if he's having so many
problems at school.

17 This entire area stands a very good chance of being closed as unhealthy by the council.

HIGHLY

It's _____ will be closed by council due to health reasons.

18 You won't have any problems in life if you keep listening to your best friends' advice.

LONG

He was told he wouldn't have any problems in life _____ his best friends' advice.

19 My brother has great ideas all the time but never achieves anything.

COMES

My brother always _____ ideas without ever achieving anything.

20 Don't waste your time asking him to come with us.

WORTH

It's _____ to come with us.

points:
max. 20 points

Notes:

C. WRITING TASK

Choose one of the topics below and write a structured essay of 350-400 words. ½ of the points will be given for language, ½ for content. If the content is not acceptable, no points will be given.

Hand in a neat copy.

Count your words and state the number at the bottom of your essay.

1. **If you are a criminal, or any other kind of social misfit, don't blame others, or worse: the system, for your choices.
Discuss this statement and express your own view.**
2. ***"It's a psychic energizer... It releases the subconscious. It makes you see all your guilts, fears, repressions and insecurities. It makes you free."* - Cary Grant (1904-1986), famous British-American actor, on the positive effects of LSD⁶ on his life.
Discuss this statement and express your own view.**
3. **What do you think: How powerless are we as individuals in the face of global problems such as the ones mentioned by Scott's father in the article (lines 33-35)?
Discuss and express your own view.**
4. **In our modern society parents do not have enough time with their children.
Discuss this statement and express your own view.**

points:
max. 48 points

⁶ LSD = lysergic acid diethylamide, a synthetic drug with powerful hallucinogenic effects