

Question B Text 3 2009

The sample below is an example of excellence in the art of letter writing:

- is firmly on task
- has a good sense of audience
- is imaginative
- and is well expressed.

QUESTION B

“...photography’s unique ability to freeze time...”

Imagine your art teacher is compiling a photographic exhibition to reflect the lives of young people today. She has asked students to suggest images they would like included. Write a letter to your art teacher proposing five images that you believe should be included and give reasons for your decision in each case. (50)

Expect candidates to select and justify the inclusion of **five images** in the exhibition. The candidate’s answer should ‘read’ like a letter. This will usually include some formal layout features. Mark ex 50 by reference to the criteria for assessment using the following breakdown of marks.

14 Fir Close,
Beldon.

Ms. Dorothy McGuire,
Spellfield Community School,
Beldon, Co. Kildare

Dear Ms. McGuire,

After last Friday’s Art class you informed the class that you were compiling a photographic exhibition on the lives young people today. Along with Hal Burke and Jenny Miley, I was invited to select five images that I feel reflect the life of a young person today and justify them in a letter. I have enclosed the images and written a short piece on why each deserves to be included in the exhibition.

1. The first piece is of a young man slumped in a corner, hands over his face. He is holding a piece of paper in his hands. This piece represents sorrow. It is a picture of a disappointed student receiving his Leaving Certificate results. For too long the

Leaving Cert has been a source of pain and anguish, and while we all loathe it, there can be no doubt of the impact it had on our lives. This picture should be included because it represents an extremely important time in a young person's life.

2. The second piece is a controversial choice. It is a picture of a young girl of seventeen, being loaded into an ambulance. The girl has a bottle of vodka in her right hand. This represents the stupidity of youth, and one only has to walk around any Irish town on a Friday night to realise this image is just one of a kind. Perhaps highlighting this self-made problem will help stop the abuse of alcohol that is such a huge and distasteful part of youth culture today.
3. The third image is from our own school magazine archives. It is a picture of the Leaving Certificate year of 2009 at their graduation mass. This picture could symbolise the end of the period of childishness and the growth towards maturity. The end of a young person's school years is of great importance. Friends will be lost, new friendships formed and important choices made in the years to come. I can think of no better image to place in the exhibition to remind young people of this time.
4. The fourth image I have chosen is a personal image. It is a picture of my girlfriend and me at a party. This image suggests love and happiness, as seen by our broad smiles and twinkling eyes. While love is important throughout life, a young person's experience of love, whether good or otherwise, will shape their views of it for the future, and I feel that, despite its ups and downs, this picture will give hope and encouragement to those who have not found love in their lives yet, young or otherwise.
5. Finally, on a less philosophical note! I have chosen a picture of two of my friends laughing together. As you can see, they are the complete opposite of one another. The guy on the left is wearing shorts, an Arsenal jersey and runners, while my friend on the right is dressed head to toe in black, with a Marilyn Manson t-shirt and black mascara. The message from this picture is simple: be yourself. These two are completely different and individual, and yet they are the best of friends because they do not pretend to be anything they are not. Someone will like you no matter who you are, so long as you are yourself, and this is a message that too many people ignore.

I look forward to hearing your opinions on my pieces and to seeing the finished exhibition.

Yours sincerely,
Frank O'Connell