

Examen Terminal (écrit) – 1ère session – Semestre 1 – Année 2024-2025

Langue: Anglais

Niveau: 3

Date: 11 Janvier 2025

Durée: 1h30

### **The Magic of West Cork in the Winter**

Adapted from Fergal McCarthy, *The Guardian*, 10 December 2024

When our son was very young, we spent several Easter holidays in Baltimore, a beautiful harbour<sup>1</sup> village in West Cork. We stayed at a friend's holiday home on the hill overlooking the bay but the house was eventually sold and, sadly, Baltimore no longer played a recurring role in our lives.

Recently, this maritime gem came up in conversation at a friend's birthday celebration in Dublin. I was introduced to Stuart Musgrave, who explained that he had ditched<sup>2</sup> his London life to return to Baltimore at the start of the pandemic, moving his young family into his childhood holiday home. He described the freedom that had opened up during that time with Carbery's 100 Isles to explore, and his own (1) \_\_\_\_\_ project reimagining St Matthew's Church as a live music venue.

I was impressed further to hear that the shuttered swimming pool had reopened and was now run solely by a team of engaged (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The coastal community had risen to the challenge of reinvigorating the village at a difficult time for small town Ireland and I immediately began making plans to return to Baltimore to experience this new energy for myself – this time as winter sets in.

It's a four-hour trip from Dublin, and the light is beginning to fade as we drive the final stretch of road from Skibbereen with the reflection of the moon on the River Ilen leading us all the way to dinner. We park in the shadow of 13th-century Dún na Seád castle and we can see the warm glow from the windows of Dede restaurant at the old Customs House from the top of the hill.

We get to stay at Liss Ard Estate, a few miles back towards Skibbereen. Every fire is lit in the reception rooms when we arrive and, after some hot whiskeys in the bar, we follow the light of our mobile phones through the woods to our room in the nearby Lake House.

We reach Baltimore in the morning and the harbour lies before us as we enter the village, with fishing boats and ferries drawing lines across the shiny bay. St Matthew's Church has looked out on this view since 1819 and I hear more from Stuart Musgrave about its new life as a music venue at night.

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<sup>1</sup> portuaire

<sup>2</sup> plaqué

The Skibbereen farmers' market is in full flow the morning after and we sample Gubbeen cheese, local black pudding and home baking – a strong food culture has developed in recent decades. Film industry luminaries Jeremy Irons, David Puttnam, Paul Mescal and Saoirse Ronan have also been drawn to the area, but there's no sign of any of them in the coffee queue.

We race back to Lough Hyne to climb Knockomagh Hill as the views from the top are reputedly some of the best in West Cork. We ascend to the rocky summit taking in Toe Head to the east and Cape Clear to the west. Countless other islands are scattered across Roaringwater Bay (3) \_\_\_\_\_ west again.

Fastnet Lighthouse lies somewhere beyond, hidden in the clouds but still casting its magnetic presence over the whole of West Cork. I can't wait to return again soon, for the next chapter in the story of this (4) \_\_\_\_\_ West Cork community.

**!!! REPONDEZ AUX QUESTIONS SUR VOTRE COPIE D'EXAMEN EN NUMÉROTANT BIEN LES RÉPONSES.**

**Part 1 – Comprehension (7 pts)**

**1. Vocabulary – fill in the blanks in the text with the following words: (1 pt)**

(Recopiez et numérotez vos réponses sur votre copie)

locals ; vibrant ; lockdown ; farther

**2. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Give the right answer and justify your choice with a quote from the text (give the lines and write down the quote). (2 pts)**

a) Fergal McCarthy used to own a house in Baltimore.

b) Covid 19 changed Stuart Musgrave's life for the better.

**3. In your own words (do not quote from the text!), explain how the inhabitants of Baltimore have reinvented the city. (2 pts)**

**4. According to Fergal McCarthy, what are the main attractions of Skibbereen? Use your own words (do not quote from the text!). (2 pts)**

**Part 2 – Grammar (6 pts)**

**5. Choose between “a”, “an”, “the” and “Ø”. (3 pts)**

- a) I loved the farmer’s market , \_\_\_\_ black pudding there was delicious. I love \_\_\_\_ good food!
- b) If you think about it, Ireland really is \_\_\_\_ unique country.
- c) \_\_\_\_ breathtaking views in West Cork always attract \_\_\_\_ tourists.

**6. Choose between preterit and present perfect. (3 pts)**

- a) I \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) him since he \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) his house.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ (you/be) here for long?
- c) We nearly \_\_\_\_\_ (freeze) to death on our winter Irish trip.
- d) Most Irish people \_\_\_\_\_ (never hear) bad music in pubs.

**Part 3 – Writing (7 pts)**

**7. Choose ONE of the following topics (200 words, +/- 10%):**

- a) Journalist Fergal McCarthy also wrote that “vibrant attractions bring an energy that brightens even the darkest months in Ireland.” Do you agree? Why/why not? Write a well-structured essay to discuss this question. Give arguments and examples.

**OR**

- b) Are you interested in an Irish trip? Why/why not? Write a well-structured essay to discuss this question. Give arguments and examples.

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