

אנגלית

Module F

PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (60 points)

Read the text below and then answer questions 1-7.

TEACHER MAN

Frank McCourt, who died last week, will be remembered by most people as a bestselling author. Fewer people, however, know that he was also a gifted teacher who spent 30 years of his life teaching creative writing in New York City high schools. McCourt always told his students that their lives were their best material.

5 In his mid-60s, he decided to take his own advice and turned his childhood memories into *Angela's Ashes*, the book that brought him instant fame.

McCourt liked to say that his years as a teacher, while depriving him of the time to write, were actually what made a writer out of him. His students learned from him that literature was nothing more - and nothing less - than telling stories. Many of them
10 said that the most inspiring hours in his classroom were spent listening to him sharing experiences from his own life. McCourt described his strategy more modestly. "Instead of teaching, I told stories. Anything to hold their attention," he said. "They thought I was teaching." Apparently, they were right: quite a few of his former students became published authors .

15 McCourt was born in New York and died there at the age of 78. His Irish immigrant parents had come to the US to find a better life, but unfortunately failed to realize their dreams. So when Frank was only 4 they returned to Ireland, where they lived in extreme poverty. At the, age of 19, he took his meager savings and boarded a ship back to New York. He had more luck than his parents. After working in various menial
20 jobs he enrolled in New York University and earned a degree in education. In 1957

טלפון: 074-7031138 נייד: 054-5411385

רחוב חיים לבנון 63, מתחם מעונות הסטודנטים, בניין A

rachelbd.center@gmail.com

www.rachelbd.co.il

he began teaching. It was an eye-opening experience which he described, often in hilarious detail, in his third book, *Teacher Man*.

While still a teacher McCourt managed to get some writing done, contributing articles on life in Ireland to local magazines. Then in 1977, he and his brother Malachy wrote a play based on a number of autobiographical episodes. This journey into the past motivated McCourt to write about his childhood in Ireland. The result was *Angela's Ashes*, written after he retired from teaching and published in 1996. The critics, delighted by the language and gripped by the story, gave McCourt the kind of praise that writers dream of. The public was equally, enthusiastic, making the book an international bestseller overnight. None of this came as a surprise to McCourt's former students. As one of them says, "We all thought he was such a genius. Everybody knew he was destined for great things. When he became a worldwide success, we felt justice had been done".

(Adapted from "Mccourt: A Storyteller Even as a Teacher," *New York Times*, July 20, 2009)

QUESTIONS (60 points)

Answer questions 1-7 in English, according to the text. In questions 2 and 7, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

From lines 1-6 we can understand that McCourt told his students they should

.....

(8 points)

2. What do we learn about McCourt from lines 7-14?

- (i) He always wanted to be a teacher.
- (ii) His first book was about his students.
- (iii) He taught his students about his books.
- (iv) His teaching affected his writing career.

(8 points)

3. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

In the quotation in lines 11-13, McCourt explains why.....

.....

(8 points)

4. In lines 15-22, the writer provides information about McCourt's

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- i) jobs in Ireland
- ii) relations with his parents
- iii) personal background
- iv) first steps as a writer
- v) success as a teacher
- vi) professional training a

(2x7=14 points)

5. What do McCourt's books *Angela's Ashes* and *Teacher Man* have in common?

ANSWER:.....

(8 points)

6. Give ONE thing we learn about *Angela's Ashes* from lines 26-33.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

We learn why the book.....

(8 points)

7. According to lines 26-33, McCourt's former Students

- (i) were surprised by his success I
- (ii) agreed with the critics' Opinion of him
- (iii) knew What he would write about
- (iv) encouraged him to write

(6 points)

PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION (40 points)

Write 120-140 words in English on the following topic.

8. Your town or city would like to attract new residents, and has asked the public to suggest ways of achieving this goal. Write a formal letter to the mayor, making your suggestions.

Use this page and the next (nos. 5-6) for writing a rough draft.