



Rewarding Learning

**ADVANCED
General Certificate of Education
2024**

Irish

**Assessment Unit A2 2
(Section B)**

assessing

Reading

[AIR22]

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY, MORNING

**MARK
SCHEME**

General Marking Instructions

Introduction

The main purpose of the mark scheme is to ensure that examinations are marked accurately, consistently and fairly. The mark scheme provides examiners with an indication of the nature and range of candidates' responses likely to be worthy of credit. It also sets out the criteria which they should apply in allocating marks to candidates' responses.

Assessment objectives

Below are the assessment objectives for **GCE Irish**.

Candidates should be able to:

- AO1** Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources, including face-to-face interaction.
- AO2** Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language drawn from a variety of sources.
- AO3** Manipulate the language accurately and appropriately, in spoken and written forms, using a range of lexis and structure.
- AO4** Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically and analytically to different aspects of the culture and society of countries and communities where the language is spoken and demonstrate critical analysis and evaluation of works created in the language studied.

Quality of candidates' responses

In marking the examination papers, examiners should be looking for a quality of response reflecting the level of maturity which may reasonably be expected of a 17 or 18-year-old which is the age at which the majority of candidates sit their GCE examinations.

Flexibility in marking

Mark schemes are not intended to be totally prescriptive. No mark scheme can cover all the responses which candidates may produce. In the event of unanticipated answers, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement to assess the validity of answers. If an answer is particularly problematic, then examiners should seek the guidance of the Supervising Examiner.

Positive marking

Examiners are encouraged to be positive in their marking, giving appropriate credit for what candidates know, understand and can do rather than penalising candidates for errors or omissions. Examiners should make use of the whole of the available mark range for any particular question and be prepared to award full marks for a response which is as good as might reasonably be expected of a 17 or 18-year-old GCE candidate.

Awarding zero marks

Marks should only be awarded for valid responses and no marks should be awarded for an answer which is completely incorrect or inappropriate.

Marking calculations

In marking answers involving calculations, examiners should apply the 'own figure rule' so that candidates are not penalised more than once for a computational error. To avoid a candidate being penalised, marks can be awarded where correct conclusions or inferences are made from their incorrect calculations.

Types of mark schemes

Mark schemes for tasks or questions which require candidates to respond in extended written form are marked on the basis of levels of response which take account of the quality of written communication.

Other questions which require only short answers are marked on a point for point basis with marks awarded for each valid piece of information provided.

Levels of response

In deciding which level of response to award, examiners should look for the 'best fit' bearing in mind that weakness in one area may be compensated for by strength in another. In deciding which mark within a particular level to award to any response, examiners are expected to use their professional judgement.

The following guidance is provided to assist examiners.

- **Threshold performance:** Response which just merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the bottom of the range.
- **Intermediate performance:** Response which clearly merits inclusion in the level and should be awarded a mark at or near the middle of the range.
- **High performance:** Response which fully satisfies the level description and should be awarded a mark at or near the top of the range.

Quality of written communication

Quality of written communication (QWC) is taken into account in assessing candidates' responses to all tasks and questions that require them to respond in extended written form in English. These tasks and questions are marked on the basis of levels of response. The description for each level of response includes reference to the quality of written communication. For conciseness, quality of written communication is distinguished within levels of response as follows:

One strand of QWC will be assessed:

- ensuring that text is legible and that spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that meaning is clear.

QWC will be assessed qualitatively and holistically and the standard required will be evident in the level banding marking criteria for each question.

Level 5: Quality of written communication is excellent.

Level 4: Quality of written communication is very good.

Level 3: Quality of written communication is good.

Level 2: Quality of written communication is quite good.

Level 1: Quality of written communication is weak.

In interpreting these level descriptions, examiners should refer to the more detailed guidance provided below:

Level 5 (Excellent): Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent and meaning is very clear.

Level 4 (Very Good): Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a sufficiently high standard to make meaning clear.

Level 3 (Good): Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are good and meaning is clear.

Level 2 (Quite Good): Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently competent to make meaning clear.

Level 1 (Weak): Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar may be such that intended meaning is not clear.

Section B: Reading

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----|
| 1 | (a) suntasacha | [1] |
| | (b) aníos | [1] |
| | (c) thábhacht | [1] |
| | (d) streachailt | [1] |
| | (e) stiogma | [1] |
| | (f) cheiliúradh | [1] |
| | (g) ceist | [1] |
| | (h) steiréitíopaí | [1] |
| | (i) gasta | [1] |
| | (j) nguthanna | [1] |

Marks for AO2 [10]

10

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

- 2 (a) cruinniú de na Náisiúin Aontaithe [1] comhdháil aeráide [1] [2]
- (b) gual [1] gás [1] ola [1] [3]
- (c) (foinsí inathnuaite fuinnimh) a aimsiú [1] (agus) a fheabhsú [1] [2]
- (d) (cumhacht) gaoithe [1] (cumhacht na) farraige [1] (aistriú) teasa [1] [3]
- (e) tograí [1]
- (f) (cumhacht) núicléach [1]
- (g) laghdú (ar chostas) [1]
- (h) míle [1] luchtaire (gasta) [1] [2]

Marks for AO2 [15]

**AVAILABLE
MARKS**

15

3 Summary

Candidates should mention the following key points:

- The two health systems in Ireland are often discussed. Until recently the free system in the North was considered very good.
- It didn't matter in the North if the patient was rich or poor – all treatment and prescriptions were free of charge.
- In the South, people had to buy private health insurance, pay for appointments or wait in a long queue for treatment.
- People in the South were envious of the free appointments in the North and demanded change from the government.
- No-one envies the North anymore – long waiting lists mean many pay privately.

QWC is assessed in this question.

Band	AO2 Performance Descriptors	Marks
5	The candidate displays a very high level of understanding of the stimulus and the task. The key points have been selected and covered within tolerance of the word limit. Very few errors. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are excellent and meaning is very clear.	[13]–[15]
4	The candidate has understood the stimulus and the task well. Most of the key points have been conveyed but there may be a tendency to exceed the word limit. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are of a sufficiently high standard to make meaning clear.	[10]–[12]
3	The candidate shows some understanding of the stimulus but there is an uneven response to the demands of the task. At least half of the relevant information is given but coverage of the key points may be unbalanced. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are good and meaning is clear.	[7]–[9]
2	The candidate has made some attempt to deal with the demands of the task but less than half of the relevant information is given. The response is inconsistent. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar are sufficiently competent to make meaning clear.	[4]–[6]
1	The candidate demonstrates limited understanding of the stimulus or the task. Little relevant information is given. Presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar may be such that intended meaning is not clear.	[1]–[3]
0	No valid response/incorrect/inappropriate/not worthy of credit.	[0]

Marks for AO2 [15]

4 Translation

The translation is divided into seven sections. Each section is marked out of five. The marks are then totalled to give a final mark out of 35.

Section	Translation Passage	Suggested Translation	Credit	Do not credit
1	The cost of living is affecting a lot of people in this country. There are now more people than ever homeless.	Tá an costas maireachtála ag dul i bhfeidhm ar chuid mhór daoine sa tír seo. Tá níos mó daoine ná riamh anois gan dídean.		
2	Nurses, teachers and young graduates can no longer afford to either rent or buy their own homes in Ireland.	Níl sé d'acmhainn a thuilleadh ag altraí, ag múinteoirí ná ag céimithe óga a dtithe féin a fháil ar cíós ná a cheannach in Éirinn.		
3	A new generation of young people is therefore emigrating to take advantage of better working conditions abroad.	Tá glúin nua de dhaoine óga mar sin ag dul ar imirce le leas a bhaint as coinníollacha oibre níos fearr thar sáile.		
4	There is a shortage of affordable housing, and, as a result, thousands are living in emergency accommodation.	Tá ganntanas de thithe ar phraghas réasúnta, agus mar thoradh air sin, tá na mílte ina gcónaí i lóistín éigeandála.		
5	The latest figures on homelessness from the Simon Community show that 92% of houses available to rent are too costly.	Léiríonn na figiúirí is déanaí ar easpa dídine ó Phobal (ó Chlann) Shíomóin go bhfuil 92% de na tithe atá ar fáil ar cíós róchostasach.		
6	It is almost impossible for people on low incomes or on social welfare to move out of this accommodation because of high rents.	Tá sé beagnach dodhéanta ag daoine ar ioncaim íseal nó atá ag fáil leas sóisialta bogadh amach as an lóistín seo mar gheall ar chíosa arda.		
7	The Simon Community also say that the only cure for this housing crisis is to build more social houses.	Deir Pobal Shíomóin (Clann Shíomóin) fosta nach bhfuil aon leigheas ar an ghéarchéim thithíochta ach tuilleadh tithe sóisialta a thógáil.		
Suitable alternative responses will be credited.				

Band	AO3 Performance Descriptors	Marks
5	The presentation of original information in the target language is excellent. Grammar, structures and accuracy are of a very high order.	[5]
4	A very good, faithful rendering, evidence of minor errors. Lexis and structures used confidently.	[4]
3	Good attempt overall and more than half of the information has been accurately conveyed.	[3]
2	Quite limited in terms of language. Inaccuracies may be frequent and serious. Less than half the information has been conveyed.	[2]
1	Very limited attempt to comply with the demands of the task. Gaps are evident and candidate may resort to using English.	[1]
0	No valid response/incorrect/inappropriate/not worthy of credit.	[0]

Marks for AO3 [35]

Total marks [75]