

GCSE Irish

Specification Addendum

Exceptional Assessment Adaptations (for 2020–2021)

This addendum should be used in conjunction with the current specification

The table below shows the units available for Summer 2021 cash in and details where applicable:

- the unit for omission; and
- any temporary adaptations that have been made due to public health restrictions.

Please note: This applies only to candidates who started their GCSE course in September 2019 and are cashing-in at qualification level in Summer 2021

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021
Unit 1: Listening	<p>External written examination with stimulus material in Irish</p> <p>There are two tiers of entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation (35 mins approx.); and • Higher (45 mins approx.). <p>Students answer 12 questions. Four of these are the same in both tiers.</p> <p>Responses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selection; • gap-filling; • answering questions in English; and • answering questions in Irish. 	25%	No changes

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021
<p>Unit 2: Speaking</p>	<p>One teacher-conducted and externally marked speaking examination</p> <p>There is one tier of entry. The test lasts 7–12 minutes, plus 10 minutes of supervised preparation time.</p> <p>Each test includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two role-plays, both from the same Context for Learning; and • a general conversation on two topics, one from each of the other two Contexts for Learning. <p>Each role-play lasts up to 2 minutes and each conversation topic takes up to 4 minutes.</p> <p>Students prepare the first conversation topic in advance from the Context for Learning that we prescribe.</p> <p>Teachers must record and authenticate all evidence and submit it to us for marking.</p>	25%	<p>This unit will be omitted.</p> <p>In place of a formal assessment centres will be required to provide an endorsement that the speaking element of this specification has been covered. Further guidance on this will be issued to Heads of Centre in due course.</p>
<p>Unit 3: Reading</p>	<p>External written examination with stimulus material in Irish</p> <p>There are two tiers of entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation (50 mins); and • Higher (1 hour). <p>Students answer 12 questions. Four of these are the same in both tiers.</p> <p>Responses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selection; • gap-filling; • answering questions in English; • answering questions in Irish; and • translating short sentences from Irish into English. 	25%	No changes

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021
Unit 4: Writing	External written examination There are two tiers of entry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation (1 hour); and • Higher (1 hour 15 mins). Students answer four questions. One of these is the same in both tiers. Responses include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a listing and short phrase task in Irish (Foundation Tier only); • short phrase/sentence responses in Irish (both tiers); • short responses in Irish to one or more pieces of text (Higher Tier only); • translation of short sentences from English into Irish (both tiers); and • one structured, extended writing task in Irish from a choice of three (both tiers). 	25%	No changes

For candidates commencing their GCSE course in September 2020, it is recommended that, as far as possible, the topics for each Context for Learning are delivered in the order that they are listed in the specification in case of any further disruption to the academic year.