

GCSE IRISH SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

Whether you teach our existing GCSE Irish specification or are considering offering the course for the first time, we aim to provide both teachers and students with the resources they need to achieve excellence in the study of Irish.

Our revised specification comprises four externally assessed units. It gives students the opportunity to develop their language skills and widen their awareness and understanding of Irish-speaking countries/communities. This specification focuses on the practical use of Irish and is a sound basis for progression to further study, higher education or employment.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

The GCSE Irish specification is made up of four units:

- Unit 1: Listening (one external written examination);
- Unit 2: Speaking (one teacher-conducted speaking examination);
- Unit 3: Reading (one external written examination); and
- Unit 4: Writing (one external written examination).

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

A GCSE in Irish helps students to:

- develop their knowledge of and enthusiasm for language learning skills by providing opportunities for the practical use of Irish;
- develop the confidence to communicate effectively in Irish; and
- take their place as citizens in a multilingual, global society.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

Through this course students will:

- improve their communication skills by learning how to express their viewpoint and ask questions;
- participate in discussions, debates and interviews;
- use mathematical skills to interpret statistical data in Irish such as diagrams and timetables;
- use ICT to present information, for example through a PowerPoint presentation;
- develop their planning, time management and self-evaluation skills;
- listen to and learn from others through discussion, group work and shared tasks;
- present reasons and justify opinions; and
- improve their problem-solving ability by considering various approaches and viewpoints to reach a conclusion.



UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS MADE

Our revised GCSE modern language specifications are unitised. The Listening, Reading and Writing units are available at both Foundation and Higher Tier, so candidates may be entered for whichever tier is more appropriate. The Speaking unit is untiered.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

| CONTENT | ASSESSMENT | WEIGHTING |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Unit 1: Listening | External written examination Approximately 35 minutes at Foundation Tier Approximately 45 minutes at Higher Tier Students answer twelve questions, in English and Irish. | 25 % |
| Unit 2: Speaking | Teacher-conducted speaking examination 7–12 minutes (plus 10 minutes of preparation time) Students complete two role-plays and a general conversation on two topics in Irish. | 25 % |
| Unit 3: Reading | External written examination 50 minutes at Foundation Tier 1 hour at Higher Tier Students answer a variety of questions in English and in Irish, as well as translating short sentences from Irish into English. | 25 % |
| Unit 4: Writing | External written examination 1 hour at Foundation Tier 1 hour 15 minutes at Higher Tier Students answer four questions including listing (at Foundation Tier), short phrase/sentence responses, translating short sentences, and one extended writing task (from a choice of three) in Irish. | 25 % |

SUPPORTING YOU

In person

As your local awarding organisation, we can provide personalised support and, if appropriate, visits to you and your centre. Contact the Specification Support Officer if you would like to arrange a visit.

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support the revised specification, including:

- free launch events to introduce you to the specification; and
- free seminars to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will issue invitations to heads of department at least three weeks before each event.

Check our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk

Online

Most of the support we provide will be available on our subject microsite. The site will contain:

- the latest version of the specification;
- planning frameworks;
- Chief Examiner's reports with information on improving examination performance;
- exemplar papers and mark schemes; and
- exemplification of standards (available after the first examination series).

CONTACT US

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

Subject Officer with overall responsibility:

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SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT

For first teaching from September 2017

For first assessment in Summer 2018

For first award in Summer 2019

