

FACTFILE: GCSE IRISH

Listening 4

CONTEXT 1: IDENTITY, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE



Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations



Introduction

Here are some key points to help you study this topic.

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of different types of spoken language;
- follow and understand clear speech using familiar language;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of spoken passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of spoken texts; and
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended spoken text (including authentic sources, which may be adapted as appropriate) by being able to answer questions, extract information, evaluate and draw conclusions.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

- Understanding and following the instructions and questions given in Irish.
- Listening for a specific purpose and trying to adapt the information you hear to the specific question that is being asked.
- Identifying what type of task each question involves, i.e. listening to the gist/general meaning or listening for specific information. This will help you answer each question more accurately.

Preparation

- Look at past papers and make yourself familiar with the layout of the paper, the number of questions that are posed in the target language and the allocation of marks within each question.
- Review, with care, the key phrases and vocabulary for talking about each celebration/festival/cultural event. Be sure to review dates, months and expressions of time and familiarise yourself with the pronunciation of them as this will help you more easily identify them if they appear in the listening exam.
- This content area features heavily in past papers, with short extracts about birthday celebrations, dates of birthdays, ages of the individuals and the way in which those occasions were celebrated. Make sure to review these and become familiar with the types of phrases you may hear in the exam.
- Sometimes the images used in the question paper help set the context for the material you are dealing with and this can be a good support.

- Make good use of the five minute preparation time before the recording begins. Perhaps you might underline what you consider is key to supplying the answer, or maybe something you are not sure about and you want to listen particularly carefully to.

Practice

- When completing any listening assignment pencil in your answers when you hear the extract for the first time, and only write your answer having listened a second time. As you listen to each piece for the first time try to focus on what you think is key to answering the question.
- If you have a moment to spare, check your answer and then move on to look at the next question, while you wait for the recording to begin again.
- Always take time to analyse your performance, when you complete each listening assignment and try to determine where exactly marks were lost and why.
- Ask your teacher's permission to borrow the recording to review it at again at home, paying close attention to material you did not adequately recognise while completing the test in class.
- Practise using past CCEA listening papers, particularly those where your scores were disappointing, and try to pinpoint why marks were lost.
- Additional resources can be found in the CCEA Textbook for GCSE page 119.

Revision

- Review any past papers that you have completed, noting any spelling errors, and listen to the material again so as to familiarise yourself with the correct pronunciation.
- Repeated listening will also help you identify key vocabulary relevant to the content area, i.e. the words for different celebrations and festivals and the dates they occur.
- Focus on vocabulary for expressing time as this often appears in relation to festivals.
- Exposure to the spoken language on Radio, TV and in environments beyond the classroom helps build your confidence and ability to extract meaning.

