

FACTFILE: GCSE IRISH

Reading 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:

- understand and respond to different types of written language;
- understand details within texts using high frequency familiar language;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts (from a range of specified contexts including short narratives, authentic material and unfamiliar material);
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended written text and authentic sources;

- demonstrate understanding by being able to scan for particular information, organise and present relevant details, draw conclusions in context and recognise implicit meaning where appropriate; and
- translate sentences from Irish into English.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

You should always begin by:

- Reading through the whole paper before you attempt to answer any questions;
- Do not panic when you encounter something unfamiliar. If you encounter a word or phrase which you do not recognise try saying it to yourself. Sometimes this helps you see connections with what is already familiar to you;
- At times there may be some contextual clues in the graphics and layout of the question;
- The examination paper has a total of 60 marks and only 60 minutes to complete, so allocate your time accordingly;
- Begin by answering the easiest questions first, regardless of their order, and do not write in your final answer until you have read over the question at least twice;
- When you have dealt with the material you are confident that you have answered correctly, return to any question which you found challenging, on first reading;
- Remember if you leave a question unanswered you cannot be awarded any marks.

Preparation

- An essential step in preparation is to be familiar with the key phrases and vocabulary to discuss Culture, Customs, Festivals and Celebrations. These can be found in the Vocabulary list for The New GCSE Specification, in the GCSE Textbook (pages 111, 121) and sample reading extracts on (Pages 111–113 and 119).
- When you attend a cultural event or local festival collect any flyers or handouts and use them to extend your vocabulary and knowledge of key phrases.
- Develop the skill of reading for enjoyment and pleasure, by accessing material of interest to you in Irish language magazines or newspaper articles.
- Again, familiarise yourself with the rubrics given in Irish:
 - ‘Léigh an sliocht agus freagair na ceisteanna’;
 - ‘Léigh na habairtí agus ceangail iad leis an íomhá chuí’;
 - ‘Líon isteach na bearnaí le focail ón bhosca’.

Practice

- Maximise the opportunity to read short extracts, advertisements and posters to extract key ideas and help to develop this skill.
- Read extended passages of modern material i.e. booklets published on Gaeltacht courses or circulating at local Festivals and Cultural Courses or materials published as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, the annual celebration of Irish Language and Culture.
- There is an extensive range of reading practice materials available from the CCEA Irish GCSE microsite and your teacher will have past reading papers and probably some suitable reading material that you can borrow, in a class library.
- Note new phrases and idioms that you come across and organise them into a notebook or file, for future reference.
- Keep a tally of your score when you complete each reading paper, and set a target score for the next test.
- Materials that you may have recorded for the speaking test should be carefully reviewed when preparing for the Reading Paper.

Revision

- It is always worth reviewing all the recent reading papers you have done in class before taking the Reading Paper, and it can be very beneficial to carry this out with a friend.
- Focus particularly on the way the marks are distributed and always complete this short check before you start to write your answers.

