

FACTFILE: GCSE IRISH

Speaking 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:

- communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes;
- take part in short conversations, asking and answering questions, exchanging opinions and producing extended sequences of speech;
- speak spontaneously, responding to questions, points of view or situations and sustaining communication, as appropriate;
- express information and narrate events coherently and confidently, using and adapting language for new purposes;
- make appropriate and accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;

- make creative use of the language, as appropriate, to express and justify your own thoughts and points of view; and
- use accurate pronunciation and intonation that would be understood by a native speaker.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

You should be able to:

- ask and answer a range of questions confidently;
- deliver information with good pronunciation, intonation and fluency;
- express and justify a variety of personal views and opinions on a range of subjects;
- use a range of grammar and verbal structures with an acceptable level of accuracy;
- work with others to complete a range of role-play and presentation tasks;
- familiarise yourself with the mark allocation for each task.

Preparation

- Prepare what you think are the most likely questions that can be posed within this context, e.g. speaking about how you celebrate your Birthday or Halloween with family or friends; speaking about any cultural event you attend (GAA matches, Fleadh Cheoil).
- Familiarise yourself with vocabulary you can use to express your opinions and views. Make sure you use this during your presentation. Use the Specific Vocabulary lists in the Specification Document and CCEA Textbook to help formulate your responses.
- Draft your responses and ensure that you have sufficient material to speak for 4 minutes on the chosen topic. Try to include a wide range of verbs and appropriate vocabulary in your preparation and use the CCEA Vocabulary List and Microsite to guide you.
- Your language assistant may be willing to review what you have prepared, suggest possible improvements and record the material onto your phone or laptop.
- Your role-plays have a significant number of marks (20) so do not overlook them in your preparation. Review, with care, the use of common verbs, particularly in the past tense; dates; ages; and key vocabulary to discuss presents, birthdays and other family celebrations.
- Prepare key phrases to explain that you do not understand the question or ask the teacher to repeat the question, e.g. 'Ní thuigim an cheist'; 'Abair sin arís, le do thoil'.

Practice

- Practise with a friend, asking each other questions and listening carefully to the responses.
- Focus carefully on responding to questions which ask your opinion and practise your response.
- Practise your listening skills to help you easily understand what the teacher is asking you in the exam. Make use of a variety of resources such as Irish language radio and Television.
- Study the vocabulary related to each celebration/festival so that you can easily expand your answers.

Revision

- Split the vocabulary for the subject area up into smaller sections so you can easily review one each week, working, if possible, with a teacher or a friend.
- Reduce your prepared answers to small colour coded index cards and carry these around with you as the time for the speaking examination approaches.
- Record onto your phone the response that you have prepared for your chosen question and listen to it a few times a day, in the days leading up to your oral.
- Make use of resources available on the CCEA Microsite and the vocabulary lists in both the GCSE textbook and the Specification.

