

FACTFILE: GCSE IRISH



Speaking 9

CONTEXT 3: SCHOOL LIFE, STUDIES AND THE WORLD OF WORK



My studies and school life



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

- To communicate effectively you must identify and fully address all aspects of the question.
- Be aware of the audience and context in the role-plays to gauge the tone of the language.
- Expand your responses and give detail to make your answers longer and more interesting.
- Be able to speak about the topic using a range of tenses.
- Use a variety of vocabulary and higher level structures to access marks in the top bands.
- Incorporate idiomatic phrases to enrich your language.
- Replicate the rhythm and tone of the language as this is even more important than the correct pronunciation of individual words in creating fluency.

Preparation

- Familiarise yourself with the CCEA vocabulary on the topics of studying and school life.
- Consult section 6.2 of the CCEA Specification to check the content of the examination.
- Read the Grade Descriptions in the CCEA Specification to check the standards required.
- Read the CCEA Mark Schemes to focus you on the criteria examiners will use to mark.
- Use headings to organise your notes into the various topics included in this area.
- Revisit verb endings for regular and irregular verbs in each tense.
- Think about possible topics you need to be able to talk about, e.g. the subjects you study, what you will study next year, the school day, uniform and rules.
- Read materials in the CCEA GCSE textbook on this topic and pay particular attention to the tips in it on how to enhance the quality of your language.

Practice

- Practise speaking Irish with others as much as possible.
- Join Irish conversation clubs inside and outside school.
- Read transcripts while listening to Irish to perfect tone and pronunciation.
- Listen to podcasts, programmes and other Irish speakers to imitate pronunciation.
- Anticipate questions and prepare answers to develop and steer the conversation.
- Draw on personal experience and you will speak with more confidence and enthusiasm.
- Record your conversations and review them critically.
- Practise phrases which can be incorporated to give thinking time, e.g. 'Fan go bhfeice mé'.
- Use phrases to give a natural flow to conversation, e.g. mar atá, mar shampla.
- Do not rush conversation as this impedes natural flow and fluency of language.
- Practise expressing opinions and always giving justifications.
- Use conjunctions and connectives to maintain flow of language.
- Pace the learning of the conversation work and start learning well in advance so that you feel confident going into the oral.

Revision

- Review mind maps and spider diagrams to help you consolidate your learning.
- Revise verb endings for all the tenses.
- Listen to recordings on the topics of free time, leisure and daily routine.

