



Rewarding Learning

# IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #5

## **GUIDANCE FOR CONVERSATION AT AS**

### **Introduction**

The AS conversation element is based on AS level themes. You converse in Irish about aspects of the AS themes. The conversation lasts approximately eight minutes.

### **Assessment**

An external visiting examiner carries out your speaking test and it is recorded.

### **Assessment Objectives**

You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A01: understand and respond to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources, including face-to-face interaction;
- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately, using a range of lexis and structure.

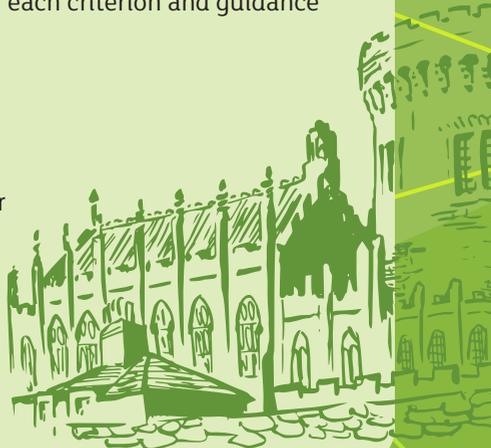
Familiarise yourself with the requirements of each criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

A01 assesses:

- your degree of comprehension;
- the fluency of your responses;
- your initiative to develop answers and your ability to argue points of view;
- your pronunciation and intonation.

A03 assesses:

- your command of idiom and vocabulary;
- your knowledge and application of grammar.





## Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area.

- Look at the sample questions relating to A level themes in the Irish AS Fact File for ideas.
- Review specific vocabulary to help you talk more knowledgeably about each topic.
- Practise answering as many questions as you can at home.
- Anticipate the examiner's questions and be prepared to develop them further.
- Rehearse the questions thoroughly but do not recite a memorised speech in the exam.
- Remember your answers must follow the natural flow of a real conversation.
- Engage in one-to-one mock conversations with classmates to review the topics and gain fluency and confidence.
- Record your conversation practices and review them later to identify your weak areas.
- Practise conversation in class and with friends as much as possible.
- Familiarise yourself with Irish conversational transitions to add spontaneity to your answers and give you time to collect your thoughts if needed.
- Pay attention to adjective agreement, tenses and structures.
- Do not rush through the conversation.
- Breathe, relax and speak clearly and with confidence.