



Rewarding Learning

# IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #7

## GUIDANCE FOR CONVERSATION

### [A2]

#### Introduction

The A2 conversation lasts nine minutes and is based on the themes studied at A2. It may also incorporate AS themes, where appropriate.

#### Assessment

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

#### Assessment Objective/s

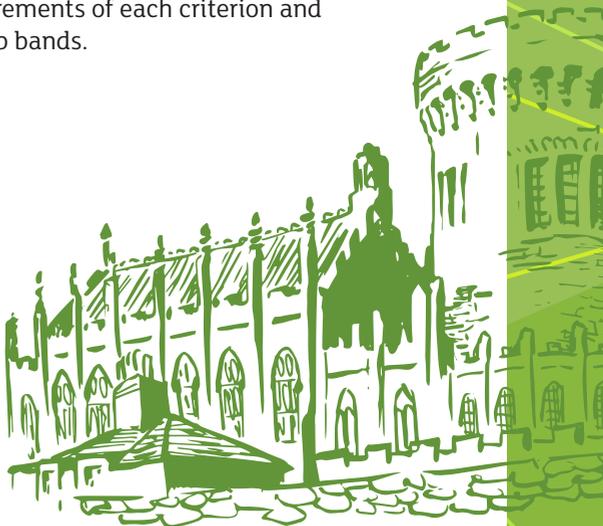
You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A01: understand and respond to spoken language;
- 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; and
- your pronunciation and intonation.





A03 assesses:

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

## Skills

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

### Preparation for the Examination

- Begin your preparation early in the first term, choosing one of the suggested topics under the theme of “**Young People in Society**” each week. Map out some key phrases, making sure you are including your ideas on the subject, and incorporate a range of tenses/ grammatical structures i.e.
- **Cúrsaí Tríú Leibhéil** – Cad é is fiú cúrsa ollscoile a dhéanamh? Cad iad na cúrsaí a bhfuil spéis agat iontu? Dá mbeadh do rogha agat cá rachfá le cúrsa a dhéanamh agus cad chuige?
- **Obair Pháirtaimseartha** – An bhfuil post páirtaimseartha agat faoi láthair? Ca háit? Cad iad na huaireanta a dhéanann tú? An bhfuil níos mó buntáistí ná míbhuntáistí ag baint léi? Cad iad na scileanna atá de dhíth do shaol na hoibre?
- Focus your attention on the second theme “**Our place in a Changing World**” in Term 2, approaching each of the suggested topics on the same basis as you did in Term 1. Aim to have completed this preparation by midterm.
- Remember to review study notes you prepared for your AS examination the previous year, and do not overlook common areas of conversation i.e.
  - **Mo theaghlach;**
  - **An Ghaeltacht;**
  - **Laethanta Saoire;**
  - **Deireadh na Seachtaine;**
  - **Caitheamh Aimsire.**
- When you have completed each of the topics, review your ideas and check pronunciation of new vocabulary with your teacher or language assistant.
- Remember that the CCEA Irish microsite has very useful phrases and vocabulary listed for each of these topic areas and this site can provide much support.



- Then transfer your key ideas and vocabulary to colour index cards and practise your answers for about 10 minutes each day. Regular review of the key ideas/ sample phrases will ensure they stay in your long term memory.
- Think of working with a friend, asking him/her certain topics, listening to the responses they have prepared, and getting them to listen to you.
- During the Easter break record your cards onto your phone, particularly if you are an auditory learner, and play the prepared material for topic each day.

### **On the day of the Examination**

- Remember that you have only one chance to make a good impression and this is more easily achieved if you are thoroughly prepared.
- A competent delivery of your discussion topic (which precedes this element) leaves you more relaxed for the conversation.
- Listen carefully to the whole question the examiner poses, and do not just focus your attention on the topic you hear mentioned.
- If you are asked about a topic which you are not prepared to talk about, try to steer the conversation towards an alternative, e.g. if asked ‘Ar fhreastail tú ariamh ar chúrsa Gaeltachta? You might respond by saying “Níor fhreastail, ach tá teach samhraidh againn ar an Bhun Bheag” and they go on to talk about summers spent there.
- Or, if you are asked about sport and you are not interested in it, turn the conversation to your favourite hobby by saying something like “ Níl suim dá laghad agam sa spórt, ach is breá liom seal a chaitheamh i mbun an cheoil”
- Remember that the examiner wants to hear your views and opinions and try to state them clearly and coherently.
- If you do not understand a question explain that by saying something like “tá brón orm ach ní thuigim an cheist” and the examiner will most likely rephrase it for you or move on to another topic.