

FACTFILE: GCSE IRISH

Writing 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 in writing for a variety of purposes;
- write short texts, using simple sentences and familiar language to convey meaning and exchange information;
- translate sentences from English into Irish to convey key messages accurately and to apply grammatical knowledge of language and structures in context;
- produce clear and coherent extended text to present facts and express ideas and opinions for different purposes and in different settings;

- make accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;
- manipulate the language, using and adapting a variety of structures and vocabulary with accuracy and fluency for new purposes (including using appropriate style and register); and
- make independent and creative use of the language to identify key points, express and justify your thoughts and points of view.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

- Display good knowledge of the subject matter being tested.
- Understand fully all the demands of the task and carry them out effectively, addressing all requirements.
- Include personal ideas and opinions well presented.
- Learn to manage the time element of extended writing tasks well.
- Use a comprehensive range of language structures appropriate to the task.
- Demonstrate the ability to write with a good degree of competence, accuracy and fluency.

Preparation

- At foundation level, a comprehensive answer will address the question in full and will be clear and easy to understand. At higher level, there should be some evidence of development of task as well as the inclusion of personal views and opinions.
- Familiarising yourself with phrases used to express an opinion will help to achieve this higher level criterion. Such phrases, and other useful structures for writing, can be found in the specification and on the CCEA Microsite.
- These resources may also provide ideas for writing content. This may also be discussed in groups or perhaps mindmapped in class.
- A good grasp on grammar structures, especially an ability to confidently manipulate verbs in other tenses, will help you produce writing of a higher standard.
- Review with care common verbs, imperative mood, dates, months and common plurals as listed in the grammar section of the specification.
- Use BBC Bitsize extended writing sample 'Ceolchoirm ar a raibh mé' to guide your steps and suggest vocabulary and grammatical structures to help write tasks of a similar type.

Practice

- Select a writing task that interests you, as you are more likely to write with enthusiasm. Write about past experiences, e.g. a birthday or cultural event you attended or how you celebrate holidays with your family/friends.
- Be aware, from the outset, of the way the marks are being allocated and ensure that you are addressing all requirements of the task.
- Think about material you have prepared for your speaking test which you may be able to incorporate into the piece of writing.
- Address the question in full and use language appropriate to the task.
- Find an opportunity to express some views and opinions, e.g. about the music and the venue, or the significance of cultural celebrations in your local community.
- Always check carefully what you have written, in particular check the verbs you have used against your verb table, striving to present more than just one tense.

- Try to have 5 minutes left to review your answer in full, and make any adjustments.
- Always try to read a piece someone else has written, especially if your teacher recommends it, and see how differently they tackled the task.

Revision

- Review your corrected pieces of work and make note of your common mistakes. Consulting this before writing another piece will make your work more accurate.
- Think of another task or two you might be asked to write relating to Festivals, Culture, customs and celebrations and map out a possible response.
- Note idiomatic phrases that you might come across in related readings and review these with care, ahead of attempting any writing exercise.

