

FACTFILE: GCSE IRISH



Writing 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 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

- To communicate effectively you must identify and fully address all aspects of the question.
- Be prepared to write about a topic in different formats, i.e. a list, short sentences or an extended piece of writing.
- Familiarise yourself with the correct ordering of the words in a sentence in Irish.
- Check you know how to change verb endings to convey different tenses.
- Recognise opportunities to enrich your language by putting in idiomatic language.
- Manage your time carefully so that you have time to review your work.
- Learn how to use a dictionary effectively to better prepare pieces to learn for the examination.

Preparation

- Familiarise yourself with the CCEA vocabulary on the topics of studying and school life.
- Consult section 6.4 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 write 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

- Make a list of key verbs you would use when writing about your studies and school life.
- Create mind maps and spider diagrams of key words and phrases for studying and school life.
- Write out verbs and phrases which are used to express opinions.
- Practise how to use connectives to make sentences longer and more interesting.
- Swap your work with a friend's work to compare pieces and get peer feedback.
- Write answers for the questions in the SAMS and past papers on the topics in this area.
- Practise how to recycle and adapt phrases you have used for other topics to suit this one.

Revision

- Read over corrected pieces of work and highlight higher level language.
- Review mind maps and spider diagrams to help you consolidate your learning.
- Read exemplar materials on the CCEA microsite.
- Read carefully your teacher's feedback on your corrected pieces of work.
- Use online resources to motivate you to revise more.

