

**GCSE**



Subject Criteria and Requirements  
**GAEILGE**



**December 2015**



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# The criteria

## Introduction

GCSE subject criteria set out for all GCSE specifications the:

- knowledge, understanding and skills; and
- assessment objectives and assessment arrangements.

Along with the GCSE Design Principles, they provide the framework within which the awarding organisation creates the detail of the specification.

## Aims and learning outcomes

The GCSE specification in Gaeilge should provide a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study that will motivate learners and enable them to progress with confidence to further study and/or employment.

It must enable learners to develop further their interest in Irish and their enthusiasm for the language.

It must promote the development of practical skills which enable learners to communicate effectively and use language appropriate for the twenty first century.

It must facilitate the development of learners' ability to make appropriate judgements about choice and use of language across the curriculum through the medium of Irish.

The specification must build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3.

1. The GCSE specification in Gaeilge must enable learners to:

- demonstrate skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately, for a range of audiences and purposes using appropriate media;
- express themselves creatively and imaginatively;
- become critical readers of a range of texts;
- use reading to develop their own skills as writers;
- understand the patterns, structures and conventions of written and spoken language;
- understand the impact of variations in spoken and written language;
- understand how spoken language and written language evolve in response to changes in society.
- select and adapt speech and writing to different situations and audiences.

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## Subject content

2. The content of the GCSE specification in Gaeilge must reflect the learning outcomes.
3. The GCSE specification must specify the content in ways that promote an integrated approach to speaking and listening, reading and writing.
4. The GCSE specification must be consistent with the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 4.
5. The GCSE specification must allow learners to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of language and its use as specified below.

## Studying language

6. The GCSE specification in Gaeilge must require learners to:
  - engage with and make fresh connections between ideas, texts, words and images;
  - analyse spoken and written language, exploring impact and how it is achieved.
7. In studying written language, the GCSE specification in Gaeilge must require learners to:
  - understand how meaning is constructed through words, sentences and whole texts, and at least one extended text, recognising the effects of language choices and patterns;
  - evaluate the ways in which texts may be interpreted differently according to the perspective of the reader;
  - explore language variation and how it varies according to audience and reader.

## Using language

8. The GCSE specification in Gaeilge must require learners to:
  - demonstrate an understanding of the conventions of written language, including grammar, spelling and punctuation;
  - experiment with language to create effects to engage the audience;
  - express ideas and information clearly, precisely, accurately and appropriately in spoken and written communication;
  - form independent views and challenge what is heard or read on the grounds of reason, evidence or argument.

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9. In writing, the GCSE specification in Gaeilge must require learners to:

- write accurately and fluently, choosing content and adapting style and language to a wide range of forms, media, contexts, audiences and purposes.

10. In speaking and listening, the GCSE specification in Gaeilge must require learners to:

- present and listen to information and ideas;
- respond appropriately to the questions and views of others;
- make a range of effective contributions, using creative and sensitive approaches to exploring questions, solving problems, developing and challenging ideas;
- reflect on their own and others' uses of language;
- participate in a range of real-life contexts in and beyond the classroom, adapting talk appropriately to situation and audience;
- select and use a range of techniques and creative approaches to explore ideas, texts and issues in scripted and improvised work.

## Assessment objectives

11. The GCSE specification in Gaeilge must require learners to demonstrate their ability to:

Assessment Objectives		Weighting
AO1	<p><b>Listening and Speaking</b></p> <p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speak to communicate clearly and purposefully; structure and sustain talk, adapting it to different situations and audiences;</li><li>• Listen and respond to speakers' ideas and perspectives;</li><li>• Interact with others, shaping meanings through suggestions, comments and questions and drawing ideas together;</li><li>• Undertake and sustain different roles;</li><li>• Evaluate the impact of spoken language choices in their own and others' use.</li></ul>	20-30%

AO2	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and understand texts, selecting material appropriate to purpose, collating from different sources and making comparisons and cross- references as appropriate;</li> <li>• Develop and sustain interpretations of writers’ ideas and perspectives;</li> <li>• Explain and evaluate how writers use linguistic, structural and presentational features to achieve effects and engage and influence the reader.</li> </ul>	30-40%
AO3	<p><b>Writing</b></p> <p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using and adapting forms and selecting vocabulary appropriate to task and purpose in ways that engage the reader;</li> <li>• Organise information and ideas into structured and sequenced sentences, paragraphs and whole texts, using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence;</li> <li>• Use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, employing accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.</li> </ul> <p><b>At least one third of available credit for AO3 should be awarded for the use of a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect with accurate punctuation and spelling.</b></p>	30-40%

## Scheme of assessment

12. The GCSE specification in Gaeilge must allocate a weighting of 60 per cent to external assessment and 40 per cent to non-exam assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.