

Irish

GCE Student Guide

GCE Irish will give you a fascinating insight into the Irish language and culture. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in Irish in both speaking and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of Irish-speaking countries and communities.

The study of Irish will significantly contribute to your personal development, will help you gain skills through independent study and research and widen your career opportunities.

Why study Irish?

If you have an interest and a desire to learn and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. The AS units can be taken on their own as a stand-alone AS qualification which will provide you with a wealth of knowledge and competence in Irish for use in employment, leisure and travel; however, if you wish to continue to specialise in Irish at degree level or an equivalent, then you should continue with the A2 units and obtain the full A level Irish qualification.

We live in an interconnected world where international and cross-cultural working relationships are commonplace and a key aspect of the global workplace. Being able to speak another language, understand other cultures and empathise with colleagues who are working in a different language are valuable skills for students and will broaden the range of possible career plans open to you.

Learning a language also gives students opportunities to develop confidence, independence, communication skills, presentation techniques and IT competence, as well as skills in research, evaluation and analysis that colleges, universities and employers value highly.



What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1: Speaking	AS themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships; and • Culture and Lifestyle.
AS 2: Section A – Listening Section B – Reading Section C – Use of Language	AS themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships; and • Culture and Lifestyle.
AS 3: Extended writing	One of the following: Film: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercier: <i>Lipservice</i> • O'Hara: <i>Yu Ming. Is Ainm Dom</i> • O'Reilly: <i>Clare Sa Spéir</i> Literature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peigi Rose: <i>Anne</i> [An Chéad Chnuasach]
A2 1: Speaking	Introduction and discussion based on an individual research project Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cultural aspect of an Irish-speaking country or community; or; • An historical period [twentieth-century] of an Irish-speaking country or community; or • A specific region of an Irish-speaking country or community. Conversation based on A2 themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People in Society; and • Our Place in a Changing World. AS themes may be included as appropriate.
A2 2: Section A – Listening Section B – Reading	A2 themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People in Society; and • Our Place in a Changing World.
A2 3: Extended writing	One of the following literary texts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mac Labhraí: <i>Anam na Teanga</i> • Ó Tuairisc: <i>Lá Fhéile Mhíchil</i> • Filíocht <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Máire Mhac an tSaoi Máirtín Ó Direáin Seán Ó Ríordáin Cathal Ó Searcaigh

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How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1: Speaking	<p>This is made up of a presentation [3 minutes] which you will prepare in advance followed by a conversation [8 minutes]. It will be conducted by an External Examiner.</p> <p>The speaking test will last approximately 11 minutes.</p> <p>Available in Summer only</p>	<p>30% of AS level</p> <p>12% of A level</p>
AS 2: Listening, Reading and Use of Language	<p>Section A: Listening The listening test will consist of two sets of questions based on two passages recorded on disk. It will last approximately 40 minutes.</p> <p>Section B: Reading One set of questions in Irish based on one passage and one translation from Irish into English</p> <p>Section C: Use of Language Five questions with grammatical and lexical exercises and the translation of sentences from English into Irish Sections B and C are combined into one paper which will last 1 hour 20 minutes.</p> <p>Available in Summer only</p>	<p>40% of AS level</p> <p>16% of A level</p>
AS 3: Extended Writing	<p>The test will consist of one extended writing response chosen from a range of questions. This will last 1 hour.</p> <p>Available in Summer only</p>	<p>30% of AS level</p> <p>12% of A level</p> <p>AS: 40% of A level</p>
A2 1: Speaking	<p>This is made up of an introduction [1 minute] which you will prepare in advance followed by a discussion [5 minutes] and then a conversation [9 minutes]. It will be conducted by an External Examiner.</p> <p>The speaking test will last approximately 15 minutes.</p> <p>Available in Summer only</p>	<p>18% of A level</p>
A2 2: Listening and Reading	<p>Section A: Listening The listening test will consist of two sets of questions based on two passages recorded on disk with answers in Irish and in English. It will last 45 minutes.</p> <p>Section B: Reading The reading test will consist of two sets of questions in Irish based on two passages, one summary exercise and one translation from English into Irish. It will last 2 hours.</p> <p>Available in Summer only</p>	<p>24% of A level</p>
A2 3: Extended Writing	<p>The test will consist of one extended writing response chosen from a range of questions. This will last 1 hour.</p> <p>Available in Summer only</p>	<p>18% of A level</p> <p>A2: 60% of A level</p>

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What can I do with a qualification in Irish?

Learning a language will give you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in another language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills which are highly sought after by employers, colleges and universities.

There are opportunities to study abroad through Erasmus+, Da Vinci or other international programmes. A qualification in GCE Irish will enable you to consider a range of employment opportunities such as teaching, tourism, broadcasting, marketing, enterprise and business. GCE Irish will also benefit you in areas such as financial services, information technology, journalism, engineering, international non-governmental organisations and government bodies.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

