

# GCSE GAEILGE SNAPSHOT

## OVERVIEW

Whether you already teach our existing GCSE Gaelge specification or are considering offering the course for the first time, CCEA aims to give both you and your students the resources you need to achieve excellence in the study of Gaelge.

Our revised specification, comprising two externally assessed components and two internally assessed components, gives students the opportunity to develop their language skills and widen their awareness and understanding of Irish-speaking countries and communities. This specification provides opportunities for a practical use of Irish and is a sound basis for progression either to further study, higher education or employment.

## SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

The GCSE Gaelge specification has four components:

Component 1: Listening and Speaking in Gaelge (controlled assessment)

Component 2: Reading and Writing in Gaelge (controlled assessment)

Component 3: Reading in Gaelge (one external written examination)

Component 4: Writing in Gaelge (one external written examination)

## BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

A GCSE in Gaelge helps students to:

- develop a positive attitude towards the Irish language, its culture and literature;
- enhance the wide range of Irish language skills they have acquired in Irish-medium education; and
- be effective members of their community, including the Irish language community.

## CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

Through this course students will:

- improve their communication skills by learning how to express their viewpoint and ask questions by participating in discussions, debates and interviews;
- use mathematical skills to interpret statistical data, such as diagrams and timetables, in the target language;
- use ICT to present information by using technology such as a PowerPoint;
- develop their planning, time management and self-evaluation skills;
- listen to and learn from others through discussion, group-work and shared tasks;
- present reasons, rationales and justify opinions; and
- improve their problem-solving ability by considering various approaches and viewpoints to reach a conclusion.



## UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS SPECIFICATION/ IMPROVEMENTS MADE

The revised specification has removed some controlled assessments to afford teachers and students more time in the class. This will benefit students and teachers by giving more time to prepare and produce required materials.

The GCSE Gaelge specification helps students prepare themselves for AS level Irish. For example, there is a more developed literature content in the GCSE Gaelge than in the other GCSE languages specifications. This will give GCSE Gaelge students the opportunity to improve the skills of analysis, collating, making comparisons and cross-referencing, far in advance of students not studying GCSE Gaelge.

As well as learning about The Individual and Society, The World around Me, Employability and Literature in Irish, students can focus on Irish language communities. This allows students to focus on areas such as the Gaeltacht and the time they spent there, any urban Gaeltacht as well as culture and Gaelge around the world.

## CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT\*

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING
<b>Component 1: Listening and Speaking in Gaelge</b>	Controlled Assessment 4–6 minutes Students complete an individual discussion on a prepared topic and, later, participate in a group discussion.	20%
<b>Component 2: Reading and Writing in Gaelge</b>	Controlled Assessment 1 hour Students prepare and complete a written response to two literary texts.	20%
<b>Component 3: Reading in Gaelge</b>	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Students address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• information handling;</li><li>• analysis and descriptive skills in Section 2; and</li><li>• translation from Irish into English, assessing syntax, lexical and grammatical structures in Section 3.</li></ul>	30%
<b>Component 4: Writing in Gaelge</b>	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Students address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• functional writing, in Section 1;</li><li>• use of language, grammar and syntax, in Section 2; and</li><li>• translation from English into Irish, in Section 3.</li></ul>	30%

\*The information in this table is still subject to regulatory approval.

## SUPPORTING YOU

### In person

As your local awarding body, we can provide personalised support, in the medium of Irish if requested and, if appropriate, visits to you and your centre. Contact the Specification Support Officer if you would like to arrange for us to visit you and your department.

### At teacher-focused events

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support the specification, which includes:

- FREE launch events to introduce you to the revised specification;
  - FREE seminars to support its teaching and assessment and to help you with subject-specific issues; and
  - FREE moderation meetings where you can learn from and question the Principal Moderator.
- We will issue invitations to heads of departments at least three weeks before each event.

Regularly check our full list of support events online at [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)

### Online

Most of the support we provide will be available on your subject microsite. The site will contain:

- the latest version of the GCSE Gaeilge specification;
- planning frameworks;
- Fact Files;
- Chief Examiner's reports with information on improving examination performance;
- exemplar papers and mark schemes; and
- exemplification of standards (available after the first examination series).

## CONTACT US

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

Subject Officer with overall responsibility:

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Specification Support Officer

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# SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT

For first teaching from September 2017

For first award in Summer 2019

