



Rewarding Learning

GCSE
Irish

**STUDENT
GUIDE**

INTRODUCTION

Studying Irish develops your language skills and knowledge by raising your awareness and widening your understanding of Irish-speaking countries/communities.

You will have the opportunity to use practical Irish and take your place as a citizen in a multilingual, global society.

WHY STUDY IRISH?

Studying Irish will give you the confidence to communicate effectively in a second language. You will be able to work independently and with others to enjoy the benefits of language learning.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION?

Our revised GCSE modern language specifications have four units: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. For the Listening, Reading and Writing units, you can enter at either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study a range of topics in three Contexts for Learning:

- Identity, Lifestyle and Culture;
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest; and
- School Life, Studies and the World of Work.

The four units are each worth 25 % of the overall GCSE.

UNIT ASSESSMENT	AREAS OF STUDY
Unit 1: Listening	<p>This is a written examination lasting approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 minutes at Foundation Tier; and • 45 minutes at Higher Tier. <p>You will answer twelve questions, in English and Irish.</p>
Unit 2: Speaking	<p>You will take part in two role-plays and a general conversation on two topics in Irish.</p> <p>The teacher conducts the speaking examination, which lasts 7–12 minutes (plus 10 minutes of role-play preparation time).</p>
Unit 3: Reading	<p>This is a written examination lasting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 minutes at Foundation Tier; and • 1 hour at Higher Tier. <p>You will answer questions in English and in Irish, as well as translating short sentences from Irish into English.</p>
Unit 4: Writing	<p>This is a written examination lasting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour at Foundation Tier; and • 1 hour 15 minutes at Higher Tier. <p>You will answer four questions including listing (at Foundation Tier), short phrase/sentence responses, translating short sentences, and an extended writing task (from a choice of three) in Irish.</p>



Unit 1
Listening

25%



Unit 2
Speaking

25%



Unit 3
Reading

25%



Unit 4
Writing

25%

WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?



Through this course you will:

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

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.

