



Rewarding Learning

# IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #1

## **SPEAKING - STEPS TO SUCCESS**

### **Introduction**

The AS Speaking Test consists of two parts:

Question 1 is a presentation related to an aspect of a Irish-speaking country/ community.

Question 2 is the conversation which is based on an AS theme lasting 8 minutes.

The A2 Speaking Test also consists of two parts:

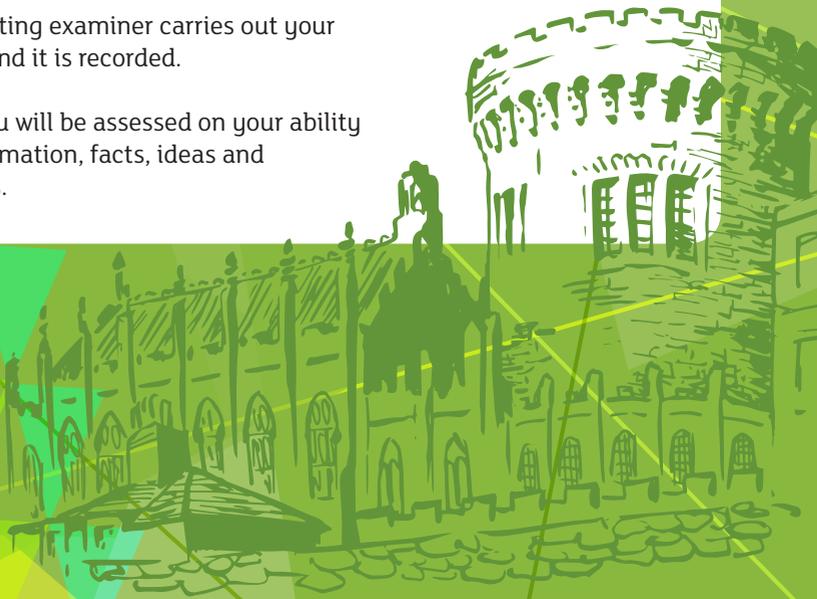
In Question 1 you will introduce and discuss with your visiting examiner one individual research project [culture, historical period or region] and this lasts 6 minutes.

Question 2 is the Conversation on A2 themes [and AS as appropriate] lasting 9 minutes.

### **Assessment**

An external visiting examiner carries out your speaking test and it is recorded.

In Speaking you will be assessed on your ability to express information, facts, ideas and justify opinions.





## Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A01: Understand and respond to spoken language
- A03: Manipulate the language accurately and appropriately.

Familiarise yourself with the requirements of each criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

A01 assesses:

- your degree of comprehension;
- the fluency of your responses;
- your initiative to develop answers and your ability to argue points of view;
- your pronunciation and intonation.

A03 assesses:

- your command of idiom and vocabulary;
- your knowledge and application of grammar.

## Preparation

You will be expected to talk in a general way as well as developing areas of particular interest. At A2 the conversation will incorporate AS themes where appropriate.

## Tús Maith Leath na hoibre

Begin your preparation early in the first term at both AS and A2.

- Try to cover one new topic each week, transferring key points onto coloured index cards. Review them frequently.
- Learning style: if you are a **visual learner** the study cards in a variety of colours will be a useful tool. If you are an **auditory learner** recordings are a great way to complete your final review.
- Visit the **CCEA microsite** for support materials.
- Work with your teacher to check the pronunciation of new phrases and consider recording the key points you wish to include.



- Try to find appropriate opportunities to use your Irish outside the classroom through membership of your school's "**Cumann Gaelach**", or form a "**Ciorcal Comhrá**" with fellow students. Avail of opportunities to participate in Irish Language events organised by "Gael Linn".
- Try to use more complex grammatical structures and incorporate suitable idioms into your answers in order to fulfil the A03 criteria. Work on idiomatic phrases and review verbal structures.
- Consider working with fellow pupils and offer advice and support to each other.
- Attending an intense Gaeltacht course provides an excellent opportunity to improve your spoken Irish. Availing of these courses has been known to enable many students to enhance their overall performance.
- Set realistic time targets for the completion of your preparation.
- Avail of any opportunity given by your teacher or language assistant to do a mock oral or regular mini-orals. Set target scores for each subsequent oral and use the feedback given for your final preparation.