



Rewarding Learning

IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #6

RESEARCHING TOPICS FOR A2 1 INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

You will deliver an introduction to your individual research project [1 minute], followed by a discussion on this topic [5 minutes]. These should be based on an aspect of an Irish-speaking country/community from one of the following three options:

- Culture such as the Arts, music, sport, folklore, festivals or traditions; OR
- A historical period from the twentieth century; OR
- A region.

Assessment

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

Assessment Objective/s

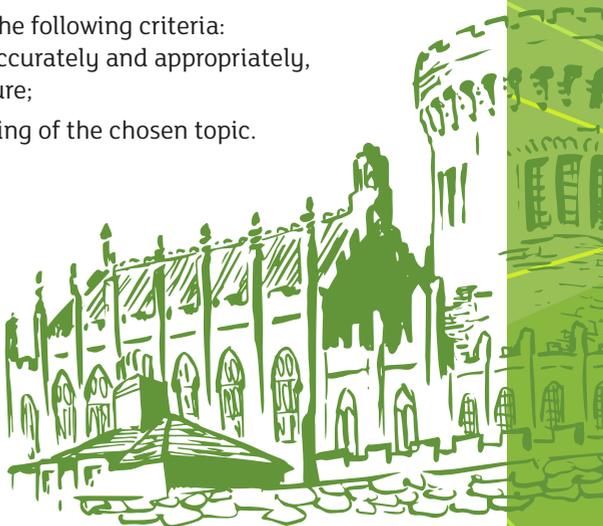
You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately, using a range of lexis and structure;
- A04: knowledge and understanding of the chosen topic.

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

A03 assesses:

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





A04 assesses:

- your ability to speak knowledgeably about the topic you have researched for your introduction;
- your understanding of the chosen topic;
- your initiative to argue points of view clearly, logically and confidently;
- your originality and ability to form mature opinions on aspects of the topic.

At A2 you will also be expected to understand, infer meaning and draw conclusions.

Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area.

- Choose a topic for your A2 presentation that you have a particular interest in or some knowledge of. For example, if you are studying Irish history as part of an A2 history course perhaps the topic 'Imeacht Stairiúil in Éirinn san fhichiú aois' might particularly appeal to you, or if you are a frequent visitor to a Gaeltacht area you might choose to research that region.
- The examiner may deal with the points/headings on your summary sheet in a different order from the one you have followed in your preparation, so learn each point individually.
- When you have chosen your topic for discussion make as much use as possible of Irish language websites, and consult the list of other resources listed in your guidance materials.
- Set some targets for completing your research. Aim to have finished this task by the end of the first term.
- Identify your style of learning: If you are a visual learner transfer each of your main points to a separate index card, and use bright coloured pens to help absorb the material. If you are an auditory learner, ask your teacher/ language assistant to record your work onto your phone, and listen it for a few minutes every day.
- Make full use of your summary sheet on which you have submitted headings outlining your research in the days coming up to the examination.



- Try to anticipate some of the questions the examiner may ask about the material you are presenting. Perhaps your teacher or language assistant could listen to what you have prepared and offer some suggestions.

On the day of the examination

- The discussion is the first part of the speaking test and as such sets the tone for the conversation test which follows. Remember that it carries more marks at A2 (45 marks) than the General Conversation (30 marks) so be well prepared.
- Greet the examiner and do not forget to smile.
- The examiner will not depart from the summary sheet you have submitted but the order in which he/she approaches the material may be different so do not panic.
- Do not rush through the task, take your time and pause when you have delivered each one of the main points, to allow the examiner to enter the discussion.