



Rewarding Learning

IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #8

LISTENING - STEPS TO SUCCESS

Introduction

The listening element [Section A] of the AS Unit 2 examination lasts 40 minutes.

The listening element [Section A] of the A2 Unit 2 examination lasts 45 minutes.

Assessment

At AS, the listening element of the examination consists of two discrete audio passages:

- Recording 1: you answer in Irish;
- Recording 2: you answer in English.

At A2, the listening element of the examination consists of two discrete audio passages:

- Recording 1: you answer in Irish;
- Recording 2: you answer in English.

Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- AO1: understand and respond to spoken language.

Look at the mark scheme to familiarise yourself with the requirements of the criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.





You should be able to understand, infer meaning and draw conclusions from a variety of spoken sources covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres.

Skills

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

- You are in control of how often you listen to the passages and of which sections you need to concentrate on, but you should start by reading the rubric, which will explain the topic to be discussed, at the top of the question page. Some people ignore this huge hint about the material: make sure you don't make that mistake.
- Begin your work on any listening passage by listening to the whole passage. Now you should look at the questions! Remember- you do not have to understand everything you hear (although that obviously is the ideal scenario), so don't panic!
- If the question is in Irish, you must be certain of your question forms and read each question carefully and fully, breaking it down into clauses if need be, so that you are sure what information you are listening for.
- You have a great help when questions are in Irish- in many cases, the key vocabulary you will need to listen for will be included (and spelled!) in the question.
- Pay close attention to the total marks available for each question- one mark corresponds to one point, two marks to two points etc.
- The passage DOES make sense- make sure your answers are compatible with what you have written before.
- It is very common where there are figures or adjectives required for an answer which is worth two marks, that one of the marks is for a word or phrase which qualifies the figure or adjective e.g. **iontach, an-, measartha, giota beag, níos mó ná, breis is, corradh is, beagnach** etc.
- Do not leave your common sense or your knowledge of AS and A2 topics behind when you answer your listening questions. For example, if you are listening to a school principal talking about classroom discipline, you know intuitively the kind of arguments he or she will put forward to emphasise its importance. You should not write an answer which clashes with the context of the listening passage.



- When the questions are in English, it is common for students to feel that their task is easier.
- While it is true that you can now be sure to understand all the questions fully, (and that is very important!), remember that now it is up to you to anticipate some of the key vocabulary without any help (although the rubric at the top of the questions page can again be useful).
- If, for example, you are asked a question such as “What is being debated in the media at present?” (Specimen Assessment Materials) you should be listening for words or phrases which you are familiar with which approximate to the thrust of the question.
- There is no point panicking and saying to yourself that you forget how to say “debating”. **Diospóireacht** may or may not be included, but **faoi chaibidil, plé, caint, cur agus cúiteamh, comhrá, argóint** etc. are all possibilities. Even if you cannot make out that particular element of the question, you should listen out for elements which ARE certain of- **Na Meáin (Chumarsáide), san am i láthair, na laethe seo, ar na saolta seo, sa lá atá inniu ann** etc.
- Remember- the answer is there to be heard and the examiners are required to make the answer accessible and they will to some extent cue the answer up for you. Use the hints and clues in the language of the question which you can link to the passage.