



Rewarding Learning

IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #9

LISTENING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Introduction

The listening element [Section A] of the AS Unit 2 consists of questions and answers in Irish and questions and answers in English. The examination lasts 40 minutes.

The listening element [Section A] of the A2 Unit 2 examination consists of questions and answers in Irish and questions and answers in English. The examination lasts 45 minutes.

You will have your own headphones and control of the listening material. You can listen to the tracks as often as you wish within the time.

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:

- A01: 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.

Things to learn

- Candidates often lose marks in listening exams on simple things and simple vocabulary. Learning a **wide range of vocabulary** relating to the topic will greatly increase your ability to access the top bands.
- Don't underestimate the value of the basics. Knowledge of the topics below will add to your ability to answer questions appropriately.
- Learn:
 - Days and Months;
 - Times;
 - Money;
 - Ages;
 - Numbers 1 – 100;
 - Questions (see below).
- Saibhreas is also important, watch out for phrases like níos mó, beagnach, thart faoi. These phrases can often be awarded a mark by themselves.
 - For example, the question may ask **'how many people lived in the town?'** A 2 mark question may require **more than** (1 mark) **two thousand** (1 mark) as its answer. To write **two thousand** may only allow you to be awarded half the marks for that question.



Ceisteanna

- Knowledge of questions in Irish is essential. You should also underline the question in the English section also to ensure you write the correct answer.
 - Cá mhéad? – How much/many?
 - Cén tír? – What (which) country?
 - Cad é? – What?
 - Cé? – Who?
 - Cá bhfuil? – Where?
 - Cén áit? – Where?
 - Cá fhad? – How long?
 - Cén aois? – What age?
 - Cén fáth? – Why?
 - Cad chuige? – Why?
 - Luaigh áit amháin – Give (list) one place;
 - Ainmnigh fáth amháin – Give (name) one reason.

The most important thing to do to improve your listening skills and prepare well for the exam is to listen to as much Irish material as possible. Listen to programmes on the radio or on TV. Use every opportunity to speak and listen to Irish.