



Rewarding Learning

IRISH STUDENT STUDY CARD #11

READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Introduction

At AS, the reading comprehension exercise consists of a stimulus in Irish followed by questions and answers in Irish [Question 1].

At A2, the reading comprehension exercise consists of two questions: a gap-filling exercise [Question 1] and a set of questions in Irish to be answered in Irish [Question 2].

Assessment

The reading comprehension exercise is assessed according to the A02 criterion only.

Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- A02: understand and respond to written language drawn from a variety of sources.

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





Skills

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

- Read the passage carefully for overall understanding.
- The questions may follow the order of the passage.
- Ensure that you have understood the question.
- You have to be familiar with your question forms – Cad é, cá mhéad etc.
- Remember where you see Luaigh you may be asked for one (rud amháin) or more answers.
- Check the number of marks available for each question (it is given in brackets at the end of each answering space) - this will help you to know whether you have answered correctly.
- For specific advice on Gap-filling exercises (Question 1), see Card 14.
- Read the passage for Question 2 carefully.
- The questions may follow the order of the passage.
- You are being assessed at A02, so you are allowed to use the text of the passage in your answer, but you should not expect to be able to answer every question fully by simply copying from the text.
- In addition to being familiar with all the question forms, you should expect the use of Mínígh, Cad é mar atá a fhios againn? Cad é an fhianaise atá ann? De réir an údair, De réir an ailt in the questions.
- Your first task is to understand the passage to the best of your ability.
- Your next task is to understand the questions, which can be complex and involve several clauses.
- To help you to fully understand the questions, look for the connecting words which link and separate clauses, such as a (ar)/nach (nár) preceding a verb meaning who(m), which or that, go (gur)/nach (nár) preceding a verb meaning “that” in indirect speech, agus, ach, nuair, etc.
- Make sure your answer contains the number of points indicated by the available marks – if there are two marks available, there must be more than one piece of information in your answer.
- Look to find key words in the questions and find them in the passage- they may not give you the answer but they should lead you in the right direction.



- Remember that the wording in the question may not match the passage- knowing your synonyms and phrases of similar meaning will be very useful.
- Keep your answers as simple as possible so that it is clear that you have understood.
- Try to make an intelligent guess if there is a question which you find more difficult. You should be able to locate the information in the passage according to where the other answers came in the order of the text, try to find a key word or synonym and write an answer which is realistic! Remember, a blank space is definitely worth nothing.