

Irish (An Ghaeilge) Overview

Senior cycle

Leaving Certificate Irish is available at higher and ordinary level. There are three main aspects of the course regardless of level selected:

1. **An Bhéaltriail (The Oral Examination).** The Oral is a common examination for students of both levels and is worth 240 Marks which represents **40%** of the entire Leaving Certificate Irish Examination.
2. **An Chluastuiscint (The Aural Examination).** The Aural Examination is not a common Examination. The content of the Aural is common to both levels but the questions posed distinguish themselves in terms of difficulty between levels. The Aural Examination is worth 60 Marks, which comprises **10%** of the entire Leaving Certificate Irish Examination at both Higher and Ordinary Levels.
3. **The Written Component.** The remaining **50%** of the Leaving Certificate Irish Examination examines a variety of poetry and prose through written questions. Although the poetry and prose is common to both higher and ordinary level, the questions asked involve completely different levels of complexity and depth. The written aspect of the Leaving Certificate Irish Examination also includes a piece of creative writing (e.g. an essay or debate at higher level; a letter or e-mail at ordinary level). The remaining elements of the written component include an additional piece of literature (e.g. a drama) at higher level and Reading Comprehensions at both higher and ordinary levels. The Comprehensions are entirely different and the complexity and subject-matter of questions asked varies greatly between the two levels.

How is this subject examined?

Leaving Certificate Irish is examined through an Oral Examination which usually takes place in the Spring of Sixth Year.

The **Oral examination** is comprised of 4 elements:

- (i) **Beannú** /Greeting (name of student, address, D.O.B etc.)
- (ii) **Léamh na Filíochta**/ Reading of poetry
- (iii) **Sraith Pictiúir**/ Series of picture stories
- (iv) **Comhrá**/ General conversation

Paper 1 includes the **Aural Examination**, along with Composition (e.g. essay or debate at higher level; a letter or e-mail at ordinary level).

Paper 2 (following Paper 1 in June) includes Reading Comprehensions and questions on poetry and prose.

Additional information: Due to the fact that the Oral Examination is common to both higher and ordinary level and that the poetry and prose texts are common to both, there is an element of flexibility for students to move between levels.