

Gaeilge at Senior Cycle builds on the learning at Junior Cycle and develops students' language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. It deepens their understanding and appreciation of Irish as a living language and as a central element of Ireland's cultural heritage.

Through their study of Gaeilge, students develop confidence and competence in communication, along with critical thinking and analytical skills through engagement with a wide range of texts, including prose, poetry, drama and film.

Assessment: Students are assessed across listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The oral examination (Béaltrial) is worth 40% of the final mark, the aural or listening examination (Cluastuisicint) accounts for 10%, and the written examination, which assesses reading comprehension and writing skills, is worth 50%.

There are two written examination papers at Higher and Ordinary level.

Paper 1 focuses on written expression. At Higher level, students complete a range of extended writing tasks such as essays, debates or speeches, and short stories. At Ordinary level, students engage in practical and personal writing tasks including blogs, short stories, letters or emails and dialogue.

Paper 2 focuses on reading and literature, and includes reading comprehensions as well as questions on prescribed prose, poetry and drama.

The syllabus is provided at Higher and Ordinary level and is assessed at these levels.

Why Study Gaeilge?

Studying Gaeilge enables students to connect more deeply with Ireland's language, culture and heritage, while also developing valuable communication and analytical skills. A pass in Irish (H7/O6) is a requirement for entry into many third-level courses in Ireland and for certain roles within the public service. Careers requiring a higher grade in Irish (H4) include Primary School Teaching.

Irish also opens opportunities in media, translation, tourism and work in the Gaeltacht. As a growing and increasingly visible language in education and public life, it offers expanding opportunities for students in further study and employment.