

# Irish



The aim of Junior Certificate Irish is to improve your ability to communicate through Irish. You will focus on improving your language skills through concentrating on four areas; your spoken language through speaking; your listening skills through listening to others, CDs and tapes; your written skills through writing in Irish, and your reading skills through reading passages, poems and stories written in Irish.

### What will I learn in Irish?

Some of the things you will learn include:

- how to develop your skills of communication through Irish
- how to use the Irish that you already have and add to it!
- how to develop your skills in listening, reading, and speaking in Irish
- how to write letters, postcards, essays, and stories in Irish.

### How will I learn Irish in school?

Some of the things you may do with your teacher and your classmates are:

- go on Irish language tours
- participate in cultural activities such as singing, dancing and drama
- make use of the Irish language you already have
- participate in "Seachtain na Gaeilge" events
- use Irish textbooks and dictionaries, as well as other resources
- use ICT software and the internet to develop your language skills
- work in pairs and/or in groups.

### How can I learn more about Irish outside of school?

Some of the things you may do are:

- speak Irish in class, in school and outside of school too!
- watch programmes through Irish on TG4
- listen to some radio programmes presented in Irish
- use the internet to look up websites written in Irish
- attend an Irish language summer college
- get to know Irish words and phrases by looking at street signs.



## How will I know how I am getting on?

Your teacher will let you know:

- what you have done well
- how you can improve your work
- the areas that need attention.

Other things you may do are:

- ask your friend to have a look at your work
- discuss the class-work with your friend
- look back over your work and see how you can improve it yourself.

## What is the Junior Certificate Irish exam like?

The Junior Certificate Irish exam is examined in two (or three ways):

- an aural exam - you will listen to a tape/CD and answer questions based on what you hear
- a written exam - you will answer questions about what you have studied
- an oral exam (optional) - this consists of a conversation between you and your examiner.

You can take the exam at Higher, Ordinary or Foundation level. When the time comes to decide, your teacher will help you choose the level that suits you best.



## Is learning Irish anything like what I did in primary school?

Of course learning Irish is similar to what you have already learned. You will build on the many activities you have carried out in primary school such as creative writing, talking 'as Gaeilge' in pairs and in groups, listening to radio clips, watching TV clips and reading from a range of Irish poems and stories. All of the Irish you have learned so far will be of great help to you in Junior Certificate Irish.

## Will Irish have anything to do with other subjects I will be studying?

Without a doubt! You will notice links between Irish and subjects such as History, Music, Geography, CSPE, English, Modern Languages, and SPHE.



## How will Irish be useful to me?

You will have the advantage of being bilingual. Irish is one of our official languages as well as being an official language of the European Union.

Careers in which you may develop and use your Irish language skills include; teaching, working as civil servants, careers in business, law, and communication, and translation services.



## Will Irish be very different after the Junior Certificate?

You will continue to develop the language skills and add to the Irish that you have learned in the junior cycle. You will study more literature (stories and poems).



For more information about the Irish course  
[www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)

For more information about the Junior Certificate exam  
[www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

For more information about Irish  
[www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie)  
[www.focal.ie](http://www.focal.ie)  
[www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie)

This fact sheet and other fact sheets are available to download from [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

**NCCA**  National Council for Curriculum and Assessment  
An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta

24 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 | Tel: + 353-1-6617177