



AN CLÁR

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1

An Bhéaltríail/The Oral

(40% – 240 marc)



- To be able to approach your Oral exam with confidence.
- To understand the format of the Oral exam, and to be prepared for each of the tasks.

Breakdown of the Oral exam marks

Section	Marks	Time
1. An Fáiltíú: <i>The Greeting</i>	5	1 minute
2. Léamh na Filíochta: <i>Poetry Reading</i>	35	1–2 minutes
3. An Comhrá Ginearálta: <i>General Conversation</i>	120	6–8 minutes
4. An tSraith Pictiúr: <i>Picture Selection</i>	80	4 minutes

- The Oral is worth 40% of your overall result in your Irish exam.
- The Oral should last about 12–15 minutes.
- It will start off with a general greeting worth 5 marks.
- Next will be a reading of **one of the five poems** on the poetry course you are doing. This is worth 35 marks. The examiner will choose one of the five poems.
- The third part of the Oral will consist of a conversation about normal everyday things, and is worth 120 marks.
- The final part of the Oral entails describing a series of pictures, and is worth 80 marks. There are 20 pictures on the course that change annually (see the 2020 list on page 51). You will have prepared these in class.
- All orals will be taped by the examiner to allow the Department of Education and Skills to monitor marks.
- Long-term preparation is essential.
- Try to study one major heading per week and to prepare sample answers on that topic, *mar shampla: An scoil*.
- Prepare sample answers on all the questions contained in this chapter and retain them in a special notebook for future reference.
- Broaden your answers as much as you can!
- Don't wait for the examiner to ask 'Cén fáth?'
- The more you talk, the more marks you get!

1. Beannú/Greeting (5 marks)



Rian 2

Listen to the following sample on your CD
Éist go cúramach!

Examiner/Scrúdaitheoir: Dia Duit: (*Hello*)

Student/Dalta: Dia's Muire duit: (*Hello to you*).

Scrúdaitheoir: Conas atá tú?/Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? (*How are you?*)

Dalta: Táim ceart go leor, beagánín neirbhíseach! (*I'm all right, a little nervous*)
 Agus tú féin?

Scrúdaitheoir: Táim go breá. Cad is ainm duit?

Dalta: _____ is ainm dom. (1 mark)

Scrúdaitheoir: Cén aois thú?

Dalta: Táim sé bliana déag d'aois/seacht mbliana déag d'aois/ocht mbliana déag d'aois.
 (1 mark)

Scrúdaitheoir: Cathain a rugadh thú?

Dalta: Rugadh mé ar an tríú lá de mhí an Mheithimh,
 dhá mhíle is a dó. (1 mark)

Scrúdaitheoir: Cén seoladh baile atá agat?

Dalta: Cónaím in uimhir a trí, páirc Chluain Tarbh, Baile Átha Cliath 3. (1 mark) (*Try and give a specific home address; look up your place name as *Gaeilge!*)

Scrúdaitheoir: Cén scrúduimhir atá agat?

Dalta: A haon, a trí, a ceathair, a cúig, a naoi, a naoi mo scrúduimhir. (1 mark) (You will get this number over the year in school)

Scrúdaitheoir: Anois, léigh an dán .../véarsa a haon agus a dó ón dán le do thoil.

Here the student reads either a full poem or part of a poem.

2. Léamh nó aithris filíochta/Reading or reciting a poem (35 marks)

Advice

Prepare one poem a week between September and January. Read the same poem each night and write the phonetic spellings above the difficult words to assist with pronunciation. If you can excel in this part of the oral exam, your marks and confidence will be a lot better approaching the main part of the exam.



As soon as you walk into the Oral examination, it has begun! Show the examiner that you can greet them as *Gaeilge*.



Of course, here you can vary your answer:

Táim ...

- i mbarr na sláinte: *in top form*
- ar mhuin na muice: *doing great*
- ar fheabhas: *excellent*
- go hainnis: *desperate*
- i ndrochshlí: *in a bad way*



This is a very handy 5 marks to pick up! Practise at home saying different answers so it is as natural as possible.



2

Páipéar a hAon:

Cluastuiscint/Listening

(10% – 60 marc)

Cluastuiscint/Listening Comprehension (Aural)

Páipéar a hAon: Uair go leith/ 1 hour 30 minutes



- To approach your cluastuiscint exam with confidence.
- To use vocabulary from this section in all parts of the exam.



Two important things to remember are:

- Know your question words.
- Practise, practise, practise!



This is the first part of Paper One and will last 20 minutes.

What you need to know

- The aural exercise starts with a **short introduction** giving the name and year of the exam.
- Never leave blanks!
- Write number answers in **digit** form.
- Include the **currency** in money answers! £\$€
- Learn vocabulary that reoccurs.
- Concentration** is essential here. You have no time for looking around to see how others are doing. Instead, you need to focus on the questions being asked.
- You are given time before each question to read through it. You need to go through each question in that time and **underline each question word** in order to speed up your answering.
- Reading the paper, especially **all instructions**, is a must. You will hear each piece twice. There are built-in pauses on the CD, which will give you time to get your answers down and prepare for the next question.
- All questions and answers are in **Irish** – *ná scriobh aon Bhéarla!*
- You rarely have to write a full sentence in answering the Cluastuiscint; some just require the **main word or a short phrase**.
- Be **clear** in your presentation. Your writing should be neat and **tidy**!
- Go n-éirí leat!

There are three parts in this section:

Cuid A: You will hear twice (*faoi dhó*)

Cuid B: You will hear twice (*faoi dhó*)

Cuid C: You will hear twice (*faoi dhó*)

- Marks are awarded in this section for understanding.
- Marks are awarded if something close or similar to the correct spelling of the answer is given.
- 95% of the marks are for correct answers. Only between one and five per cent is taken away for poor spellings at the end, e.g. *múseam* (which is incorrectly spelt) = 2m, museum = 0.



The vocabulary lists provided in this chapter will help you in several areas throughout the written paper also.



- If you hear a placename or something common that is long to write, e.g. *Baile Átha Cliath*, write it in shorthand the first time and complete it when there are pauses in the CD.
- **Remember:** Use your time at the beginning and during the pauses wisely.
- Read through all questions in each section during the pauses. Write in a few words in English over some key words if you need to.



Try to predict possible answers! Sometimes you may know the answer without even listening!

Mar shampla: Cé a bhuaigh Wimbledon anuraidh?

Who won Wimbledon last year? _____

Cleachtadh a dhéanann máistreacht! Practice makes perfect!

3

Páipéar a hAon: Ceapadóireacht/ *Composition* (17% – 100 marc)

Páipéar a hAon: Uair go leith/*1 hour 30 mins*



- To compose a piece as *Gaeilge* about a given topic.

Year	Litir: <i>Letter</i>	Scéal: <i>Story</i>	Alt: <i>Paragraph</i>	Comhrá: <i>Conversation</i>
2019	Do bhrefhlá nó Saoire in ionad campála	San aerfort nó Seó tallainne	Mar a chaith mé an samhradh seo caite nó Is aoibhinn liom mo scoil nó Na rudaí a dhéanaim nuair a bhíonn am saor agam	An chóisir nó Ag siopadóireacht
2018	Post samhraidh i Londain nó Fón póca nua	Ceolchoirm nó Cóisir sa halla	Clár teilifise nó An geimhreadh nó Is aoibhinn liom an Satharn	Glaoch ón bpríomhoide nó Ceantar dúchais
2017	Timpiste nó Laethanta saoire sa Spáinn	Breithlá nó Oifig an phríomhoide	Rudaí a chuireann fearg orm nó Comórtas a bhuaigh mé nó Ócáid mhór spóirt	Cóisir do charad nó Ceoltóir cáiliúil
2016	Turas scoile nó Ócáid mhór spóirt	Bád ar an bhfarraige nó Ar an traein	An samhradh seo caite nó An caitheamh aimsire is fearr nó An fón póca	Saol faoin tuath nó Ionad siopadóireachta nua

Option A: Giota Leanúnach/Blag



The *Giota Leanúnach/Blag* is a piece of writing or blog that contains personal opinions on things ranging from 'My hobby' to 'My favourite day is Saturday'.



Within the Ceapadóireacht exam, the *Giota* is one of four options; you have to answer only **two options** out of the **four** (50 + 50 marks) and may find certain styles suit you better than others.

What you need to know

- The length should be **150 words** (15–20 lines/just over half an A4 page).
- Make sure you understand **the title** and make sure you have the vocabulary to write the required amount.
- *Déan plean*: make a plan, jot down your ideas and the phrases that you can put in.
- Recycle your *sraith pictiúr* notes and oral notes; these will overlap in this section!
- Organise your ideas in logical order.
- Use an **introduction**, three to four **solid points** and a **conclusion**.
- Most marks are for *an Ghaeilge* here, not for content; your accuracy is vital.
- Be careful with **tenses**!
- Use **short, simple sentences**.
- Reread!



Past Titles: Answer one of a, b or c.
You have a choice of three here.

2019:	a) Mar a chaith mé an samhradh seo caite (<i>How I spent last summer</i>)
	b) Is aoibhinn liom mo scoil (<i>I love my school</i>)
2018:	c) Na rudaí a dhéanaim nuair a bhíonn am saor agam (<i>The things I do when I have free time</i>)
	a) Clár teilifíse a thaitníonn liom (<i>A television show I like</i>)
	b) An geimhreadh (<i>The winter</i>)
	c) Is aoibhinn liom an Satharn (<i>I love Saturday</i>)

4

Páipéar a Dó: Prós agus Filíocht/ Prose and Poetry (16.5% – 100 marc)

Paipéar a dó: Dhá uair 20 nóiméad an chloig/2 hours 20 minutes



- To be able to approach this section of the exam with confidence.
- To use vocabulary from this section in all parts of the exam.

Roinn I: Prós/Prose

Year	Prose
2019	Hurlamaboc + Cáca Milis/An Lasair Choille
2018	Oisín i dTír na nÓg + Dís
2017	Cáca Milis/An Lasair Choille + Hurlamaboc
2016	Dís + An Lasair Choille/Cáca Milis
2015	Oisín i dTír na nÓg + Hurlamaboc
2014	Hurlamaboc + Oisín i dTír na nÓg
2013	Cáca Milis/An Lasair Choille + Dís



There are **two options** for prós/prose:

A. Ainmnithe (*named*)

nó

B. Roghnach (*optional*)

Most schools choose A. Ainmnithe (*named*) The best method of study for these is:

- Learning key vocabulary that reoccurs.
- Knowing your question words.
- Underlining key words in the question.
- Reading and re-reading your answer.



You should know the summary, key points, characters and whether you like or dislike the story for each one.

A. Prós Ainmnithe – 25 marc

Candidates must answer two questions (a) and (b) (25 marks + 25 marks) on two of the five **named prose** choices, or two questions on two of the five **optional prose** choices you have studied with your teacher.

The named prose choices are:

1. Oisín i dTír na nÓg (scéal béaloidis/*folklore story*)
2. Seal i Neipeal nó An Gnáthrud (gearrscéal/*short story*)
3. Dís (gearrscéal/*short story*)
4. Hurlamaboc (sliocht/*extract*)
5. Cáca Milís nó Lasair Choille (scannán nó dráma/*movie or drama*)

B. Prós Roghnach – 25 marc

These could be chosen by your teacher/school and are not those listed above. However, they must match the style of the prose above.

The optional choices are:

1. Scéal Béaloidis (*folklore*)
2. Gearrscéal nó dialann taistil (*short story or a travel diary*)
3. Gearrscéal (*short story*)
4. Sliocht as úrscéal (*extract from a novel*)
5. Gearrscannán nó gearrdhráma (*short movie or short drama*)

Guidelines

- You must attempt (a) and (b) (25 marks + 25 marks) in the section.
- Always know your **summaries** and **key points** for every story. Very often you are asked a series of five short questions about the events of the story.
- You often get a line from the story and are asked to write about that point in the story.
- Keep sentences short and accurate.
- Back up any statement made.
- Spend approx 30 minutes on this section of the paper.
- Name the story and writer clearly.
- Study all options and choose the question you understand!
- This section is 50 marks in total: (a) 25 marks + (b) 25 marks
(All the above apply to the *cúrsa roghnach* as well)

In the following pages you will see two styles of answers:

- **Stíl 1: Mioncheisteanna** (*short questions*)
- **Stíl 2: Freagra fada** (*long answer*)

5

Páipéar a Dó: Léamhthuiscintí/ *Reading Comprehensions* (16.5% – 100 marc)

Paipéar a dó: Dhá uair agus 20 nóiméad an chloig/2 hours 20 minutes



- To approach the Léamhthuiscintí with the confidence gained from being familiar with the layout and the question types usually asked.
- To practise rewriting information in your own words.
- To learn vocabulary that will be useful to you in all parts of the Ardteist.



You should know the question words before attempting to answer questions! Revise the Listening Chapter here!



- There will be **two** léamhthuiscintí (A + B) on the paper worth 50 marks each.
- Read the comprehensions first.
- Then read the questions.
- Underline the answers in the text in a second read.
- Underline the key words in questions. Know your question words (see the following page).
- Start on your answers!
- Don't overwrite!
- Ask yourself: **how many points** are required?
- Pay attention to questions asked, i.e. 'Cad a rinne sé?' nó 'Cén scór a bhí?'
- Attempt **all** questions.
- Use the **Alt guidance** for each ceist (the answer is in that paragraph).
- There's no need to use your own words – **just copy the text word for word!**



Remember to turn the pronouns around in your answer! If it says 'Is dalta mé' turn it around to 'Is dalta é'.

Know your question words!

Cad and Céard both mean 'what?'

While Cé asks 'who' and Ná means 'do not!'



Cén fáth means 'why?'

And Cathain 'when?'

Cén áit — 'what place?'

Ansin is 'then!'



Cén uair, Cén t-am, both ask 'what time?'



Cén sórt 'what kind?'

Continues our rhyme!



Conas is 'how?'



It's also 'Cén chaoi'

'Mínigh' — 'please explain to me!'



Cár and Cá both mean 'where?'



Cén ceann, 'which one?'

We're nearly there!



Cá bhfios duit

'How do you know?'

Tá a fhios agam, I learnt it so!

Key question words

luaigh: *mention*

luaigh dhá fháth: *mention two reasons*

cén fáth?: *why?*

tabhair dhá shampla: *give two examples*

cathain?: *when?*

léirigh: *show*

cad?: *what?*

an dóigh leat?: *do you think?*

cá fhad?: *how long?*

cén fáth a ndeir an scríbhneoir?: *why*

scríobh dhá phointe eolais: *write two*

does the writer say?

pieces of information

cén sórt?: *what sort?*

cá?: *where?*

cérbh é?: *who was?*

conas?: *how?*

cén chaoi?: *why?*

breac síos: *jot down*

cúis: *reason*

Ceisteanna samplacha/Sample questions

Below are the 2018 samples with answers. The answers are underlined in the text.

2018 Ceist 1 – Léamhthuiscnt – 100 marc

Freagair A agus B anseo.

A – (50 marc)

Léigh an sliocht seo a leanas agus freagair na ceisteanna ar fad a ghabhann leis.



Attempt these first,
then check your
answers on page 200!

Éire an Lae Inniu

- Bhí blianta deacra ag muintir na hÉireann nuair a tharla an cílú eacnamaíochta. Chaill a lán daoine a bpost. Chaill go leor teaghlaach a dteach. Chuaigh a lán daoine thar lear ag lorg oibre. Ach tá an saol ag éirí níos fearr arís. Tá feabhas ag teacht ar chúrsaí eacnamaíochta. Tá níos mó oibre le fáil. Tá an ráta difhostaíochta ag titim. Tá na seirbhísí poiblí ag feabhsú arís mar tá níos mó airgid ag an rialtas le caitheamh orthu. Tá ábhar dóchais ag muintir na hÉireann faoi láthair.
- Bíonn muintir na hÉireann bródúil as na gaiscí a dhéanann laochra na tíre, i gcúrsaí spóirt, sna scannáin agus i gcúrsaí gnó. Bhí áthas ar mhuintir na hÉireann nuair a bhuaigh Paul agus Gary Ó Donnabháin boinn airgid sna Cluichí Oilmpeacha in 2016. Lá stairiúil a bhí ann mar ba é sin an chéad uair a bhuaigh aon duine as an tír seo bonn Oilmpeach sa rámhaíocht. Ceithre lá níos déanaí, bhuaigh Annalise Murphy bonn airgid sa tseoltóireacht. Tá ardmheas tuillte ag aisteoirí Éireannacha agus tá go leor gradam idirnáisiúnta buaite acu. Tá clú agus cáil bainte amach ag Saoirse Ronan, ag Ruth Negga agus ag Cillian Murphy. I saol na nuatheicneolaíochta, tá ainm an chomhlachta ‘Stripe’ in airde ar fud an domhain. Is córas íocaíochta ar líne é a chruthaigh na deartháireacha John agus Patrick Collison as Contae Luimnigh. Cuidíonn ‘Stripe’ le daoine gnó a dhéanamh go sábhálte ar líne le céartáid creidmheasa.
- Tá an t-oideachas an-tábhachtach i saol an lae inniu. Tugadh isteach an saoroideachas in Éirinn sa bhliain 1967. Ó shin i leith, tá seans ag gach duine sa tír seo leanúint ar aghaidh leis an oideachas dara leibhéal chomh fada leis an Ardteistiméireacht. Tá dea-cháil ar chóras oideachais na hÉireann anois. Bíonn rogha mhaith ábhar agus clár ar fáil sna scoileanna. Cuirtear oideachas pearsanta, sóisialta, sláinte agus polaitiúil ar fáil do na scoláirí. Bíonn go leor deiseanna ag scoláirí a dtallanna a fhorbairt taobh amuigh den seomra ranga freisin. Bíonn



1893–2018