



Mícheál Ó Ruairc

Mícheál graduated with a B. A., H.D.E. from UCC and later obtained a Master's degree (First-Class Hons) in Nua-Ghaeilge from Maynooth University. Edco has published more than 25 of his school textbooks. His most recent publication *Revise Wise Irish, a Revision Book for Leaving Cert Higher Level students*, is a bestseller. He is also the author of three collections of poetry and nine novels in the Irish language. He has vast experience in teaching Irish and is currently teaching in The Institute of Education.

SECTION 1 - OVERVIEW - FORMAT OF THE EXAM

(i) An Scrúdú Cainte/Oral	150 marc
(ii) An Scrúdú Cluastuisceana Aural	120 marc
(iii) Páipéar 1/Paper 1	220 marc
(iv) Páipéar 2/Paper 2	110 marc
TOTAL NUMBER OF MARKS	600 MARC

SECTION 2 - THE ORAL IRISH EXAM (150 marc)

SECTION 3 - LISTENING COMPREHENSION - (120 MARC)

The following is the layout of An Triail Chluastuisceana:
Cuid A: Fógraí raidió (3) each one is repeated twice
Cuid B: Comhráite (3) each one is repeated three times
Cuid C: Píosaí Nuachta (3) each one is repeated twice

The following procedures must be observed when doing **An Triail Chluastuisceana**:

- Use the pauses constructively by reading all the questions in the section ahead of you and by trying to figure out what they mean
- You must keep up with the CD. If you fall behind you are in serious trouble. Do not try to go back to any question you missed out on. This will only frustrate you.
- You need to be very well prepared. If you have been doing listening comprehension on a regular basis you will be familiar with the different canúintí (dialects), the different ábhair (themes) and the different toipicí (topics). Many of the topics you will find familiar as they will relate to the 2008/2009 school year.

SECTION 4 - PAPER 1 (220 MARC) Ceist 1 Ceapadóireacht/ Composition (120 marc)

Freagair do rogha dhá cheann de A, B, C, D anseo thíos. (N.B. You cannot do two questions from any one section.)

A: Giota Leanúnach/continuous passage (60 marc)

Choose only one from this section.
Make sure that you fully understand the title you choose.

Giotaí Leanúnacha Samplacha:

- Daoine óga in Éirinn inniu.
- An cineál saoil a bheidh agam, dar liom, tar éis na hArdteistiméireachta.
- An áit atá ag an spórt i saol an duine óig.

The following are some sample topics:

- Dífhostaíocht (unemployment), foréigean (violence), fadhb an óil in Éirinn sa lá atá inniu ann.
- Daoine óga agus na fadhbanna a bhíonn acu (young people and their problems)
- Saol na scoile (school life)
- An tsuim a chuireann daoine óga sa cheol (young people's interest in music)/ceolchoirm (concert) a thaitin liom
- Mar a chaithim an deireadh seachtaine (how I spend the weekend)
- An post nó an tslí bheatha (job or career) is fearr liom
- Laethanta saoire agus taisteal (holidays and travel)
- An teilifís agus scannáin (films)
- Mo cheantar féin (my own area)

Remember:

- A half-page of foolscap is sufficient
- Most of the marks are awarded for the quality of the Irish
- The 3 primary tenses are essential - Caite, Láithreach agus Fáistineach
- Use An Chopail (the Copula) 'is': is breá liom; is cuimhin liom; ní mór dom; is fear deas é etc
- Learn lots of phrases and seanfhocail for this question, eg. ar ámharaí an tsaoil (as luck would have it); ó dhubh go dubh (from dark to dark); Níl tuairim dá laghad agam (I haven't a clue)/Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí (praise youth and it will prosper); Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán féin (there's no place like home); Ní thagann ciall roimh aois (sense doesn't come before age) etc

B: SCÉAL/STORY (60 Marc)

You must do either (i) **or** (ii) in this question.
Think of the following points of information before attempting the scéal:

- Write an scéal in the proper Tense - this is invariably An Aimsir Chaite - and have a number of suitable verbs prepared, eg. fuair mé; chonaic mé; chuala mé; rinne mé; thugamar; shroicheadar; dhún sí; d'éist mé; d'oscail sé; bhaineadar; cheannaigh siad; thit mé; bhuail mé le; ghlaoigh siad; léim mé; tháinig sé; chuaigh mé; ní raibh sé etc

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- Be able to use **An Chopail 'is'** in the course of an **scéal** eg. b'álainn an oíche í; ba dhuine deas é Seán; ba mhínic a tharla sé; ní dóigh liom é; is cuimhin liom cad a tharla ina dhiaidh sin; ba mhaith liom dul abhaile; b'aoibhinn linn an samhradh etc

- Learn some **nathanna áisiúla** (useful phrases) which you can use in an scéal eg. ar nós na gaoithe; ar ámharaí an tsaoil; gan a thuilleadh moille; ar mhúin na muice; buíochas le Dia; i bprapadh na súl etc

- Also learn a few **seanfhocail** which could come in handy eg. 'nuair a bhíonn an cat amuigh bíonn na luchta ag rince'; 'fillleann an feall ar an bhfeallaire'; 'beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach'; 'is fearr rith maith ná drochsheasamh' etc

- Try and keep your sentences **short and grammatically correct** eg. Bhí mé ag dul abhaile i m'aonar. Ní raibh duine ná deoraí ar na sráideanna. Go tobann chuala mé scread. Bhuail scanradh mé. Thosaigh mé ag crith. Cé a bhí ann? etc

C - LITIR (60 Marc)

You must do either (i) **or** (ii) in this question.
Usually, you must choose between (i) **Litir Phearsanta** (personal letter which you write to a friend/acquaintance/penfriend/parent - somebody that you know **personally**)