



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Cor na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

S73/09

To: Post-Primary School Authorities

Junior Certificate Irish Examination in 2010 and after

1. Schools are reminded that there will be a number of changes to the Junior Certificate Irish examination in 2010 as a result of Department of Education and Science Circular 0042/2007.
2. Enclosed with this letter are documents detailing the changes to the optional oral examination, the aural examination and the written papers in the Junior Certificate examination in Irish in 2010 and after.

There will be changes in the distribution of the marks in the various components in Junior Certificate Irish examinations, in keeping with the guidelines as laid down in circular 0042/2007. As a result of the new weightings of certain components of the examination, the layout of the various parts of the examination – the optional oral examination; the aural examination and the written papers – will be amended.

The attention of school authorities and of the Irish teachers is directed to the information which follows and to the contents of the accompanying documents, *An Bhéaltriail Roghnach sa Teastas Sóisearach* (Bonnleibhéal), *An Bhéaltriail Roghnach sa Teastas Sóisearach* (Gnáthleibhéal/Ardleibhéal) and the written Junior Certificate papers (Foundation level, Ordinary level and Higher level: Paper I and Paper II).

Summary of the Main Points

- There is no change to the existing syllabus. This syllabus will continue to be the basis of teaching, learning and assessment.
- The oral examination will be optional and school-based as heretofore. The number of marks allocated to the optional oral examination will, however, be increased to 160 marks, from 80 marks, as announced in DES Circular 0042/2007. The various parts of the optional oral examination, are described in the accompanying documents:
 - *An Bhéaltriail Roghnach sa Teastas Sóisearach* (Bonnleibhéal) – Treoirínte (BTBL);
 - *An Bhéaltriail Roghnach sa Teastas Sóisearach* (Gnáthleibhéal/Ardleibhéal) – Treoirínte (BTAL/GL 1); *Cur síos ar Shraith Pictiúr* (BTAL/GL 2); agus *Rólghlacadh* (BTAL/GL 3).

A total of 400 marks will be available to candidates who take the optional oral examination. A total of 240 marks are allocated to the written examination and to the aural examination, taken together. In the case of candidates who do not take the optional oral examination, their examination result will be graded out of 240 marks.

- The number of marks allocated to the aural examination has been reduced to 40 marks at Higher, Ordinary and Foundation level. As a result of this reduction, and to assist the orderly administration of the examinations, the aural examination will be an integral part of the written examination in 2010 and after. It will no longer be a separate examination session as heretofore.
 - There will also be some changes to the examination papers, the Higher Level papers in particular. Sample copies of the amended papers accompany this document, and a detailed account of the amendments can be found on pages 2-5 below.
3. A copy of this letter, and the accompanying documents, are available on the State Examinations Commission website at www.examinations.ie.

Junior Certificate, Foundation Level (TSBL)

The amended examination paper which will be in use in 2010 and after.

An Account of the amendments

Roinn I – Cluastuiscint (40 marks)

There will be six spoken items in the examination:

Each item will be played twice.

The auditory material and the questions to be answered will be in line with the material and the questions in the Junior Certificate, Foundation Level, examination as was.

- A pen picture
- Directions
- Two news items
- Two conversations.

Roinn II – Léamhthuiscint (120 marks)

Ceist 1 – no change.

Ceist 2 – no change.

Ceist 3 – no change.

Roinn III – Ceapadóireacht (80 marks)

Ceist 4 – Postcard: There will be no choice within this question in 2010 and after.

Ceist 5 – There will be no choice within this question in 2010 and after.

One task must be completed here from now on, but **any one** of the following tasks may appear in any given year:

- Extend an invitation
- Write a reply to an invitation
- Write/reply to an e-mail message
- Write/reply to a blog.

Ceist 6 – no change

Junior Certificate, Ordinary Level (TSGL)

The amended examination paper which will be in use in 2010 and after.

An Account of the amendments

The title of the various sections of the examination paper will be given as heretofore but the questions will be numbered consecutively throughout the paper from now on.

Roinn I – Cluastuiscint (40 marks)

There will be six spoken items in the examination:

Each item will be played twice.

The auditory material and the questions to be answered will be in line with the material and the questions in the Junior Certificate, Ordinary Level, examination heretofore.

- Two pen pictures
- An announcement
- A news item
- Two conversations.

Roinn II – Léamhthuiscint (120 marks)

Ceist 1 – no change.

Ceist 2 – there will be **three** advertisements here in 2010 and after.

Ceist 3 – no change.

Roinn III – Ceapadóireacht (80 marks)

Ceist 4 – There will be no choice within this question in 2010 and after.
There will be **one** postcard in this question.

Ceist 5 – **One task** must be completed here from now on, but **any one** of the following tasks may appear in any given year:

- Extend an invitation
- Write a reply to an invitation
- Write/reply to an e-mail message
- Write/reply to a blog.

Ceist 6 – In 2010 and after candidates will be given a choice between a **letter** and an **article/account**.

Junior Certificate, Higher Level (TSAL)

The amended examination paper which will be in use in 2010 and after.

An Account of the amendments

Arising from the new allocation of marks here, and from the consequent balancing required in the valuation of skills, there is an adjustment to the order and number of questions on the two amended examination papers, TSAL Páipéar I agus TSAL Páipéar II. There will no longer be a conversation/dialogue on Páipéar I (Roinn I – Ceist 2). There will no longer be a question based on short reading comprehension passages on Páipéar II (Roinn III). There will be a new question, Trialacha Teanga Comhthéacsúla (Contextualised Language Tests), on Páipéar I and also two reading comprehension passages to be answered in the Léamhthuiscint section on Páipéar I. The order of the questions on Páipéar I will also change. The title of the various sections of the examination paper will be given as heretofore but the questions will be numbered consecutively throughout the papers from now on.

Páipéar I

Roinn I – Cluastuiscint (40 marks)

There will be six spoken items in the examination:

Each item will be played twice.

The auditory material and the questions to be answered will be in line with the material and the questions in the Junior Certificate, Higher Level, examination heretofore.

- Two pen pictures
- An announcement
- A news item
- Two conversations.

Roinn II – Léamhthuiscint (40 marks)

Ceist 1: There will be **two Reading Comprehension tests** to be answered here in **2010** and after.

The format of some of the questions will change. The following type of question will be asked:

Cén t-alt sa sliocht thuas a dtagraíonn an abairt seo a leanas dó? (Which paragraph in the above passage does the following sentence refer to?)

See the sample paper. The sentence will comprise a summary of the main ideas contained in one of the paragraphs in the passage. Candidates will be required to match a sentence to a paragraph.

Roinn III – Trialacha Teanga Comhthéacsúla (20 marks)

Ceist 2: There will be **two questions (A and B)** here in **2010** and after.

Ceist A will consist of a news item or an e-mail message or a blog or a conversation or a letter.

The text will be written in any one of the following tenses: Present Tense, Past Tense, Future Tense and Conditional Mood. Candidates will be asked to rewrite the passage in a given tense/mood, and the task will be contextualised.

In **Ceist B**, other aspects of the syntax and correct use of the Irish language will be tested. Verbs will not appear in this section. One format is given on the sample paper but different formats may appear from year to year. For example, a continuous piece of prose might be given on the paper and the candidates asked tasks similar to the following:

- Identify examples of the genitive case in the passage
- Identify adjectives in the passage
- Identify nouns in the singular/plural in the passage.

Roinn IV – Ceapadóireacht (50 marks)

Ceist 3 – No change in Ceist 1, Roinn I.

- A) Essay – a choice of three
- B) Story/Incident – a choice of two
- C) Debate/Speech – a choice of two
- D) Article – a choice of two.

Páipéar II

Roinn I – Prós Liteartha (30 marks)

Ceist 1 – no change.

Ceist 2 – no change.

Roinn II – Filíocht (30 marks)

Ceist 3 – no change.

Ceist 4 – no change.

Roinn III – Litir (30 marks)

Ceist 5 – no change.

Majella Smyth
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