

Irish



Subject Group: Humanities

These subjects explore the ways in which humans live and communicate in the world. Human life is examined by looking at our past, our present and into our future. These subjects help people to express themselves clearly and develop their reasoning ability.

Third Level Entry Requirements

Irish is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses and is a compulsory subject in all State schools generally for students born and educated in Ireland.

To gain entry to any NUI College (UCD, UCD, NUIG, NUIM) you must pass Irish in the Leaving Cert. However, there are a few exceptions if you are eligible for an exemption including (1) if you were born outside Ireland (2) if your last three years of second level education were outside Ireland (3) if your primary level of education up to age 11 was outside Ireland. (4) some students have been granted an exemption from the school on the grounds of dyslexia. If this applies to you will need to inform NUI of this, there is a form for this that you will get from nui.ie when you include your CAO number.

Leaving Certificate Exam Tips:

- NOTE: From 2012 onwards the value of the Leaving Certificate oral exam has is 40% (240 marks).
- Preparation is the key to success. There are three sections in the Irish paper: oral, written and aural.
- In preparing for the oral exam you could record yourself on an iPod and listen to your voice so you become more comfortable with it. Likewise, as you travel to and from school you could listen to an Irish CD. Getting used to the different dialects is essential.
- For the written exam, write paragraphs regularly and time yourself to practice for the exam. Extending your vocabulary and learning new phrases should become part of your daily preparation.
- A large proportion of the marks for story/essay is for correct grammar and spelling so if you don't know how to say it, then avoid it.
- In every study session practice past papers and check your answers. It is important to plan your answers making sure you are aware of the marking scheme.

Ardleibheal/Higher Level

The course is taught in conjunction with the four main skills of learning a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

- (i) Bealtrial (The Oral exam) is an important part of the exam 240 marks (40%)
- (ii) The Aural/ listening exam. 60 marks (10%)
- (iii) There are two written papers. 300 marks (50%)

Paper one - 160mks

A – Aural exam (60 marks)

B) Composition Section with a choice from the following: Write either an essay, a story, an article for a newspaper or a debate/speech. (100 marks)

Paper Two - 200mks

1. This consists of questions on prose and poetry. There are four stories, five poems and one film/drama on the prose course which are also on the ordinary and higher level paper. (60 marks)

The candidate is required to study additional literature. (40 marks)

2. There are also two reading comprehensions (100 marks)

Students attempting Higher level are advised to go to the Gaeltacht.

Gnathleibheal/Ordinary Level

- (i) Bealtrial: The Oral exam is an important part of the exam. 240 mks (40%)
- (ii) The Aural/listening exam. 60 mks (10%)
- (iii) There are two written papers - P 1:100 mks P2 200mks (50%)

Paper one.

A. Aural (60 marks)

B. Written Composition Section. Students are required to do two of the following: Write a letter, conversation, story or a paragraph. Usually the letter and paragraph options are topics that are prepared also for the Oral exam. (100 marks)

Paper two.

This consists of questions on compulsory prose and poetry. There are four stories and one film/drama on the prose course and five poems. (50 marks)

Students are required to know a summary of the story/film and also discuss a theme or character. They must answer two questions.

Students must answer two questions on the poems and two prose questions. The questions are generally about a theme, emotions, images, did you enjoy the poem, etc.

There are also two reading comprehensions, one usually about a famous person and the other about something to do with young people, current affairs etc. (100 marks)

Bonnleibheal/Foundation Level.

The main part of this course is Listening and speaking. There is one written paper only and this is very similar to Junior Cert Ordinary level consisting mostly of reading comprehensions. There are no prescribed prose or poetry sections in this course. However students must write a story, letter/application form and notice. There is a bealtrial for this level also worth 40%