

St Patrick's Academy

GCSE Subject Choice

Subject Information for students:

Subject: Irish

What the subject is about:

Irish at GCSE level is based around the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Students have a choice of entering the exam at either Foundation or Higher level or a mixture of levels in different papers.

Course content and assessment schedule:

Paper	Duration	% of total	Content
1	Found: 35 mins High: 45 mins	25%	LISTENING: The listening paper consists of stimulus material in Irish recorded on CD using native speakers. Responses include selection, gap filling and answers in Irish and in English.
2	Found: 10 mins High: 15 mins	25%	SPEAKING: The Speaking test consists of two role play situations, a presentation and conversation. Foundation level presentation – 1 min and conversation 4 mins Higher level presentation – 2 mins and conversation 5 mins Test is conducted by class teacher and recording sent to Examination Board.
3	Found: 40 mins High: 50 mins	25%	READING: The Reading test consists of stimulus material of various lengths on a range of topics in Irish. Responses include selection, gap filling and answers in Irish and in English.
4	Found: 40 mins High: 60 mins	25%	WRITING: Foundation – a list and 2 short pieces of writing, the second approx. 90-100 words in length. Higher – a short piece of writing (approx. 90-100 words) and a longer writing task (approx. 120-150 words).

Attributes needed to succeed in the course

Students should have a keen interest in Irish language and culture. Students who have attended a summer course in the Gaeltacht will benefit from this experience and should be well able to cope with GCSE work. Likewise students who have received a silver Fáinne in Year 10 or who have achieved a grade B or above in the Junior Examination should be well equipped for GCSE work.