



GETTING STARTED

Whether you already teach our existing GCE Irish specification, teach a similar specification with another awarding body, or are considering offering this for the first time, getting started with our revised specification really couldn't be easier:

 Visit www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to view the full revised specification for your subject.

 Attend the next available support event. Go online for our up-to-date events schedule.

Go to www.ccea.org.uk/specifications to download the full GCE Irish AS & A2 Specification



CONTACT US NOW

Subject Officer

Seán MacNia
Tel: (028) 9026 1432
Email: smacnia@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Specification content
Subject-specific issues
Interpretation of exemplar papers & other materials

Specification Support Officer

Lisa McMahon
Tel: (028) 9026 1439
Email: lmcmahon@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Requesting a meeting
Requesting further support
General subject-specific queries

Entries, Results and Certification Team

Nicola Laight
Tel: (028) 9026 1262 or ext 2392
Email: nlaight@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Entries
Results

Distribution Team

Bernard Trainor
Tel: (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168
Email: btrainor@ccea.org.uk

For queries in relation to:
Requesting materials



WHATEVER YOUR QUERY, WE GUARANTEE YOU A PROMPT, FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT SERVICE WHEN YOU CONTACT US

Check out our online leaflet *Customer Charter – Putting You First* at www.ccea.org.uk to view our service targets and our commitment to you.

"I'm really pleased to introduce this revised specification. We have designed it to meet the needs of learners in Northern Ireland whilst also providing a qualification that has international currency. We're proud to be your local awarding body. It is my priority to ensure that our dedicated subject team listens, responds and provides you with a first-class service."

Anne Marie Duffy – Examinations Manager, CCEA

"I'm delighted to provide robust operational systems that support all aspects of examination administration. Whether you are making entries, have a query about examinations or require assistance in relation to results, I can assure you that our specialised systems and customer-focused teams will provide you with the top-class level of service you expect."

Martin Quinn – Business Manager, Examination and Assessment Administration, CCEA

WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT OUR EXAMINATIONS SERVICE...

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with the support and helpfulness of our staff.

95.5% of teachers are satisfied with the reliability and appropriateness of the materials we dispatch.

98.9% of teachers are satisfied with our administration of examinations.

* Source: CCEA's 2006 Post-Primary Customer Satisfaction Research



REVISED GCE AS & A2 SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT FOR IRISH

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010



SUMMARY

- AS 1: **Speaking** – Presentation and conversation (70 marks), approx 13 mins, 35% of AS, 17.5% of A Level, available January and Summer
- AS 2: Total 2 hrs 45 mins (130 marks), 65% of AS, 32.5% of A Level, available January and Summer
(Section A) Listening – Students answer two questions based on two passages recorded on individual CDs, 30 minutes (30 marks)
(Section B) Reading – Two reading comprehension questions based on one text, 1 hr 15 mins (30 marks), translation into English (20 marks)
(Section C) Writing – Students must write an essay response to stimulus text, 1 hr (50 marks)
- A2 1: **Speaking** – Discussion based on societal theme and conversation (70 marks), approx 15 mins, 17.5% of A Level, available Summer only
- A2 2: Total 3 hrs (130 marks), 32.5% of A Level, available Summer only
(Section A) Listening – Students answer two questions based on two passages recorded on individual CDs, 35 mins (30 marks)
(Section B) Reading – Students answer three questions based on two texts, 1 hr 25 mins (30 marks), translation from English into the target language (20 marks)
(Section C) Writing – Students must answer one essay response based on a literary text, 1 hr (50 marks)

KEY FEATURES

- Offers continuity by building on strength of previous specification
- Allows greater in-depth study and improved manageability through its organisation of the contexts for learning areas and associated topics
- Simplifies organisation of examinations, making them more manageable
- Presents a variety of question types to reflect modern text book usage and language learning styles
- Emphasises the development of linguistic skills to prepare students for higher education and employment

BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

- We have designed this specification to help learners develop:
- An interest in, enthusiasm for, and an enjoyment of learning a language;
 - An understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres;
 - The ability to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes;
 - An awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of Irish speaking communities;
 - The ability to consider their study of the language in a broader context;
 - Knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and/or employment; and
 - The ability to communicate with speakers of Irish and to take their place in a multilingual, global society.

CURRENT		NEW		WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHY?	
MODULE	TITLE	UNIT	TITLE	WHAT HAS CHANGED?	WHY HAS IT CHANGED?
AS 1	Obtaining and Exchanging Information	AS 1	Speaking (visiting examiner)	There are now no role-plays in the speaking test.	To reduce the assessment burden
AS 2	Information Handling	AS 2	Listening, Reading and Extended Writing (external examination)	There are some changes in question types. There is now no literature/society question.	To reflect modern textbook usage To offer students a responsive writing type question, which is more appropriate at this stage and allows students to focus on language skills in their AS year
AS 3	Introduction to Literature/Society/ Responsive Writing			This unit has been subsumed into AS 2.	To fulfil the subject criteria requiring that three AS units be reduced to two
A2 1	Exchanging Ideas and Opinions	A2 1	Speaking (visiting examiner)	There is now no presentation. The visual stimuli have been replaced by a discussion on a Literary/Societal theme.	To reduce the examination burden
A2 2	Extended Information Handling	A2 2	Listening, Reading and Extended Writing (external examination)	There is now no summary. There are some changes in question types. There is now only one literature essay.	To remove a no longer necessary assessment tool and reflect modern text book usage To offer students the opportunity to study one text in more depth and reduce the examination burden
A2 3	Literature/ Society/ Responsive Writing			This unit has been subsumed into A2 2.	To fulfil subject criteria requiring that three A2 units be reduced to two

COUNT ON US FOR SUPPORT...

LOCAL SUPPORT > IN PERSON

- We are your **local awarding body**, so we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer named on the back cover if you would like to arrange for us to visit you, your department or your students.
- If you have a query or require advice/guidance, please contact the relevant person listed on the back cover.



CONTACT US IF YOU DON'T FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

LOCAL SUPPORT > AT TEACHER-FOCUSED EVENTS

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support this specification which includes:

- FREE launch events** to introduce you to the revised specification; and
- FREE seminars** to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will mail invitations to Heads of Department at least three weeks in advance of each event. Alternatively, check out our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk/spec-changes

SUPPORT > ONLINE

Most of the support we provide will be available on your subject microsite. The site will contain:

- The latest version of the GCE Irish specification;
- Schemes of Work;
- Chief Examiner's Reports with top tips for improving examination performance;
- Exemplar Papers and Mark Schemes; and
- Exemplification of Standards (available after the first examination series).

Visit your subject microsite by logging on to www.ccea.org.uk and selecting it from the dropdown menu.

SUPPORT > IN PRINT

Some of the materials listed above are also available in print. To find out which materials and publications are currently available for your subject:

- Contact Bernard Trainor in our Distribution Team on (028) 9026 1200 ext 2168; or
- Go to www.ccea.org.uk to view our *Examination and Assessment Sales Catalogue*.

BACKGROUND TO THE REVISION PROCESS

During the Revision of Specifications process, we consulted our stakeholders through:

- Questionnaires
- Focus Group meetings
- Subject Advisory Team meetings.

We have drawn up this revised specification with the help of:

- Teachers and Heads of Departments in post-primary schools;
- Lecturers in Institutes of Further and Higher Education;
- Representatives from Employer Committees;
- Members of Subject Associations; and
- Specialists from our Curriculum Development Teams.

