



Questions and answers

Questions make up almost 60 per cent of the total exam. Through answering questions correctly you can score up to 190 marks out of 320.

The following parts of the exams all contain questions. Read this section so that you will see how big a part questions and answers play in the overall exam.

Topic	Approx number of questions	Marks
Aural	25 to 30	100
Main comprehension	Five important questions	30
Unseen story	Six questions (answer three)	15
Unseen poem	Six questions (answer three)	15
Small comprehensions	3 x 2 = six questions	30
Total marks		190

THREE ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- Underline all key words
- Know all key words, both in Irish and their English equivalents
- Answer the question you are asked (or at least have a guess); it's important to try and have the meaning clear in your head, so your answer is relevant

THE WORD MATCH SYSTEM Q & A BASICS

Using the following system will help you greatly. This example is based on a past paper 1 Question 3 (i) – the main comprehension.

Step 1: Underline the question words (Q-words) and keywords. Write English Q-words and above Q-word and keywords.

Step 2: Think of possible answers and search for information.

Step 3: If you are guessing, match words in the question with words in the text.

Step 4: Choose your best answer (or even two)

Think of the following as you read the piece below.

KEYWORDS - (what setting) - (country) - (choose) - (writer)

Q1: Cén (Q-word) suíomh sa tír a roghnaigh an scríbhneoir don sliocht seo?

Freagra: see table to the right

FILÍOCHT - THE UNSEEN POEMS

Páipéar 2: Roinn 2, Ceist 1

Am: 15 nóiméad

Marcanna: 15 marc

Fad: ½ go 1 leathanach (120 focal)

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- ◆ Answer three questions out of six (one from A, one from B, and one more from A or B).
- ◆ Answer the questions asked.
- ◆ Give two to three points in each answer.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Have a set of answers prepared for special questions. Always give two or more points in each answer.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Learn a strategy for answering eight special questions. Be able to express your answer in two clear points.

DO NOT DO THIS

Do not leave any blanks – make sure you answer three questions.

Do not give one point only – you will only get half the marks.

Do not answer from A only or from B only – you must also answer one from A, and one from B.

Aimsir Chrua	
Bliain is caoga ó shin bhí an aimsir in Éirinn go han róiteach. Le siocán trom agus fuacht nach ndéanfaidh daoine dearmad	Step 1: Cén Suíomh = what or setting?
orthu go brách. Ainneoin gur chuir an aimsir sin isteach ar shaol laethúil na tíre, bhain daoine sult as an gcaitheamh	Step 2: It must be a place, so look for placenames
aimsire a chuir si ar fáil. Í gceantar Gaeltachta Loch an lúir i gContae Dhún na nGall, bhí an loch (atá thar thrí mhíle ar fad agus míle ar leithead) síoctha chomh crua sin go raibh sé ina leac oighir ó thaobh agus balcóidí liathbhána air	Step 3: Can find 'Éirinn' and 'Gaeltacht Loch an lúir' and 'Contae Dhún na nGall' or even 'Loch'
ag labhairt dó leis an nuachtan <i>Foinse</i> , rinne fear a bhí amuigh ar an loch an tráth sin cur síos ar an drochaimsir agus ar na rudaí díchéillí a bhí roinnt de na daoine a dhéanamh	Step 4: Since the answer says 'sa tír' we know that 'Éirinn' can't be right. So put down the other names you have found
Freagra: Roghnaigh se ceantar Gaeltachta Loch an lúir i Contae Dhún na nGall	
Note: this answer would have earned you 5 out of 5. The place names alone would earn you 3 out of the 5 marks.	

Guidelines for question 1 - the unseen poems

- ◆ You do not need to understand the poems fully to answer the questions. Generally speaking, one poem tends to be easier than the other.
- ◆ Read the Gluais (glossary), which explains certain words. It might help.
- ◆ Write some answer for each part of the question (you could pick up essential marks this way). Too much is better than too little.
- ◆ All answers should be given in full sentences.
- ◆ Each question is usually worth 5 marks – 2 marks per point, and 1 mark for the standard of Irish. You must give 2 points for each answer. In some cases each point itself will be broken down into two: a statement (1 mark), followed by proof from the poem (1 mark).
- ◆ Check the brackets after each question, which will tell you which poem you are answering. This is vital.
- ◆ If you don't know the answer, try and match phrases from the question to phrases in the poem.
- ◆ It says in the exam papers to use your own words, but this is not always necessary.

For some questions you can just quote lines from the poems. For others you will have to answer the questions in your own words and use proof from the poems to back up the points you're making.

FILÍOCHT - MY POEMS

Páipéar 2: Roinn 2, Ceist 2B

Am: 15 nóiméad

Marcanna: 15 marc

Fad: ½ go 1 leathanach (120 focal)

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

- Name a poem and its author.
- Choose a theme that is in the poem.
- Write the story of the poem – mentioning where the theme is.

HOW DO I DO IT?

- Have a prepared answer for two to three poems.
- Learn the name of the poem and its author's name.
- Learn a list of themes/emotions/traits.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- Knowing the name of your poem and its author.
- Knowing the learned answer.
- Being able to recognise themes/emotions/traits.

DO NOT DO THIS

- ◆ Do not leave anything blank – if you forget a name or even the poem, go with the closest you can get, even if you think it's wrong.



- ◆ Do not write complicated Irish – simple good Irish will do.
- ◆ Do not write half an answer – you will only get half the marks.

FILÍOCHT GUIDELINES FOR QUESTION 2 - MY POEM

Some of the marks are for the quality of your Irish – for this reason learn off an answer that will have few or no mistakes.

Some of the marks are for what the poem is about. It is best to make at least five points.

Make sure that you know, that is, can recognise, the following:

- Téamaí = themes
- Mothúcháin = emotions
- Tréithe = characteristics

In your answer, pick one theme and stick to it. Make sure you mention your chosen theme regularly in your answer.

Be careful with your Irish and try your best to get the grammar and spellings correct. This will increase the marks out of 15 which are for Irish only.

As usual, do not go over time. If you run out of time **leave it** and come back later. The most marks for any question are for what you do at the start. You will get the same for one good page as you will for six rushed pages.

If you don't recognise any of the themes, don't worry. Write your answer as normal. It will be the corrector's job to figure out what theme you were doing. If the corrector can match your story to a theme you'll get the marks.

There are two different parts to Question 2B. Part (i): Student names the poem and the poet. Part (ii): Student tells the story of the poem, mentioning the theme a few times.