

An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge

Déanann Peadar Mac Giolla Bhríghde, Comhordaitheoir an SCG, cur síos anseo ar an SCG

Cad é agus cé dó a bhfuil an SCG?

The SCG provides an opportunity for teachers who obtained their primary teaching qualification outside of the State to acquire the qualification in Irish which is required to gain recognition within the State. A requirement for undertaking the SCG is that teachers, when they undertake the exam, must hold (or must have held in the past) 'Provisional Recognition' as determined by the Department of Education and Science (up to and including 28 March 2006) or subsequently by the Teaching Council.

Is féidir tabhairt faoin SCG ar bhonn modúlach (fig 1)

The SCG is completely modular and can be undertaken in any combination of modules. The examination consists of four exam modules; páipéar 1, páipéar 2, An Triail Chluastuisceana (aural) and An Scrúdú i Labhairt na Gaeilge (oral). There is also a three week Gaeltacht course attendance requirement at a recognised SCG Gaeltacht course. The SCG is achieved by passing the four modules and by fulfilling the Gaeltacht course

requirements. Paper one and paper two contain practical elements which are assessed in the classroom.

Ag clárú don Scrúdú

Candidates wishing to undertake the SCG examination during the 2008/09 academic year must register with the SCG office in Marino by 30 September 2008. Registration allows a candidate to enter for the examination, to register their interest in undertaking a course and will also allow a candidate to provide school details which the SCG Office will require in order to co-ordinate the practical aspects of the Exam. Registration information issued to every primary school in early September.

Gnéithe Praicticiúla sa seomra ranga

As part of paper one, candidates undertake a practical test in the classroom (Múineadh na Gaeilge) and as part of paper two candidates are required to complete a project based on the school locality (Teanga agus Cultúr). During the 2008/09 school year, candidates will receive their school

visit in the period 12 January – 13 February 2009. Candidates and school principals receive three weeks notice of the school visit appointment. A candidate must have access to a mainstream class to undertake the Practical Element(s). It is envisaged that some candidates may be teaching in non-mainstream class positions or indeed may not currently hold a teaching position. These circumstances do not preclude a candidate from undertaking the Practical Elements provided that s/he has access to a mainstream class to undertake the Practical Elements.

Cúrsaí (fig 2)

Courses for the SCG are provided through the Education Centre network. The courses have been designed by Rannóg na Gaeilge, Coláiste Mhuire, Institiúid Oideachais Marino and tutors have received training from Rannóg na Gaeilge. The commitment and support given to SCG candidates by the Education Centre network is considerable. Similarly, the work undertaken by the SCG course tutors has repeatedly been acknowledged

as a significant factor in the success enjoyed by applicants. Where possible, candidates are recommended to undertake a suitable course.

Tacaíocht

Details of support material are outlined below. These materials will be available at courses nationwide or directly from the SCG office. The prose and poetry compilation *Leoithne Ghaioithe* will be available to candidates when they register with the SCG office. A key focal point for information is the SCG website (www.scgweb.ie) which allows access to information on every aspect of the SCG eg, registration forms, documentation, past papers, Exam information, calendar etc. The website is constantly updated and we recommend it as a resource to all prospective SCG applicants.

Eolas

Tuilleadh eolais faoin SCG:
Teil: 01 8535143/8535134
Ríomhphost: scginfo@mie.ie
Gréasán: www.scgweb.ie
● Tá Peadar Mac Giolla Bhríghde ar iasacht ó Scoil Réalt na Mara, na Sceirí.

Fig 1

SCG exam	applicant numbers
2004/05.....	524
2005/06	782
2006/07	730
2007/08.....	630

Fig 2

An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge 2007/08

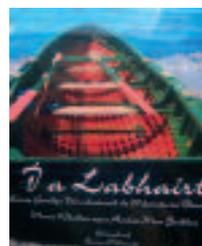
Líon na nIarrthóirí a bhain pas (40%) amach sa Scrúdú

Páipéar 1.....	84%
Páipéar 2.....	90%
An Triail Chluastuisceana	91%
An Scrúdú i Labhairt na Gaeilge	78%

SCG.SUPPORT MATERIAL



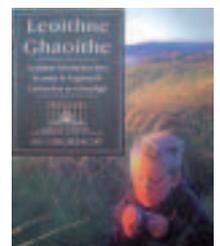
BEATHA TEANGA
Beginner level material for course and independent learning. Contains folder and CD.



Í a LABHAIRT
Intermediate level material for Course and independent learning. Contains Book and CD.



CÓIR GHAOITHE
Advanced level material (for preparation for SCG exam) for course and independent learning. Contains book and two CDs.



LEOITHNE GHAOITHE
Prose and poetry anthology which accompanies *Cóir Ghaioithe*.

PÁIPÉAR 1

Aiste: 35 marc

Aistriúchán: 15 marc

Gramadach: 10 marc

Léamhthuisicint: 10 marc

Múineadh na Gaeilge – 30 marc:

15 marc do cheist atá le freagairt ar an bpáipéar scrúdaithe agus 15 marc don ghné phraiticiúil sa seomra ranga.

For the essay, candidates are asked to choose one title from five. Every year, one title is based on a topic associated with education and another title is based on a topic associated with Irish culture. Each essay title always contains a statement or a question and it is very important that candidates address the title of the essay they choose and that they remain ‘ad rem’. It is also very important that at least 400 words (approx. two pages) are written. The marking scheme for the essay reflects the emphasis placed on grammatical accuracy. Marks are also awarded for content and style.

With regards to the translation, candidates are asked to choose one question from two. One of the questions is a paragraph which is based on one of the units from the final section of *Cóir Ghaoithe*. The other question is comprised of ten individual sentences based on the same section. Marks are awarded for vocabulary, grammar and spellings.

For the reading comprehension, candidates choose between two texts. The texts are based on biographical passages and five questions accompany each. For *Múineadh na Gaeilge*, one question is to be answered from a choice of three. Questions are based on *Curaclam na Gaeilge* and the relevant section in *Cóir Ghaoithe*.

The practical aspect of *Múineadh na Gaeilge* is assessed in a mainstream class setting of the candidate's choice. The candidate's long-term and short-term planning are assessed and the candidate is asked to teach a

prepared and written up lesson which was taught up to three weeks previously. A bound, fully completed signed copy of the work must be presented to the supervisor on the day. This copy is taken away by the supervisor. The practical aspect of *Múineadh na Gaeilge* has the same status as any other part of a question on *Páipéar 1* ie, it does not have to be passed in order to gain an overall pass on *Páipéar 1*. If a candidate is unsuccessful in *Páipéar 1*, all aspects of that paper must be undertaken by the candidate again, including the practical aspect.

PÁIPÉAR 2

Prós: 40 marc: rogha idir dhá cheist.

Filíocht: 40 marc: rogha idir dhá cheist.

Teanga agus Cultúr: 20 marc agus déanfar an ghné seo a thástáil sa seomra ranga.

The duration of the examination is one hour and thirty minutes. Prescribed pieces of prose and the poems to be studied for Paper 2 are taken from *Leoithne Ghaoithe*. The six pieces of prose and the 10 poems in the current syllabus of the SCG (2006–2009) are the ones for which learning materials have been provided in *Cóir Ghaoithe*. In answering each question, candidates are required to write at least 250 words. Marks are awarded for content, grammar and style.

In order to maximise chances of success in the examination, candidates are strongly encouraged to study the full range of prescribed literature. The texts of the poems appear on the examination paper.

The ‘Teanga agus Cultúr’ section is assessed in the candidate's own classroom. Each candidate receives one visit from a Coláiste Mhuire Marino supervisor. Prior notice is given regarding the date and time. If a candidate intends to fulfil the practical elements of *Páipéar 1* in the same year, both elements are examined at the same time. The candidate is required to

prepare teacher information cards, five posters, a child's trail booklet and the children are expected to prepare a large map of the trail. This work will be on display in the classroom on the day of the school visit. An informal non-assessed conversation will take place between the supervisor and the candidate. A bound, fully completed (including photos of posters and photos of trail map) signed copy of the work must be presented to the supervisor on the day. This copy is taken away by the supervisor. In the event of the candidate being unsuccessful in ‘Teanga agus Cultúr’, it is still possible to attain an overall pass in *Páipéar 2*. If the candidate does not succeed in attaining an overall pass in *Páipéar 2*, the candidate is required to repeat each part of the paper, including the project based assessment.

AN SCRÚDÚ LABHAIRT NA GAEILGE

The examination lasts 15-20 minutes and is recorded. Each candidate is interviewed by two examiners. At the beginning, each candidate is asked to read a passage from a dialect of the candidate's choosing and to answer some questions on the piece. For the most part, questions in the rest of the oral Irish examination are based on the

relevant section in *Cóir Ghaoithe*.

Any candidate who does not show satisfactory knowledge of at least three of the following may not be awarded a pass in the oral Irish examination: An Aimsir Chaite, An Aimsir Láithreach, An Aimsir Fháistneach agus An Modh Coinníollach. Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend the compulsory Gaeltacht course before undertaking the exam.

AN TRIAIL CHLUASTUISCEANA

The Aural Comprehension Test lasts approximately one hour. Candidates are required to listen to nine aural texts in each of the main dialects: three Fógra, three Comhrá and three Mír Nuachta. There are five questions to be answered on each listening text and in order to gain full marks for each answer, candidates must show that they understand the question and must provide the information required. Marks are also awarded for correct grammar. Further information is to be found in *Cóir Ghaoithe* along with a sample test. Candidates are encouraged to download past aural tests and to source CDs from previous years from the SCG office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is important that candidates follow the course most suited to their level:
 - * *Beatha Teanga* is the beginners' course.
 - * *Ía Labhairt* is the intermediate course.
 - * *Cóir Ghaoithe* is the course for those preparing to undertake the SCG.
- The four modules need not all be taken in one year and undertaking the examination over a number of years may be a wise option.
- Compulsory Gaeltacht course is best taken before oral Irish examination, not after.
- On the compulsory Gaeltacht course, it is expected that candidates focus on improving their oral competence by speaking the language at all times.