

S.C.G.

AN SCRÚDÚ le hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAEILGE

APTITUDE TEST

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(This list of frequently asked questions is intended as a guide for prospective candidates. Having consulted the questions and answers, prospective applicants who still have a query should contact the Irish Language Requirement Office.)

A. ACHIEVING CONDITIONAL RECOGNITION:

1. **Where can I obtain information on having my qualifications recognised for the purpose of registration as a Primary Teacher?**

Information is available on the Teaching Council website www.teachingcouncil.ie and from the Teaching Council, Block A, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 6517900 . Fax: 01 6517901. Email: info@teachingcouncil.ie

2. **I have applied for Registration with the Teaching Council, can I apply for the Irish Language Requirement or should I wait until my registration is confirmed by the Teaching Council?**

An applicant may apply for the Irish Language Requirement (Aptitude Test or Adaptation Period) having applied for registration with the Teaching Council and having informed the Teaching Council of their choice of either an Aptitude Test or Adaptation period. It is recommended that candidates would apply for the Irish Language Requirement at or about the same time as applying to the Teaching Council for registration. Candidates must forward a copy of their Confirmation of Registration letter from the Teaching Council, to the Irish Language Requirement Office with their application or as soon as it becomes available to them. Candidates must be registered with the Teaching Council when undertaking School based elements and Easter and/or August Assessments.

B. THE IRISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT:

3. **Where can I obtain information on the Irish Language Requirement?**

Information and application forms are available on the Irish Language Requirement website www.ilrweb.ie

Information is also available from the Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535134. Email: scginfo@mie.ie & ocginfo@mie.ie

4. **Is there a limit to how long I can take the SCG for?**

A candidate can continue to undertake the SCG until successful.

5. **The revised arrangements provide for a choice of Aptitude Test (SCG) or Adaptation Period (OCG) for making good a curriculum shortfall in Irish. Is one method viewed as better than the other?**
No, both methods are equally valid, of similar standard and will on successful completion satisfy the Irish Language Requirement.
6. **Who makes the decision whether to opt for an Aptitude Test or an Adaptation Period?**
The decision is solely that of the applicant. Applicants are advised to consult the information sources outlined above before notifying the Teaching Council of their decision.
7. **Which application form should I complete?**
You should complete the appropriate form based on your choice of Aptitude Test (S.C.G.) or Adaptation Period (O.C.G.) as notified by you to the Teaching Council. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they complete the appropriate application form based on the choice notified by them to the Teaching Council.
8. **If I provide an incomplete application form for either the Aptitude Test (S.C.G.) or the Adaptation Period (O.C.G.) to the Irish Language Requirement Office will my application be refused?**
Candidates are asked to complete their application forms carefully and as completely as possible. It is acknowledged that some candidates may not have complete information available to them or may be awaiting further details at the time of application (e.g. school, class or exemption details – school details must be provided by 10th Nov.). In circumstances where information is incorrect or omitted (e.g. photos not attached, incorrect payment details or a partial application submitted) the Irish Language Requirement Office will return the application form and will indicate the outstanding details/information required. It will be the candidate's responsibility to resubmit the application within the closing date period.
9. **When I submit my application to the Irish Language Requirement Office (Marino) will I receive acknowledgement?**
Yes, the Irish Language Requirement Office will acknowledge receipt of your application and will provide any additional information relevant to your application.

C. AN SCRÚDÚ le hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAELIGE (S.C.G. – APTITUDE TEST):

10. **Where can I obtain further information on the S.C.G (Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test)?**
An Scrúdú hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (S.C.G.) is one of two options for undertaking the Irish Language Requirement (the other option is Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta O.C.G.). Information and application forms are available on the Irish Language Requirement website www.ilrweb.ie. The website also provides a Gaeltacht Course listing, past examination papers, learning materials, calendar and relevant examination information. Candidates should consult this regularly. Information is also available from the Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535134.. Email: scginfo@mie.ie
11. **When can I apply to undertake the S.C.G (Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test)?**
Candidates opting to undertake the S.C.G. must apply for recognition with the Teaching Council. At the same time it is recommended that candidates would apply to The Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535134. Email: scginfo@mie.ie if they intend to undertake the S.C.G. Closing date is indicated on the application form.
12. **Where can I obtain the syllabus for the Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge?**
The syllabus for the Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (S.C.G.) is contained in the book *Cóir Ghaoithe*. This book is provided to applicants in digital format and a hard copy version is available for purchase directly from the The Irish Language Requirement Office Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535143. Email: scginfo@mie.ie The Book *Leoithne Ghaoithe* contains an anthology of prose and poetry some of which is examinable and this book is provided to candidates when they initially register for the S.C.G.
13. **Can I undertake all of the S.C.G. in one year?**
The S.C.G. consists of 4 modules (Paper 1 is a general language written examination, Paper 2 is a written examination of selected prose and poetry, an Aural examination and an Oral examination. Candidates must also attend a recognized SCG Gaeltacht Course for a period of 3 weeks which can be taken together or as a combination of weeks). Candidates may when completing their registration form decide to undertake all of the modules or a combination of modules. Undertaking the examination over a number of years is an option. The decision is the candidate's own decision.

An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge		
Paper 1	Practical element (15 marks)	Written Examination (85 marks)
Paper 2	Practical element (20 marks)	Written Examination (80 marks)
Aural Examination	(100 marks)	
Oral Examination	(100 marks)	
Gaeltacht	3 week attendance at a recognized SCG Gaeltacht Course.	

14. **What is the pass mark to be achieved?**
Candidates must achieve a mark of 40% or above to obtain a pass in each module. Each individual module must be passed at this mark.
15. **What standard is applied in the Examinations?**
The candidate will be required to demonstrate competence at a level commensurate with graduates of the Bachelor of Education or Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) awarded within the State.
16. **What is the pass rate in the examination?**
Statistics from previous years are available at www.ilrweb.ie
17. **How and when will the school visits be undertaken?**
Candidates will provide their school details on the application form for the SCG (Aptitude Test) with the Irish Language Requirement Office. Candidates will receive one visit by an examiner appointed by the Irish Language Requirement Office during the period Jan – March. Candidates undertaking Paper 1 will undertake the teaching of a lesson and the preparation of a file for the examiner. Candidates undertaking Paper 2 will undertake a language and culture project and will also present a file to the examiner. If a candidate is undertaking both Paper 1 and Paper 2 then both visits will be undertaken on the same day. The candidate's mark from the practical aspect in the classroom will be added to their mark for the written examination of Paper 1 and/or Paper 2 in order to achieve their total mark. Candidates who achieve a total mark of 40% or above will be deemed to have passed that module and will not be required to undertake the module again. Results for the school visits will issue with the Easter Examination Results. Candidates who do not achieve 40% will be required to repeat the module and a repeat school visit (one visit) will take place during the month of June. (If candidates have achieved a pass in the practical element on its own, they may if they wish carry the practical mark forward to a repeat examination undertaken within the same academic year or subsequent year(s) or they may decide to retake the practical element. The candidate and the school principal will receive 3 weeks notice of the school visit appointment. Full details of the requirements of the Practical Elements are available in C oir Ghaoithe the learning materials for the SCG.
18. **Is it necessary to be teaching in a mainstream classroom in order to undertake the practical elements of the S.C.G?**
No. 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 (language support, resource etc.) 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 can gain access to a mainstream class to undertake the Practical Elements. It will however be necessary to receive the permission of the school principal and/or the Board of Management in order to gain access to a class. It is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain this permission. It should be noted that a class are entitled to competent Irish language tuition.

19. **When and where are the examinations held?**
The examinations are held during Easter on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after the Easter Monday bank holiday. The examinations are held in the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Ave. Dublin 9. The examination timetable can be accessed on www.ilrweb.ie
20. **When and where are the repeat examinations held?**
The repeat examinations are held usually during the third week of August prior to schools reopening. The repeat examinations are held in Dublin. To be eligible to repeat a module in the August repeat examination candidates must have undertaken the module but not passed it in the Easter examination.
21. **Do I have to repeat the Practical Elements if I do not obtain an overall pass in Paper 1 and/or Paper 2?**
In the event that a candidate does not obtain a pass mark in Paper 1 and/or Paper 2 then the written examination and the practical element must be repeated.
However if the candidate achieved the pass mark level (40% or above) in the practical element then the candidate will have the option of carrying forward the practical element mark to any future examination(s) or to repeat the Practical Element with a view to improving their mark. In the event that the candidate is required to or elects to repeat the practical element then the repeat school visit will take place during the month of June.
22. **Is there an appeal procedure?**
Yes, both the Easter and August examinations are subject to appeal procedures. Candidates may also if they wish decide to view their examination script prior to deciding to undertake an appeal or may proceed directly to an appeal if they wish.
23. **Are courses provided which I can attend throughout the year to prepare for the S.C.G?**
Courses for the S.C.G. are provided through the Education Centre network. The courses have been designed by Rannóg na Gaeilge, Marino Institute of Education and tutors have received training from Rannóg na Gaeilge, Marino. Where possible, candidates are recommended to undertake a suitable course. Courses also offer regular and consistent contact with tutors and other S.C.G. candidates. The courses are coordinated by the Irish Language Requirement Office. Candidates may register their interest in undertaking a course on their Exam Registration form. This information is then forwarded to the candidate's chosen centre so that courses may be provided. Courses are provided where numbers are sufficient to provide a feasible course. The decision as to feasibility rests with each individual education centre. The fee for these courses is payable directly to the Education Centre.

24. **Are learning materials available to help me to prepare for the S.C.G and where can I get them?**

Yes, the following learning materials are available.

S.C.G. Support Materials.			
Course Material	Level	Format	Availability
Beatha Teanga	Beginner Level	Learning material for a Beginner Irish Course and independent learning. Folder and CD.	Folder available for download from www.irlweb.ie and from the Cáilíocht sa Ghaeilge Office (01 8535143). CD available from the Office
Í a Labhairt	Intermediate Level	Learning material for an Intermediate level course and independent learning. Book and CD.	Folder available for download from www.irlweb.ie and from the Cáilíocht sa Ghaeilge Office (01 8535143). CD available from the Office
Cóir Ghaoithe	Advanced Level	Learning material for an Advanced level course and independent learning in preparation for the S.C.G. Exam. Book and 2 CD's	Learning material provided to candidates in digital format and are available in hard copy for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office (01 8535134).
Leoithne Ghaoithe (D.E.S. Inspectorate Publication)	Advanced Level	Prose and Poetry Anthology for the S.C.G. Exam	This book is provided to candidates when they initially register for the S.C.G. Exam.

25. **Where do I apply for an exemption from parts of the S.C.G.?**

Applicants who have Irish as a major subject in their degree may apply for exemption from parts of the S.C.G. Exemptions are assessed by the Irish Language Requirement Office. Applicants seeking exemption should complete the relevant section of the SCG application form. Exemption Policy is outlined in the SCG Guide.

26. **If I am granted an exemption from parts of the S.C.G. which parts do I have to undertake?**

Candidates granted an exemption must undertake the Theory question on the Teaching of Irish in Paper 1 and must also complete the practical element of Paper 1 (Teaching of Irish in the Classroom) and the practical element of Paper 2 (Language and Culture Project).

27. **Where can I obtain further information on the Gaeltacht Courses?**

Information regarding S.C.G. recognised Gaeltacht courses can be obtained from the individual Gaeltacht course providers. The website www.irlweb.ie provides a listing of Department of Education and Skills, recognized S.C.G. Gaeltacht course providers

28. **What is the duration of the Gaeltacht course requirement?**

The candidate is required to be resident in the Gaeltacht for three weeks (i.e. 21 days) and to attend an OCG Gaeltacht course approved by the Department of Education and Science.

29. **Is it necessary to undertake the 3 weeks of Gaeltacht course requirement together?**

No. The weeks can be taken together or as a combination of weeks.

30. **When should I undertake the Gaeltacht courses?**

It is highly recommended that candidates would fulfil the Gaeltacht course requirement before undertaking the oral examination. The purpose of attendance at the Gaeltacht course is to improve the Irish Language competence of the candidate.

33. **What is the fee for undertaking the S.C.G?**
The fee for undertaking the S.C.G. is advised on the Fee Payment Schedule available at www.ilrweb.ie
34. **What is the fee for undertaking an S.C.G. course during the year at an Education Centre?**
The fee for undertaking an S.C.G. course during the year at an Education Centre will be advised by each individual education centre and is payable directly to the Education Centre?
35. **What is the fee for undertaking an S.C.G. recognised Gaeltacht course?**
The fee for undertaking an S.C.G. recognised Gaeltacht course will be advised by each individual Gaeltacht course provider and is payable directly to the course provider. A list of recognized SCG Gaeltacht courses can be accessed at www.ilrweb.ie.
36. **I intend to qualify as a Primary Teacher outside of the state (26 counties). Can I undertake the S.C.G. before or during my studies outside of the state?**
No. In order to undertake the S.C.G. an applicant must have obtained (or must have applied for) Registration with the Teaching Council. In order to achieve Registration an applicant would have to have completed their studies outside of the state.
37. **Is it necessary to obtain an honour in Irish in the Leaving Certificate Examination in order to be eligible to undertake the S.C.G.**
No.