



teag

teastaseorpach<sup>na</sup> gaeilge

Gaeilge Íofa ↔ Fluent Irish  
céim ar chéim step by step

## Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge

Nuachtlitr 4, Fómhar 2016

### Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge celebrates its tenth birthday in 2016!

TEG Irish language examinations have been taken by almost 4,500 candidates since they were first offered in 2006. The Centre for Irish at Maynooth University organises these exams each year in centres in Ireland and abroad. TEG is a system of proficiency exams which clearly illustrates to learners what their language level is and allows them to progress accordingly. Examinations test the four language skills: speaking, writing, reading and listening. Candidates who wish to focus on their speaking skills can take the oral exam only and gain partial TEG certification. More information on page 4.

## Q Mark for TEG

The TEG examination system was recently awarded with the Q-Mark by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) in recognition of the high standards, validity and reliability of the exams.



Emyr Davis, ALTE and Siuán Ní Mhaonaigh, Director of TEG at the ALTE Q-Mark awards.

TEG exams, of which there are five levels, are broadly based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (Council of Europe, 2001) which is a guide to the development of language assessments for educational organisations throughout Europe.

ALTE was established in 1989 and since then the organisation has developed common standards for language tests in a range of European languages. Some of the most renowned language assessment organisations are members of ALTE, among them Cambridge English Language Assessment, the Goethe-Institut and Charles University, Prague.

“This is international recognition of our work and is further evidence of the quality and reliability of the TEG exams for candidates, employers and other stakeholders,” said Anne Gallagher, Director of the Centre for Irish in Maynooth University.

## Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge in Australia

2016 has been a historic year in the TEG story, this being the first time that Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge exams were held in Sydney. 33 people took the Bonnleibhéal 1 (A1) examination in Sydney last June, the first time that TEG exams have been held in the southern hemisphere!

Arthur Bastable, a member of the Irish Language Winter School organising committee in Sydney, who also took the TEG exam, called it a truly historic occasion for learners of Irish in Australia. He was hopeful that the next exam level, Bonnleibhéal 2 (A2), would be available in Sydney in 2017.



### TEG Bonnleibhéal 1 (A1) exam 2016

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Native Irish and Australians of Irish heritage were among the exam candidates, many of whom travelled from all over Australia to take the exam. The exam was organised by the Centre for Irish at Maynooth University, in response to a request from a group of Irish-language learners in Australia who attend the Irish language winter school in June each year.

We are delighted to announce that preliminary arrangements are being made for the 2017 exams in Sydney and that exams will be held at two levels, Bonnleibhéal 1 (A1) and Bonnleibhéal 2 (A2) on 9 June 2017.

More information on the Sydney Irish language winter school is available at this link: [www.irishlanguageschoolsydney.org.au](http://www.irishlanguageschoolsydney.org.au).

Applications for the 2017 exams are now being taken at: [www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie).

**TEG application system now open!**

# Add to your qualifications. Register for TEG 2017!



**publicjobs.ie**

An tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí  
Public Appointments Service

## TEG Meánleibhéal 2 (B2) qualification required for some jobs in the Public Service

As part of the recruitment process for Executive Officers in the Public Service, it is the policy of the Public Appointments Service that all applicants who wish to be included in the Specialist Irish language stream sit an Irish language examination at TEG Meánleibhéal 2 (B2) level.

As part of this process a Specialist Irish Language Stream will be created from which vacancies will be filled for positions where Irish language skills are required. Candidates who are successful in this exam will offer a full range of services through the medium of Irish.

Information and guidelines for this exam, as well as sample exams, syllabus and Chief Examiner's reports are available on the TEG website. Both candidates and teachers should familiarise themselves with this material prior to the exam.

Further information available at [www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie) and [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie).

## 6 things you may not have known about TEG!

1. TEG exams have been taken by almost 4,500 people since 2006, including about 650 candidates this year.
2. TEG syllabuses are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, as are the language syllabuses of the Alliance Française and the Goethe-Institut, for example.
3. We organise oral exams throughout the year, countrywide. Get in touch to find out more!
4. We receive requests to open TEG exam venues each year from groups of Irish language learners all over the world.
5. TEG syllabuses and teaching materials can be used free of charge by anybody and it's not necessary to register or ask permission to use them.
6. TEG staff are available to give advice and support to both teachers and learners.

**Gaeilge do thuismitheoirí**  
Irish for parents



A new website for parents, [www.irishforparents.ie](http://www.irishforparents.ie), has been developed by Gaeloideachas as a resource for parents whose children attend Irish-medium primary schools and also as a resource for teachers who teach Irish language classes for parents. Parents and teachers can access Irish language learning and teaching materials which are based on daily family life.

There is also a live helpline for parents helping their children with homework. Materials are based on TEG syllabuses, giving learners the opportunity to become familiar with the TEG system and, eventually, to take TEG exams.

The website [www.irishforparents.ie](http://www.irishforparents.ie) is funded by Foras na Gaeilge and COGG.

Any questions?

Send an email to [teanga@nuim.ie](mailto:teanga@nuim.ie).

## Important TEG Dates 2016/17

| Level                      | Date of examination   | Application deadline                |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Ardleibhéal 1 (C1)</b>  | 27-28 January (Maynooth only)<br>18-19 August (Maynooth only) | <b>6 January</b><br><b>4 August</b> |
| <b>Meánleibhéal 2 (B2)</b> | 1 April (All venues)<br>12 August (Maynooth only)             | 1 March<br><b>28 July</b>           |
| <b>Meánleibhéal 1 (B1)</b> | 13 May (All venues)   | 1 March                             |
| <b>Bonnleibhéal 2 (A2)</b> | 27 May (All venues)<br>9 June (Sydney only)                   | 1 March                             |
| <b>Bonnleibhéal 1 (A1)</b> | 3 June (All venues)<br>9 June (Sydney only)                   | 1 March                             |

### How much time do I need to prepare for a TEG exam?

Learners are advised to spend a particular amount of time studying and practising the language before undertaking the exams. The grid on the right gives a general guide as to the amount of time required to cover the syllabus at each level. Learners at every level are advised to have as much contact as possible with Irish. This can be achieved by attending classes or conversation groups, through regular personal study, or through other opportunities for language use (TV programmes and films, radio, online newspapers and magazines, keeping a diary in the language, etc.). See the [Links and Resources](#) page for more ideas regarding effective language learning.

## Ionaid Scrúdaithe 2017

Belfast Castlebar  
Cork Gaoth Dobhair  
Kilkenny Killarney  
Letterkenny Maynooth  
New York Paris Prague  
Spiddal Sydney  
Ottawa Limerick

| Level               | Number of recommended study hours |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bonnleibhéal 1 (A1) | 80 - 100                          |
| Bonnleibhéal 2 (A2) | + 160 - 200                       |
| Meánleibhéal 1 (B1) | + 350 - 400                       |
| Meánleibhéal 2 (B2) | + 500 - 600                       |
| Ardleibhéal 1 (C1)  | + 1000                            |
| Ardleibhéal 2 (C2)  | + 1500                            |

Syllabuses, teaching materials and sample papers at each level are available at [www.teg.ie](http://www.teg.ie).

**Take the oral exam at any level to attain partial certification.**

Due to demand from TEG teaching centres in Ireland and abroad, it is now possible to get TEG certification in spoken Irish. Learners from Elementary to Advanced levels can register for the oral exam only and get certification of their oral language skills.

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