

Lárionad na Gaeilge: Taighde, Teagasc agus Tástáil
Maynooth University

Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge

Guidelines/Specifications for
Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1 (B1)
Partial Accreditation (Oral Exam)



Treoir do Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1 (B1)

Purpose

Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1 is a general proficiency examination of Irish. It is aimed primarily at adult learners of Irish. It is suitable for people in Ireland or abroad who are studying Irish at night classes or attending other similar courses. It is also suitable for those engaged in private study. In short, the examination is for all those who would like a qualification to attest to their ability in Irish. The examination itself is not, however, tied to any particular course of study.

General information

- The information in this section relates to partial accreditation i.e. the oral exam. Application forms and all current information relating to dates, examination centres etc are available on this website.
- We work on the assumption that candidates who take these exams will have various first languages. On that basis, all guidelines relating to the tasks in the examination are in Irish.
- Candidates will not be allowed to bring a dictionary or any other support materials into the examination.
- It is important that candidates be aware of the layout of the oral examination and the various types of tasks. Therefore, candidates should use the sample oral examination materials to familiarize themselves with the question types in this examination.
- Consult the Frequently Asked Questions section of this website if you have any questions. Further information can also be obtained from Láirionad na Gaeilge, Maynooth University, Co Kildare, Ireland (01) 7083737 or info@teg.ie
- Candidates and teachers are also advised to study the following documents:

Siollabas Mheánleibhéal 1

Scrúduithe Samplacha Mheánleibhéal 1

Tuairisc ar Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1

The level of Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1(B1)

The level of *Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1* generally corresponds to Level B1 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (2001). It is estimated that learners who have successfully completed *Scrúdú Bhonnleibhéal 2* will be able to undertake *Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1* after approximately 350-400 extra hours of study. Below is a short description of the attainments of *Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1* (B1) learners in the various skills.

Speaking and listening comprehension

At this level, learners will be able to participate, without prior preparation, in conversations on general topics that relate to their own lives (see syllabus). They should follow the gist of television programmes or telephone messages. They should be able to participate in simple exchanges of opinion on subject matters with which they are

familiar. However, they will be unable to express a complicated point of view. ‘Predictability’ is the most important factor at this level.

Language specifications

Comprehensive details of the topics, functions, vocabulary, grammatical structures, communication strategies etc on which this examination is based are available in *Siollabas Mheánleibhéal 1* which you can download from this website.

Grading

The final mark a candidate receives in *Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1* for the oral examination is as follows..

<i>Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1 (B1)</i> <i>Partial accreditation (oral examination)</i>	
50 - 100%	Pass
0 - 49%	Fail

The oral examination

General information

- Only one candidate is examined at any one time. The examination is carried out by two examiners. One of the examiners will concentrate exclusively on assessment throughout the examination and will not take part in the conversation. The other examiner will also be attentive to the candidate’s performance but will ask the candidate questions and administer the tasks the candidate must perform.
- Every oral examination is recorded.
- Below is a description of the layout of *Scrúdú Mheánleibhéal 1*.

<i>Part</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Type of task</i>	<i>Language functions</i>
1	5 minutes	The candidate is asked questions about his/her daily life (place of residence, family, work, hobbies, future plans for holidays, study etc.)	Giving information and expressing opinions.
2	1 minute preparation 3-4 minutes	Role-play (1) Candidates are given a role-play card in the examination. There are key words on the card that relate to various scenarios (events/plans experiences etc.). Candidates are given one minute to read the	Asking for information. Giving information. Expressing opinions.

		<p>information. Candidates must then answer questions posed by the examiner concerning the information on the card.</p> <p>(2) The examiner will have a role-play card with information that relates to a similar subject matter that was on the candidate's card. On this occasion the candidate will ask the examiner questions about the information depicted on his/her card. See sample materials.</p>	
3	1 minute preparation 3-4 minutes	<p>Telling a simple story:</p> <p>The candidate is given a series of six pictures and has one minute to study them. The candidate then describes what is happening in the pictures.</p>	Describing what is happening in a series of pictures.

Additional information

Part 1

- Candidates are expected to express simple opinions relating to the topics, as well as describing things that have happened to them and plans that they have.
- Candidates are advised to avoid giving short answers but are instead encouraged to provide reasons and examples to develop and expand on their answers whenever possible.
- It is strongly recommended that candidates do not memorize chunks of material for this part of the oral exam.

Part 2

- Candidates will be given a role-play card in the oral exam and the examiner will then explain the task to the candidate. The candidate will be given **one minute** to read the information on the card.
- When answering the examiner's questions, candidates should base their answers on the information given on the card.
- When the first part of the task is completed, the candidate will be given the opportunity to ask the examiner questions regarding the information on the examiner's card. The information on the examiner's card will relate to the same topic as that on the candidate's card, but with different details. See the Sample Oral Exam Materials in this section of the website.

Part 3

- The examiner will give the candidate a picture, photograph, cartoon or a series of pictures, photographs or cartoons. The materials will relate to scenes and scenarios from normal, everyday life.
- Candidates will be given **one minute** to look at the pictures before being asked to provide a description of the material.
- Candidates should give a full description of what is depicted in the pictures (for example, what is happening and what the people are doing. Candidates at this level are not expected to refer to the wider context of the pictures or to comment on issues relating to the content. Candidates should not refer to things that are not depicted in the pictures themselves.
- Candidates at this level are not expected to use specialised vocabulary. Marks will be awarded, however, to those that can adopt appropriate strategies such as paraphrase when they need to compensate for a missing word or when they fail to recall a specific word.
- Candidates are expected to demonstrate that they have the ability to organize and deliver prolonged and continuous speech.

Marking

- Candidates are assessed on a sustained performance during the whole examination and not on individual tasks. For candidates undertaking full accreditation the speaking component accounts for 30% of the total marks for this examination.
- In the Meánleibhéal 1 oral examination, examiners award marks according to five analytical criteria. These are: Vocabulary, Grammar, Pronunciation, Fluency and Communication. There are two aspects to communicative ability. (1) The candidates' ability to deal reasonably effectively with basic conversation despite their vocabulary being very limited, for example by asking someone to react what they said, by stating that they don't understand and so on. (2) Basic sociolinguistic competences are also tested. The candidates should be able to make basic social contact by using forms used in greeting or taking leave, asking permission, expressing thanks, apologizing and so on.
- Examiners receive comprehensive training and standardization of marks is maintained by monitoring of examiners' performance.