



An Associated College of
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

www.mie.ie

S.C.G.

An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (Aptitude Test)

SCG Guide

www.ilrweb.ie

The Irish Language Requirement

Teachers in national schools must be qualified to teach the range of subjects as outlined in the Primary School Curriculum -1999 (Curaclam na Bunscoile) to children in all classes. The ability to speak Irish proficiently and to use Irish as the language of incidental communication in the classroom is a prerequisite for teaching Irish. Accordingly, teachers who obtained their teaching qualification outside the State and have a curriculum shortfall in Irish must make good this shortfall.

Under the EU Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) Regulations, 2008, as given effect in S.I. No 139 of 2008, teachers who have a curriculum shortfall in Irish have the choice to make up this shortfall, either by way of an Aptitude Test (SCG – An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) or an Adaptation Period (OCG – Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge). In the past, teachers who obtained their primary teaching qualification outside the State undertook the aptitude test, *An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge* (SCG), as a means of acquiring the necessary qualification.

The Teaching Council is the designated authority for the recognition of qualifications under the terms of the above EU Directive and the competent authority for the recognition of qualifications obtained outside of the EU. The terms and conditions for employment in recognised schools are determined by the Minister for Education and Science.

Prospective applicants for the SCG (An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test) are referred to the Irish Language Requirement Website www.ilrweb.ie which outlines the ways in which teachers with a curriculum shortfall for registration purposes in the Irish language can address same.

Prospective applicants seeking to fulfill the Irish Language Requirement (ILR) should be registered with the Teaching Council or have submitted an application for Registration. They must choose between the SCG (An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test) and the OCG (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Adaptation Period). Candidates must inform the Teaching Council of their choice and must ensure that their conditional registration deems them eligible to undertake their choice of SCG or OCG. The candidate must apply to the Irish Language Requirement Office (Marino Institute of Education) to undertake the SCG or the OCG.

More information may be found on the Irish Language Requirement website: www.ilrweb.ie

© Marino Institute of Education

S.C.G. – An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge
CONTENTS

The Irish Language Requirement	2
Contents	3
An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge	4
The Structure of the S.C.G	4
The Organization of the S.C.G.	4
Modules	4
Standards	5
Grades	5
Pass Rates	5
Past Examination Papers	5
Learning Materials	6
Courses	7
Applications and Enquiries	7
Format of Individual Modules	8
Paper 1	8
The Practical Element-The Teaching of Irish in the Classroom	9
Overview of Paper 1	9
Paper 2	10
Section A: Prose	10
Section B: Poetry	10
The Practical Element-Language and Culture Project (Paper 2)	11
Overview of Paper 2	11
The Aural Examination	12
Overview of the Aural Examination	12
The Oral Examination	13
Overview of the Oral Examination	13
Practical Elements – School Requirements	14
Teaching a mainstream class at present	15
Not Teaching a mainstream class at present	15
Not Teaching at present	15
Practical Elements – Repeat Requirements	16
Calendar	16
Examination Timetable	16
Examination Day Procedure	17
Examination Venues	17
SCG Gaeltacht Courses	17
Exemption	18
Reasonable Accommodations	19
Examination Results	20
Appeals Procedure – Viewing of Scripts	20
SCG Completion Certificate	20
Appendix 1 Contact Information	21
Appendix 2 Module Format	23
Appendix 3 S.C.G. Calendar	25
Appendix 4 S.C.G. Easter Examination Timetable	26
Appendix 5 S.C.G. August Repeat Examination Timetable	27
Appendix 6 S.C.G. Paper 2 Prose and Poetry Syllabus	28
Appendix 7 S.C.G. Exemption Policy	30

AN SCRÚDÚ LE hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAEILGE (SCG)

The SCG is an Irish examination defined as an Aptitude Test for the purposes of addressing a shortfall under the terms of the EU Directive 2005/36 for teachers who have obtained their primary teaching qualifications outside of the State. These teachers may obtain full registration (Regulation Two*) as Primary Teachers by obtaining a pass in the SCG Examination and by completing a three week attendance at a recognised SCG Gaeltacht course. In order to be eligible to undertake the SCG, teachers must currently hold or must have held in the past conditional recognition as determined by the Department of Education and Science up to March 2006, and subsequently by the Teaching Council. To apply for registration prospective candidates should contact the Teaching Council. To enrol for the Aptitude Test (SCG), prospective candidates should ensure that their conditional registration entitles them to undertake the SCG.

(Prospective candidates may apply for the SCG having applied for and while awaiting the granting of Conditional Registration. It is the responsibility of each prospective candidate to ensure that their Conditional Registration is in place when they undertake the Practical Elements in the Classroom and the Written Examinations and to ensure that their Conditional Registration entitles them to apply for and undertake the SCG. Candidates must forward a copy of their Teaching Council – Confirmation of Registration letter, to the Irish Language Requirement Office when it becomes available to them).

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SCG.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE SCG:

The SCG Examination is held twice during the academic year. The main Examination is held during the Easter break on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after the Easter Monday bank holiday. A Repeat Examination is held in late August. The SCG Examination is held at the Marino Institute of Education, Dublin. The Repeat SCG Examination is also held in the Marino Institute of Education, Dublin. Candidates may repeat any module which they undertook but did not pass at the preceding Easter examination.

MODULES:

The Examination consists of four modules:

1. Paper 1.
2. Paper 2.
3. The Aural Examination.
4. The Oral Examination

(Prospective candidates should note that Paper 1 and Paper 2 contain Practical Elements which are assessed in the classroom.) The Examination is modular. Prospective candidates may apply for all modules or for any combination of modules in a particular year.

**Teaching Council [Registration] Regulations 2009.*

STANDARDS:

The Examination will require the candidate 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.

Standards required in the S.C.G. will be the same as those required in the O.C.G.

GRADES:

The pass mark for each module of the SCG is 40%.

To obtain a pass in the SCG, candidates are required to achieve 40% in each module.

Candidates may undertake the modules of the SCG Examination in different years.

PASS RATES:

The pass rates (i.e. the number of candidates who obtain a pass in the various modules) of the SCG can be viewed on the Irish Language Requirement website www.ilrweb.ie.

Statistics are provided for past examinations and past repeat examinations.

PAST EXAMINATION PAPERS:

Past examination papers for both the main Easter examination and for the August repeat examinations may be downloaded from the Irish Language Requirement website

www.ilrweb.ie . Aural examination audio and text may also be accessed and downloaded.

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Learning materials for the SCG are provided at 3 levels.

Level 1.0: Beginner Level.	<p>'<i>Beatha Teanga</i>' Book text and Audio can be accessed without charge on the website (www.ilrweb.ie).</p> <p>Book text and/or CD available for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office. This is the Irish Language learning material for a course or for self study for beginners.</p>
Level 1.5: Intermediate Level.	<p>'<i>Í a Labhairt</i>' Text and Audio can be accessed without charge on the website (www.ilrweb.ie). Book and/or CD available for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office. This is the Irish Language learning material for a course or for self study for intermediate level.</p>
Level 2.0: Advanced Level.	<p>'<i>Cóir Ghaoithe</i>' Digital copy provided to candidates on registration. Hard copy of book with 2 CD's available for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office at www.ilrweb.ie . This is the learning material for a course or for self study to prepare for all aspects of the SCG examination including the Practical Elements.</p>
Level 2.0: Advanced Level.	<p>'<i>Leoithne Ghaoithe</i>' The prose and poetry texts are provided to SCG applicants, upon initial registration for the SCG. It is an Irish prose and poetry anthology, some of which is examinable for the SCG Paper 2 examination. The examinable prose and poetry syllabus is provided in appendix 6 of this guide and a digital copy is provided to candidates. Comprehensive notes on the examinable syllabus are contained in '<i>Cóir Ghaoithe</i>'.</p>

COURSES:

Face-to-face courses are provided through the Education Centre Network and other centres. These courses are optional but are recommended. Candidates may indicate their interest in undertaking a course on their application form and this information is then provided to the candidate's education centre of choice so that courses may be provided. Courses are provided **subject to sufficient applicant numbers to provide a viable and feasible course**. The final decision as to the feasibility of providing a course rests with each individual Education Centre/Tutor. If a course does not materialize at the candidate's first choice of venue then the candidate's details will forward to the second choice selected. Fees for courses are set by each individual Education Centre/Tutor and are payable directly to that Centre/Tutor.

APPLICATIONS AND ENQUIRIES

The closing date to apply for the SCG is 31 October. Application forms may be accessed on the Irish Language Requirement Website (www.ilrweb.ie).

Application forms should be forwarded by the closing date, 31 October.

FORMAT OF INDIVIDUAL MODULES:

Additional information on the format of individual modules may be viewed in Appendix 2. Candidates are also advised to consult the course text book, *Cóir Ghaoithe* which contains learning material for every part of the examination including the Practical Elements. Candidates are advised that past examination papers may be accessed at www.ilrweb.ie.

PAPER 1:

There will be five sections in Paper 1. Candidates will be asked to answer five questions, one from each section. The examination will last for three hours.

Section A: Essay

Candidates will be asked to select a title from a given list and to write an essay on that title. The essay titles will be related to the following themes: education, culture, social and economic affairs, current affairs, and life in Ireland. Candidates will be expected to write two pages, (400 words) at least and will also be expected to remain *ad rem* throughout the essay.

Section B: Translation

Candidates will have a choice between a continuous passage or individual sentences.

Section C: Grammar

The basic aspects of Irish grammar will be examined in two questions. Candidates will have a choice between a continuous passage or individual sentences.

Section D: Reading Comprehension

Candidates will select one of two questions. Candidates will be asked to demonstrate that they understand and comprehend the language and content of the written article by answering questions relating to the chosen text.

Section E: Teaching of Irish.

This section of the examination will consist of two parts: The Theory of The Teaching of Irish and a Practical Element. The Theory of the Teaching of Irish will be examined as part of the written examination. Candidates will select one question from the three questions in Section E. Candidates will be examined on their knowledge of the Primary Curriculum for Irish and on current teaching methodologies of Irish as a first or second language.

The Practical Element – The Teaching of Irish in the Classroom (Paper 1).

This aspect of Section E will be examined in the classroom. A supervisor appointed by the Irish Language Requirement Office will undertake this assessment. The candidate's preparation and teaching ability in the teaching of Irish will be assessed. The candidate will present a file which will contain a yearly scheme, a weekly scheme and the lesson plan for the lesson to be taught. The candidate may teach a lesson that has been taught in the previous three weeks. The candidate's mark will be based on an examination of both the file presented and the lesson taught. If a candidate does not present any element of the written preparation for the visit, that candidate's performance will be assessed as being incomplete and a formal result for that candidate for the Practical Element will be 'incomplete' leading to an overall result of 'fail-incomplete' for Paper 1 irrespective of the mark obtained in the written Paper 1. The school visit will be undertaken in the mid-January to mid-February period. As far as is practical and possible the candidate and the school principal will receive three weeks notice of the day and approximate time of the visit. Candidates undertaking the repeat examination will be visited during June and they will receive notification as soon as possible from their supervisor. Full details and guidelines of the specific requirements of the Practical Element are outlined in *Cóir Ghaoithe* and candidates must consult these requirements carefully.

Overview of Paper 1:

Paper 1: 100 marks Time 3 hours

Essay (choice of 5 titles) : 35 marks

Translation (choice of 2 questions): 15 marks

Grammar (choice of 2 questions): 10 marks

Comprehension (choice of 2 questions): 10 marks

Teaching of Irish (choice of 3 questions): 15 marks + Practical Element 15 marks

N.B: If a candidate does not present any element of the written preparation for the school visit, that candidate's performance will be assessed as being incomplete and a formal result for that candidate for the practical element of the Teaching of Irish in the classroom will be fail-incomplete.

PAPER 2:

Paper 2 consists of 3 sections. Prose, Poetry which form the written examination and Language and Culture which is a Practical Element examined in the classroom. In the written examination candidates are required to answer two questions: one question from Section A (Prose) and one question from Section B (Poetry). The examination will last for one hour and thirty minutes.

Section A: Prose

Candidates will select one question from a choice of two given questions.

The questions will be based on prose passages selected from the list below.

Prose.

M'Asal Beag Dubh
Iníon Rí na Cathrach Deirge
Mo Thuras Abhaile Dhom
Triúrmhilleadh
Scéalta As Tír na nÓg
La Fontaine

Section B: Poetry

Candidates will select one question from a choice of two given questions.

The questions will be based on poems selected from the list below.

Poetry

Cúl an Tí
Máthair
Faoiseamh a Gheobhadsa
Teilifís
Úirchill an Chreagáin
An Gleann inar Tógadh mé
Do M'Athair
Ceol an Bhainne
An Broc
Ochón! A Dhonncha

The Prose and Poetry syllabus listed above will be examinable until further notice. The texts of the selected prose and poetry are contained in the anthology *Leoithne Ghaoithe* a digital copy of the relevant syllabus is provided to candidates upon initial registration for the SCG. Comprehensive notes on the selections listed above are contained in *Cóir Ghaoithe* to allow candidates to prepare for the examination. A hard-copy of *Cóir Ghaoithe* is available to order directly from the Irish Language Requirement Office www.ilrweb.ie.

(The Prose and Poetry syllabus is also listed in appendix 6.)

The Practical Element – Language and Culture Project (Paper 2)

This aspect of Paper 2 will be examined in the classroom. A supervisor appointed by the Irish Language Requirement Office will undertake this assessment. For this element of the examination the candidate will undertake research which will entail a trail being compiled. The Trail will be comprised of a walk, with five stops. Each stop will cover a specific research area. On the day of the examiner's visit the examiner will discuss each aspect of the work with the applicant and information will be solicited to ensure that the work was undertaken by the applicant. The applicant will give a file containing a copy of the entire work to the examiner. The candidate's mark will be based on an examination of both the file presented and the required aspects on display in the classroom. If a candidate does not present any element of the written preparation for the visit, that candidate's performance will be assessed as being incomplete and a formal result for that candidate for the Practical Element will be 'incomplete' leading to an overall result of 'fail-incomplete' for Paper 2 irrespective of the mark obtained in the written Paper 2. The school visit will be undertaken in the mid-January to mid-February period. As far as is practical and possible the candidate and the school principal will receive three weeks notice of the day and approximate time of the visit. If the practical element of Paper 1 is being undertaken by the candidate also, then 'Language and Culture' (Paper 2) and 'The Teaching of Irish' (Paper 1) will be assessed on the same day. Candidates undertaking the repeat examination will be visited during June and they will receive notification as soon as possible from their supervisor. Full details and guidelines of the specific requirements of the Practical Element are outlined in *Cóir Ghaoithe* and candidates must consult these requirements carefully.

Overview of Paper 2:

Paper 2: 100 marks Time 1.5 hours

Prose (choice of 2 questions) : 40 marks

Poetry (choice of 2 questions): 40 marks

Language and Culture (project file) Practical Element: 20 marks

NB: If a candidate does not present any element of the written preparation for the school visit(Language & Culture Project File), that candidate's performance will be assessed as being incomplete and a formal result for that candidate for the practical element of the Language and Culture Project will be fail-incomplete.

THE AURAL EXAMINATION:

Candidates will listen to announcements, conversation passages and news items on audio tape/compact disc and they will be required to answer set questions in written form in Irish based on the content of the audio passages. Candidates must undertake each section and each question. The three main dialects will be catered for in each section; the Munster, Connacht and Ulster dialects. The examination will last approximately 50 minutes. The announcements will relate to employment issues, buying or selling, travel and general community activities. The conversation passages will be based on ordinary and normal conversations that may be heard between people as they go about general daily activity. The news passages will consist of a continuous narrative or interview and will be based on aspects of general interest to the community.

Overview of the Aural Examination:

Aural Examination: 100 marks, Time: 50 minutes (approx.)

Section A : 30 marks

Announcement 1

Announcement 2

Announcement 3

Section B : 30 marks

Conversation 1

Conversation 2

Conversation 3

Section C : 30 marks

News Passage 1

News Passage 2

News Passage 3

Accuracy : 10 marks

THE ORAL EXAMINATION:

It is recommended to candidates that the three week Gaeltacht course requirement would be fulfilled where possible before undertaking the Oral Irish Examination. The entire Oral Examination will be recorded and stored as a digital audio recording. Two examiners and one candidate will be present. The Oral Examination will last between 15 – 20 minutes. The candidate may converse in the dialect (canúint) of their choice. The phonetics, vocabulary, structure and grammatical models of either dialect (canúint) will be accepted or a combination of these or the Official Standard (Caighdeán Oifigiúil). There are two parts to the Oral Examination, Reading and Conversation.

Reading:

At the beginning of the examination candidates will be asked to demonstrate that they are able to read aloud a passage from a newspaper or from a magazine or from a literary work, in a manner which displays their understanding of the text and which would be an exemplar to primary school pupils. The examiners will ask a number of questions to examine the candidate's understanding of the passage. Three text passages will be provided (one from each dialect: Munster, Connacht and Ulster). Candidates will be given 5 minutes to examine and read the passages quietly. The candidate will then be asked to read aloud one passage of their choosing. A number of questions will then be asked by the examiners. Sample reading passages may be viewed on the Irish Language Requirement website (www.ilrweb.ie).

Conversation:

The candidate will then engage in a general conversation with the examiners on general everyday topics. To obtain a pass candidates must be able to demonstrate clearly that they can understand the language without difficulty, that they can converse freely and can be clearly understood. They must demonstrate appropriate use of grammar and vocabulary. Their pronunciation and conversation should be reasonably exact. The conversation is the more important part of the Oral Examination. A listing of everyday topics which may be covered during the general conversation is provided in Appendix 2.

Overview of the Oral Examination:

Oral Examination: 100 marks, Time: 15 – 20 minutes

Reading : approx 5 minutes

General Conversation: approx 15 minutes

PRACTICAL ELEMENTS – SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants for the S.C.G. must undertake school based Practical Elements as part of Paper 1 and/or Paper 2. Applicants are asked to provide school information on the relevant section of the application form.

The school visits will take place during the mid-January to mid- February period and a candidate will receive one visit only. The candidate and the school principal will, as far as is practical, receive at least three weeks notice of the day and approximate time of the school visit. The onus will be on the candidate to be available at the appointed time. It should be noted that the Language and Culture Project Practical Element which is part of Paper 2 must be completed with a 4th, 5th or 6th class. It is recommended that the walk would be undertaken at some time other than on the day of the Examiners visit. If it is impractical to do so (due to school circumstances, inclement weather etc.) or if it is unsafe to do so (due to health and safety considerations) then the pupils with the help of the teacher may draw the map based on their knowledge of the area. In all circumstances if the candidate is in doubt in regard to safety issues, the advice of the school principal should be followed. If the candidate is teaching a 4th, 5th or 6th class then the candidate may undertake the project with the class. If not teaching a 4th, 5th or 6th class, the candidate will undertake the project on his/her own and it will be based on, and identified as, either a 4th, 5th or 6th class level project.

Full details of the requirements of the Practical Elements are outlined in *Cóir Ghaoithe* and candidates must consult these carefully.

TEACHING A MAINSTREAM CLASS(ES) AT PRESENT:

In circumstances where a candidate is currently teaching a class in a mainstream school then he/she will be able to undertake the Practical Element(s) with their class. The candidate will have to obtain the permission of the school principal/Board of Management to undertake the practical elements as outlined on the application form. **It should be noted, that pupils are entitled to competent Irish Language Instruction at all times * A candidate must be registered with the Teaching Council to undertake the school practical elements.**

NOT TEACHING A MAINSTREAM CLASS(ES) AT PRESENT:

If the candidate is not/will not be teaching a mainstream class (e.g. if the candidate is in a resource/language support position) then the candidate must seek permission and must make arrangements with the Principal to undertake the Practical Elements with a mainstream class on the day and time notified. How much time prior to the visit the candidate wishes to spend with the class is a matter for the candidate, the class teacher and the principal. It is strongly recommended that the candidate allow enough time prior to the visit to become familiar with the class and to fulfil the specific requirements as outlined in *Cóir Ghaoithe*. **It should be noted, that pupils are entitled to competent Irish Language Instruction at all times* A candidate must be registered with the Teaching Council to undertake the school practical elements.**

NOT TEACHING AT PRESENT:

If the candidate is not teaching in a school at present, then the candidate will have to arrange with a school Principal to undertake the Practical Element(s) with a mainstream class in a primary school. If the candidate does not have school details at the time of registering, then the candidate must forward school details to the Irish Language Requirement Office as soon as possible. If the school details change at a later date, then the candidate must notify the Irish Language Requirement Office by completing and submitting a School Update Form (available at www.ilrweb.ie). It is strongly recommended that the candidate would allow enough time prior to the visit to become familiar with the class and to fulfil the specific requirements as outlined in *Cóir Ghaoithe*. **It should be noted, that pupils are entitled to competent Irish Language Instruction at all times* A candidate must be registered with the Teaching Council to undertake the school practical elements.**

* Circular 25/00 Part 2, Section 5 states:

RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS, WHO EMPLOY TEACHERS WITH PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION, FOR THE TEACHING OF THE IRISH CURRICULUM

Schools who employ teachers with provisional recognition, whether it be in a permanent, temporary or substitute capacity, should note that they have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for the teaching of the Irish curriculum to the class to which the provisionally recognised teacher is allocated. Under no circumstances should such a class be deprived of competent Irish language tuition. Such schools will be required to show what arrangements are in place to the Department's Inspectors when they visit the schools.

PRACTICAL ELEMENTS – REPEAT REQUIREMENTS:

The SCG school visits take place during the January – February period and the repeat school visits take place during the month of June. Applicants who do not achieve an overall pass mark (40% or above) in Paper 1 and/or Paper 2 will be required to retake the written examination and the practical element part in the repeat examination of Paper 1 and/or Paper 2. However, where a candidate has achieved the equivalent of a pass mark in the practical element (i.e. 40% or above of the practical element mark, i.e 6 or more in the Paper 1 Practical Element and 8 or more in the Paper 2 Practical Element) then the candidate will have the choice within the same academic year and into any subsequent year(s) to carry their practical element mark forward to any subsequent examination or to retake the practical element with a view to improving upon their original mark. Candidates who do not achieve the equivalent of a pass mark in the practical element (i.e. 40% or above of the practical element mark) will have to undertake the practical element again for the repeat examination. It should be noted that eligible candidates may carry forward the practical element mark within the same academic year and also into subsequent year(s). Practical element marks may be carried forward to a new academic year.

CALENDAR:

The calendar for the current academic year is outlined on www.ilrweb.ie . Applications are accepted until 31 October, courses begin at Education Centres during September/October period, the practical elements examination period takes place during mid-January to mid-February, the Examination is held on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after Easter Sunday and the repeat Examinations are held in late August.

EXAMINATION TIMETABLE:

The examination timetable for the Easter SCG examination is provided on www.ilrweb.ie and the timetable for the Repeat August examination is on www.ilrweb.ie . At the Easter examination, Paper 1 is held on the first morning of examinations with the Aural examination taking place during the afternoon session. On the second day Paper 2 is held in the morning session. Oral examinations are held on the second and third days of

the Easter examination. Oral examinations are scheduled at 20 minute intervals and it is important to attend at least 5 – 10 minutes before your allotted time. For the repeat SCG Examination which is held in August, the examination is held over two days with a similar format being followed for the written examinations as at Easter. The repeat oral examinations are held on both days and are scheduled so as not to clash with a candidate's written examination. Candidates should note that in order to undertake a module in the repeat examination, a candidate must have undertaken the module at the Easter examination and must have obtained a mark in the range 0% - 39%.

EXAMINATION DAY PROCEDURE:

Candidates must sign the roll and present valid photo identification (Passport or Driving Licence) before each individual examination they are undertaking. This will take place outside the examination hall for each examination. It is important to arrive early in order to find the examination hall and to sign the roll before the commencement of the examination. On the day of the examination candidates may sign the roll up to one hour before the commencement of the examination. Having signed the roll candidates should proceed directly and enter the examination hall. They may bring examination study material into the examination hall so that they may study before the examination. Ten minutes before the commencement of the examination, the examination hall supervisor will ask candidates to move the study material to the back of the hall. Detailed examination information may be accessed on the Irish Language Requirement website (www.ilrweb.ie) from mid - January and comprehensive examination details, rules and guidance will issue to individual candidates approximately 6 weeks prior to the examination date.

EXAMINATION VENUES:

The main SCG Examination at Easter is held at the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Detailed venue information may be accessed on the Irish Language Requirement website (www.ilrweb.ie) from mid - January.

The repeat examination venue will also be at the Marino Institute of Education.

SCG GAELTACHT COURSES:

Candidates who undertake the SCG must obtain a pass in each individual module and must fulfill a three week attendance requirement at a recognised SCG Gaeltacht course. A listing of SCG recognised courses, is available for download from the Irish Language Requirement website (www.ilrweb.ie). Fees for SCG Gaeltacht courses are payable

directly to the Gaeltacht course providers. The three week attendance requirement may be completed in a block of three weeks or as a combination of weeks. It is recommended where possible that candidates undertake the Gaeltacht requirement before presenting for the Oral examination. Candidates should note that they must fulfill the three week attendance requirement at a recognised SCG Gaeltacht course.

It should be noted that the candidate is required to be resident in the Gaeltacht for three weeks (i.e. 21 days) and to attend an SCG recognized Gaeltacht course.

EXEMPTION:

Candidates who have Irish as a major subject of their degree qualification may apply for an exemption from parts of the SCG. Candidates who are granted an exemption will have to undertake both of the Practical Elements of Paper 1 and Paper 2 which are assessed in the classroom and they must also undertake a theory question on the Teaching of Irish in the classroom. Exemption candidates undertaking the theory question on the Teaching of Irish in the classroom will have 30 minutes i.e. the first half hour of the Paper 1 examination to undertake this question. Exemption candidates should apply for the Paper 1 and Paper 2 modules only, on the application form.

Prospective candidates wishing to apply for an exemption from parts of the SCG can do so on the SCG Application Form (www.ilrweb.ie). The SCG Exemption Policy is outlined in Appendix 7

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:

Arrangements for candidates with Physical and Learning Difficulties: Candidates with permanent or long-term conditions, including visual and/or hearing difficulties, or specific learning difficulties, which they believe will significantly impair their performance in the examinations, may apply to the Co-ordinator, Irish Language Requirement Office for reasonable accommodation(s) to be made to facilitate them in taking the examinations.

The reasonable accommodations are intended to:

.....remove, as far as possible, the impact of the disability on the candidate's performance and thus enable the candidate to demonstrate his or her level of attainment and ensure that, whilst giving candidates every opportunity to demonstrate their level of attainment, the special arrangements will not give the candidate an unfair advantage over other candidates in the same examination.

All applications for reasonable accommodations are considered on a case by case basis. In as far as it is applicable and practical to do so, accommodations are assessed in light of the report of the Expert Advisory Group on State Examinations and, where appropriate and applicable to do so, on the Framework of Principles as set out by the Expert Advisory Group on State examinations. A candidate who is dissatisfied with any aspect of a decision in relation to an application for reasonable accommodations may appeal that decision.

EXAMINATION RESULTS:

Examinations results will issue in accordance with the SCG calendar (Appendix 3). Results will issue directly to each candidate by post. Results will not be given over the telephone. The results will issue to the address the candidate has given to the Irish Language Requirement Office at the time of application or as subsequently notified to the Irish Language Requirement Office by the candidate.

APPEALS' AND VIEWING OF EXAMINATION SCRIPTS' PROCEDURE:

Full details of the Appeals' Procedure and the Viewing of Scripts' Procedure will issue with the candidate's examination results. The Viewing of Scripts' session will take place approximately one week after the issue of results, and is normally held on a Friday evening (see SCG calendar –Appendix 3). The Viewing of Scripts will take place in the Marino Institute of Education. Candidates may view their examination scripts, and where relevant, their Practical Element file(s). Candidates may listen to their Oral examination recording. A candidate may be accompanied to the viewing of scripts session by one adult guest. The viewing of scripts session is conducted according to strict guidelines with which the candidate and guest must comply. Having viewed the script(s) and file(s), and/or having listened to the recording, the candidate may consult with a lecturer from Rannóg na Gaeilge, Marino Institute of Education. This consultation is only available to the candidate. Candidates, having viewed their examination script(s), may decide to proceed to an Appeal if they wish. It is not necessary to view the script to undertake an Appeal. Appeal results will issue as outlined on the SCG calendar (Appendix 3).

S.C.G. COMPLETION CERTIFICATE:

Upon completion of the S.C.G., candidates must apply for an S.C.G. Completion Certificate from the Irish Language Requirement Office. The Certificate of Completion will issue in digital format by email to the candidate. A Completion Certificate Request Form may be accessed at www.ilrweb.ie.

Who may apply for an S.C.G. Completion Certificate:

- 1) A candidate who has completed and passed the four modules of the S.C.G. (Paper 1, Paper 2, Aural and Oral Examinations, including where applicable Practical Elements) and who has satisfied the three weeks, Gaeltacht attendance requirement may apply for an S.C.G. Completion Certificate.
Or
- 2) A candidate who has been granted an exemption from parts of the S.C.G. and who has completed and passed the Practical Element for Paper 1, the Practical Element for Paper 2, the Theory question on the Teaching of Irish on Paper 1 and who has satisfied the three weeks, Gaeltacht attendance requirement may apply for an S.C.G. Completion Certificate.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CERTIFICATES WILL ONLY ISSUE WHEN CANDIDATES HAVE SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS AT 1 OR 2 ABOVE. CANDIDATES MUST APPLY FOR A COMPLETION CERTIFICATE.

APPENDIX 1

Contact Information

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For queries in relation to the Irish Language Requirement, Exemptions, and/or SCG, contact:

The Irish Language Requirement Office (SCG),
Marino Institute of Education,
Griffith Avenue,
Dublin 9.

Tel: +353 1 8535134
Web: www.ilrweb.ie
E-mail: scginfo@mie.ie

For queries in relation to Teacher Registration contact:

The Teaching Council,
Block A,
Maynooth Business Campus,
Maynooth,
Co. Kildare.

Tel: +353 1 651 7900
Fax: +353 1 651 7901
Web: www.teachingcouncil.ie
E-mail: info@teachingcouncil.ie

APPENDIX 2

Module Format

S.C.G.
AN SCRÚDÚ Le hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAELGE
(APTITUDE TEST)

Paper 1 Paper 1 is a three hour Examination
<p style="text-align: center;">Paper 1 (85 marks)</p> <p>Five questions to answer, one from each section.</p> <p>Section A (35 marks)</p> <p>1. Essay</p> <p>Section B (15 marks)</p> <p>2. Translation</p> <p>3. Translation</p> <p>Section C (10 marks)</p> <p>4. Grammar</p> <p>5. Grammar</p> <p>Roinn D (10 marks)</p> <p>6. Comprehension</p> <p>7. Comprehension</p> <p>Roinn E (15 marks)</p> <p>8. Teaching of Irish</p> <p>9. Teaching of Irish</p> <p>10. Teaching of Irish</p>
<p>Teaching of Irish in the Classroom (15 marks)</p> <p>Candidates are examined in the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom and on their preparation. (one visit – compulsory)</p> <p>Practical Element Paper 1</p> <p>1. Yearly Scheme</p> <p>2. Weekly Scheme</p> <p>3. Lesson Plan</p> <p>4. Teaching of the Lesson</p>

Aural Examination The Aural Examination lasts 50 Minutes (approx.)
<p style="text-align: center;">An Triail Chluastuisceana (100 marks)</p> <p>Every question must be answered. Candidates will listen to an audio CD and will answer question in written form.</p> <p>Section A (30 marks)</p> <p>Announcement 1</p> <p>Announcement 2</p> <p>Announcement 3</p> <p>Section B (30 marks)</p> <p>Conversation 1</p> <p>Conversation 2</p> <p>Conversation 3</p> <p>Section C (30 marks)</p> <p>News Passage 1</p> <p>News Passage 2</p> <p>News Passage 3</p> <p>Accuracy (10 marks)</p>

Paper 2 Paper 2 is a one hour and thirty minutes Examination
<p style="text-align: center;">Páipéar 2 (80 marc)</p> <p>Two questions to be answered, one from each section</p> <p>Section A (40 marks)</p> <p>1. Prose</p> <p>2. Prose</p> <p>Roinn B (40 marks)</p> <p>3. Poetry</p> <p>4. Poetry</p>
<p>Language & Culture Project (20 marks)</p> <p>Projects are examined during the classroom visit. (one visit – compulsory)</p> <p>Practical Element Paper 2</p> <p>1. Language & Culture Project</p>

Oral Examination The Oral Examination will last 15-20 mins. (approx)
<p style="text-align: center;">Themes and Topics, for example:</p> <p>Mise</p> <p>M'Áit Dúchais</p> <p>An Mhúinteoireacht</p> <p>An Teach agus an Timpeallacht</p> <p>Imeachtaí an Lae</p> <p>Cúrsaí Sláinte agus Cúram Coirp</p> <p>Bia agus Deoch</p> <p>Am Saor</p> <p>Léitheoireacht</p> <p>An Teilifís</p> <p>An Phictiúrlann</p> <p>Taisteal</p> <p>Siopadóireacht</p> <p>Seirbhísí</p> <p>An Aimsir</p> <p>Mo Chuid Oiliúna mar Mhúinteoir</p> <p>An Ghaeltacht</p> <p>An S.C.G.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Two Examiners will be present)</p>

Candidates must fulfill a three week attendance at a recognised SCG Gaeltacht Course
It is strongly recommended that candidates undertake the Gaeltacht Course before undertaking the Oral Examination.
Classroom Requirements: Candidates undertaking the SCG will require access to a classroom in order to undertake the practical elements. Candidates must arrange this access and must receive the permission of the principal teacher/board of management to undertake the practical elements in the classroom. Full details and comprehensive preparatory notes and learning materials are available in the course text Cóir Ghaoithe.

APPENDIX 3

S.C.G. Calendar

The current SCG calendar can be accessed at
www.ilrweb.ie

APPENDIX 4

S.C.G. Examination Timetable Easter

The current SCG Examination Timetable
can be accessed at
www.ilrweb.ie

APPENDIX 5

S.C.G. Repeat Examination Timetable August

The current SCG Repeat Examination Timetable
can be accessed at
www.ilrweb.ie

APPENDIX 6

S.C.G. Paper 2 Prose and Poetry Syllabus

Siollabas

An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge.

AN PRÓS

**M'Asal Beag Dubh
Iníon Rí na Cathrach Deirge
Mo Thuras Abhaile Dhom
Triúrmhilleadh
Scéalta As Tír na nÓg
La Fontaine**

AN FHILÍOCHT

**Cúl an Tí
Máthair
Faoiseamh a Gheobhadsa
Teilifís
Úirchill an Chreagáin
An Gleann inar Tógadh mé
Do M'Athair
Ceol an Bhainne
An Broc
Ochón! A Dhonncha**

The Poems and Prose Passages listed above will be examinable on Paper 2 until further notice.
Comprehensive notes on all of the above are available in *Cóir Ghaoithe* which is the course text for the S.C.G.
published by the Marino Institute of Education. *Cóir Ghaoithe* may be purchased directly from the Irish
Language Requirement Office at www.ilrweb.ie

APPENDIX 7

S.C.G. Exemption Policy

GUIDELINES FOR SCG EXEMPTION

INTRODUCTION

The Irish Language Requirement

Teachers in national schools must be qualified to teach the range of subjects as outlined in the Primary School Curriculum -1999 (Curaclam na Bunscoile) to children in all classes. The ability to speak Irish proficiently and to use Irish as the language of incidental communication in the classroom is a prerequisite for teaching Irish. Accordingly, teachers who obtained their teaching qualification outside the State and have a curriculum shortfall in Irish must make good this shortfall.

Under the EU Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) Regulations, 2008, as given effect in S.I. No 139 of 2008, teachers who have a curriculum shortfall in Irish have the choice to make up this shortfall, either by way of an Aptitude Test (SCG – An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) or an Adaptation Period (OCG – Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge). In the past, teachers who obtained their primary teaching qualification outside the State undertook the aptitude test, *An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge* (SCG), as a means of acquiring the necessary qualification.

The Teaching Council is the designated authority for the recognition of qualifications under the terms of the above EU Directive and the competent authority for the recognition of qualifications obtained outside of the EU. The terms and conditions for employment in recognised schools are determined by the Minister for Education and Science.

Prospective applicants for the SCG (An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test) are referred to the Irish Language Requirement Website www.ilrweb.ie which outlines the ways in which teachers with a curriculum shortfall for registration purposes in the Irish language can address same.

Prospective applicants seeking to fulfill the Irish Language Requirement (ILR) should be registered with the Teaching Council or have submitted an application for Registration. They must choose between the SCG (An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test) and the OCG (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Adaptation Period). Candidates must inform the Teaching Council of their choice and must ensure that their conditional registration deems them eligible to undertake their choice of SCG or OCG. The candidate must apply to the Irish Language Requirement Office (Marino Institute of Education) to undertake the SCG or the OCG.

1. THE IRISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

In order to satisfy the Irish language requirement applicants have two options.

Option 1

- Pass the written, aural, oral and practical elements of the Qualifying Irish Examination (Scrúdú Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) (SCG) Further information on the SCG may be downloaded from the Irish Language Requirement Website www.ilrweb.ie; and
- Provide certification that they have resided in the Gaeltacht while attending an approved three-week course or its aggregated equivalent either in one-week blocks, or in a combination of one-week and two-week blocks.

Option 2

- Complete the requirements of the Qualifying Irish Adaptation Period (Oiriúnú don Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge)(OCG), and
- Provide certification that they have resided in the Gaeltacht while attending an approved three-week course or its aggregated equivalent either in one-week blocks, or in a combination of one-week and two-week blocks.

Details of approved Gaeltacht courses for the SCG/OCG are available from the Irish Language Requirement Website www.ilrweb.ie

2. EXEMPTION FROM ELEMENTS OF SCG

Candidates may apply for an exemption from some elements of the SCG where they have already met the essential requirements of those elements and can produce the required documentary evidence to support their application.

2.1 Exemption Criteria

Candidates who have Irish as a major subject of their degree qualification (See paragraph 3) may apply for an exemption from elements of the SCG. Candidates who are granted an exemption will, however, be required to:

- undertake the practical elements of Paper 1 and Paper 2 of the SCG Examination. The practical elements are assessed in the classroom setting.
- undertake the theory question on Paper 1 on Teaching Irish in the Classroom. When undertaking the theory question on the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom, exempted candidates for the SCG will have an allocation of 30 minutes, i.e. the first half hour of the Paper 1 examination, to undertake this question.
- comply with the Gaeltacht requirement (See paragraph 4)

Candidates who have already complied with the Gaeltacht requirement may seek an exemption from this element of the SCG programme. Where a candidate is seeking exemption from part or all of the Gaeltacht requirement (3 weeks) he/she must provide written documentation from the college in which the original degree (where Irish was a major subject) was undertaken, indicating that the week(s) of Gaeltacht attendance for which exemption is/are being sought were undertaken as part of the original degree.

A candidate seeking exemption from the Gaeltacht requirement must have attended the Gaeltacht course in the capacity of a learner.

3. DEGREE REQUIREMENT

The following are important points regarding eligibility for an exemption from the SCG where a candidate presents with Irish as a major subject at primary degree level:

- The candidate must provide documentation (See note below) which establishes that he/she has Irish as a major subject at primary degree level.
- The candidate must provide a copy of the original transcript of their degree qualification.
- The transcript must indicate the subjects/modules/components undertaken in each year of the degree qualification and the marks awarded.
- It should be noted that a candidate presenting as having a degree in Irish where in fact the degree is in Celtic Studies is not entitled to exemption. (A degree in Celtic Studies, where much of the work is undertaken through the medium of English, does not equate with a degree in Irish. Therefore a candidate with a degree in Celtic Studies does not qualify to be exempted from any element of the SCG programme.)

4. GAELTACHT REQUIREMENT:

SCG candidates are required to provide certification that they have resided in the Gaeltacht while attending an approved three-week course or its aggregated equivalent either in one-week blocks, or in any combination of one-week and two-week blocks. Details of DES approved Gaeltacht courses are available on the Irish Language Requirement website www.ilrweb.ie. The following specific requirements should be noted:

- The criteria for full recognition require that SCG candidates attend for three weeks at an approved course in the Gaeltacht. **There is no exemption from this requirement.**
- The candidate must reside in the Gaeltacht for the duration of the course.

- The course may be taken while studying for a degree which has Irish as a major subject, or it may be a DES approved course taken when the candidate commences the SCG programme.
- Candidates should note that week(s) spent on a Gaeltacht course in the capacity of a ceannaire/cinnire/teacher giving instruction/or any other ancillary role, may not be reckoned for exemption purposes.

Summary of SCG requirements where candidates have been granted an exemption

	Element	Detail
A	Practical Element of Paper 1 – Teaching of Irish in the Classroom.	School-based evaluation based on a minimum of one school visit by supervisor if both elements are undertaken successfully during one academic year.
B	Practical Element of Paper 2 - Language and Culture Project.	
C	Theory Question on the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom	Written examination comprising 30 minutes of Paper 1 examination.
D	Gaeltacht Course Requirement	Attend for 3 weeks at an approved Gaeltacht course.

Prospective SCG candidates should refer to the SCG Guide which is available to download from the Irish Language Requirement website www.ilrweb.ie for further details of the specific requirements listed above. Full details and guidance on the above requirements are provided in the SCG textbook 'Cóir Ghaoithe' which may be purchased from the Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin

5. APPLYING FOR THE SCG

Prospective candidates wishing to apply for the SCG should do so on the SCG APPLICATION FORM which may be downloaded from the Irish Language Requirement Website www.ilrweb.ie. If also applying for an exemption, the candidate should indicate accordingly in the relevant section on the SCG APPLICATION FORM and should complete the EXEMPTION APPLICATION section of the SCG APPLICATION FORM. Candidates applying for an exemption should apply for the Paper 1 and Paper 2 modules.

6. NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

Prospective candidates who complete and submit the SCG EXEMPTION APPLICATION section of the SCG APPLICATION FORM and enclose the necessary documentation will be notified of a decision within 6 weeks of submitting the request for exemption.

NOTE

It is the responsibility of the eligible candidate to apply for the exemption at the appropriate time and to provide the necessary documentation as requested in the EXEMPTION APPLICATION section of the SCG APPLICATION FORM. While clear copies of

transcripts will suffice, the Irish Language Requirement Office may request a candidate to provide original documentation. In circumstances where original documentation is requested, it will be returned to the candidate in due course.