GrindSpot
ONLINE GRINDS PLATFORM

LEAVING CERT 2027

LEAVING CERT IRISH · GAEILGE

Exam Ready

Higher Level · Paper 1 · Workbook A

Dyslexia friendly
large, clear text · room to write

Built from 9 years of real Leaving Cert papers: what comes up, how it's marked, and the practice to nail it.

- **9** years of exam trends, task by task
- **48** drill questions with worked answers
- **1** practice composition paper, with model answers
- ✓ a model answer or plan for every question



Know what's coming.
Walk in ready.

Original GrindSpot material written in the style of the Leaving Certificate examination. Not an official SEC paper.

What comes up

2017 to 2026

We read every Higher Level Paper 1 from the last 9 exams (there were no written exams in 2020) and noted the aural parts, the type of each composition task and the themes of its titles. Each number is how many parts of that year's paper used it; a theme counts when a title on it was offered. For the composition we counted the task types and themes offered on each paper (you write only one piece); for the aural, the three parts heard every year.

	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Years
Cluastuiscint (aural)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	**9/9**
Theme: society & equality	1	–	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	**8/9**
Theme: world affairs & politics	2	1	1	2	1	–	1	1	1	**8/9**
Theme: young people & education	1	2	2	1	2	–	–	1	1	**7/9**
Aiste (essay)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Alt nuachtáin/irise (article)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Díospóireacht (debate)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Scéal (story)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Óráid / píosa cainte (speech or talk)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Theme: sport & pastimes	1	1	2	–	–	–	2	–	1	**5/9**
Theme: technology & media	–	1	–	1	1	1	1	1	1	**7/9**
Theme: Irish language & culture	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	1	**4/9**
Theme: environment & climate	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	**4/9**
Theme: work, money & housing	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	**4/9**
Theme: health & wellbeing	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	**2/9**

Darker = more questions. Source: State Examinations Commission papers, 2017 to 2026, read and grouped by GrindSpot. Every question we counted is listed at **grindspot.ie/exam-trends**. A guide to what has come up, not a prediction of what will.

The same three choices. An aiste or article, a story, and a debate or speech were on offer in 9 of 9 papers. Pick your type before the exam and practise it, but keep a second type ready.

Themes repeat. The most common essay themes were world affairs & politics, society & equality and young people & education. Build vocabulary for these first.

80 of the 100 marks are for your Irish. Accurate verbs, séimhiú, urú and the genitive are worth far more than ideas alone.

The aural is 60 marks every year. Six short pieces, each heard twice. Practise with the SEC recordings; Topic 8 gives the strategy.

TOPIC 3

Scéal (story)

Worked answers →

In the real exam

2 titles in B on every paper, 2017 to 2026: (a) a single word such as Misneach or Meas, (b) a seanfhocal.



Fionn's tip: Write the story in the past tense, in the first or third person, and keep to one or two characters. The title (often a seanfhocal) must be the point of the story.

1. Write an opening (about 50 words) for a story called An Rún that puts the reader straight into the action.

2. Plan a story for the title Is minic a bhris béal duine a shrón: one line each for the beginning, the problem, the turning point and the ending.

3. Describe a character's fear in two sentences, using at least one nath (for example bhí mo chroí i mo bhéal).

Cuid II · An Cheapadóireacht — 100 marc

Freagair do rogha ceann amháin de A, B nó C anseo thíos.

A · Aiste nó Alt Nuachtáin/Irise — (100 marc)

Scríobh AISTE nó ALT NUACHTÁIN/IRISE ar cheann amháin de na hábhair seo.

(a) An Ghaeilge ar na meáin shóisialta – ré nua don teanga?

(b) Saol an déagóra in Éirinn sa lá atá inniu ann.

(c) An bia a ithimid agus an tionchar atá aige ar ár sláinte.

(d) Ag tabhairt aire don timpeallacht i do cheantar féin.

(e) Géarchéim na tithíochta agus a tionchar ar dhaoine óga.

B · Scéal — (100 marc)

Ceap SCÉAL a mbeadh do rogha ceann amháin díobh seo oiriúnach mar theideal air.

(a) An Cinneadh.

(b) Is maith an scáthán súil charad.

C · Díospóireacht/Óráid — (100 marc)

Freagair do rogha ceann amháin díobh seo.

(a) Scríobh an chaint a dhéanfá i ndíospóireacht scoile ar son an rúin seo a leanas nó ina aghaidh:
Ba cheart an vóta a thabhairt do dhaoine óga ag sé bliana déag d'aois.

(b) Iarradh ort píosa cainte a dhéanamh ar phodchraoladh do scoile ar an ábhar seo a leanas:
An brú a bhíonn ar dhaltaí na hArdteistiméireachta agus conas déileáil leis.
Scríobh an píosa cainte a dhéanfá ar an ábhar sin.

END OF PRACTICE PAPER · ANSWER PAGES FOLLOW

There is no single right answer to a composition, so here you get one full model answer for each of A, B and C (about 500 words each, the length the exam asks for), and a plan for every other title. Each comes with the marks and a guide to how a composition is marked, written in the style of the SEC marking schemes (our guide, not an official scheme). Use the models for phrases and structure; do not learn them off by heart, because the title on the day will be different.

A (b) · Aiste: Saol an déagóra in Éirinn sa lá atá inniu ann (100 marks)

Is minic a chloisimid daoine fásta ag rá gurb iad laethanta na hóige na laethanta is fearr sa saol. Ní dóigh liom go n-aontódh mórán déagóirí in Éirinn leo sa lá atá inniu ann. Is saol iontach é saol an déagóra ar go leor bealaí, lán de dheiseanna nach raibh ag ár dtuismitheoirí riamh, ach is saol casta, brúite é freisin. San aiste seo, féachfaidh mé ar an dá thaobh den scéal.

Ar an gcéad dul síos, níl aon amhras ach go bhfuil saol an déagóra athraithe ó bhonn ag an teicneolaíocht. Bíonn an fón póca in aice linn ó mhaidin go hoíche. Is féidir linn labhairt le cairde ar fud an domhain, ceol nua a aimsiú i soicind agus eolas ar bith a fháil ar an idirlíon. Ach tá taobh dorcha ag baint leis seo. Tá na meáin shóisialta lán d'íomhánna foirfe de shaol daoine eile, agus is furasta do dhéagóir a cheapadh nach bhfuil a shaol féin maith go leor. Ina theannta sin, is fadhb mhór í an bhulaíocht ar líne, mar ní féidir éalú uaithi fiú sa bhaile.

Chomh maith leis sin, tá brú an oideachais trom ar dhaltaí meánscoile. Ón gcéad lá den chúigiú bliain, bíonn caint ar phointí CAO, ar ghrádanna agus ar chúrsaí ollscoile. Caitheann go leor daltaí uaireanta fada ag staidéar gach oíche, agus téann cuid acu chuig ranganna breise ag an deireadh seachtaine freisin. Is cinnte go bhfuil tábhacht leis an oideachas, ach nuair a bhíonn an brú chomh mór sin, bíonn tionchar aige ar shláinte mheabhrach daoine óga. Is léir ó na seirbhísí comhairleoireachta atá ar fáil anois go bhfuil fadhb ann.

Ar an lámh eile, tá níos mó deiseanna ag déagóirí inniu ná mar a bhí riamh. Tá réimse leathan spórt, clubanna agus caitheamh aimsire ar fáil i ngach baile. Is féidir le daoine óga taisteal, teangacha a fhoghlaim agus páirt a ghlacadh i scéimeanna malartaithe. Tá níos mó glactha ann freisin le daoine atá difriúil, rud nach raibh fíor i gcónaí sa tír seo. Is sochaí níos oscailte í Éire anois, agus is maith an rud é sin do dhaoine óga atá ag iarraidh a n-áit féin a aimsiú.