GrindSpot
ONLINE GRINDS PLATFORM

LEAVING CERT 2027

LEAVING CERT IRISH · GAEILGE

Exam Ready

Ordinary 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 Ordinary 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 two pieces); 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: sport & pastimes	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	**9/9**
Theme: young people & education	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	**9/9**
Comhrá (dialogue)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Giota leanúnach / blag (short essay or blog)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Litir / ríomhphost (letter or email)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Scéal (story)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**9/9**
Theme: family, friends & home	1	1	2	1	1	–	–	–	2	**6/9**
Theme: holidays & travel	1	–	3	1	–	1	–	1	1	**6/9**
Theme: technology & media	–	2	1	1	1	–	1	1	1	**7/9**
Theme: work, money & housing	–	1	–	–	1	1	1	1	1	**6/9**
Theme: health & wellbeing	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	**2/9**
Theme: Irish language & culture	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	**1/9**
Theme: environment & climate	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	**1/9**
Theme: society & equality	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	**1/9**

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.

Four types, every year. A blog or short piece, a story, a letter or email, and a comhrá were on the paper in all 9 years. You choose two.

The themes are close to home. The most common themes were sport & pastimes, young people & education and technology & media. Build vocabulary for these first.

40 of every 50 marks are for your Irish. Correct verbs, séimhiú and urú earn more than clever ideas.

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

TOPIC 2

Scéal (story)

Worked answers →

In the real exam

2 openings in B on every paper, 2017 to 2026: you continue one of them in the past tense.



Fionn's tip: Copy the opening you chose, then keep going in the past tense: who was there, what happened, how you felt and how it ended.

1. Continue this opening with three sentences: D'fhéach mé amach an fhuinneog agus chonaic mé...

2. Plan a story, one line each for the beginning, the middle and the end, for the opening Bhí mé ag siúl abhaile ón scoil nuair a chuala mé scread...

3. Put the verbs in brackets into the past tense: (Éirigh) mé go luath. (Ith) mé mo bhricfeasta agus (rith) mé amach an doras.

Cuid II · An Cheapadóireacht — 100 marc

Freagair do rogha dhá cheann de A, B, C, D anseo.

A · Giota Leanúnach/Blag — (50 marc)

Scríobh giota leanúnach nó blag (leathleathanach nó mar sin) ar cheann amháin de na hábhair seo.

(i) Mo cheantar féin.

(ii) An spórt is fearr liom.

(iii) An lá is fearr i mo shaol.

B · Scéal — (50 marc)

Ceap scéal (leathleathanach nó mar sin) a mbeadh ceann amháin de na sleachta seo a leanas oiriúnach mar thús leis.

(i) Bhí mé i mo shuí sa phictiúrlann nuair a mhúch na soilse go léir go tobann ...

(ii) Nuair a d'oscail mé an doras, ní raibh mé ag súil leis an radharc a chonaic mé ...

C · Litir/Ríomhphost — (50 marc)

(i) Bhí tú ar saoire thar lear le do theaghlach le déanaí. Scríobh an litir/an ríomhphost (leathleathanach nó mar sin) a chuirfeá chuig cara leat ag insint dó/di faoin tsaoire agus faoi na rudaí a rinne sibh.

nó

(ii) Fuair tú post páirtaimseartha le déanaí. Scríobh an litir/an ríomhphost (leathleathanach nó mar sin) a chuirfeá chuig cara leat ag insint dó/di faoin bpost agus faoi na daoine a bhfuil tú ag obair leo.

There is no single right answer to a composition, so here is one model answer for each of A, B, C and D, at about the length the exam asks for, with a plan for each of the other options. Each comes with the marks and a guide to how it is marked, written in the style of the SEC marking schemes (our guide, not an official scheme). Use them for phrases and layout; do not learn them off, because the titles on the day will be different.

A (ii) · Blag: An spórt is fearr liom (50 marks)

Haigh, a chairde! Fáilte ar ais chuig mo bhlag. Inniu ba mhaith liom labhairt faoin spórt is fearr liom: an iománaíocht.

Imrím iománaíocht ó bhí mé sé bliana d'aois. Imrím le mo chlub áitiúil agus le foireann na scoile freisin. Bíonn traenáil againn dhá uair sa tseachtain, ar an Máirt agus ar an Déardaoin, agus bíonn cluiche againn gach Domhnach.

Is aoibhinn liom an iománaíocht mar is spórt tapa, corraitheach é. Caithfidh tú a bheith aclaí agus cróga. Ina theannta sin, tá cairde iontacha agam ar an bhfoireann. Bíonn an-chraic againn le chéile, fiú nuair a chaillimid.

Anuraidh bhuamar craobh an chontae. Ní dhéanfaidh mé dearmad go deo ar an lá sin. Bhí an slua ag béicíl agus bhí mo thuismitheoirí an-bhródúil asam.

Molaim do gach duine óg spórt a imirt. Is maith an rud é don chorp agus don intinn. Cad é an spórt is fearr leatsa? Scríobh chugam thíos!

Why this would score well: it is clearly a blog (it greets and asks the readers); every paragraph is about the sport; it uses the present (imrím, bíonn), the past (bhuamar) and the future (ní dhéanfaidh); correct séimhiú (mo chlub, mo thuismitheoirí) and urú (ar an bhfoireann).

50 marks · *Tasc (2):* the right kind of piece, covering what the question asks · *Ábhar (8):* relevant content that keeps to the title or opening · *Cumas Gaeilge (40):* sármhaith 34–38, an-mhaith 28–32, maith 22–26, maith go leor 16–20, lag 10–14, an-lag 4–8, easnamhach 2; the top mark is 38. A short piece has a lower ceiling: 8–11 lines (6–8 for the body of a letter) at most 29, 4–7 lines at most 19, 1–3 lines at most 10, so write at least half a page. Our guide, in the style of the SEC marking schemes; not an official scheme.

Plans for the other A titles. (i) Mo cheantar féin: where it is and what it is like · places (siopaí, páirc, club) · what you do there with friends · what is missing · what you like most. **(iii) An lá is fearr i mo shaol:** when and where · who was there · what happened, in order · how you felt · why it was the best.