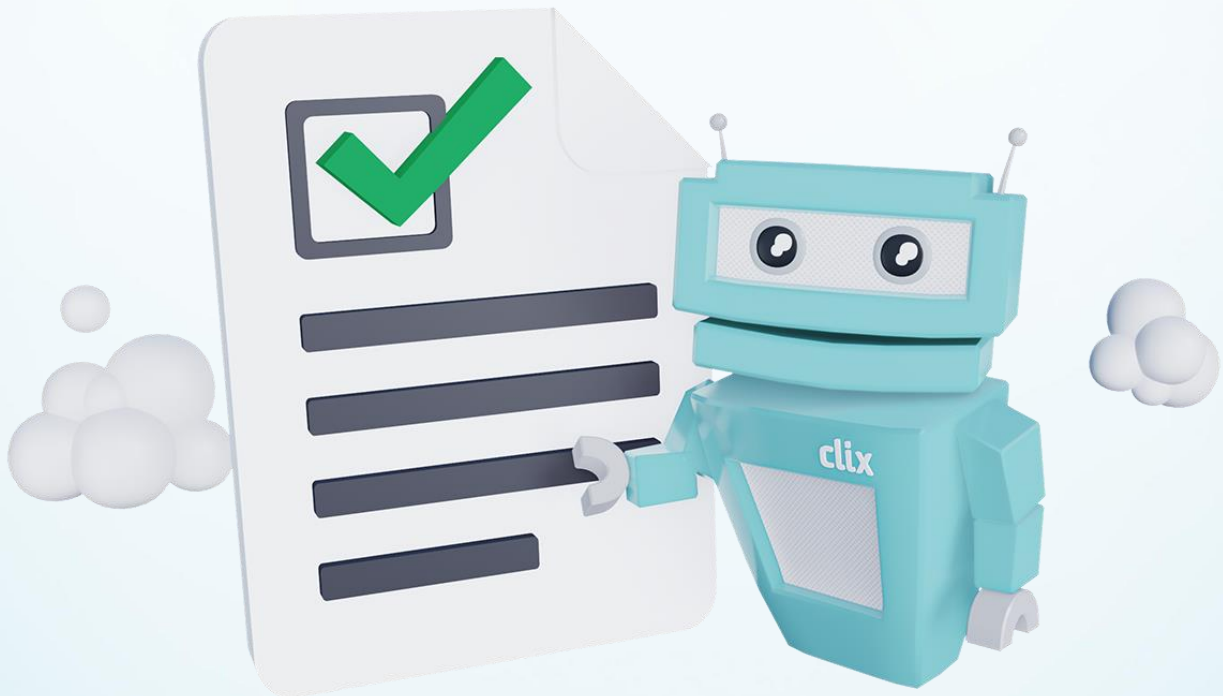


Irish

How you can Succeed in your Junior Cycle Irish CBA



By Rachel Mahon

Rachel Mahon is an experienced teacher of Irish. Here she shares her hints and tips for the Junior Cycle Irish CBA 1 and CBA 2.



Table of Contents

OVERVIEW	3
CBA 1 - PUNANN TEANGA - LANGUAGE PORTFOLIO	4
QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU REFLECT ON YOUR PUNANN TEANGA.....	6
CBA 1 FEATURES OF QUALITY	7
CBA 2 - TASC CUMARSÁIDE - COMMUNICATIVE TASK	8
QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU REFLECT ON YOUR TASC CUMARSÁIDE.....	10
CBA 2 FEATURES OF QUALITY	11
AN TASC MEASÚNAITHE - THE ASSESSMENT TASK	12

Overview

Junior Cycle Irish consists of two Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's), both done in 3rd year. You will complete each CBA in class over a period of 3 weeks or less. After completing the two CBAs, you will then complete a written assessment which is worth 10% of the final grade for JC Irish.

Here is a breakdown of what you will have to do in each CBA:

1. **CBA 1** - Punann Teanga - Language Portfolio

CBA 1 will be completed during your first term of 3rd year. This CBA will require you to select three pieces of work from your portfolio that showcase your knowledge of the Irish language. This may consist of a presentation you have done, a written piece you completed, a poster you have made or something you have done based on a piece of literature that you have studied.

2. **CBA 2** - Tasc Cumarsáide - Communicative task

CBA 2 will be completed during your second term of 3rd year. For this CBA you will carry out a three minute oral piece of work. This can be based on a topic of your choice and may be in the form of a roleplay, presentation, drama, conversation or interview. We recommend that you pick something that you are interested in, such as a sport you play or a hobby you enjoy.

3. **Tasc Measúnaithe** - Assessment Task

Your Assessment Task will be completed in school over the course of two single classes or one double class (80 minutes minimum), and will be based upon CBA 2 (your Communicative Task).

The first class will be spent preparing by looking at the material provided by the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) and on your reflection of the Communicative Task.

In the second class you will fill in your answer book (in Irish!). This will then be sent for correction by the State Examinations Commission.

CBA 1 - Punann Teanga - Language Portfolio

Ullmhúchán an scoláire - Student preparation

You will put together a portfolio containing samples of your work from 1st to 3rd year. This could be projects, creative pieces e.g poems, songs, stories that you have written, homework pieces, voice recordings, videos, blogs and presentations.

For CBA 1, you pick 3 pieces of work from your portfolio, one of which must be a voice recording or video and one must be based on a piece of literature like a poem or story that you have studied. You should select pieces from 2nd and 3rd year, as these tend to be better samples of work!

With each of the three pieces selected, you must complete a reflective note discussing your learning process with each. Here is a template for the reflective note:

SCOIL:	SCOLÁIRE:	
ROGHNAIGH MÉ AN PÍOSA SEO MAR ... <i>(I chose this piece because..)</i>		
MACHNAMH AR MO CHUID OIBRE <i>(Reflection on my work)</i>		
RUDAÍ A D'FHOGHLAIM MÉ FAOIN TEANGA AGUS MÉ AG TABHAIRT FAOIN TASC - <i>(Things I learned about language as I undertook the task)</i>	GNÉ AMHÁIN A THUIGIM GO gCAITHFIDH MÉ DÍRIÚ ISTEACH UIRTHI ANOIS - <i>(One aspect that I understand I must focus on now)</i>	
SCOLÁIRE:	MÚINTEOIR:	DÁTA:

To help you decide what samples of work to pick, you may consider the following:

- Which pieces of work do I like?
- Which ones do I feel proud of?
- Which ones show the improvements I have made over the course of my language learning journey until now? (e.g. grammar you have learned, vocabulary you know now etc)
- Is there a good variety in the pieces I'm choosing? (e.g. content, layout, genre etc.)

You may complete this CBA work in groups, however your reflective note must focus on the work you have contributed individually and the role that you held.

Tip

It is helpful to take note of what you have learned, as well as reflective notes after every written task you complete over 2nd and 3rd year as it may be hard to remember when you are completing your CBA.

Questions to help you reflect on your work

- **Seo é an rud ba thábhachtaí a d'fhoghlaim mé...**

This was the most important thing I learned..

- **Seo é an bealach a d'fhoghlaim mé...**

This was the way I learned...

- **Seo é an rud a bhí deacair dom...**

This was the thing I found difficult...

- **Seo é an rud ba mhó a thaitin liom...**

This is the thing I liked most...

- **Seo é an rud is mó a chuir ag smaoineamh mé...**

This is the thing that made me think the most...

- **Seo é an rud is mó a bhfuil cabhair de dhíth orm...**

This is the thing I need most help with..

- **Seo é an rud a chuireann trína chéile i gcónaí mé...**

This is the thing that really confuses me..

- **Seo é an rud a chuir iontas orm...**

This is the thing that surprised me...

- **Seo é an rud casta...**

This is the complicated thing...

- **Seo é an rud a d'fhoghlaim mé atá nua..**

This is the thing I learned that's new

- **D'fhéadfainn foghlaim ní b'fhearr dá...**

I could learn better if...

CBA 1 Features of Quality: Gaeilge T2

The following is the criteria your teacher will be using to decide which category your work fits into:

Thar barr ar fad - Exceptional:

- There may be some mistakes but strengths outweigh weaknesses/mistakes
- Mistakes are minor
- It is easy for the student to carry out recommendations on how to improve as they are minor
- High standard overall meaning good grammar, excellent sentence structure, an excellent range of vocabulary etc.

Os cionn na n-ionchas - Above expectations:

- Overall a very good standard. Feedback may indicate certain areas to be improved, but overall very good.
- Good flow, good range of vocab, overall fairly accurate grammar.

Ag teacht leis na hionchais - In line with expectations:

- Overall a good standard
- Good understanding of the task, no major mistakes being made
- Feedback might suggest a range of areas that could be improved but overall good
- Reasonable vocabulary, gaps here and there and errors in structure e.g using structure of English
- Limited in places
- Fairly frequent grammar mistakes

Níor chomhlíon na hionchais go fóill - Yet to meet expectations:

- Good effort made but task wasn't fully understood
- Major errors made throughout
- Large gaps in vocabulary, poor sentence structure, incorrect tenses, spelling errors etc.

CBA 2 -Tasc Cumarsáide - Communicative Task

Ullmhúchán an scoláire - Student preparation

In CBA 2 you will carry out a three minute piece of oral work during your second term of 3rd year. This may be on any topic of your choice, and it may be in the form of a roleplay, presentation, drama, conversation, interview etc.

The preparation and end presentation will be carried out during class time over a period of 3 weeks in accordance with the NCCA timetable (your teacher will inform you about this!).

At the end of your oral piece, your teacher will ask you three questions based on the topic you spoke about. You may ask them to repeat the question or to phrase it differently if you don't understand.

Tip

It's a good idea to brainstorm which questions your teacher might ask about your presentation so you can have the answers prepared in advance!

The task may be completed individually or in groups but each member must talk for approximately 3/4 minutes. Each member completes the reflective note based on their individual contribution to their group.

Texts/literature from 2nd/3rd year may be used as content for a presentation.

The best way to prepare for CBA 2 in Irish is to actively participate in communication through Irish both inside and outside of class throughout Junior Cycle. This will allow you to improve on your language skills, such as sentence structure, pronunciation, and speaking skills.

After CBA 2 you will be required to complete a reflective note. Below is a template:

SCOIL:	SCOLÁIRE:	
ÁBHAR/TOPAIC:		
CÉARD A CHUIDIGH LIOM AGUS MÉ AG ULLMHÚ DON TASC SEO: <i>(What helped me as I prepared for this task)</i>		
MACHNAMH PEARSANTA AR AN TASC CUMARSÁIDEACH <i>(personal reflection on the communicative task)</i>		
RUDAÍ A D'FHOGHLAIM MÉ FAOIN TEANGA AGUS MÉ AG TABHAIRT FAOIN TASC - <i>(things I learned about the language during the task)</i>	GNÉ AMHÁIN A THUIGIM GO gCAITHFIDH MÉ DÍRIÚ ISTEACH UIRTHI ANOIS - <i>(One aspect that I understand I must focus on now)</i>	
SCOLÁIRE:	MÚINTEOIR:	DÁTA:

While deciding what presentation you are going to do for CBA 2, keep the following questions in mind:

- How can I make this interesting for my listeners, e.g. my teacher and my fellow classmates?
- Am I interested in the topic?
- Am I able to keep within the time limit?

Questions to help you reflect on your work:

- **Seo é an rud ba thábhachtaí a d'fhoghlaim mé...**
This was the most important thing I learned..
- **Seo é an bealach a d'fhoghlaim mé...**
This was the way I learned...
- **Seo é an rud a bhí deacair dom...**
This was the thing I found difficult...
- **Seo é an rud ba mhó a thaitin liom...**
This is the thing I liked most...
- **Seo é an rud is mó a chuir ag smaoineamh mé...**
This is the thing that made me think the most...
- **Seo é an rud is mó a bhfuil cabhair de dhíth orm...**
This is the thing I need most help with..
- **Seo é an rud a chuireann trína chéile i gcónaí mé...**
This is the thing that really confuses me..
- **Seo é an rud a chuir iontas orm...**
This is the thing that surprised me...
- **Seo é an rud casta...**
This is the complicated thing...
- **Seo é an rud a d'fhoghlaim mé atá nua..**
This is the thing I learned that's new
- **D'fhéadfainn foghlaim ní b'fhearr dá...**
I could learn better if...

CBA 2 Features of Quality: Gaeilge T2

Thar barr ar fad - Exceptional:

- There may be some mistakes but strengths outweigh weaknesses/mistakes
- Mistakes are minor
- It is easy for the student to carry out recommendations on how to improve as they are minor
- Conversation is natural and of a high standard - good grammar, excellent sentence structure, an excellent range of vocabulary, good pronunciation, self-correction
- Understands and answer's teacher's question very well

Os cionn na n-ionchas - Above expectations

- Overall a very good standard. Feedback may indicate certain areas to be improved, but overall very good.
- Good flow of conversation, good range of vocab, good pronunciation.
- Self-corrects

Ag teacht leis na hionchais - In line with expectations

- Overall a good standard
- Good understanding of the task, no major mistakes being made
- Feedback might suggest a range of areas that could be improved but overall good
- Reasonable vocabulary, gaps here and there and errors in pronunciation, structure e.g using structure of English
- Limited in places while speaking and answering questions
- Fairly frequent grammar mistake

Níor chomhlíon na hionchais go fóill - Yet to meet

- Good effort made but task wasn't fully understood
- Major errors made throughout
- Large gaps in vocabulary, unable to speak continuously for any length of time, serious mispronunciation of words
- Questions not understood fully, poorly answered or not at all

An Tasc Measúnaithe - The Assessment Task

This is a written task completed during school within two single classes or one double class (a minimum of 80 minutes). It is Common Level and based upon CBA 2.

The first class will be spent preparing by looking at the material provided by the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) and on your reflection of the Communicative Task.

In the second class you will fill in your answer book (in Irish!). This will then be sent for correction by the State Examinations Commission.

It is not marked by your teacher but sent to the State Examinations Commission for correction as it is worth 10% of the overall JC Irish exam.

It is a written task in which you will be tested on one or more of the following:

- Your ability to discuss their experience of choosing, preparing and presenting a topic for the Communicative Task
- Your understanding of the experience and their ability to reflect on the skills they developed

If you are absent for the Assessment Task, your school may make arrangements to allow you to complete the task as close to the scheduled time as possible.



Best of luck in the exam!
You will be great 😊