



Tips for Revising Languages

Not sure where to start in revising for your language written and oral exams? Below are some tips you may find helpful in preparing for your Leaving Certificate examinations languages you may be studying. We hope you find this information helpful.

Tip 1: Don't just read and write in your chosen language, listen to it too

A great way to learn is to immerse yourself in the language. While reading and writing is essential, by listening to a language you can get a better understanding of pronunciation, sentence structure and more. Listening to music or audio books in your chosen language or perhaps watching a film or TV show can be a helpful way to learn.

Tip 2: Create a word bank

By writing vocabulary and lists of key terms, you can learn essential words and phrases. By learning key phrases, grammar and sentences you can rehearse and practice your responses. Word banks and lists will help you prepare and learn your chosen language.

Ensure that you learn and use all basic and essential grammar correctly.

Preparing notes for your oral exam is advisable but remember the exam is meant to sound natural, like a conversation, not like a rehearsed script.

Tip 3: Revise past papers

To get an understanding of what kinds of topics and questions have been asked in previous years, you should review the past exam papers. This can help you to understand the structure of the exam itself but also the kind of language used to phrase the questions. By understanding the types of questions, this should help you prepare and understand what to expect.

Tip 4: Practice!

One of the best ways to learn a language is to speak it. Practice speaking your chosen language to friends or family. Why not record yourself speaking and listen back to it? By hearing others speak and yourself, you will be able to work on your fluidity of speech and also find errors you or others are making. By practicing speaking aloud it will help you memorise it and feel more comfortable in speaking.

You should also practice aural and written comprehensions too. If you are looking for copies of texts to read, why not visit the library and ask the librarian for language materials?

Tip 5: Structure your responses

To score well, understanding the structure of answers is essential. This doesn't just include understanding the question, but also how you lay out your responses. Ensure that your responses are structured with an introduction, exploration in clear paragraphs and a conclusion. All points should be written clearly. Refer to the question where appropriate and ensure that your provided information is applicable and relevant to the question asked.

Tip 6: Resources

If you are looking for language resources to help you study and build vocab, visit the library. We have a number of textbooks and resources that may help you. Talk to the librarian for more information.

Today there are many language apps and online tools available. While helpful, these should be used to assist your other methods, not replace them. Apps like Duolingo may be helpful for practicing verbs, vocabulary and sentence structure.

Try and note what political and global events have occurred recently as these may be possible topics that arise in your written, oral and aural exams.