

INTRODUCTION

- The Oral Test is now worth 240 marks out of a total of 600 marks at both higher and ordinary level. **That's 40% of the total exam !**
- The Oral Test will last 15 minutes.
- It will consist of 4 parts :
 - (1) Reception (Beannú)
 - (2) Poetry Reading (Léitheoireacht)
 - (3) Description of a series of pictures (Sraith Pictiúr) and
 - (4) Conversation (Comhrá).

The diagram below outlines the structure, timing and marking scheme of the Oral Test:

	The Oral Test	Duration (minutes)	Marks
1	Reception	1	5
2	Poetry Reading	2	35
3	Description of picture series	4	80
4	Conversation	6 to 8	120
		15	240

(1) RECEPTION (BEANNÚ) *See page 29*

Know your name, age, home address, date of birth and examination number "as Gaeilge".
5 items for 5 marks !

(2) POETRY READING (LÉITHEOIREACHT) *See pages 3 - 5*

You will be asked to read aloud one of the five poems below:-

- Géibheann (the complete poem)
- Colscaradh (the complete poem)
- Mo Ghrá-sa (Idir Lúibíní) (any three verses)
- An tEarrach Thiar (any two verses)
- An Spailpín Fánach (any two verses)
 - The examiner will choose the poem and verses to be read.
 - You may use your own copy of the poem.
 - Accuracy of pronunciation and rhythm of speech is very important when reading your poem.

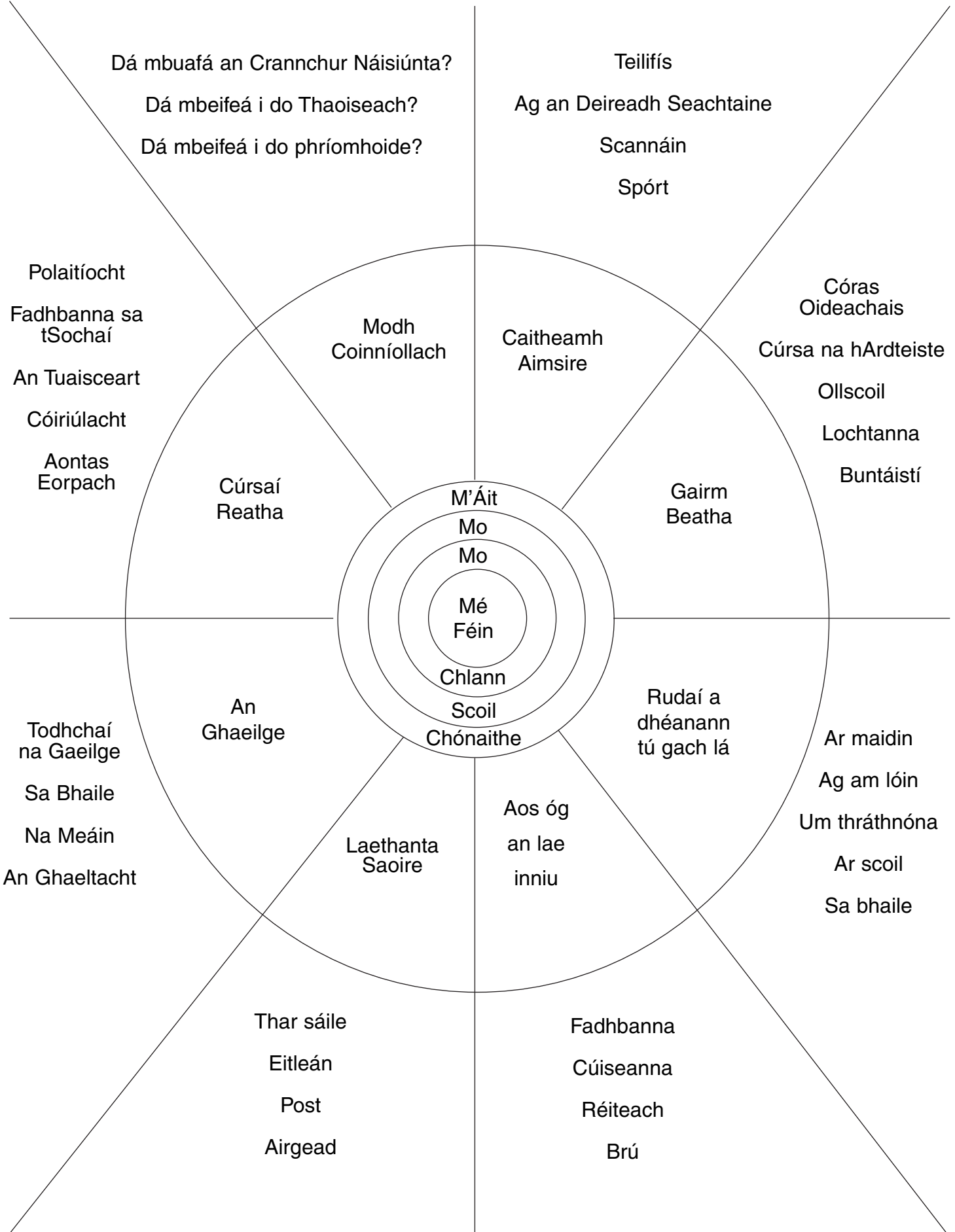
(3) DESCRIPTION OF A SERIES OF PICTURES (SRAITH PICTIÚR) *See pages 6 - 25*

There will be 20 A4 pages of pictures with a series of 6 pictures on each page. An A4 page will be chosen at random in the examination. You should be able to describe the series of pictures and answer questions about them. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASK THE EXAMINER QUESTIONS based on the pictures. INTERACTION is expected here.

(4) CONVERSATION (COMHRÁ) *See pages 26 - 32*

General conversation beginning with immediate environment. Subject matter of the conversation will be extended depending on your ability. INTERACTION again is expected here. 75 marks will be allotted to IRISH REPERTOIRE (your ability to demonstrate the range and extent of your vocabulary) and 45 marks will be allotted to ABILITY IN IRISH (fluency and accuracy in Irish).

A SPIDER'S WEB OF TOPICS ASKED



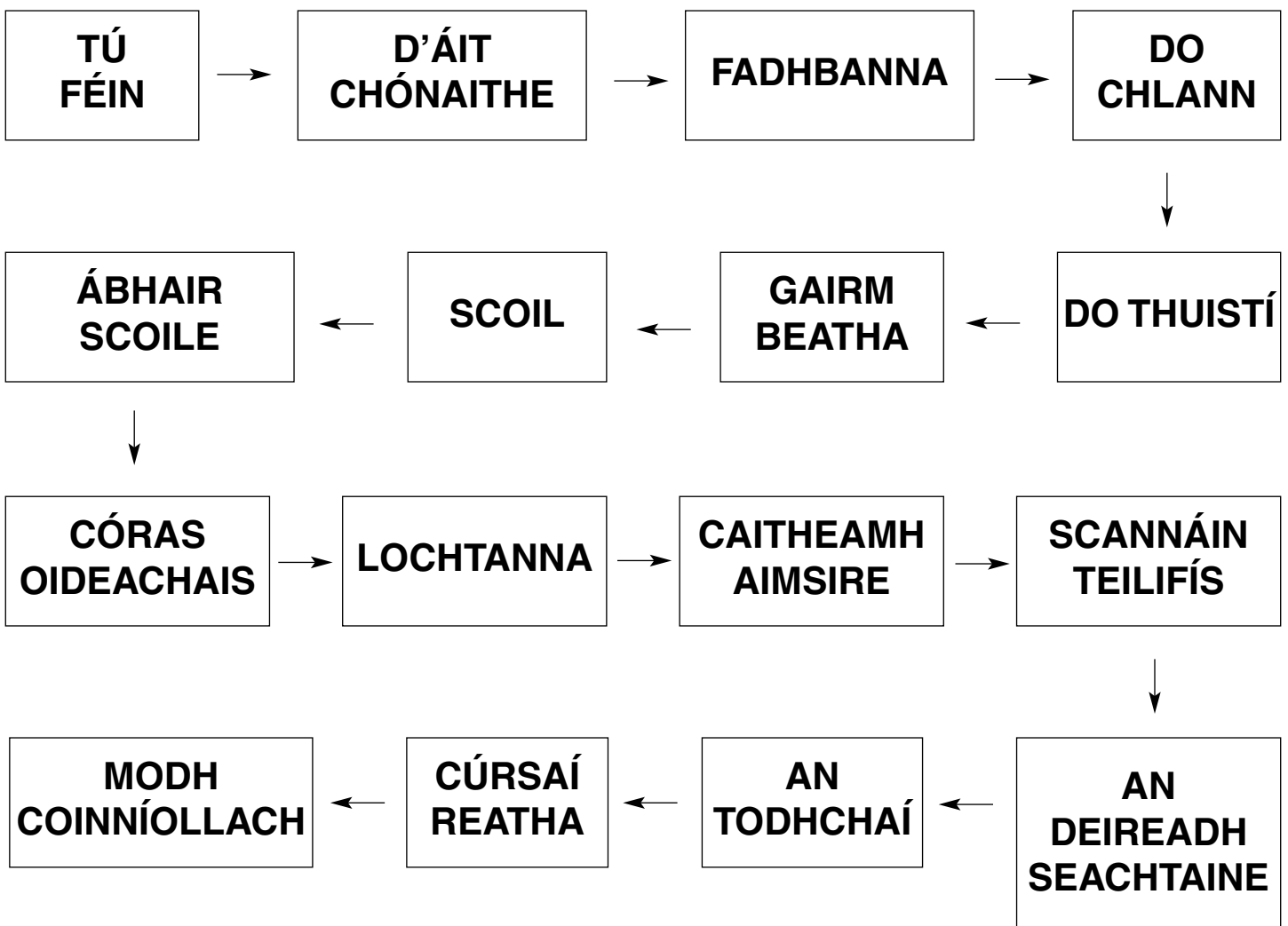
WRITE IN THE ENGLISH FOR ALL THE ABOVE WORDS

BE IN CONTROL!

Much of what is asked in the oral is based on the information which you yourself give from answer to answer. So, in effect, you are in control of your own destiny!

Always try to direct the conversation on to topics with which you are comfortable. You can do this by leaving a **'bait'** at the end of every answer. For example, at the end of an answer about "Caitheamh Aimsire" you might say "Ar an mbealach abhaile téimid go dtí an pictiúrlann". This sentence is your carefully planted **'bait'**. If the examiner 'bites' he may well ask you next: "An dtaitníonn scannáin leat?" You will of course have been expecting that to happen and you will happily proceed with your rehearsed answer!

Although it is impossible to predict the exact course of any interview, the diagram below could serve as a rough guide to the sequence of questions in your Oral Irish Exam:



PRACTISE LEAVING 'BAITS' AT THE END OF EACH ANSWER. WILL THE EXAMINER BITE?