

**An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha**  
**Scrúdú Teastas Mhúinteora (T.C.R.G.) T.C.R.G.**  
**T.C.R.G./Teachers Examination**  
**Clár Scrúdaithe Syllabus of Examination**

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### **1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY**

The examination is open to persons who are 20 years of age or over at the date of application and are acceptable to An Coimisiún as candidates and have been recommended by a registered adjudicator or teacher (see paragraph 2 below).

All candidates must have completed Grades 1 through to 12 to be eligible to take the TCRG examination. Each candidate will be required to submit proof of having taken all twelve grades. This documentation must be submitted with the application.

### **2. COMPETENCY AND SUITABILITY**

An applicant must submit with his or her application a recommendation by any registered teacher or adjudicator testifying that the certifier knows the applicant, is satisfied that he or she can perform the required dances for the practical dancing test to a reasonably good standard and knows of no reason why the applicant should not be suitable and acceptable as a registered teacher.

### **3. DATES OF EXAMINATION**

Examinations usually take place in Ireland, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand when requested, provided the projected number of candidates, in the opinion of the Udarás Scrúdaithe (Examination Authority), justifies examinations being held. The Authority, following consultation with the regional authorities decides the dates and venues of examinations. These dates and venues are then publicised by the Examination Authority.

### **4. APPLICATIONS AND FEES**

Applications with full fees must be made online. Online applications are available for specific exams at [www.clr.ie](http://www.clr.ie). Applications will not be accepted if the full fee is not included. The application form must be fully completed after carefully reading this syllabus and enclosures in full. Full fees must be paid by credit card only. Details of examination dates, venues, date of applications opening, will be made available online with sufficient notice for all applicants to gather the relevant forms, etc. to complete the application.

### **5. WITHDRAWALS AND FORFEITURE OF FEES**

(1) Candidates who withdraw applications after being accepted for the exam, or who fail to attend, will forfeit the full fee.

(2) Failure to attend, or late withdrawal, may result in candidates being disqualified from taking or retaking the examination for a period decided by the Examination Authority.

### **6. SECTIONS OF EXAMINATION**

1. The examination consists of six sections as follows:
  - a. practical test in step dancing
  - b. written céilí dancing test
  - c. practical test in teaching céilí dancing
  - d. practical test in teaching step dancing
  - e. written music test
  - f. oral Irish language test (optional if candidate lives outside Ireland).

2. All required sections must be attempted at the same examination (subject to the exception relating to the Irish language test in the case of persons living outside Ireland).
3. The requirements of each section are set out in detail in paragraphs 11-16 below.

## **7. REPEAT EXAMINATION**

- With the exception of the Oral Irish, where a candidate achieves less than 50% in any section of the examination, all sections must be repeated. Unsuccessful candidates achieving 50% or more in any section(s) of the examination on the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt may repeat the section(s) in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> attempts.
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> examination attempts will require all sections of the examination to be repeated.
- A candidate, who has not completed the full examination within 5 years of the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt, must repeat the full examination. Candidates must repeat the FULL examination on each and every unsuccessful attempt up to and including six attempts.
- Because of the infrequency of examinations in Australia and New Zealand, the provisions of this sub-paragraph may be varied at the discretion of An Coimisiún.
- Six (6) months must elapse before a candidate may retake any section of the examination. The date for calculating the six-month period shall be as of the last date of the previous exam weekend (usually Sunday). This will allow ample time to prepare properly.
- The maximum number of attempts at this exam is six.

## **8. REGULATIONS**

1. In the written céilí dancing test and in the music test
  - a. Candidates are not permitted to use or have on their desks or tables any papers, books, notebooks, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, other than the answer papers (which may also be used for rough work) and the céilí question paper handed out by the examiners in charge. Neither may a candidate use any electronic aids in lieu of written notes, etc. The making of carbon copies of answer papers is not allowed.
  - b. During these sections any conversation or other contact between candidates is strictly forbidden.
  - c. Any rough work, diagrams, cancelled answers etc. made during these sections cannot be retained by the candidates but instead must be either handed up to an examiner (but will not of course be considered in the marking of candidates' papers) or alternatively torn up in the presence of an examiner and placed in a receptacle provided for the purpose.
  - d. Candidates are not permitted to leave the examination room and return unless with the permission of, and accompanied by, a supervising official.
2. The examination supervisors may at their sole discretion immediately disqualify from an examination any candidate adjudged guilty by them of any breach of the foregoing regulations in sub-paragraph (1) above.

3. Candidates take the examination at their own risk. Where a person has a physical illness or a disability, or is pregnant, allowance cannot be made for such illness, disability, or condition in sections of the examination, which require physical effort and where in some circumstances a candidate might be placed at risk. Where a candidate suffers from an illness or disability or is pregnant and still wishes to proceed with the examination, he or she must indicate accordingly in the appropriate section of the application form. A medical certificate acceptable to the Examination Authority must be furnished, indicating the nature of the illness, disability or condition and certifying whether the applicant's medical adviser is satisfied that the applicant can take the practical sections of the examination as described by the applicant to the certifier without risk to himself or herself (see application form). Such information will be treated with total confidentiality. The final decision as to whether a candidate is allowed to participate in an examination lies with the examiners. Failure to disclose an illness, incapacity or pregnancy may, if it later comes to light, result in the candidate concerned being permanently disqualified from taking any Coimisiún examination in the future.

## **9. RESULTS**

1. The examination results will be e-mailed. Shortly thereafter, all candidates will receive the official result sheet showing the marks achieved in each section. This will be the only communication a candidate will receive, directly or indirectly, in relation to the results of the examination. An Coimisiún, the Examination Authority or individual examiners will not enter into any further correspondence or discussion with a candidate or with anyone else acting on the candidate's behalf regarding an examination result.
2. The decision of the examiners concerning any candidate's result, when confirmed by the Examination Authority, is final.

## **10. AMENDMENTS TO EXAMINATION DOCUMENTATION**

Examination fees change from time to time, as do also the fees to repeat separate sections of the examination. These, together with other information relating to examination dates and venues, amendments to this syllabus and other relevant data, are posted on CLRG website. Intending applicants must therefore ensure that the examination syllabus they have is the up-to-date version of that document.

## **EXAMINATION SECTIONS IN DETAIL**

### **11. Rince Aonair: Step dancing - Practical Test**

Candidates must be capable of performing the following dances to the satisfaction of the examiners. All candidates must have completed Grades 1 through to 12 to be eligible to take the TCRG examination. Each candidate will be required to submit proof of having taken all twelve grades. This documentation must be submitted with the application.

1. Reel /Slip Jig (2 steps prepared in both dances) Examiners' choice of dance.
2. Advanced Heavy Jig. (2 steps to be performed).
3. Advanced Hornpipe. (2 steps to be performed).
4. Six new/contemporary Set Dances must be submitted.

Three of these dances in Jig time, three in Hornpipe time. (2 Sets to be performed), Examiners' choice of set dances. A candidate must have different steps for each set-dance: i.e., he or she must have different settings for the six set dances. Neither may a candidate repeat steps from an ordinary solo dance, e.g., advanced heavy jig or advanced hornpipe, in a set dance.

5. The following seven Traditional Set Dances: Danced in the traditional manner and speed.
  - a. St. Patrick's Day
  - b. The Blackbird
  - c. Garden of Daisies
  - d. Job of Journeywork
  - e. King of the Fairies
  - f. Jockey to the Fair
  - g. Three Sea Captains

(2 traditional set dances to be performed). Examiners' choice of traditional set dances.

Criteria which the candidate must meet:

- Dance with correct time and rhythm.
- Execute the steps adequately (feet placement, etc.).
- Complete dancing without stopping.
- Use suitable material.
- Complete set dances without repeating material.
- Dance traditional sets in traditional manner and style.

**Qualifying Mark: 70%**

## **12. Rince Céilí: Céilí Dancing - Written Test**

Candidates are required to have a detailed knowledge of all dances in the handbook "Ar Rincí Céilí" (purple cover edition (2014)).

The question paper will consist of 16 questions, 12 x 5-mark questions, and 4 x 10-mark questions. The paper will be set in English and in Irish if a candidate so requests at time of application, the paper may be answered in English or in Irish or in a combination of both languages.

The questions will cover all or most of the 30 dances in the handbook. It is possible for candidates to obtain partial marks for answers to questions where the answers are not fully correct. The time allowed for answering the paper is two hours.

As the test is a searching one, candidates are advised to practise answering question papers. Sample question papers are available in the 'Examination Pack' available from the Coimisiún Office and on the website.

**Qualifying mark: 70%**

*CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO TAKE THE WRITTEN TESTS IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF AN COIMISIÚN WHEN APPLYING TO TAKE THE EXAM.*

### **13. Rince Céilí: Céilí Dancing - Teaching Test**

Candidates are required to teach parts of different dances from the handbook "Ar Rincí Ceilí" to a group of dancers. The examiners will choose the dances and their parts.

In preparing for this section candidates are advised to study the handbook in close detail and get as much practice as possible in teaching the movements to a group of dancers.

As part of this section candidates may be required to demonstrate that they can perform the basic steps required for Céilí dancing.

Lilting, to indicate understanding of correct time, rhythm and tune is essential.

Criteria which the candidate must meet:

- Set up the dancers correctly
- Know the dance and movements sufficiently
- Instruct in a clear, concise, and audible manner
- Guide the dancers through the movements
- Correct errors in the movements/footwork
- Breakdown of the movements in a suitable manner
- Show confidence in practical teaching
- Have correct music/rhythm/tempo of music
- Have discipline when dealing with the dancers
- Succeed in teaching the movement

**Qualifying Mark: 70%**

### **14. Rince Aonair: Step Dancing - Teaching Test**

Candidates are required to teach a light and a heavy step of such different degrees of difficulty as the examiners may request in all or any of the following dances:

- Reel
- Slip Jig
- Single Jig
- Light Jig
- Double Jig
- Hornpipe
- Traditional set dance
- Other set dances (from list of 6 submitted)

Candidates may also be required to show how they would deal with beginners or very young children, identify and correct faults and teach basic movements such as Rocks, Drums, Cross-keys, etc.

To prepare for this test candidates are advised to have several steps of varying difficulty ready for each of the above dances. They should also have a breakdown of each step prepared in advance to facilitate their practical teaching. They should also ensure that the steps they have prepared are not out of time.

Lilting, to indicate understanding of correct time, rhythm and tune is essential.

Criteria which the candidate must meet:

- Check standard of the dancers.
- Teach steps of suitable standard.
- Demonstrate the step with relevant time/rhythm.
- Breakdown the material in a suitable manner.
- Progress at a suitable pace.
- Identify and correct faults (timing, carriage etc.)
- Show confidence in practical teaching.
- Give clear and audible instructions.
- Have discipline when dealing with the dancers.
- Succeed in teaching the step chosen.

**Qualifying Mark: 70%**

#### **15. Triall Ceoil: Music Test**

1. Nineteen set-dance tunes are played, and candidates are required to identify the tune by name and state its timing and give the number of bars in the step and the number in the set. The marks for each tune will be allocated as follows:

Name of tune - 2 marks

Timing - 1-mark

Bars in step & set - 2 marks (only if both are correct)

Where a candidate fails to identify the tune, no marks can be earned by identifying the timing or the number of bars in the step and set.

2. Five tunes – Reel, Slip Jig, Single Jig, Heavy/Double Jig, and Hornpipe – are played and candidates are required to identify each dance. There is one mark for each correct answer.
3. Answer sheets must be handed up immediately the test concludes. Apart from memorising the names of tunes candidates are advised to learn to count the bars in steps and sets.

**Qualifying Mark: 70%**

#### **16. Scrúdú Gaeilge - Irish Language Test**

1. Tá an trial seo éigeantach do iarrthóirí go bhfuil cónaí in Eirinn nó go bhfuil sé i gceist acu teagasc in Eirinn.

*This test is compulsory for applicants residing in Ireland or intending to teach in Ireland.*

2. Sa triall seo beidh
  - a. Ceistiú ar théarmaí agus abairtí a bhaineann le rince, ainmneacha rincí san áireamh, mar atá ar fail in "Ar Rincí Ceilí" agus i Liosta Oifigiúil na Rincí Leighleacha.
  - b. Comhrá simplí ar saol an iarrthóra féin agus ar gnáthchúrsaí an lae.

c. Léamh agus tuiscint Gaeilge simplí leis an béim ar cúrsaí rince.

*In this test candidates will*

*be required to show a knowledge of the terms and phrases connected with dancing, including names of dances (as found in "Ar Rincí Ceilí" and in the Official List of set-dances).*

*have to show they are capable of simple conversation about themselves and everyday affairs. take a simple test in reading and understanding written Irish (with the emphasis on dancing matters).*

3. Cuirfear san áireamh tuiscint, líofacht agus stór focal. Ins an áireamh chomh maith beidh oideachas, aois agus cúlra an iarrthóra.

*The understanding, fluency and vocabulary of a candidate will be taken into account. Also considered will be the candidate's education, age and background.*

***Note: Persons exempted from taking the Irish test because they reside abroad will, if they later move to Ireland, be required to take the test within two years of taking up residence in that country.***

**Qualifying Mark: Pass - 60%**

***Note: A pass mark of 75% or higher gains an exemption from the Oral Irish language test (Scrúdú Gaeilge) at the ADCRG examination.***