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. Applications received after the set quota of candidates for an examination has been reached must unfortunately be refused. Early application is therefore necessary in the case of all examination.

2. DATES OF EXAMINATION

Examinations usually take place in Ireland in May and in November or December. Examinations are held at venues in Britain, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand when requested and 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 outside of Ireland. These dates and venues are then publicised by the Examination Authority.

3. APPLICATIONS AND FEES

Applications with Full Fees must be sent to the Coimisiún Office. Applications will be returned if full fee is not included. The application form must be fully completed and signed by the applicant after he or she has carefully read this syllabus and enclosures in full. Full fees must be paid by credit card/bank transfer/cheque only [Payment Form available from CLRG office]. The Applications should normally be lodged six months prior to an examination date but where there is likely to be pressure of numbers even earlier application is strongly advised. (See separate circular for details of examination dates, and venues, rates of candidates' fees and where applications and fees should be sent.)

WITHDRAWALS AND FORFEITURE OF FEES

(1) Where a candidate, having been accepted for examination, withdraws the application three months or more prior to the examination date 50% of the examination fee will be forfeited.

(2) Candidates who withdraw applications between three months and the date of the examination, or who fail to attend, will forfeit the full fee.

(3) 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.

(4) The periods referred to in sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) of this paragraph, will be determined by the date on which notice of withdrawal is received by An Coimisiún, the Examination Authority or the examination organiser.

5. SECTIONS OF EXAMINATION

(1) The examination consists of three sections as follows:-
(a) written céilí dancing test
(b) practical test in teaching céilí dancing
(c) 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 10-12 below.

6. REPEAT EXAMINATIONS

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 1ST attempt may repeat the section(s) in 2nd and 3rd attempts.

4th. and subsequent 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 1st attempt, must repeat the full examination. Candidates must repeat 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.

6 months must elapse before a candidate may re-take any section of the examination. (e.g. exam taken in May, may retake unsuccessful section in October). This will allow ample time to prepare properly.

The maximum number of attempts at this exam is six.

7. REGULATIONS

(1) In the written céilí dancing test

(a) Candidates are not permitted to use or have, on their desks or tables, any papers, books or notebooks 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 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 must not be retained by the candidates but instead must be either handed up to an examiner (but will not of course be taken into account 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 suffers from a physical illness or 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 handicap 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, handicap or condition and certifying whether the applicant’s medical adviser is satisfied that the applicant is capable of taking the practical sections of the examination as described by the applicant to the certifier without risk to himself or herself. 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.

(4) Applications must be accompanied by the applicant’s birth certificate and a recent passport size photograph of the applicant signed on the back.

8. 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. Unsuccessful candidates will also receive details on each failed 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.

9. 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 and through circulars from time to time. Intending applicants must therefore ensure that both the examination syllabus they have and the additional circular are the up-to-date versions of those documents.
EXAMINATION SECTIONS IN DETAIL

10 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 marks; 4 x 10 marks). The paper will be set in English and also 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 in the ‘Examination Pack’ available from the Coimisiún Office.

Qualifying mark: 70%

11. Rince Céilí: Céilí Dancing - Teaching Test

Candidates are required to teach parts of different dances, from the handbook "Ar Rincí Foirne," 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 to 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 are capable of performing 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 the movements in a suitable manner.
- Show confidence in practical teaching.

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.
Have correct music/rhythm/tempo of music.

Have discipline when dealing with the dancers.

Succeed in teaching the movement.

Qualifying Mark: 70%

**12 Scrúdú Gaeilge - Irish Language Test**

(1) Tá an triall seo éigeantach do iarrthóirí go bhfuil cónaí orthu 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) Ceistí ar théarmaí agus abairtí a bhaineann le rince, ainmneacha rincí san áireamh, mar atá ar fail in "Ar Rincí Foirne" agus I Liosta Oifigiúl na Rincí Leithleacha.

(b) Comhrá simplí ar saol an iarrthórá féin agus ar gnáthchúrsaí an lae.

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

*In this test candidates will*

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

(b) have to show they are capable of simple conversation about themselves and everyday affairs

(c) 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, aos agus cúla 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: 60% (Effective from 1st June 2013)**