

2005

An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha  
**Scrudu Teastas Mhúinteora (T.C.R.G.)**  
T.C.R.G. (Teachers') Examination

Clar Scrudaithe  
Le feidhm ó 1 Marta 2005

Syllabus of Examination  
Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005

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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 examination and are acceptable to An Coimisiún as candidates and have been recommended by a registered adjudicator or teacher (see paragraph 2 below). 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 examinations.

**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 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 dates and venues of examinations outside of Ireland are decided by the Authority following consultation with the regional authorities. These dates and venues are then publicised by the Examination Authority.

**4. APPLICATIONS AND FEES**

Applications and fees must be sent to the Coimisiún Office or, in the case of examinations overseas, to a person nominated by the Examination Authority. 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. Fees, including deposits and balances, must be paid only by cheque, money order or bank draft payable to "An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha". Payments may be in Irish currency (Euro currency from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002) or in sterling or in US, Canadian, Australian or New Zealand dollars. The candidate's name and address must be written on the back of the cheque etc. in all cases. 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.)

While it is desirable that applicants pay the full fees at time of application they may, if they so wish, pay 50% of the fee with their applications and the remainder at least three months prior to the date of the examination or by such other date as the Examination Authority may decide.

**5. 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 except in very exceptional circumstances.
- (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.

**6. SECTIONS OF EXAMINATION**

- (1) The examination consists of six sections as follows:-
  - (a) practical test in stepdancing
  - (b) written céilí dancing test
  - (c) practical test in teaching céilí dancing
  - (d) practical test in teaching stepdancing
  - (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 EXAMINATIONS**

- (1) A candidate who fails to achieve a minimum of 50% in any section (excluding the oral Irish test) will be required to retake all sections of the examination at the next attempt.
- (2) Where candidates fail in any section of the examination at their first attempt they may attempt the examination again on two further occasions, retaking only those sections in which they have been unsuccessful provided that sub-paragraph 7(1) above does not apply to them.
- (3) A candidate who fails the examination on three occasions will be required to retake the full examination (except the oral Irish test if already passed) on any subsequent occasion.
- (4) The full examination must be completed within a period of five years, i.e., a candidate who has not completed the examination within five years of his or her first attempt must repeat the full examination after the lapse of five years but subject to (4) above. 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.
- (5) 6 Months must elapse before a candidate can re-sit any section of the exam, this will allow ample time to prepare properly.

## **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 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 cannot 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 (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.

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

9. **RESULTS**

- (1) When the examination results are being issued, or shortly thereafter, a candidate who has been unsuccessful will receive a brief letter setting out the main reasons he or she has failed to pass a section or sections of the examination. Other than the official result sheet showing the marks achieved in each section this letter is 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 published in a separate circular 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

## 11. Rince Aonair: Stepdancing - Practical Test

Candidates must be capable of performing any or all of the following dances to the satisfaction of the examiners:-

- (1) *Reel, double Jig, Slip (Hop) Jig, Single Jig, Hornpipe*
- (2) The following old set dances in the traditional manner and speed:-  
*Garden of Daisies, Job of Journeywork, St. Patrick's Day, The Blackbird*
- (3) Nine other set dances nominated in advance by the candidates. Four of these dances must be in jig-time, four in hornpipe time and the ninth in either of those times.

A candidate must have different steps for each set-dance: i.e., he or she must have different settings for all nine set-dances. Neither may a candidate repeat steps from an ordinary solo dance, e.g., double jig or hornpipe, in a set-dance.

**Qualifying Mark: Pass - 70%: Pass with Honour - 80% or higher.**

Note: A pass with honours will gain a candidate a credit which exempts him/her from the solo dancing section of the A.D.C.R.G. examination.

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

Candidates are required to have a detailed knowledge of all dances in the handbook "Ar Rincí Foirne" (blue cover edition (2003)).

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 available from the Coimisiún Office on request.

**Qualifying mark: 70%**

**CANDIDATES WHO WISH TO TAKE THE WRITTEN TESTS IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF AN COIMISIÚN WHEN APPLYIN 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 Foirne" to a group of dancers. The dances and their parts will be chosen by the examiners.

Amongst the qualities taken into account in assessing a candidate's capabilities are:

- (1) Instruction (which should be clear, concise and suitable for those being taught):
- (2) Control of individuals and group:
- (3) Knowledge of dances and movements to be taught:
- (4) Voice (which should be clear and audible):
- (5) Ability to guide dancers through the movements:
- (6) Ability to note and correct mistakes by dancers.

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 are capable of performing the basic steps required for Céilí dancing.

**Qualifying Mark: 70%**

#### **14. Rince Aonair: Stepdancing 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**

**Single Jig**

**Slip (Hop) Jig**

**Light Jig**

**Hornpipe**

**Double Jig**

**Traditional Set-dance**

**Other Set-dances (from list of 9 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, Croskeys*, 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 break-down of each step prepared in advance in order to facilitate their practical teaching. They should also ensure that the steps they have prepared are not out of time.

Amongst the qualities taken into account in assessing a candidate's capabilities in this section are:-

- (1) Instruction (should be clear, concise and suitable for those under instruction);
- (2) Clarity and audibility of instructions;
- (3) Ability to demonstrate and break down steps;
- (4) Selection of suitable steps;
- (5) Manner of handling dancers;
- (6) Identification and correction of faults.

**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 (Hop) Jig, Single Jig, 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 triail seo éigeantach do iarrthóirí go bhfuil cónaí in Eirinn nó go bhfuil sé i gceist acu teagasc in Eirinn.

*This test is compulsory for candidates living in or intending to teach in Ireland*

- (2) Sa triall seo beidh
  - (a) Ceistiú ar théarmaí agus abairtí a bhaineann le rince, ainmneacha rincí sam áireamh, mar atá ar fail in "Ar Rincí Foirne" 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*

*(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, 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: 50%**

## An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha TCRG Examination – Application Form.

Part A: Personal Details.

N.B. Except for signatures this application must be completed in

Venue ?	When ?
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Applicant's Signature	Forenames:

Full Postal Address (including zip code if any). Any change must be notified **at once**.

Name (Forename + Surname) by which you wish to be known for dancing purposes.

Tel. No.	Fax No.	E-Mail Address

Mobile (Cell) Phone No:.....

D.O.B.	Day	Month	Year
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Have you previously attempted this examination ? Yes / No.....

If repeating, please state the location (s) and approximate date (s) of all earlier attempt (s).

If repeating, please tick the sections being retaken.

Own Dancing	Solo Teaching	Ceilí Teaching
Written Paper	Music Test	Gaeilge

List your **Nine** Set Dances (Which are additional to the 4 traditionals listed in the syllabus)

Four must be in Jig time, Four in hornpipe time and the ninth in either of those times.

Jig Sets	Hornpipe Sets
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

Please ensure that you also complete the other sections overleaf.

**TCRG – PART B – APPLICATION & UNDERTAKING BY CANDIDATE:**

**(To be signed by the applicant)**

1. I hereby apply for acceptance by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha as a candidate for the TCRG (Dance teacher’s Certificate) Examination.
2. I have carefully read and understand the examination syllabus and regulations and I agree to be bound by them in full. All information given by me is fully correct.
3. In the event of my being successful in the examination I undertake to comply in full with the Rules of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha ( The Irish Dancing Commission) and with any directions or instructions that body may issue from time to time.
4. I enclose a copy of my birth certificate and a recent photo of myself which I have signed on the back.
5. I also enclose a payment of .....in.....currency (indicate whether in Euros, Sterling or in USA, Canadian, Australian or New Zealand Dollars)
6. I have had the certificate of competency and suitability at Part C of this applications completed by a registered adjudicator or teacher. (Not necessary in the case of an applicant who is repeating the examination.
7. I understand that I am taking the examination at my own risk.
8. I understand that if I suffer from any illness or disability or a condition such as pregnancy I must complete Paragraph 9 below and that if I fail to do so and this omission later comes to light I may be debarred from future Coimisiún examinations.
9. I hereby state that I suffer from or have the condition.....but I am advised by my doctor that I am capable of taking the examination without adverse effects to myself. I have fully explained to my doctor what the examination entails and have had the doctor complete the certificate at Part G OF this application.  
(If paragraphs 8 and 9 do not apply, write N.A. here.....)
10. In the event of receiving help from an examiner in preparing for this examination, please state the

name of the examiner. This is to ensure that the examiner is not on applicant's examination panel. I did / did not (delete as applicable) receive assistance in preparing for the examination from an examiner.

If the answer is "I did" the name of that examiner is.....

11. I have given a summary of my dancing career at Part H of this application.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

**Part C – Suitability Reference:**

Reference 1.

To be signed by one of the following ( a responsible person who will give a suitability reference / Employer, Peace Commissioner, Garda / Police Officer, School / Head Teacher).

I know.....and consider him / her to be of good standing and to be suitable to teach / work with young people.

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS).....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....

POSITION HELD.....

....

CONTACT TELEPHONE NO.....

SIGNATURE.....DATE...

.....

Reference 2.

To be signed by one of the following ( a responsible person who will give a suitability reference / Employer, Peace Commissioner, Garda / Police Officer, School / Head Teacher).

I know.....and consider him / her to be of good standing and t be suitable to teach / work with young people.

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS).....

ADDRESS.....  
.....

.....  
.....

POSITION HELD.....  
.....

CONTACT TELEPHONE NO.....

SIGNATURE.....DATE...  
.....

## **Approval by Registered Dancing Teacher:**

(To be signed by a teacher /Adjudicator currently registered with An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha)

I know.....to be a person of standing and a suitable person to teach dancing to young people. I am satisfied that he / she can perform all sections of the TCRG examination (solo dancing, céilí dancing, céilí teaching, solo teaching, music and Gaeilge) to be an adequate standard of competency. I know of no reason where he / she should not be acceptable as an examination candidate.

NAME: ( **BLOCK CAPITALS**).....

ADDRESS:.....  
.....

I am currently registered as a TCRG.....  
ADCRG.....

Contact Telephone No,.....

Signature.....

People signing the above should note that they may be contacted by the relevant exam authorities to justify their approval.

**Part E: Child Protection Suitability Confirmation.**

- I certify that the personal details on this form are correct.
- I agree to abide by the Constitution and rules of An Coimisiún and I have read and fully understand the Child Protection Policy of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha.
- I agree to suitability checks being made with the referees, with the registered teacher I have nominated and with my Regional Council or with any other relevant agency, if deemed necessary by An Coimisiún or by the Udarás Scrudaithe acting on its behalf.

Signed.....Date.....  
.....

**Part F: An Coimisiún le rincí Gaelacha (official use only)**

This application to sit the TCRG examination has been approved by An Coimisiún or by the Udarás Scrudaithe (Examination Authority) Acting on its behalf.

This approval has been ratified at a meeting held on.....(date)

Signed.....(Cathaoirleach)

**Part G: Medical Certificate (to be completed by a medial doctor.**

The applicant (name).....suffers from / has the condition.....

He / She has explained to me in detail what the TCRG examination entails. I am satisfied that this medical condition does not put the candidate at risk.

Signature ..... of  
Doctor:.....Date:.....

Address:.....  
.....

