

Module: Writing & Presentation Skills (BAJH-WPS)
Allocation of Marks: 70% Continual Assessment
30% Final Exam

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of the grammar, syntax, spelling and referencing skills required for essays and other written forms.
2. Display a detailed knowledge and understanding of the guidelines for making successful presentations.
3. Engage with the contemporary news agenda to the extent that they can write about, and discuss media agenda topics in front of their peers in an informed manner.

Module Objectives

This module involves regular in-class writing skills development which is then tested both in-class and in an exam. It develops writing skills for essays, press releases and journalistic writing. It also involves developing and encouraging learner's presentation skills through a series of exercises including: hosting a press conference, attending in the audience of a live current affairs show on RTÉ TV and sitting on a panel in front of their peers for an in-class mock-up of a TV current affairs panel discussion. Finally, it also involves encouraging learners to express themselves confidently and in an informed manner on the news agenda of the day and, to make a prepared group presentation in class.

Module Aims

This module aims to enable learners to:

1. Develop confident and competent writing skills applicable to essay and journalistic work. Includes the correct use of grammar, punctuation, spelling and syntax.
2. Develop a familiarity with the news agenda of the day and successfully make presentations on same in public forum.

Module Curriculum

Indicative Syllabus

Presentation Skills 1: overcoming anxiety, preparation, speaking clearly, dealing with questions.

Presentation Skills 2: Participation - active participation from "the audience" giving informed opinions and asking questions in the weekly in-class panel discussions and press conferences.

Writing Skills 1: General and journalistic: spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax and proofing.

Writing Skills 2: Writing academic essays and implementing successful Harvard referencing.

Panel Discussion: participate on the panel of the in-class TV-style current affairs panel discussion.

TV Show (or other public forum) Attendance: Lecturers arrange for attendance in the audience of an audience-participation style TV programme. Another public forum used should the former option not be available.

Press Conference: Skills and techniques required to plan and present a successful press conference.

Press Release: Skills and techniques required to plan and submit a successfully written press release.

Professional Development: Writing introductory email/letter to editor from freelancer (introducing themselves, explaining why their attached freelance feature article should be published in that particular publication, etc.