

ON AIR

Leaving Cert Higher Level English |
Paper 1, Question B

How to Write a H1 Podcast Script

The step-by-step guide to mastering the format,
finding your voice, and winning over the examiner.



The Examiner's Brief

Genre: Script / Speech

Tense: Present

Tone: Conversational

You aren't writing an essay. You are writing a performance.



Live Action

Must be written as if you are talking directly to a group right now.



Prompt-Driven

The content is entirely dictated by the question. Address every aspect of the prompt.



Illusion of Audio

Must include auditory cues, sign-offs, and audience interaction to prove you understand the medium.

Tuning Your Register

CORRECT APPROACH



Present Tense
(Welcome to the show)

Past Tense
narrative

Tense



Conversational & Chatty
(Chatting to a friend)

Overly Formal
Academic jargon

Vocabulary



Second-Person Pronouns
(You, Our listeners)

Third-Person detachment

Audience
Connection

WRONG APPROACH

The key thing here is to write in the present tense, as if you are talking directly to a group of people as you write.

Choosing Your Setup: Solo Mic vs. Co-Host



The 1-Person Monologue

Vibe: Personal narrative, TED-radio style.

Mechanics: Entire text written as if talking directly to the audience.

Best For: Deep, reflective prompts where you drive the whole narrative.



The 2-Person Interview

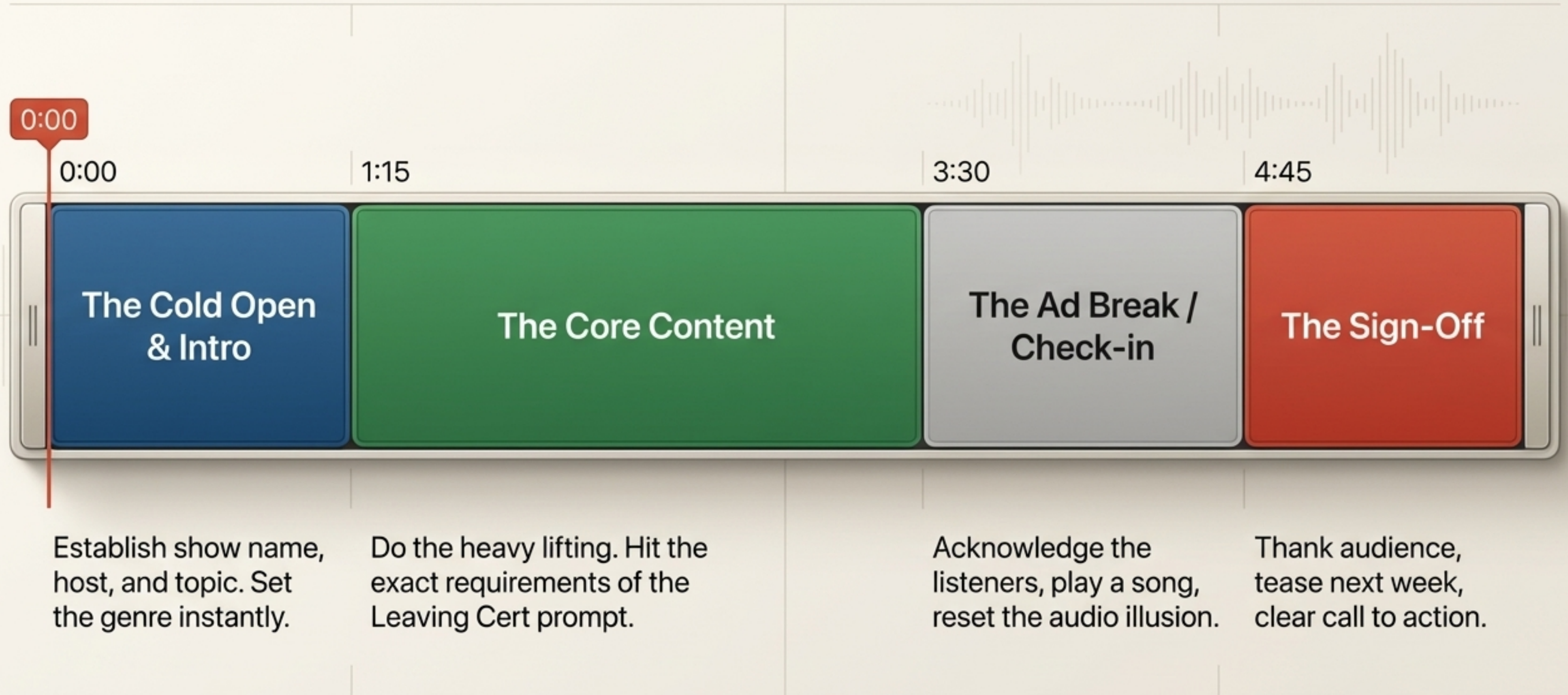
Vibe: Classic radio show / Guest setup.

Mechanics: Requires script formatting (Host: / Guest:)

Best For: Debates, expert opinions, or when you need a presenter to introduce you (the guest).

Both are valid in the Leaving Cert. Pick the one that fits the prompt best!

The 4-Part Episode Structure



Step 1: The Studio Intro

Goal: Prove to the examiner immediately that this is a podcast.

Target
global/local
audience.

Hello everyone! Good morning to all my listeners, **from Dublin to New York...**

Welcome back to another episode of **The Music Playing In Me**, brought to you by Today FM.


In today's episode, we have a special guest... Please welcome Hannah.

Establish the
format
immediately.

Name-drop the specific
podcast title given in
the prompt.

Step 2: Hitting the Question Brief

Content > Gimmicks. Address all aspects of the question seamlessly.



The 2022 Prompt Demands

1. Importance of music
2. Particular pieces
3. Thoughts/feelings evoked

1. Use personal anecdotes

In the first seventeen years of my life, I have relied on music to be there for me during tough times...

2. Be hyper-specific with references

Anchor points with real world examples (e.g., Take That's 'Greatest Day', attending an Ed Sheeran concert at Croke Park, discovering Maisie Peters).

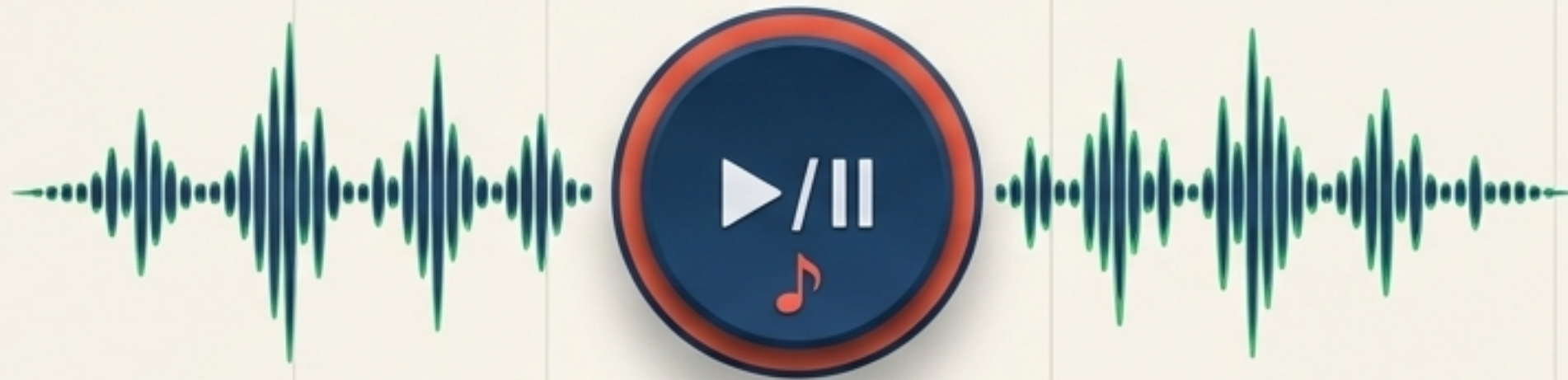
3. Express direct emotion

The feelings that music brings out in me are happiness, sadness and even anger.

Step 3: Creating the Audio Illusion

Concept: Use transitions to keep the conversational flow alive and rack up Purpose/Genre marks.

Now before I continue, I would like to play the first verse of "Greatest Day", sung by Take That...
[Insert short lyrics: Today this could be the greatest day of our lives, Before it all ends, before we run out of time, Stay close to me, Stay close to me, Watch the world come alive tonight, Stay close to me...]

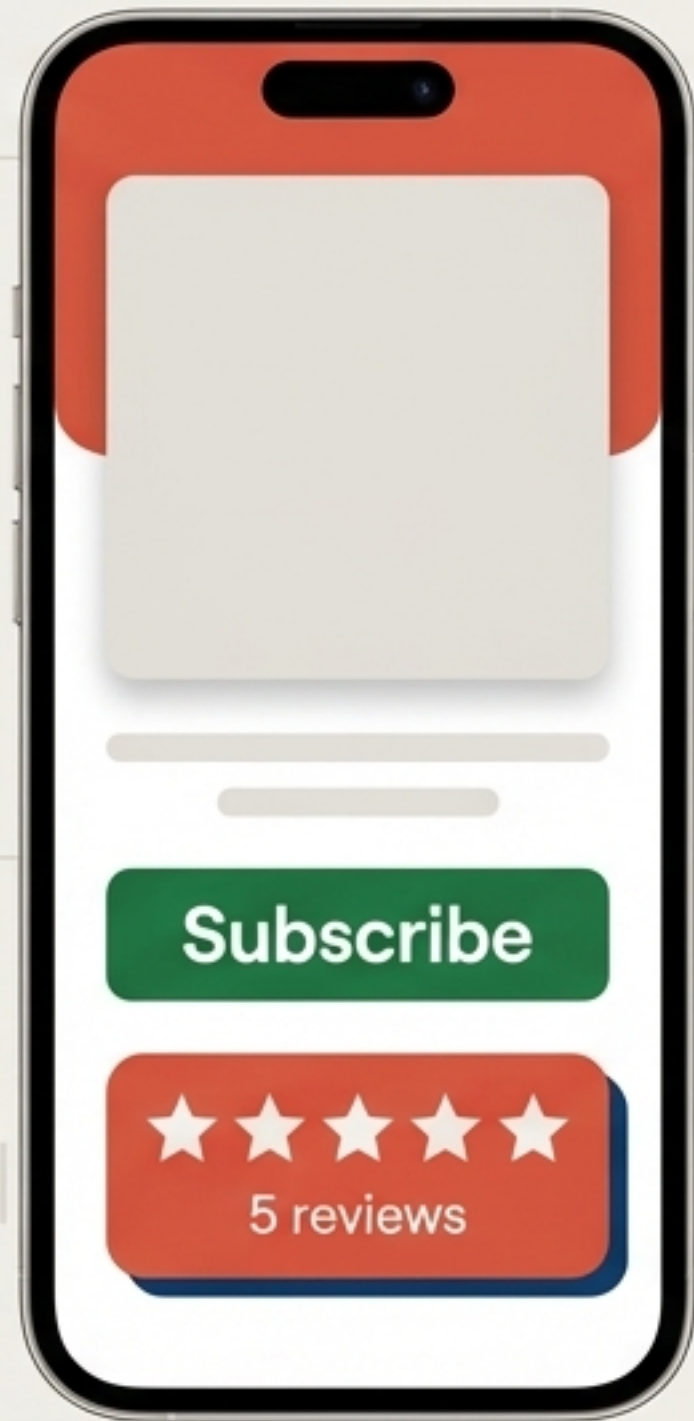


Welcome back to 'The Music Playing In Me.' I hope you liked that small break...

(Technique 3: The Listener Check-in): Note the use of 'you' — remind the examiner you know the audience is there!

Step 4: The Outro & Call to Action

Wrap up cleanly and drop final genre-specific buzzwords



The Outro Formula:



Annotated Example:

Thank you Hannah for that outstanding talk... That's all we have got time for today folks, tune in next week for another episode of The Music Playing In Me brought to you by Today FM.

Bonus Tip:

Don't forget to urge listeners to subscribe to your channel!

X-Ray of a H1 Response



The Synthesis Snippet

Good morning to all my listeners...
Welcome back to another episode of
The Music Playing In Me.
In the first seventeen years of my life, I
have relied on music...
Now before I continue, I would like to
play the first verse of 'Greatest Day',
sung by Take That...
Welcome back...
That's all we have got time for today
folks, tune in next week!

Examiner's Diagnostic Checklist

- ✓ Addressed the specific prompt topic (Importance of Music).
- ✓ Maintained Present Tense throughout.
- ✓ Conversational Tone (Chatting to a friend).
- ✓ Addressed listeners directly (Good morning to all my listeners).
- ✓ Created an audio illusion (Played a verse).
- ✓ Included a sign-off / subscribe request.

Your Exam-Day Soundcheck

- 1 **Did I name the podcast?** (Check the question for a mandatory title)
- 2 **Did I introduce myself?** (Clarify if you are the Host or Guest)
- 3 **Did I use 'You'?** (Engage the listener directly)
- 4 **Did I answer all parts of the prompt?** (Content matters more than gimmicks)
- 5 **Did I include an outro?** (Tune in next week! / Subscribe!)



Hit Record. You're ready for the Leaving Cert.