



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

State Examinations Commission

Examinations 2009

Information

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Introduction

For the 2009 examination 55,383 candidates are entered for the Leaving Certificate examination, 3,269 candidates for the final year examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied and 56,513 candidates for the Junior Certificate examination.

The Corporate Affairs Division of the State Examinations Commission (SEC) has compiled this information pack. We hope that you will find it useful during this year's examinations.

This booklet provides information and statistics relevant to the 2009 examinations. It is important to note that the statistical information provided on the 2009 exams are the predicted entry figures and are subject to change.

If you have any queries on the information provided or on any issues that arise during the course of the examinations please contact:

Martina Mannion
Press Officer
Phone: 090-644 2778 or 087 2830355
E-mail: martina.mannion@examinations.ie

OR

Patricia Anderson
Deputy Press Officer
Phone 090- 64 42868 or 087 1311607
E-mail: patricia.anderson@examinations.ie

Further detailed information about the SEC and the operation of the examinations is available on our website: www.examinations.ie.

The website will be updated daily during the course of the written examinations in June.

**Press and Information Office
Corporate Affairs Division
State Examinations Commission
Cornamaddy
Athlone
Co Westmeath
May 2009**

1. Website Services for the 2009 Examinations. www.examinations.ie

- All written examination papers in this year's examinations will be published on the website on the evening that the examination is completed.
- A daily bulletin board will provide information on items of interest that will arise during the examination period.
- Leaving Certificate results will be issued on **Wednesday 12th August 2009** and the on-line Results Service will be available from **12 noon** on that day for Leaving Certificate candidates
- Junior Certificate results will be issued in **mid-September** and the on-line Results Service will be available from **4 pm** for Junior Certificate candidates.
- Detailed contact information, including e-mail, phone and fax details for all key business areas of the SEC, is available in the Contacts Directory.

Other features of the website are:

- A directory of current circulars and forms in the Schools Section.
- Detailed information for candidates on the operation of the examinations, including the Scheme of Reasonable Accommodations, in the Candidates Section.
- All examination timetables and schedules of significant dates in the 2009 Examination Information section.
- Examinations papers and marking schemes for past years and access to Chief Examiners' Reports for the past number of years in the Examination Material Archive.
- The on-line Appeal Payment Service will be available shortly after the release of the results.

2. Useful Dates 2009

| Date | Event |
|--|--|
| Monday, March 23 rd | Start of Leaving Certificate oral tests |
| Wednesday, June 3 rd | Start of written examinations |
| Friday, June 11 th | End of Leaving Certificate applied written examinations |
| Thursday, June 18 th | End of Junior Certificate written examinations |
| Friday, June 19 th | End of Leaving Certificate written examinations |
| Wednesday, August 12 th | Leaving Certificate results in all schools On www.examinations.ie from 12 noon |
| Wednesday, August 19 th | Leaving Certificate candidates must return completed application forms to view scripts to school by this date |
| Friday & Saturday, August 28 th & 29 th | Viewing of scripts in schools |
| Wednesday, September 2 nd | Closing date for receipt of Leaving Certificate appeal applications |
| Mid-September | Release of Junior Certificate results |
| Mid-October | Release of results of Leaving Certificate appeals |

Results Dates

Results of the 2009 Leaving Certificate Examination will be in schools on Wednesday 12th August 2009. They will also be available on www.examinations.ie at 12 noon on that date.

Junior Certificate results will be in schools in mid-September. The Junior Certificate results will be available on www.examinations.ie at 4 PM on the date of release. For information, please note that the 2008 Junior Certificate results were released on Wednesday 10th September 2008.

Start Dates 1996-2009

| Year | Date | Year | Date |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1996 | 5 th June | 2003 | 4 th June |
| 1997 | 11 th June | 2004 | 9 th June |
| 1998 | 10 th June | 2005 | 8 th June |
| 1999 | 9 th June | 2006 | 7 th June |
| 2000 | 7 th June | 2007 | 6 th June |
| 2001 | 6 th June | 2009 | 4 th June |
| 2002 | 5 th June | 2009 | 3 rd June |

3. Timetables and Schedules 2009

Five documents giving the dates of the certificate examinations are at **Appendix A:**

- The timetable for the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied written examinations in June 2009
- An additional Leaving Certificate timetable giving the dates for the non-curricular EU languages as well Ancient Greek and Hebrew Studies
- The timetable for the Junior Certificate written examinations in June 2009
- A schedule of examination dates for the non-written examinations at the Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- A schedule of examination dates for non-written examinations at Junior Certificate.

These are also available from the Examination Information section of www.examinations.ie

4. Dates of Oral and Practical Tests 2009

Oral tests in language subjects were conducted in the two week period between Monday 23rd and Friday 3rd April 2009. Any late orals are being held in the week commencing the 26th May.

Practical examinations were conducted over a two-week period in May. Although set dates are laid down for these examinations, they are indicative only and schools have the flexibility to use this two-week period to organise the practical examinations in such a way as to minimise any disruption in the school.

The LCVP Link Modules written examination was held on 6th May 2009.

The question papers for the Junior Certificate Art, Craft and Design and the Leaving Certificate Art - Craftwork and Design, Imaginative Composition/Still Life and Life Sketching, are given to candidates one week in advance of the scheduled date for the examinations.

5. Written Examinations

The examination timetable, particularly in the early days, has long been cited as a source of undue demand on candidates. In addition for the SEC, generating a workable examination timetable in 34 curricular Leaving Certificate subjects over a 13 day examining period has become increasingly difficult. The factors that must be taken into account in the development of the timetable include the expected date for the issue of results; maximising the time available to mark the exams; minimising the potential for clashes between subjects; the impact on students; and budgetary and value for money considerations.

Following a review of the timetable by the Minister for Education and Science in late 2007 the SEC established a Working Group of the education partners to devise a new timetable that could rebalance the early days of the written examinations to have a mix of papers involving some with a strong writing requirement and others with a mathematical and scientific basis. The focus was to lessen demand on candidates. The group's proposals were accepted by the Minister and the new timetable allowed for a better balance in the early days between subjects that almost all candidates take and those taken by a smaller cohort of candidates thus reducing the burden on candidates in the early days. The changes in the mix of subjects in the early days saw candidates spend significantly less time in the examination hall particularly on the first day of the examinations than has been the case in recent years. Most candidates benefited from a free half day in the first three days of the exams.

For many years the Leaving Certificate Timetable has followed a predictable format, particularly in the first week of examinations with English Papers 1 & 2 on the first day, Mathematics Paper 1 on the second morning with Irish Paper 1 in the afternoon and Irish Paper 2 on the third morning with Home Economics that third afternoon. The redesigned 2008 timetable saw major changes in the first week with the focus on the needs of the candidate at the centre of changes. In 2008 English Paper 1 remained as the first exam but was now followed by Home Economics (Social & Scientific) the first afternoon. English Paper 2 was the second morning followed by Chemistry in the afternoon and Mathematics Paper 1 was held on the third day with Geography that afternoon. Irish Papers 1 and 2 were moved to the second week and spread over two days.

Following the completion of the 2008 examinations and on foot of feedback received on the 2008 timetable and subsequent discussions with the education partners (i.e. representatives of school management, principals, teachers and parents) further changes have been made to the timetable for the 2009 examinations. These changes are being made in a continuing effort to lessen the pressure on candidates, in particular in the early days of the examinations, and to minimise the potential for clashes between subjects. The revised 2009 timetable has also had to accommodate two subjects: 1) Technology and 2) Design & Communications Graphics (which replaces Technical Drawing).

Developments in the Technological Subjects at Senior Cycle

As part of ongoing developments in senior cycle, four new technological syllabuses have been prepared by the NCCA. Two of these subjects were introduced into schools in September 2007 and will be examined for the first time as part of the Leaving Certificate in 2009: 1) Technology and 2) Design and Communication Graphics (which will replace Technical Drawing).

A support service, referred to as T4, has been established and in-career development for teachers is now in the third year of the intensive phase for these two subjects. The SEC has two representatives on the support service steering committee.

Technology

Technology is a new subject at Leaving Certificate which will provide a progression for students currently studying Technology at Junior Certificate level. In the case of Technology, the new course is being introduced on a phased basis. A total of forty -six schools are included in phase one of the introduction which began in September 2007. Phase two commenced in September 2008 for the remainder of those schools wishing to offer the subject at Senior Cycle. This subject will be assessed by means of a terminal examination paper and a course assignment. Both terminal examination paper and course assignment will carry equal weighting in terms of marks.

The written examination will be of two and a half hours duration at Higher Level and 2 hours duration at Ordinary Level. As with Design and Communication Graphics this new examination paper will have “core” and “option” sections, reflecting the modular structure of the syllabus. Candidates will be required to answer questions from the core and from two of the five options.

The SEC has issued two thematic briefs for the course assignment, one at Higher Level and one at Ordinary Level. At both levels candidates are required to design and manufacture an artefact in response to the brief. Candidates are also required to present an accompanying folio, detailing all the stages from design to realisation of the artefact and will include an overall evaluation by the candidate of the entire process.

Sample assessment materials for the subject have been developed by the NCCA and issued to schools. Sample examination papers, at both levels, have been issued by the SEC in Autumn 2008.

Design and Communication Graphics

This subject replaces technical drawing and Design and Communication Graphics will be assessed by means of a terminal examination paper and a course assignment. The mark weighting for the examination paper and the course assignment will be 60% and 40% respectively.

There will be one terminal examination paper at each level, Higher and Ordinary. This will replace the three examination papers which existed in Technical Drawing. The new examination will be of three hours duration at each level. The new examination paper will have “core” and “option” sections, reflecting the modular structure of the syllabus. Candidates will be required to answer questions from the

core and from two of the five options. Sample examination papers, at both levels, were issued by the SEC in Autumn 2008.

The SEC issued thematic briefs for the course assignment in October 2008. Different briefs issued at Higher Level and at Ordinary Level. The response to the course assignment will be a combination of paper based drawings and electronic (virtual) models. Computer Aided Design (CAD), in the form of parametric modelling, is a significant and compulsory requirement of the assignment.

Schools were provided with funding by the Department of Education and Science (DES) to purchase the required hardware and software for the CAD element of the course assignment.

6. Key Logistics

Established in 2003, the SEC assumed responsibility from the Department of Education and Science for the operation of the second -level examinations of the Irish state: the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate. The SEC is based at Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

The SEC employs some 179 permanent staff; this number is supplemented by 90 temporary staff to assist in key seasonal functions such as the packing and distribution of examination material and the examination resulting process.

To give an idea of the scale of activities involved in conducting the state examinations it is worth noting that the 2008 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes

- Providing examinations to **111,483 candidates** across all examination programmes; **55,940** at Junior Certificate, **52,143** at Leaving Certificate, and **3,400** at Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- Arranging for **examinations** in **89** curricular and **15** non-curricular subjects examination subjects
- Engaging **664 drafters**, setters and translators to develop **254** different test **instruments** – including oral tests, aural recordings, practical briefs, project briefs, portfolio and coursework items as well as the written examination papers
- Producing **3,082,000** examination **papers** made up of **37,106,500** A4 **pages**
- Arranging for the recording of some **89,541** **oral** tests
- Engaging **4,683** **superintendents** to superintend at **4,683** **ordinary examination centres**
- Providing **15,522** **reasonable accommodations** to facilitate candidates with individual needs to access the certificate exams and establishing **7,129** **special examination centres** as a result
- Engaging **6,264** **examiners** to mark the examinations; **4,002** **written** examiners, **1,099** **oral** examiners and **1,163** **practical** examiners
- Examining some **1.9 million individual test items** including written examination scripts, art and craftwork pieces, project and practical pieces in Leaving Certificate Construction Studies and Engineering and Junior Certificate Metalwork, Materials Technology (Wood) and Technology, oral tests, coursework journals, research reports and portfolios
- Generating **961,237** **individual grades** leading to the award of **111,483** **examination certificates**
- Returning **433,212** **marked scripts** to schools for viewing
- Processing some **14,321** **appeals**

7. Examination Running Costs

The overall cost of running the examinations in the period 1st January, 2008 to 31st December, 2008 was €1.2 million, of which €0.1 million was collected in fees.

The main running costs associated with the examinations are the fees paid to superintendents, examiners, drafters and setters, and their associated travel and subsistence costs. The cost of printing, packing and posting examination materials is also significant. Examination materials; past papers, aural tests, marking schemes, etc; are provided free of charge to schools and candidates in a variety of different formats including paper, CD, CD-ROM and on our website.

Key Costs in 2008

| | €m. |
|---|------|
| Fees paid to Examiners, Superintendents and other Contract Personnel | 36.2 |
| Staff Salaries | 12.1 |
| Travel & Subsistence (Contract and Staff) | 12.7 |

8. Rates of Examination Fees 2009

Students who hold a medical card or who are dependant on a Parent or Guardian who is the holder of a Medical Card are exempt from examination fees. For other candidates the lists of fees for the 2009 examinations are listed below.

School Candidates

| | |
|---|------|
| Leaving Certificate (Established and LCVP) | €109 |
| Leaving Certificate Applied Programme | €109 |
| Junior Certificate | €103 |
| Repeat Leaving Certificate | €284 |
| Post Leaving Certificate course (per subject) | €67 |

VTOS and Analogous Candidates

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Leaving Certificate (3+subjects) | €109 |
| Mix of LC/JC subjects (3+) | €109 |
| Junior Certificate (3+subjects) | €103 |
| 1 or 2 subjects – LC/JC/mix | €67 |

External Candidates

Ordinary Fees

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| First time entry (3+ subjects) | €109 |
| First time entry (1 or 2 subjects) | €67 |
| Repeat entry (3+ subjects) | €308 |
| Repeat entry (2 subjects) | €199 |
| Repeat entry (1 subject) | €109 |

Late Fees (External Candidates only)

Received 31st January to 13th February an additional €30.00 per subject

Received on/after 14th February an additional €49.00 per subject

Appeal Fees

The fees for appealing a result in a subject in the 2009 certificate examinations are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Junior Certificate | €32 per subject |
| Leaving Certificate Established | €40 per subject |
| Leaving Certificate Applied | €15.50 per subject |

Appeal fees are refunded in the event that a result is upgraded. Refunds are made through the school system in the case of school candidates and are paid directly to external candidates.

9. The Preparation of Test Items - Principles and Protocol

The preparation of test items of the highest standard and the maintenance of an examination system providing valid and reliable certification requires rigorous quality assurance measures based on sound principles articulated through a comprehensive protocol. During 2006 the SEC published a booklet, *The Preparation of Test Items - Principles and Protocol*, setting out the principles and protocol which underpin and inform the preparation of test items used by the Commission. It describes the context in which the SEC fulfils its role, indicating, in particular, the importance of the SEC's relationship with its partners and customers in the broad education community, with the Department of Education and Science and with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) in the matter of the provision of state certificate examinations.

The booklet outlines the key principles that underpin and inform the preparation of test items. These principles include validity, reliability, freedom from bias, inclusiveness and equity, discrimination, and accessibility. The booklet also sets out the protocol which personnel responsible for the preparation of test items follow in applying these principles and outlines the roles and responsibilities of key personnel within the SEC in relation to the preparation of these same test items.

In publishing this booklet the SEC wishes to assure candidates, parents, teachers, schools and the broader education community of the care taken with the preparation of test items. In so doing, the SEC reiterates its commitment to openness and transparency, fairness and accountability and to the maintenance of the highest standards possible in the preparation of state certificate examinations.

The principles that underpin and inform the preparation of test items used by the SEC are as follows:

- **Validity**
Validity refers to the accuracy with which an examination measures what it is intended to measure.
- **Reliability**
Reliability refers to the consistency of the results produced by an examination.
- **Freedom from Bias**
Freedom from bias refers to the elimination, as far as possible of bias from examination. Bias is the presence of some characteristic in an examination that results in different levels of performance by candidates of the same level of achievement, but from different groups, such as ethnic or gender.
- **Inclusiveness and Equity**
Inclusiveness and Equity refer to the extent to which examinations should reflect an inclusive view of society and a respect for diversity
- **Discrimination**
Discrimination refers to the extent to which an individual test item, or an examination as a whole, effectively distinguishes between candidates of different underlying levels of achievement.
- **Accessibility**
The accessibility of an examination refers to the extent to which all candidates are facilitated in demonstrating their achievements, in the context of the need to preserve the integrity, fairness and standards of the examination.

The booklet was distributed to all second-level schools, to the education partners and was published on www.examinations.ie.

10. Orals, Aurals, Practicals and Practical Coursework

Each year the state examinations involve the preparation of 254 different test components in almost 90 curricular subjects. These components include oral tests, practical tests, aural tests, project briefs, practical coursework specifications, journals, reports and portfolios as well as the written exam papers.

A total of approximately 1.9 million individual test items are examined leading to the award of over 960,000 grades.

The Leaving Certificate subjects examined entirely by written examination are English, Mathematics, Latin, Ancient Greek, Classical Studies, Hebrew, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Business, Economics, Arabic, and the Non-curricular EU languages.

The subjects with oral and aural components are Irish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Russian. Music has an aural component.

The Leaving Certificate subjects Agricultural Science, Agricultural Economics, Construction Studies, Engineering, Home Economics, Links Modules, Music, History, Geography, Religious Education, Technology and Design and Communication Graphics have practical coursework components.

There are also practical examinations in Art, Engineering, Construction Studies, Music and Home Economics.

Junior Certificate

The Junior Certificate subjects examined entirely by written examination are English, Mathematics, Ancient Greek, Business Studies, Classical Studies, Geography, History, Latin, Science(1989 syllabus), and Technical Graphics.

In addition to the written, Junior Certificate Irish has an aural component. There are also optional oral tests in French, German, Spanish and Italian which are taken by a small number of candidates each year.

The Junior Certificate subjects Art, Craft & Design, Home Economics, Materials Technology (Wood), Metalwork, Religious Education, Science (Revised syllabus), Science with Local Studies, Environmental and Social Studies (ESS), Technology and Civic, Social and Political Education have practical coursework components.

There are also practical examinations in Art, Craft & Design, Home Economics, Music, Metalwork, and Typewriting.

There are no written examinations in Junior Certificate Art, Craft & Design or Typewriting.

11. Catering for Diversity in the State Examinations

Scheme of Reasonable Accommodations

The SEC is fully committed to providing an examination and assessment system with the highest standards of equity and fairness and which enables all candidates to display their achievements. The SEC provides a range of measures in order to facilitate candidates with particular needs under its scheme of reasonable accommodations. These reasonable accommodations are intended to diminish, as far as possible, the impact of a physical or learning difficulty on a candidate's performance and thus enable a candidate to demonstrate his or her level of attainment. They are not intended to compensate for lack of attainment.

The SEC provides a range of measures to facilitate candidates with particular needs. These include the provision of readers and scribes; the production of modified papers; Brailled and enlarged papers; the use of tape recorders and personal computers; and exemption or waivers in respect of particular components. Some of these measures require the establishment of special examination centres. The scheme also provides

certain measures to accommodate students who experience accidents, illness or other traumatic events at examination time. In the case of a candidate granted an exemption or waiver in a particular component, or where the method of examining is significantly altered, the examination certificate is annotated. For example, in the case of a candidate granted an exemption from an aural component of a language examination, the certificate would state that, “*All elements were assessed except for the aural component*”.

In keeping with the SEC’s commitment to transparency in its decision -making, all decisions made by the SEC in relation to the provision of reasonable accommodations are open to appeal to a Reasonable Accommodations Independent Appeals Panel.

The following tables illustrate the significant increases in the provision of reasonable accommodations and special centres in recent years.

| Type of Accommodation | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tape Recorder | 1,043 | 898 | 1,054 | 732 |
| Reading Assistance | 3,357 | 3,877 | 4,812 | 4,970 |
| Scribe | 428 | 550 | 733 | 886 |
| Word Processor | 175 | 241 | 330 | 358 |
| Visually Modified Papers | 171 | 133 | 115 | 103 |
| Component/Subject Exemption | 687 | 997 | 1,445 | 1,777 |
| Spelling/Grammar Waiver | 4,763 | 5,450 | 6,219 | 6,696 |
| TOTAL | 10,624 | 12,279 | 14,708 | 15,522 |

Reasonable Accommodations 2005-2008

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Special Centres | 4,710 | 5,589 | 6,752 | 7,129 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Special Centres 2005-2008

Advisory Group on Reasonable Accommodations

In January, 2007, the SEC established an Advisory Group to review policy and practice in Reasonable Accommodations in the State Examinations. Details on the members of the Advisory Group, the Terms of Reference and summary of the consultative document and focus groups are to be found in the 2007 Annual Report (Pages 20 and 21). The 2007 Annual Report is available on the SEC website – www.examinations.ie.

In late 2008 the Advisory Group presented its report to the SEC. The report is currently under consideration by the SEC.

Equality Authority Ruling

In November 2006 the Equality Tribunal ruled in favour of two former Leaving Certificate candidates in their claim of discrimination under the Equal Status Acts 2000 - 2004 against the Department of Education and Science in relation to the annotation of their Leaving Certificates. Their Leaving Certificates contained explanatory footnotes which indicated that the complainants were granted exemptions or waivers in particular components of their examinations.

The Department of Education and Science appealed the Equality Officer's findings to the Circuit Court. In October 2007 the Circuit Court ruled in favour of the Department and that decision has been appealed by the Equality Authority and one of the original complainants to the High Court. The case was heard in the High Court in April 2009 but judgement was reserved.

Use of Dictionaries in the Certificate Examinations

Candidates whose first language is not English or Irish are allowed to use bi-lingual translation dictionaries in certain examinations. In 2008, a total of 2,259 candidates applied to use bi-lingual dictionaries in the state examinations.

12. Non-Curricular EU Language Subjects

The SEC provides examinations in a range of subjects in the language area referred to as the non-curricular EU languages. These are languages which do not appear as part of the normal school curriculum but which students may opt to be examined in if they meet certain criteria. Chief among these conditions are the requirements that candidates for these examinations;

- Be from a member state of the European Union
- Speak the language in which they opt to be examined in as a mother tongue
- Have followed a programme of study leading to the Leaving Certificate
- Be taking Leaving Certificate English

Another condition is that candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only.

For the 2009 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following fifteen non-curricular language subjects:

- Bulgarian
- Czech
- Dutch
- Danish
- Estonian
- Finnish
- Greek (Modern)
- Hungarian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovakian
- Swedish

The following table compares the predicted candidate entries for these subjects in the 2009 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these exams in 2008.

| Subject | 2008 (sits) | 2009(entries) |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Dutch | 28 | 31 |
| Portuguese | 29 | 56 |
| Polish | 171 | 343 |
| Latvian | 50 | 56 |
| Lithuanian | 131 | 183 |
| Romanian | 67 | 96 |
| Others* | 65 | 101 |
| Total | 541 | 886 |

Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2008 V 2009

* Modern Greek, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Czech, Hungarian, Estonian, Slovakian, Bulgarian.

Background to the Development of the Non-Curricular Language Subjects

The development of the examinations in these languages has evolved over time. From time to time the SEC, and prior to 2003 the Department of Education and Science, have received requests to provide examinations for native speakers in their mother tongue. The policy has been to accede to these requests in the case of the national languages of EU states in line with the commitment made by member states under Article 149 of the Treaty of Nice. This states that "Community action shall be aimed at developing the European dimension in education, particularly through the teaching and dissemination of the languages of the Member States."

The model for the non-curricular language examination papers is based on the First Foreign Language final written paper of the European Baccalaureate and the syllabus on which it is based. Although no national syllabi have been developed for these subjects the SEC is satisfied as to the rigour of the standard that applies.

The European Baccalaureate model has been developed by the European Schools taking into account the educational standards of all member states including Ireland. The State Examinations Commission is satisfied with the very high academic standard of this qualification and indeed the European Baccalaureate is recognised by all Irish universities.

The structure of these examinations has been agreed between the SEC and the Academic Board and the Board of Inspectors of the European Schools. The delivery of these examinations is overseen by a senior Examinations and Assessment Manager of the SEC. This official meets regularly with the college of examiners in order to provide training and to ensure standardisation between all of the non-curricular language subjects. The examinations are set and marked by highly qualified subject experts and experienced practitioners in the relevant subject areas. The benefit of this arrangement for the SEC is the link to an accredited syllabus in a high calibre, well recognised examination and access to a range of expertise that would be difficult to find elsewhere.

13. Emergencies during the Examinations

Each year brings a number of events which impact in significant ways on individual candidates or on groups of candidates as they prepare for and take their examinations. Events such as serious illness, accidents and death are deeply upsetting when they involve a close relative or friend and can be felt with particular intensity at the time of an examination - itself a stressful event for most. Reasonable accommodations can be made in order to assist candidates affected by such emergencies in continuing their examinations.

The SEC is anxious to provide all the assistance it can to schools and to candidates to help them through their examinations at what is for them a most difficult time while being careful to maintain the highest standards of fairness and equity in the interests of the generality of candidates and of society as a whole.

The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) provide assistance to schools and candidates in crisis situations during the examinations.

A candidate who is unable to take the examinations in their normal centre may be permitted take them in a special room in the school or in a hospital. Other arrangements can also be made depending on the individual circumstances.

Where an emergency occurs, the school is likely to be in the best position to make the necessary alternative arrangements at short notice. In addition the school is authorised to make certain specified arrangements without advising the SEC.

Remit of Schools

Schools have the authority to make a number of specified arrangements to facilitate examination candidates based on local knowledge of what is in the best interest of the candidate and without requesting advance permission from the SEC. The specified arrangements include granting breaks or rest periods in each examination session that are warranted by the physical or medical condition of the candidate; allowing candidates to take medicine, food or drinks into the examination centre where this is required for medical reasons; allowing the candidate to move within the centre; allowing the use of a special desk or chair; allowing the use of low vision aids used normally in the classroom; ensuring that a candidate with a hearing impairment is positioned close to the superintendent.

How to Get Help

Throughout the examination period SEC personnel are generally on hand from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. on examination days, and often outside of those hours, and at weekends. Contact may be made through the main number 090 - 6442700 on a 24 hour basis and a brief message can be left with the security staff if the office is closed. Alternatively details can be faxed to 090 -6442744.

14. Other Useful Information

Chief Examiners' Reports 2008

Chief Examiners' Reports provide a review of the performance of candidates in the examinations and detailed analysis of the standards of answering. Chief Examiners' Reports on the 2008 examinations have been published in the following subjects and programmes. The reports are accessible in the Examination Material Archive on the Commission's website www.examinations.ie.

| JUNIOR CERTIFICATE | LEAVING CERTIFICATE |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| French | Chemistry |
| German | English |
| History | Gaeilge |
| Spanish | Latin |
| Technical Graphics | Physics |
| Latin | Religious Education |
| Religious Education | |

Viewing of Leaving Certificate Scripts

Candidates in the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied examinations are afforded an opportunity to view their own marked scripts after the initial marking process. The viewing allows candidates to satisfy themselves that the marking scheme has been applied correctly to their work and, in addition to enhancing transparency, is designed to assist candidates in making a decision to appeal a result in a subject or subjects. This year the viewing will take place, in schools, on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th of August 2009.

Examination and Assessment Managers monitor the viewing centres to ensure that the viewing process conforms to the strict regulations that apply. To protect the integrity of the process only the organising superintendent is allowed to bring writing material or instruments into the viewing centre, or to remove scripts from the centre.

External Candidates

A candidate who is not a recognised pupil in a post-primary schools and who is not following a course of study organised under the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme, the Adult Literacy and Community Education Scheme, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs second-level scheme for the unemployed, or other similar course, may enter for the Leaving Certificate examination as an external candidate. This year 4,755 students have entered as external candidates.

Grading Structure for the Leaving Certificate Examination

(Introduced 1992)

| Grades | Percentage Range |
|--------|------------------|
| A1 | 90+ |
| A2 | 85>90 |
| B1 | 80>85 |
| B2 | 75>80 |
| B3 | 70>75 |
| C1 | 65>70 |
| C2 | 60>75 |

| Grade | Percentage Range |
|----------|------------------|
| C3 | 55>60 |
| D1 | 50>55 |
| D2 | 45>50 |
| D3 | 40>45 |
| E | 25>40 |
| F | 10>25 |
| No Grade | 0>10 |

Grading Structure for the Leaving Certificate Applied Examination

The Leaving Certificate Applied programme consists of a range of courses each designed on a modular basis. The number of modules depends on the course. Each year of the two year programme is divided into two sessions; September to January, and February to June. A module within a given course is usually completed within one session. Over the two year duration of the programme, participants complete 44 modules. Credits towards the final award are accumulated throughout the two years of the programme through:

- 1.) Satisfactory completion of modules. (Maximum of 62 credits)
- 2.) Performance of student tasks. (Maximum of 70 credits)
- 3.) Performance in the final examinations. (Maximum of 68 credits)

This LCA Certificate is awarded at three levels. Each level represents a percentage range of marks as follows

| Level | Percentage Range | Credits |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Distinction | 85+ | 170 - 200 credits |
| Merit | 70>85 | 140 - 169 credits |
| Pass | 60>70 | 120 - 139 credits |

Candidates who acquire less than 120 credits or who leave before the end of the programme receive a Record of Credits.

Grading Structure for the Junior Certificate Examination

| Grade | Percentage Range |
|----------|------------------|
| A | 85+ |
| B | 70>85 |
| C | 55>70 |
| D | 40>55 |
| E | 25>40 |
| F | 10>25 |
| No Grade | 0>10 |

Award of Bonus Marks for Answering Through Irish

(Extracted from Section V Paragraph 29 of the Rules and Programmes for Secondary Schools)

At the Certificate Examinations candidates shall, except where otherwise directed, have the option of answering either in Irish or in English, except in the case of the subjects Irish and English and questions in other language subjects where the use of the target language is specified. Candidates will be supplied with Irish or English versions of the examination papers as indicated on their entry forms.

A candidate who answers in Irish at the **written examination** in the various subjects as set out below may be given bonus marks in addition to the marks gained in the subject.

Bonus marks at the rate of 10 per cent of the marks obtained will be given to a candidate who obtains less than 75 per cent of the total marks in the case of the following subjects: - Latin, Ancient Greek, Classical Studies, Hebrew Studies, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Physics and Chemistry, Biology, Science, Business, Economics, Agricultural Science, Agricultural Economics, Home Economics, Music, Business Studies, History and Appreciation of Art, Civic, Social and Political Education, Religious Education, Arabic, Links Modules -Written Component only.

Bonus marks at the rate of 5 per cent will be given to a candidate who obtains less than 75 per cent of the total marks in the case of the following subjects: - French, German, Italian, Spanish, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Accounting, Engineering, Construction Studies, Materials Technology (Wood), Metalwork, Technology, Typewriting, Russian, Japanese.

Bonus marks at the rate of 3 per cent will be given to a candidate who obtains less than 75 per cent of the total marks in the case of the subject Art, Craft, Design (Junior Certificate).

Above 75 per cent the bonus will be subjected to a uniform reduction until the candidate who scores 100 per cent gets no bonus.

No bonus will be given in the case of the following subjects: - Technical Graphics, Technical Drawing, Leaving Certificate Art (other than History and Appreciation of Art).

For the purpose of the award of bonus marks, Mathematics, Paper I and Paper II, will be treated as separate subjects.

Candidates who answer partly in Irish and partly in English will receive no bonus marks.

14. Statistical Tables

1. Examination Entries and Sits 1926-2009

| Year | Entered | Sat |
|------|--|---|
| 1927 | | 823 (516m/307f) |
| 1935 | | 2165 (1325m/840f) |
| 1955 | | 6098 (3153m/2945f) |
| 1967 | | 13,590 |
| 1975 | | 29,206 |
| 1980 | | 36,539 |
| 1989 | | 58,435 (incl. 4,397 External) |
| 1990 | | 60,074 (incl. 4,928 External) |
| 1991 | 64,144 LC | 61,333 (incl. 5,693 External & 6,605 repeats) |
| 1992 | 60,919 LC | 59,509 (incl. 4,326 External & 6,599 repeats) |
| 1993 | 63,234 | 61,561 (incl. 4,332 External & 6,330 repeats) |
| 1994 | 66,033 LC (incl. 4,845 External) | 64,033 (incl. 4,120 External & 7,748 repeats) |
| 1995 | 68,492 LC (incl. 4,865 External & 7,819 repeats) | 66,304 (incl. 4,292 External) |
| 1996 | 62,277 LC (incl. 5,087 External, 7,540 repeats) 1,278 LCA | 59,176 (incl. 4,558 External) |
| 1997 | 65,881 LC (incl. 4,597 External, 4,674 repeats) 1,056 LCA | 63,234 (incl. 4,181 External) 750 LCA |
| 1998 | 65,584 LC (incl. 4,621 External 5,226 repeats) 2,450 LCA | 64,155 (incl. 4,137 External) 1,700 LCA |
| 1999 | 64,761 LC (incl. 4,574 External 5,013 repeats) 2,499 LCA | 62,844 (incl. 4,089 External) 2,092 LCA |
| 2000 | 62,235 LC (incl. 4,614 External, 3,889 repeats) 2,821 LCA | 60,737 (incl. 4,053 External) 2,682 LCA |
| 2001 | 58,388 LC (incl. 4,420 External, 2,786 repeats) 2,928 LCA (final year exam) | 56,670 (incl. 3,970 External) 2,815 LCA |
| 2002 | 56,837 LC (incl. 5,014 External 3,384 repeats) 3,130 LCA | 55,435 (incl. 4,490 External, 3,217 repeats) |
| 2003 | 57,722 LC (incl. 4,749 External, 3,298 repeats) 4,763 LCA | 56,237 (incl. 4,261 External, 3,298 repeats) 3,299 LCA |
| 2004 | 56,124 LC (incl. 4,331 External, 3,004 repeats) 3,620 LCA (final year exams) 57,378 Junior Certificate | 55,222 (incl. 3,946 External, 2,818 repeats) 3,520 LCA (final year exams) 56,864 |
| 2005 | 55,467 LC (incl. 4,065 External, 2,704 repeats) 3,404 LCA 57,104 Junior Certificate | 54,073 (incl. 3,732 external, 2,523 repeats) 3,318 LCA 56,640 Junior Certificate |
| 2006 | 52,050 LC (incl. 3,939 External, 2,099 repeats) 3,282 LCA 58,212 Junior Certificate | 50,955 (incl. 3,689 External, 1,973 repeats) 3,155 LCA 57,782 Junior Certificate |
| 2007 | 52,021 LC (incl. 3,930 External, 2,020 repeats) 3,132 LCA 57,883 Junior Certificate | 50,873 LC (incl. 3,651 External, 1,880 repeats) 3,021 LCA 57,287 Junior Certificate |
| 2008 | 53,345 LC (incl. 4,447 External, 1,890 repeats) 3,475 LCA 57,006 Junior Certificate | 52,143 LC (incl. 4,101 External, 1,778 repeats) 3,400 LCA 55,940 Junior Cert |
| 2009 | 55,383 Leaving Certificate 3,269 Leaving Certificate Applied 56,513 Junior Certificate | |

2. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2009

| County | Female | Male | Total |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Carlow | 426 | 432 | 858 |
| Cavan | 394 | 359 | 753 |
| Clare | 653 | 637 | 1290 |
| Cork | 3,267 | 3,008 | 6,275 |
| Donegal | 1,056 | 957 | 2,013 |
| Dublin | 7,276 | 6,933 | 14,209 |
| Galway | 1,651 | 1,523 | 3,174 |
| Kerry | 976 | 992 | 1,968 |
| Kildare | 1,132 | 1,126 | 2,258 |
| Kilkenny | 498 | 485 | 983 |
| Laois | 382 | 391 | 773 |
| Leitrim | 260 | 226 | 486 |
| Limerick | 1,284 | 1,296 | 2,580 |
| Longford | 288 | 303 | 591 |
| Louth | 855 | 907 | 1,762 |
| Mayo | 998 | 882 | 1,880 |
| Meath | 896 | 940 | 1836 |
| Monaghan | 438 | 380 | 818 |
| Offaly | 424 | 439 | 863 |
| Roscommon | 275 | 296 | 571 |
| Sligo | 439 | 441 | 880 |
| Tipperary N.R | 558 | 511 | 1,069 |
| Tipperary S.R | 577 | 516 | 1,093 |
| Waterford | 792 | 821 | 1,613 |
| Westmeath | 782 | 760 | 1,542 |
| Wexford | 911 | 854 | 1,765 |
| Wicklow | 693 | 726 | 1,419 |
| Counties Total | | | 55,325 |
| Libya | 25 | 36 | 61 |
| TOTAL | | | 55,383 |

3. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by Subject and Gender 2009

| Subject | Female | Male | Total |
|---|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Irish | 24,327 | 22,177 | 46,504 |
| English | 26,293 | 25,584 | 51,877 |
| Mathematics | 26,574 | 26,409 | 52,983 |
| Accounting | 3,652 | 3,435 | 7,087 |
| Agricultural Economics | 36 | 38 | 74 |
| Agricultural Science | 1,893 | 3,524 | 5,417 |
| Applied Mathematics | 396 | 1,173 | 1,569 |
| Arabic | 68 | 95 | 163 |
| Art | 6,920 | 4,097 | 11,017 |
| Biology | 18,619 | 10,113 | 28,732 |
| Business | 9,866 | 9,057 | 18,923 |
| Chemistry | 4,211 | 3,394 | 7,605 |
| Classical Studies | 328 | 501 | 829 |
| Construction Studies | 721 | 8,661 | 9,382 |
| Design and Communication Graphics (New) | 571 | 5,805 | 6,376 |
| Economics | 1,718 | 2,996 | 4,714 |
| Engineering | 278 | 4,747 | 5,025 |
| French | 16,264 | 11,959 | 28,223 |
| Geography | 11,336 | 14,173 | 25,509 |
| German | 4,325 | 3,436 | 7,761 |
| History | 5,198 | 7,196 | 12,394 |
| Home Economics | 11,710 | 1,468 | 13,178 |
| Italian | 228 | 100 | 328 |
| Japanese | 135 | 129 | 264 |
| Latin | 28 | 113 | 141 |
| LCVP Link Modules | 8,560 | 7,147 | 15,707 |
| Music | 3,828 | 1,733 | 5,561 |
| Physics | 1,721 | 5,403 | 7,124 |
| Physics & Chemistry | 215 | 332 | 547 |
| Religious Education | 577 | 530 | 1,107 |
| Russian | 134 | 108 | 242 |
| Spanish | 2,157 | 1,210 | 3,367 |
| Technology (New) | 131 | 531 | 662 |

Notes:

This table shows curricular subjects only. The entry figures for the non-curricular language subjects are shown in a separate table on page 14.

In order to protect the privacy of candidates the SEC does not publish figures that refer to a cohort of 10 candidates or fewer.

4. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by Subject and Level 2009

| Subject | Higher | Ordinary | Foundation | Total |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Irish | 16,189 | 26,691 | 3,624 | 46,504 |
| English | 34,574 | 17,303 | - | 51,877 |
| Mathematics | 10,533 | 39,454 | 2,996 | 52,983 |
| Accounting | 5,479 | 1,608 | - | 7,087 |
| Agricultural Economics | 71 | 3 | - | 74 |
| Agricultural Science | 4,825 | 592 | - | 5,417 |
| Applied Mathematics | 1,513 | 56 | - | 1,569 |
| Arabic | 141 | 22 | - | 163 |
| Art | 8,861 | 2,156 | - | 11,017 |
| Biology | 23,504 | 5,228 | - | 28,732 |
| Business | 14,960 | 3,963 | - | 18,923 |
| Chemistry | 6,958 | 647 | - | 7,605 |
| Classical Studies | 764 | 65 | - | 829 |
| Construction Studies | 7,978 | 1,404 | - | 9,382 |
| Design & Communication Graphics | 4,544 | 1,832 | - | 6,376 |
| Economics | 4,114 | 600 | - | 4,714 |
| Engineering | 3,845 | 1,180 | - | 5,025 |
| French | 16,437 | 11,786 | - | 28,223 |
| Geography | 21,247 | 4,262 | - | 25,509 |
| German | 5,298 | 2,463 | - | 7,761 |
| History | 9,061 | 3,333 | - | 12,394 |
| Home Economics | 10,706 | 2,472 | - | 13,178 |
| Italian | 239 | 89 | - | 328 |
| Japanese | 250 | 14 | - | 264 |
| Latin | 138 | 3 | - | 141 |
| LCVP Link Modules (Common Level) | 15,707 | - | - | 15,707 |
| Music | 5,194 | 367 | - | 5,561 |
| Physics | 5,992 | 1,132 | - | 7,124 |
| Physics & Chemistry | 470 | 77 | - | 547 |
| Religious Education | 999 | 108 | - | 1,107 |
| Russian | 225 | 17 | - | 242 |
| Spanish | 2,277 | 1,090 | - | 3,367 |
| Technology | 568 | 94 | - | 662 |

5. Leaving Certificate Appeals 2008

Following the release of the 2008 Leaving Certificate result appeals were made against 11,284 grades leading to 2,207 upgrades and 5 downgrades

| Subject | Level | Grades | Appeals | Upgrades |
|----------------------|-------|--------|---------|----------|
| English | H | 31793 | 2178 | 274 |
| English | O | 17590 | 71 | 31 |
| Biology | H | 18322 | 1054 | 240 |
| Geography | H | 18269 | 1056 | 302 |
| Irish | H | 13994 | 981 | 210 |
| Irish | O | 25820 | 109 | 16 |
| Business | H | 12155 | 693 | 115 |
| French | H | 14225 | 675 | 136 |
| Mathematics | H | 8510 | 612 | 127 |
| Mathematics | O | 35808 | 511 | 84 |
| History | H | 7601 | 460 | 120 |
| Chemistry | H | 5904 | 396 | 68 |
| Physics | H | 4929 | 234 | 37 |
| Art | H | 7862 | 353 | 58 |
| Links Modules (LCVP) | C | 13289 | 302 | 77 |
| Home Economics | H | 8754 | 274 | 40 |
| Accounting | H | 4811 | 150 | 51 |
| Economics | H | 3426 | 337 | 43 |
| German | H | 4440 | 127 | 28 |
| Music | H | 4770 | 187 | 18 |
| Agricultural Science | H | 3712 | 184 | 85 |
| Technical Drawing | H | 3051 | 106 | 19 |
| Construction Studies | H | 6848 | 79 | 14 |
| Spanish | H | 1592 | 73 | 13 |
| Italian | H | 145 | 16 | 11 |

Notes:

In order to protect the privacy of candidates the SEC does not publish figures that refer to a cohort of 10 candidates or fewer

H = Higher, O = Ordinary, C = Common.

Small numbers of appeals were also processed in:

Ordinary Level; Accounting, Agricultural Science, Applied Mathematics Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Economics, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Physics, Spanish and Technical Drawing

Higher Level; Agricultural Economics, Ancient Greek, Arabic, Engineering, Japanese, Latin, Physics & Chemistry, Religious Education

Foundation Level; Irish and Mathematics

6. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2009

| County | Female | Male | Total |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Carlow | 21 | 8 | 29 |
| Cavan | 11 | 19 | 30 |
| Clare | 46 | 40 | 86 |
| Cork | 162 | 192 | 354 |
| Donegal | 72 | 81 | 153 |
| Dublin | 410 | 417 | 827 |
| Galway | 56 | 73 | 129 |
| Kerry | 38 | 44 | 82 |
| Kildare | 69 | 69 | 138 |
| Kilkenny | 25 | 9 | 34 |
| Laois | 19 | 15 | 34 |
| Leitrim | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Limerick | 103 | 76 | 179 |
| Longford | 18 | 21 | 39 |
| Louth | 64 | 57 | 121 |
| Mayo | 45 | 62 | 107 |
| Meath | 51 | 75 | 126 |
| Monaghan | 21 | 49 | 70 |
| Offaly | 56 | 42 | 98 |
| Roscommon | 10 | 22 | 32 |
| Sligo | 18 | 23 | 41 |
| Tipperary N.R | 41 | 46 | 87 |
| Tipperary S.R | 48 | 38 | 86 |
| Waterford | 44 | 50 | 94 |
| Westmeath | 29 | 27 | 56 |
| Wexford | 52 | 92 | 144 |
| Wicklow | 25 | 55 | 80 |
| Total | | | 3,269 |

7. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by Subject and Gender 2009

| Subject | Female | Male | Total |
|---|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| French | 696 | 842 | 1,538 |
| German | 238 | 315 | 553 |
| Spanish | 487 | 419 | 906 |
| Italian | 125 | 124 | 249 |
| Gaeilge Chumarsáideach | 1,541 | 1,691 | 3,232 |
| Vocational Prep & Guidance | 1,553 | 1,710 | 3,263 |
| English and Communication | 1,552 | 1,704 | 3,256 |
| Social Education | 1,553 | 1,711 | 3,264 |
| Arts | 1,551 | 1,709 | 3,260 |
| Leisure & Rec Incl Physical Educ | 1,553 | 1,709 | 3,260 |
| Intro To Information & Comm. Technology | 1,553 | 1,709 | 3,262 |
| Mathematic Applications | 1,553 | 1,711 | 3,264 |
| Agriculture / Horticulture | 75 | 156 | 231 |
| Hotel Catering & Tourism | 894 | 643 | 1,537 |
| Crafts & Design | 319 | 223 | 542 |
| Engineering | 105 | 540 | 645 |
| Technology | 11 | 45 | 56 |
| Graphics and Construction Studies | 200 | 935 | 1,135 |
| Childcare / Community Care | 370 | 23 | 393 |
| Office Administration and Customer Care | 221 | 129 | 350 |
| Active Leisure Studies | 26 | 95 | 121 |
| Hair and Beauty | 142 | 2 | 144 |
| Contemporary Issues Task | 1,552 | 1,710 | 3,262 |
| Practical Achievement Task | 1,552 | 1,710 | 3,262 |
| Personal Reflection Task | 1,553 | 1,706 | 3,259 |
| General Education Task | 1,536 | 1,693 | 3,229 |
| Vocational Education Task | 1,553 | 1,710 | 3,263 |
| Vocational Preparation Task | 1,536 | 1,694 | 3,230 |

8. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2009

| County | Female | Male | Total |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Carlow | 406 | 405 | 811 |
| Cavan | 413 | 408 | 821 |
| Clare | 692 | 741 | 1,433 |
| Cork | 3,104 | 3,248 | 6,352 |
| Donegal | 1,093 | 1,143 | 2,236 |
| Dublin | 7,092 | 7,437 | 14,525 |
| Galway | 1,402 | 1,590 | 2,992 |
| Kerry | 866 | 907 | 1,773 |
| Kildare | 1,237 | 1,335 | 2,572 |
| Kilkenny | 532 | 517 | 1,049 |
| Laois | 440 | 442 | 882 |
| Leitrim | 199 | 210 | 409 |
| Limerick | 1,286 | 1,278 | 2,564 |
| Longford | 324 | 313 | 637 |
| Louth | 908 | 950 | 1,858 |
| Mayo | 836 | 953 | 1,789 |
| Meath | 921 | 930 | 1,851 |
| Monaghan | 410 | 458 | 868 |
| Offaly | 467 | 491 | 958 |
| Roscommon | 291 | 280 | 571 |
| Sligo | 366 | 438 | 804 |
| Tipperary N.R | 569 | 569 | 1,138 |
| Tipperary S.R | 495 | 640 | 1,135 |
| Waterford | 704 | 815 | 1,519 |
| Westmeath | 697 | 669 | 1,366 |
| Wexford | 979 | 984 | 1,963 |
| Wicklow | 786 | 847 | 1,633 |
| Total | | | 56,513 |

9. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by Subject and Gender 2009

| Subject | Female | Male | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Irish | 24,041 | 23,817 | 47,858 |
| English | 27,124 | 28,312 | 55,436 |
| Mathematics | 27,015 | 28,236 | 55,251 |
| Ancient Greek | 7 | 25 | 32 |
| Art, Craft, Design | 13,014 | 8,377 | 21,391 |
| Business Studies | 16,613 | 15,912 | 32,525 |
| C.S.P.E (Common Level) | 26,763 | 27,875 | 54,638 |
| Classical Studies | 210 | 428 | 638 |
| Environmental & Social Studies | 327 | 499 | 826 |
| French | 17,665 | 15,792 | 33,457 |
| Geography | 25,222 | 25,709 | 50,933 |
| German | 4,704 | 4,746 | 9,450 |
| History | 25,068 | 25,359 | 50,427 |
| Home Economics | 16,872 | 2,734 | 19,606 |
| Italian | 273 | 179 | 452 |
| Latin | 87 | 340 | 427 |
| Material Technology (Wood) | 1,881 | 13,702 | 15,583 |
| Metalwork | 681 | 6,980 | 7,661 |
| Music | 6,724 | 2,862 | 9,586 |
| Religious Education | 13,218 | 11,959 | 25,177 |
| Science (Revised Syllabus) | 23,203 | 25,800 | 49,003 |
| Spanish | 2,811 | 2,189 | 5,000 |
| Technical Graphics | 1,722 | 10,500 | 12,222 |
| Technology | 544 | 1,952 | 2,496 |
| Typewriting | 293 | 25 | 318 |

10. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by Subject and Level 2009

| Subject | Higher | Ordinary | Foundation | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Irish | 23,248 | 21,985 | 2,625 | 47,858 |
| English | 37,177 | 16,159 | 2,100 | 55,436 |
| Mathematics | 24,403 | 25,987 | 4,861 | 55,251 |
| Ancient Greek | 28 | 4 | - | 32 |
| Art, Craft, Design | 15,877 | 5,514 | - | 21,391 |
| Business Studies | 22,987 | 9,538 | - | 32,525 |
| C.S.P.E (Common Level) | - | - | - | 54,638 |
| Classical Studies | 534 | 104 | - | 638 |
| Environmental & Social Studies | 212 | 614 | - | 826 |
| French | 23,467 | 9,990 | - | 33,457 |
| Geography | 40,079 | 10,854 | - | 50,933 |
| German | 6,824 | 2,626 | - | 9,450 |
| History | 34,989 | 15,438 | - | 50,427 |
| Home Economics | 14,738 | 4,868 | - | 19,606 |
| Italian | 309 | 143 | - | 452 |
| Latin | 409 | 18 | - | 427 |
| Material Technology (Wood) | 11,204 | 4,379 | - | 15,583 |
| Metalwork | 5,378 | 2,283 | - | 7,661 |
| Music | 7,603 | 1,983 | - | 9,586 |
| Religious Education | 19,797 | 5,380 | - | 25,177 |
| Science (Revised Syllabus) | 35,341 | 13,662 | - | 49,003 |
| Spanish | 3,384 | 1,616 | - | 5,000 |
| Technical Graphics | 8,030 | 4,192 | - | 12,222 |
| Technology | 1,971 | 525 | - | 2,496 |
| Typewriting | 99 | 219 | - | 318 |

11. Junior Certificate Appeals 2008

Following the release of the 2008 Junior Certificate results appeals were made against 2,986 grades leading to 743 upgrades.

| Subject | Level | No. of Candidates | Appeals | Upgrades |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|----------|
| Irish | Higher | 22210 | 311 | 44 |
| English | Higher | 36938 | 527 | 209 |
| Mathematics | Higher | 23,634 | 101 | 27 |
| Art, Craft, Design | Higher | 14705 | 366 | 88 |
| Business Studies | Higher | 22317 | 171 | 36 |
| C.S.P.E | Common | 54492 | 86 | 25 |
| French | Higher | 23585 | 175 | 36 |
| German | Higher | 6705 | 48 | 3 |
| Geography | Higher | 40108 | 446 | 106 |
| History | Higher | 32806 | 254 | 65 |
| Home Economics | Higher | 14629 | 56 | 6 |
| Science (Revised) | Higher | 33566 | 157 | 38 |

Small numbers of appeals were also processed in the following subjects:

Higher Level: Classical Studies, German, Latin, Materials Technology (Wood), Metalwork, Music, Religious Education, Science (1989 syllabus), Spanish, Technical Graphics, Technology

Ordinary Level: Irish, English, Mathematics Art, Craft & Design, Business Studies, French, Home Economics, Materials Technology (Wood), Technical Graphics

Foundation Level: English and Mathematics

Appendix A – Timetables and Schedules

- The timetable for the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied written examinations in June 2009
- An additional Leaving Certificate timetable giving the dates for the non-curricular EU languages as well Ancient Greek and Hebrew Studies
- The timetable for the Junior Certificate written examinations in June 2009
- A schedule of examination dates for the non-written examinations at the Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- A schedule of examination dates for non-written examinations at Junior Certificate.



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED EXAMINATION
TIMETABLE 2009**

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors, which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the Examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

| LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED | | JUNE | LEAVING CERTIFICATE | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| TIME | COURSE | | SUBJECT | TIME |
| 9.45 – 11.45 2.00 – 4.00 | English & Communication Social Education | WEDNESDAY 3 | English, Paper I - H & O Home Economics, Scientific and Social - H & O | 9.30 – 12.20 2.00 – 4.30 |
| 9.30 – 10.30 9.30 – 12.30 2.00 – 4.30 2.00 – 3.00 | Gaeilge Chumarsáideach Sign Language (see note 4) Sign Language (see note 4) French/German/Spanish/Italian | THURSDAY 4 | English, Paper II - H & O Engineering - O Engineering - H | 9.30 – 12.50 2.00 – 4.30 2.00 – 5.00 |
| 9.30 – 11.30 2.00 – 3.30 | Mathematical Applications Hotel Catering & Tourism | FRIDAY 5 | Mathematics, Paper I - H & O & F Geography - H & O | 9.30 – 12.00 2.00 – 4.50 |
| 9.30 – 11.00 2.00 – 3.30 | Engineering Child Care / Community Care | MONDAY 8 | Mathematics, Paper II - H & O & F Irish, Paper I - H & F Irish, Paper I - O Irish - F - Aural (See Note 1) Irish - H & O - Aural (See Note 1) | 9.30 – 12.00 1.30 – 4.20 1.30 – 3.50 4.30 – 5.10 4.30 – 5.10 |
| 9.30 – 11.00 11.30 – 1.00 2.30 – 4.00 | Graphics & Construction Studies Hair & Beauty Office Administration & Customer Care | TUESDAY 9 | Irish, Paper II - O Irish, Paper II - H Arabic - H & O Russian - H & O – Written - Aural (See Note 1) Business - O Business - H | 9.30 – 11.50 9.30 – 12.50 9.30 – 12.30 9.30 – 12.00 12.10 – 12.50 2.00 – 4.30 2.00 – 5.00 |
| 9.30 – 11.00 2.00 – 4.00 | Agriculture / Horticulture Technology | WEDNESDAY 10 | French - H & O – Written - Aural (See Note 1) History - H & O | 9.30 – 12.00 12.10 – 12.50 2.00 – 4.50 |
| 9.30 – 11.00 2.00 – 3.30 | Active Leisure Studies Craft & Design | THURSDAY 11 | Biology - H & O Art, History & Appreciation - H & O | 9.30 – 12.30 2.00 – 4.30 |
| <p>NOTES</p> <p>1. The duration of the listening test is related to the duration of the CDs and, including reading time, will not exceed 40 minutes.</p> <p>2. The examination sessions highlighted in red have been extended by 20 minutes over and above the time traditionally allocated for the papers concerned.</p> <p>3. Dates for the Leaving Certificate Examinations in Hebrew Studies, Ancient Greek and other European languages will be published at a later date.</p> <p>4. The Leaving Certificate Applied Sign Language examination is timetabled for 9.30 – 12.30 & 2.00 – 4.30. Each candidate will be assessed separately for approximately 30 minutes. A candidate specific schedule will be drawn up for each centre prior to the examination.</p> <p>5. The start date for the 2010 Certificate Examinations will be Wednesday 9th June.</p> | | FRIDAY 12 | German - H & O - Written - Aural (See Note 1) Design and Communication - H & O Graphics | 9.30 – 12.00 12.10 – 12.50 2.00 – 5.00 |
| | | MONDAY 15 | Physics - H & O Physics and Chemistry - H & O Accounting - H & O | 9.30 – 12.30 9.30 – 12.30 2.00 – 5.00 |
| | | TUESDAY 16 | Spanish - H & O - Written - Aural (See Note 1) Chemistry - H & O | 9.30 – 12.00 12.10 – 12.50 2.00 – 5.00 |
| | | WEDNESDAY 17 | Economics - H & O Agricultural Economics - H & O Construction Studies - O Construction Studies - H Latin - H & O Classical Studies - H & O | 9.30 – 12.00 9.30 – 12.00 2.00 – 4.30 2.00 – 5.00 2.00 – 5.00 2.00 – 5.00 |
| | | THURSDAY 18 | Agricultural Science - H & O Music - Listening (Core) - H & O Music Composing - H & O Music - Listening (Elective) - H | 9.30 – 12.00 1.30 – 3.00 3.15 – 4.45 5.00 – 5.45 |
| | | FRIDAY 19 | Religious Education - O Religious Education - H Applied Mathematics - H & O Italian - H & O - Written Italian - Aural (See Note 1) Japanese - H & O (Written) Japanese - Aural (See Note 1) Technology - O Technology - H | 9.30 – 11.30 9.30 – 12.00 9.30 – 12.00 2.00 – 4.30 4.40 – 5.20 2.00 – 4.30 4.40 – 5.20 2.00 – 4.00 2.00 – 4.30 |



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED EXAMINATION
LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME
SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATION DATES 2009

| OCTOBER 2008 | NOVEMBER 2008 | FEBRUARY 2009 | MARCH 2009 |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>3rd - Start date for Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Practical Coursework</p> <p>22nd - Start date for Leaving Certificate Engineering Practical Coursework</p> | <p>14th - Completion date for Food Studies Coursework in Leaving Certificate Home Economics, Scientific and Social.</p> | <p>2nd - Start date for assessment of LCA Task Work (Session 1 Year 1, General Education.) (Session 3 Year 2, Practical Achievement, Contemporary Issue & Vocational Education.)</p> <p>6th - Finishing date for assessment of LCA Task Work (Session 1 Year 1. Session 3 Year 2.)</p> | <p>6th - Finishing date for Leaving Certificate Engineering Practical Coursework.</p> <p>- Finishing date for Leaving Certificate Design & Communication Graphics Practical Coursework.</p> <p>23rd - Start date for Leaving Certificate Oral tests in Irish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Japanese.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start date for Leaving Certificate Music Practical. <p>31st - Finishing date for Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science Practical Coursework and Leaving Certificate Agricultural Economics project work.</p> |
| APRIL 2009 | MAY 2009 | JUNE 2009 | |
| <p>3rd - Finishing date for Leaving Certificate Oral Tests in Irish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Japanese.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finishing date for Leaving Certificate Music Practical. <p>22nd - Finishing Date for Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme – Link Modules Portfolio.</p> <p>24th - Finishing Date for Leaving Certificate Religious Education Practical Coursework Journal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finishing Date for Leaving Certificate Geographical Investigation Reporting Booklet. Finishing date for Leaving Cert Music, Higher Level Elective in Composing. Finishing date for Leaving Cert Technology Practical Coursework. <p>27th - Start date for assessment of LCA Task Work, (Session 2 Year 1) Vocational Education and Vocational Preparation.</p> <p>28th - Question papers for Leaving Certificate Art – Craftwork and Design to be distributed to candidates.</p> <p>29th - Question papers for Leaving Certificate Art - Imaginative Composition or Still Life and Life Sketching to be distributed to candidates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finishing date for Leaving Certificate Construction Studies Practical Coursework. <p>30th - Finishing Date for Textile Studies Elective Coursework in Home Economics Scientific and Social.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finishing Date for Leaving Certificate History Research Study Report. | <p>1st - Finishing date for assessment of LCA Task Work (Session 2 Year 1.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finishing date for the LCA Personal Reflection Task. <p>5th - Leaving Certificate Engineering Practical (10.00 – 1.00 & 2.00 – 5.00).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start date for monitoring Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science and Agricultural Economics. <p>6th - Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme – Link Modules – Written Examination (10.00 – 12.30)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaving Certificate Construction Studies Practical (9.30 – 1.30). <p>7th - Leaving Certificate Art Craftwork (9.30 – 12.00 & 2.00 – 4.30).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaving Certificate Art Design (9.30 – 12.00). <p>8th - Leaving Certificate Art Imaginative Composition or Still Life (9.30 – 12.00).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaving Certificate Art Life Sketching (2.00 – 3.00). Final date for return of LCA Personal Reflection Task to the Commission. <p>11th - Start date for LCA Practical Performance tests in Hotel Catering & Tourism, Office Admin & Customer Care, Active Leisure Studies, Hair & Beauty & Agriculture/Horticulture.</p> <p>15th - Finishing date for monitoring Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science and Agricultural Economics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finishing date for LCA Practical Performance tests. <p>18th - Start date for LCA Oral tests in English and Communication (Year 2 candidates) Gaeilge Chumarsáideach, French, German, Spanish and Italian (Year 1 and Year 2 candidates).</p> <p>20th - LCA Information Technology (Specialism) Practical performance and written test (10.00 – 12.00).</p> <p>22nd - Finishing date for LCA Oral Tests.</p> | <p>2nd - Start date for the monitoring of Leaving Certificate Construction Studies Practical Coursework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start date for the assessment of Leaving Certificate Engineering Practical Coursework. Start date for the assessment of Leaving Certificate Art Craftwork. Start date for the assessment of Textile Studies Elective Coursework in Leaving Certificate Home Economics Scientific and Social. Start date for the assessment of Leaving Certificate Technology Practical Coursework. Start date for LCA Practical Coursework examination in Graphics/Construction, Engineering, Technology, Childcare/Community Care & Craft & Design. (see also 8 – 12 June) <p>3rd - Start date for the written examinations.</p> <p>5th - Finishing date for the assessment of Textile Studies Elective Coursework in Leaving Certificate Home Economics Scientific and Social.</p> <p>8th - Start date for the assessment of Leaving Certificate Design & Communication Graphics Practical Coursework.</p> <p>- LCA Practical Coursework Assessment.</p> <p>12th - Finishing date for the monitoring of Leaving Certificate Construction Studies Practical Coursework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finishing date for the assessment of Leaving Certificate Engineering Practical Coursework. Finishing date for the assessment of Leaving Certificate Art Craftwork. Finishing date for the assessment of Leaving Certificate Technology Practical Coursework. Finishing date for LCA Practical Coursework examination. <p>19th - Finishing date for assessment of Leaving Certificate Design & Communication Graphics Practical Coursework.</p> | |



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

TIMETABLE 2009

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors, which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the Examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

| JUNE | Junior Certificate candidates must indicate their final choice of Subject level not later than 30 March 2009. | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | SUBJECT H = Higher Level; O = Ordinary Level; F = Foundation Level | | TIME |
| WEDNESDAY 3 | English - O & F English - H Paper I | | 9.30 - 12.00 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | English - H Paper II | | 2.00 - 4.30 |
| THURSDAY 4 | Mathematics - F Mathematics, Paper I - O Mathematics, Paper I - H | | 9.30 - 11.30 9.30 - 11.30 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | Irish - H & O - Aural Irish - H - Paper I Irish - O - Written | | 2.00 - 2.30 2.45 - 4.15 2.45 - 4.15 |
| FRIDAY 5 | Irish - F - Aural Irish - F - Written Irish - H - Paper II | | 9.30 - 10.00 10.15 - 11.45 10.15 - 12.15 |
| | Geography - H & O Environmental and Social Studies - H & O | | 2.00 - 4.00 2.00 - 4.00 |
| MONDAY 8 | Mathematics, Paper II - O Mathematics, Paper II - H | | 9.30 - 11.30 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | Civic, Social & Political Education - Common Level | | 1.30 - 3.00 |
| TUESDAY 9 | Business Studies - O Business Studies - H Paper I | | 9.30 - 12.00 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | Business Studies - H Paper II | | 2.00 - 4.00 |
| WEDNESDAY 10 | French - H & O | | 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | History - O History - H | | 2.00 - 3.30 2.00 - 4.30 |
| THURSDAY 11 | Science (Revised Syllabus) - H & O | | 9.30 - 11.30 |
| | Religious Education - H & O | | 2.00 - 4.00 |
| FRIDAY 12 | German - H & O | | 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | Home Economics - O Home Economics - H | | 2.00 - 4.00 2.00 - 4.30 |
| MONDAY 15 | Technical Graphics - O Technical Graphics - H | | 9.30 - 12.00 9.30 - 12.30 |
| | Materials Technology (Wood) - H & O | | 2.00 - 4.00 |
| TUESDAY 16 | Spanish - H & O | | 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | Metalwork (Materials & Technology) - O Metalwork (Materials & Technology) - H | | 2.00 - 3.30 2.00 - 4.00 |
| WEDNESDAY 17 | Music (Listening, Composing & General Study) - H & O | | 9.30 - 11.30 |
| | Technology - H & O | | 2.00 - 4.00 |
| THURSDAY 18 | Latin - H & O Classical Studies - H & O | | 9.30 - 12.00 9.30 - 12.00 |
| | Italian - H & O Ancient Greek - H & O | | 1.30 - 4.00 1.30 - 4.00 |

The start date for the 2010 Certificate Examinations will be Wednesday 9th June.



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATION DATES 2009

| OCTOBER 2008 | NOVEMBER 2008 | FEBRUARY 2009 | MARCH 2009 |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1st - Start date for project work in Art, Craft, Design. | 3rd - Start date for project work in Materials Technology (Wood), Metalwork and Technology. | 23rd - Start date for optional Oral tests in Irish, French, German, Spanish and Italian. | 10th - Finishing date for Home Economics project work. 23rd - Start date for practical tests in Home Economics and Music. |
| APRIL 2009 | MAY 2009 | JUNE 2009 | |
| 3rd - Finishing date for Practical tests in Home Economics and Music. - Finishing date for Metalwork project work. 24th - Finishing Date for project work in Materials Technology (Wood). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing Date for Science Coursework Booklet. 27th - Question Papers for Art, Craft, Design Drawing Examinations to be distributed to candidates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing date for optional Oral tests in Irish, French, German, Spanish and Italian. 30th - Finishing date for project work in Technology. | 1st - Finishing date for project work in Art, Craft, Design. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing date for project work in Civic, Social and Political Education (C.S.P.E). • Finishing date for completion of Religious Education Journal. 5th - Art, Craft, Design – Drawing (9.30 – 12.30). 11th - Metalwork Practical (9.30 – 12.30) (Higher Level Candidates only). 29th - Typewriting (9.30 – 11.40) | 2nd - Start date for the assessment of task work in Technology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start date for the assessment of project work in Art, Craft, Design. • Start date for the assessment of project & practical work in Metalwork. 3rd - Start date for the written examinations. 8th - Start date for the assessment of project work in Materials Technology (Wood). 12th - Finishing date for the assessment of project work in - Materials Technology Wood. - Art, Craft, Design. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing date for the assessment of task work in Technology. • Finishing date for the assessment of project & practical work in Metalwork. | |
| Period May - June 2009 Assessment of project tests in Environmental and Social Studies. | | | |

NON CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2009

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

| <u>JUNE</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>TIME</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Wednesday 3rd | Ancient Greek | 2.00 – 5.00 |
| Wednesday 3rd | Modern Greek | 2.00 – 5.00 |
| Wednesday 3rd | Danish | 2.00 – 5.00 |
| Thursday 4th | Hebrew Studies | 2.00 – 5.00 |
| Thursday 4th | Czech | 2.00 – 5.00 |
| Monday 8 th | Lithuanian | 1.30 – 4.30 |
| Monday 8 th | <i>Portuguese</i> | 1.30 – 4.30 |
| Monday 8 th | Polish | 1.30 – 4.30 |
| Monday 8 th | Hungarian | 1.30 – 4.30 |
| Tuesday 9 th | Estonian | 2.00 – 5.00 |
| Tuesday 16 th | Dutch | 9.30 – 12.30 |
| Tuesday 16 th | Finnish | 9.30 – 12.30 |
| Wednesday 17th | Swedish | 9.30 – 12.30 |
| Wednesday 17th | Slovakian | 9.30 – 12.30 |
| Thursday 18th | Bulgarian | 9.30 – 12.30 |
| Thursday 18h | <i>Latvian</i> | 9.30 – 12.30 |
| Thursday 18h | Romanian | 9.30 – 12.30 |

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE 2009

| <u>JUNE</u> | <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>TIME</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Monday 15th | Hebrew Studies (9) | 9.30 – 12.00 |

