



# **JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

**2000**

***HOME ECONOMICS***

**HIGHER AND ORDINARY LEVELS**

**CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT**

## HIGHER LEVEL

### 1. THE ANSWERING OF CANDIDATES IN GENERAL

With the exception of a small percentage of centres, the standard of answering this year was excellent. The failure rate was low and the number of candidates attaining grade A was up on previous years. There may be a number of reasons for this change but a few observations are particularly relevant:

- The number of candidates sitting the higher level paper has decreased by 558 and the number sitting the ordinary level paper has increased. This factor may have increased the overall standard in the higher level paper.
- It was noted that many candidates who gained high grades earned over 70 marks in Section A and did not attempt Q2 in Section B but did attempt Q6.
- The examination paper was very “student friendly”, with clear unambiguous questions. This gave every opportunity to students who were well prepared for the examination to maximise their result.

### 2. FACTORS AFFECTING THE ANSWERING OF CERTAIN QUESTIONS

- Candidates answered best when the question requested a specific number of points, e.g. “give **three** reasons why leisure is important in a teenager’s lifestyle”.
- Candidates neglected to read questions carefully. This happened in the following questions:

#### SECTION A

**Q4:** Many gave their own suggestions of fruit instead of referring to the list given.

**Q13:** Candidates thought that the ovaries should be closer to the fallopian tubes and they remarked their position.

#### SECTION B

**Q5:** Answers were overlapped in (a) and (b).

**Q6:** A description of the wedding outfit was often omitted.

### 3. ANSWERING BY SECTION

#### SECTION A

- Q1:** Vitamin A was answered to a higher standard than vitamin B.
- Q6:** The terms “sauté” and “marinade” were not answered correctly.
- Q8:** The advantages of self-service shopping were better known than the disadvantages.
- Q19:** Many candidates were not sure of the purpose of a fuse.
- Q20:** Embroidery stitches were very poorly attempted.
- Q23:** The treatment of an ink stain on a duvet was rarely attempted and, where attempted, the suggestion was to wash in hot water.
- Qs 6, 9, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 24 were very poorly attempted.**

#### SECTION B

- Q1:** The word “evaluate” caused problems with interpretation.
- Q2 (a):** Cereals were frequently treated as breakfast cereals and reference made only to fibre as their contribution to the diet.
- (b) (i):** Many candidates had difficulty naming three cereal products.
- (b) (ii):** The difference between a wholegrain and refined cereal product was very badly explained. Most candidates mentioned that the whole wheat grain is used or else it is not used.
- (c):** The term “fortified” is not clearly understood, many mentioned the addition of chocolate or sugar during manufacture.
- Q3 (c):** The reason why Stephen might not be entitled to redress was because the runners were bought in a sale. This mistake was repeated throughout the entire allocation of scripts.
- (d):** The benefits of a guarantee to the consumer were well explained but the Small Claims procedure was less well treated in most scripts.
- (e):** A large percentage of candidates did not correctly name a voluntary organisation that provides consumer information. The “Ombudsman” was often incorrectly listed.

**Qs 1 and 2 were poorly attempted.**

#### **4. FREQUENCY OF ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS**

**Section A:** The majority of candidates attempted all 24 questions. The most frequently disallowed questions were Qs 6, 9, 20, 21, 22 and 24.

##### **Response Rate for Section B**

<b>Q1</b>	76%	<b>Q4</b>	92%
<b>Q2</b>	56%	<b>Q5</b>	77%
<b>Q3</b>	79%	<b>Q6</b>	44%

#### **5. COMMON MISTAKES**

##### **SECTION A**

- Q3:** Part A and C were rarely correct. They were commonly named as the chalaza and the shell/membrane, respectively.
- Q8:** Self-service shopping was very often confused with catalogue shopping.
- Q11:** “Credit” was given as a method of payment.
- Q14:** Candidates tended to give points on brushing teeth with no reference to dietary considerations.
- Q21:** Points were given on the factors that influence them in buying clothes and not the factors that influence fashion trends.
- Q24:** A straight seam was given as the name of the seam.

##### **SECTION B**

- Q1:** Many candidates assumed that the ready-to-cook meal was a frozen product.
- Q6:** The care label was very rarely complete. Most candidates gave only one care instruction.

## 6. EVALUATION OF THE EXAMINATION PAPER QUESTION BY QUESTION

### SECTION A

#### Average mark scored in Section A

1997	1998	1999	2000
62	53	51	64

**Q1.** (i) Well attempted. Healthy eyes and skin were the most common answers. (ii) poorly attempted. A small percentage mentioned a healthy nervous system.

**Q2.** (i) Generally correct. (ii) Well attempted. (iii) Well attempted. (iv) This section was often ignored or incorrectly answered. Heart attack was the most common answer.

**Q3.** (A) Egg white was commonly mistaken for the shell or the chalaza. (B) Egg yolk was generally correctly named. (C) The air space was not well known. “Membrane” was the most common incorrect answer. Some mistook the diagram for a foetus.

**Q4.** This question was well answered. An apricot was commonly listed as a citrus fruit.

**Q5.** The most common answers given were “to keep the colour and flavour or to preserve the food”. Most answers gained full marks.

**Q6.** Only a small percentage of candidates gained full marks as two correct explanations were seldom given.

**Q7.** Well attempted.

**Q8.** This question was quite complex for weak students who tended to lose their train of thought. However, good answers were also given.

**Q9.** Well attempted, though a large proportion of candidates did not gain full marks because they neglected to point out that the symbol conveyed safety. Frequently confused with “Caighdeán Eireannach”.

**Q10.** Most candidates who attempted this question mentioned the use of humour and catchy phrases.

**Q11.** Most candidates gained full marks.

**Q12.** The word “prescription” was generally included in answers.

**Q13.** Only a tiny percentage of answers was incorrect.

**Q14.** Well attempted, with reference to sugary foods, dentist visits and regular brushing being the most common correct answers.

**Q15.** Most answers were correct.

**Q16.** The wording was not generally understood. However, the word “services” was the key for most candidates, who listed items like: bins, street cleaners, schools and hospitals as services provided by the State.

**Q17.** The most common answer was to immerse the scald in cold water.

**Q18.** Well attempted, though many referred to the storage of cleaning agents.

**Q19.** A common mistake was to say that a fuse is necessary to make an appliance work.

**Q20.** Very poorly attempted. Only a small percentage of candidates gained any marks in this question. Basic sewing stitches were mentioned.

**Q21.** Most candidates answered the question with reference to the factors that influence their choice of “fashion wear”.

**Q22.** Good answers were given, though quite a few students did not understand the term “property”.

**Q23.** (i) This was the most popular selection and practically all answers were correct. (ii) Methylated spirits was not given in any answer. When attempted, the use of a “Stain Devil” or to wash in hot water were the only suggestions given.

**Q24.** Very poorly attempted. The type of seam was not known, though a recognised method of finishing the seam edge was often given.

## SECTION B

### Q1. Response rate 76%

- (a) (i) The list of nutrients contained in the dish was given but candidates did not expand on these or refer to the particular ready-to-cook meal.
- (a) (ii) Most candidates used the chicken dish mentioned in the question but the accompaniments and the menu form were not always satisfactory.
- (b) (i) and (ii) Correctly named/drawn and explained in practically all scripts.
- (c) (i) (ii) (iii) Very well attempted, though there tended to be repetition of points for each section, e.g. follow the instructions on the pack.
- (d) Only a few incorrect answers were given. Some candidates gave very detailed correct answers.

### Q2. Response rate 56%

- (a) Candidates incorrectly referred to breakfast cereals. The value of fibre in the diet was mainly discussed.
- (b) (i) Marks were lost as it was difficult for candidates to list three different products. Commercial breakfast cereals and rice cakes were popular answers.
- (b) (ii) Candidates were not well informed about wholegrain and refined cereals.
- (c) Though it appeared that the term “fortified” was understood, it was not well explained. Most candidates re-used the term, e.g. cereals are fortified with vitamins.
- (d) Only candidates in the high grade category got all three types of flour and their uses correct.

### Q3. Response rate 79%

- (a) Letters in general were excellent, though some were a little militant in their approach to redress.
- (b) Some candidates included consumer responsibilities in their list of rights.
- (c) Answers were very rarely correct with most assuming that the sale would interfere with Stephen’s right to redress.
- (d) (i) (ii) Candidates found it difficult to explain these terms, especially the Small Claims procedure.
- (e) This was poorly attempted.

### Q4. Response rate 92%

- (a) Students were very well informed about healthy lifestyles and so this section was well answered.

- (b) (i) (ii) (iii) Single word answers were commonly given, e.g cancer, heart attack.
- (c) Answers lacked detail. Candidates referred to the fact that C.H.D. is caused by eating too much fat, but many did not give a thorough explanation.
- (d) (i) Most explained about aerobic classes, e.g. dancing to music, but in general explanations were not sufficient.
- (d) (ii) Almost all answers were correct.

**Q5. Response rate 77%**

- (a) The uses of the microwave were sometimes given as advantages which overlapped with (b)
- (c) Well attempted, though enamel and tin foil were given as being suitable for microwave use.
- (d) (i) In general the guidelines were good, though few gained full marks. “Do not stand in front of the microwave or open the door when in use” was a common warning.
- (d) (ii) This was very poorly attempted. In fact, most candidates did not have any understanding of what the term “standing time” means.
- (e) Most candidates did not use full sentences to give the points to be considered when buying a microwave cooker, e.g. consider cost, colour, space available, brand.

**Q6. Response rate 44%**

- (a) The factors that were listed were generally good and in keeping with the suggested occasion.
- (b) Sketches were excellent, but descriptions were lacking in detail or were omitted altogether.
- (c) Cotton was the most common fabric chosen. Some chose more than one fabric. Reasons for the choice of fabric/s were very good.
- (d) Very few candidates got full marks for the care label. This was mainly due to lack of detail, i.e. only one point given.
- (e) (i) (ii) Excellently attempted by most candidates, though two pieces of jewellery were given in some cases.



## ORDINARY LEVEL

### 1. AVERAGE MARK AND RESPONSE RATE PER QUESTION

QUESTION	AVERAGE MARK (40 per Question)	Average Mark (Rank Order)	Response Rate %	Response Rate (Rank Order)
Section A	62 (out of 80)			
1	28	4	79	5/6
2	30	2	87	2
3	31	1	94	1
4	28	5	80	4
5	28	3	79	5/6
6	27	6	81	3

Based on an analysis of the initial random Sample 20 selection of scripts.

### 2. SECTION A

**Average Mark: 62 (77.25%)**

The majority of students attempted all questions in this section and it proved to be of great benefit to candidates as the high marks attained here contributed to higher grades overall. The wide range of topics facilitated all candidates. Mark loss was attributable to specific questions. “Ways of reducing fat intake” was confused with sugar intake and doing exercise. Many candidates gave methods of cooking eggs as opposed to uses. The naming of the areas in the work triangle was also misunderstood; many responses referred to the fridge as a work-top, food preparation area. Similarly areas in the home to be insulated were confused with actual rooms. The final part of the last question in this section was invariably incorrect.

#### QUESTION 1

**Average Mark: 28 (71.08%)**

**Response Rate: 79.41%**

The first part of this question did not often score full marks. Candidates confused the importance of protein with general nutrition and consequently lost marks. Reasons why we cook meat was well understood as was part (d). Errors noted in part (d) included duplication of methods and naming equipment, but that was in the minority of responses.

Invariably the last part of the question was well done with the majority of candidates attaining full marks.

## QUESTION 2

**Average Mark: 30 (74.12%)**

**Response Rate: 87.25%**

This was the second most popular question of the examination with candidates obtaining the second highest marks on average. In part (a) naming one root vegetable did not present any difficulty for the majority of candidates, thus obtaining full marks, however leek and onion were named as pulse vegetables which resulted in a loss of marks. In part (b) one garnish only was generally given, with a minority of candidates confusing a garnish with an accompaniment.

Overall the menus were good, however common errors noted were poor layouts and lists of foods rather than dishes.

Parts (d) and (e) proved to be difficult. Weaker answers were characterised by vague, over-generalised points. The minority of candidates attained full marks for the last parts of this question.

## QUESTION 3

**Average Mark: 31 (77.83%)**

**Response Rate: 94.5%**

This was the most popular question of the examination. All sections were attempted with candidates attaining the highest marks on average. Points to consider when buying a CD were well done with the majority achieving high to maximum marks. Weaker responses usually concentrated on monosyllabic answers.

The majority of students encountered difficulty with part (b). For the most part candidates misinterpreted sources of information and replicated responses from part (a), thus mark loss was very high.

Maximum marks available were generally attained for part (c) with candidates displaying a good understanding of the importance of a receipt.

Responses for part (d) varied from good to excellent. While candidates clearly understood what action should be taken in a general way only the very good candidate received maximum marks attainable.

The last part was well done, however a disadvantage proved more difficult for a minority of students.

## QUESTION 4

**Average Mark: 28 (69.45%)**

**Response Rate: 80.5%**

All parts of this question were attempted, however answering in many cases was very generalised and vague. In part (b) the majority of candidates focused on one change only thus attaining only half marks. Examples of teenage behaviour was well understood; maximum marks available were generally achieved.

Activities which help to maintain good relationships were not very varied and often overlapped. Mark loss here was attributable mainly to a failure to distinguish three separate activities.

Responses for the last part were good. Weaker answers included duplication of points.

## QUESTION 5

**Average Mark: 28 (71.20%)**

**Response Rate: 79.33%**

This was the least popular question of the examination. However, all parts of the question were attempted with candidates receiving good marks in all areas and displaying a high degree of knowledge about the environment. Mark loss in part (b) was characterised by an inability to develop a point and a duplication of responses.

Candidates had no difficulty identifying the symbol in part (c), thus high marks were attained here.

Responses for the last two parts of this question were good. Common errors noted were again duplication and in the case of the last part a failure to give a second point.

## QUESTION 6

**Average Mark: 27 (66.70%)**

**Response Rate: 80.66%**

This was quite a popular question with candidates however attaining the least amount of marks available. It was also one of the questions most frequently disallowed. Reasons why we wear clothes presented little difficulty as did part (b) with many candidates achieving full marks for both.

The sketch and description proved more difficult for the majority of students. Mark loss here was attributable to poor sketches, inability to identify an item of clothing as opposed to an outfit or footwear and an inability to describe their sketch except in the most rudimentary fashion. Only very good candidates achieved maximum marks available.

Responses to part (d) were generally good, whereas the last part of the question proved to be too difficult for the majority of candidates. Common errors included references to geographical locations, movie stars and clothing. Mark loss here was very high.

## HIGHER LEVEL

### 1998 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE STATISTICS

#### SCHOOL BASED CANDIDATES ONLY

Subjects	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	Grade F	Grade NG	TOTALS
Eacnamaíocht Bhaile	1564	8985	6050	1120	55	11	1	17786
Home Economics	8.8	50.5	34.0	6.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	
Total Female	1537	8493	5381	897	41	9	1	16359
% Female	9.4	51.9	32.9	5.5	0.3	0.1	0.0	
Total Male	27	492	669	223	14	2	0	1427
% Male	1.9	34.5	46.9	15.6	1.0	0.1	0.0	

### 1999 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE STATISTICS

#### SCHOOL BASED CANDIDATES ONLY

Subjects	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	Grade F	Grade NG	TOTALS
Eacnamaíocht Bhaile	1684	8543	5569	855	47	19	6	16723
Home Economics	10.1	51.1	33.3	5.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	
Total Female	1641	8084	4916	692	38	18	4	15393
% Female	10.7	52.5	31.9	4.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	
Total Male	43	459	653	163	9	1	2	1330
% Male	3.2	34.5	49.1	12.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	

### 2000 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE STATISTICS

#### SCHOOL BASED CANDIDATES ONLY

Subjects	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	Grade F	Grade NG	TOTALS
Eacnamaíocht Bhaile	1693	8299	5215	844	44	11	4	16110
Home Economics	10.5	51.5	32.4	5.2	0.3	0.1	0.0	
Total Female	1649	7882	4628	646	30	5	3	14843
% Female	11.1	53.1	31.2	4.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	
Total Male	44	417	587	198	14	6	1	1267
% Male	3.5	32.9	46.3	15.6	1.1	0.5	0.1	

# ORDINARY LEVEL

## 1998 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE STATISTICS

### SCHOOL BASED CANDIDATES ONLY

Subjects	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	Grade F	Grade NG	TOTALS
Eacnamaíocht Bhaile	67	1677	2173	837	187	69	28	5038
Home Economics	1.3	33.3	43.1	16.6	3.7	1.4	0.6	
Total Female	58	1357	1519	494	104	39	16	3587
% Female	1.6	37.8	42.3	13.8	2.9	1.1	0.4	
Total Male	9	320	654	343	83	30	12	1451
% Male	0.6	22.1	45.1	23.6	5.7	2.1	0.8	

## 1999 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE STATISTICS

### SCHOOL BASED CANDIDATES ONLY

Subjects	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	Grade F	Grade NG	TOTALS
Eacnamaíocht Bhaile	102	1792	2006	631	133	72	19	4755
Home Economics	2.1	37.7	42.2	13.3	2.8	1.5	0.4	
Total Female	96	1465	1382	330	76	36	12	3397
% Female	2.8	43.1	40.7	9.7	2.2	1.1	0.4	
Total Male	6	327	624	301	57	36	7	1358
% Male	0.4	24.1	45.9	22.2	4.2	2.7	0.5	

## 2000 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE STATISTICS

### SCHOOL BASED CANDIDATES ONLY

Subjects	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	Grade F	Grade NG	TOTALS
Eacnamaíocht Bhaile	127	2046	2039	568	143	58	33	5014
Home Economics	2.5	40.8	40.7	11.3	2.9	1.2	0.7	
Total Female	116	1618	1412	315	93	30	21	3605
% Female	3.2	44.9	39.2	8.7	2.6	0.8	0.6	
Total Male	11	428	627	253	50	28	12	1409
% Male	0.8	30.4	44.5	18.0	3.5	2.0	0.9	