



S13/12

## To: Management Authorities of Second Level Schools

### Junior Certificate Examination in Italian 2012

Following discussions with the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) the following adjustments will be made in respect of the layout and weightings of sections of the Junior Certificate Italian examination at Higher and Ordinary levels for the 2012 examinations and thereafter. The rationale for these adjustments is to bring closer harmonisation across the assessment structures in place for modern European languages.

#### (a) **Layout of the examination paper and conduct of the Listening Comprehension section of the examination at Higher and Ordinary Levels**

From 2012 onwards the layout of the examination paper and conduct of the Listening Comprehension will be as follows:

- (i) The structure and layout of Section A of the Listening Comprehension component of the examination will be altered to allow a clearer presentation of the questions. The changes to be put in place are illustrated using a remodelling of the 2011 examination papers at Higher and Ordinary levels, copies of which are enclosed.
- (ii) Section A of the Listening Comprehension will be played three times.

#### (b) **Distribution of marks in Part III Written Expression (80 marks) Higher Level**

From 2012 onwards the distribution of marks assigned to this section will be as follows:

- |       |              |                   |
|-------|--------------|-------------------|
| (i)   | Letter       | 40 marks          |
| (ii)  | Note/message | 20 marks          |
| (iii) | Grammar      | 20 marks (2 × 10) |

Please bring this circular to the attention of all teachers of the Junior Certificate Italian syllabus in your school.

If you have any queries please contact the State Examinations Commission at 090 644 2700.

Yours sincerely,  
Majella Smyth  
Higher Executive Officer  
January 2012