

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPEALS 2017

11th October 2017

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has released the appeal results for the 2017 Leaving Certificate examination. The appeal results have also been transmitted electronically to the Central Applications Office and will be available to candidates on the SEC's website, www.examinations.ie from 12:00 noon today.

In 2017, the Leaving Certificate examinations culminated in the issue of over 390,000 grades to 58,543 candidates. These candidates were afforded an opportunity to view their scripts in their schools at the beginning of September before making a decision as to whether or not they wished to appeal the results of one or more subjects. In making this decision, candidates had access to copies of the marking schemes for those subjects and could be accompanied to the viewing of their scripts by a parent or teacher. A total of 5,615 candidates made applications for appeals against 9,806 grades leading to 1,425 upgrades, which is 0.36% of all grades awarded in the 2017 Leaving Certificate examination. There were 4 downgrades in the appeal process this year.

The overall average rate of upgrades in 2017 is 14.5%, compared to 17.5% in 2016. This is primarily because of the introduction of 10% grade bands in the 2017 Leaving Certificate examination, compared with 5% grade bands formerly i.e. many candidates appealing a result now require much larger increases in marks in order to be awarded a higher grade during the appeals process.

In the processing of appeals, the work of each candidate is fully re-marked question by question using the original marking scheme. The re-marking is performed by a different examiner to the one who originally marked the work.

Candidates may opt to view their re-marked examination scripts. Candidates are required to complete the application form that accompanies the appeal results and to return it through the school that entered them for examination by Monday 16th October, 2017. Externally entered candidates should return the form directly to the SEC. All such applications must be with the SEC by 5pm on Tuesday 17th October, 2017. The viewing will be held in the Athlone offices of the SEC on Saturday 21st October between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

If still unhappy, candidates can refer their appeal to a panel of Independent Appeal Scrutineers, who are fully independent of the staff and management of the SEC and the marking teams. The candidates again have the option of raising any outstanding issues of concern regarding the marking of their work. The Scrutineers review the entire processing of the appeal so as to provide assurance to the candidate that it has been correctly carried out. They check that all issues raised by the candidate have been properly dealt with by the Chief Examiner, to whom the script will have been referred if there are any such outstanding issues. The SEC must implement all decisions of the Scrutineers.

Application forms for an appeal review by the Independent Appeal Scrutineers have been provided to candidates with their appeal results. Decisions of the SEC regarding appeals are open to review by the Office of the Ombudsman.

NUMBER AND OUTCOME OF APPEALS 2017

A total of 5,615 candidates made applications for appeals against 9,806 grades leading to 1,425 upgrades, which is 0.36% of all grades awarded.

| SUBJECT | LEVEL | GRADES | APPEALS | UPGRADES | As a % of Grades |
|------------------------|-------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| ACCOUNTING | A | 5379 | 245 | 45 | 0.8% |
| AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE | A | 6376 | 306 | 68 | 1.1% |
| APPLIED MATHEMATICS | A | 1869 | 64 | 7 | 0.4% |
| ART | A | 7737 | 246 | 20 | 0.3% |
| BIOLOGY | A | 26684 | 1104 | 208 | 0.8% |
| BUSINESS | A | 13219 | 501 | 51 | 0.4% |
| CHEMISTRY | A | 8162 | 351 | 52 | 0.6% |
| CLASSICAL STUDIES | A | 563 | 67 | 10 | 1.8% |
| CONSTRUCTION STUDIES | A | 7451 | 72 | 7 | 0.1% |
| DESIGN & COMMUNICATION | A | 4445 | 91 | 11 | 0.2% |
| ECONOMICS | A | 4976 | 251 | 35 | 0.7% |
| ENGINEERING | A | 4586 | 30 | 5 | 0.1% |
| ENGLISH | G | 15389 | 21 | 4 | 0.0% |
| ENGLISH | A | 38749 | 1688 | 198 | 0.5% |
| FRENCH | A | 15934 | 511 | 83 | 0.5% |
| FRENCH | G | 9449 | 36 | 6 | 0.1% |
| GEOGRAPHY | A | 19294 | 498 | 83 | 0.4% |
| GERMAN | A | 5618 | 185 | 21 | 0.4% |
| HISTORY | A | 8994 | 334 | 73 | 0.8% |
| HOME ECONOMICS | A | 9412 | 301 | 43 | 0.5% |
| IRISH | G | 22521 | 36 | 4 | 0.0% |
| IRISH | A | 22122 | 899 | 95 | 0.4% |
| LINKS MODULES | C | 14038 | 146 | 27 | 0.2% |
| MATHEMATICS | A | 16395 | 804 | 128 | 0.8% |
| MATHEMATICS | G | 32335 | 259 | 56 | 0.2% |
| MATHEMATICS | B | 5936 | 13 | 4 | 0.1% |
| MUSIC | A | 6050 | 220 | 14 | 0.2% |
| PHYSICS | A | 6271 | 241 | 20 | 0.3% |
| PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY | A | 481 | 17 | 1 | 0.2% |
| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | A | 1202 | 26 | 0 | 0.0% |
| SPANISH | A | 4916 | 153 | 30 | 0.6% |
| TECHNOLOGY | A | 1367 | 19 | 3 | 0.2% |
| TOTALS* | | 392,733 | 9,806 | 1425 | 0.36% |

*Totals are in respect of All Subjects not just those subjects in which appeals were made. It is not the sum of grades in the preceding columns.

Level: A = Ard (Higher), G = Gnath (Ordinary), B = Bonn (Foundation), C = Common.

Subjects where there were 10 or less candidates who appealed their result are outlined below.

Higher Level: Agricultural Economics, Arabic, Danish, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian.

Ordinary Level: Accounting, Agricultural Science, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Design & Communication, Economics, German, Home Economics, Physics, Spanish, Technology.

Foundation Level: n/a

The figures exclude a small number of appeals which have yet to be finalised.

ENDS

All Media enquiries to:

Cathal McDonagh

Press Officer

Phone 090 6442770 or 087 2830355

Jackie Wade

Deputy Press Officer

Phone 090 6442851 or 087 180 4466

Email: sec.pressoffice@examinations.ie