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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2018

Almost 57,150 candidates receive results today

15th August 2018

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) congratulates and wishes well for the future the candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2018 and whose results issued today.

The statements of provisional results of this year's examinations are available in schools today. From midday, students who are not in a position to collect their results in person from their school can access them through the SEC's internet results service.

General Overview of Leaving Certificate 2018

The overall number sitting the examinations is 57,149 in 2018. Of the candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 54,440 candidates followed the Leaving Certificate (Established) programme, of which 13,368 (24.5%) followed the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. A further 2,709 (4.7%) candidates followed the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

A new Leaving Certificate grading system has been in place since 2017. This new grading system reduces the number of grades from 14 in the old system, which was in place since 1992, to 8 under the revised arrangements. There has been no change in the examination standards of the Leaving Certificate, rather the change relates to how candidates' results are reported to them through the new grading system. The results obtained this year are generally broadly in line with those obtained in 2017. More information on this new grading system is available below in the Notes for Editors.

This year sees the first examination in the Leaving Certificate subject Politics and Society, with 867 candidates in 41 schools receiving their results this morning. 2018 also sees changed assessment arrangements in Leaving Certificate Art. While there has been no change in the subject specification, a new assessment framework has been introduced. Two of the previous four components of the Leaving Certificate Art examination were replaced with a single coursework component. The Imaginative Composition or Still Life component and the Craft or Design component were executed as coursework by students over an extended period of time and were no longer taken as standalone examination sessions in May. Instead of producing artefacts in invigilated examinations over a short space of time, candidates develop and make their work over 12 weeks in their classroom using a Coursework workbook issued by the SEC. This allows candidates to experiment with ideas and media as well as review and edit their work.

What Candidates Should Do Next

Candidates receiving results today can find detailed information about viewing their scripts and appealing their results in the **2018 Candidate Information Booklet** which they received before the examinations commenced. This booklet, also available from www.examinations.ie,

<https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-CA-60294532.pdf> explains the marking, viewing and appeals and post-appeals processes in an accessible question and answer format. Candidates should adhere to the instructions provided in order to ensure that they lodge valid requests for viewing marked scripts and appealing results.

Access to Examination Scripts

Under a ruling by the European Court of Justice, examinations scripts are now classified as personal data and accordingly candidates can seek copies of their scripts. Data access requests for scripts may be made to the SEC but it could take up to 90 days from the issue date of the Leaving Certificate results, or longer if they appeal, before a candidate receives a copy of their script under the Data Protection legislation. **By the time they receive a copy of the script, the opportunity to appeal the result will have passed.**

Candidates need to be aware that the only opportunity that they will have to access their written examination scripts **in advance** of the appeal application closing date is to apply to view their script at one of the three Viewing of Scripts sessions taking place on the 31st August and 1st September. Under a new initiative this year, candidates viewing scripts are allowed to bring a mobile phone, tablet or digital camera with them to the viewing session in order to make a copy of their own script(s).

Viewing of Marked Scripts

This free service offers all candidates the opportunity to view one or more of their marked examination scripts to see how the marking scheme has been applied to their work. Candidates do not need to have viewed their script to make an appeal but anyone considering an appeal is strongly advised to view their scripts first. As in previous years, candidates must attend the viewing session themselves, accompanied by a person of their choice, and, this year, can bring a mobile phone, tablet or digital camera with them to the viewing session in order to make a copy of their own scripts.

With the exception of external candidates, all applications for Viewing of Marked Scripts should be made through the candidate's school. **The closing date for receipt of completed application forms in schools is Tuesday 21st August 2018.**

External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results.

The Viewing of Scripts will take place in schools on Friday 31st August and Saturday 1st September 2018

Marking Schemes

Candidates will have access to the Marking Schemes at the viewing sessions and will be able to see how these were applied to their work. The Leaving Certificate marking schemes will be issued to schools at the end of August to facilitate the Viewing of Scripts and will also be available on www.examinations.ie.

Appeals

To appeal a result, Leaving Certificate candidates should use the On-line Appeal Application Service on www.examinations.ie. This service, which allows candidates convenient access to making and paying for an appeal, will be available from 12 midday on Monday 20th August until 5pm on Monday 3rd September.

Access to the service is via examination number and the previously issued PIN and at the end of the transaction the candidate will be provided with an **Appeal Confirmation Form** showing the subjects which they have opted to appeal. In order to make a valid appeal, they must return this form to the school where they sat their examinations. The appeal application is only

complete if the form is returned to the school and candidates have until the evening of Monday 3rd September to do so.

Candidates who took the Leaving Certificate Applied programme can obtain a personalised appeal application from their school.

Results of appeals will be issued in mid-October.

Admissions to Higher Education

The SEC transmits the results of all candidates electronically to the Central Applications Office (CAO). This brings about the earliest possible issue of college place offers to candidates.

Chief Examiners' Reports

Chief Examiners' Reports provide a review of the performance of candidates in the examinations and contain detailed analysis of all aspects of the examining process. They also contain recommendations for teachers and students and generally include examples of candidates' answers. There has been a difference in emphasis in the Chief Examiners Reports since 2013, which has linked the assessment objectives with the learning objectives outlined in the syllabi. Reports are published in a selected number of subjects and programmes each year. Following the 2018 examinations, Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the Leaving Certificate subjects, Politics and Society, Art, Accounting and Applied Mathematics. It is expected to publish the reports in Spring 2019.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 2,709 students took their final stage examinations in the two year Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme. LCA students have been building their credits right through the two years of their Leaving Certificate course, so today brings the final stage and full recognition of their achievements.

The results for LCA students differ from those of their counterparts in the established Leaving Certificate. Graduates from the LCA programme receive a single award made on the basis of credits accumulated over the two year cycle and in the final examinations. This award is given at three levels: Pass for those students with total credits of 60% or over but less than 70%; Merit for 70% or over but less than 85%; and Distinction for 85% and above.

The numbers taking the LCA programme over the past five years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Record	TOTAL
2014	609	1,496	406	453	2,964
2015	544	1,442	430	471	2,887
2016	529	1,369	396	464	2,758
2017	588	1,337	378	470	2,773
2018	538	1,322	357	492	2,709

Table 1 LCA Results 2014-2018

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an optional, two year, academic and experience-based programme, available in 2 out of 3 post-primary schools. Candidates following the LCVP take a specified range of Leaving Certificate (Established) subjects as well as a formal and practical programme called the Links Modules. The Links Modules consists of compulsory work experience and enterprise activity together with personal vocational exploration and substantial use of information technology.

The numbers taking the subject over the past five years and the grades awarded are shown in the

following table:

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Unsuccessful	TOTAL
2014	1,730	7,538	4,750	1,256	15,274
2015	1,620	8,326	4,148	830	14,924
2016	1,870	7,454	4,291	1,022	14,637
2017	1,542	7,793	3,942	748	14,025
2018	1,561	6,929	3,935	943	13,368

Table 2 LCVP Results 2014—2018

Non-curricular EU Languages

The SEC provides examinations in a range of EU non-curricular languages. In order to simplify the administration of these examinations, all non-curricular EU language subjects were again scheduled for a single examination session this year. It is intended to continue this practice in future years. There is a slight increase in the candidature for the non-curricular EU languages this year – a total of 1,461 as against 1,431 in 2017. Examinations in Slovenian and Maltese were taken for the first time this year.

The following table provides the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2018.

Subject	2018
Dutch	29
Portuguese	84
Polish	687
Latvian	63
Lithuanian	156
Romanian	267
Hungarian	38
Czech	13
Slovakian	25
Bulgarian	15
Croatian	47
Modern Greek	18
Others with 10 or less candidates *	19
Total	1,461

Table 3 Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2018

*Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Maltese, Slovenian and Estonian.

Advice for Candidates

A helpline facility will be operating from early on 15th August to provide information and advice to students and parents at results time. The helpline number operated by the National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) is: 1800 265 165

(Note: This helpline facility is not operated by the State Examinations Commission)

All statistics provided in this press release are provisional for 2018 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The SEC publishes on its website www.examinations.ie statistical information on the results of the 2018 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with more than 10 candidates. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, the SEC only publishes details of individual subjects/levels for more than 10 candidates.

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2014 – 2018

	Leaving Certificate (Established and LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total	Annual % Change
2014	54,025	2,964	56,989	+2.5%
2015	55,044	2,887	57,931	+1.6%
2016	55,708	2,758	58,465	+0.9%
2017	55,770	2,773	58,543	+0.1%
2018	54,440	2,709	57,149	-2.4%

Table 4 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2014-2018

2014 figures include 2,578 External and 1,768 Repeat Candidates.

2015 figures include 2,616 External and 1,670 Repeat Candidates.

2016 figures include 2,819 External and 1,445 Repeat Candidates.

2017 figures include 2,623 External and 1,172 Repeat Candidates.

2018 figures include 2,556 External and 907 Repeat Candidates.

Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line from 12:00 midday Wednesday, 15th August, 2018.

Access to the on-line results service, which requires the use of the candidate's examination number and unique candidate Personal Identification Number, is through www.examinations.ie.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms to view scripts is Tuesday 21st August 2018. The Viewing of Scripts takes place in schools on Friday 31st August and Saturday 1st September. Having applied for an appeal using the On-Line Appeal Application service, candidates have until the evening of Monday 3rd September to return their Appeal Confirmation Form to their school.

Notes for Editors

The following further information is provided below:

- A. New Leaving Certificate Grading System (introduced in 2017)
- B. Leaving Certificate Sits by county and gender
- C. Leaving Certificate Applied Sits by county and gender

Details of the SEC's approach to setting standards in the marking of the examinations is set out in the SEC publication "Setting and Maintaining Standards in the State Examinations" which is available in the About Us Section of the SEC's website www.examinations.ie or from the link <https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-AU-67246950.pdf>.

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A. NEW LEAVING CERTIFICATE GRADING SYSTEM

A new grading system has been applied to all Leaving Certificate subjects since 2017. The new grading system reduces the number of grades from 14 in the old system to 8 under the revised arrangements. The following table provides an explanation of the revised grading system compared to the previous grading system

Level	OLD GRADE SYSTEM		NEW GRADE SYSTEM	
	Percentage	Grade Descriptor	Percentage	Grade Descriptor
Higher, Ordinary, Foundation/ Ard, Gnath, Bonn	≥ 90 to 100	A1	≥ 90 to 100	1
	≥ 85 and < 90	A2	≥ 80 and < 90	2
	≥ 80 and < 85	B1	≥ 70 and < 80	3
	≥ 75 and < 80	B2	≥ 60 and < 70	4
	≥ 70 and < 75	B3	≥ 50 and < 60	5
	≥ 65 and < 70	C1	≥ 40 and < 50	6
	≥ 60 and < 65	C2	≥ 30 and < 40	7
	≥ 55 and < 60	C3	≥ 0 and < 30	8
	≥ 50 and < 55	D1		
	≥ 45 and < 50	D2		
	≥ 40 and < 45	D3		
	≥ 25 and < 40	E		
	≥ 10 and < 25	F		
	≥ 0 and < 10	NG		

The new grading system is being used on the Statements of Provisional Examination Results and on the final Leaving Certificates. The grades are used consistently across all three examination levels – Higher, Ordinary and Foundation. The Statements and Certificates will indicate the level taken using the following notation beside each subject:

Higher/Ard level,	H/A
Ordinary/Gnath level,	O/G
Foundation/Bonn level	F/B

B. LEAVING CERTIFICATE SITS BY COUNTY AND GENDER**(Includes external candidates)**

COUNTY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
CARLOW	450	391	841
CAVAN	338	416	754
CLARE	670	568	1,238
CORK	3,112	3,103	6,215
DONEGAL	1,019	999	2,018
DUBLIN	7,072	6,733	13,805
GALWAY	1,515	1,465	2,980
KERRY	880	833	1,713
KILDARE	1,241	1,396	2,637
KILKENNY	511	514	1,025
LAOIS	435	447	882
LEITRIM	222	215	437
LIMERICK	1,241	1,254	2,495
LONGFORD	284	290	574
LOUTH	875	842	1,717
MAYO	873	763	1,636
MEATH	1,093	1,078	2,171
MONAGHAN	385	360	745
OFFALY	420	446	866
ROSCOMMON	293	249	542
SLIGO	357	372	729
TIPPERARY	1,120	1,049	2,169
WATERFORD	698	745	1,443
WESTMEATH	748	646	1,394
WEXFORD	937	829	1,766
WICKLOW	787	817	1,604
SUBTOTAL OF COUNTIES	27,576	26,820	54,396
LIBYA	20	24	44
Grand Total	27,596	26,844	54,440

C. LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED SITS BY COUNTY AND GENDER

(Includes external candidates)

COUNTY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
CARLOW	-	-	-
CAVAN	20	32	52
CLARE	25	25	50
CORK	102	145	247
DONEGAL	28	76	104
DUBLIN	342	382	724
GALWAY	38	55	93
KERRY	30	59	89
KILDARE	42	109	151
KILKENNY	-	-	22
LAOIS	21	17	38
LIMERICK	97	105	202
LOUTH	49	79	128
MAYO	30	44	74
MEATH	38	73	111
MONAGHAN	19	19	38
OFFALY	35	45	80
ROSCOMMON	-	-	14
SLIGO	23	29	52
TIPPERARY	46	51	97
WATERFORD	56	55	111
WESTMEATH	-	-	20
WEXFORD	58	65	123
WICKLOW	36	47	83
Grand Total	1,163	1,546	2,709

- 10 or less candidates