

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2017

Almost 58,550 candidates receive results today

16th August 2017

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) congratulates and wishes well for the future the candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2017 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 the Leaving Certificate

The overall number sitting the examinations has increased by 0.1% from 58,465 candidates in 2016 to 58,543 in 2017. Of the candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 55,770 candidates followed the Leaving Certificate (Established) programme, of which 14,025 (25%) followed the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. A further 2,773 (4.7%) candidates followed the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

There has been an upward shift in participation rates at Higher Level across almost all subjects. While the overall range of results obtained in 2017 remain broadly in line with those of previous years, the shift in candidature to Higher Level consequentially has had some impact on the results profiles at both Higher and Ordinary levels. This is evident at the lower grades at Higher Level and the upper grades at Ordinary level.

New Leaving Certificate Grading System

A new grading system was applied to all Leaving Certificate subjects in 2017. The 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. More information on this new system is available below in the Notes for Editors.

What Candidates Should Do Next

Candidates are strongly advised to consult the *Leaving Certificate Candidate Information Booklet* that they received earlier this year, when deciding on their next course of action. (A copy of this booklet is available on the SEC website www.examinations.ie) Candidates should adhere to the instructions provided in order to ensure that they lodge valid requests for viewing marked scripts and appealing results.

Viewing of Marked Scripts

This free service offers all candidates the opportunity to view one or more of their marked examination scripts and to see how the marking scheme has been applied to their work. This facility assists candidates in deciding whether or not to lodge an appeal against a result. 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 22nd August 2017.

External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results. 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 Viewing of Scripts will take place in schools on Friday 1st September and Saturday 2nd September 2017.

Marking Schemes

Marking Schemes in all Leaving Certificate subjects will be published and made available to schools to facilitate the Viewing of Marked Scripts. The marking schemes will also be available on www.examinations.ie.

Appeals

School-based candidates who wish to appeal should do so through their school. External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results. All appeal applications must be with the State Examinations Commission by 5pm on Wednesday 6th September. 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 2017 examinations, Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the Leaving Certificate subjects, Irish, Home Economics, Engineering, and History. It is expected to publish the reports in Spring 2018.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 2,773 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. 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
2013	552	1,376	477	405	2,810
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

Table 1 LCA Results 2013-2017

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
2013	1,707	7,622	5,117	1,233	15,679
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

Table 2 Link Modules Results 2013—2017

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 1,431 as against 1,425 in 2016.

The following table provides the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2017.

Subject	2017
Dutch	15
Portuguese	84
Polish	693
Latvian	75
Lithuanian	213
Romanian	193
Hungarian	53
Czech	16
Slovakian	22
Bulgarian	12
Croatian	36
Others less than 10 candidates *	19
Total	1,431

Table 3 Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2017

*Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish, Swedish and Estonian.

Advice for Candidates

A helpline facility will be operating from early on 16th 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 2017 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The SEC publishes on its website (www.examinations.ie) statistical documentation on the results of the 2017 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with 10 candidates or more. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, the SEC only publishes details of individual subjects/levels for 10 or more candidates.

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2013 – 2017

	Leaving Certificate (Established and LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total	Annual % Change
2013	52,767	2,810	55,577	-0.4%
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%

Table 4 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2013-2017

2013 figures include 2,743 External and 1,948 Repeat Candidates.
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.

Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line from 12:00 midday Wednesday, 16th August, 2017.

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 22nd August 2017. The closing date for receipt by the SEC of applications to appeal results is Wednesday 6th September 2017.

Notes for Editors

The following further information is provided below:

- A. New Leaving Certificate Grading System
- B. Leaving Certificate Sits by county and gender
- C. Leaving Certificate Applied Sits by county and gender

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A. NEW LEAVING CERTIFICATE GRADING SYSTEM

A new grading system has been applied to all Leaving Certificate subjects in 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	403	451	854
CAVAN	446	407	853
CLARE	666	667	1333
CORK	3141	3248	6389
DONEGAL	1126	1045	2171
DUBLIN	6994	7032	14026
GALWAY	1538	1597	3135
KERRY	954	841	1795
KILDARE	1314	1406	2720
KILKENNY	506	510	1016
LAOIS	423	438	861
LEITRIM	247	219	466
LIMERICK	1222	1299	2521
LONGFORD	287	266	553
LOUTH	887	815	1702
MAYO	791	813	1604
MEATH	1072	1103	2175
MONAGHAN	427	417	844
OFFALY	439	418	857
ROSCOMMON	247	246	493
SLIGO	366	382	748
TIPPERARY	1080	1054	2134
WATERFORD	792	809	1601
WESTMEATH	741	690	1431
WEXFORD	969	870	1839
WICKLOW	808	802	1610
COUNTIES TOTAL	27886	27845	55731
LIBYA	15	24	39
GRAND TOTAL	27901	27869	55770

C. LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED SITS BY COUNTY AND GENDER

(Includes external candidates)

COUNTY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
CARLOW	-	-	30
CAVAN	23	32	55
CLARE	39	47	86
CORK	116	95	211
DONEGAL	55	59	114
DUBLIN	282	394	676
GALWAY	40	31	71
KERRY	42	37	79
KILDARE	70	97	167
KILKENNY	13	23	36
LAOIS	26	13	39
LEITRIM	-	-	-
LIMERICK	80	107	187
LONGFORD	-	-	-
LOUTH	73	81	154
MAYO	41	56	97
MEATH	57	62	119
MONAGHAN	11	32	43
OFFALY	31	51	82
ROSCOMMON	-	-	24
SLIGO	-	-	29
TIPPERARY	45	65	110
WATERFORD	52	71	123
WESTMEATH	-	-	20
WEXFORD	60	72	132
WICKLOW	32	44	76
GRAND TOTAL	1247	1526	2773

- Less than 10 candidates