

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

2016 STATE EXAMINATIONS

Over 120,000 Students Sit Exams This Year

Wednesday 8th June 2016

(The Notes for Editors at the end includes key logistics, details of non-curricular EU Language subjects and statistical tables including tables of entries by county. A detailed Examinations Information & Statistics Pack has been published in the Press Office section of www.examinations.ie.)

On Wednesday 8th June 2016, some 120,000 candidates will commence their Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations across over 5,000 examination centres countywide.

Mr. Pat Burke, Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), sends his best wishes and those of his fellow Commissioners on behalf of the SEC to all sitting the State examinations in 2016.

He said: *“The State examinations represent the culmination of much hard work by students, their families and schools. The Commission is committed to ensuring that the examinations are conducted to the highest standards in an open, and fair manner. It is our objective to enable each candidate display his or her achievements during what can be a stressful time. I know that the continued support of families and the wider education community and beyond is essential at this time. The Commission wishes all those involved the very best over the coming three weeks of examinations”.*

From the June bank holiday weekend, over 5,000 superintendents involved in supervising the written examinations will take possession of the locked boxes containing the 4 million examination papers that are required by candidates over the 13 day examination period. Over 4,300 examiners will then be involved in marking the work presented by candidates in the written examinations. This is in addition to over 2,300 examiners required to mark the oral and practical tests.

The examinations run until Thursday 23rd June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 24th June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 16th June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday 17th August 2016. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2016.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Further detailed information, including additional information on the 2016 examination changes is available in our Media Information Pack on www.examinations.ie

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1. KEY LOGISTICS

Established in 2003, the SEC assumed responsibility from the Department of Education and Skills for the operation of the second level examinations of the Irish State: the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate. The SEC is based at Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The SEC currently employs just over 150 permanent staff supplemented by 80 temporary staff at peak period to assist in key seasonal functions such as the packing and distribution of examination material and the examination resulting process.

To give an idea of the scale of activities involved in conducting the state examinations, it is worth noting that the 2015 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes:

- Providing examinations to **117,453 candidates** across all examination programmes; **59,522** at Junior Certificate, **55,044** at Leaving Certificate, and **2,887** at Leaving Certificate Applied Programme;
- Arranging for **examinations** in **90** curricular and **16** non-curricular examination subjects;
- Engaging **578 drafters**, setters and translators to develop **506** different test **instruments** – including oral tests, aural recordings, practical briefs, project briefs, portfolio and coursework items as well as the written examination papers;
- Producing **4 million** examination **papers** comprised of **almost 50 million A4 pages**;
- Arranging for the recording of some **90,000** Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied oral tests;
- Engaging **5,055 superintendents** to superintend at ordinary examination centres;
- Providing **19,806 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate candidates with individual needs to access the certificate examinations and **10,223 special examination centres** as a result;
- Engaging **6,709 examiners** to mark the examinations comprised of 4,307 written examiners, 1,146 oral examiners and 1,256 practical examiners;
- Examining over **1.9 million individual test items** including written examination scripts, art and craftwork pieces, project and practical pieces in Leaving Certificate Construction Studies and Engineering and Junior Certificate Metalwork, Materials Technology (Wood) and Technology, oral tests, coursework journals, research reports and portfolios;
- Generating just under **1 million individual grades** leading to the award of **117,453 examination results**;
- Returning **360,000 marked scripts** to schools for viewing;
- Processing some **14,249 appeals** at Leaving & Junior Certificate.

Please see our website, www.examinations.ie for further details including the 2016 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2015, sample and past examination papers, and general information on the organisation and management of the examinations and the SEC.

Background information on the development of the non-curricular language subjects is available from the 2016 Media Information Pack on the SEC website www.examinations.ie

2. NON-CURRICULAR EU LANGUAGE SUBJECTS

The SEC provides examinations in a range of subjects in the language area referred to as the non-curricular EU languages. These are languages which do not appear as part of the normal school curriculum but which students may opt to be examined in if they meet certain criteria. Chief among these conditions are the requirements that candidates for these examinations:

- Be from a member state of the European Union;
- Speak the language in which they opt to be examined in as a mother tongue;
- Have followed a programme of study leading to the Leaving Certificate;
- Are taking Leaving Certificate English.

Another condition is that candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only and for this reason in 2016, the SEC has scheduled all of the non-curricular examinations for one session – **Monday 20th June 9.30am to 12.30pm**

For the 2016 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following sixteen non-curricular language subjects:

Bulgarian	Croatian	Czech	Danish
Dutch	Estonian	Finnish	Greek Modern
Hungarian	Latvian	Lithuanian	Polish
Portuguese	Romanian	Slovakian	Swedish

The following table compares the predicted candidate entries for these subjects in the 2016 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these examinations in 2015.

Subject	2015 (Sits)	2016 (entries)
Dutch	19	22
Portuguese	92	105
Polish	671	751
Latvian	83	78
Lithuanian	247	223
Romanian	138	177
Hungarian	24	49
Czech	15	17
Slovakian	30	30
Bulgarian	10	17
Croatian	-	28
Others less than 10 2015#	15	
Others less than 10 2016*		27
Total	1,344	1,524

Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2015 V 2016

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

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

3. STATISTICAL TABLES

- A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2013-2016
- B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2013-2015
- C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2016
- D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2016
- E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2016

A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2013-2016

This table compares the numbers of candidates who were entered for the examinations immediately prior to the commencement of the written examinations in June this year and in each of the previous three years.

	Established Leaving Certificate (including LCVP*)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
2013	53,749	2,853	60,243	116,845
2014	54,933	3,042	60,698	118,673
2015	55,963	2,902	59,919	118,784
2016	56,595	2,811	60,652	120,058

* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

B. Number of Candidates who sat the Certificate Examinations 2013-2015

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

	Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
2012	52,588	3,228	58,798	114,614
2013	52,767	2,810	59,822	115,399
2014	54,025	2,964	60,328	117,317
2015	55,044	2,887	59,522	117,453

C. PREDICTED LEAVING CERTIFICATE ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2016

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	444	416	860
Cavan	407	413	820
Clare	659	630	1289
Cork	3200	3292	6492
Donegal	1089	1082	2171
Dublin	7199	7016	14215
Galway	1450	1538	2988
Kerry	1020	986	2006
Kildare	1295	1378	2673
Kilkenny	500	530	1030
Laois	390	442	832
Leitrim	218	251	469
Limerick	1307	1293	2600
Longford	279	310	589
Louth	939	887	1826
Mayo	825	802	1627
Meath	1113	1125	2238
Monaghan	412	415	827
Offaly	504	506	1010
Roscommon	297	266	563
Sligo	421	419	840
Tipperary N.R	540	493	1033
Tipperary S.R	535	576	1111
Waterford	794	836	1630
Westmeath	686	718	1404
Wexford	944	917	1861
Wicklow	704	849	1553
Counties Total	28171	28386	56557
Malta	15	23	38
TOTAL	28186	28409	56595

D. PREDICTED LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2016

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow			0
Cavan	27	32	59
Clare	35	46	81
Cork	127	131	258
Donegal	49	88	137
Dublin	381	436	817
Galway	43	39	82
Kerry	29	39	68
Kildare	53	88	141
Kilkenny	5	13	18
Laois	16	14	30
Leitrim			0
Limerick	98	65	163
Longford	-	-	-
Louth	80	94	174
Mayo	33	44	77
Meath	35	66	101
Monaghan	15	15	30
Offaly	48	47	95
Roscommon	9	9	18
Sligo	18	31	49
Tipperary N.R	33	29	62
Tipperary S.R	22	37	59
Waterford	38	46	84
Westmeath	10	11	21
Wexford	44	66	110
Wicklow	25	47	72
Total	1273	1538	2811

- Total of less than 10 candidates

E. PREDICTED JUNIOR CERTIFICATE ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2016

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	440	459	899
Cavan	429	461	890
Clare	761	632	1393
Cork	3369	3388	6757
Donegal	1113	1147	2260
Dublin	7483	7658	15141
Galway	1637	1664	3301
Kerry	899	922	1821
Kildare	1463	1680	3143
Kilkenny	540	609	1149
Laois	520	499	1019
Leitrim	184	205	389
Limerick	1335	1404	2739
Longford	314	342	656
Louth	1033	1112	2145
Mayo	917	844	1761
Meath	1218	1247	2465
Monaghan	449	438	887
Offaly	500	550	1050
Roscommon	285	284	569
Sligo	410	450	860
Tipperary N.R	615	570	1185
Tipperary S.R	505	612	1117
Waterford	809	876	1685
Westmeath	734	714	1448
Wexford	1004	1030	2034
Wicklow	876	1013	1889
Total	29842	30810	60652

