

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

2017 STATE EXAMINATIONS

Almost 121,500 Students Sit Exams This Year

Wednesday 7th June 2017

(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 7th June 2017, some 121,470 candidates will commence their Leaving and Junior Certificate/Cycle examinations across the country.

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 2017.

He said: *“The State examinations is a significant event for students, their families and their wider school communities. Students will benefit from the continued calm reassurance of those who have supported them to this point. The Commission will also continue to play its part in ensuring that candidates are facilitated to achieve their best in examinations which are delivered in a fair and open manner. On behalf of the Commission and its staff, I wish everybody involved the very best over the course of the examinations.”*

From the June bank holiday weekend, examination superintendents involved in supervising the written examinations will take possession of the locked boxes containing the 4 million examination papers. The examinations will be held in some 5,170 examination centres across the country over the course of the 13 day examination period.

The examinations run until Wednesday 21st June for Junior Certificate/Cycle subjects and Friday 23rd June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 15th June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday 16th August 2017. Results of the Junior Certificate/Cycle will be available in mid-September 2017.

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 2016 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes:

- Providing examinations to **118,713** candidates across all examination programmes; **60,248** at Junior Certificate, **55,707** at Leaving Certificate, and **2,758** 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 47.7 million A4 pages**;
- Arranging for the recording of over **92,000** Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied oral tests;
- Engaging **5,123 superintendents** to superintend at ordinary examination centres;
- Providing **20,209 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate **16,764** candidates with individual needs (**14% of the overall cohort**) to access the certificate examinations and establishing **10,685 special examination centres** as a result;
- Engaging **6,848 examiners** to mark the examinations comprised of 4,417* written examiners, 1,154 oral examiners and 1,277 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 over **1 million individual grades** leading to the award of **118,713 examination results**;
- Returning **383,108 marked scripts** to schools for viewing;
- Processing some **13,399 appeals** at Leaving (incl LCA) and Junior Certificate.

** includes examiners of the written scripts and the supervisory teams for the Leaving (including Non-Curricular languages) and Junior Certificate examinations, along with those for the Leaving Certificate Applied.*

Please see our website, www.examinations.ie for further details including the 2017 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2016, sample and past examination papers, and general information on the organisation and management of the examinations and the SEC.

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 2017, the SEC has scheduled all of the non-curricular examinations for one session – **Thursday 8th June 9.30am to 12.30pm**. For the 2017 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following seventeen non-curricular language subjects, including Slovenian for the first time:

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

The following table compares the predicted candidate entries for these subjects in the 2017 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these examinations in 2016.

Subject	2016 (Sits)	2017 (entries)
Dutch	19	18
Portuguese	95	98
Polish	718	726
Latvian	73	83
Lithuanian	202	237
Romanian	167	208
Hungarian	45	58
Czech	15	19
Slovakian	30	26
Bulgarian	14	13
Croatian	22	38
Others less than 10 2016#	25	-
Others less than 10 2017*	-	26
Total	1,425	1,550

Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2016 and 2017

#Modern Greek, Danish, Estonian, Finnish and Swedish

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

Background information on the development of the non-curricular language subjects is available in the 2017 Media Information Pack on the SEC website www.examinations.ie

3. STATISTICAL TABLES

- A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2014-2017
- B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2013-2016
- C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2017
- D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2017
- E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2017

A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2014-2017

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
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
2017	56,580	2,814	62,076	121,470

* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

B. Number of Candidates who sat the Certificate Examinations 2013-2016

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

	Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
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
2016	55,707	2,758	60,248	118,713

C. PREDICTED LEAVING CERTIFICATE ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2017

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	411	460	871
Cavan	449	416	865
Clare	675	677	1,352
Cork	3,180	3,280	6,460
Donegal	1,146	1,061	2,207
Dublin	7,112	7,200	14,312
Galway	1,558	1,617	3,175
Kerry	961	850	1,811
Kildare	1,324	1,416	2,740
Kilkenny	508	517	1,025
Laois	427	448	875
Leitrim	248	223	471
Limerick	1,236	1,320	2,556
Longford	295	269	564
Louth	898	829	1,727
Mayo	797	824	1,621
Meath	1,079	1,115	2,194
Monaghan	428	422	850
Offaly	444	425	869
Roscommon	248	250	498
Sligo	371	389	760
Tipperary N.R.	556	474	1,030
Tipperary S.R.	536	594	1,130
Waterford	804	828	1,632
Westmeath	747	705	1,452
Wexford	978	879	1,857
Wicklow	818	817	1,635
Counties Total	28,234	28,305	56,539
Malta	17	24	41
TOTAL	28,251	28,329	56,580

D. PREDICTED LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2017

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	-	-	30
Cavan	23	32	55
Clare	39	47	86
Cork	116	95	211
Donegal	55	59	114
Dublin	289	401	690
Galway	43	34	77
Kerry	42	37	79
Kildare	70	103	173
Kilkenny	13	23	36
Laois	26	13	39
Leitrim	-	-	-
Limerick	80	112	192
Longford	-	-	-
Louth	74	81	155
Mayo	41	57	98
Meath	57	66	123
Monaghan	11	32	43
Offaly	31	51	82
Roscommon	-	-	24
Sligo	-	-	29
Tipperary N.R.	30	39	69
Tipperary S.R.	16	28	44
Waterford	52	70	122
Westmeath	-	-	23
Wexford	59	72	131
Wicklow	32	44	76
Total	1,259	1,555	2,814

- Less than 10 female, male or total candidates

E. PREDICTED JUNIOR CERTIFICATE ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2017

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	454	475	929
Cavan	437	445	882
Clare	763	737	1,500
Cork	3,418	3,525	6,943
Donegal	1,168	1,186	2,354
Dublin	7,710	7,756	15,466
Galway	1,615	1,675	3,290
Kerry	930	937	1,867
Kildare	1,524	1,744	3,268
Kilkenny	581	572	1,153
Laois	489	517	1,006
Leitrim	245	240	485
Limerick	1,334	1,404	2,738
Longford	346	374	720
Louth	982	1,098	2,080
Mayo	879	840	1,719
Meath	1,293	1,366	2,659
Monaghan	403	429	832
Offaly	533	553	1,086
Roscommon	288	316	604
Sligo	392	425	817
Tipperary N.R.	614	536	1,150
Tipperary S.R.	563	611	1,174
Waterford	845	897	1,742
Westmeath	757	743	1,500
Wexford	1,046	1,106	2,152
Wicklow	905	1,055	1,960
Grand Total	30,514	31,562	62,076