

PRESS EMBARGO UNTIL 6.00 AM WEDNESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2018

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE/CYCLE RESULTS 2018

Over 62,500 students to receive Provisional Junior Certificate/Cycle Results

12th September 2018

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) congratulates the candidates who sat the Junior Certificate/Cycle examination in 2018 and whose results issued today.

The SEC has issued the statements of provisional Junior Certificate/Cycle examination results in respect of 62,562 candidates which will be in schools today.

Overview

Over 622,000 individual grades in 25 different subjects are being delivered to the 30,744 female and 31,818 male candidates in this year's examination. Students can also access their results through the on-line examination results service on www.examinations.ie from 4pm today.

The overall numbers sitting the examination has increased by 1.5% on last year. The proportion of candidates who are re-entrants to education has decreased slightly to 0.9% of the cohort.

New Junior Cycle Programme

English was the first subject to be examined last year under the new Framework for Junior Cycle. In 2018, the results being presented for Junior Cycle English are again based on the new subject specification and assessment and grading system. These results represent student achievement in the SEC's Final Examination (including the Assessment Task, which was completed by students during Third Year).

Both the new grade format for English (Distinction, Higher Merit, etc.) and the old grade format (A, B, C, etc.) for all other subjects will again appear on the Statements of Provisional Examination Results issued by the SEC. The two formats will also appear on the *Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement* (JCPA) which will be generated by schools for issue to their students.

The JCPA will draw upon and report on student achievement across a range of areas of student learning in Junior Cycle, including Classroom-Based Assessments, Short Courses, Level 2 Learning Programmes (where appropriate), and other areas of learning, as well as the SEC examination results across all subjects. The JCPA will report the final grades awarded by the SEC for all subjects, including English, following the conclusion of the Junior Certificate/Cycle appeals and related processes.

More information on this system is available below in the Notes for Editors.

Appeals

Applications for review of Junior Certificate/Cycle examination results, which must be made through the candidate's school, should be received by the State Examinations Commission no later than 5pm on Friday, 12th October 2018. The fee for this service is €32.00 per subject which will be refunded in the event that a result is upgraded. Applications are accepted only from a school authority which must confirm that the result obtained is at variance with the result expected. It is planned to issue the results of the appeals in the week ending 23rd November 2018.

Marking Schemes

The official marking schemes for all subjects will be published on the SEC website, www.examinations.ie in the coming days.

On-Line Results Service

Candidates can access their results online from 4pm today, Wednesday 12th September 2018. Access to the service via examinations.ie requires the use of an examination number and a unique candidate Personal Identification Number. This service is not intended to replace the valuable results service and advice provided to students by schools at results issue time. The PIN and examination numbers required to access the service have already been issued to schools.

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 Junior Certificate/Cycle examinations for all subject levels with more than 10 candidates. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, the SEC only publishes details of subject/levels with results for more than 10 candidates.

	School Candidates	Re-entrants to Education¹	Total
2014	59,449	878	60,327
2015	58,765	756	59,521
2016	59,525	722	60,247
2017	61,051	603	61,654
2018	61,969	593	62,562

Table 1: Classification of candidates in Junior Certificate/Cycle

Notes for Editors

The following further information is provided below:

- A. New Junior Certificate/Cycle Grading System
- B. Junior Certificate/Cycle Sits by county and gender

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¹ Re-entrants to Education are candidates entered for the examination through education schemes such as the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme and Back to Education Initiative.

A. NEW JUNIOR CERTIFICATE / CYCLE GRADING SYSTEM

The following table provides an explanation of the current and revised grading system for Junior Cycle English and all other Junior Certificate subjects. Both sets of grades are in use this year and this dual presentation will continue until 2021 when the last of the Junior Certificate examinations are terminated.

Level	Junior Cycle English		All Other Subjects	
	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
Higher, Ordinary, Foundation / Ard, Gnath, Bonn ²	≥ 90 to 100	Distinction	≥ 85 to 100	A
	≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit	≥ 70 and < 85	B
	≥ 55 and < 75	Merit	≥ 55 and < 70	C
	≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved	≥ 40 and < 55	D
	≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved	≥ 25 and < 40	E
	≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded (NG)	≥ 10 and < 25	F
			≥ 0 and < 10	NG

Both the old and the new grade formats will appear side-by-side on the Statements of Provisional Examination Results issued by the SEC and on the *Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement* (JCPA) which will be generated by schools for issue to their students. The JCPA will include details of the final grades awarded by the SEC following the conclusion of the Junior Certificate/Cycle appeals and related processes. The JCPA will also draw upon and report on student achievement across a range of areas of student learning in Junior Cycle, including Classroom-Based Assessments, Short Courses, Level 2 Learning Programmes (where appropriate), and other areas of learning.

More information on Junior Cycle reform is available from the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment's website (NCCA) [here](#) and [here](#).

² The new Junior Cycle English Final Examination is sat at Higher and Ordinary Level only.

C. JUNIOR CERTIFICATE/CYCLE SITS BY COUNTY AND GENDER

COUNTY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
CARLOW	467	495	962
CAVAN	421	483	904
CLARE	783	735	1,518
CORK	3,419	3,667	7,086
DONEGAL	1,074	1,133	2,207
DUBLIN	7,690	7,840	15,530
GALWAY	1,716	1,702	3,418
KERRY	935	990	1,925
KILDARE	1,649	1,763	3,412
KILKENNY	581	578	1,159
LAOIS	548	552	1,100
LEITRIM	216	209	425
LIMERICK	1,387	1,377	2,764
LONGFORD	313	343	656
LOUTH	1,081	1,059	2,140
MAYO	879	875	1,754
MEATH	1,303	1,354	2,657
MONAGHAN	426	478	904
OFFALY	545	560	1,105
ROSCOMMON	271	286	557
SLIGO	443	428	871
TIPPERARY	1,081	1,117	2,198
WATERFORD	814	862	1,676
WESTMEATH	731	740	1,471
WEXFORD	1,066	1,157	2,223
WICKLOW	905	1,035	1,940
Grand Total	30,744	31,818	62,562