

# STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2018 STATE EXAMINATIONS

Almost 121,000 Students Sit Exams This Year

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

*(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](http://www.examinations.ie).)*

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, some 120,967 candidates will commence their Leaving and Junior Certificate/Cycle examinations across the country.

**Mr. Pat Burke**, Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), and his fellow Commissioners extend their very best wishes on behalf of the SEC to all sitting the state examinations in 2018.

He said: *“The state examinations are a milestone for students, their families and schools. The reassurance of families and the wider community is an essential support for students sitting examinations. For its part, the Commission will continue its work in ensuring that the examinations meet the highest standards of fairness and transparency. The Board and staff of the State Examinations Commission are very aware of the effort which students, their families and schools have invested in the forthcoming examinations and extend their best wishes to all”.*

Over 4 million examination papers have been securely distributed to the examination superintendents involved in supervising the written examinations. The examinations will be held in some 5,223 examination centres across the country over the course of the examination period.

The examinations run until Wednesday 20th June for Junior Certificate/Cycle subjects and Friday 22nd June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 14th June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday 15th August 2018. Results of the Junior Certificate/Cycle will be available in mid-September 2018.

ENDS

## Notes for Editors

Further detailed information, including additional information on the 2018 examination changes is available in our Media Information Pack on [www.examinations.ie](http://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. Based in Athlone, Co. Westmeath, the SEC 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 last year's 2017 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes:

- Providing examinations to **120,197** candidates across all examination programmes; **61,654** at Junior Certificate, **55,770** at Leaving Certificate, and **2,773** at Leaving Certificate Applied Programme;
- Arranging for **examinations** in **90** curricular and **17** 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 **94,000** Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied oral tests;
- Engaging **5,215 superintendents** to superintend at ordinary examination centres;
- Providing **20,770 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate **17,661** candidates with individual needs (**14% of the overall cohort**) to access the certificate examinations and establishing **10,100 special examination centres** as a result;
- Engaging **6,935 examiners** to mark the examinations comprised of 4,376 <sup>1</sup>written examiners, 1,162 oral examiners and 1,397 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 **120,197 examination results**;
- Returning **397,082 marked scripts** to schools for viewing;
- Processing some **13,322 appeals** at Leaving (incl. LCA) and Junior Certificate.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.examinations.ie) for further details including the 2018 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2017, 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; and
- Are taking Leaving Certificate English.

Another condition is that candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only and for this reason, the SEC has scheduled all of the non-curricular examinations for one session – **Monday 18th June 9.30am to 12.30pm**. For the 2018 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following eighteen non-curricular language subjects, including Maltese for the first time:

Bulgarian	Croatian	Czech	Danish	Dutch	Estonian
Finnish	Modern Greek	Hungarian	Latvian	Lithuanian	Polish
Portuguese	Romanian	Slovakian	Slovenian	Swedish	Maltese <sup>2</sup>

The following table compares the predicted candidate entries for these subjects in the 2018 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these examinations in 2017.

Subject	2017 (Sits)	2018 (entries)
Dutch	15	35
Portuguese	84	95
Polish	693	736
Latvian	75	69
Lithuanian	213	175
Romanian	193	286
Hungarian	53	44
Czech	16	14
Slovakian	22	35
Bulgarian	12	19
Croatian	36	51
Swedish		11
Modern Greek		20
Others less than 10 2017#	19	
Others less than 10 2018*		15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>1,605</b>

*Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2017 and 2018*

#Modern Greek, Danish, Estonian, Finnish and Swedish \* Danish, Estonian, Finnish, Slovenian and Maltese

Background information on the development of the non-curricular language subjects is available in the 2018 Media Information Pack on the SEC website [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

<sup>2</sup> In 2018, Maltese will be examined as a non-curricular subject for the first time.

### 3. STATISTICAL TABLES

- A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2015-2018
- B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2014-2017
- C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2018
- D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2018
- E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2018

#### A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2015-2018

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.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate (including LCVP*)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
2018	55,255	2,744	62,968	120,967

\* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

#### B. Number of Candidates who sat the Certificate Examinations 2014-2017

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
2017	55,770	2,773	61,654	120,197

### C. PREDICTED LEAVING CERTIFICATE ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2018

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	454	394	848
Cavan	345	419	764
Clare	695	579	1274
Cork	3149	3131	6280
Donegal	1029	1014	2043
Dublin	7204	6859	14063
Galway	1529	1478	3007
Kerry	886	841	1727
Kildare	1249	1414	2663
Kilkenny	518	525	1043
Laois	441	463	904
Leitrim	224	222	446
Limerick	1251	1263	2514
Longford	290	294	584
Louth	884	851	1735
Mayo	883	775	1658
Meath	1100	1091	2191
Monaghan	386	369	755
Offaly	425	454	879
Roscommon	297	249	546
Sligo	362	378	740
Tipperary	1131	1069	2200
Waterford	719	763	1482
Westmeath	757	661	1418
Wexford	953	852	1805
Wicklow	802	838	1640
<b>Counties Total</b>	<b>27963</b>	<b>27246</b>	<b>55209</b>
Malta	20	26	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27983</b>	<b>27272</b>	<b>55255</b>

**D. PREDICTED LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2018**

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	-	-	-
Cavan	20	32	52
Clare	25	24	49
Cork	103	148	251
Donegal	29	77	106
Dublin	352	386	738
Galway	43	58	101
Kerry	30	59	89
Kildare	44	111	155
Kilkenny	10	13	23
Laois	22	17	39
Limerick	97	105	202
Louth	49	79	128
Mayo	30	44	74
Meath	38	73	111
Monaghan	20	19	39
Offaly	35	45	80
Roscommon	-	-	15
Sligo	23	29	52
Tipperary	47	51	98
Waterford	56	54	110
Westmeath	-	-	20
Wexford	58	65	123
Wicklow	36	47	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>2,744</b>

- Less than 10 female, male or total candidates

## E. PREDICTED JUNIOR CERTIFICATE ENTRIES BY COUNTY AND GENDER 2018

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	468	499	967
Cavan	426	488	914
Clare	787	743	1,530
Cork	3,434	3,685	7,119
Donegal	1,078	1,135	2,213
Dublin	7,745	7,912	15,657
Galway	1,727	1,712	3,439
Kerry	939	997	1,936
Kildare	1,651	1,772	3,423
Kilkenny	589	582	1,171
Laois	550	558	1,108
Leitrim	217	211	428
Limerick	1,395	1,390	2,785
Longford	316	343	659
Louth	1,088	1,068	2,156
Mayo	881	883	1,764
Meath	1,307	1,361	2,668
Monaghan	427	478	905
Offaly	546	561	1,107
Roscommon	272	286	558
Sligo	444	429	873
Tipperary.	1,086	1,129	2,215
Waterford	823	868	1,691
Westmeath	737	741	1,478
Wexford	1,073	1,174	2,247
Wicklow	912	1,045	1,957
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,918</b>	<b>32,050</b>	<b>62,968</b>