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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2015**

Almost 58,000 candidates receive results today

**12<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) congratulates the 57,929 candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2015 and for which it is releasing figures 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 1.6% from 56,990 candidates in 2014 to 57,929 in 2015. Of the 57,929 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 55,045 candidates followed the Leaving Certificate (Established) programme, including 14,924 (25.8%) who followed the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. A further 2,884 (5%) candidates followed the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

The results obtained in most subjects this year are broadly in line with those of previous years.

**What Candidates Should Do Next**

Candidates are strongly advised to consult the *Leaving Certificate Candidate Information Booklet* that they have 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](http://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, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2015**.

External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results. All candidates will have access to the Marking Schemes and will be able to see how they were applied in their case. The Viewing of Scripts will take place in schools on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2015**.

### **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](http://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, 2nd September 2015**. 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 2015 examinations, Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in Mathematics, Arabic, Latin, Greek, Physics & Chemistry, Design & Communication Graphics, Business, Agricultural Science and LCVP. The reports are expected to be published early in 2016.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied Programme**

This year 2,884 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% to 69%, Merit for 70% to 84%, and Distinction for 85% to 100%.

The numbers taking the LCA programme over the past five years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2011	577	1,569	494	555	3,195
2012	669	1,657	445	457	3,228
2013	552	1,376	477	405	2,810
2014	609	1,496	402	458	2,965
<b>2015</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>2,884</b>

*Table 1 LCA Results 2011-2015*

### **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme**

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an optional, 2 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:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2011</b>	1,937	7,737	5,152	1,568	16,394
<b>2012</b>	1,972	8,153	4,554	1,169	15,848
<b>2013</b>	1,707	7,622	5,117	1,233	15,679
<b>2014</b>	1,730	7,538	4,750	1,256	15,274
<b>2015</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>8,326</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>14,924</b>

*Table 2 Link Modules Results 2011—2015*

### **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 decrease in the candidature for the non-curricular EU languages this year – a total of 1361 as against 1485 in 2014.

The following table provides the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2015.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2015</b>
Dutch	19
Portuguese	92
Polish	671
Latvian	83
Lithuanian	247
Romanian	138
Hungarian	24
Czech	15
Slovakian	30
Bulgarian	10
Croatian	17
Others less than 10 candidates*	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1361</b>

*Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2015*

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

### **Advice for Candidates**

A helpline facility will be operating from early on **12<sup>th</sup> 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 2015 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.*

The SEC publishes on its website ([www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)) statistical documentation on the results of the 2015 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 with results for 10 or more candidates. Results are also being issued in the following subjects/levels;

Ordinary Level: Ancient Greek, Latin, Hebrew Studies and Agricultural Economics.

## Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2011 – 2015

	Leaving Certificate (Established and LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total	Annual % Change
<b>2011</b>	54,344	3,195	57,539	
<b>2012</b>	52,588	3,228	55,816	-3.0%
<b>2013</b>	52,767	2,810	55,577	-0.4%
<b>2014</b>	54,025	2,965	56,990	+2.5%
<b>2015</b>	<b>55,045</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>57,929</b>	+1.6%

*Table 2.1 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2011-2015*

2011 figures include 3,618 External and 2,946 Repeat Candidates.

2012 figures include 2,852 External and 2,484 Repeat Candidates.

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.

### Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line from midday Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

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

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms to view scripts is **Tuesday, 18th August 2015**. The closing date for receipt by the SEC of applications to appeal results is **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015**.

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