



To: Authorities of Post-Primary Schools

S 53/15

Revised Assessment arrangements for the practical coursework and food studies assignments in the Leaving Certificate Home Economics (Scientific and Social) Examination 2017

The following documentation, relevant to **candidates who will be assessed in the above in 2017**, is enclosed:-

- Coursework Guidelines
- Food Studies Assignments
- Practical Coursework Assessment Brief for Textile, Fashion and Design Elective

Food Studies Practical – Coursework Journal (one per candidate) will issue under separate cover.

For the Food Studies Coursework there will be a reduction from the present requirement for the completion of a significant account of five practical assignments (from a choice of six) recorded in a pro-forma journal to the completion of any four practical assignments (from a choice of five).

Candidates will be required to select any four assignments. The format of the coursework journal will be revised to allow for the completion of four assignments only.

Examination Components

The examination for both higher and ordinary levels will comprise the following:

A. Candidates who choose either Home Design and Management or Social Studies Electives

1. Written examination (80%)
2. Food Studies Coursework (20%)

B. Candidates who choose Textiles, Fashion and Design Elective

1. Written examination (70%)
2. Food Studies Coursework (20%)
3. Textiles Studies Elective Coursework (10%)

It will be necessary for candidates to identify their choice of elective to the State Examinations Commission and instructions in this regard will issue in due course.

Examination / Coursework Completion Dates

The written examination will take place in June as normal.

The Food Studies Coursework must be completed by **7th November 2016**.

The Textile Studies Elective Coursework must be completed by **28th April 2017**.

Completion dates are the same for all candidates including repeat candidates.

Arrangements for the submission of all coursework for assessment will issue to schools closer to the completion dates.

Use of pro-forma coursework journals (Food Studies Practical)

Please note that all candidates are obliged to use the pro-forma journals provided by the Commission.

Should candidates wish to have practice at writing up the pro-forma journals before beginning their examination submission, they are asked to do so on photocopied versions of the pro-forma journals. The Commission **will not issue** duplicate copies to facilitate practice attempts at filling out the pro-forma journals. Each candidate should submit only **ONE** journal.

As it is not possible at this stage to use examination numbers to identify journals candidates should include their Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) in the space provided on the journals.

Importance of ensuring that the answer book is the candidate's individual unaided work

Food Studies coursework and Textiles Studies Elective coursework will only be accepted for assessment if the school authorities have certified on forms to be provided by the Commission that it is the candidate's own individual unaided work. Teachers should monitor the progress of the candidate's work on a regular basis. The attention of all the candidates and their teachers should be drawn to circulars S68/08 and S69/04.

Please ensure that the candidates are aware that where coursework is deemed invalid it will be categorized into one of two groups:

- (i) Cases where the requirements for accepting coursework for assessment are not met i.e. where it is not carried out under the teacher's supervision. The consequence is for the work not to be included for assessment.
- (ii) Cases where there is evidence to suggest that a candidate made efforts to gain an unfair advantage over the other students e.g. incidences of suspected copying, plagiarism or inappropriate help from a third party, the procedure is to withhold results pending due process. Penalties in such cases are set out in the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools and range from loss of the subject, to loss of the entire examination in all subjects or being barred from the Certificate Examinations in subsequent years.

For both categories (i) and (ii) marks will be withheld and the evidence will be presented to the candidate/s for their observations. On receipt of the evidence a decision about the award will be made.

For further information on this issue please refer to the Coursework Guidelines and the Practical Coursework Assignment Brief for Food Studies and Textiles Fashion and Design Elective.

Answering through Irish

Please note that in keeping with all other examinations that have components other than the formal written examination, bonus marks will not be awarded to any coursework completed in Irish.

You are requested to bring this circular to the notice of the teachers and students concerned. If you have any queries please contact the Commission at 090 644 2749/2866/2867.

Mary O'Donohoe
Executive Officer
September 2015.