



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**

State Examinations Commission

Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí  
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

**S54/20**

**To: Management Authorities of Second Level Schools**  
**Leaving Certificate Religious Education 2021**  
**Prescribed Titles for Practical Coursework & Booklet**

1. As you are aware a syllabus for Leaving Certificate Religious Education was introduced in September 2003 and was examined for the first time in 2005. The syllabus indicates that the assessment of Religious Education will have two elements: (a) a final written paper, and (b) coursework. The subject will be assessed externally at Ordinary Level and at Higher Level. At both levels, coursework will account for 20% of the marks.
2. The prescribed titles for coursework for the Leaving Certificate examination 2021 were issued with Circular S99/19. These titles are common to Ordinary Level and Higher Level. Candidates are required to submit coursework on **one title only** taken from *either* Section F *or* Section G. Candidates should note that they will not be examined on these sections of the syllabus in the written examination in 2021.
3. The purpose of this circular is to outline the following: (a) The roll out of Online Marking in Leaving Certificate Religious Education for 2021 and beyond. (b) Changes to the Leaving Certificate Religious Education Coursework Booklet for 2021 and beyond. (c) Information for Candidates and their Parents/Guardians.
  - (a) The State Examinations Commission (SEC) successfully used an online marking system to mark certain Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate/Cycle subjects in 2019. This followed a pilot in 2016 and 2017. Online marking facilitates high quality, reliable marking of candidate's examination responses. There are many advantages to online marking both for the examiners and for the examination system as a whole. In particular, marking online allows examiners to focus on the marking exercise and not on the administration of the marking. As the calculation of marks are inherent in the system, online marking eliminates the possibility of mistakes being made in mark calculation and transcription. The SEC intends to roll out online marking to all Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle subjects by 2022.
  - (b) In the case of Religious Education and the current year's Leaving Certificate candidature, their examination papers and Coursework Booklets will be marked online in 2021. One notable change will be the presence of barcodes and L shaped marks both on the front cover and all pages therein. These are tools used to facilitate the scanning of the examination papers and Coursework Booklets in preparation for online marking. Another change will be that candidates will be required to provide their Day and Month of Birth on the front cover along with their examination number. The format of the Day and Month of Birth will be DD MM as below.

For example, 3<sup>rd</sup> February is entered as —

Day and Month of Birth			
D	D	M	M

Day and Month of Birth			
0	3	0	2

- (c) There is no significant change for candidates in the way coursework booklets are to be completed. When the Religious Education Coursework Booklet (from 2021 onwards) is returned to SEC, it will be scanned and will become an electronic script. The paper versions will be retained. The scanned images of a candidate's Religious Education Coursework Booklet will then be marked by examiners using specially designed software. Candidates should write in their Religious Education Coursework Booklet using black or blue pen only. Gel pens or correction fluid should not be used. Colour pens or pencils may be used for completing diagrams and graphs only. Candidates should complete their Religious Education Coursework Booklet using the spaces provided as this will ensure that all of their Coursework Booklet is captured in the scanning process. Anything written outside of these areas or in the margins of the Coursework Booklet may not be seen by examiners. The two parts of your coursework booklet must not exceed a total length of 1,500 words, excluding references and bibliography.
4. The coursework must be submitted in a standard form in the booklet, which will be issued in due course for that purpose. The coursework booklet will be broken into two components, Part A and Part B.  
Part A — a summary of the candidate's investigation of the chosen title.  
Part B — the candidate's personal reflection on the learning, skills and experience gained through undertaking coursework on the chosen title.  
Candidates may undertake coursework in pairs or in groups. However, the record of the coursework submitted in the booklet must be the candidate's own individual work. Direct copying of materials from sources, other than essential references such as definitions, is not acceptable.
5. Please bring this circular and the attached list of coursework titles to the notice of the teachers concerned.
6. Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.
7. If you have any queries regarding this circular please telephone 0906442746/0906442825.

**Philomena Mulvihill**  
Staff Officer  
November, 2020.

**PRESCRIBED TITLES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSEWORK**  
**FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2021**

A choice of two titles is given in each of Sections F and G below. Candidates should base their coursework on **one** title only, taken from *either* Section F *or* Section G.

**SECTION F                    ISSUES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE**

**F. 1**                    An analysis of the causes and effects structural violence has in a situation, as well as the approach that is taken to this form of violence in the teaching of **one** of the following world religions:

◆ BUDDHISM    ◆ CHRISTIANITY    ◆ HINDUISM    ◆ ISLAM    ◆ JUDAISM

**F. 2**                    A case study on how an environmental issue has been highlighted through the life and work of **one** commentator on religion and the environment.

**SECTION G                    WORSHIP, PRAYER AND RITUAL**

**G. 1**                    ● HERMITAGE    ● PILGRIMAGE    ● POUSTINIA    ● RETREAT

An investigation into how the contemplative tradition is expressed in **two** of the above practices and the reasons why both of these practices are popular among the members of a major world religion today.

**G. 2**                    An exploration of the role that reflection plays in the way believers worship within **two** of the following world religions:

◆ BUDDHISM    ◆ CHRISTIANITY    ◆ HINDUISM    ◆ ISLAM    ◆ JUDAISM