



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

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

S76/15

**Junior Certificate Religious Education
Journal Booklets for Examination in 2016**

To: *Management Authorities of Second Level Schools*

As you are aware the new syllabus for Religious Education was introduced on a phased basis and was examined for the first time in the Junior Certificate Examination of 2003.

The syllabus indicates that the assessment of Religious Education will have two elements –

- A final written paper and
- journal work

The final written paper will be marked out of 400 marks; the journal work will be marked out 100 marks. The titles for the journal work for the Junior Certificate examination of 2016 were issued with circular S93/14.

In connection with the assessment arrangements please find enclosed the following:

- Junior Certificate Religious Education Journal Booklet for candidates taking the examination in Religious Education in 2016 only.

Candidates should follow the guidelines specified in page 2 of the Journal when completing their Journal Booklets.

Use of pro-forma coursework journals

A Journal Booklet is to be completed by each candidate in the course of the current school year as specified in Circular S93/14. Please ensure your school has a sufficient supply of booklets and if not notify SEC immediately. **No additional booklets will issue after 31st December 2015.** 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. Please note, there is a sample booklet available on our website which can be downloaded for **practice purposes only**, so please ensure it is not used to submit work to SEC, as this work will be deemed invalid. To download go to www.examinations.ie/ Examination Information Project, Practical Coursework and go to the section on Religious Education.

The State Examinations Commission **will not send out duplicate copies** to facilitate practice attempts at filling out the pro-forma journals.

The journal work must be submitted in a standard form in the booklet supplied for that purpose by the Commission. Each candidate should submit only **ONE** journal.

Importance of ensuring that the Journal Booklet is the candidate's own individual work.

The writing up of the Journal Booklet must be the candidate's own individual work. Completed journals will only be accepted for assessment if the school authorities have certified on forms to be provided by the Commission, that they are the candidate's own individual work. Teachers should monitor the progress of the candidates' work on a regular basis. The attention of all candidates and their teachers should be drawn to circular S68/08 and S69/04. **Please note, however, that the writing up of the pro-forma answer book must be the candidate's own individual work.** Instructions on this issue have already been given in the course of in-service training and meetings.

Any incidence of suspected copying, improper assistance from another party, plagiarism or procurement of pieces prepared by another party will be thoroughly investigated. Candidates should be advised of the penalties that may be applied under the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools, which include loss of the subject, loss of the entire examination in all subjects, to being debarred from the Certificate Examinations in future years.

Candidates may present material, which arises from group work. However, in the journal item the candidate's **own individual contribution** must be clearly identified. It is the responsibility of **each** candidate in the group to ensure that his/her work is clearly presented.

Journal Booklets should be completed by **29th April 2016**. On the date of completion candidates should be instructed to place his/her completed Journal Booklet into a candidate envelope, which the Commission will provide. The candidate will be required to put his/her candidate number on the cover of this envelope. The envelope when sealed should be handed by the candidate to the school authorities. Schools are requested to retain all Journal Booklet envelopes in a secure place until the day of the written examination.

Candidates should fill in their Examination numbers in the appropriate boxes. A supply of specially designed envelopes will be sent to the schools in due course.

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 State Examinations Commission at 090 6442746/2750.

Phil Mulvihill
Staff Officer
October 2015