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State Examinations Commission
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S81/16

To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Second Level Schools and CEOs of ETBs

Leaving Certificate Art (Including Crafts) – Revised Assessment Framework – Arrangements for Coursework Component from 2018 Onwards

Please bring this circular to the attention of all art teachers in the school and also provide a copy to members of the school board of management.

As you have already been informed in circular letter 0035/2015, *Revision to Assessment Arrangements for Leaving Certificate Art for first examination in 2018*, from the Department of Education and Skills, two of the existing four examination components for Leaving Certificate, which are currently carried out as invigilated examinations, will instead be carried out as a single coursework component from 2018 onwards. The subsequent circular letter *Clarification on the Revision to Assessment Arrangements for Leaving Certificate Art for first examination in 2018* informed you that the period of time during which this coursework is to be carried out will be the ten school weeks immediately following the Christmas holidays prior to the examination. Both of those circulars stated that the State Examinations Commission (SEC) would provide more detailed information of the arrangements at a later date. This circular lays out the timeline over which schools can expect to receive further relevant documentation from the SEC and identifies other issues that schools should be alert to at this point.

Separately from the new coursework component, the *Life Sketching* component will continue to be examined in an invigilated setting, at the same time of the year as heretofore. As happens currently for Junior Certificate Art, an examiner appointed by the SEC will visit the school in June to mark the coursework component. This examiner will also mark the Life Sketching component. One common

paper will be provided for the coursework component, from which both Higher level and Ordinary level candidates will choose their stimulus material. Nevertheless, candidates will be required to nominate their level of entry (Higher or Ordinary) at the time they carry out their coursework, as the coursework will be graded to a standard appropriate to the selected level, and the Life Sketching component will continue to involve different poses at Ordinary level and Higher level. The *History and Appreciation of Art* examination will continue to be held as a written examination at separate levels as part of the June timetable.

Early in 2017, the SEC will issue a sample paper for the coursework component, a sample of the workbook to be used for the completion of the developmental aspects of the coursework, and associated documentation. Teachers who attended the in-career development (ICD) workshops provided by the *Professional Development Service for Teachers* (PDST) during the 2015/2016 academic year have already received samples of a prototype of this workbook.

The live examination material (2018 coursework examination paper and workbooks) will be issued in January 2018, to coincide with the start of the term.

The second of the two DES circulars mentioned above recommended that 30 hours of class time be made available to candidates over the course of the ten-week period to facilitate completion of the coursework. Please note that it is **not** envisaged that candidates be provided with further time significantly above that amount. In the interest of fairness to candidates in all schools, and so as to avoid candidates being drawn into devoting too much time to this work to the detriment of their other studies, you are asked not to provide additional out-of-class supervised time, unless some exceptional circumstance has led to a loss of the expected in-class time.

The coursework authentication arrangements will be the same as those that apply to other subjects with practical coursework components, as outlined in SEC circular letters S68/08 and S69/04. In particular, the conditions for the acceptance of coursework include the following:

The State Examinations Commission will accept Practical Coursework for assessment only where it has been completed under the following conditions:

- The subject must be formally timetabled (with timetable available to Commission personnel)
- The school/centre must be available for monitoring by Commission personnel
- The Practical Coursework must be completed under the required conditions as set out for individual subjects
- Practical Coursework must be conducted under the supervision of a class teacher with the work authenticated by the teacher and principal in accordance with this circular.

(Circular letter S69/04)

It is vital to note immediately the implications of the changed examination arrangements for any students who might have intended to take Art as an additional subject outside of the normal school setting, either on their own or with private tuition outside of a school or centre. As it is not possible to meet the

authentication requirements in these circumstances, coursework cannot be accepted from such candidates. Since they will forfeit the coursework marks, the maximum number of marks that they can achieve is effectively capped at 50% of the marks available for the subject (these being the marks for the invigilated *Life Sketching* examination and the written paper on *History and Appreciation of Art*).

As there may be students in the school who are considering studying this subject outside of school without your being aware of it, we ask that you alert all candidates for the 2018 examinations (i.e., current Leaving Certificate Year 1 students) to these implications.

For the convenience of the Art teachers in your school, I am enclosing a document that has already been circulated to teachers attending the ICD workshops. It consists of some preliminary advice from the Chief Examiner as to how the assessment evidence presented by candidates through the coursework component will be assessed.

If you have any questions regarding this circular, please telephone 090 644 2867

Michelle Hanafee
November, 2016.

Revised Assessment Arrangements for Leaving Certificate Art – Preliminary Guidance from the Chief Examiner

This document has been prepared in response to requests from teachers for information on how student work produced under the new arrangements that apply for the examinations of 2018 and subsequent years will be evaluated and marked.

This document does not outline a complete marking scheme for the component. Readers should remain conscious of the general *caveat* that applies to all marking schemes produced by the State Examinations Commission. Please refer to the inside cover of any recent marking scheme for details, and note in particular the statement that “... the structure, detail and application of the marking scheme for a particular examination are subject to change from one year to the next without notice”. Marking schemes are generally not finalised until after the particular examination has been taken and a representative sample of student work has been analysed.

Notwithstanding the above words of caution, the SEC is in a position to clarify a number of aspects of the marking of this component, as follows.

The coursework component replaces the two components *Design or Craftwork* and *Imaginative Composition or Still Life*. These two parts continue to attract 100 marks each and the total mark for the coursework component is therefore 200 out of the total of 400 for the examination.

In recognition of the increased emphasis under these new arrangements on the developmental aspects of producing artwork, 40% of the marks awarded will be based on the evidence presented in the candidate’s workbook, with the remaining 60% being based on the realised artefacts produced.

Workbook

The evidence in the workbook in relation to each artefact will be assessed under three headings. Broadly, these are:

- A. Initial research and interpretation
- B. Primary source exploration and development (including final artefact proposal)
- C. Art elements and technical aspects

These three aspects will not necessarily be equally weighted. For example, it is anticipated that more marks will be allocated to headings B and C than to A.

Candidates should try to ensure that the workbook provides an authentic design footprint of the development towards the final work. The workbook is not a final product in its own right, and presenting overly polished work in it may hinder rather than help examiners to discern the true development of the work. Marking will reflect an emphasis on using the workbook in an authentic and natural way and an emphasis on the use of primary sources.

Realised artefacts

The realised artefacts will be evaluated on broadly the same basis as those produced under the existing arrangements, although there may be some change to the detail of the marking schemes that apply. It is recognised that candidates may now have more time to devote to the execution of the final work than before, and that they will be working in a more natural artistic environment than under the current arrangements. Nevertheless, there is no change to the

qualitative standard of work required. That is, a piece of finished work that would have been deemed to reach the standard for a particular grade under the old arrangements will be deemed to have met that same standard under the new arrangements (within the context of the marks allocated to the artefact). This is subject to the qualification below.

Time available for *Design* as opposed to *Craftwork* options

It is noted that, under the current arrangements, candidates who choose the *Craftwork* option have more invigilated examination time available to produce their realised work than those who choose the *Design* option, and that this will no longer be the case under the revised arrangements. The SEC will remain conscious of this when determining the standard of work expected under each option so as to ensure that candidates will not be disadvantaged as a result of the option chosen. In particular, candidates choosing the design option will be expected to demonstrate a solid understanding of the production process for which they are designing, including its potential and limitations.

Further information

As stated in Department of Education and Skills circular letter 0035/2015, the SEC will issue more detailed information on the requirements and arrangements for this component at a later date. This will include further guidance for teachers and students on how best to provide examiners with evidence of the candidates' levels of artistic achievement.