

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

Urgent Appeal for Examiners for Examinations 2019

Friday 24th May 2019

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has today launched an urgent appeal for examiners to mark the 2019 written examinations at Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate.

The SEC has launched an additional recruitment campaign for qualified applicants to examine in the following subject areas:

- a) **Leaving Certificate** written examinations in Business, English, Geography, French, German, Home Economics, and Spanish.
- b) **Junior Cycle** written examinations in CSPE, Gaeilge, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science and Spanish

Details of these posts, which have been advertised on www.educationposts.ie and on www.examinations.ie, are available on the Recruitment Section of the SEC's website <https://www.examinations.ie/recruitment/>

The SEC is also inviting applications in all other subject areas to provide cover for the inevitable drop outs that will occur in the run up to, and during, the examining period.

The SEC's CEO Aidan Farrell today said *"We need the help and support of teachers and other qualified applicants and would actively encourage them to apply at this time. With the co-operation and active engagement of all those interested in the smooth operation of the Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate examinations, we can ensure that the marking of this year's examinations will proceed on target and to the necessarily-high standards.*

Similar appeals in previous years have been responded to generously and we have every confidence that this will again be the case in 2019."

Ends.

Notes for Editors

All media enquiries to:

Eela Carr

Press Officer

Phone 090 6442770 or 087 2830355

Jackie Wade

Deputy Press Officer

Phone 090 6442851 or 087 1804466

Email: sec.pressoffice@examinations.ie

The SEC appoints approximately 3,600 examiners annually to mark the Leaving and Junior Certificate written examinations. This number includes the examiners contracted to mark the examinations, along with more experienced examiners whose primary role is to quality assure the process through monitoring the work of the core group of examiners and providing advice and support as required.

Examiners appointed by the SEC are selected on the basis of their academic qualifications, their teaching experience and their examination experience. The main points to note regarding the recruitment of examiners are as follows;

- All examiners must be appropriately qualified for the work.
- Examiners are selected on the basis of their academic qualifications, their teaching experience and their examining experience.
- The majority of examiners are experienced serving and retired teachers.
- A large number of experienced examiners are reappointed each year
- When making new appointments, priority is given to teachers

The main criterion for suitability is the capacity to mark examinations work with maximum accuracy and efficiency. Examiners receive detailed training and instruction in order to fulfil their role. When examiners are appointed they attend a marking conference and undergo training on the application of the marking scheme; and their work is monitored by an advising examiner throughout the marking process as part of the rigorous standard setting and quality assurance processes in place.

Two fundamental principles underpin the marking of the state examinations; the first is the need for fair, accurate and consistent marking of every candidate's work and the second is candidate confidentiality.

It is our experience that the role of examiner is one that is conducted with commitment, diligence and professionalism by many thousands of men and women each year. The SEC has an absolute responsibility to examination candidates to ensure that their work is marked to the highest standards of quality and integrity and the range of measures outlined above assure quality in the examinations, which include measures to identify and address poor practice.

The current position regarding the recruitment of the core group of examiners for the marking of the examinations is that there are shortfalls in the subjects listed. Detailed data cannot be provided as the position changes on a daily basis, and this will continue to be the case until start of the marking in June.

Applicants for examining work with the SEC can note that the rates of payments have increased by 2% this year and also that the Pension Related Deduction, which was previously deducted at a rate of 10.5%, no longer applies, hence payments for examining work will be made free of this deduction.