

STRICT EMBARGO ON PRESS RELEASE AND STATISTICS: Not for publication or broadcast under any circumstances before 6.00 AM Tuesday 13th August 2019

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2019

Over 58,500 candidates receive results today

13th August 2019

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) congratulates and wishes well for the future the candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2019 and whose results issued today.

The statements of provisional results of this year's examinations are available in schools today. From the earlier time of 10am this year, students who are not in a position to collect their results in person from their school can access them through the SEC's new online Candidate Self-Service Portal on www.examinations.ie.

General Overview of Leaving Certificate 2019

The overall number sitting the examinations is 58,787 in 2019. Of the candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 56,071 candidates followed the Leaving Certificate (Established) programme, of which 13,124 (22.3%) followed the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. A further 2,716 (4.6%) candidates followed the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

The results obtained this year are broadly in line with those obtained in 2018 and previous years.

Candidates receiving results today in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Link Modules and Politics and Society had their examinations marked using an online marking system. Their scripts were scanned and marked by examiners using specially designed software. Candidates' scripts were marked on a computer, not by a computer. When it comes to the viewing of scripts candidates will view these scripts online.

What Candidates Should Do Next

The most important piece of advice that SEC can give to candidates is to register on the Candidate Self Service Portal on www.examinations.ie if they have not already done so. The SEC has developed the Portal (an expansion of the SEC's Online Results Service) to support faster and more efficient services to candidates and faster communication between candidates, the SEC and schools in relation to the viewing of scripts and the appeals so that we can deliver the appeal results, three weeks earlier than last year, in the week ending the 20th September.

The online services available on the Candidate Self Service Portal are:

- Access to examination results;
- Access to component marks in subjects (e.g. oral marks; practical marks, etc.);
- Application to view scripts;
- View scripts online in subjects which were marked online i.e. Mathematics,

Biology, Physics, Chemistry, LCVP (Written component) and Politics & Society;

- Application to appeal;
- Access to the appeal results.

The application to view scripts, the viewing of scripts marked online, the appeal application and access to results services are being provided exclusively online this year.

All of the detailed information that candidates need about the Portal registration process as well as information about accessing results online, accessing component marks, viewing scripts, and appealing results can be found in the **2019 Candidate Information Booklet** which was issued before the commencement of the examinations. This booklet is also available from <https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-SE-75824897.pdf>

As this issue date for the appeals is so much earlier than before, the deadlines for applying to view scripts and to appeal results are all much earlier as a consequence. Candidates should familiarise themselves with the key dates and deadlines this year to ensure that they do not miss out on being able to access the post-results services as the deadlines must be strictly applied.

Candidates should adhere to the instructions provided in order to ensure that they lodge valid requests for viewing marked scripts and appealing results.

Viewing of Leaving Certificate Scripts

Candidates in the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied examinations are afforded an opportunity to view their own marked scripts after the initial marking process. The viewing allows candidates to satisfy themselves that the marking scheme has been applied correctly to their work and, in addition to enhancing transparency, is designed to assist candidates in making a decision to appeal a result in one or more subjects. The SEC will provide two Viewing of Scripts services this year:

1. in schools for subjects marked on paper
2. on-line for subjects marked on-line.

The application process is the same for both services. Applications to view can **only** be made through the Candidate Self Service Portal between **9 am on Wednesday 14th August and 5pm on Friday 16th August**.

Viewing of scripts marked on paper will take place in schools on the evening of Tuesday 20th and during the day on Wednesday 21st August. Subjects marked online (Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, LCVP, Physics and Politics & Society) will be available for viewing via the Candidate Self Service Portal. Access to view these scripts online will be over the same period, ie from 5pm on Tuesday 20th until 5pm Wednesday 21st August as the viewing in schools of scripts marked on paper.

Candidates will continue to have access to the published marking schemes, whether the subject was marked on paper or on-line.

Another improvement that candidates will see this year, and which will be of assistance in making decision about viewing scripts and appealing results, is that they will have access to the final mark awarded to each individual component within a subject including the written paper(s) as well as marks for orals, practicals, projects, coursework, etc. Access to component results will be available through the Candidate Self-Service Portal from 9 am Wednesday, 14th August.

Leaving Certificate Appeals Revised Timelines

Applications to appeal can only be made through the Candidate Self Service Portal between **5 pm, Friday 16th August and 5pm, Thursday 22nd August**. In 2019 the results of the Leaving Certificate appeals will be released to students in the week ending September 20th, a full three weeks earlier than the normal timeframe (Wednesday 10th October in 2018). This fundamental re-engineering of the appeals process includes a combination of earlier releases of provisional results of the Leaving Certificate and of CAO Round 1 offers to students, bringing forward the process whereby students are able to view their examination scripts in advance of deciding to submit an appeal, having appeals examiners mark scripts on a full-time basis rather than only at evenings and weekends, and a streamlining of the overall appeals logistics.

Access to Examination Scripts

Under a ruling by the European Court of Justice, examinations scripts are classified as personal data and accordingly candidates can seek copies of their scripts. Data access requests for scripts may be made to the SEC but it could take up to 90 days from the issue date of the Leaving Certificate results, or longer if they appeal, before a candidate receives a copy of their script under the Data Protection legislation. **By the time they receive a copy of the script, the opportunity to appeal the result will have passed.**

Candidates need to be aware that the only opportunity that they will have to access their written examination scripts **in advance** of the appeal application closing date is to apply to view their script on the 20th and 21st of August. Candidates viewing scripts which were marked on paper are allowed to bring a mobile phone, tablet or digital camera with them to the viewing session in order to make a copy of their own script(s).

New Pilot Interim Measure for RACE Scheme

Under an extension of the emergency provisions of the Scheme of Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations (RACE Scheme), the State Examinations Commission (SEC) introduced a limited provision, on an interim pilot basis, for supporting Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied candidates who experienced the death of a close relative during the period of the 2019 examinations in June.

The alternative Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied examinations, which were held in Athlone from Monday 8th July to Friday 12th July, were attended by fewer than 40 candidates. Out of respect for the privacy of these candidates, it is not possible to provide further details of these arrangements.

The results from the alternative Leaving Certificate examinations, which were of equivalent standard to the June examinations, are being issued at the same time as all of the other results. There will be no difference for the candidate or for the end users of the results (CAO, etc.) between results attained in June and those attained in July, ie there will be no indication on the Provisional Statement of Results or final certificate to indicate which examination paper a candidate sat.

This interim, pilot measure is subject to review. The SEC will be arranging consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including school management and principals' representatives, parents and students in order to inform the development of this provision into the future. These consultations will include a review of the operation of this pilot interim scheme and will commence in the autumn.

Admissions to Higher Education

The SEC transmits the results of all candidates electronically to the Central Applications Office (CAO). This brings about the earliest possible issue of college place offers to candidates. As part of the system changes to enable the SEC to issue the appeal results three weeks earlier this year, the CAO 1st Round offers will be available to applicants from 2pm on Thursday 15th August.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year 2,716 students took their final stage examinations in the two year Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme. LCA students have been building their credits right through the two years of their Leaving Certificate course, so today brings the final stage and full recognition of their achievements.

The results for LCA students differ from those of their counterparts in the established Leaving Certificate. Graduates from the LCA programme receive a single award made on the basis of credits accumulated over the two year cycle and in the final examinations. This award is given at three levels: Pass for those students with total credits of 60% or over but less than 70%; Merit for 70% or over but less than 85%; and Distinction for 85% and above.

The numbers taking the LCA programme over the past five years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Record	TOTAL
2015	544	1,442	430	471	2,887
2016	529	1,369	396	464	2,758
2017	588	1,337	378	470	2,773
2018	538	1,322	357	492	2,709
2019	608	1,318	344	446	2,716

Table 1 LCA Results 2015-2019

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an optional, two year, academic and experience-based programme, available in 2 out of 3 post-primary schools. Candidates following the LCVP take a specified range of Leaving Certificate (Established) subjects as well as a formal and practical programme called the Links Modules. The Links Modules consists of compulsory work experience and enterprise activity together with personal vocational exploration and substantial use of information technology.

The numbers taking the subject over the past five years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table:

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Unsuccessful	TOTAL
2015	1,620	8,326	4,148	830	14,924
2016	1,870	7,454	4,291	1,022	14,637
2017	1,542	7,793	3,942	748	14,025
2018	1,561	6,929	3,935	943	13,368
2019	1,109	6,887	4,043	1,085	13,124

Table 2 LCVP Results 2015—2019

Non-curricular EU Languages

The SEC provides examinations in a range of EU non-curricular languages. In order to simplify the administration of these examinations, all non-curricular EU language subjects were again scheduled for a single examination session this year. It is intended to continue this practice in future years. There is a slight increase in the candidature for the non-

curricular EU languages this year – a total of 1,679 as against 1,461 in the 2018 examinations.

The following table provides the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2019.

Subject	2019
Dutch	17
Portuguese	116
Polish	780
Latvian	62
Lithuanian	177
Romanian	340
Hungarian	51
Czech	12
Slovakian	18
Bulgarian	16
Croatian	61
Modern Greek	13
Others with 10 or less candidates *	16
Total	1,679

Table 3 Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2019

*Danish, Finnish, Swedish, Maltese, Slovenian and Estonian.

Advice for Candidates

A helpline facility will be operating from early on 13th August to provide information and advice to students and parents at results time. The helpline number operated by the National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) is: 1800 265 165

(Note: This helpline facility is not operated by the State Examinations Commission)

All statistics provided in this press release are provisional for 2019 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The SEC publishes on its website www.examinations.ie statistical information on the results of the 2019 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with more than 10 candidates. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, the SEC only publishes details of individual subjects/levels for more than 10 candidates.

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2015 – 2019

	Leaving Certificate (Established and LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total	Annual % Change
2015	55,044	2,887	57,931	+1.6%
2016	55,708	2,758	58,465	+0.9%
2017	55,770	2,773	58,543	+0.1%
2018	54,440	2,709	57,149	-2.4%
2019	56,071	2,716	58,787	+2.9%

Table 4 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2015-2019

2015 figures include 2,616 External and 1,670 Repeat Candidates.
 2016 figures include 2,819 External and 1,445 Repeat Candidates.
 2017 figures include 2,623 External and 1,172 Repeat Candidates.
 2018 figures include 2,556 External and 907 Repeat Candidates.
 2019 figures include 2,726 External and 697 Repeat Candidates

Notes for Editors

The following further information is provided below:

- A. New Leaving Certificate Grading System (introduced in 2017)
- B. Leaving Certificate Sits by county and gender
- C. Leaving Certificate Applied Sits by county and gender
- D. Key Dates for Viewing of Scripts and Appeals Services 2019

Details of the SEC's approach to setting standards in the marking of the examinations is set out in the SEC publication "Setting and Maintaining Standards in the State Examinations" which is available in the About Us Section of the SEC's website www.examinations.ie or from the link <https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-AU-67246950.pdf>.

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

A. LEAVING CERTIFICATE GRADING SYSTEM

A new grading system was applied to all Leaving Certificate subjects from 2017. The revised grading system reduced the number of grades from 14 in the old system to 8 under the revised arrangements. The following table provides an explanation of the grading system compared to the previous grading system

Level	OLD GRADE SYSTEM		NEW GRADE SYSTEM	
	Percentage	Grade Descriptor	Percentage	Grade Descriptor
Higher, Ordinary, Foundation/ Ard, Gnath, Bonn	≥ 90 to 100	A1	≥ 90 to 100	1
	≥ 85 and < 90	A2	≥ 80 and < 90	2
	≥ 80 and < 85	B1	≥ 70 and < 80	3
	≥ 75 and < 80	B2	≥ 60 and < 70	4
	≥ 70 and < 75	B3	≥ 50 and < 60	5
	≥ 65 and < 70	C1	≥ 40 and < 50	6
	≥ 60 and < 65	C2	≥ 30 and < 40	7
	≥ 55 and < 60	C3	≥ 0 and < 30	8
	≥ 50 and < 55	D1		
	≥ 45 and < 50	D2		
	≥ 40 and < 45	D3		
	≥ 25 and < 40	E		
	≥ 10 and < 25	F		
	≥ 0 and < 10	NG		

The grading system is being used on the Statements of Provisional Examination Results and on the final Leaving Certificates. The grades are used consistently across all three examination levels – Higher, Ordinary and Foundation. The Statements and Certificates will indicate the level taken using the following notation beside each subject:

Higher/Ard level,	H/A
Ordinary/Gnath level,	O/G
Foundation/Bonn level	F/B

Grades are awarded in accordance with the published grading system. The use of percentages is used to facilitate understanding of the Grading system. In the examination marking and resulting processes, grades are derived from marks not percentages. So for example while a mark of 539 out of 600 in an examination is worth 89.83% when expressed as a percentage, the grade is based on the marks which equate to a Grade 2. Therefore, rounding up to the next grade band does not arise.

B. LEAVING CERTIFICATE SITS BY COUNTY AND GENDER**(Includes external candidates)**

COUNTY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
CARLOW	403	437	840
CAVAN	434	372	806
CLARE	659	615	1,274
CORK	3,157	3,125	6,282
DONEGAL	1,067	1,030	2,097
DUBLIN	7,283	6,947	14,230
GALWAY	1,589	1,531	3,120
KERRY	883	880	1,763
KILDARE	1,432	1,457	2,889
KILKENNY	509	537	1,046
LAOIS	483	445	928
LEITRIM	206	202	408
LIMERICK	1,221	1,252	2,473
LONGFORD	309	323	632
LOUTH	891	945	1,836
MAYO	846	786	1,632
MEATH	1,210	1,138	2,348
MONAGHAN	417	369	786
OFFALY	484	446	930
ROSCOMMON	225	229	454
SLIGO	412	393	805
TIPPERARY	1,025	1,017	2,042
WATERFORD	816	834	1,650
WESTMEATH	680	650	1,330
WEXFORD	936	869	1,805
WICKLOW	771	831	1,602
COUNTIES	28,348	27,660	56,008
LIBYA	25	38	63
Grand Total	28,373	27,698	56,071

C. LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED SITS BY COUNTY AND GENDER

(Includes external candidates)

	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
CARLOW	*	*	*
CAVAN	23	37	60
CLARE	39	39	78
CORK	102	123	225
DONEGAL	25	57	82
DUBLIN	285	361	646
GALWAY	29	63	92
KERRY	43	52	95
KILDARE	45	106	151
KILKENNY	17	20	37
LAOIS	26	28	54
LEITRIM	*	*	*
LIMERICK	89	82	171
LOUTH	85	64	149
MAYO	29	66	95
MEATH	34	71	105
MONAGHAN	18	28	46
OFFALY	40	43	83
ROSCOMMON	*	*	14
SLIGO	*	*	36
TIPPERARY	47	77	77
WATERFORD	54	67	121
WESTMEATH	*	*	20
WEXFORD	59	96	155
WICKLOW	27	33	60
Grand Total	1,152	1,564	2,716

*10 or less candidates

D. KEY DATES

The Key Dates for Candidates for the Leaving Certificate Results, Viewing and Appeals this year are set out in the following table which also gives details of the service delivery channel (i.e. whether in school or online through the Candidate Self Service Portal.)

KEY RESULTS, VIEWING AND APPEAL DATES 2019		
SERVICE	IN SCHOOLS	CANDIDATE SELF SERVICE PORTAL
Leaving Certificate Results	In Schools: Tuesday 13th August	10 AM Tuesday 13th August
Application to View Scripts	Online Only	Opens: 9 AM Wednesday 14th August Closes: 5 PM Friday 16th August
Access to Component Marks	Online Only	Shown with results from 9 AM Wednesday 14th August
Viewing of Scripts	Scripts Marked on Paper 1. Tuesday, 20th August 5 PM - 8 PM 2. Wednesday, 21st August 9 AM – 12 PM 3. Wednesday: 21st August 2 PM – 5 PM	Scripts Marked Online Online access to view over the period 5 PM Tuesday 20th – 5 PM Wednesday 21st August.
Appeal Application (Subject to a Fee)	Online only	Opens: 5 PM, Friday 16th August Closes: 5 PM Thursday 22nd August
Appeals Results	Online only	In the week ending Friday 20th September
Junior Certificate/Cycle Results	In Schools: Late September	Late September