

# STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2015 STATE EXAMINATIONS

Almost 119,000 Students Sit Exams This Year

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

*(The Notes for Editors at the end includes key logistics, details of non-curricular EU Language subjects and statistical tables including tables of entries by county. A detailed Examinations Information & Statistics Pack has been published in the Press Office section of [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).)*

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, some 118,784 candidates will commence their Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations across 5,000 examination centres countywide.

**Mr. Pat Burke**, Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), sends his best wishes and those of his fellow Commissioners on behalf of the SEC to all sitting the state examinations in 2015.

He said: *“The State examinations represent a big event in the life of students throughout the country. While the Commission is focused on assessing all candidates in a fair, transparent and accessible manner, it is recognised that the examinations can be a stressful time for many young people. The support, understanding and reassurance provided by candidates’ families and schools, their communities and beyond is therefore critical. The Commission and its staff wish all those involved the very best. The Commission is committed to conducting the examinations in a way that is consistent with the high standing they hold both internationally and among previous generations.”*

From the June bank holiday weekend, over 5,000 superintendents involved in supervising the written examinations will take possession of the locked boxes containing the 4 million examination papers that are required by candidates over the 13 day examination period. Over 4,000 examiners will then be involved in marking the work presented by candidates in the written examinations. This is in addition to over 2,000 examiners required to mark the oral and practical tests.

The examinations run until Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2015.

ENDS

## Notes for Editors

Further detailed information, including additional information on the 2015 examination changes is available in our Media Information Pack on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

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### 1. Key Logistics

Established in 2003, the SEC assumed responsibility from the Department of Education and Skills for the operation of the second level examinations of the Irish State: the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate. The SEC is based in Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The SEC currently employs 150 permanent staff supplemented by 80 temporary staff at peak period to assist in key seasonal functions such as the packing and distribution of examination material and the examination resulting process.

To give an idea of the scale of activities involved in conducting the state examinations it is worth noting that the **2014 examinations** involved the following activities and outcomes:

- Providing examinations to **117,317 candidates** across all examination programmes;
- 60,328 at Junior Certificate, 54,025 at Leaving Certificate, and 2,964 at Leaving Certificate Applied Programme;
- Arranging for **examinations** in **90** curricular and **16** non-curricular examination subjects;
- Engaging **578 drafters**, setters and translators to develop **506** different test **instruments** – including oral tests, aural recordings, practical briefs, project briefs, portfolio and coursework items as well as the written examination papers;
- Producing **4 million** examination **papers** comprised of **almost 50 million A4 pages**;
- Arranging for the recording of some **90,000** Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied oral tests;
- Engaging **4,964 superintendents** to superintend at ordinary examination centres;
- Providing **19,502 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate candidates with individual needs to access the certificate examinations and **9,951 special examination centres** as a result;
- Engaging **6,722 examiners** to mark the examinations comprised of 4,362 **written** examiners, 1,122 **oral** examiners and 1,238 **practical** examiners;
- Examining over **1.9 million individual test items** including written examination scripts, art and craftwork pieces, project and practical pieces in Leaving Certificate Construction Studies and Engineering and Junior Certificate Metalwork, Materials Technology (Wood) and Technology, oral tests, coursework journals, research reports and portfolios;
- Generating just under **1 million individual grades** leading to the award of **117,317 examination results**;
- Returning **360,000 marked scripts** to schools for viewing;
- Processing some **13,406 appeals** at Leaving & Junior Certificate.

Please see our website, [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) for further details including 2015 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2014, sample and past examination papers, and general information on the organisation and management of the examinations and the SEC.

## 2. Non-Curricular EU Language Subjects

The SEC also provides examinations in a range of subjects in the language area referred to as the non-curricular EU languages. These are languages which do not appear as part of the normal school curriculum but which students may opt to be examined in if they meet certain criteria. Chief among these conditions are the requirements that candidates for these examinations:

- Be from a member state of the European Union;
- Speak the language in which they opt to be examined in as a mother tongue;
- Have followed a programme of study leading to the Leaving Certificate;
- Are taking Leaving Certificate English

Another condition is that candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only and for this reason in 2015, the SEC has again scheduled all of the non-curricular examinations for one session – **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 from 9.30am to 12.30pm.**

For the 2015 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following sixteen non-curricular language subjects:

Bulgarian	Croatian	Czech	Danish
Dutch	Estonian	Finnish	Greek Modern
Hungarian	Latvian	Lithuanian	Polish
Portuguese	Romanian	Slovakian	Swedish

The following table compares the predicted candidate entries for these subjects in the 2015 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these exams in 2014.

Subject	2014 (Sits)	2015 (entries)
Dutch	20	23
Portuguese	67	96
Polish	750	693
Latvian	100	94
Lithuanian	269	275
Romanian	134	156
Hungarian	39	25
Swedish	-	10
Czech	16	17
Slovakian	31	35
Bulgarian	11	11
Croatian	-	24
Others less than 10 2014 #	25	-
Others less than 10 2015*	-	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>1473</b>

*Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2014 V 2015*

#Modern Greek, Danish, Swedish, Finnish and Estonian.

\*Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish, and Estonian.

Background information on the development of the non curricular language subjects is available from the 2015 Media Information Pack on the SEC website [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

### 3. STATISTICAL TABLES

#### A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2012-2015

#### B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2012-2014

#### C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2015

#### D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2015

#### E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2015

#### A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2012-2015

This table compares the numbers of candidates who were entered for the examinations immediately prior to the commencement of the written examinations in June this year and in each of the previous three years.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate (including LCVP*)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
2012	53,789	3,301	59,684	116,774
2013	53,749	2,853	60,243	116,845
2014	54,933	3,042	60,698	118,673
<b>2015</b>	<b>55,963</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>59,919</b>	<b>118,784</b>

\* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

#### B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2012-2014

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2012</b>	52,588	3,228	58,798	114,614
<b>2013</b>	52,767	2,810	59,822	115,399
<b>2014</b>	54,025	2,964	60,328	117,317

**C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2015**

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	420	381	801
Cavan	431	370	801
Clare	677	724	1401
Cork	3241	3074	6315
Donegal	1083	1023	2106
Dublin	7310	6998	14308
Galway	1578	1490	3068
Kerry	980	977	1957
Kildare	1286	1293	2579
Kilkenny	525	568	1093
Laois	393	419	812
Leitrim	204	188	392
Limerick	1308	1326	2634
Longford	283	306	589
Louth	950	814	1764
Mayo	779	775	1554
Meath	1101	1064	2165
Monaghan	369	443	812
Offaly	479	502	981
Roscommon	269	248	517
Sligo	396	393	789
Tipperary N.R	543	498	1041
Tipperary S.R	549	609	1158
Waterford	750	828	1578
Westmeath	686	699	1385
Wexford	876	906	1782
Wicklow	764	766	1530
<b>Counties Total</b>	28,230	27,682	55,912
Libya	15	36	51
<b>TOTAL</b>	28,245	27,718	55,963

#### D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2015

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	13	-	13
Cavan	15	35	50
Clare	35	30	65
Cork	138	145	283
Donegal	67	78	145
Dublin	371	411	782
Galway	42	40	82
Kerry	50	48	98
Kildare	72	62	134
Kilkenny	19	12	31
Laois	14	16	30
Leitrim	-	-	11
Limerick	96	99	195
Longford	-	-	5
Louth	61	87	148
Mayo	27	50	77
Meath	53	68	121
Monaghan	-	-	32
Offaly	49	45	94
Roscommon	15	14	29
Sligo	10	27	37
Tipperary N.R	23	41	64
Tipperary S.R	30	29	59
Waterford	35	47	82
Westmeath	13	13	26
Wexford	51	84	135
Wicklow	31	43	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>1557</b>	<b>2902</b>

- 10 or less candidates

**E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2015**

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	435	444	879
Cavan	444	453	897
Clare	755	734	1489
Cork	3225	3389	6614
Donegal	1131	1132	2263
Dublin	7252	7677	14929
Galway	1573	1634	3207
Kerry	948	925	1873
Kildare	1452	1595	3047
Kilkenny	549	575	1124
Laois	461	486	947
Leitrim	248	238	486
Limerick	1345	1394	2739
Longford	301	318	619
Louth	990	994	1984
Mayo	892	873	1765
Meath	1170	1248	2418
Monaghan	403	445	848
Offaly	476	538	1014
Roscommon	287	310	597
Sligo	375	417	792
Tipperary N.R	617	525	1142
Tipperary S.R	571	620	1191
Waterford	764	844	1608
Westmeath	756	699	1455
Wexford	1081	1049	2130
Wicklow	875	987	1862
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,376</b>	<b>30,543</b>	<b>59,919</b>