

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

2004 STATE EXAMINATIONS

119,000 students sit exams this year

7th JUNE 2004

On Wednesday 9th June, almost 119,000 candidates will take their seats at 4,600 examinations centres countywide to begin their Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations. Almost 2 million individual examination components in 80 different subjects are being delivered to schools and other centres in time for the start of this year's exams.

The Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), Mr. Jimmy Farrelly, and his fellow commissioners send best wishes on behalf of the SEC to all students who are sitting the state examinations in 2004. Launching the SEC's Inaugural Annual Report recently Mr. Farrelly said, "***The significance of the state examinations in the lives of candidates, and their families, cannot be underestimated. The examinations are a matter of public concern. The Commissioners play a custodial role in safeguarding the examinations and one of our over-riding concerns is maintaining public confidence in the quality and integrity of the examinations system. We also recognise that every individual examination candidate expects high standards in the administration and delivery of examinations and assessments and this is what we are committed to achieving and what we try to deliver.***"

This is the SEC's second year operating the examinations having assumed responsibility for this task from the Department of Education and Science in March 2003. Changes this year include first-time examinations in the revised syllabuses in Biology, Home Economics and Arabic in the Leaving Certificate. Another change is that candidates whose first language is not English or Irish will, for the first time, be allowed to use bilingual translation dictionaries in certain examinations. This is a pro-candidate measure that has been introduced in recognition of the increasing diversity in the range of cultures and languages amongst examination candidates. It also enhances the equity and inclusiveness of the examinations system.

The examinations run until the 24th June for Junior Certificate subjects and 25th June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on the 17th June. The results of the Leaving Certificate

examinations will be available on Wednesday, the 18th August 2004. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2004.

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Notes for Editors

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Please see our website, www.examinations.ie for further details including 2004 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2003, sample and past examination papers and general information on the organisation and management of the examinations and the State Examinations Commission.

TABLE A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations

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

	Established Leaving Certificate(incl.LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
2002	56,837	4,609	62,315	123,761
2003	57,722	4,763	59,828	122,313
2004	56,572	4,995	57,378	118,945

TABLE B. Number of Candidates Who Sat the Certificate Examinations

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in each of the past two years.

	Established Leaving Certificate(incl.LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
2002	55,496	3,026	60,439	118,961
2003	56,237	3,299	59,340	118,876