

# STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2005 STATE EXAMINATIONS

116,000 Students To Sit Exams This Year

**8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2005**

*(Detailed statistics at end including a table of entries by county)*

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, almost 116,000 candidates will take their seats at 4,500 examinations centres countywide to begin their Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations.

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 2005.

Almost 2 million individual examination components in 89 different subjects are being delivered to schools and other centres in time for the start of this year's Leaving Cert, Leaving Cert Applied and Junior Cert exams. Some 4,500 superintendents will be involved in supervising the written examinations while almost 4,000 examiners will be involved in examining the work presented.

One of the most significant changes for this year's examinations is that all of the aural tests in Irish, Music and the modern languages at both Leaving and Junior Certificate will, for the first time, be delivered on CD. Speaking recently at the launch of the SEC's 2004 Annual Report, Mr. Farrelly said ***"We believe that this change demonstrates our ongoing commitment to quality assurance; the advice from the media industry and feedback from schools, teachers and candidates is that the use of compact disc instead of cassettes will both improve sound quality for candidates and also alleviate possible operational difficulties associated with cassette decks. We are grateful to Minister Hanafin for facilitating this major initiative through the provision of a grant to schools to assist with the purchase of CD players"***.

Schools have been issued with detailed guidelines to assist in the purchase of suitable equipment and on the conduct of the aural exams on CD. They have also been provided with a demonstration CD.

Another first this year is the inaugural examination in Religious Education in the Leaving Certificate. A cohort of 100 candidates will sit the first examination on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

This is the last year of examination in the Leaving Certificate subject Economic History. The revisions to the Leaving Certificate History syllabus, which will be examined for the first time in 2006, have led to Economic History being discontinued

as a separate subject. A total of 352 candidates are due to take the Economic History examination this year.

The examinations run until Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2005. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2005.

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editors**

**Media enquiries to:**

**Andrea Feeney, Press Officer on 090-64 42777, 090-64 42851. Mobile 087-2379973,**

**E-mail: [andrea\\_feeney@education.gov.ie](mailto:andrea_feeney@education.gov.ie)**

The State Examinations Commission (SEC), established in March 2003, assumed responsibility for the operation of the state certificate examinations from the Department of Education and Science from 2003 onwards. The role of the SEC is the development and certification of the second-level examinations of the Irish state and of certain trade and professional examinations. The SEC is responsible for the operation of all aspects of these examinations including written, oral, aural and practical components and assessed course work in certain subjects. The SEC is based in Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

Please see our website, [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) for further details including 2005 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2004, 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 last year and this year.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate(incl.LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
2004	56,572	3,620	57,378	117,570
<b>2005</b>	<b>55,467</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>57,104</b>	<b>115,975</b>

**TABLE B. Number of Candidates Who Sat the Certificate Examinations**

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2003 and 2004.

	<b>Established Leaving</b>	<b>Leaving</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Total</b>
--	----------------------------	----------------	---------------	--------------

	Certificate(incl.LCVP)	Certificate Applied	Certificate	
<b>2003</b>	56,237	3,299	59,340	118,876
<b>2004</b>	55,222	3,520	56,864	115,606

**Table C. Count of Leaving Certificate Entries By County 2005**

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	456	388	844
Cavan	401	333	734
Clare	687	683	1,370
Cork	3,292	2,947	6,239
Donegal	1,229	1,004	2,233
Dublin	7,360	6,592	13,952
Galway	1,785	1,640	3,425
Kerry	1,057	939	1,996
Kildare	1,142	1,128	2,270
Kilkenny	512	455	967
Laois	433	384	817
Leitrim	263	265	528
Libya	21	32	53
Limerick	1,390	1,310	2,700
Longford	333	336	669
Louth	853	846	1,699
Mayo	1,050	907	1,957
Meath	844	780	1,624
Monaghan	474	362	836
Offaly	480	430	910
Roscommon	354	255	609
Sligo	441	393	834
Tipperary N.R	566	492	1,058
Tipperary S.R	573	596	1,169
Waterford	787	627	1,414
Westmeath	758	667	1,425
Wexford	930	807	1,737
Wicklow	744	654	1,398
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,215</b>	<b>26,252</b>	<b>55,467</b>