

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2010 STATE EXAMINATIONS**

116,334 Students Sit Exams This Year

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

*(The Notes for Editors at 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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010, some 116,334 candidates will take their seats at almost 4,700 examination centres countywide to begin their Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations.

**Mr. Richard Langford**, Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), sends his best wishes and those of his fellow Commissioners on behalf of the Commission to all sitting the state examinations in 2010. He 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 interest and the events surrounding the re-schedule of Leaving Certificate English Paper 2 last year show how any disruption to the examination schedule can impact on all those involved. 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. As an organisation we have looked carefully at what happened last year and we have put in place a series of measures so that the 2010 examinations will proceed as scheduled. I wish all those sitting examinations this year every success.”*

The SEC has introduced enhanced procedures for the 2010 examinations with the intention of reducing the likelihood of an event, similar to that which led to the re-schedule of Leaving Certificate English Paper 2, from occurring again. For the 2010 examinations the SEC has:

- Amended the examination timetable so that no subject with two written examinations will be held either on two mornings or two afternoons in order to clearly distinguish the packets of papers from each other;
- Introduced a superintendent partnering system for the validation of the examination paper packets before each examination session commences;
- Provided specific directions to superintendents to contact the SEC if something should occur which may threaten the integrity of the examination process;
- Redesigned the examination paper packets and the examination packet labels to prioritise the key information and instructions;

- Instructed superintendents to distribute all examination papers **face-up** so that it is immediately apparent that the correct examination paper has been given out for the session;
- Updated and revised the training and instructions for Superintendents, including development of a set of “Golden Rules”, which reminds superintendents of their core duties and responsibilities;
- Developed enhanced communication strategies to deal with school authorities and superintendents;
- Developed an enhanced contingency model to provide for greater agility in responding to critical incidents.

From the June bank holiday weekend, the 4,700 superintendents involved in supervising the written examinations will take possession of the boxes containing the 3 million examination papers that are required by candidates over the 13-day examination period. Almost 4,000 examiners will be involved in examining the work presented by candidates in the written examinations. This is in addition to the some 2,000 examiners required to mark the oral and practical tests.

The examinations run until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2010.

ENDS

## Notes for Editors

Further detailed information, including additional information on the 2010 examination changes are available in our Media Information & Statistics 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 Science for the operation of the second level examinations of the Irish state: the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate. The SEC is based at Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

The SEC employs some 170 permanent staff; this number is supplemented by some 90 temporary staff 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 2009 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes

- Providing examinations to **113,018 candidates** across all examination programmes; **55, 557** at Junior Certificate, **54,197** at Leaving Certificate, and **3,264** at Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- Arranging for **examinations** in **90** curricular and **15** non-curricular subjects examination subjects
- Engaging **664 drafters**, setters and translators to develop **254** different test instruments – including oral tests, aural recordings, practical briefs, project briefs, portfolio and coursework items as well as the written examination papers
- Producing approx **3.1 million** examination papers made up of approx **38 million A4 pages**
- Arranging for the recording of some **84, 546** oral tests
- Engaging **4,655** superintendents to superintend at **4,607** ordinary examination centres
- Providing **17,233 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate candidates with individual needs to access the certificate exams and establishing **7,587 special examination centres** as a result
- Engaging **6,469 examiners** to mark the examinations; **4,174 written** examiners, **1,130 oral** examiners and **1,165 practical** examiners
- Examining some **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 **966,634 individual grades** leading to the award of **113,018 examination results**
- Returning **338,955 marked scripts** to schools for viewing
- Processing some **12,712 appeals** at Leaving and Junior Certificate

Please see our website, [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) for further details including 2010 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2009, 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
- Be taking Leaving Certificate English

Another condition is that candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only.

For the 2010 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following fifteen non-curricular language subjects:

- Bulgarian
- Czech
- Dutch
- Danish
- 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 2010 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these exams in 2009.

Subject	2009 (sits)	2010(entries)
Dutch	31	31
Portuguese	55	49
Polish	328	467
Latvian	48	98
Lithuanian	176	204
Romanian	92	132
Others*	87	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>1,083</b>

*Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2009 V 2010*

\* Modern Greek, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Czech, Hungarian, Estonian, Slovakian, Bulgarian.

Background information on the development of the non curricular language subjects is available from the 2010 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 2007-2010

#### B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2007-2009

#### C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2010

#### D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2010

#### E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2010

#### A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2007-2010

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>
2007	52,021	3,132	57,883	113,036
2008	53,345	3,475	57,006	113,826
2009	55,383	3,269	56,513	115,165
<b>2010</b>	<b>55,783</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>57,133</b>	<b>116,334</b>

\* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

#### B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2007-2009

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2007</b>	50,873	3,021	57,287	111,181
<b>2008</b>	52,143	3,400	55,940	111,483
<b>2009</b>	54,197	3,264	55,557	113,018

### C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2010

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	483	463	946
Cavan	352	382	734
Clare	623	710	1,333
Cork	3,189	3,124	6,313
Donegal	1,126	990	2,116
Dublin	7,150	7,161	14,311
Galway	1,626	1,610	3,235
Kerry	963	954	1,917
Kildare	1,224	1,320	2,544
Kilkenny	506	493	999
Laois	368	405	773
Leitrim	218	220	438
Limerick	1,256	1,312	2,568
Longford	308	289	597
Louth	802	881	1,683
Mayo	912	821	1,733
Meath	896	952	1,848
Monaghan	447	387	834
Offaly	492	466	958
Roscommon	293	248	541
Sligo	443	386	829
Tipperary N.R	517	444	961
Tipperary S.R	565	619	1,184
Waterford	778	764	1,542
Westmeath	749	729	1,478
Wexford	940	859	1,799
Wicklow	755	761	1,516
<b>Counties Total</b>	27,980	27,750	55,730
Libya	28	25	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	28,008	27,775	55,783

#### D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2010

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	11	14	25
Cavan	24	31	55
Clare	45	46	91
Cork	160	164	324
Donegal	43	91	134
Dublin	468	439	907
Galway	64	74	138
Kerry	36	54	90
Kildare	62	72	134
Kilkenny	5	4	9
Laois	16	20	36
Leitrim	6	14	20
Limerick	110	80	190
Longford	9	19	28
Louth	77	58	135
Mayo	43	73	116
Meath	51	75	126
Monaghan	17	44	61
Offaly	50	38	88
Roscommon	13	9	22
Sligo	22	34	56
Tipperary N.R	32	54	86
Tipperary S.R	45	73	118
Waterford	54	64	118
Westmeath	27	36	63
Wexford	64	96	160
Wicklow	36	52	88
Total	1,590	1,828	3,418

### E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2010

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	371	420	791
Cavan	403	429	832
Clare	708	676	1,384
Cork	3,144	3,324	6,468
Donegal	1,120	1,067	2,187
Dublin	7,006	7,431	14,437
Galway	1,572	1,599	3,171
Kerry	942	926	1,868
Kildare	1,273	1,356	2,629
Kilkenny	506	561	1,067
Laois	440	448	888
Leitrim	209	212	421
Limerick	1,272	1,404	2,676
Longford	319	316	635
Louth	940	922	1,862
Mayo	838	935	1,773
Meath	993	1,013	2,006
Monaghan	408	448	856
Offaly	475	550	1,025
Roscommon	296	299	595
Sligo	377	443	820
Tipperary N.R	548	567	1,115
Tipperary S.R	544	592	1,136
Waterford	740	776	1,516
Westmeath	688	671	1,359
Wexford	969	994	1,963
Wicklow	793	860	1,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,894</b>	<b>29,239</b>	<b>57,133</b>