

PRESS EMBARGO UNTIL 6.00 AM WEDNESDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2008

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS 2008

56,000 students to receive Junior Certificate Results

10th September 2008

Statements of provisional Junior Certificate examination results for 56,023 candidates will be in all post-primary schools today, Wednesday, 10th September 2008. Over half a million individual grades in 26 different subjects are being delivered to the 27,649 female and 28,374 male candidates in this year's examination. Students can also access their results through the on-line examination results service on www.examinations.ie from 4 PM today.

The Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), Mr. Richard Langford, sent his congratulations to all of the students receiving results today and to their parents and teachers. He expressed the hope that they would continue with their studies and that the Junior Certificate outcomes would assist them in making informed future choices. Mr. Langford sent special congratulations to the 1,289 re-entrants to education who entered for this year's Junior Certificate examination through various education schemes including the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme and the Back to Education Initiative.

The Chairman commended the staff of the SEC, examination superintendents, examiners, school managements, teachers, school staff and all others involved in the examination process on their hard work and commitment in the conduct of the 2008 examinations.

The overall numbers sitting the examination have decreased by 2.2% on the 2007 candidature, while the proportion of candidates who are re-entrants to education has remained relatively steady at 2.3% of the total cohort.

Appeals

Applications for review of Junior Certificate examination results, which must be made through the candidate's school, should be made so as to arrive in the State Examinations Commission no later than 5 PM on Friday, 26th September 2008. The fee for this service is €30.00 per subject which will be refunded in the event that a result is upgraded. The closing date will be strictly observed. Applications will be accepted only from a school authority. It is planned to post the results of the appeals in the week ending 7th November 2008.

Marking Schemes

The official marking schemes in all subjects will be published on the website, www.examinations.ie in the coming days.

Chief Examiners' Reports

Chief Examiners' Reports provide a review of the performance of candidates in the examinations and contain detailed analysis of all aspects of the examining process. They also contain recommendations for teachers and students and generally include examples of candidates' answers. Reports are published in a selected number of subjects and programmes each year.

Following the 2008 examinations, Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the following Junior Certificate subjects: French, German, History, Spanish, Technical Graphics, Latin and Religious Education.

The reports will be published in 2009.

On-Line Results Service.

Candidates will be able to access their results on the Internet from 4 PM today, Wednesday 10th September 2008. Access to the service, which requires the use of an examination number and a unique candidate Personal Identification Number, (PIN) is through www.examinations.ie. This service is not intended to replace the valuable results service and advice provided to students by schools at results issue time. The PIN and Examinations numbers required to access the service have already been issued.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Note on Statistics

All statistics provided in this press release and in the accompanying documentation are provisional for 2008 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The accompanying statistical documentation provides details of the results of the 2008 Junior Certificate examinations for all subject levels with more than 10 candidates and the results in 2006 and 2007. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, we only make public the details of subject levels with results for more than 10 candidates. Results are also being issued to candidates in Ordinary Level Ancient Greek and Higher Level Hebrew Studies.

Number of Candidates Sitting the Junior Certificate 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

	School Candidates	Re-entrants to Education*	Total Candidates
2005	55,271	1,369	56,640
2006	56,472	1,310	57,782
2007	56,031	1,256	57,287
2008	54,734	1,289	56,023

Table 1. Numbers of Junior Certificate candidates

*Re-entrants to Education: Candidates in this classification are those that entered for the examination through education schemes such as the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) and Back to Education Initiative.

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