

PRESS EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY, 10th September 2003

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS 2003

Almost 60,000 to receive Junior Certificate Results

10th September 2003

Statements of Junior Certificate Examination results for 59,633 candidates will be in all Post-Primary schools today, Wednesday, 10th September 2003. Students are also being offered the facility of accessing their results via an on-line internet service.

The Chairman of the State Examinations Commission, Mr. Jimmy Farrelly, sent this message to students, *“I would like to congratulate all students receiving their Junior Certificate results today. The Junior Certificate examination is the first formal measure of students’ abilities and, as such, forms a foundation for future learning. I would encourage all students receiving their results today to build on this experience to contribute to their future education.”*

Mr. Farrelly sent special congratulations to 1,458 adult re-entrants to education who entered for this year’s Junior Certificate examination through the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme.

The Junior Certificate examination involves the release of almost 580,000 grades in 24 different subjects. The number of candidates who sat the examination this year, at 59,633, was down on last year’s cohort of 60,439.

General Overview

The State Examinations Commission noted that the results obtained in most subjects were closely in line with previous years. There were performance improvements at all levels in Gaelge and Art, Craft and Design. The first year of examination in the new Junior Certificate Mathematics syllabus saw some improvement in results at Foundation and Higher levels while results at Ordinary Level were consistent with previous years. The results patterns and variations will be the subject of further comment in the Commission’s Annual Report which will be published in March 2004.

The Chairman commended the staff of the Commission, examination superintendents, examiners, school managements, teachers, school staff and all others involved in the examination process on their hard work and commitment. The Commissioners were satisfied that the high standards and integrity associated with the State examination system had been maintained this year.

Religious Education

This year saw the inaugural examination in the Junior Certificate Religious Education Syllabus. This is also the first time that Religious Education has been examined by the State. The syllabus is built around a framework of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes relating to religion. Preparation for the examination included pre-testing sample examination papers in a number of the schools participating in the introduction of the syllabus.

The subject is examined at both Higher and Ordinary Level and the examination consists of a journal, worth 20% of the overall mark, that is completed by candidates in the final year of the Junior Cycle and a terminal written examination. The 2003 results are as follows:

Level	No. of Candidates	A %	B %	C %	D %	EFNG %
Higher	4164	13.9	34.4	35.4	13.5	2.8
Ordinary	1611	14.1	37.3	26.3	16	6.3

Chief Examiners' Reports

The State Examinations Commission will publish Chief Examiners' Reports in selected Junior Certificate subjects later in the year as part of the policy of reporting on every subject periodically. This year, Chief Examiners' Reports, which provide a review of the performance of candidates in the examination and detailed analysis of the standards of answering, will be published in English, Mathematics, Gaeilge, Geography, Arts, Craft and Design, Home-Economics, Music, and Classical Studies.

Marking Schemes in all subjects will be published on the Commission's website in the coming days.

Results Service.

Candidates will be able to access their results on the internet from 4pm today, Wednesday 10th September 2003. Access to the service, which requires the use of an examination number and a unique candidate Personal Identification Number, 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 to all candidates.

Appeals

Applications for review of examination results should be made so as to arrive in the State Examinations Commission no later than 5 p.m on Friday, 26th September 2003. The fee for this service is €26.50 per subject which will be refunded in the event that a result is upgraded.

It is planned to post the results of all applications for review in early November 2003.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Number of Candidates Sitting the Junior Certificate 2002 and 2003

	School Candidates	VTOS Candidates	Total Candidates
2002	59188	1251	60439
2003	58175	1458	59633

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