

PRESS EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY, 15th September 2004

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS 2004

57,000 students to receive Junior Certificate Results

15th September 2004

Statements of provisional Junior Certificate examination results for 57,074 candidates will be in all post-primary schools today, Wednesday, 15th September 2004. Students may also access their results through the on-line examination results service from 4 PM today.

The Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), Mr. Jimmy Farrelly, sent his congratulations to all of the students receiving results today and to their parents and teachers. Mr. Farrelly sent special congratulations to the 1,391 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. The Commissioners were satisfied that the high standards associated with the State examinations system had been maintained this year

General Overview

This year's Junior Certificate examination involves the release of almost 560,000 grades in 24 different subjects.

The overall numbers sitting the examination are down by 4.3% on last year however the proportion of candidates who are re-entrants to education has remained the same at 2.4% of the total cohort. The State Examinations Commission welcomes the inclusion of the Junior Certificate at Level 3 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

The SEC noted that the results obtained in most subjects were broadly in line with those of previous years. The results patterns will be the subject of further comment in the SEC's 2004 Annual Report.

Chief Examiners' Reports

The State Examinations Commission will publish Chief Examiners' Reports in selected Junior Certificate subjects later in the year as part of its 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 Business Studies, Latin and Greek.

Marking Schemes in all subjects will be published on the website, www.examinations.ie, in the coming days.

Results Service.

Candidates will be able to access their results on the Internet from 4 PM today, Wednesday 15th September 2004. 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, 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, 1st October 2004. The fee for this service is €30.00 per subject which will be refunded in the event that a result is upgraded. Results of appeals will be issued in early November.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

A statistical breakdown of the results achieved in all subjects and levels for 2004, 2003 and 2001 is attached.

Number of Candidates Sitting the Junior Certificate 2002, 2003 and 2004

	School Candidates	Re-entrants to Education*	Total Candidates
2002	59,188	1,251	60,439
2003	58,175	1,458	59,633
2004	55,683	1,391	57,074

*Candidates who entered for the examination through education schemes such as the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme and the Back to Education Initiative.

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