

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2009 STATE EXAMINATIONS**

**DEFERRED SITTING OF LEAVING CERTIFICATE ENGLISH PAPER 2 FOR  
JEWISH STUDENTS**

Following representations from the Jewish community in Ireland the State Examinations Commission (SEC) has arranged for a small number of candidates to take a deferred sitting of this year's Leaving Certificate English Paper 2 examination.

This arrangement has been put in place to have regard to religious issues arising for these candidates from the rescheduling of the Leaving Certificate English Paper 2 to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009. This approach is based on legal advice which indicates that, asking these students to sit an examination on their Sabbath, when their religion prohibits it and it is against their conscience, cannot be justified on constitutional grounds.

Precise details regarding the deferred sitting, including appropriate arrangements for supervision, to the satisfaction of the SEC, from the time of the scheduled sitting to the commencement of the deferred sitting, to protect the integrity of the examination are in the process of being finalised.

From the start of tomorrow's examination the candidates involved will be isolated and subject to strict supervision arrangements which will prevent them from having contact with anyone who has knowledge of the examination paper. In addition they will be denied access to all means of communication such as mobile phones, internet, television, radio and newspapers. They will be chaperoned from the start of Saturday's exam until 9.30am on Sunday morning when they will commence their deferred sitting of Leaving Certificate English Paper 2.

The chaperones for these candidates will be responsible adults who are not part of the candidate's family. These revised arrangements will be monitored by the SEC. If we have any concerns that the strict conditions attaching to the granting of the deferred session for these candidates have been breached in any way they will not be permitted to sit the examination on Sunday.

Ends

**Notes for Editors**

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