

**PRESS RELEASE**

**NEW ERA FOR STATE EXAMINATIONS**

Over 122,000 students sit exams this year

**4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2003**

The Chairman of the State Examinations Commission, Mr. Jimmy Farrelly, and his fellow commissioners today sent best wishes on behalf of the Commission to all students who are sitting the state examinations in 2003.

The Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations enter a new era this year with the entire examinations operation coming under the control of the newly established State Examination Commission. The new organisation, established by statutory order in March 2003, is overseen by five Commissioners who were appointed by the Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D.

Both Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations commence today Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June and run until the 19<sup>th</sup> June for Junior Certificate subjects, and 20<sup>th</sup> June for Leaving Certificate subjects. More than 122,000 students will sit the examinations in 67 subjects this year.

The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2003. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2003.

**ENDS**