

Under Strict Embargo until 6 AM on Wednesday 8th October 2008

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPEALS 2008

8th October 2008

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has released the appeal results for the 2008 Leaving Certificate examination. Candidates will receive the results of their appeals today either through their school or through the on-line examination results service on www.examinations.ie. At 12 midday today the Leaving Cert examination results available on www.examinations.ie will be updated to reflect the appeal outcomes. The appeal results are also being transmitted electronically to the Central Applications Office.

In 2008, the Leaving Certificate (Established and Vocational) examinations culminated in the issue of some 360,000 grades to 52,144 candidates. A total of 6,369 candidates made applications for appeals against 11,587 grades leading to 2,259 upgrades. Small numbers of appeals were also processed in subjects in the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

In the processing of appeals, the work of each candidate is fully re-marked question by question using the original marking scheme. The re-marking is performed by a different examiner to the one who originally marked the work.

Candidates may opt to view their re-marked examination scripts. Candidates are required to complete the application form that accompanies the appeal results and to return it through the school that entered them for examination by Friday 10th October. Externally entered candidates should return the form directly to the SEC. All such applications must be with the SEC by 5 PM on Tuesday 14th October 2008. The viewing will be held in the Athlone office of the SEC on Saturday 18th October between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

Candidates who are dissatisfied with the outcome of their appeal have recourse to the Independent Appeals Scrutineers. The Scrutineers' role is to ensure that due process has been followed in the case of each appeal and that all of the appeal procedures were properly carried out. The Scrutineers are independent of the State Examinations Commission and they have the power to request from the SEC all documentation relating to an appeal in conducting their investigations. Application forms for an appeal review by the Independent Appeal Scrutineers have been provided with the appeal results.

NUMBER AND OUTCOME OF APPEALS 2008

A total of 11,587 individual subject appeals were processed resulting in 2,259 upgrades. Details of the number and outcome of appeals are shown below for subjects in which more than 10 appeals were made.

Leaving Certificate Appeals 2008

| SUBJECT | LEVEL | CANDIDATES | APPEALS | UPGRADES |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ENGLISH | H | 31,792 | 2,178 | 271 |
| BIOLOGY | H | 18,323 | 1,054 | 234 |
| GEOGRAPHY | H | 18,269 | 1,057 | 296 |
| IRISH | H | 13,994 | 980 | 208 |
| BUSINESS | H | 12,154 | 693 | 114 |
| FRENCH | H | 14,226 | 675 | 135 |
| MATHEMATICS | H | 8,510 | 612 | 127 |
| MATHEMATICS | O | 35,803 | 511 | 84 |
| HISTORY | H | 7,601 | 461 | 120 |
| CHEMISTRY | H | 5,904 | 396 | 68 |
| PHYSICS | H | 4,929 | 234 | 37 |
| ART | H | 7,859 | 353 | 57 |
| LINKS MODULES(LCVP) | C | 14,514 | 302 | 75 |
| HOME ECONOMICS - S+ S | H | 8,753 | 274 | 39 |
| ACCOUNTING | H | 4,811 | 150 | 51 |
| ECONOMICS | H | 3,426 | 337 | 43 |
| GERMAN | H | 4,440 | 127 | 28 |
| ENGINEERING | H | 3,637 | 32 | 8 |
| MUSIC | H | 4,770 | 187 | 18 |
| AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE | H | 3,712 | 184 | 84 |
| TECHNICAL DRAWING | H | 3,051 | 106 | 19 |
| IRISH | O | 25,820 | 109 | 16 |
| CONSTRUCTION STUDIES | H | 6,849 | 79 | 14 |
| FRENCH | O | 13,472 | 65 | 12 |
| SPANISH | H | 1,592 | 73 | 13 |
| ENGLISH | O | 17,590 | 71 | 30 |
| RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | H | 610 | 37 | 1 |
| PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY | H | 454 | 11 | 1 |
| APPLIED MATHEMATICS | H | 1,288 | 55 | 4 |
| BIOLOGY | O | 8,284 | 16 | 9 |
| ITALIAN | H | 145 | 16 | 11 |
| CLASSICAL STUDIES | H | 683 | 73 | 9 |

H = Higher, O = Ordinary, C = Common.

Appeals were also made in Higher Level ;Agricultural Economics, Arabic, Japanese, Ancient Greek, Latin and in Ordinary Level Accounting, Agricultural Science, Business, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Construction Studies, Engineering, Geography, German, History, Home Economics S&S, Physics, Religious Education, Spanish and Technical Drawing; and in Foundation Level Irish and Mathematics.

The figures do not include a small number of appeals which have yet to be finalised.

ENDS

Media enquiries to John Mc Donnell on 090-644 2778, mobile 087-9959032.

E-mail: john.mcdonnell@examinations.ie