

**Under Strict Embargo until 6 AM on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

## STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

### PRESS RELEASE

## LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPEALS 2013

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has released the appeal results for the 2013 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](http://www.examinations.ie). At 12 midday today the Leaving Certificate examination results available on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) will be updated to reflect the appeal outcomes. The appeal results have also been transmitted electronically to the Central Applications Office.

In 2013, the Leaving Certificate examinations culminated in the issue of some 370,491 grades to 55,572 candidates. These candidates were afforded an opportunity to view their scripts in their schools in early September before making a decision as to whether or not they wished to appeal the results of one or more subjects. In making this decision candidates had access to copies of the marking schemes for those subjects and could be accompanied to the viewing of their scripts by a parent or teacher. A total of 5,302 candidates made applications for appeals against 9,100 grades leading to 1,637 upgrades, which is 0.46% of all grades awarded in the 2013 Leaving Certificate examination. There were 3 results downgraded in the appeal process this year.

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 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The viewing will be held in the Athlone office of the SEC on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 to candidates with their appeal results. All decisions of the SEC, including appeals, are open to review by the Office of the Ombudsman, or in the case of candidates under 18 years of age, by the Ombudsman for Children.

The appeals process is also used as a further quality assurance check on the original results processing. In 2013 this quality assurance process has culminated in 6 upgrades for candidates who had not appealed.

### NUMBER AND OUTCOME OF APPEALS 2013

A total of 5,302 candidates made applications for appeals against 9,100 grades leading to 1,637 upgrades, which is 0.46% of all grades awarded.

	Level	Grades	Appeals	Upgrades	As a % of Overall Grades
ACCOUNTING	A	3791	152	39	1.0%
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE	A	5627	338	107	1.9%
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	A	1413	59	5	0.4%
ART	A	7651	247	48	0.6%
BIOLOGY	A	22506	1026	271	1.2%
BIOLOGY	G	8054	11	2	0.0%
BUSINESS	A	11072	546	46	0.4%
CHEMISTRY	A	6447	349	56	0.9%
CLASSICAL STUDIES	A	487	61	10	2.1%
CONSTRUCTION STUDIES	A	6519	59	5	0.1%
DESIGN & COMMUNICATION	A	3921	105	12	0.3%
ECONOMICS	A	3577	204	39	1.1%
ENGINEERING	A	3712	30	6	0.2%
ENGLISH	A	31862	1528	177	0.6%
ENGLISH	G	17487	55	26	0.1%
FRENCH	A	13750	479	78	0.6%
FRENCH	G	11300	31	2	0.0%
GEOGRAPHY	A	19272	530	131	0.7%
GERMAN	A	4210	123	21	0.5%
HISTORY	A	7544	266	58	0.8%
HOME ECONOMICS	A	8718	198	39	0.4%
IRISH	A	16014	723	105	0.7%
IRISH	G	23025	43	7	0.0%
LATIN	A	82	12	1	1.2%
LINKS MODULES	C	15679	237	50	0.3%
MATHEMATICS	A	12380	681	159	1.3%
MATHEMATICS	G	31932	255	63	0.2%
MUSIC	A	5542	186	18	0.3%
PHYSICS	A	4511	356	26	0.6%
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	A	1081	41	1	0.1%
SPANISH	A	2885	85	15	0.5%
TECHNOLOGY	A	927	18	5	0.5%
Others		57,513	66	9	0.0%
		<b>370,491</b>	<b>9100</b>	<b>1637</b>	<b>0.46%</b>

***A = Ard (Higher), G = Gnath (Ordinary), B = Bonn (Foundation) C = Common.***

***Other Subjects*** \* (where less than 10 candidates appealed their result or where there were no appeals in subjects)

**Higher Level:** Agricultural Economics, Ancient Greek, Arabic, Italian, Japanese, Latvian, Physics & Chemistry, Polish, Russian.

**Ordinary Level:** Accounting, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Art, Business, Chemistry, Design & Communication Graphics, Economics, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Spanish.

**Foundation Level:** Irish, Mathematics.

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

ENDS

**Cathal McDonagh**

**Press Officer,**

**Phone 090-64 42770 or 087-2830355**

**E-mail: [cathal.mcdonagh@examinations.ie](mailto:cathal.mcdonagh@examinations.ie)**