

Under Strict Embargo until 6am on Wednesday 8th October 2014

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPEALS 2014

8th October 2014

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has released the appeal results for the 2014 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. Today, at 12 mid-day, the Leaving Certificate examination results available on 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 2014, the Leaving Certificate examinations culminated in the issue of some 380,085 grades to 56,990 candidates. These candidates were afforded an opportunity to view their scripts in their schools at the end of August 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 5,447 candidates made applications for appeals against 9,267 grades leading to 1,673 upgrades, which is 0.44% of all grades awarded in the 2014 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 13th October, 2014. Externally entered candidates should return the form directly to the SEC. All such applications must be with the SEC by 5pm on Tuesday 14th October, 2014. The viewing will be held in the Athlone office of the SEC on Saturday 18th October between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

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 2014, this quality assurance process has culminated in 116 upgrades for candidates who had not appealed.

NUMBER AND OUTCOME OF APPEALS 2014

A total of 5,447 candidates made applications for appeals against 9,267 grades leading to 1,673 upgrades, which is 0.44% of all grades awarded.

	Level *	Grades	Appeals	Upgrades	As a % of Grades
ACCOUNTING	A	4,212	233	40	0.9%
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE	A	6,329	297	108	1.7%
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	A	1,569	30	4	0.3%
ART	A	7,723	285	18	0.2%
BIOLOGY	A	24,443	974	250	1.0%
BIOLOGY	G	8,514	13	0	0.0%
BUSINESS	A	11,674	477	62	0.5%
CHEMISTRY	A	7,226	508	70	1.0%
CLASSICAL STUDIES	A	500	58	10	1.8%
CONSTRUCTION STUDIES	A	6,847	66	7	0.1%
DESIGN & COMMUNICATION	A	4,097	121	17	0.4%
ECONOMICS	A	3,913	323	58	1.5%
ENGINEERING	A	4,172	29	8	0.2%
ENGLISH	A	35,122	1,596	200	0.6%
ENGLISH	G	17,154	35	10	0.1%
FRENCH	A	15,014	504	86	0.6%
FRENCH	G	11,482	28	7	0.1%
GEOGRAPHY	A	19,694	470	84	0.4%
GERMAN	A	4,722	130	25	0.5%
HISTORY	A	8,470	264	67	0.8%
HOME ECONOMICS	A	8,561	241	34	0.4%
IRISH	A	18,134	767	113	0.6%
IRISH	G	23,331	30	4	0.0%
LINKS MODULES	C	15,276	226	56	0.4%
MATHEMATICS	A	14,326	701	175	1.2%
MATHEMATICS	G	32,428	233	59	0.2%
MUSIC	A	5,926	137	17	0.3%
PHYSICS	A	5,399	221	20	0.4%
PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY	A	361	16	1	0.3%
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	A	1,068	49	6	0.6%
SPANISH	A	3,397	120	31	0.9%
OTHERS **		48,961	85	26	0.0%
		380,045	9,267	1,673	0.44%

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

Others ** This includes subjects where there were 10 or less candidates who appealed their result (the relevant subjects are outlined below). It also includes subjects where there were no appeals.

Higher Level: Agricultural Economics, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Swedish, Technology.

Ordinary Level: Accounting, Agricultural Science, Business, Chemistry, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Economics, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Italian, Physics, Spanish.

Foundation Level: Irish, Mathematics.

The figures exclude a small number of appeals which have yet to be finalised.

ENDS

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