

# STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

## PRESS RELEASE

621 Students Receive Upgraded Biology Result Following Review – 44 students will receive revised CAO offer.

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

The grades of 621 Leaving Certificate higher level Biology students have now been upgraded following a review of the marking scheme for the subject by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).

On foot of an issue raised during the examinations appeal process, a revision to the marking scheme for Leaving Certificate Higher Level Biology has been approved by the Chief Examiner. The revision involves broadening the range of acceptable answers to a question which was valued at 3 marks out of a total of 400 marks for the subject.

As a result of this the SEC re-examined any examination papers where the marks awarded could have made a difference to the grade achieved in the examination. In the case of candidates who appealed their examination results this was dealt with as part of the normal appeals process. This made a difference to 56 candidates who were notified of their new grades along with other appeal results on 7 October.

For candidates who had not appealed their results almost 1900 were within 3 marks of the next highest grade. The SEC re-examined their papers with the result that 621 further candidates have now received an upgrade.

Candidates are being notified, mainly through their schools. The change in results has also been sent to the Central Applications Office and the third level institutions involved are directly contacting the 44 students where an upgrade in Biology has resulted in a change in offer of a college place.

The SEC understands that higher education institutions respond as flexibly and positively as they can in relation to accommodating Leaving Certificate re-checks. Where it is not practicable to take students into the course at a particular stage, the institutions offer a deferred place for the following year.

Where a student is already attending a higher education programme and his/her place on another programme on foot of this upgrade is deferred for a year by the institution there will not be a liability for the students affected to pay fees or registration charges for the first year of the new programme. In addition, any entitlement to maintenance grants is unaffected by the deferral.

Each year the Chief Examiners in all subjects monitor the operation of the appeals process. The key consideration in all instances must be to ensure that candidates receive the grades which their examination work deserves.

The SEC regrets any inconvenience caused to any of the candidates affected by this change. Should candidates have any questions relating to this issue they should contact the SEC on 090-644 2702/2703/2704.

ENDS

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