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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2005

57,500 candidates receive results today

17th August 2005

Figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 57,422 candidates sat Leaving Certificate examinations in 2005. The statements of provisional results of this year's examinations are available in schools today. From midday, students who are not in a position to collect their results in person, can access them through the SEC's internet results service or by telephone.

The Chairman of the SEC, Mr Jimmy Farrelly, said *"I would like to congratulate all candidates receiving their results today. The Leaving Certificate examination is a demanding test requiring dedication and hard work from candidates and support and encouragement from those around them. The receipt of these results is an important milestone in life and students, parents and teachers should be proud of their achievements. I wish all of this year's candidates well in their future studies, in their careers and in whatever they choose to do next. I encourage students to maintain a sense of proportion when interpreting their results and to take pride in their personal achievements."*

He went on to say "The Commissioners and I would like to extend particular congratulations to those candidates who sat their examinations under difficult personal circumstances. We would also like to offer our sincere sympathies to those parents, relatives and friends for whom the issue of these results will act as a sad reminder of the loss of their loved ones."

Mr. Farrelly paid tribute to all of the examiners, superintendents, principals, teachers and school personnel, and to the management and staff of the State Examinations Commission, for their hard work and commitment in the conduct of this year's examinations.

General Overview of the Leaving Certificate

The overall numbers sitting the examinations are down by 2.2% on last year. Of the 57,422 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 39,816 (69%) candidates followed the established Leaving Certificate programme, 14,253 (25%) the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme while 3,353 candidates (6%) followed the Leaving Certificate Applied programme.

Results obtained in most subjects this year followed broadly similar patterns to those of previous years. The detailed national results in all subjects for 2005 and a comparison with the results in 2004 and 2003 are appended to this press release.

Candidates are strongly advised to consult the *Leaving Certificate Results Appeal Process* booklet that accompanies their statement of provisional results when deciding on their next course of action. All candidates should adhere to the instructions provided in order to ensure that they lodge valid requests for viewing marked scripts and appealing results. This information is also available in the Candidates section on our website; www.examinations.ie.

Marking Schemes

Marking Schemes in all Leaving Certificate subjects will be published in the coming days and will be provided to schools to facilitate the Viewing of Marked Scripts. The marking schemes will also be available on www.examinations.ie.

Viewing of Marked Scripts

This free service offers all candidates the opportunity to view one or more of their marked examination scripts and to see how the marking scheme has been applied to their work. This facility should assist candidates in deciding whether or not to lodge an appeal against a result. With the exception of external candidates, all applications for Viewing of Marked Scripts should be made through the candidate's school. The closing date for receipt of completed application forms in schools is **Tuesday, 23rd August 2005**. External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results. All candidates will have access to the Marking Schemes and will be able to see how they applied in their case. The Viewing of Scripts will take place in schools on **Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd September 2005**.

Appeals

School based candidates who wish to appeal should do so through their school. External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results. All appeal applications must be with the State Examinations Commission by 5 PM on **Wednesday, 7th September 2005**. Results of appeals will be issued in early October.

Admissions to Higher-Education

The SEC transmits the results of all candidates electronically to the Central Applications Office (CAO). This brings about the earliest possible issue of college place offers to candidates.

Chief Examiners' Reports

Chief Examiners' Reports provide a review of the performance of candidates in the examinations and contain detailed analysis of all aspects of the examining process. They also contain recommendations for teachers and students and generally include examples of candidates' answers. Reports are published in a selected number of subjects and programmes each year. Following the 2005 examinations Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the following subjects: Gaeilge, Italian, Economics, Business, English, Construction Studies, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Technical Drawing, Art and the Leaving Cert Applied programme. These reports are due for publication in early 2006.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 3,353 students took their final stage examinations in the two year Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme. LCA students have been building their credits right through the two years of their leaving certificate course so today brings the final stage and full recognition of their achievements.

The results for LCA students differ from those of their counterparts in the established Leaving Certificate. Graduates from the LCA Programme receive a single award made on the basis of credits accumulated over the two year cycle. This award is given at three levels, Pass for those students with total credits of 60% to 69%, Merit for 70% to 84%, and Distinction for 85% to 100%.

The numbers taking the LCA programme over the past three years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

| Year | Distinction | Merit | Pass | Record of Credits | TOTAL |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 2003 | 593 | 1629 | 569 | 508 | 3,299 |
| 2004 | 506 | 1784 | 720 | 519 | 3,529 |
| 2005 | 450 | 1725 | 656 | 522 | 3,353 |

Table 1. LCA results

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an optional, 2 year, academic and experience-based programme, available in 2 out of 3 post-primary schools. Candidates following the LCVP take a specified range of Leaving Certificate (established) subjects as well as a formal and practical programme called the Links Modules. The Links Modules consists of compulsory work experience and enterprise activity together with personal vocational exploration and substantial use of information technology.

The formal assessment of the Links Modules has two components:

- A centrally set written examination (160 marks), with video, case study and syllabus sections, taken nationally by all candidates normally on the first Wednesday in May.
- A portfolio (240 marks) prepared by each candidate using agreed and published guidelines.

The Link Modules result can be substituted for a candidate's 6th subject in the Leaving Certificate for University and Institute of Technology CAO points purposes. A Distinction in the Link Modules merits 70 CAO points, equivalent to a C1 in a Leaving Certificate (established) subject at higher level. A Merit is awarded 50 points and a Pass 30 points.

The numbers taking the subject over the past three years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table:

| Year | Distinction | Merit | Pass | Ungraded | TOTAL |
|------|-------------|-------|------|----------|--------|
| 2003 | 1931 | 7287 | 3772 | 969 | 13,959 |
| 2004 | 1450 | 6482 | 4147 | 1486 | 13,565 |
| 2005 | 1549 | 6629 | 4578 | 1497 | 14,253 |

Table 2. LCVP Results

Help-lines

A number of help-lines, staffed by members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, will be operating from early on 17th August to provide information and advice to students and parents at results time. **(Note: These help-lines are not operated by the State Examinations Commission)**

National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) Helpline: **1800 265 165.**
 Irish Times College Helpline: **1800 946 942.**

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

Note on Statistics

All statistics provided in this press release and in the accompanying documentation are provisional for 2005 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The accompanying statistical documentation provides details of the results of the 2005 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with more than 10 candidates. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, we only make public the details of subject levels with results for more than 10 candidates. Results are also being issued in the following subjects/levels; Higher Level Ancient Greek; Ordinary Level Latin, Agricultural Economics, Arabic, Russian, Religious Education and Japanese.

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

| | Leaving Certificate (Established) | Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme | Leaving Certificate Applied Programme | Total |
|------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 2002 | 42,522 | 12,974 | 3026 | 58,522 |
| 2003 | 42,278 | 13,959 | 3299 | 59,536 |
| 2004 | 41,657 | 13,565 | 3520 | 58,742 |

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| 2005 | 39,816 | 14,253 | 3353 | 57,422 |
|-------------|--------|--------|------|--------|

Table 3. Numbers of Leaving Certificate Candidates (all programmes)

2002 figures include 4490 External and 3217 Repeat Candidates.

2003 figures include 4266 External and 3115 Repeat Candidates.

2004 figures include 3946 External and 2818 Repeat Candidates.

2005 figures include 3730 External and 2523 Repeat Candidates

Of the 2005 total, 30,216 of the candidates were female and 27,206 were male.

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday.

Access to the on-line results service, which requires the use of an examination number and a unique candidate Personal Identification Number, is through www.examinations.ie.

Candidates also have the option of accessing their results by telephone using their PIN and examination numbers. Details of the phone service, which requires the use of a touch-tone phone, are

1530 719 290 for callers within the Republic of Ireland. (Call cost 33c per minute including VAT. Calls from pay phones and mobiles may cost extra.)

00 353 1 2589001 or 00 353 1 2588588 for callers outside the Republic of Ireland. (International call rates apply.)

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