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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2009**

Almost 57,500 candidates receive results today

**12<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

Figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 57,455 candidates sat Leaving Certificate examinations in 2009. 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 from their school can access them through the SEC's internet results service or by telephone.

The Chairman of the SEC, Mr Richard Langford, said, *"On behalf of the Commission I would like to congratulate all candidates receiving their Leaving Certificate results today. The Leaving Certificate examination is a demanding test requiring years of hard work and dedication from candidates and support and encouragement from those around them. Candidates and their families faced additional stress this year with the rescheduling of the Leaving Certificate English Paper 2 to the first weekend in June and on behalf of the Commission I would like to like to pay tribute to the students and families for the manner in which they dealt with the rescheduled examination.*

*The Commission recognises that the revised arrangements for the rescheduled Leaving Certificate English Paper 2 could not have happened without the assistance and cooperation of students, parents, the education partners and schools themselves. On behalf of the Commission I would like to take this opportunity to thank sincerely all who were involved in accommodating the revised arrangements, particularly school Principals who through their professionalism and dedication ensured that the rescheduled examination went very smoothly.*

*Today our focus is on the candidates and I know that the receipt of these results is an important milestone in their lives. Those of you receiving results today should take pride in your personal achievements and I wish all of you well in your future studies, careers or in whatever you chose to do next."*

Mr. Langford also paid tribute to all of the examiners, superintendents, 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 number sitting the examinations is up on last year's number by 3.3%. Of the 57,455 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 39,112 (68%) candidates followed the Established Leaving Certificate Programme, 15,084 (26.3%) the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme while 3,259 candidates (5.7%) 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 2009 and a comparison with the results in 2008 and 2007 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](http://www.examinations.ie).

## **Marking Schemes**

Marking Schemes in all Leaving Certificate subjects will be published and will be provided to schools to facilitate the Viewing of Marked Scripts. The marking schemes will also be available on [www.examinations.ie](http://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, 18th August 2008**. 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 28th August** and **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

## **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, 2nd September 2009**. 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 2009 examinations Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the following 10 Leaving Certificate subjects: Arabic, Biology, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Economics, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Physics & Chemistry and Technology. These reports are due for publication in 2010.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied Programme**

This year, 3,259 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 four years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Record of Credits</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2006</b>	499	1,603	608	445	3,155
<b>2007</b>	569	1,532	522	433	3,056
<b>2008</b>	587	1,809	553	496	3,445
<b>2009</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>3,259</b>

*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. The 2009 examination was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> subject in the Leaving Certificate for University and Institute of Technology CAO points purposes. A Distinction

in the Link Modules merits 70 CAO points. A Merit is awarded 50 points and a Pass 30 points.

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

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Un-graded	TOTAL
2006	1,568	6,343	4,548	1,568	14,023
2007	1,554	6,920	4,329	1,277	14,080
2008	1,902	7,002	4,354	1,247	14,505
2009	<b>1,673</b>	<b>7,097</b>	<b>4,706</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>15,084</b>

*Table 2. LCVP Results*

### Non-curricular EU Languages

The State Examinations Commission provides examinations in a range of non-curricular languages. For the 2009 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates were examined in 15 non-curricular language subjects – an increase from nine in 2005.

There was a significant increase in the candidature for these language subjects this year – a total of 817 as against 541 in 2008. This was accounted for chiefly by the relatively large numbers of candidates from the more recently accessed countries - 176 taking Lithuanian, 328 taking Polish, 48 taking Latvian and 92 taking Romanian.

The following table compares the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2008 and 2009.

Subject	2008(sits)	2009(sits)
Dutch	28	31
Portuguese	29	55
Polish	171	328
Latvian	50	48
Lithuanian	131	176
Romanian	67	92
Others*	65	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>817</b>

*Table 8.1. Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2008 V 2009*

\*Others are Bulgarian, Hungarian, Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish, Czech and Estonian.

### Help-Lines

A number of help-lines, staffed by members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, will be operating from early on 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2009 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The accompanying statistical documentation provides details of the results of the 2009 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with more than 10 candidates. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, we only publish 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, Hebrew Studies, Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish, Czech and Estonian.

Ordinary Level: Latin and Agricultural Economics.

## Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2005 – 2009

	Leaving Certificate (Established)	Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total
<b>2005</b>	39,792	14,281	3,318	57,391
<b>2006</b>	36,932	14,023	3,155	54,110
<b>2007</b>	36,790	14,080	3,056	53,926
<b>2008</b>	37,639	14,505	3,445	55,589
<b>2009</b>	<b>39,112</b>	<b>15,084</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>57,455</b>

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

**2005 figures include 3,730 External and 2,523 Repeat Candidates.**

**2006 figures include 3,688 External and 1,973 Repeat Candidates.**

**2007 figures include 3,651 External and 1,878 Repeat Candidates.**

**2008 figures include 4,101 External and 1,778 Repeat Candidates.**

**2009 figures include 4,361 External and 2,211 Repeat Candidates**

Of the 2009 total, 29,205 of the candidates were female and 28,250 were male.

### **Access to Exam Results**

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

Access to the on-line results service, which requires the use of the candidate's examination number and unique candidate Personal Identification Number, is through [www.examinations.ie](http://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 6885312 for callers outside the Republic of Ireland. (International call rates apply.)

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