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Wednesday 18th August 2010**

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2010**

Almost 57,900 candidates receive results today

**18<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 57,839 candidates sat Leaving Certificate examinations in 2010. 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. These results not only reflect the hard work and dedication of the candidates but are a tribute to the support and encouragement given by parents and teachers. In difficult economic times these results can be a gateway for our young people to further and higher education or training and employment opportunities. When considering their results I would urge candidates to retain a sense of balance and to rejoice in their particular personal achievements. I wish all of you well in your future studies, careers or in whatever you choose to do next.”*

Mr. Langford also paid tribute to all of the examiners, superintendents, teachers, school personnel, and staff of the SEC, for their 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 0.6%. Of the 57,839 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 38,885 (67.2%) candidates followed the established Leaving Certificate programme, 15,596 (27%) the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme while 3,358 (5.8%) candidates 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 2010 and a comparison with the results in 2009 and 2008 are available on request and subject to certain restrictions.

## **Project Maths**

The majority of candidates this year sat an examination based on a Mathematics syllabus which was introduced in 1992 and first examined in 1994. In addition some 1,800 students in 24 initial schools sat the first examinations in the new *Project Maths* syllabus.

Each group of candidates sat the same Paper 1 examination and a different Paper 2. No distinction has been made in the final grading process between the two groups of candidates, and all candidates will be issued with a result in the subject “Mathematics”. The examination in *Project Maths* executed well for these candidates and the SEC believes that the 2010 Leaving Certificate examination has been an encouraging start to the project.

An analysis of the first cohort taking *Project Maths* examinations shows an upward movement in levels with a higher proportion taking Higher Level, and a lower proportion taking Foundation Level, as compared with the generality of candidates taking Leaving Certificate Mathematics.

A detailed breakdown of the outcomes for *Project Maths* is available on request.

## **What Candidates Should Do Next**

Candidates are strongly advised to consult the *Leaving Certificate Results Appeal Process* booklet that they have received with 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).

## **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, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010**. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September** and **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010**.

## **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).

## **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 5pm on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010**. Results of appeals will be issued in mid 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 2010 examinations Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the following Leaving Certificate subjects: Agricultural Science, Business, French, German, Russian, Spanish and LCVP Link Modules. These reports are due for publication in 2011.

## Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 3,358 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.

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Record of Credits	TOTAL
2007	569	1,532	522	433	3,056
2008	588	1,808	553	496	3,445
2009	583	1,667	543	466	3,259
2010	627	1,776	506	449	3,358

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 2010 examination was held on the 5<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:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2007</b>	1,584	6,920	4,315	1,267	14,086
<b>2008</b>	1,893	6,982	4,341	1,244	14,460
<b>2009</b>	1,673	7,097	4,706	1,608	15,084
<b>2010</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>7,423</b>	<b>4,927</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>15,596</b>

*Table 2. LCVP Results*

### **Non-curricular EU Languages**

The State Examinations Commission provides examinations in a range of non-curricular languages. For the 2010 Leaving Certificate examinations, examinations were offered 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 1,050 as against 817 in 2009. This was accounted for chiefly by the relatively large numbers of candidates from the more recently accessed countries - 207 taking Lithuanian, 451 taking Polish, 96 taking Latvian and 121 taking Romanian.

The following table compares the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2009 and 2010.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2009(sits)</b>	<b>2010(sits)</b>
Dutch	31	29
Portuguese	55	49
Polish	328	451
Latvian	48	96
Lithuanian	176	207
Romanian	92	121
Others*	87	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>1,050</b>

*Table 3 Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2009 V 2010*

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

### **Help-Lines**

A number of help-lines, staffed by members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, will be operating from early on 18<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 2010 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The accompanying statistical documentation provides details of the results of the 2010 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels than 10 candidates or more. 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: Hebrew Studies, Modern Greek, Swedish, Finnish, and Estonian.  
Ordinary Level: Latin.

### Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2006 – 2010

	Leaving Certificate (Established)	Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total
<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>	37,679	14,460	3,445	55,584
<b>2009</b>	39,112	15,084	3,259	57,455
<b>2010</b>	<b>38,885</b>	<b>15,596</b>	<b>3,358</b>	<b>57,839</b>

*Table 4. Numbers of Leaving Certificate Candidates (all programmes)*

**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**  
**2010 figures include 3,737 External and 2,823 Repeat Candidates**

Of the 2010 total, 28,983 of the candidates were female and 28,856 were male.

#### Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

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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