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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2011

Almost 58,000 candidates receive results today

17th August 2011

Figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 57,532 candidates sat Leaving Certificate examinations in 2011. 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 extend warmest congratulations to all those who are today receiving their Leaving Certificate results. This is the outcome of many years of hard work on the part of the students and not only reflects the dedication of the candidates but is also 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. I wish all of you well as you go onto further studies or seek employment.”*

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 marginally down on last year's number by 0.3%. Of the 57,532 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 37,955 (66%) candidates followed the Established Leaving Certificate Programme, 16,386 (28.5%) the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme while 3,191 (5.5%) 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 2011 and a comparison with the results in 2010 and 2009 are available on request and subject to strict conditions of use.

Project Maths

2011 was the second year in which candidates from the 24 schools participating in Project Maths undertook examinations at Leaving Certificate. In 2010 candidates taking Project Maths shared a common Paper 1 with all other candidates. However this was not the case in 2011 and the two papers taken by candidates in the 24 schools were almost completely different from those taken by other Mathematics candidates with only a small amount of shared content between the two groups. No distinction will be made in the certification

between the two groups of candidates, and all candidates will, accordingly, be issued with a grade in the subject “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 the SEC website; 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 2011**. 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 September** and **Saturday 3rd September 2011**.

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.

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, 7th September 2011**. 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 2011 examinations Chief Examiners’ Reports will be published in the following Leaving Certificate subjects: Accounting, Classical Studies, Engineering, History and Home Economics. The reports are expected to be published early in 2012.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 3,191 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	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
2011	571	1,572	491	557	3,191

Table 1 LCA Results 2007-2011

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 2011 examination was held on the 4th 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. 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	Unsuccessful	TOTAL
2007	1,584	6,920	4,315	1,267	14,086
2008	1,893	6,982	4,341	1,244	14,460
2009	1,673	7,097	4,706	1,608	15,084
2010	1,782	7,423	4,927	1,464	15,596
2011	1,910	7,747	5,150	1,579	16,386

Table 2 Link Modules Results 2007—2011

Non-curricular EU Languages

The State Examinations Commission provides examinations in a range of EU non-curricular languages. For the 2011 Leaving Certificate examinations, examinations were offered in 15 non-curricular language subjects – an increase from nine in 2005.

There was a significant increase again in the candidature for the Non-Curricular Languages this year - a total of 1,262 as against 1,050 in 2010 (which itself had increased from 817 in 2009).

The following table compares the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2010 and 2011.

Subject	2010 (sits)	2011 (sits)
Dutch	29	29
Portuguese	49	57
Polish	451	574
Latvian	96	111
Lithuanian	207	254
Romanian	121	115
Slovakian	34	37
Hungarian	19	25
Bulgarian	11	14
Czech	15	14
Others*	18	32
Total	1,050	1,262

Table 8.1. Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2010 V 2011

*Others for 2011 are Estonian, Swedish, Modern Greek, Finnish, Danish.

Help-Lines

A number of help-lines, staffed by members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, will be operating from early on 18th 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:

All statistics provided in this press release and in the accompanying documentation are provisional for 2011 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The accompanying statistical documentation provides details of the results of the 2011 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with 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: Modern Greek, Swedish, Finnish, Danish and Estonian.
Ordinary Level: Latin, Agricultural Economics.

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2007 – 2011

	Leaving Certificate (Established)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total
2007	50,870	3,056	53,926
2008	52,139	3,445	55,584
2009	54,196	3,259	57,455
2010	54,479	3,358	57,837
2011	54,341	3,191	57,532

Table 2.1 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2007-2011

2007 figures include 3,651 External and 1,878 Repeat Candidates.
2008 figures include 4,099 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.
2011 figures include 3,616 External and 2,947 Repeat Candidates.

Of the 2011 total, 28,814 of the candidates were female and 28,718 were male.

Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday Wednesday 17th August 2011.

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.

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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