

STRICT EMBARGO ON PRESS RELEASE AND STATISTICS: Not for publication or broadcast under any circumstances before 6.00 AM Wednesday 14th August 2013

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2013

Over 55,500 candidates receive results today

14th August 2013

Figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 55,572 candidates sat Leaving Certificate examinations in 2013. 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.

General Overview of the Leaving Certificate

The overall number sitting the examinations has decreased slightly from 55,816 candidates in 2012 to 55,572 in 2013. Of the 55,572 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 37,096 (66.7%) candidates followed the Established Leaving Certificate Programme, 15,671 (28.2%) the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme while 2,805 (5%) candidates followed the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

Results obtained in most subjects this year followed broadly similar patterns to those of previous years.

What Candidates Should Do Next

Candidates are strongly advised to consult the *Leaving Certificate Candidate Information Booklet* that they have received earlier this year when deciding on their next course of action. (A copy of this booklet is available on the SEC website www.examinations.ie) Candidates should adhere to the instructions provided in order to ensure that they lodge valid requests for viewing marked scripts and appealing results.

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 assists 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, 20th August 2013**.

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 were applied in their case. The Viewing of Scripts will take place in schools on **Friday 30th August and Saturday 31st August 2013**.

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, 4th September 2013**. 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. There will be a difference in emphasis in the Chief Examiners Report for 2013, which will link the assessment objectives with the learning objectives outlined in the syllabi. Reports are published in a selected number of subjects and programmes each year. Following the 2013 examinations Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the following Leaving Certificate subjects: English, Art, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Religious Education, Economics and Construction Studies. The reports are expected to be published early in 2014.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 2,805 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 five years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Record	TOTAL
2009	589	1,663	584	464	3,264
2010	634	1,769	513	442	3,358
2011	577	1,569	494	555	3,195
2012	669	1,657	445	457	3,228
2013	550	1,374	470	411	2,805

Table 1 LCA Results 2009-2013

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

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Unsuccessful	TOTAL
2009	1,697	7,096	4,700	1,598	15,091
2010	1,811	7,430	4,925	1,438	15,604
2011	1,937	7,737	5,152	1,568	16,394
2012	1,972	8,153	4,554	1,169	15,848
2013	1,684	7,619	5,123	1,245	15,671

Table 2 Link Modules Results 2009—2013

Non-curricular EU Languages

The SEC provides examinations in a range of EU non-curricular languages. In order to simplify the administration of these examinations all non-curricular EU language subjects were scheduled for a single examination session this year. It is intended to continue this practice in future years.

There is an increase again in the candidature for the Non-Curricular Languages this year - a total of 1,470 as against 1,370 in 2012 (which itself had increased from 1,262 in 2011).

The following table compares the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2012 and 2013.

Subject	2012 (sits)	2013 (sits)
Dutch	20	25
Portuguese	63	58
Polish	707	769
Latvian	87	105
Lithuanian	262	254
Romanian	109	130
Slovakian	36	40
Hungarian	33	44
Bulgarian	17	-
Czech	14	19
Others*	22	26
Total	1,370	1,470

Table 3 Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2012 V 2013

*Others for 2013 are Modern Greek, Swedish, Finnish, Estonian and Bulgarian.

*Others for 2012 are Estonian, Modern Greek, Finnish, Danish and Swedish.

Advice for Candidates

A helpline facility will be operating from early on **14th August** to provide information and advice to students and parents at results time. The helpline number operated by the National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) Helpline is: **1800 265 165**

(Note: This helpline facility is not operated by the State Examinations Commission)

All statistics provided in this press release are provisional for 2013 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The SEC publishes on its website (www.examinations.ie) statistical documentation on the results of the 2013 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with 10 candidates or more. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, the SEC only publishes 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, Bulgarian and Estonian.

Ordinary Level: Latin, Hebrew Studies and Agricultural Economics.

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2009 – 2013

	Leaving Certificate (Established and LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total
2009	54,197	3,264	57,455
2010	54,479	3,358	57,837
2011	54,344	3,195	57,539
2012	52,588	3,228	55,816
2013	52,767	2,805	55,572

Table 2.1 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2009-2013

2009 figures include 4,361 External and 2,212 Repeat Candidates.

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

2011 figures include 3,618 External and 2,946 Repeat Candidates.

2012 figures include 2,852 External and 2,484 Repeat Candidates.

2013 figures include 2,743 External and 2,095 Repeat Candidates.

Of the 2013 total, 27,443 of the candidates were female and 28,129 were male.

Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday Wednesday 14th August 2013.

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 716 016 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.)

Errors in the 2013 examination papers

In the 2013 state certificate examinations, a number of Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate examination papers contained undetected errors which had not come to light before the examination and which had the potential to impact on candidate answering. The level of error was higher than normal. The SEC wishes to again apologise to candidates who may have been affected by these regrettable errors.

Actions taken

In keeping with the SEC's strategies for dealing with error, account was taken of each of the errors in the marking process so that candidates were not disadvantaged as a result of the error. The SEC is satisfied that, through the application of these strategies, there have been no adverse effects on candidate outcomes.

Leaving Certificate Mathematics, Higher Level Paper 2

The most significant error occurred in Question 8 on the Leaving Certificate Mathematics, Higher Level, Paper 2. Because of the nature of the errors on this paper and the potential variation in impact on candidates, the investigation and management of these errors and the management of the marking of this examination were subject to a special protocol, which included significant additional quality assurance measures and senior management oversight.

In accordance with the SEC's commitment to ensuring that candidates are not disadvantaged by error on examination papers, a strategy was put in place to (i) identify the extent and nature of the impact of the errors in Question 8, on candidate answering in the examination and (ii) to deal with any potential disadvantage identified while at the same time being cognisant of the need for fairness to all candidates.

The strategy involved: developing criteria to assist examiners to identify affected scripts; the application of a specific marking scheme to the affected scripts; scrutiny of all affected scripts by a senior member of the examining team to monitor the effectiveness of the criteria and marking strategy; recording of detailed item by item outcomes of the affected scripts for comparison with similar information on various comparator groups and monitoring of the process by a management group.

To quality assure the effectiveness of the methodology used to identify and deal with the impact of the errors, the SEC conducted a number of comparative exercises. These exercises included a statistical analysis of the outcomes of the affected group on individual questions, and various combinations of questions, on Paper 2 against those of a comparator group. They also included an analysis of overall marks on Paper 2 for the affected group, using established statistical models of expected performance in Paper 2 based on performance on Paper 1. As a final QA step, the entire unaffected cohort was analysed to identify candidates who showed unexpected significant differences in performance on Paper 2 compared to their performance on Paper 1. On foot of this analysis, ten additional scripts were reviewed. This review confirmed that none of the ten candidates showed any evidence of having been affected by the error in Question 8.

Over the course of the marking it transpired that approximately 4% of candidates had been impacted as a consequence of error in Question 8. The SEC is satisfied that the strategies used were effective in addressing disadvantage caused to candidates who were affected by the errors on this paper.

The criteria used to identify the scripts of candidates affected by the errors and the marking strategy developed to address disadvantage arising will be fully outlined in the marking scheme for Leaving Certificate Mathematics Higher level. This marking scheme, along with those for all Leaving Certificate examinations, will be published on the SEC's website later this month and sent to schools so as to be available to candidates who wish to view their scripts in order to facilitate them in assessing how the marking schemes were applied to their work. Candidates can appeal all aspects of the application of marking schemes to their work.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms to view scripts is **Tuesday, 20th August 2013**. The closing date for receipt by the SEC of applications to appeal results is **Wednesday 4th September 2013**.

Media enquiries to:

Colette Callanan
090-644 2770, 087 2830355

Sinéad Keenaghan
090-6442851

Email enquiries to sec.pressoffice@examinations.ie

CoporateAfairst/PressOffice//Releases&Statemetns/2013/PR_LC_Results_13.doc