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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2014**

Nearly 57,000 candidates receive results today

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) congratulates the 56,990 candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2014 and for which it is releasing figures today.

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 increased by 2.4% from 55,577 candidates in 2013 to 56,990 in 2014. Of the 56,990 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 54,025 candidates followed the Leaving Certificate (Established) programme, including 15,274 (26.8%) who followed the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. A further 2,965 (5.2%) 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](http://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, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**

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 29<sup>th</sup> August and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**

### **Marking Schemes**

Marking Schemes in all Leaving Certificate subjects will be published and made available 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014.** 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 has been a difference in emphasis in the Chief Examiners Reports since 2013, which has linked 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 2014 examinations, Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in all subject areas in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme. The reports are expected to be published early in 2015.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied Programme**

This year, 2,965 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.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
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	552	1,376	477	405	2,810
<b>2014</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>1496</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>2,965</b>

*Table 1 LCA Results 2010-2014*

### **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:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2010</b>	1,811	7,430	4,925	1,438	15,604
<b>2011</b>	1,937	7,737	5,152	1,568	16,394
<b>2012</b>	1,972	8,153	4,554	1,169	15,848
<b>2013</b>	1,707	7,622	5,117	1,233	15,679
<b>2014</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>15,274</b>

*Table 2 Link Modules Results 2010—2014*

### **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 again 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 EU languages this year - a total of 1,470 in 2013 as against 1,485 in 2014. Croatian was offered for the first time this year as a non-curricular EU Language with 23 candidates taking the examination.

The following table provides the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2014.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2014</b>
Dutch	20
Portuguese	67
Polish	750
Latvian	100
Lithuanian	269
Romanian	134
Hungarian	39
Czech	16
Slovakian	31
Bulgarian	11
Croatian (new for 2014)	23
Others less than 10 candidates*	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,485</b>

*Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2014*

\*Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish, Swedish and Estonian.

### **Advice for Candidates**

A helpline facility will be operating from early on **13<sup>th</sup> August** to provide information and advice to students and parents at results time. The helpline number operated by the National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) 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 2014 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.*

The SEC publishes on its website ([www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)) statistical documentation on the results of the 2014 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:* Ancient Greek, Hebrew Studies and Modern Greek.

*Ordinary Level:* Hebrew Studies and Agricultural Economics.

## Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2010 – 2014

	Leaving Certificate (Established and LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total	Annual % Change
2010	54,479	3,358	57,837	+0.5%
2011	54,344	3,195	57,539	-0.2%
2012	52,588	3,228	55,816	-3.2%
2013	52,767	2,810	55,577	-3.4%
2014	<b>54,025</b>	<b>2965</b>	<b>56,990</b>	+2.4%

*Table 2.1 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2010-2014*

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 1,948 Repeat Candidates.

2014 figures include 2,578 External and 1,768 Repeat Candidates.

### Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

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 716 016 for callers within the Republic of Ireland. (Calls 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.)

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms to view scripts is **Tuesday, 19th August 2014**. The closing date for receipt by the SEC of applications to appeal results is **Wednesday 3<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**.

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