

# **PRESS EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2003**

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **LEAVING CERTIFICATE RESULTS 2003**

Over 59,500 to receive Leaving Certificate Results

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2003**

Leaving Certificate Examination results figures released today by the State Examinations Commission show that the number of students sitting the Leaving Certificate examination is up slightly on last year to 59,525. This is the first year since 1998 that the numbers sitting the examination have risen. The results of this year's examinations are available in schools today and students are also being offered the facility of accessing their results via an on-line internet service or over the telephone.

This is the first year that the examinations have been overseen by the State Examinations Commission and the Chairman of the Commission, Mr Jimmy Farrelly, had this message *"I congratulate all those receiving their results today and wish them well in whatever they choose to do next. The receipt of these results is an important milestone in life and students, parents and teachers should be proud of their achievements"*. Mr. Farrelly encouraged students to maintain a sense of proportion when interpreting their results and to remember that achievement is not only about obtaining the top grades.

The numbers of candidates taking the Leaving Certificate Applied and Vocational Programmes have increased significantly. This year 3,296 students took their final stage examinations in the two year LCA programme, an increase of 270 on the 2002 figure. The level of participation in the LCVP has gone from 12,974 candidates in 2002 to 13,959 this year.

In all, almost 390,000 grades in 31 subjects were issued today.

#### **General Overview**

The Chairman commended the staff of the Commission, examination superintendents, examiners, school managements, teachers, school staff and all others involved in the examination process on their hard work and commitment. The Commissioners were satisfied that the high standards and integrity associated with the State examination system had been maintained this year.

The Commission noted that the results obtained in most subjects this year followed a broadly similar pattern to those of previous years. The results patterns and variations

will be the subject of further comment in the Commission's Annual Report which will be published in March 2004.

The Commission welcomed the trend of increased participation in Physics and Chemistry, and noted the steady improvement in grades for the second year running. The structure of the examination papers in these subjects is in line with syllabus revisions made in the last three years. This has resulted in more student-friendly examinations that show an increased emphasis on the every-day applications of science.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied Programme**

Leaving Certificate Applied students have been building their credits right through the two years of their Leaving Certificate Programme so today brings the final stage and full recognition of their achievements.

The results for Leaving Certificate Applied students differ from those of their counterparts in the established Leaving Certificate. Leaving Certificate Applied graduates receive a group award based on their overall performance over the two years of the programme. 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%.

#### **Results Attained in the LCA in the Last Three Years**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2001</b>	683	1464	394	326	2870
<b>2002</b>	500	1563	550	413	3026
<b>2003</b>	593	1629	566	508	3296

### **Chief Examiners' Reports**

The State Examinations Commission will publish Chief Examiners' Reports in selected Leaving Certificate subjects later in the year as part of the policy of reporting on every subject periodically. This year Chief Examiners' Reports, which provide a review of the performance of candidates in the examination and detailed analysis of the standards of answering, will be published in Accounting, Spanish, French, German, Classical Studies and Music.

Marking Schemes in all subjects will be published in the coming days.

### **Viewing of Marked Scripts and Appeals**

The Commission will be providing a Viewing of Marked Scripts service again this year. This service allows candidates the opportunity to view one or more of their marked examination scripts and 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 **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2003**. 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.

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 **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2003**. Results of appeals will be issued in early October.

For the first time this year, all oral tests were recorded. This will facilitate a full re-marking of all components of an examination in the event that a candidate appeals a result in subject with an oral component. (Gaeilge, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian or Japanese.)

### **Admissions to Higher-Education**

The Commission will transmit the results of all candidates electronically to the Central Applications Office and the UK Universities and Colleges Application Service. This brings about the earliest possible issue of college place offers to candidates.

### **National Parents' Council Helpline**

The National Parents' Council provide invaluable help, support and advice to students and parents at results time through their Helpline 1800 265165 service. The State Examinations Commission is pleased to support the NPC in this respect and to provide contact details on its website at [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).

### **ENDS**

Notes for Editors

### **Number of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2002 and 2003**

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate(Incl LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2002</b>	55435*	3026	58461
<b>2003</b>	56229#	3296	59525

**\*2002 Includes 12974 LCVP, 4490 External and 3217 Repeat Candidates.**

**#2003 Includes 13959 LCVP, 4260 External and 3115 Repeat Candidates.**

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