

PRESS EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY 18TH AUGUST 2004

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2004

58,750 candidates receive results today

18th August 2004

Leaving Certificate examination results figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 58,753 candidates sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2004. The provisional statements of results of this year's examinations are available in schools today. From midday today, students, who are not in a position to collect their results in person, can access them through the SEC's on-line results service or by telephone. In all, almost 450,000 individual grades in 58 different subjects are being issued today.

The Chairman of the SEC, Mr Jimmy Farrelly, had this message; *“My congratulations and best wishes go to all who are receiving results today and to their families and teachers. The Leaving Certificate examination is a demanding test of ability requiring dedication and hard work on the part of the candidate and the support and encouragement of those around them. I would encourage students to maintain a sense of proportion when interpreting their results and to remember that achievement is not only about obtaining the top grades”*

Mr. Farrelly also paid tribute to the many thousands of individuals involved in the operation of the examinations; *“I would like to offer a personal note of thanks to all of the examiners, superintendents, principals, teachers and school personnel, and in particular to the management and staff of the State Examinations Commission, whose commitment, application and professionalism have contributed so generously to the successful conduct of this year's examinations.”*

General Overview of the Leaving Certificate

The overall numbers sitting the examination are down by 1.3% on last year. Of the total cohort of candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 17,094 candidates (29%) followed either the Leaving Certificate Applied or Leaving Certificate Vocational programmes while 41,659 candidates followed the established Leaving Certificate programme.

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 SEC's 2004 Annual Report.

The new Biology, Home Economics and Arabic syllabuses were examined for the first time in 2004.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 3,529 students took their final stage examinations in the two year LCA programme, an increase of 230 on the numbers in 2003. 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. Graduates from the Applied 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%.

Results Attained in the LCA in the Last Three Years

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Record	TOTAL
2001	683	1464	394	326	2,870
2002	500	1563	550	413	3,026
2003	593	1629	569	508	3,299
2004	506	1784	720	519	3,529

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 Home Economics, Applied Mathematics, Agricultural Economics, Latin, Greek, LCVP Link Modules, Arabic, Japanese and Biology.

Marking Schemes in all subjects will be published in the coming days and will be provided to schools to facilitate the Viewing of Marked Scripts. The schemes will also be published on our website www.examinations.ie.

Viewing of Marked Scripts and Appeals

The SEC will be providing a Viewing of Marked Scripts service again this year. This free service offers all 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 **Tuesday, 24th August 2004**. 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 3rd** and **Saturday 4th September 2004**.

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 5 PM on **Wednesday, 8th September 2004**. Results of appeals will be issued in early October.

Admissions to Higher-Education

The SEC will transmit 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.

National Parents' Council Helpline

The National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) provide invaluable help, support and advice to students and parents at results time through their Helpline service at 1800 265 165.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Number of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2002,2003 and 2004.

	Established Leaving Certificate (including LCVP)*	Leaving Certificate Applied	Total
2002	55,496	3,026	58,522
2003	56,237	3,299	59,536
2004	55,224	3,529	58,753

***2002 Includes 12,974 LCVP, 4,490 External and 3,217 Repeat Candidates.**

***2003 Includes 13,959 LCVP, 4,260 External and 3,115 Repeat Candidates.**

***2004 Includes 13,565 LCVP, 3,949 External and 2,819 Repeat Candidates.**

Of the 2004 total, 30,693 of the candidates were female and 28,060 were male.

Access to the on-line results service, which requires the use of an examination number and a 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 inclusive of VAT

00 353 1 2588588 for callers outside the Republic of Ireland
International call rates apply.

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