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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2012

Almost 56,000 candidates receive results today

15th August 2012

Figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 55,815 candidates sat Leaving Certificate examinations in 2012. 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 by 3.2% on the 2011 figures. Of the 55,815 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 36,762 (65.9%) candidates followed the Established Leaving Certificate Programme, 15,827 (28.3%) the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme while 3,226 (5.8%) 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 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, 21st August 2012**. 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 31st August** and **Saturday 1st September 2012**.

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, 5th September 2012**. 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 2012 examinations Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the following Leaving Certificate subjects: Applied Mathematics, Geography, Music, Gaeilge and Agricultural Economics. The reports are expected to be published early in 2013.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

This year, 3226 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
2008	594	1,804	560	442	3,400
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	667	1,658	438	463	3,226

Table 1 LCA Results 2008-2012

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
2008	1,933	7,031	4,325	1,224	14,513
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	1,943	8,144	4,557	1,183	15,827

Table 2 Link Modules Results 2008—2012

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 1,370 as against 1,262 in 2011 (which itself had increased from 1,050 in 2010). The following table compares the number of candidates in these language subjects in 2011 and 2012.

Subject	2011 (sits)	2012 (sits)
Dutch	29	20
Portuguese	57	63
Polish	574	707
Latvian	111	87
Lithuanian	254	262
Romanian	115	109
Slovakian	37	36
Hungarian	25	33
Bulgarian	14	17
Czech	14	14
Others*	32	22
Total	1,262	1,370

Table 3 Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2011 V 2012

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

Advice for Candidates

A number of help-facilities will be operating from early on 15th August to provide information and advice to students and parents at results time. **(Note: These help-facilities are not operated by the State Examinations Commission)**

National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) Helpline: **1800 265 165**
Campus Times at irishtimes.com

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2008 – 2012

	Leaving Certificate (Established)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	Total
2008	52,143	3,440	55,543
2009	54,197	3,264	57,455
2010	54,479	3,358	57,837
2011	54,344	3,195	57,539
2012	52,589	3,226	55,815

Table 2.1 All Leaving Certificate Candidature 2008-2012

2008 figures include 4,101 External and 1,778 Repeat Candidates.

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 2,851 External and 2,483 Repeat Candidates.

Of the 2012 total, 27,624 of the candidates were female and 28,191 were male.

Access to Exam Results

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday Wednesday 15th August 2012.

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.)

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