

General issue

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS STATEMENT

AURAL EXAMINATIONS

16th June 2004

It might be useful if the State Examinations Commission (SEC) provides information on our general approach to dealing with reports relating to the conduct of an aural examination in a particular centre.

Our approach is to ensure that no candidate is disadvantaged where some irregular technical occurrence during an aural session has impacted on the candidate's performance. This involves obtaining a formal report from the superintendent of the centre which is considered along with any other relevant reports or correspondence provided by any other party who has knowledge of the difficulty.

This documentation is then provided to the Chief Examiner so that he/she can establish if the difficulty as reported is supported by the evidence presented including the scripts presented by the candidate(s). In this way the Chief Examiner is in a position to assess how the conduct of the test may have impacted on a candidate's performance. The Chief Examiner has power to apply any adjustments to the marks awarded that he/she considers appropriate, based on the core principle that the candidate should not be unfairly disadvantaged in terms of the final grade awarded.

As with all examinations, a separate approach applies where the complaint is of a more general nature and is not specific to a particular centre or particular candidates. An example is where candidates in general may have had undue difficulty with some of the test items. Any reports of this nature are considered by the Chief Examiner in the context of the development of the marking scheme and the overall approach to the marking of the subject.

The use of CDs in the aural tests in the certificate examination is under active consideration by the State Examinations Commission.

ENDS