

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

2011 STATE EXAMINATIONS

116,527 Students Sit Exams This Year

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

*(The Notes for Editors at end includes key logistics, details of non-curricular EU Language subjects and statistical tables including tables of entries by county. A detailed Examinations Information & Statistics Pack has been published in the Press Office section of [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie))*

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011, some 116,527 candidates will take their seats at almost 4,750 examination centres countywide to begin their Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations.

**Mr. Richard Langford**, Chairman of the State Examinations Commission (SEC), sends his best wishes and those of his fellow Commissioners on behalf of the Commission to all sitting the state examinations in 2011. He said: *“The examinations afford an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate the range and level of knowledge, skills and competencies acquired during their many years of study. The examinations can be a difficult and stressful time for candidates but the support of family, schools and the wider community plays an important role in assisting candidates to achieve the best possible outcomes in these examinations. As Commissioners we also recognise that every individual candidate expects high standards in the administration of examinations and assessments and we are committed to delivering on these standards again this year. I wish all those sitting State Examinations in 2011 every success”*.

From the June bank holiday weekend, the 4,750 superintendents involved in supervising the written examinations will take possession of the boxes containing the 3 million examination papers that are required by candidates over the 13-day examination period. Over 4,000 examiners will be involved in examining the work presented by candidates in the written examinations. This is in addition to the some 2,000 examiners required to mark the oral and practical tests.

The examinations run until Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2011.

ENDS

## Notes for Editors

Further detailed information, including additional information on the 2011 examination changes are available in our Media Information & Statistics Pack on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

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### 1. Key Logistics

Established in 2003, the SEC assumed responsibility from the Department of Education and Science for the operation of the second level examinations of the Irish state: the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate. The SEC is based at Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The SEC employs some 160 permanent staff; this number is supplemented by some 90 temporary staff to assist in key seasonal functions such as the packing and distribution of examination material and the examination resulting process.

To give an idea of the scale of activities involved in conducting the state examinations it is worth noting that the 2010 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes

- Providing examinations to **113,923 candidates** across all examination programmes; **56,086** at Junior Certificate, **54,479** at Leaving Certificate, and **3,358** at Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- Arranging for **examinations** in **90** curricular and **15** non-curricular examination subjects
- Engaging **664 drafters**, setters and translators to develop **254** different test **instruments** – including oral tests, aural recordings, practical briefs, project briefs, portfolio and coursework items as well as the written examination papers
- Producing approx **3.1 million** examination **papers** made up of approx **38 million A4 pages**
- Arranging for the recording of some **83,781 oral** tests
- Engaging **4,741 superintendents** to superintend at ordinary examination centres
- Providing **18,121 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate candidates with individual needs to access the certificate exams and establishing **8,475 special examination centres** as a result
- Engaging **6,606 examiners** to mark the examinations **4,292 written** examiners, **1,131 oral** examiners and **1,183 practical** examiners
- Examining some **1.9million individual test items** including written examination scripts, art and craftwork pieces, project and practical pieces in Leaving Certificate Construction Studies and Engineering and Junior Certificate Metalwork, Materials Technology (Wood) and Technology, oral tests, coursework journals, research reports and portfolios
- Generating **937,308 individual grades** leading to the award of **113,923**

### examination results

- Returning **355,000 marked scripts** to schools for viewing
- Processing some **12,820 appeals** at Leaving and Junior Certificate

Please see our website, [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) for further details including 2011 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2010, sample and past examination papers, and general information on the organisation and management of the examinations and the SEC.

## 2. Non-Curricular EU Language Subjects

The SEC also provides examinations in a range of subjects in the language area referred to as the non-curricular EU languages. These are languages which do not appear as part of the normal school curriculum but which students may opt to be examined in if they meet certain criteria. Chief among these conditions are the requirements that candidates for these examinations;

- Be from a member state of the European Union
- Speak the language in which they opt to be examined in as a mother tongue
- Have followed a programme of study leading to the Leaving Certificate
- Be taking Leaving Certificate English

Another condition is that candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only.

For the 2011 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following fifteen non-curricular language subjects:

- Bulgarian
- Czech
- Dutch
- Danish
- Estonian
- Finnish
- Greek (Modern)
- Hungarian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovakian
- Swedish

The following table compares the predicted candidate entries for these subjects in the 2011 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these exams in 2010.

Subject	2010 (Sits)	2011 (entries)
Dutch	29	38
Portuguese	49	56
Polish	451	582
Latvian	96	121
Lithuanian	207	257
Romanian	121	120
Hungarian	-	29
Ancient Greek	-	13
Swedish	-	11
Czech	-	18
Estonian	-	13
Slovakian	-	38
Bulgarian	-	14
Others 2010*	97	-
Others 2011#	-	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,323</b>

*Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2010 V 2011*

\* Modern Greek, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Czech, Hungarian, Estonian, Slovakian, Bulgarian.

#Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish

Background information on the development of the non curricular language subjects is available from the 2011 Media Information Pack on the SEC website [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

### 3. STATISTICAL TABLES

- A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2008-2011**
- B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2008-2010**
- C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2011**
- D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2011**
- E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2011**

#### **A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2008-2011**

This table compares the numbers of candidates who were entered for the examinations immediately prior to the commencement of the written examinations in June this year and in each of the previous three years.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate (including LCVP*)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
2008	53,345	3,475	57,006	113,826
2009	55,383	3,269	56,513	115,165
2010	55,783	3,418	57,133	116,334
<b>2011</b>	<b>55,550</b>	<b>3,245</b>	<b>57,732</b>	<b>116,527</b>

\* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

#### **B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2008-2010**

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2008</b>	52,143	3,400	55,940	111,483
<b>2009</b>	54,197	3,264	55,557	113,018
<b>2010</b>	54,479	3,358	56,086	113,923

### C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2011

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	483	445	928
Cavan	394	380	774
Clare	753	721	1,474
Cork	3,125	3,234	6,359
Donegal	1,136	1,087	2,223
Dublin	7,047	6,926	13,973
Galway	1,514	1,643	3,157
Kerry	976	887	1,863
Kildare	1,207	1,275	2,482
Kilkenny	514	514	1,028
Laois	431	470	901
Leitrim	226	228	454
Limerick	1,299	1,165	2,464
Longford	301	291	592
Louth	871	912	1,783
Mayo	924	871	1,795
Meath	865	923	1,788
Monaghan	459	377	836
Offaly	471	410	881
Roscommon	283	259	542
Sligo	424	446	870
Tipperary N.R	495	450	945
Tipperary S.R	506	576	1,082
Waterford	756	753	1,509
Westmeath	740	725	1,465
Wexford	953	881	1,834
Wicklow	718	775	1,493
Counties Total	27,871	27, 624	55,495
Libya	21	34	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,892</b>	<b>27,658</b>	<b>55,550</b>

#### D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2011

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	24	6	30
Cavan	13	20	33
Clare	43	48	91
Cork	130	188	318
Donegal	63	84	147
Dublin	415	451	866
Galway	52	60	112
Kerry	30	65	95
Kildare	60	75	135
Kilkenny	27	2	29
Laois	9	15	24
Leitrim	-----	-----	---
Limerick	98	85	183
Longford	13	22	35
Louth	92	68	160
Mayo	36	47	83
Meath	55	81	136
Monaghan	17	23	40
Offaly	46	46	92
Roscommon	22	25	47
Sligo	21	24	45
Tipperary N.R	35	54	89
Tipperary S.R	25	38	63
Waterford	52	60	112
Westmeath	33	32	65
Wexford	48	72	120
Wicklow	32	63	95
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,245</b>

### E. Predicted Junior Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2011

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	386	428	814
Cavan	433	413	846
Clare	630	755	1,385
Cork	3,156	3,349	6,505
Donegal	1,085	1,196	2,281
Dublin	7,050	7,476	14,526
Galway	1,510	1,584	3,094
Kerry	962	937	1,899
Kildare	1,294	1,460	2,754
Kilkenny	486	534	1,020
Laois	451	439	890
Leitrim	209	239	448
Limerick	1,312	1,356	2,668
Longford	314	325	639
Louth	926	1,014	1,940
Mayo	843	915	1,758
Meath	971	1,058	2,029
Monaghan	462	432	894
Offaly	492	507	999
Roscommon	255	315	570
Sligo	394	428	822
Tipperary N.R	594	636	1,230
Tipperary S.R	554	568	1,122
Waterford	762	826	1,588
Westmeath	678	678	1,356
Wexford	962	982	1,944
Wicklow	780	931	1,711
<b>Total</b>			<b>57,732</b>