

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

2012 STATE EXAMINATIONS

116,774 Students Sit Exams This Year

Wednesday 6th June 2012

(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)

On Wednesday 6th June 2012, some 116,774 candidates will take their seats in 4,786 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 SEC to all sitting the state examinations in 2012. He said: *“Today candidates across the country begin the state examinations and finally have the opportunity to demonstrate the wide range of skills and competencies they have acquired during their many years of study. Everyone involved in the examinations process is aware that this can be a difficult and stressful time for candidates and their parents but a calm and positive approach together with the ongoing support of family and schools can help students reach their potential. The staff and Commissioners of the SEC will continue to focus on providing a high quality examination service which operates openly and transparently for the benefit all of candidates. I wish all those sitting State Examinations in 2012 every success”*.

From the June bank holiday weekend, over 4,800 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 21st June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 22nd June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 14th June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday, the 15th August 2012. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2012.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Further detailed information, including additional information on the 2012 examination changes is available in our Media Information & Statistics Pack on 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 154 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 2011 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes

- Providing examinations to **114,380 candidates** across all examination programmes; **56,841** at Junior Certificate, **54,344** at Leaving Certificate, and **3,195** 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 **82,781 oral** tests
- Engaging **4,788 superintendents** to superintend at ordinary examination centres
- Providing **18,156 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate candidates with individual needs to access the certificate exams and establishing **8,860 special examination centres** as a result
- Engaging **6,638 examiners** to mark the examinations **4,287 written** examiners, **1,137 oral** examiners and **1,214 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 **985,257 individual grades** leading to the award of **114,380 examination results**
- Returning **360,000 marked scripts** to schools for viewing
- Processing some **12,731 appeals** at Leaving and Junior Certificate

Please see our website, www.examinations.ie for further details including 2012 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2011, 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 and for this reason in 2012 the SEC has scheduled all of the non curricular examinations for one session – **Wednesday 20th June 2012 9.30am to 12.30pm.**

For the 2012 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following fifteen non-curricular language subjects:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulgarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Finnish | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Czech | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek (Modern) | <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch | <input type="checkbox"/> Hungarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Romanian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danish | <input type="checkbox"/> Latvian | <input type="checkbox"/> Slovakian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estonian | <input type="checkbox"/> Lithuanian | <input type="checkbox"/> Swedish |

The following table compares the predicted candidate entries for these subjects in the 2012 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these exams in 2011.

Subject	2011 (Sits)	2012 (entries)
Dutch	29	25
Portuguese	57	74
Polish	574	739
Latvian	111	103
Lithuanian	254	278
Romanian	115	120
Hungarian	25	34
Ancient Greek	12	17
Swedish	-	11
Czech	14	19
Estonian	11	-
Slovakian	37	37
Bulgarian	14	19
Others 2011#	21	
Others 2012*		19
Total	1,274	1,495

Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2011 V 2012

#Modern Greek, Danish, Swedish, Finnish.

*Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish, Estonian

-Less than 10 candidates

Background information on the development of the non curricular language subjects is available from the 2012 Media Information Pack on the SEC website www.examinations.ie

3. STATISTICAL TABLES

A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2009-2012

B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2009-2011

C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2012

D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2012

E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2012

A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2009-2012

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.

	Established Leaving Certificate (including LCVP*)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
2009	55,383	3,269	56,513	115,165
2010	55,783	3,418	57,133	116,334
2011	55,550	3,245	57,732	116,527
2012	53,789	3,301	59,684	116,774

* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2009-2011

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

	Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
2009	54,197	3,264	55,557	113,018
2010	54,479	3,358	56,086	113,923
2011	54,344	3,195	56,841	114,380

C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2012

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	390	406	796
Cavan	365	393	758
Clare	648	630	1,278
Cork	3,006	2,947	5,953
Donegal	1,052	1,021	2,073
Dublin	6,768	7,114	13,882
Galway	1,491	1,521	3,012
Kerry	927	906	1,833
Kildare	1,233	1,275	2,508
Kilkenny	489	541	1,030
Laois	395	438	833
Leitrim	202	217	419
Limerick	1,194	1,299	2,493
Longford	299	322	621
Louth	846	840	1,686
Mayo	815	771	1,586
Meath	879	928	1,807
Monaghan	419	418	837
Offaly	419	470	889
Roscommon	289	292	581
Sligo	359	395	754
Tipperary N.R	488	450	938
Tipperary S.R	521	567	1,088
Waterford	752	719	1,471
Westmeath	722	716	1,438
Wexford	913	785	1,698
Wicklow	716	705	1,421
Counties Total	26,627	27,109	53,736
Libya	30	23	53
TOTAL	26,657	27,132	53,789

D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2012

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	0	0	0
Cavan	25	35	60
Clare	44	44	88
Cork	137	143	280
Donegal	73	103	176
Dublin	450	466	916
Galway	43	56	99
Kerry	30	47	77
Kildare	51	63	114
Kilkenny	32	10	42
Laois	15	18	33
Leitrim	3	5	8
Limerick	71	85	156
Longford	12	27	39
Louth	79	61	140
Mayo	40	72	112
Meath	56	75	131
Monaghan	35	21	56
Offaly	40	58	98
Roscommon	16	14	30
Sligo	17	37	54
Tipperary N.R	48	45	93
Tipperary S.R	42	32	74
Waterford	64	56	120
Westmeath	27	31	58
Wexford	63	99	162
Wicklow	40	45	85
Total	1,553	1,748	3,301

E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2012

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	393	385	778
Cavan	427	466	893
Clare	728	769	1,497
Cork	3,437	3,461	6,898
Donegal	1,071	1,157	2,228
Dublin	7,394	7,656	15,050
Galway	1,541	1,635	3,176
Kerry	1,016	967	1,983
Kildare	1,351	1,476	2,827
Kilkenny	523	549	1,072
Laois	425	458	883
Leitrim	211	219	430
Limerick	1,446	1,427	2,873
Longford	301	298	599
Louth	982	946	1,928
Mayo	857	948	1,805
Meath	1,089	1,134	2,223
Monaghan	388	474	862
Offaly	504	584	1,088
Roscommon	295	284	579
Sligo	391	424	815
Tipperary N.R	625	592	1,217
Tipperary S.R	570	637	1,207
Waterford	760	806	1,566
Westmeath	705	685	1,390
Wexford	997	1,107	2,104
Wicklow	802	911	1,713
Total	29,229	30,455	59,684