

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

2014 STATE EXAMINATIONS

Almost 119,000 Students Sit Exams This Year

Wednesday 4th June 2014

(The Notes for Editors at the 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 4th June 2014, some 118,673 candidates will take their seats in 4,962 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 2014. He said: *“The state examinations are an integral part of growing up in Ireland whereby candidates can apply and show what they have learned over many years in an open and fair manner. The examinations ask many questions in order to evaluate candidates’ knowledge, skills and competencies. The examinations are also an emotionally and physically demanding time for pupils who will benefit from the calm and sustained support of family, schools and community. The staff and Commissioners of the SEC are committed to supporting candidates realise their potential through examinations that meet the very highest international standards. I wish all those sitting state examinations in 2014 every success.”*

From the June bank holiday weekend, over 4,962 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 19th June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 20st June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 12th June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday, 13th August 2014. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2014.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Further detailed information, including additional information on the 2014 examination changes is available in our Media Information 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 Skills 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 currently employs 150 permanent staff supplemented by 80 temporary staff at peak period 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 2013 examinations involved the following activities and outcomes:

- Providing examinations to **115,399 candidates** across all examination programmes; **59,822** at Junior Certificate, **52,767** at Leaving Certificate, and **2,810** at Leaving Certificate Applied Programme;
- Arranging for **examinations** in **90** curricular and **15** non-curricular examination subjects;
- Engaging **578** drafters, setters and translators to develop 506 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 **4 million** examination **papers** made up of approx **47.7 million A4 pages**;
- Arranging for the recording of some **90,000 oral** tests;
- Engaging **4,734 superintendents** to superintend at ordinary examination centres
- Providing **20,638 reasonable accommodations** to facilitate candidates with individual needs to access the certificate exams and establishing **9,610 special examination centres** as a result;
- Engaging **6,549 examiners** to mark the examinations comprised of **4,223 written** examiners, **1,078 oral** examiners and **1,248 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 just under **1million individual grades** leading to the award of **115,399 examination results**;
- Returning **360,000 marked scripts** to schools for viewing;

- Processing some **13,244 appeals** at Leaving and Junior Certificate.

Please see our website, www.examinations.ie for further details including 2014 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2013, 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;
- Are taking Leaving Certificate English

Another condition is that candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only and for this reason in 2014, the SEC has scheduled all of the non-curricular examinations for one session – **Wednesday 18th June 2014 from 9.30am to 12.30pm.**

For the 2014 Leaving Certificate examinations, candidates will be examined in the following sixteen non-curricular language subjects:

Bulgarian	Croatian (new for 2014)	Czech	Danish
Dutch	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 2014 Leaving Certificate to the number of candidates that sat these exams in 2013.

Subject	2013 (Sits)	2014 (entries)
Dutch	24	24
Portuguese	53	74
Polish	745	766
Latvian	94	108
Lithuanian	235	290
Romanian	124	141
Hungarian	40	43
Swedish	-	11
Estonian	-	-
Czech	18	16
Slovakian	37	34
Bulgarian	-	14
Croatian (new for 2014)	-	24
Others less than 10 2013 #	26	
Others less than 10 2014*		21
Total	1,396	1566

Non-Curricular Language Subjects 2013 V 2014

#Modern Greek, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Estonian and Bulgarian

*Modern Greek, Danish, Finnish, and Estonian.

Background information on the development of the non curricular language subjects is available from the 2014 Media Information Pack on the SEC website www.examinations.ie

3. STATISTICAL TABLES

A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2011-2014

B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2011-2014

C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2014

D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2014

E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2014

A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations 2011-2013

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
2011	55,550	3,245	57,732	116,527
2012	53,789	3,301	59,684	116,774
2013	53,749	2,853	60,243	116,845
2014	54,933	3,042	60,698	118,673

* LCVP = Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations 2011-2013

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

	Established Leaving Certificate (incl. LCVP)	Leaving Certificate Applied	Junior Certificate	Total
2011	54,344	3,195	56,841	114,380
2012	52,588	3,228	58,798	114,614
2013	52,767	2,810	59,822	115,399

C. Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2014

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	374	384	758
Cavan	424	406	830
Clare	664	729	1393
Cork	3036	3121	6157
Donegal	1068	1066	2134
Dublin	6923	6889	13812
Galway	1432	1549	2981
Kerry	1002	917	1919
Kildare	1186	1305	2491
Kilkenny	452	478	930
Laois	410	459	869
Leitrim	215	219	434
Limerick	1263	1218	2481
Longford	296	314	610
Louth	943	894	1837
Mayo	842	804	1646
Meath	928	1041	1969
Monaghan	432	380	812
Offaly	469	477	946
Roscommon	269	288	557
Sligo	416	431	847
Tipperary N.R	587	492	1079
Tipperary S.R	536	601	1137
Waterford	743	732	1475
Westmeath	746	754	1501
Wexford	877	876	1753
Wicklow	726	795	1521
Counties Total			
Libya	22	32	54
TOTAL	27,281	27,651	54,933

D. Predicted Leaving Certificate Applied Entries by County and Gender 2014

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	-	-	-
Cavan	21	26	47
Clare	31	36	67
Cork	141	171	312
Donegal	49	99	148
Dublin	380	398	778
Galway	37	60	97
Kerry	35	42	77
Kildare	58	72	130
Kilkenny	15	12	27
Laois	13	24	37
Leitrim	-	-	-
Limerick	87	104	191
Longford	16	18	34
Louth	95	80	175
Mayo	34	50	84
Meath	54	45	99
Monaghan	28	33	61
Offaly	38	40	78
Roscommon	12	14	26
Sligo	18	42	60
Tipperary N.R	45	40	85
Tipperary S.R	28	20	48
Waterford	65	57	122
Westmeath	17	25	42
Wexford	49	90	139
Wicklow	33	45	78
Total	1,399	1,643	3,042

E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2014

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	413	487	900
Cavan	465	489	954
Clare	714	687	1,401
Cork	3,303	3,485	6,788
Donegal	1,171	1,234	2,405
Dublin	7,342	7,835	15,177
Galway	1,551	1,667	3,218
Kerry	946	985	1,931
Kildare	1,418	1,607	3,025
Kilkenny	494	563	1,057
Laois	495	487	982
Leitrim	216	260	476
Limerick	1,311	1,466	2,777
Longford	304	344	648
Louth	1,050	1,077	2,127
Mayo	788	880	1,668
Meath	1,171	1,227	2,398
Monaghan	443	455	898
Offaly	528	539	1,067
Roscommon	296	295	591
Sligo	380	408	788
Tipperary N.R	605	553	1,158
Tipperary S.R	563	618	1,181
Waterford	837	867	1,704
Westmeath	672	706	1,378
Wexford	1,065	1,073	2,138
Wicklow	885	978	1,863
Total	29,426	31,272	60,698

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