

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

**2006 STATE EXAMINATIONS**

113,500 Students Sit Exams This Year

**Wednesday 7th JUNE 2006**

*(Detailed statistics at end including key logistics and tables of entries by county)*

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, some 113,500 candidates will take their seats at 4,500 examination centres countywide to begin their Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations.

**Mr. Dick Langford**, Chairman of the State Examinations Commission, sends his best wishes and those of his colleague Commissioners on behalf of the Commission to all sitting the state examinations in 2006.

Commenting on the preparations for this year's examinations the Chairman drew particular attention to the document published by the Commission last week outlining the key principles that underpin and inform the preparation of the various test items used in the state certificate examinations. These principles include validity, reliability, accessibility, freedom from bias, and equity. The Chairman added that *"Since its establishment in 2003 the Commission has undertaken to conduct its operations with the highest standards of openness and transparency. This commitment has been enhanced through the publication of this document which sets out in the clearest terms the key principles underpinning the development of examinations and the protocol employed by Commission personnel to deliver high quality tests."*

In conveying his best wishes to candidates the Chairman recommends that they approach the examinations calmly and positively. 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. I am confident that a calm and positive approach, allied to the hard work already undertaken in preparing for the examinations, will be rewarded when the results are released in August and September."*

The document **Preparation of Test Items-Principles and Protocol** has been published on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) in the About Us/Publications Section of by clicking the following link  
<http://www.examinations.ie/about/pubik.pdf>

Over the June bank holiday weekend, the 4,500 superintendents involved in supervising the written examinations took possession of the boxes containing the 3 million examination papers that are required by candidates over the 13-day

examination period. Almost 4,000 examiners will be involved in examining the work presented by candidates.

The most significant changes in this year's exams are the first examinations in the revised syllabuses in Leaving Certificate History and Geography and Junior Certificate Science. Candidates in these examinations have already completed practical coursework leading to their final grade. For Leaving Certificate candidates taking History and Geography the final written examination is worth 80% of the overall mark. Candidates taking the examination in the revised Science syllabus may have already accumulated up to 35% of their final grade through the completion of the practical coursework element of the exam.

The examinations run until Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June for Junior Certificate subjects and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for Leaving Certificate subjects. The written examinations in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme finish on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June. The results of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be available on Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006. Results of the Junior Certificate will be available in mid-September 2006.

ENDS

## **Notes for Editors**

All Media enquiries to:

Andrea Feeney,  
Press Officer,  
Phone 090-64 42777 or 087-2379973,  
E-mail: [andrea.feeney@examinations.ie](mailto:andrea.feeney@examinations.ie)

Or

Richard Dolan  
Deputy Press Officer  
Phone 090-644 2851  
E-mail: [richard.dolan@examinations.ie](mailto:richard.dolan@examinations.ie)

## **Key Logistics**

Established in 2003, the State Examinations Commission 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 State Examinations Commission is based at Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

The SEC employs some 185 permanent staff; this number is supplemented by 90 temporary staff to assist in key seasonal functions such as the packing and distribution of examination material and the examination resulting process.

It is anticipated that this year's examinations will involve:

- 113,500 candidates in four examination programmes; the Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate (established), Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied
- 90 examination subjects
- 250 different test components - oral, aural, practical, project and portfolio items as well as the written examination papers
- 1.8 million individual test items to be examined
- 4,600 ordinary examination centres
- 4,500 special examination centres
- 3 million examination papers made up of 34 million A4 pages
- 11,000 contract staff as follows:
  - o 4,600 superintendents
  - o 6,000 examiners (4,000 written examiners, 1000 oral examiners and 1000 practical examiners)
  - o 575 drafters, setters and translators
- 85,000 oral test recordings
- 320,000 marked Leaving Cert scripts to be returned for viewing

Please see our website, [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) for further details including 2006 timetables, detailed statistics on examination results for 2001-2005, sample and past examination papers, and general information on the organisation and management of the examinations and the State Examinations Commission.

## STATISTICAL TABLES

### A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations

### B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations

### C Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2006

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

### E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2006

### A. Number of Candidates Entered for the Certificate Examinations

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 past two years.

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate(incl.LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
2004	56,572	3,620	57,378	117,570
2005	55,467	3,404	57,104	115,975
<b>2006</b>	<b>52,050</b>	<b>3,282</b>	<b>58,212</b>	<b>113,544</b>

**B. Number of Candidates Sitting the Certificate Examinations**

This table compares the numbers of candidates who, ultimately, sat the examinations in 2003, 2004 and 2005

	<b>Established Leaving Certificate(incl.LCVP)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	<b>Junior Certificate</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2003</b>	56,237	3,299	59,340	118,876
<b>2004</b>	55,222	3,520	56,864	115,606
<b>2005</b>	54,073	3,318	56,640	114,031

### C Predicted Leaving Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2006

<b>County</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	396	334	730
Cavan	383	318	701
Clare	607	605	1,212
Cork	2,960	2,838	5,798
Donegal	1,125	841	1,966
Dublin	7,157	6,540	13,697
Galway	1,618	1,486	3,104
Kerry	1,006	865	1,871
Kildare	1,108	1,015	2,123
Kilkenny	494	456	950
Laois	422	380	802
Leitrim	258	223	481
Libya	32	24	56
Limerick	1,246	1,181	2,427
Longford	296	286	582
Louth	856	733	1,589
Mayo	916	881	1,797
Meath	752	736	1,488
Monaghan	462	346	808
Offaly	419	392	811
Roscommon	249	226	475
Sligo	508	380	888
Tipperary N.R	474	468	942
Tipperary S.R	555	490	1,045
Waterford	760	685	1,445
Westmeath	694	659	1,353
Wexford	834	746	1,580
Wicklow	648	681	1,329
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,235</b>	<b>24,815</b>	<b>52,050</b>

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

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	11	20	31
Cavan	21	19	40
Clare	75	57	132
Cork	163	141	304
Donegal	58	80	138
Dublin	533	429	962
Galway	44	53	97
Kerry	47	37	84
Kildare	59	79	138
Kilkenny	--	--	24
Laois	--	--	19
Leitrim	--	--	12
Limerick	94	77	171
Longford	20	19	39
Louth	81	44	125
Mayo	51	89	140
Meath	54	63	117
Monaghan	--	--	40
Offaly	62	31	93
Roscommon	16	14	30
Sligo	19	28	47
Tipperary N.R	32	30	62
Tipperary S.R	38	46	84
Waterford	41	53	94
Westmeath	38	15	53
Wexford	53	77	130
Wicklow	33	43	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>3,282</b>

### E. Predicted Junior Certificate Entries by County and Gender 2006

County	Female	Male	Total
Carlow	395	453	848
Cavan	393	429	822
Clare	702	657	1,359
Cork	3,315	3,277	6,592
Donegal	1,097	1,167	2,264
Dublin	7,490	7,580	15,070
Galway	1,571	1,716	3,287
Kerry	946	1,030	1,976
Kildare	1,203	1,315	2,518
Kilkenny	548	567	1,115
Laois	435	425	860
Leitrim	195	216	411
Limerick	1,322	1,385	2,707
Longford	309	338	647
Louth	913	957	1,870
Mayo	966	919	1,885
Meath	958	924	1,882
Monaghan	450	448	898
Offaly	504	532	1,036
Roscommon	276	266	542
Sligo	425	403	828
Tipperary N.R	589	570	1,159
Tipperary S.R	575	599	1,174
Waterford	790	788	1,578
Westmeath	652	663	1,315
Wexford	933	1,025	1,958
Wicklow	755	856	1,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,707</b>	<b>29,505</b>	<b>58,212</b>