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STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

**PRESS RELEASE**

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2006**

54,000 candidates receive results today

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

Figures released today by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) show that 54,110 candidates sat Leaving Certificate examinations in 2006. The statements of provisional results of this year's examinations are available in schools today. From midday, students who are not in a position to collect their results in person can access them through the SEC's internet results service or by telephone.

The Chairman of the SEC, Mr Richard Langford, said, "*On behalf of the Commission I wish to extend warmest congratulations to all those who are today receiving their Leaving Certificate results. These are the outcome of many years of endeavour on their part and represent a pivotal point in their lives. The results also reflect the magnitude of the support and encouragement received by them from their parents and teachers to whom thanks and congratulations are also due today. When considering their results I would urge candidates to retain a sense of balance and to rejoice in their particular personal achievements. The extensive and diverse opportunities now available both in higher and further education and training and in employment can provide a springboard to fulfilling and rewarding lives for all of them.*"

Mr. Langford paid tribute to all of the examiners, superintendents, principals, teachers and school personnel, and to the management and staff of the State Examinations Commission, for their hard work and commitment in the conduct of this year's examinations.

**General Overview of the Leaving Certificate**

The overall numbers sitting the examinations are down by 5.7% on last year. This reduction is likely to reflect, in part, the relevant demographic trends. Of the 54,110 candidates who sat Leaving Certificate examinations this year, 36,955 (68%) candidates followed the established Leaving Certificate programme, 14,000 (26%) the Leaving Certificate Vocational programme while 3,155 candidates (6%) followed the Leaving Certificate Applied programme.

Results obtained in most subjects this year followed broadly similar patterns to those of previous years. The detailed national results in all subjects for 2006 and a comparison with the results in 2005 and 2004 are appended to this press release.

Candidates are strongly advised to consult the *Leaving Certificate Results Appeal Process* booklet that accompanies their statement of provisional results when deciding on their next course of action. All candidates should adhere to the instructions provided in order to ensure that they lodge valid requests for viewing marked scripts and appealing results. This information is also available in the Candidates section on our website; [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).

### **Marking Schemes**

Marking Schemes in all Leaving Certificate subjects will be published in the coming days and will be provided to schools to facilitate the Viewing of Marked Scripts. The marking schemes will also be available on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).

### **Viewing of Marked Scripts**

This free service offers all candidates the opportunity to view one or more of their marked examination scripts and to see how the marking scheme has been applied to their work. This facility should assist candidates in deciding whether or not to lodge an appeal against a result. With the exception of external candidates, all applications for Viewing of Marked Scripts should be made through the candidate's school. The closing date for receipt of completed application forms in schools is **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2006**. External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results. All candidates will have access to the Marking Schemes and will be able to see how they applied in their case. The Viewing of Scripts will take place in schools on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** and **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2006**.

### **Appeals**

School based candidates who wish to appeal should do so through their school. External candidates should follow the instructions that accompany their provisional statement of results. All appeal applications must be with the State Examinations Commission by 5 PM on **Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006**. Results of appeals will be issued in early October.

### **Admissions to Higher-Education**

The SEC transmits the results of all candidates electronically to the Central Applications Office (CAO). This brings about the earliest possible issue of college place offers to candidates.

### **Chief Examiners' Reports**

Chief Examiners' Reports provide a review of the performance of candidates in the examinations and contain detailed analysis of all aspects of the examining process. They also contain recommendations for teachers and students and generally include examples of candidates' answers. Reports are published in a selected number of subjects and programmes each year. Following the 2006 examinations Chief Examiners' Reports will be published in the following subjects: Geography, History, Accounting, Spanish, French, German, Engineering and Russian. These reports are due for publication during 2007.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied Programme**

This year, 3,155 students took their final stage examinations in the two year Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme. LCA students have been building their credits right through the two years of their leaving certificate course so today brings the final stage and full recognition of their achievements.

The results for LCA students differ from those of their counterparts in the established Leaving Certificate. Graduates from the LCA Programme receive a single award made on the basis of credits accumulated over the two year cycle. This award is given at three levels, Pass for those students with total credits of 60% to 69%, Merit for 70% to 84%, and Distinction for 85% to 100%.

The numbers taking the LCA programme over the past three years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Record of Credits</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2004</b>	556	1,775	704	485	3,520
<b>2005</b>	474	1,721	644	479	3,318
<b>2006</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>3,155</b>

*Table 1. LCA results*

### **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme**

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an optional, 2 year, academic and experience-based programme, available in 2 out of 3 post-primary schools. Candidates following the LCVP take a specified range of Leaving Certificate (established) subjects as well as a formal and practical programme called the Links Modules. The Links Modules consists of compulsory work experience and enterprise activity together with personal vocational exploration and substantial use of information technology.

The formal assessment of the Links Modules has two components:

- A centrally set written examination (160 marks), with video, case study and syllabus sections, taken nationally by all candidates normally on the first Wednesday in May.
- A portfolio (240 marks) prepared by each candidate using agreed and published guidelines.

The Link Modules result can be substituted for a candidate's 6<sup>th</sup> subject in the Leaving Certificate for University and Institute of Technology CAO points purposes. A Distinction in the Link Modules merits 70 CAO points, equivalent to a C1 in a Leaving

Certificate (established) subject at higher level. A Merit is awarded 50 points and a Pass 30 points.

The numbers taking the subject over the past three years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Ungraded</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2004</b>	1,450	6,482	4,147	1,486	13,565
<b>2005</b>	1,549	6,629	4,578	1,497	14,253
<b>2006</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>6,327</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>14,000</b>

*Table 2. LCVP Results*

### **Help-lines**

A number of help-lines, staffed by members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, will be operating from early on 16<sup>th</sup> August to provide information and advice to students and parents at results time. **(Note: These help-lines are not operated by the State Examinations Commission)**

National Parents' Council (Post-Primary) Helpline: **1800 265 165.**  
 Irish Times College Helpline: **1800 946 942.**

**ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors:**

#### **Note on Statistics**

All statistics provided in this press release and in the accompanying documentation are provisional for 2006 and as such are subject to enquiry and appeal.

The accompanying statistical documentation provides details of the results of the 2006 Leaving Certificate examinations for all subject levels with more than 10 candidates. For reasons of candidate confidentiality, we only make public the details of subject levels with results for more than 10 candidates. Results are also being issued in the following subjects/levels; Higher Level Ancient Greek, Higher Level Modern Greek, Ordinary Level Agricultural Economics, Higher Level Swedish, Ordinary Level Japanese, Ordinary Level Arabic, Higher Level Hungarian, Higher Level Estonian, Higher Level Slovakian, Higher Level Hebrew Studies, Higher Level Danish and Higher Level Czech..

Numbers of Candidates Sitting the Leaving Certificate 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

	<b>Leaving Certificate (Established)</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Applied Programme</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2003</b>	42,278	13,959	3,299	59,536
<b>2004</b>	41,657	13,565	3,520	58,742
<b>2005</b>	39,792	14,281	3,318	57,391
<b>2006</b>	<b>36,955</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>54,110</b>

*Table 3. Numbers of Leaving Certificate Candidates (all programmes)*

**2003 figures include 4,266 External and 3,115 Repeat Candidates.**

**2004 figures include 3,946 External and 2,818 Repeat Candidates.**

**2005 figures include 3,730 External and 2,523 Repeat Candidates.**

**2006 figures include 3,688 External and 1,973 Repeat Candidates.**

Of the 2006 total, 28,284 of the candidates were female and 25,826 were male.

Results are available on-line and by phone from midday.

Access to the on-line results service, which requires the use of an examination number and a unique candidate Personal Identification Number, is through [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).

Candidates also have the option of accessing their results by telephone using their PIN and examination numbers. Details of the phone service, which requires the use of a touch-tone phone, are

1530 719 290 for callers within the Republic of Ireland. (Call cost 33c per minute including VAT. Calls from pay phones and mobiles may cost extra.)

00 353 1 2589001 or 00 353 1 2588588 for callers outside the Republic of Ireland. (International call rates apply.)

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