Use of Bilingual Dictionaries in the Certificate Examinations

To: The Authorities of Second Level Schools/External Candidates

The State Examinations Commission permits the use of bilingual translation dictionaries in the certificate examinations by candidates whose first language is not English or Irish.

Dictionary Specification
Bilingual translation dictionaries between the candidate’s first language and English or Irish (i.e. without explanation of terms/definition) may be permitted. Electronic bilingual dictionaries, translators, wordlists or glossaries, will not be permitted.

Subjects in which the use of dictionaries will not be permitted
The use of bilingual dictionaries will not be permitted in the case of examinations in the following subjects, viz.

- English
- Irish
- The candidate’s first language. For e.g. a candidate whose first language is French will not be permitted to use the dictionary in the French examination.
- A language closely related to the candidate’s first language. Where a query arises as to the definition of a closely related language, the Commission must be consulted in advance of the examination for advice in this respect.

Provision of Bilingual Dictionaries
Where the use of a bilingual dictionary has been certified by the school, or where an external candidate meets the requirement to use a bilingual dictionary, those candidates may use their own dictionary provided these are free from additional personal notes/notation during the examinations. The bilingual dictionaries must be made available for inspection by the examination centre superintendent before the commencement of each examination session. There are no circumstances in which the Commission will provide bilingual dictionaries to candidates.

Information for Schools
Schools are empowered to certify the use of bilingual translation dictionaries in the case of candidates who meet the requirement set out above and who wish to avail of this facility. Details of those candidates should be included on enclosed Form D11. Please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of the candidates concerned.

The Commission will notify each examination superintendent with regard to the candidate(s) in his/her centre for whom the use of a bilingual dictionary has been approved. In cases where schools appoint superintendents to separate centres, school authorities are asked to advise these superintendents of instances where the use of a bilingual dictionary has been certified.

Information for External Candidates
External candidates who meet the requirement set out above should complete the enclosed **Form D11E10. Please note the contents of this circular.**

**General Information – Return of applications**
All application forms should be returned to the State Examinations Commission no later than **Friday, 25th March, 2011**. Please return the application forms in the coloured envelope provided. **Only** this application form should be enclosed in this envelope. All enquiries relating to this circular should be directed to: Telephone: 090 – 6442784/6442785/6442786.

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