



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

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S90/12

To the Management Authorities of Post-Primary Schools

Junior Certificate Mathematics Examination 2013 – Arrangements for Phase 1 of *Project Maths*

A chara,

As you are aware, students who commenced the Junior Certificate course in September 2010, for examination in June 2013, have been studying two of the five strands of a new syllabus in Mathematics. The arrangements for the examination of these candidates are given below, and the relevant sample papers are enclosed.

1. Administration of Candidate Entries for the 2013 Examination

Please note that all candidates, other than those in the Project Maths initial schools, should continue to be recorded under subject code 003 (Mathematics) for the purpose of entries for the certificate examinations. The alternative subject code 200, which makes reference to Project Maths, is reserved for candidates from the initial schools.

2. Structure of the Examination; Sample Papers

Higher level

The examination at Higher level will consist of two written papers, each carrying 300 marks.

Paper 1 will continue to test material from the unchanged portion of the syllabus, as detailed in Section C of the syllabus document issued by the Department of Education and Skills in September 2010. As the format and content of this paper remains unchanged, a sample paper is not required.

Paper 2 will test the material in Strand 1 and Strand 2 of the new syllabus, along with a limited amount of material from the unchanged portion of the syllabus. This latter material is that traditionally tested in Question 1 of Paper 2 on the previous syllabus.

Paper 2 will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. A sample paper has been prepared, and ten copies are enclosed.

Ordinary level

The examination at Ordinary level will consist of two written papers, each carrying 300 marks.

Paper 1 will continue to test material from the unchanged portions of the syllabus, as detailed in Section C of the syllabus document issued by the Department of Education and Skills in September 2010. As the format and content of this paper remains unchanged, a sample paper is not required.

Paper 2 will test the material in Strand 1 and Strand 2 of the new syllabus, along with a limited amount of material from the unchanged portion of the syllabus. This latter material is that traditionally tested in Question 1 of Paper 2 on the previous syllabus.

Paper 2 will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. A sample paper has been prepared, and ten copies are enclosed.

Foundation level

The examination at Foundation level will consist of one written paper carrying 300 marks.

The paper will continue to test material from the unchanged portions of the syllabus, as detailed in Section C of the syllabus document issued by the Department of Education and Skills in September 2010, along with the material in Strand 1 and Strand 2 of the new syllabus.

Marks will be allocated as follows:

- Material from the unchanged portions of the syllabus 150 marks
- Strand 1 and Strand 2 material 150 marks

The paper will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. A sample paper has been prepared, and ten copies are enclosed.

3. Booklet Format; Examination Stationery

As noted above, Paper 2 at Higher and Ordinary level and the single paper at Foundation level will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. Candidates must write their answers on this booklet. However, candidates may use additional stationery if required. In common with the examinations in other subjects, supplementary four-page answer-sheets (horizontally ruled) will be available. Squared paper will also be available. Please note that there will be no change to the style of squared paper available on loose sheets in the examination. That is, supplementary paper ruled at 5 mm intervals will **not** be available.

4. Additional Examination Resources

As you may be aware, 24 schools have been working with draft versions of the new syllabuses three years in advance of all other schools. Accordingly, the State Examinations Commission has produced some additional examination material for use in these initial schools. This material is available on our website, www.examinations.ie, and may be of interest to teachers and candidates preparing for the 2013 examinations. Furthermore, a substantial amount of resource material for teaching and learning has been made available by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the

Project Maths Development Team. The materials produced by and available from the State Examinations Commission are as follows:

2011 Examination in the Initial Schools

Paper 2 of the examination at Higher and Ordinary level and the single paper at Foundation level, taken by the candidates in the initial schools in 2011, are of relevance. These papers are available in the *Examination Material Archive* on our website, alongside the other examination papers in Mathematics from 2011.

2012 Examination in the Initial Schools

Paper 2 of the examination at Higher and Ordinary level and the single paper at Foundation level, taken by the candidates in the initial schools in 2012, are of relevance. These papers are available in the *Examination Material Archive* on our website, alongside the other examination papers in Mathematics from 2012. Caution should be exercised in the use of these papers in the following respects:

- At Higher and Ordinary levels, the papers relate to Phase 2 of the project. They include some material from Strand 3 of the new syllabus, which may not be relevant to candidates in other schools in 2013.
- At Foundation level, the structure of the examination was somewhat different from that which applies to other schools in 2013. In particular, as this paper relate to Phase 2 of the project, it includes material from Strand 3 and Strand 4 of the new syllabus, which is not relevant to candidates in other schools in 2013.

Sample papers for the 2012 Examination in the Initial Schools

Paper 2 of the sample papers at Higher and Ordinary level and the single sample paper at Foundation level, issued to the initial schools in preparation for the 2012 examination, are of relevance. These papers are available on our website under *Schools...Project Maths*, or by following the link under "What's new" on the home page. These are subject to the same cautionary note as those immediately above:

- At Higher and Ordinary levels, the papers relate to Phase 2 of the project. They include some material from Strand 3 of the new syllabus, which may not be relevant to candidates in other schools in 2013.
- At Foundation level, the structure of the examination was somewhat different from that which applies to other schools in 2013. In particular, as this paper relate to Phase 2 of the project, it includes material from Strand 3 and Strand 4 of the new syllabus, which is not relevant to candidates in other schools in 2013.

Please bring this circular to the attention of all relevant teachers and candidates. If you have any questions regarding the content of this circular, please contact Majella Smyth at 090 644 2759.

Yours sincerely,

Majella Smyth
Higher Executive Officer
November 2012