



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

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S72/2014

To the Management Authorities of Post-Primary Schools

Leaving Certificate Mathematics Examination **(Sample Foundation Level paper and sample questions at Higher and Ordinary Level)**

A chara,

As you are aware, students who commenced the Leaving Certificate course in September 2013, for examination in June 2015, have been studying all five strands of the new syllabus in Mathematics. The arrangements for the examination of these candidates are given below.

1. Administration of Candidate Entries for the 2015 Examination

As all examination candidates are now following the same Mathematics syllabus, code 200 (Project Maths) is no longer in use. All candidates should be recorded under subject code 003 (Mathematics) for the purpose of entries for the certificate examinations.

2. Structure of the Examination

Higher Level and Ordinary Level

The examinations at Higher Level and at Ordinary Level will each consist of two written papers, each carrying 300 marks.

Paper 1 will generally test the material in Strand 3, Strand 4, and Strand 5 of the new syllabus. There will be two sections on the paper, as follows:

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|--|-----------|
| ○ Section A: Concepts and Skills | 150 marks |
| ○ Section B: Contexts and Applications | 150 marks |

Paper 2 will generally test the material in Strand 1 and Strand 2 of the new syllabus, along with material from Section 3.4 in Strand 3: *Length, Area and Volume*. There will be two sections on the paper, as follows:

- Section A: Concepts and Skills 150 marks
- Section B: Contexts and Applications 150 marks

Note: Any synthetic geometry examined on the paper will be based on the geometry set out in the syllabus. There will no longer be a question with internal choice on this topic.

Note: Some additional material (deferred since 2011) will be examinable in 2015 and subsequent years. Sample questions based on this material, at both Higher Level and Ordinary Level, have been prepared, and ten copies are enclosed.

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet.

Foundation Level

In line with the syllabus specification, circular 82/2013, *Leaving Certificate Mathematics Arrangements 2014*, indicated that for the 2015 and subsequent examinations at Foundation level, the examination will consist of one written paper. The following information should be brought to the attention of all candidates who intend to take their examination at this level.

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

The paper will test the material in all 5 strands of the new syllabus. There will be two sections on the paper, as follows:

- Section A: 200 marks
- Section B: 100 marks

Note: Any synthetic geometry examined on the paper will be based on the geometry set out in the syllabus. There will no longer be a question with internal choice on this topic.

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

Please note that the paper at Foundation Level is no longer accompanied by a separate sheet of formulae. In common with candidates at other levels, candidates at Foundation Level will be provided with copies of the *Formulae and Tables* booklet.

3. Booklet Format; Examination Stationery

As noted above, all papers at all levels will be presented as combined question-and-answer booklets. Candidates should 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.

As noted above, and as indicated in circular S56/09, the paper at Foundation level is no longer accompanied by a separate sheet of formulae. In common with candidates at other levels, candidates at Foundation level will be provided with copies of the *Formulae and Tables* booklet.

4. Additional Examination Resources

As you may be aware, some schools have been working with draft versions of the new syllabuses two 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 2015 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. Details of the materials produced by and available from the State Examinations Commission for Higher Level and Ordinary Level are given in circular S82/2013.

Trialling report

The comprehensive report on the trialling of the Phase 1 sample papers in the initial schools continues to be of relevance. The report includes model solutions, marking schemes, comments on the answering, exemplars of student work, and additional notes related to the assessment of candidate work.

Feedback on the 2011 Examinations in the Initial Schools

The State Examinations Commission provided a feedback document to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the Project Maths Development Team (PMDT) following the examination of Phase 2 of Project Maths in the initial schools in 2011. This feedback was subsequently made available to all teachers during Workshop 6 of the in-career development programme delivered by the development team. The document consists of a summary of the observations of the examiners, along with recommendations for teachers and candidates.

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 me at 090 644 2759.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Buckley
Higher Executive Officer
October 2014