



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

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S73/14

To the Management Authorities of Post-Primary Schools

Junior Certificate Mathematics Examination Arrangements for 2015

A chara,

As you are aware, students who commenced the Junior Certificate course in September 2012, for examination in June 2015, have been studying all 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 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; Sample Papers

Higher Level and Ordinary Level

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

In general, Paper 1 will test material in Strand 3, Strand 4, and Strand 5 of the new syllabus, while Paper 2 will test material in Strand 1 and Strand 2 of the new syllabus, along with material in Section 3.4 of Strand 3: *Applied Measure*.

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. Sample papers for Paper 1 only have 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 test the material in all five strands of the new syllabus. The paper will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. A sample paper has been prepared, and ten copies are enclosed.

Supplementary Sample Questions

A further booklet of supplementary sample questions has been prepared, and ten copies are enclosed. While the sample papers are intended to give candidates and teachers an idea of the structure, length, and level of difficulty of the 2015 examination papers, this booklet contains additional questions, generally of a problem-solving nature, to help candidates prepare for the 2015 and subsequent examinations. This booklet does not represent the overall difficulty or the balance of content that might be expected in a Junior Certificate *Mathematics* examination paper at any level. It is indicated in the booklet at which level each question might be asked.

3. Booklet Format; Examination Stationery

As noted above, all papers will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. 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.

4. Additional Examination Resources

As you may be aware, some 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 2015 examinations. This includes the examinations in the initial schools from 2011 to 2014, inclusive. As the examinations for 2011 and 2012 in the initial schools relate to earlier phases of the Project Maths syllabus, care should be exercised with respect to these examination papers. In 2011 only Strands 1 and 2 of the new syllabus were examined, while in 2012 Strands 1 to 4 of the new syllabus were examined. All strands of the new syllabus were examined in 2013 and 2014.

In addition to this, the enclosed sample papers for Phase 3 of the project are amended versions of the ones that issued to the initial schools two years ago for their examination in 2013. Whereas the majority of the content of these sample papers remains unchanged, some material has been replaced in order to illustrate some particular aspects of the syllabus or its assessment. Notwithstanding this, the content that appeared on the original versions used in the initial schools continues to be relevant. These papers are available on our website under *Schools > Project Maths*.

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.

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 Rose Buckley at 090 644 2759.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Buckley
Higher Executive Officer

October 2014