



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Cor na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Telephone: +353-90-644 2759. Fax: +353-90-647 8430. Web: www.examinations.ie. E-mail: info@examinations.ie

S77/2011

To the Management Authorities of Post-Primary Schools

Leaving Certificate Mathematics Examination 2012 – Arrangements for Phase 1 of *Project Maths*

A chara,

As you are aware, students who commenced the Leaving Certificate course in September 2010, for examination in June 2012, 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 2012 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. There will be two sections on the paper, as follows:

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

In accordance with the footnote on page 22 of the syllabus, question 6 in section A will involve a choice between answering a question on the synthetic geometry set out in the syllabus, or answering a problem-solving question based on the geometrical results from the Higher Level Junior Certificate syllabus.

Paper 2 will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. A sample paper has been prepared, and 10 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, and will appear in Section C of Paper 2 in 2012. There will be three sections on the paper, as follows:

- Section A: Concepts and Skills 125 marks
- Section B: Contexts and Applications 125 marks
- Section C: Area and Volume (old syllabus) 50 marks

In accordance with the footnote on page 22 of the syllabus, question 5 in section A will involve a choice between answering a question on the synthetic geometry set out in the syllabus, or answering a problem-solving question based on the geometrical results from the Ordinary Level Junior Certificate syllabus.

Paper 2 will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. A sample paper has been prepared, and 10 copies are enclosed.

Foundation level

The examination at Foundation 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 and Question 2 of Paper 2 on the previous syllabus, and will appear in Section C of Paper 2 in 2012. There will be three sections on the paper, as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| ○ Section A: Concepts and Skills | 100 marks |
| ○ Section B: Contexts and Applications | 100 marks |
| ○ Section C: Area and Volume (old syllabus) | 100 marks |

In accordance with the footnote on page 22 of the syllabus, question 4 in section A will involve a choice between answering a question on the synthetic geometry set out in the syllabus, or answering a problem-solving question based on the geometrical results from the Foundation Level Junior Certificate syllabus.

Paper 2 will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. A sample paper has been prepared, and 10 copies are enclosed.

3. Booklet Format; Examination Stationery

As noted above, paper 2 at all levels will be presented as a combined question-and-answer booklet. Candidates must write their answers on this booklet, and marks may be forfeited if they do not do so. 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 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 2012 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:

2010 Examination in the Initial Schools

Paper 2 of the examination taken by the candidates in the initial schools in 2010 is of relevance (at all three levels). These papers are available in the *Examination Material Archive* on our website, alongside the other examination papers in Mathematics from 2010. Caution should be exercised in the use of these papers in two respects:

- The structure of the examination was somewhat different from that which applies to all schools in 2012.

- At Higher and Ordinary levels, some of the material tested on these papers was subsequently removed from the syllabus or deferred until the examination of 2015. Accordingly, the following questions from the 2010 papers are not relevant for 2012:
 - At Higher level: part (a) of question 2; parts (c) and (d) of question 6; part (c) of question 9A.
 - At Ordinary level: parts (c), (d), (e) and (f) of question 9A.

2011 Examination in the Initial Schools

Paper 2 of the examination taken by the candidates in the initial schools in 2011 is of relevance (at all three levels). These papers are available in the *Examination Material Archive* on our website, alongside the other examination papers in Mathematics from 2011. Caution should be exercised in the use of these papers in the following respect:

- At Ordinary and Foundation levels, the structure of the examination was somewhat different from that which applies to other schools in 2012. In particular, as these papers relate to Phase 2 of the project, they do not include “old syllabus” material and do include some material from Strand 3 of the new syllabus, which is not relevant to candidates in other schools in 2012.

Sample paper for the 2011 Examination in the Initial Schools

Paper 2 of the sample papers issued to the initial schools in preparation for the 2011 examination is of relevance (at all three levels). 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 Ordinary and Foundation levels, the structure of the examination was somewhat different from that which applies to other schools in 2012. In particular, as these papers relate to Phase 2 of the project, they do not include “old syllabus” material and do include some material from Strand 3 of the new syllabus, which is not relevant to candidates in other schools in 2012.

Trialling report

The enclosed sample papers have been adapted from a corresponding set of sample papers that were issued to the initial schools in preparation for their examination in 2010. Much of the material has remained intact. Draft versions of those papers were trialled in the initial schools in October 2009. A comprehensive report on this trialling operation was prepared. 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. This report is available on our website under *Schools...Project Maths*, or by following the link under “What’s new” on the home page.

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
October 2011