



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

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

Leaving Certificate Examination in Biology
Leaving Certificate Examination 2004 and subsequent years.

To the Management Authorities of Second level Schools

S71/03

A revised syllabus for Leaving Certificate Biology was introduced to schools in 2002 and will be examined for the first time in June 2004.

Sample examination papers in relation to the terminal written examination of the revised syllabus, at Ordinary level and at higher level, were circulated to schools in December 2002. The sample papers were discussed at in-service meetings for Biology teachers organised by the National Biology Support Service during the second term of the 2002/2003 school year. During these meetings teachers were afforded the opportunity of evaluating the sample papers. As a result of the feedback received from teachers, the State Examinations Commission has decided to make some minor modifications to the paper structure, and to issue a second set of sample papers incorporating these changes.

The structure and rubrics of the Leaving Certificate Biology examination paper at Ordinary level and at Higher level for June 2004 and until further notice is as follows:

The total marks allocated to these papers is the same as at present (400 marks).

The paper is divided into Sections A, B and C. No section contains a compulsory question.

Section A consists of six questions and two questions are based on each of Unit One, Unit Two and Unit Three of the syllabus. Candidates must answer **any five** questions and each question carries **20** marks.

Section B consists of three questions based on the mandatory practical activities. Candidates must answer **any two** questions and each question carries **30** marks.

Section C consists of six questions, one question based on Unit One, two questions based on Unit Two and three questions based on Unit Three. Candidates must answer **any four** questions and each question carries **60** marks. Questions 10 to 13 inclusive contain three parts (a), (b) and (c) and the marks allocated to each part are shown on the paper. Questions 14 and 15 have an internal choice with answers required to **any two** of three parts (a), (b) and (c), and each part is allocated 30 marks.

Candidates must follow a course of practical work. The candidates must carry out the practical activities listed in the syllabus in respect of which an adequate record must be retained by schools for inspection by the Commission for the duration of the course.

You are requested to bring this circular and the accompanying revised sample papers to the notice of the teachers and the candidates concerned. Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Additional copies of these papers are available to download from the Commission's website at www.examinations.ie

Aidan Farrell
Director of Operations
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