



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission
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S15/19

DATES OF CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2019

TO THE AUTHORITIES OF SECOND LEVEL SCHOOLS

A. TIMETABLES AND SCHEDULES ENCLOSED

Following their publication on the SEC's website, please now find enclosed for display in your school five documents setting out the dates of the 2019 Certificate Examinations. The documents enclosed are:

1. The timetable for the Leaving Certificate written examinations in June 2019.
2. The timetable for the Leaving Certificate Applied written examinations in June 2019 (presented as a stand-alone document for 2019)
3. The timetable for the Junior Cycle written examinations in June 2019.
4. The schedule of examination dates and deadlines for the non-written examinations at Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. This schedule also includes the date of the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme, Link Modules written examination which will be held on Wednesday 1st May 2019 along with the date for the LCA Information Technology (Specialism), practical, performance and written test which takes place on Wednesday 15th May 2019.
5. The schedule of examination dates and deadlines for the non-written examinations at Junior Cycle.

All of the documents are suitable for display on notice boards. Candidates can download their own personal copies from the Examination Information section of the State Examination Commission's website at www.examinations.ie.

B. WRITTEN TIMETABLES

Please note the following timetable changes carefully and draw the particular attention of students taking the subjects detailed below to the fact that these examinations are scheduled differently than in previous years.

Leaving Certificate Timetable

1. For reasons of candidate wellbeing, the 2019 Leaving Certificate written examination timetable has been extended beyond the traditional 13 day window. The new extended timetable has been designed to alleviate pressure on candidates by eliminating subject clashes as much as possible. There has been a very particular focus on ensuring that there is only a minimal chance that a candidate will have to take three examinations on one day. However, not all clashes have been eliminated and there is still a possibility that some candidates, because of their particular subject choices, may have to sit three examinations in one day in 2019 or in a future year.

In 2019 the examinations will take place over a 15 day period, commencing on Wednesday 5th June and concluding on Tuesday 25th June. The examinations scheduled for Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June are shown in the table below;

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday 24 June (Day 14)	Italian Russian	Classical Studies Latin Technology
Tuesday 25 June (Day 15)	Japanese Politics and Society Arabic	

There is no examination timetabled for the afternoon of Day 15. From 2020, this session will be used to facilitate the placement of new examinations.

Section D below provides details of the supports available to school authorities in light of the extended Leaving Certificate timetable.

- The impact on the timetable is not just in the addition of the two days at the end. Creating the new timetable to minimise clashes has led to changes throughout. The full list of subjects impacted for 2019 is set out below

Subject	From (2018 Date)	To (2019 Date)
Agricultural Science	Day 9 AM (18/6)	Day 9 PM (17/6)
Accounting	Day 9 PM (18/6)	Day 11 PM (19/6)
Design & Communication Graphics	Day 11 PM (20/6)	Day 12 AM (20/6)
Economics/Agricultural Economics*	Day 12 AM (21/6)	Day 13 AM (21/6)
Italian	Day 13 AM (22/6)	Day 14 AM (24/6)
Russian	Day 7 PM (14/6)	Day 14 AM (24/6)
Classical Studies/Latin*	Day 8 PM (15/6)	Day 14 PM (24/6)
Technology	Day 13 AM (22/6)	Day 14 PM (24/6)
Arabic	Day 5 AM (12/6)	Day 15 AM (25/6)
Japanese	Day 13 AM (22/6)	Day 15 AM (25/6)
Politics and Society	Day 11 PM (20/6)	Day 15 AM (25/6)

*Mutually exclusive subjects in accordance with the *Rules and Programmes for Secondary Schools*.

All other Leaving Certificate examinations are timetabled in the same sessions as last year.

There are no changes to the timetable for the Leaving Certificate Applied.

Junior Cycle Timetable

The new Junior Cycle specifications for Science and Business Studies will be examined for the first time in 2019.

- The examination in Science is scheduled for Monday 10th June from 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM and will consist of a single common level paper.
- The examination in Business Studies is scheduled for Tuesday 11th June from 9.30 AM to 11.30 AM and will consist of a single common level paper.

This change has facilitated a shortening of the Junior Cycle examining period by one half-day. The 11 day Junior Cycle examining period will conclude at 12.00 noon on Wednesday 19th June. As a result, the examinations in Technology, Italian and Ancient Greek are scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday 11th June, these subjects were examined on the final afternoon of the examinations in 2018.

C. SCHEUDLES OF EXAMINATIONS DATES

The Oral examinations in Leaving Certificate Irish and the Modern Languages and the Practical examinations in Leaving Certificate Music will be conducted during the two week period from **25th March to the 5th April 2019**.

The Practical examinations in Junior Certificate Music and Home Economics will also be conducted during this two week period.

The arrangements which were introduced in 2018 for the conduct of the Leaving Certificate practical examinations in Engineering and Construction Studies (SEC Circular S95/17 refers) will continue for this year. This change, which limits the flexibility of schools in the conduct of these examinations, has been made in order to safeguard the integrity of these examination. This year the practical examinations in **Construction Studies are scheduled for Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd May** followed by **Engineering on Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th May**.

The practical examinations in Junior Certificate Art, Junior Certificate Metalwork and Leaving Certificate Art Life Sketching will be conducted over the period from **29th April to the 10th May** and schools will have the flexibility to use this two week period to organise them in such a way as to minimise any disruption.

The revised arrangements for the distribution of the Junior Certificate Art and Leaving Certificate Art (Life Sketching) practical examination papers will continue this year. They will be distributed to all candidates and put up on our website www.examinations.ie on **Monday 1st April**.

All of the above will be the subject of detailed circulars in due course.

D. SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES IN LIGHT OF EXTENDED LEAVING CERTIFICATE TIMETABLE

Extended Support under the Examinations Aide arrangements

The SEC provides an Examinations Aide scheme which gives school authorities discretion to engage an Examinations Aide to assist the Principal during the state examinations or to fully substitute for the Principal in the event that they are unavailable for any reason.

Schools which are required to open on 24th and/or 25th June will automatically be entitled to claim one or two additional days under these arrangements. In line with the Examinations Aide scheme it will be permissible for the Examinations Aide to fully substitute for the principal on these days should the need arise. Further details of these arrangements, including how to claim, will be set out in the Examinations Aide circular which will issue to schools in March.

School Opening Arrangements

Recognising that schools have varying arrangements for the employment of school secretaries and caretakers over the summer period, the SEC is cognizant that the extended timetable may give rise to additional costs for some schools depending on whether the school would normally be open on these two days and whether the school secretary and/or caretaker is under contract for these days. In this regard, the SEC will be engaging with the Department of Education and Skills to provide school authorities with details regarding the arrangements for recoupment of any additional costs associated with employing school secretaries and caretakers on 24th and 25th June 2019 subject to such other rules and regulations, terms and conditions as apply based on the circumstances which pertain to the school, sector or individual. This will be the subject of a further communication in due course.

Access to School Transport

School transport services will continue to operate as required. In this regard the SEC will engage with the Department of Education and Skills by providing details of the schools which are required to open on 24th and/or 25th June.

E. Examinations and Appeal Results Dates

There are some changes to the dates for the issue of the 2019 examination and appeal results which school authorities and candidates need to be aware of. These changes are as a result of the new Leaving Certificate appeals timeframe which is being significantly shortened this year.

- Leaving Certificate results date **Tuesday 13th August**
- CAO Round 1 offers will issue by **Friday 16th August**
- Viewing of scripts will take place in schools on **Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st August 2019** and candidates will need to have applied to view scripts by Friday 16th August
- Closing date for applying to appeal a Leaving Certificate result **Thursday 22nd August 2019**
- Appeal results will issue to schools during **week ending 20th September 2019**

Further detailed information about the Viewing of Scripts and Appeals processes will issue in due course.

As a result of the need to prioritise activities associated with the Leaving Certificate appeals, **the results of the 2019 Junior Cycle** examinations are due for issue to schools **in late September**.

Please ensure that important information contained in this circular is brought to the attention of candidates, teachers and other interested parties.

If you have any query in relation to this circular, please contact the State Examinations Commission by emailing orals@examinations.ie. Alternatively, you can contact us by phone at (090) 6442741, 6442742.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Andrea Feeney
Director, Operations & IT Division
February, 2019