



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Cor na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí

S06/22

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION 2022
ADJUSTMENTS TO PAPERS AND TIMETABLE PUBLICATION

To the Management Authorities of Post-Primary Schools and other Entities recognised by the SEC to hold examinations

Dear Principal,

The purpose of this circular is to inform you of the publication of the following documents which are now available on the website of the State Examinations Commission (SEC) at www.examinations.ie:

1. Further Adjustments to the Written Examinations - Leaving Certificate 2022
2. Timetables for the 2022 Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Junior Cycle written examinations which commence on Wednesday 8 June.

1. Further Adjustments to the Written Examinations - Leaving Certificate 2022

The Department of Education published *Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022* available [here](#) in August 2021. That document set out the adjusted arrangements for post-primary students taking certificate examinations in the 2021/22 school year designed to take account of the disrupted learning experienced by these students.

As part of the announcement last week on the 2022 Leaving Certificate, the Minister for Education, Norma Foley, TD announced further extensive changes to the written examinations to fully take into account the disruption to teaching and learning experienced by the Leaving Certificate class of 2022. This decision has been taken to provide the Leaving Certificate candidates of 2022 with certainty and clarity about their examinations. These further adjustments, which are the same as those that were implemented for Leaving Certificate 2021, have been finalised between the Department of Education, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the State Examinations Commission (SEC).

A document setting out these changes entitled, '*Further Adjustments to the Written Examinations - Leaving Certificate 2022*' has now been published on the SEC's website and is available [here](#).

The aim of these further adjustments is to lessen the load, as far as is reasonably possible, for candidates both in their preparation for the written examinations and also on the day of the examination. In some subjects the adjustments are in addition to the previous adjustments while in some subjects these further adjustments supersede the previous ones. The 2022 Further Adjustments document also includes details of the four new curricular language subjects – Mandarin Chinese,

Polish, Portuguese and Lithuanian. (As already noted, details of the previous adjustments are available in *Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022*.)

These further adjustments apply to the written examinations only. In the case of Gaeilge and the modern foreign languages, there is no change to the aural component, and there is likewise no change to the listening component in music. There are no further adjustments to practical coursework, orals and practical performance tests. Information on the adjustments to these assessment components are set out in *Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022* and these still apply.

The document also sets out the arrangement for Leaving Certificate Applied candidates whereby there will be no adjustment to the final examination papers. The adjustments in August 2021 set out that a scaling, by a factor of 1.15 would instead be applied to the mark awarded. As part of the further adjustments now being announced the scaling factor to be applied is now being increased from 1.15 to 1.25. This is consistent with the approach from 2021 where there was no adjustment to the final examination but that a scaling by a factor of 1.25 was applied to the mark awarded but that the mark is capped at the examination total, this cap will again apply in 2022.

In addition to the document published today, the best guide to these extensive changes are the 2021 examination papers, which are available from the Examination Material Archive [here](#). The 2021 examinations papers reflect these further adjustments and will be of great assistance to teachers and students in their preparations for the 2022 Leaving Certificate.

2. Timetable

a. General

The timetables for the written Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Junior Cycle examinations in June 2022 have been published and are available [here](#).

The timetable for each of the three examinations is presented as a standalone document. Schools are asked to arrange for local printing (in either A3 or A4 format) and display of the timetables in schools with A3 format preferred for display on school notice boards. Candidates can download their own personal copies from the Examination Information section of the SEC's website at www.examinations.ie.

The SEC will provide printed timetables to examination superintendents for display in examination centres in due course.

The 2022 examinations commence on 8 June and conclude as follows;

	Commence	Conclude
Leaving Certificate	Wednesday 8 June	Tuesday 28 June
Leaving Certificate Applied	Wednesday 8 June	Thursday 16 June
Junior Cycle	Wednesday 8 June	Monday 20 June

b. Leaving Certificate

There are four new curricular languages on the Leaving Certificate timetable for 2022; Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese. The examinations for these subjects will take place on Monday 20 June.

In 2019 the Leaving Certificate written examination timetable was extended to 15 days and this format has been retained for 2022 with Leaving Certificate examinations concluding on Tuesday 28 June. The extended timetable has been designed to alleviate pressure on candidates by eliminating subject clashes as much as possible. The extended timetable has been designed to enhance the wellbeing of examination candidates by eliminating, to the greatest possible degree, the possibility that candidates will have to take three examinations in one day. However, given the timeframe in which the written examinations are held, even taking account of the extra days, the number and duration of the examinations, and the wide subject choices available to candidates, it is not possible to guarantee that a situation will not arise that will require a student to undertake three examinations on one day.

The following final examinations will take place in May with the exact dates yet to be announced; LCVP Links Modules written examination; Leaving Certificate Computer Science final examination and LCA Information Technology (Specialism) examination.

c. Junior Cycle

Junior Cycle examinations will take place this summer having been last held in 2019. Adjustments to the assessment arrangements for Junior Cycle have been made and advised in August 2021, including a reduction in the number of Classroom Based Assessments to be completed, the removal of the requirement to complete Assessment Tasks and adjustments to the requirements in coursework and practical performance tests. These adjustments provide for more teaching time in schools.

The examinations which take place this year will see all reformed subjects being examined for the first time with the exception of English, Science and Business. The reformed Junior Cycle English specification has been examined since 2017 while the reformed Junior Cycle specifications for Science and Business were examined for the first time in 2019.

Other than Irish, English and Mathematics which are examined at Higher and at Ordinary level, all subjects are examined at Common Level. There are no longer any second papers in Irish, English or Mathematics. Most examinations are of 2 hours duration while those subjects with a coursework component which is externally assessed by the SEC are of 1 hour 30 minutes duration (with the exception of Graphics which is of 2 hours duration).

The reforms at Junior Cycle have facilitated the shortening of the timetable to 9 days in total with the examinations concluding on the morning of Monday 20 June with the examination in Graphics.

d. Leaving Certificate Alternative Sitting

The announcement regarding arrangements for State Examinations 2022 made on 1 February involves two sittings of the Leaving Certificate written examinations: the first main sitting and a second alternative sitting, which will be strictly limited to students **unable** to sit one or more papers in the main sitting on one of the following three distinct grounds;

1. serious medical reasons
2. close family bereavement
3. due to Covid-19 based on the public health rules that will apply in society in June.

The eligibility criteria for access to the second sitting, which will be strictly applied, will be determined with due regard for the principles of equity, fairness and integrity which govern all aspects of the examinations system. It is intended that the alternative sitting will commence shortly after the conclusion the main sitting.

Further details of the alternative sitting of the Leaving Certificate will be issued by the SEC in due course and will involve engagement with stakeholders and with the public health authorities.

3. Support for Schools

Under the SEC's Examinations Aide scheme, which was in place prior to Covid-19, school authorities had discretion to engage an Examinations Aide for a period of 15 days each year to assist the Principal during the state examinations or to fully substitute for the Principal if they are unavailable for any reason. Additional days are also available to schools based on the number of examination candidates and the duration of the timetable in that school. Examination Aide days are to be used for both the written examinations and the related assessment components.

For the 2022 examinations, the SEC has already announced an additional 8-10 Examinations Aide days (depending on candidate numbers) associated with the change to the timing of the Leaving Certificate Oral language examinations and the Music Practical performance test. In addition, in schools with candidates for Leaving Certificate Music, a further 2 days will be provided for assignment to a Music teacher whose attendance in school at the time of the performance test is deemed necessary to candidates' performance.

Schools which are required to open on Monday 27 or Tuesday 28 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.

The SEC will be issuing further details to schools in due course of the arrangements which will apply in the delivery of all aspects of the examinations this year including, in due course, a circular outlining the Examination Aide supports available this year and how to claim.

Further details will also be provided regarding the arrangements for recoupment of any additional costs associated with employing school secretaries and caretakers on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 June subject to such other rules and regulations, terms and conditions as apply based on the circumstances which pertain to the school, sector or individual. School transport services will continue to operate as required. In this regard the SEC will engage with the Department of Education by providing details of the schools which are required to open.

4. Distribution and Enquiries

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 entries@examinations.ie. Alternatively, you can contact us by phone at (090) 644 2857/2858/2859/2860

Thank you for your co-operation.

Richard Dolan
Director of Operations
State Examinations Commission
February, 2022