



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit  
State Examinations Commission

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S21/19

## ***Leaving Certificate Examination 2019***

### ***Practical Examination in Engineering and Construction Studies – Further information for schools in relation to the conduct of these examinations***

In December 2017 the State Examinations Commission (SEC) issued a circular (S97/17) which alerted schools to a change of procedures for the conduct of the practical examinations in both Engineering and Construction Studies for 2018 and onwards. This change has been introduced in order to maintain the integrity of the examination process and to ensure inter-candidate equity. The SEC very much appreciates the co-operation shown by school principals and teachers in implementing the revised procedures for the conduct of these practical examinations.

The purpose of this circular is to provide information to school authorities in relation to the conduct of the 2019 tests.

As previously notified, from 2018 there will be three variants of the examination paper in each subject with each variant being fixed for a particular day over the three days of examinations. The relevant dates for 2019 are as shown below:

	<b>Variant 1</b>	<b>Variant 2</b>	<b>Variant 3</b>
<b>Construction Studies</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
<b>Engineering</b>	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May

**Please note that, in 2019, Construction Studies will now take place during the first week in May whilst Engineering will take place during the second week in May. This change has been made in response to feedback from school authorities about the timing of the tests in 2018.**

#### **Allocation of Candidates to examination sessions**

School authorities are required to allocate candidates for each day's examination(s) in sequential order based on candidates' examination numbers. Records should be retained in the school of the allocation of students to sessions and should be available for later inspection if requested by the SEC.

Schools should make every effort to complete the examinations in as short a timeframe as possible. This will mean scheduling students to the next available session and maximising the use of the facilities available in the school. (See also **Optimising School Facilities and Resources** below)

Candidates who are unavoidably absent (e.g. through illness or other school activities) should be assigned to the next available examination session. (See also **Absence through Illness** below).

### **Absence through Illness**

Candidates who miss the opportunity to sit their practical examination through illness (e.g. a candidate taking Engineering who is medically certified as unfit for the entire period Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May) may be accommodated with an opportunity to sit the examinations later in May. In line with current practice, such candidates may be accommodated with a Late Practical on application to the SEC and on production of a valid medical certificate. Schools should complete the application form for Late Practicals on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) for decision by the SEC. The late practical tests are scheduled in the period 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

### **Supply of Examination Papers**

There is a requirement to provide the SEC with details of the number of candidates assigned to each examination session. School authorities must complete and return the **Construction Studies/Engineering Exam Paper Supply Form** enclosed with this circular on or before **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019**. It is critical that this document is carefully completed as the data provided will be used by the SEC to determine the number of examination papers required by your school for each day of the practical tests in both Engineering and Construction Studies.

### **Arrangements for the Delivery of Examination Papers to Schools**

The SEC will post examination papers so as to arrive in schools on the day before each variant of the examination is scheduled. Therefore, the Construction Studies (Variant 1) examination paper will be delivered to schools on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, while the Engineering (Variant 1) examination paper will be delivered to schools on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The same “just-in-time” delivery arrangements will apply in the case of Variant 2 and Variant 3 for both subjects. Arrangements must be made for the secure storage of the Examination Papers on receipt.

### **Materials and Equipment List**

The three variants of the practical examination have been developed around a common Materials and Equipment list for each subject. This means that no additional preparatory work will be required of candidates or teachers. These lists will continue to be provided by the SEC well in advance of the date of the examination.

### **Optimising School Facilities and Resources**

Schools with two Engineering rooms may use both rooms and hold two examinations sessions on a given day. This is to facilitate schools which have a large number of candidates entered for Engineering at Leaving Certificate level. In such instances an Engineering teacher must be present in each room for the duration of the examination.

Schools with two Construction Studies rooms may use both rooms and hold up to four examinations sessions on a given day. This is to facilitate schools which have a large number of candidates entered for Construction Studies at Leaving Certificate level. In such instances a Construction Studies teacher may be available for the duration of the examination.

### **Conducting the tests over a three day period**

The SEC has reviewed the new arrangements and considers that it should be possible for schools, without exception, to run the examinations over the three day period allowed for each subject. Any school that considers that this may not be possible is asked to make a detailed written submission specifying all of the facilities available in the school and including the rationale as to why they consider that they would have difficulty running the examinations as scheduled. The SEC will engage with the school and may arrange a site

visit to interrogate the facilities available and to agree what actions could be taken to run the tests as scheduled.

**Queries and Further Information**

Further information relating to the arrangements for the conduct and completion of the practical tests in Engineering and Construction Studies, including arrangements for the return of the practical work to the SEC, will issue to schools during April 2019.

Enquiries on this circular should be directed to [practicals@examinations.ie](mailto:practicals@examinations.ie).

**James Dunning**  
**Assistant Principal Officer**  
**March 2019**



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## Scrúdú na hArdteistiméireachta 2019

### *Scrúdú Praiticiúil san Innealtóireacht agus sa Staidéar Foirgníochta – Faisnéis bhreise do scoileanna maidir le réachtáil na scrúduithe seo*

I mí na Nollag 2017 d'eisigh Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit (CSS) ciorclán (S97/17) inar cuireadh scoileanna san airdeall faoi athrú ar an nós imeachta maidir le réachtáil na scrúduithe praiticiúla san Innealtóireacht agus sa Staidéar Foirgníochta in 2018 agus sna blianta ina dhiaidh sin. Tugadh an t-athrú seo isteach chun ionrachas phróiseas na scrúduithe a choinneáil agus chun cothromas idir na hiarrthóirí a áirithiú. **Tá an CSS an-bhuíoch as an gcomhoibriú a thaispeáin príomhoidí scoileanna agus múinteoirí agus nósanna imeachta athbhreithnithe á gcur i bhfeidhm acu i leith réachtáil na scrúduithe praiticiúla seo.**

Is éard is cuspóir leis an gclár seo faisnéis bhreise a chur ar fáil d'údaráis scoileanna i leith **réachtáil na dtrialacha i 2019**.

Mar a cuireadh in iul cheana, ó 2018 amach beidh trí leagan den pháipéar scrúdaithe i ngach ábhar agus nascfar gach leagan le lá ar leith thar an tréimhse scrúdaithe trí lá. **Tá na dátaí a bhaineann le 2019 mar a thaispeántar thíos:**

	<b>Leagan 1</b>	<b>Leagan 2</b>	<b>Leagan 3</b>
<b>Staidéar Foirgníochta</b>	Dé Céadaoin <b>1</b> Bealtaine	Déardaoin <b>2</b> Bealtaine	Dé hAoine <b>3</b> Bealtaine
<b>Innealtóireacht</b>	Dé Céadaoin <b>8</b> Bealtaine	Déardaoin <b>9</b> Bealtaine	Dé hAoine <b>10</b> Bealtaine

**In 2019, tabhair faoi deara, le do thoil, go gcuirfear Staidéar Foirgníochta ar siúl anois sa chéad seachtain i mí na Bealtaine agus go gcuirfear Innealtóireacht ar siúl sa dara seachtain i mí na Bealtaine. Tugadh an t-athrú isteach mar fhreagra ar aiseolas ó údaráis scoileanna maidir le tráthúlacht na dtrialacha in 2018.**

#### **Leithdháileadh Iarrthóirí chuig na seisiúin scrúdaithe**

Beidh ar na húdaráis scoile na hiarrthóirí a leithdháileadh i gcomhair gach lá den scrúdú / de na scrúduithe in ord seicheamhach bunaithe ar scrúduimhreacha na n-iarrthóirí. Ba chóir tuairiscí ar leithdháileadh na mac léinn chuig na seisiúin a choinneáil sa scoil agus ba chóir iad a chur ar fáil le haghaidh iniúchta níos déanaí dá n-iarrfadh an CSS é.

Ba chóir go ndéanfadh scoileanna gach iarracht na scrúduithe a chríochnú taobh istigh de thréimhse ama chomh garr agus is féidir. Ciallóidh sé sin go ndéanfar na mic léinn a sceileadú don chéad seisiún eile atá ar

fáil agus go mbainfeadh an úsáid is fearr as na háiseanna ar fáil sa scoil. (Féach thíos freisin ar **Áiseanna agus Acmhainní Scoile a bharrfheabhsú**).

Ba chóir iarrthóirí a aistriú don chéad seisiún eile scrúdaithe ar fáil má bhíonn siad as láthair gan aon neart air (m.sh. de bharr tinnis nó de bharr gníomhaíochtaí eile scoile) (Féach thíos freisin **Neamhláithreacht de bharr tinnis**)

### **Neamhláithreacht de bharr tinnis**

Chun freastal ar iarrthóirí a chailleann an deis a scrúduithe praiticiúla a dhéanamh de bharr tinnis d'fhéadfai deis a thabhairt dóibh na scrúduithe a dhéanamh níos déanaí i mí na Bealtaine. (m.sh. iarrthóir Innealtóireachta atá neamhábailte don tréimhse iomlán An Chéadaoin 8 Bealtaine go dtí An Aoine 10 Bealtaine, de réir teastas dochtúra.) Ag teacht leis an gcleachtas atá ann faoi láthair féadfaid freastal ar iarrthóirí dá leithéid le Scrúdú Praiticiúil Déanach má dhéantar iarratas ar an CSS agus má chuirtear teastas dochtúra bailí ar fáil. Ba chóir do scoileanna an fhoirm iarratais le haghaidh Scrúduithe Praiticiúla Déanacha a chomhlíonadh ar [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) chun cinneadh an CSS a fháil. Tá na trialacha praiticiúla déanacha pleanáilte don tréimhse 20 go 24 Bealtaine 2019.

### **Soláthar na Scrúdpháipéar**

Is gá mionsonraí a sholáthar don CSS maidir le líon na n-iarrthóirí a leithdháiltear chuig gach seisiún scrúdaithe. Ní mór d'údaráis scoileanna **An Fhoirm Soláthair do Scrúdpháipéar Staidéar Foirgníochta/ Innealtóireacht** iniata leis an gclár seo a chomhlíonadh agus a sheoladh ar ais ar nó roimh **An Chéadaoin 13 Márta 2019**. Tá sé ríthábhachtach go ndéantar an doiciméad seo a chomhlánú go cúramach mar bainfidh an CSS úsáid as na sonraí a chuirtear ar fáil chun cinneadh a dhéanamh maidir le líon na scrúdpháipéar is gá don scoil i gcomhair gach lá de na trialacha praiticiúla san Innealtóireacht agus sa Staidéar Foirgníochta.

### **Socruithe le haghaidh seachadadh na Scrúdpháipéar chuig na Scoileanna**

Cuirfidh an CSS na scrúdpháipéir sa phost ionas go scoicfidh siad na scoileanna ar an lá sula ndéantar gach leagan den scrúdú a sceidealú. Dá bhrí sin, déanfar an scrúdpháipéar don **Staidéar Foirgníochta** (Leagan 1) a sheachadadh ar na scoileanna ar an Máirt **30 Aibreán**, fad a ndéanfar an scrúdpháipéar don **Innealtóireacht** (Leagan 1) a sheachadadh ar scoileanna ar an Máirt **7 Bealtaine**. Cuirfeadh na socruithe seachadta céanna "díreach in am" i bhfeidhm i gcás Leagan 2 agus Leagan 3 don dá ábhar. Caithfeadh socruithe a dhéanamh le haghaidh stóras slán na Scrúdpháipéar nuair a fhaightear iad.

### **Liosta Ábhar agus Trealamh**

Forbraíodh na trí leagan den scrúdú praiticiúil chun go mbeadh liosta Ábhar agus Trealamh comhchoiteann ann do gach ábhar. Ciallaíonn sé sin nach mbeidh ar mhúinteoirí ná ar iarrthóirí aon obair ullmhúcháin sa bhreis a dhéanamh. Faoi mar a rinneadh go dtí seo, cuirfidh an CSS na liostaí seo ar fáil tamall maith roimh dháta an scrúdaithe.

### **Áiseanna agus Acmhainní Scoileanna a bharrfheabhsú**

Féadfaidh scoileanna a bhfuil dhá sheomra Innealtóireachta acu úsáid a bhaint as an dá sheomra chun dhá sheisiún scrúduithe a reáchtáil aon lá ar leith. Déanfar é seo chun freastal ar scoileanna a bhfuil líon mór iarrthóirí acu curtha isteach ar an Innealtóireacht ag leibhéal na hArdteistiméireachta. I gcásanna dá leithéid caithfidh múinteoir Innealtóireachta a bheith i láthair i ngach sheomra le linn an scrúdaithe ar fad.

Féadann scoileanna a bhfuil dhá sheomra don Staidéar Foirgníochta acu úsáid a bhaint as an dá sheomra chun suas le ceithre sheisiún scrúduithe a reáchtáil aon lá ar leith. Déanfar é seo chun freastal ar scoileanna a bhfuil líon mór iarrthóirí acu curtha isteach ar Staidéar Foirgníochta ag leibhéal na hArdteistiméireachta. I gcásanna dá leithéid féadann múinteoir don Staidéar Foirgníochta a bheith ar fáil le linn an scrúdaithe ar fad.

### **Na Trialacha a réachtáil thar tréimhse scrúdaithe trí lá**

Tá athbhreithniú déanta ag an CSS ar na socrúithe nua agus táthar den tuairim go bhféadfadh gach uile scoil gan eisceacht na scrúduithe a réachtáil thar an tréimhse scrúdaithe trí lá a cheadaítear do gach ábhar. Má cheapann scoil ar bith nach bhféadtar é seo a dhéanamh iarrtar orthu aighneacht mionsonraithe i scríbhinn a dhéanamh ina n-áirítear na háiseanna ar fáil sa scoil chomh maith leis an réasúnaíocht faoina gceapann siad go mbeadh deacrachtaí acu i réachtáil na scrúduithe mar atá siad pleanáilte. Déanfaidh an CSS plé leis an scoil agus féadfaidh siad cuairt scoile a shocrú chun na háiseanna ar fáil a cheistiú agus chun aontú faoi na bearta a d'fhéadfaí a thógáil chun na trialacha a réachtáil mar atá siad pleanáilte.

### **Ceisteanna agus Faisnéis Bhreise**

Eiseofar faisnéis bhreise do na scoileanna i gcaitheamh Aibreáin **2019** maidir leis na socrúithe le haghaidh réachtáil agus comhlionadh na dtrialacha praiticiúla san Innealtoireacht agus sa Staidéar Foirgníochta chomh maith leis na socrúithe maidir le haischur na hoibre praiticiúil chuig an CSS.

Ba chóir aon cheisteanna maidir leis an gclár seo a chur chuig [practicals@examinations.ie](mailto:practicals@examinations.ie).

**James Dunning**  
**Príomhoifigeach Cúnta**  
**Márta 2019**