

For the attention of the Management Authorities of Second-Level Schools

Leaving Certificate Home Economics 2020 & 2021

The purpose of this email is to outline the following:

- (a) Roll out of Online Marking in the subject of Leaving Certificate Home Economics for 2020 and beyond.
- (b) Changes to the front cover of the Leaving Certificate Home Economics Journal 2021
- (c) Information for Candidates and their Parents/Guardians.

Roll out of Online Marking in the subject of Leaving Certificate Home Economics for 2020 and beyond

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) successfully used an online marking system to mark certain Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate/Cycle subjects in 2019. This followed a pilot in 2016 and 2017.

Online marking facilitates high quality, reliable marking of candidate's examination responses. There are many advantages to online marking both for the examiners and for the examination system as a whole. In particular, marking online allows examiners to focus on the marking exercise and not on the administration of the marking. As the calculation of marks are inherent in the system, online marking eliminates the possibility of mistakes being made in mark calculation and transcription.

The SEC intends to roll out online marking to all Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle subjects by 2022. In the case of Home Economics and the current year's Leaving Certificate candidature, **only** the written paper will be marked online in 2020. Going forward, **both** the written paper and the Journal will be marked online from 2021.

Changes to the front cover of the Leaving Certificate Home Economics Journal 2021

As you will be aware, Home Economics Journals for the 2021 Leaving Certificate candidature will be issuing within the coming days. The cover of the 2021 Journal will be different to the 2020 Journal (see at end).

One notable change will be the presence of barcodes and L shaped marker marks both on the front cover and all pages therein. These are tools used to facilitate the scanning of the Journal in preparation for online marking.

Another change will be that candidates will be required to provide their **Day and Month** of Birth on the front cover along with their examination number, Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) and School Roll Number. The format of the Day and Month of Birth will be DD MM or LL MM as below. This is to allow the SEC carry out further reconciliation checks to ensure that candidates have submitted their correct PPSN.



Day and Month of Birth



For example, 3rd February
is entered as 0302

Information for Candidates and their Parents/Guardians

There is no significant change for candidates. They will sit their examinations in the normal way. When the Written Paper (from 2020 onwards) and Journal (from 2021 onwards) is returned to SEC, it will be scanned and will become an electronic script. The paper versions will be retained. The scanned images of the candidates' Written Paper/Journal will then be marked by examiners using specially designed software. Candidates sitting any of the examinations in subjects which will be marked online should be made aware of the following in advance of the examinations.

- Candidates should write their answers in black or blue pen only. Gel pens should not be used.
- Pencil may be used for completing diagrams and graphs only.
- Candidates should not use correction fluid (i.e. tippex) on examination material. Where a candidate makes an error, they should cross out the error, and continue with the correction on a new line. This is the case for all subjects, as there is a possibility that marks can still be awarded if content in the perceived error merit credit.
- Candidates should complete their answers using the spaces provided as this will ensure that all of their answers are captured in the scanning process. Anything written outside of these areas or in the margins of Journal may not be seen by the examiner.

Queries:

Any queries concerning Leaving Certificate Home Economics can be addressed to the Practicals Section via email to practicals@examinations.ie or by phone to 090 644 2861/2862. Any queries concerning the roll out of online marked subjects can be addressed to the Online Marking Team via email to onlinemark@examinations.ie or by phone at 090 644 2869/2418.

Please bring this email to the attention of teachers and particularly to the attention of candidates and parents/guardians. All of the information detailed above can also be found on www.examinations.ie.

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MM7/8BA



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2021
Home Economics (Scientific and Social)
Food Studies Practical – Coursework Journal

Examination Number

Day and Month of Birth

For example, 3rd February
is entered as 0302

Personal Public
Service Number

School Roll Number

