



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission
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S17/18

DATES OF CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2018

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 four documents setting out the dates of the 2018 Certificate Examinations. The documents enclosed are:

1. The timetable for the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied written examinations in June 2018.
2. The timetable for the Junior Certificate/Cycle written examinations in June 2018.
3. 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 2nd May 2018 along with the date for the LCA Information Technology (Specialism), practical, performance and written test which takes place on Wednesday 16th May 2018.
4. The schedule of examination dates and deadlines for the non-written examinations at Junior Certificate/Cycle.

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 for different days than in previous years.

Changes to the **Leaving Certificate timetable**, are outlined below;

1. The examinations in Ancient Greek, Hebrew Studies and the Non Curricular Languages have been moved back in the timetable from the second day of the examinations in 2017 to the Monday of the final week of examinations for 2018. This change has been made as result of feedback from schools raising concerns about the impact of the 2017 scheduling of these subjects on their students. The examinations are scheduled for the morning of Monday 18th June 2018, in the same session as Agricultural Science, and will run from 9.30 to 12.30.
2. In order to minimise the potential for candidates having to undertake three examinations in one day, we have made changes to the timing of three other examinations as follows;
 - Physics and the subject *Physics and Chemistry* have been moved to the later session of Wednesday, 20th June, AM. (From Day 9 in 2017 to Day 11 this year).
 - Economics and Agricultural Economics have been moved to the later session of Thursday 21st June, AM. (From Day 11 in 2017 to Day 12 this year).
 - Agricultural Science has been moved to the earlier session of Monday 18th June AM (From Day 12 in 2017 to Day 9 this year).

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

3. The inaugural examination in Leaving Certificate Politics and Society will be held in the 41 Phase 1 schools offering this subject. The date of this examination will be announced shortly when the entries in these schools for the 2018 Leaving Certificate are known. The SEC will make contact with the schools participating in the initial subject pilot about the examination date.
4. There have been no changes to the Junior Certificate/Cycle examination timetable.

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 **9th to the 20th of April**.

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

Please note the new arrangements which apply this year for the conduct of the Leaving Certificate practical examinations in both Engineering and Construction Studies. 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. Details of the change have already been notified to schools (SEC Circular S95/17 refers). A further circular setting out the detailed arrangements for the conduct of these examinations will issue in Spring 2018.

The practical examinations in Junior Certificate Art, Junior Certificate Metalwork and Leaving Certificate Art Life Sketching will be conducted over the period from **30th April to the 11th 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 SEC will contact schools about these arrangements in due course.

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 16th April**. Full details of these arrangements will issue at a later date.

D. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Leaving Certificate results issue seven and a half weeks from the last day of the examinations, therefore Leaving Certificate results are due for issue on **15th August** and the Junior Certificate results are due for issue in mid-September.

The enclosed 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.

Andrea Feeney
Director, Operations & IT Division
February, 2018