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State Examinations Commission
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S09/20

DATES OF CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2020

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 copies of five separate documents setting out the dates of the 2020 Certificate Examinations.

Note; On Friday 12th June, Junior Cycle Materials Technology (Wood) will be held in the morning, while German will take place in the afternoon, as per the printed timetable enclosed. This represents a change to the version of the timetable published on the SEC website on December 20th 2019. This change was made by the SEC in response to feedback from school authorities. The SEC is aware that candidates are likely to have printed their timetables from the website. You are asked to bring this change to the attention of teachers of Materials Technology (Wood) and German and to ask them to bring it to the attention of their students at the earliest opportunity. Use of the school's communication channels might also be considered to alert students in these subjects of the timing change. The amended timetable has been updated on the website.

The documents enclosed are:

1. The timetable for the Leaving Certificate written examinations in June 2020.
2. The timetable for the Leaving Certificate Applied examinations, which includes both the written exams in June 2020 and the dates for the non written examinations. The Information Technology (Specialism), practical, performance and written test will take place on **Wednesday 13th May 2020**.
3. The timetable for the Junior Cycle written examinations in June 2020.
4. The schedule of examination dates and deadlines for the non-written examinations at the Leaving Certificate and 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 6th May 2020** and the date for the inaugural examination in Computer Science which will be held on **Wednesday 27th May 2020**.
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 any timetable changes carefully and draw the particular attention of students taking the subjects affected to scheduling changes.

Leaving Certificate Timetable

The Leaving certificate timetable retains the extended 15-day format which was introduced last year for reasons of candidate wellbeing. The 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 2020 or in a future year.

The only significant change to the June Leaving Certificate timetable is the scheduling of the inaugural examination in Physical Education on the afternoon of **Tuesday 23rd June**, the final day of the examinations.

(As noted above, the date for the inaugural examination in Computer Science is **Wednesday 27th May 2020**.)

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

1. There are significant changes to the Junior Cycle timetable this year.
2. Last year saw the final examination in CSPE and the removal of this examination sees the Junior Cycle written examinations finish on the morning of **Tuesday 16th June**.
3. The changes take account of the new examinations being introduced under Junior Cycle reform this year in the Modern European Languages, which are at common level, and in Gaeilge in which there are Higher and Ordinary level examinations in both the T1 and T2 variants. The new examinations are all of two hour's duration.
4. We have brought forward the timing of the afternoon examinations from the traditional 2 PM start to a 1.30 PM start each day. As most morning Junior Cycle examinations, which commence at 9.30 AM, are 2 hours long, we believe this change should alleviate some of the difficulties experienced by school authorities in managing the time between the morning and afternoon examinations.
5. The SEC has taken the opportunity to rearrange subjects on the timetable in order to optimise arrangements for marking in certain subjects and also to take account of subjects being marked online this year.

Details of examinations which have been rearranged from last year are set out for information below;

Subject	From (2019 Date)	To (2020 Date)
CSPE	Day 1 PM (5/6)	Not examined from 2020
Religious Education	Day 7 PM (13/6)	Day 1 PM (3/6)
Irish	Day 2 AM and PM (6/6)	Day 2 AM only (one paper at OL/HL for T1 and T2)
History	Day 6 PM (12/6)	Day 2 PM (4/6)
Home Economics	Day 7 AM (13/6)	Day 6 PM (10/6)
Spanish	Day 10 AM (18/6)	Day 7 AM (11/6)
Latin/Classical Studies	Day 8 PM (14/6)	Day 7 PM (11/6)
Materials Technology (Wood)	Day 9 PM (17/6)	Day 8 AM (12/6)
Metalwork (Materials & Technology)	Day 10 PM (18/6)	Day 9 AM (15/6)
Music	Day 11 AM (17/6)	Day 9 PM (15/6)
Jewish Studies	Day 11 AM (17/6)	Day 9 PM (15/6)
Technical Graphics	Day 9 AM (17/6)	Day 10 AM (16/6)

All other Junior Cycle examinations are timetabled in the same day as last year.

6. Your attention is once again drawn to the change between the printed timetable enclosed and the version originally published on www.examinations.ie in respect of Junior Cycle Materials Technology Wood (MTW) and German. MTW will be held on the morning of **Friday 12th June** and German will be held in the afternoon.

C. SCHEDULES 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 **23rd March to the 3rd April 2020**.

The Practical examinations in Junior Cycle 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) are broadly similar this year. This change, which limits the flexibility of schools in the conduct of these examinations, was made in order to safeguard the integrity of these examination. This year the practical examinations in **Engineering are scheduled for Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th April followed by Construction Studies on Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and Friday 8th May.**

The practical examinations in Junior Cycle Metalwork and Leaving Certificate Art Life Sketching will be conducted over the period from **27th April to the 8th 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 Leaving Certificate Art (Life Sketching) practical examination papers will be distributed to all candidates and put up on our website www.examinations.ie on **Monday 30th March**.

In light of the Junior Cycle changes there is no stand-alone practical examination in the case of Visual Art. Candidates taking this subject are required to complete their project by the **8th May**.

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

D. Examinations and Appeal Results Dates

The dates for the issue of the 2020 examination and appeal results will be along similar lines to last year. Important dates which school authorities and candidates need to be aware of are shown below;

Key Dates for Leaving Certificate Results and Appeals 2020

- Leaving Certificate results date **Tuesday 11th August**
- CAO Round 1 offers will issue on **Thursday 13th August**
- Viewing of Scripts application closing date **Friday 14th August.**
- Viewing of scripts will take place in schools on **Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th August 2020**
- Appeal application closing date **Thursday 20th August 2020**
- Appeal results will issue to schools during **week ending 18th September 2020.**

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 2020 Junior Cycle** examinations are due for issue to schools **late September/early October.**

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 2020