



State Examinations and SEC Accredited Grades for LC 2021

# Leaving Cert Results – August 2021

either

- Students' performance in LC examinations in any subject including, where appropriate, their performance in the completion of additional components (coursework, orals, etc.)

or

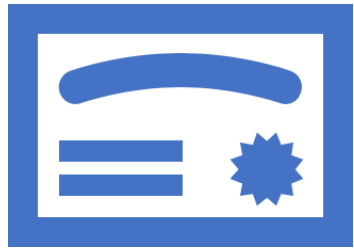
- Students' SEC Accredited Grades in each subject based on schools' estimates of students' likely performance in the examination and a national standardisation process.

Students will receive **the combined outcomes** of their SEC accredited grades and their examinations (if they choose to sit examinations) at the same time following the issue of Leaving Certificate results.

Where, in any subject, a student has also sat the examination, he/she will be **credited with the better** of the two results.

The candidate's results will be transferred to the CAO to facilitate progression to higher education.

# Two Pathways - One Destination



Leaving Certificate 2021  
Examinations



State Examinations Commission  
Accredited Grades

The two processes are completely separate - It will not be possible to mix elements of accredited grades with components of examinations.



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# Key Priorities...

the need to protect  
students' tuition time  
for the remainder of  
the school year

ensure that school  
communities adhere  
to public health  
requirements

put supports in place  
for schools and  
teachers to be able to  
conduct all aspects of  
the examinations.



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# Leaving Certificate 2021 Examinations

The Government, on Wednesday 17 February 2021, confirmed that the written Leaving Certificate 2021 examinations will be held in June with related components also proceeding as **far as possible subject to public health advice**.



An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education

## Assessment Arrangements

For Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate  
Examinations 2021



Comisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit  
State Examinations Commission

### LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2021

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	SUBJECT	TIME
	H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level F = Foundation Level	
WEDNESDAY 9	English, Paper 1 - H & O Home Economics, Scientific and Social - H & O	9.30 – 12.20 2.00 – 4.30
THURSDAY 10	Engineering - O Engineering - H English, Paper 2 - H & O	9.30 – 12.00 9.30 – 12.30 2.00 – 5.20
FRIDAY 11	Geography - H & O Mathematics, Paper 1 - H & O Mathematics - F	9.30 – 12.20 2.00 – 4.30 2.00 – 4.30
MONDAY 14	Mathematics, Paper 2 - H & O Irish Paper 1 - H (incl aural) Irish Paper 1 - O (incl aural) Irish Paper 1 - F (incl aural)	9.30 – 12.00 2.00 – 4.20 2.00 – 3.50 2.00 – 4.20
TUESDAY 15	Irish, Paper 2 - O Irish, Paper 2 - H Biology - H & O	9.30 – 11.50 9.30 – 12.35 2.00 – 5.00
WEDNESDAY 16	French - H & O – Written French - Aural History - H & O	9.30 – 12.00 12.10 – 12.50 2.00 – 4.50
THURSDAY 17	Business - O Business - H Art, History & Appreciation - H & O	9.30 – 12.00 9.30 – 12.30 2.00 – 4.30

# LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2021

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as found on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that he/she is present at the examination at the time and place specified. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins.

JUNE	SUBJECT	TIME
H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level F = Foundation Level		
WEDNESDAY 9	English, Paper 1 - H & O Home Economics, Scientific and Social - H & O	9.30 - 12.20 2.00 - 4.30
THURSDAY 10	Engineering - O Engineering - H	9.30 - 12.00 9.30 - 12.30
FRIDAY 11	English, Paper 2 - H & O Geography - H & O	2.00 - 5.20 9.30 - 12.20
MONDAY 14	Mathematics, Paper 1 - H & O Mathematics - F	2.00 - 4.30 2.00 - 4.30
MONDAY 14	Mathematics, Paper 2 - H & O	9.30 - 12.00
TUESDAY 15	Irish, Paper 1 - H (incl. aural) Irish, Paper 1 - O (incl. aural) Irish - F (incl. aural)	2.00 - 4.20 2.00 - 5.50 2.00 - 4.20
TUESDAY 15	Irish, Paper 2 - O Irish, Paper 2 - H	9.30 - 11.50 9.30 - 12.25
WEDNESDAY 16	Biology - H & O French - H & O - Written French - Aural	2.00 - 5.00 9.30 - 12.00 12.10 - 12.50
THURSDAY 17	History - H & O Business - O Business - H	2.00 - 4.10 9.30 - 12.00 9.30 - 12.30
FRIDAY 18	Art, History & Appreciation - H & O German - H & O - Written German - Aural	2.00 - 4.30 9.30 - 12.00 12.10 - 12.50
MONDAY 21	Construction Studies - O Construction Studies - H	2.00 - 4.30 2.00 - 5.00
MONDAY 21	Hebrew Studies, Ancient Greek and Non Curricular Languages (See Note 2) Agricultural Science - H & O	9.30 - 12.30 2.00 - 4.30
TUESDAY 22	Spanish - H & O - Written Spanish - Aural Chemistry - H & O	9.30 - 12.00 12.10 - 12.50 2.00 - 5.00
WEDNESDAY 23	Physics - H & O Physics and Chemistry - H & O Accounting - H & O	9.30 - 12.30 9.30 - 12.30 2.00 - 5.00
THURSDAY 24	Design and Communication Graphics - H & O Music - Listening (Core) - H & O Music Composing - H & O Music - Listening (Elective) - H	9.30 - 12.30 1.30 - 3.00 3.15 - 4.45 5.00 - 5.45
FRIDAY 25	Economics - H & O Religious Education - O Religious Education - H Applied Mathematics - H & O	9.30 - 12.00 2.00 - 4.00 2.00 - 4.30 2.00 - 4.10
MONDAY 28	Italian - H & O - Written Italian - Aural Russian - H & O - Written Russian - Aural	9.30 - 12.00 12.10 - 12.50 9.30 - 12.00 12.10 - 12.50
TUESDAY 29	Classical Studies - H & O Latin - H & O Technology - O Technology - H Japanese - H & O - Written Politics & Society - Aural Arabic - H & O Physical Education - H & O	2.00 - 5.00 2.00 - 5.00 2.00 - 4.00 2.00 - 4.30 9.30 - 12.00 12.10 - 12.50 9.30 - 12.00 9.30 - 12.30 2.00 - 4.30

## Leaving Certificate 2021 Examinations

Option available to ALL students

- Adjustments to written examinations 2021
  - Further adjustments include reducing # of questions to be answered
  - Subject guidance re adjustments – 22<sup>nd</sup> March
- Oral examinations will be **arranged by schools** during the Easter period and shortly after, outside tuition time and subject to public health advice. The tests should be **undertaken in school by a teacher of the school**, wherever possible. **(Exam Aide)**
- Coursework will proceed in subjects** where it forms a normal part of the examination.
- Practical exams
  - Music, - performance component – Easter '21**
  - Engineering, Construction Studies + PE – reallocate marks to project component**

Notes

- The examination sessions highlighted in red include 20 minutes over and above the time traditionally allocated for the papers concerned.
- Leaving Certificate Examinations in Hebrew Studies, Ancient Greek and in the Non Curricular Languages listed below will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June from 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- There are also final examinations in Computer Science and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme – Link Modules – which will be held in May with dates to be announced.
- The Leaving Certificate timetable retains the extended 13-day format which was introduced in 2020 for reasons of candidate wellbeing.
- The start date for the 2022 Certificate Examinations will be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Non Curricular Leaving Certificate Examinations									
Czech	Bulgarian	Croatian	Danish	Dutch	Estonian	Finnish	Hungarian	Latvian	Lithuanian
Polish	Maltese	Modern Greek	Portuguese	Romanian	Slovakian	Slovenian	Swedish	Ukrainian	Welsh



# State Examinations: Leaving Certificate Applied

Option available to ALL students

- Leaving Certificate Applied: Advice for management and teachers of (LCA) 2020/21
- Adjustments to written examinations 2021
- Separate guidance will be provided on the detailed arrangements for LCA examinations.

should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subject in which they intend to present themselves. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	TIME	SUBJECT
<b>WEDNESDAY 9</b>	9.45 – 11.45 2.00 – 4.00	English & Communication Social Education
<b>THURSDAY 10</b>	9.30 – 10.30 9.30 – 12.30 2.00 – 4.30 2.00 – 3.00	Gaeilge Chumarsáideach Sign Language (see Note 1) Sign Language (see Note 1) French / German / Spanish / Italian
<b>FRIDAY 11</b>	9.30 – 11.30 2.00 – 3.30	Mathematical Applications Hotel Catering & Tourism
<b>MONDAY 14</b>	9.30 – 11.00 2.00 – 3.30	Engineering Child Care / Community Care
<b>TUESDAY 15</b>	9.30 – 11.00 11.30 – 1.00 2.30 – 4.00	Graphics & Construction Studies Hair & Beauty Office Administration & Customer Care
<b>WEDNESDAY 16</b>	9.30 – 11.00 2.00 – 4.00	Agriculture / Horticulture Technology
<b>THURSDAY</b>	9.30 – 11.00	Active Leisure Studies



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Department of  
Education and Skills

## Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Advice for management and teachers of LCA  
2020/21 in Second-Level Schools and  
Centres for Education

July 2020

Version 1.0

## Assessment Arrangements

For Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate  
Examinations 2021



# Student Portal

The SEC's Candidate Portal is expected to open in the week of 8<sup>th</sup> March

Students choose to opt in to Examinations and/or Accredited Grade

providing details on:

- [Subjects](#)
- [Levels](#)



# SEC Accredited Grade

(LCE, LCVP (Link Modules) LCA 2 +LCA1 where relevant)

Option will be provided for all students for all subjects provided that adequate evidence is available on which to base a grade.

- Enables all students including VHR etc.. to receive a grade in LC 2021 and in instances where Covid 19 related restrictions apply to an examination centre. (There will be **no alternative sitting of examinations**)
- The grades will be arrived at through a **2 phase process** by which the teacher will use a range of **available evidence** to support her/his judgement-making **in estimating the percentage marks** to award to students and engage in an **in-school alignment process**, following which, these school marks will be subjected to **a national standardisation process carried out by SEC.**



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# School-based steps:

1. The teacher's estimation of student percentage marks in each subject which includes the student's likely performance in the written examination and in the additional component(s).
2. School alignment of marks for a subject through a subject alignment group comprising teachers who are teaching the subject to Leaving Certificate students this year.
3. **Oversight of the alignment process by the school principal (process only)**
4. Transmission of the marks for national standardisation.

## Teacher's estimation (Step 1)

In reaching their estimate in subjects with more than one component, teachers will have regard to the written examination and the additional component.

The estimation will also take in to consideration the appropriate weightings for all of the components.

Teachers will be asked to formally record their consideration of each component part.

*Teachers' knowledge and experience of the curriculum and the examination are essential to this process of arriving at the estimated mark.*

# The Estimated Mark (Step 1)

- Records of each student's performance e.g. assignments, projects and practical work and key assignments and practical work in the case of Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
- Performance on any class assessments, for example, house examinations and term examinations taken over the course of study.
- Evidence of learning from the period of school closures in 2021 should be used. *In using this evidence account must be taken of students whose circumstances made effective engagement with remote teaching and learning particularly difficult.*
- Teachers should exercise great care in using evidence of learning from the period of school closure in 2020, especially if the teaching and learning experiences of students were uneven at that time.
- Performance on any coursework component, even if this has not been fully completed including tasks in the case of LCA
- Any other relevant information related to student performance.



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# Key information sets available that inform teacher professional judgement

- Review the information available for each class group during senior cycle.
  - Data may be drawn from the results entered on the school's administration software system, teachers' own records and, if available, samples of students' work that includes written qualitative feedback.
- Summative assessments e.g. end-of-term reports for fifth and sixth-year, taking into account conditions in school / in an unsupervised remote environment.
- Teachers' records of in-class assessments, e.g., end-of-topic tests, continuous assessments, aural and oral assessments, presentations, project work, and/or coursework over the two years of study may also be considered.
- Teachers should reach an "on-balance" judgement in relation to a student's expected performance and an occasional dip or peak in a student's performance should not be treated as indicative of overall performance.



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# What assessments should not be used during this period?

- The **use of mock examinations** (i.e. examinations involving full class groups sitting written examinations under conditions that mirror those of the certificate examinations) is neither required nor recommended for use as evidence for the Accredited Grades process.
- The period following the return to in-school teaching and learning should be used to **maximise opportunities for teaching and learning with students.**

# Organising the school alignment process. (2)

- Prior to the alignment process, each subject teacher of a Leaving Certificate class group **drafts the initial estimated percentage marks for each of her/his students and class groups.**
- Teachers will need to demonstrate that **no two students are placed on the same estimated percentage mark.**
- Where there is more than one examination component in the subject, teachers will **have regard to the written element and the additional assessment component(s).**
- Percentage marks may include **up to two decimal places**, i.e. 83.22%, 83.33%, etc.
- Teachers will demonstrate that **no two students, at each level** (Higher, Ordinary and Foundation) **are placed on the same estimated percentage mark**

Timeframe (14 May – 28 May)



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# Oversight of the **alignment process** by the school principal (3) transmission of data (4)

Once the process of reviewing the data sets is concluded and the principal is satisfied that the **process** of alignment and, where applicable, the review has transacted in good faith, he/she will **sign-off that the process has been completed in accordance with the published guidance.**

The finalised data sets will be submitted by the principal with the assistance of the examination aide no later than 3rd June 2021. Detailed guidance will be provided to schools in relation to the process for the transmission of data.

**Timeframe (31 May – 3 June)**



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# Standardisation and Processing of Data by the State Examinations Commission

- The school estimated percentage marks will be combined with recent national data through a process called standardisation in order to generate **the SEC Accredited Grade** for the students in the subject.
- This standardisation process will bring the data sets into alignment with each other and will be used to ensure the SEC Accredited Grades reflect standards that are aligned across schools and with a **common national standard**.
- The standardisation process being used will not impose any predetermined mark on any individual in a class or a school, **nor will it use historical school-level data** on past performance in Leaving Certificate Examinations.
- Though the **prior performance of the class group in Junior Cycle may be used** in this process, the individual performance of the student at Junior Cycle would not be a determinant of their performance at Leaving Certificate, other than when the subject is being taken outside of school.



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# Student-teacher contact and the SEC Accredited Grades

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- The holding of **formal sixth-year parent-teacher meetings** in the period 1 March 2021 to 28 May 2021 is not advised. An individual parent-teacher meeting may be sought and arranged in exceptional circumstances only.



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## Indicative Dates ACCS Info 9/21

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- May 14<sup>th</sup> Closing date for collection of evidence of learning from 6th year student for the purpose of establishing an estimated mark.
- May 28<sup>th</sup> Schools will close for all students to allow the final week for completion of alignment process and data entry related to SEC Accredited Grades by schools.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> Closing date for schools to enter/return all data from the school to the SEC relating to SEC Accredited Grades.
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Written Leaving Certificate examinations to commence in schools.

The SEC will issue revised dates for submission of Leaving Certificate course work and the scheduling/arrangements for LCA tasks and interviews in the coming days and weeks.



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# One Destination

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Students who opt for both will have their better grades in each subject reflected in their results.



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Please check [www.heywood.ie](http://www.heywood.ie)  
and and your VSmail for  
regular updates!

*Míle buíochas*



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