



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission
Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí N37 TP65
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath N37 TP65

Teileafón: +353-90-64 42741. Facs: +353-90-647 3080. Suíomh Gréasáin: www.examinations.ie. R-phost: orals@examinations.ie

S79/25

COURSEWORK RULES AND PROCEDURES 2025/2026 AND DATES OF CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2026

TO THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT/AUTHORITIES OF SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOLS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF ETBS AND MANAGEMENT OF OTHER CENTRES OF EDUCATION PROVIDING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS IN 2026

A. COURSEWORK RULES AND PROCEDURES 2025/2026

To maintain the integrity of the examination process and ensure inter-candidate equity, the SEC has longstanding rules and procedures governing the acceptance of coursework for assessment and this document builds on these rules and procedures. The SEC works in cooperation with teachers and school management authorities to ensure compliance with these rules and procedures for the benefit of all candidates. These Coursework Rules and Procedures govern the conduct of coursework for assessment by the SEC and the arrangements for the acceptance of this coursework. The SEC Coursework Rules and Procedures 2025/2026 is a consolidation of a number of previous SEC circulars governing the approach to coursework for assessment. The Coursework Rules and Procedures replaces previous Circulars S69/04, S68/08, S76/22 and S52/24. The principles for authentic coursework in the State examinations remain the same as in previous years.

These Coursework Rules and Procedures contain the information needed to support the delivery of coursework by candidates and will be updated and reissued annually. This version is for the State examinations being held in 2026. Subject specific documentation (i.e. briefs, setting out subject specific requirements and assessment details), that issue from the SEC in relation to coursework in future years will refer to these Rules and Procedures as the set of rules underlying the authentication requirements for all coursework.

These Coursework Rules and Procedures are available online [here](#) and schools are encouraged to download and distribute the document.

B. TIMETABLES AND SCHEDULES

The State Examination Commission's (SEC) has brought forward the publication date of five documents relating to the timing of the 2026 certificate examinations, these documents are now available on our website. These documents set out the dates for the 2026 Certificate Examinations and hardcopies will be posted to your school in the coming weeks for display in your school. The documents are:

1. The timetable for the Leaving Certificate written examinations in June 2026.
2. The timetable for the Leaving Certificate Applied final written examinations in 2026 and the schedule of

examination dates and deadlines for the non-written examinations for the Leaving Certificate Applied programme.

3. The timetable for the Junior Cycle written examinations in June 2026.
4. The schedule of examination dates and deadlines for the non-written examinations for the Leaving Certificate programmes. This schedule also includes the dates for the final written examinations outside of the June examinations.
5. The schedule of examination dates and deadlines for the non-written examinations for the Junior Cycle programme.

Candidates can download their own personal copies from the Examination Information section of the State Examination Commission's website at www.examinations.ie.

Candidates have their part to play in completing their details correctly on each examination script when they sit their examinations so that we can reconcile their information in the online marking system. Candidates are required to provide their full date of birth, to include the year of birth, on all answer-books and other stationery returned at the end of an examination session. The posters and stickers that will be sent to you in the coming weeks contain important information for candidates about completing the cover of the examination stationery.

We will send you 5 A2 posters and would appreciate your assistance in displaying them prominently where they will be seen by examination candidates. We will also send you a handy journal-sized sticker guide on how to complete the examination script-cover which we would ask you to distribute to this year's Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle candidates. With your assistance we can ensure that candidates are aware of the key requirements to ensure that their examination scripts are processed accurately.

C. CHANGE TO THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE WRITTEN TIMETABLE

Schools and candidates should note that for the 2026 written examinations Construction Studies is on the afternoon of Thursday 11 June while Art, Visual Studies is on Friday 12 in the afternoon.

D. SCHEDULES OF EXAMINATIONS DATES

The Oral examinations will be conducted during the Easter Period from Saturday 28 March to Thursday 2 April inclusive with two contingency days, if the supply of examiners is not sufficient to examine all candidates over the Easter dates. This is in line with the position outlined in circular S88/24 dated December 2024 which confirmed the timing of the Oral examinations during the Easter holidays up until the 2026/2027 school year. These examinations will be the subject of a separate circular that will issue in the coming weeks.

The Leaving Certificate Music Practical Examinations will take place from Monday 13 April to Friday 24 April.

The Leaving Certificate Construction Studies Day Practical will be on Tuesday 28 April, Wednesday 29 April and Thursday 30 April while the Leaving Certificate Engineering Day Practical will be on Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 May. The Computer Science written examination will be on Wednesday 20 May.

The Junior Cycle Music Practical Performance Examinations will take place from Monday 2 March to Friday 13 March. The Junior Cycle Home Economics Practical Performance Examinations will take place from Monday 13 March to Friday 24 March. Separate circulars have already issued on these and are available on our website.

E. 2026/2027 PROVISIONAL LEAVING CERTIFICATE SCHEDULE

The SEC has published a provisional [Leaving Certificate schedule for 2026/2027](#) online to account for redeveloped Senior Cycle subjects, including Additional Assessment Components (AACs). Feedback on this provisional schedule can be sent to scr@examinations.ie

Please ensure that the information contained in this circular is brought to the attention of candidates, teachers and other interested parties.

If you have any questions 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.

Ger Killian
Assistant Principal Officer Operations Division

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