

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - Embargoed until 6 Am Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Over 60,000 Leaving Certificate Candidates confirm Examination and Accredited Grades choices for Leaving Certificate 2021.**

The Candidate Self Service Portal (CSSP) was open between 10 and 16 March during which time candidates entered for the 2021 Leaving Certificate could indicate their choice of sitting examinations, opting for accredited grades, or both, on a subject by subject basis. Data from the portal is now available on the selections made by candidate through the portal. All of the data presented is provisional and subject to change when candidates make their final selections for the 2021 Leaving Certificate and/or sit the examinations. Further data will be provided when the portal reopens in late April/early May with the exact date subject to confirmation. It should be noted that the final data for Leaving Certificate 2021 will not be known until after the examinations have been held and all data presented in advance of the issue of results is considered provisional.

At the time that the portal closed on 16 March, of a total anticipated cohort of 63,172 candidates, 60,089 (c.95%) had engaged with the portal and made their selections; 57,082 Leaving Certificate candidates and 3,007 Leaving Certificate Applied candidates. This accounts for 95% of all Leaving Certificate candidates and 90% of all Leaving Certificate Applied candidates initially entered for the examinations. Just over 3,000 candidates either did not register at all (c.1000 candidates) or registered but did not complete the process to select their choices of examinations, Accredited Grades, or both (c. 2000 candidates).

The SEC is continuing to engage with schools and candidates to ensure that it has accurate information for the 2021 Leaving Certificate. Of those who did not register on the portal at all, it is likely that some may have already withdrawn from the 2021 Leaving Certificate.

Of the **total Leaving Certificate cohort** (Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied) initially entered; 87% have opted to sit examinations and receive accredited grades, 2% to sit the examinations only, 6% to receive accredited grades only; and the remaining 5% did not complete the process.

Of all **Leaving Certificate** candidates initially entered, 88% have indicated their intention to sit the examinations and receive accredited grades in one or more subjects; 2% have opted for examinations only; 5% opted for Accredited Grades only and to not sit any examinations; and the remaining 5% did not complete the process.

Of all **Leaving Certificate Applied** candidates initially entered; 65% have opted to sit examinations and receive accredited grades, 1% to sit the examinations only, 24% to receive accredited grades only; and the remaining 10% did not complete the process.

## 2021 Leaving Certificate Provisional Entry Data

	Candidates initially entered for LC 2021	Candidates who selected Accredited Grades and Examinations	Candidates who selected Examinations only	Candidates who selected Accredited Grades only	Candidates who did not make a Selection*
<b>Leaving Certificate (established)</b>	59,847	52,896	976	3,210	2,765
<b>% of Entries</b>		88%	2%	5%	5%
<b>Leaving Certificate Applied</b>	3,325	2,164	46	797	318
<b>% of Entries</b>		65%	1%	24%	10%
<b>Total LC &amp; LCA</b>	63,172	55,060	1,022	4,007	3,083
<b>% of Entries</b>		87%	2%	6%	5%

*\*Candidates who either did not register on the portal or who registered but did not make their selections.*

### Leaving Certificate (Established) – Data on Selected Subjects

- Data is presented in the following table on candidate choices in all Leaving Certificate (established) subjects in which there are 5,000 or more candidates entered.
- In all subjects, the majority of candidates entered are opting for both examinations and Accredited Grades.
- In all subjects, the numbers of candidates opting for examinations only is less than 5% of the number of candidates entered for the subject.
- The proportion of candidates indicating their intention to sit the examinations varies between subjects from 60% in Irish to 96% in Applied Maths.
- The proportion of candidates opting for Accredited Grades only and to not sit the examination in the selected subject ranges from 38% in Irish to 4% in Applied Maths.
- In English and Mathematics, of the candidates entered for the subject, 81% and 84% respectively have indicated their intention to sit the examinations.
  
- Data is also presented in summary form at the end of the table on the Non-Curricular Language Subjects. The pattern of candidate choices that we see in these subjects is an outlier compared to the curricular subjects as the proportion of candidates opting for the examinations only (and to not opt for Accredited grades) is 52%. This is likely to be due to the difficulty that candidates taking these subjects, who are typically engaging in these subjects without tuition, had last year in being provided with a calculated grade in the absence of evidence on which a grade could be based. However, since the portal closed, arrangements have been developed to allow candidates taking these subjects to have the opportunity to undertake a proficiency assessment test in May, arranged by the Department of Education, which can then form the evidence on which an estimated mark can be provided leading to an Accredited Grade. Details of these arrangements have been notified to candidates and to schools.
- Candidates taking these subjects will be able to change their preferences when the Portal reopens.

## Leaving Certificate (Established) – Data on Selected Subjects

Subject	Initial Entries	Accredited Grade and examination	Examination only	Accredited Grade only	Not Selected
Irish	50,708	29,231 (58%)	946 (2%)	19,185 (38%)	1,346 (3%)
English	57,752	45,041 (78%)	1,768 (3%)	9,414 (16%)	1,529 (3%)
Mathematics	58,066	46,483 (80%)	2,003 (3%)	7,969 (14%)	1,611 (3%)
Biology	35,258	29,996 (85%)	1,225 (3%)	3,262 (9%)	775 (2%)
Geography	24,734	19,563 (79%)	837 (4%)	3,551 (14%)	783 (3%)
French	22,505	15,572 (69%)	588 (3%)	5,842 (26%)	503 (2%)
Business	18,287	15,102 (83%)	645 (4%)	2,028 (11%)	512 (3%)
LCVP - Link Modules	13,767	9,387 (68%)	421 (3%)	3,578 (26%)	381 (3%)
Home Economics	12,780	10,485 (82%)	424 (3%)	1,517 (12%)	381 (3%)
History	12,688	9,908 (78%)	465 (4%)	1,882 (15%)	433 (3%)
Construction Studies	10,328	7,530 (73%)	381(4%)	1,974(19%)	443(4%)
Chemistry	9,799	8,662 (88%)	283(3%)	663(7%)	191(2%)
Art	9,515	7,025 (74%)	353(4%)	1,712(18%)	425(4%)
Spanish	8,734	6,443 (74%)	295(3%)	1,799(21%)	197(2%)
German	8,708	5,999 (69%)	264(3%)	2,310(27%)	135(2%)
Agricultural Science	8,583	6,393 (74%)	298(3%)	1,691(20%)	201(2%)
Accounting	8,430	7,234 (86%)	227(3%)	823(10%)	146(2%)
Physics	8,095	7,019 (87%)	275(3%)	647(8%)	154(2%)
Music	6,956	5,800 (83%)	194(3%)	789(11%)	173(2%)
Engineering	6,333	4,590 (72%)	195 (3%)	1,324 (21%)	224 (4%)
Design & Communication Graphics	5,931	4,568(77%)	182(3%)	1031(17%)	150(3%)
Economics	5,535	4,582(83%)	186(3%)	640(12%)	127(2%)
NCLS*	1,551	645 (42%)	799 (52%)	94 (6%)	13(1%)

*\*Polish, Romanian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Croatian, Hungarian, Latvian, Bulgarian, Dutch, Czech, Slovakian, Modern Greek, Swedish, Estonian, Danish, Finnish and Maltese. No 2021 entries in Slovenian.*

Under new arrangements introduced this year, Oral language interviews in the modern foreign language subjects are ongoing in schools until 15<sup>th</sup> April. The SEC has asked schools to facilitate candidates who had indicated on the portal that they did not intend to sit the language examinations but who subsequently changed their mind. This can be permitted provided that the test takes place during the scheduled time window. Candidates should contact their school principal if they wish to undertake the oral examinations in any of the relevant subjects.

## **Candidate Self Service Portal – Phase 2.**

The Candidate Self Service Portal will reopen at the end of April/early May to allow candidates already entered for the examinations to make their final selections. The exact date is subject to confirmation.

- Candidates may revise their options for Accredited Grades and examinations on a subject by subject basis. They will have all of the options that they had in March other than being able to add new subjects.
- For each subject, candidates can finalise their choice of sitting examinations, opting for Accredited Grades or both.
- Candidates should be mindful in subjects with multiple components (such as Orals, Practicals and Coursework), that they may have missed the opportunity to complete the related components by the time the portal reopens. If this is the case, it will only be possible to obtain a grade based on the performance in the written examination in these subjects. If the related components have not been completed, the marks will be forfeit.
- Candidates may change the level at which they wish to sit the examinations or receive Accredited Grades. This is the final opportunity to indicate the level at which Accredited Grades will be awarded as after this date it will not be possible for either candidates or schools to change these levels. The Accredited Grades levels will be locked in and cannot be changed by either candidates or schools. This is because teachers will have started to engage with the estimation process.
- Candidates need to consider their choice of level in each subject very carefully - If a candidate selects a level higher than that which they have been studying they may receive an estimated mark lower than that which they were expecting from their school.
- Candidates who choose to sit the examinations will be allowed to change level on the day of the examination.
- In any subject where a candidate sits the examination and opts to receive Accredited Grades, they will be credited with the better of the two results.

All of the data provided is provisional and subject to change. In the case of the examinations, data is only considered final after the examinations have been held and the number of candidates who actually sat examinations is known.

### **ENDS**

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