

Leaving Certificate 2021

- As you are aware 6th Year Students will have the option to sit the examinations in June, receive State Examinations Commission (SEC) Accredited Grades, or both, on a subject-by-subject basis.

However, it should be noted that these are two distinct processes that will operate totally independently of each other.

- Students have been working extremely hard and have made great progress despite the disruption to their normal learning routine and schooling. As such we would encourage all students to sit the exams in June **and** avail of the 'Accredited Grades'. Students who opt for both will have their better grades in each subject reflected in their results.
- The SEC Accredited Grade process provides contingency for any circumstance in which it is either not possible to hold examinations or students are unable to attend the examinations.
- The process provides for students who are unable to sit the examinations at the scheduled time, for example, students who may be at very high-risk from COVID-19, or who have COVID or are self-isolating at the time of the examinations; or it may not be possible to run the examinations in one or more examination centres or more generally because of COVID-19 related restrictions.
- There will be no alternative sitting of examinations to provide for bereaved candidates, as there was in 2019, or for any other circumstance.

We are still waiting for clarity and detail on a number of elements in relation to both the Leaving Certificate exams and the Accredited Grades process. However, we do know the following,

Student Portal

- The SEC's Student Portal is expected to open in the week of 8 March 2021 to allow students to make their choices. **Further details will be issued by SEC** in advance.
- Students will be required to register on the **student portal**; confirm their subject and level entry details; opt for the examinations and/or to receive SEC Accredited Grades.
- There will be no fees payable for the 2021 examinations and no fees for SEC Accredited Grades.
- It is intended that the results of both the examinations and the SEC Accredited Grades processes will issue to students via the Student Portal within the required timeframe for progression to higher and further education in Ireland.

Traditional LC Exam

- Coursework & orals will only be considered where a student is opting to sit the Leaving Certificate exams in June.
- Coursework - New deadline dates for coursework will be issued in the coming weeks for all pieces of coursework – it is not envisaged that any coursework deadlines will be imminent, and students should have ample time for completion and submission. If students do not complete coursework then their final exam grade will be affected in the normal way.
- Orals – Students must sign-up to take the orals in the coming weeks through the online student portal. If students do not complete orals then their final exam grade will be affected in the normal way.

Orals will take place either during the Easter break or shortly after. Teachers and/or supervisors will conduct and record the orals but will NOT assess the work. Recordings of the orals will be sent to SEC for external assessment.

- Practical exams – Some practical examinations may not go ahead (subjects to be confirmed). Where practical exams do not go ahead the marks for this portion will be re-assigned to the other coursework component (and not to the written exam). If practical exams in a subject go ahead but students do not sit it, their final exam grade will be affected in the normal way.
- Exam timetable will commence as planned on 9th June 2021 – See www.examinations.ie

Accredited Grades

- Accredited Grades will, for the most part, reflect the Calculated Grades system of last year.
 - The school determine an estimated mark for each student in each of their subjects (including subject alignment and school oversight procedures)
 - The State Examinations Commission will apply their national standardisation process.
 - Students will be issued with an ‘Accredited Grade’ from the State Examinations Commission (*or the highest of the two grades if student sits the Leaving Certificate exams in June*)
- SEC has instructed that Pre-Leaving Certificate exam (mock exams) results MUST NOT be used as part of determining the ‘Accredited Grades’ process.
- It is envisaged that a “limited” amount of additional in-class assessment might take place on top of what teachers would normally give in class at this time of year to support the ‘Accredited Grades’ process.
- Estimated timeline
 - ~ 14th May – last date for collection of evidence for Accredited Grades.
 - ~ 28th May – School term ends for all students.
 - ~ 31st May – 4th June – In-school estimated mark process.
 - ~ Mid-August – Students will receive their ‘Accredited Grades’ (*or the higher of the two results if they sat they June exams.*)
- Canvassing by students/parents in relation to accredited grades is prohibited. Teachers are not allowed to discuss the estimated mark with student/parents.



Pre-Leaving Certificate Exams

- As you will see from the information above the State Examination Commission have instructed that Pre-Leaving Cert exams results **MUST NOT** be used in any way to determine 'Accredited Grades'.
- Therefore, the sole purpose of sitting Pre-Leaving Certificate exams at this stage would be as practice for the exams in June.
- We ask you to speak with your son/daughter in relation to the holding of Pre-Leaving Certificate exams in the coming weeks and complete the survey below as soon as possible, but no later than 2pm tomorrow (Thurs).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRD2X36>