

Postponement of State Examinations

On Friday 10th April 2020 in relation to the 2020 State Examinations announced by the Minister for Education and Skills as part of measures to respond to Covid-19.

The two high-level decisions, taken on foot of updated advice from the National Public Health Emergency Team were:

- (a) that plans were being put in place for the postponed Leaving Certificate examinations to begin in the last week of July or early August, subject to public health advice and
- (b) that Junior Cycle final examinations due to take place in June will be replaced by school-based exams and assessments held early in the new school year

The Minister committed to intensive engagement with teacher unions and school management around implementation and stated ‘I am confident we can continue to work together in a supportive spirit to help secure the best outcomes for students’.

As of the date of this Bulletin, the only clarifications and commitments that have issued from the Department are as follows:

Timetable

- The new Leaving Certificate exam timetable will be confirmed in early June.

Reasonable Accommodations

- Students with special educational needs will be fully supported in sitting the rescheduled Leaving Certificate examinations in line with the reasonable accommodations as already arranged for them

Orals and Practicals

- Leaving Certificate oral language and some Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle practical performance examinations had been scheduled to take place between 23rd March and 3rd April
- These were cancelled and candidates awarded 100% for these components
- The Minister’s announcement does not change that position

Practical Projects and Course Work

- A range of subjects involve these elements – Computer Science, PE Performance, Technology, Art, Agricultural Science, Agricultural Economics, History, Geography, RE, Politics and Society, Music Composition, Construction Studies and Home Economics (Textiles)

- The deadline for submission of work will now be immediately prior to the commencement of the written examinations in the late July/August period

Practical examinations

- A number of practical examinations, supervised by school appointed superintendents and scheduled for 27th April to 8th May in Engineering, Art Life Sketching and Construction Studies and a practical and written examination in Computer Science scheduled for 27th May will now take place in the late July/August period

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) and LCVP Link Modules

- The LCA Personal Reflection Task, scheduled for completion by 1st May, will now be completed by the commencement of the written examinations in the late July/August period
- The following will be rescheduled for the late July/August period
 - LCA Oral Examinations
 - LCA practical performance tests in Hotel Catering & Tourism; Office Administration & Customer Care; Active Leisure Studies; Hair & Beauty; and Agriculture/Horticulture
 - LCA ICT practical performance and written examination
 - LCVP Link modules written examination

Alternative Examinations

- It is likely that some candidates will be unable to take their examinations on health grounds, as they may be ill or in quarantine or isolation. The SEC and the Department are considering appropriate alternative arrangements so that candidates in this situation are not disadvantaged compared to their peers.

Class Time

- Minister McHugh has said the intention is to allow at least two weeks of class time, in school, before the Leaving Certificate examinations begin