



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
*State Examinations Commission*  
**Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí**  
*Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.N37TP65*

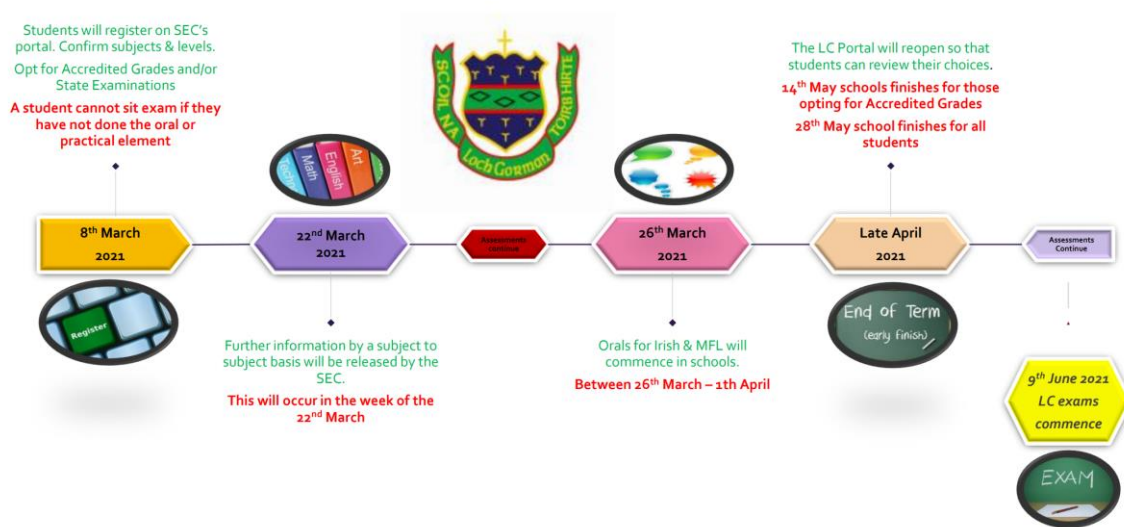
S07/21

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2021

*Guide to State Examinations and Accredited Grades for Leaving Certificate 2021 available [here](#)*

The Government announcement included that the Junior Cycle examinations will not run in 2021. Schools will be provided with guidance by the Department of Education on continuing to engage Junior Cycle students in online learning and assessment during the period of school closure and through in-person learning upon return to school.

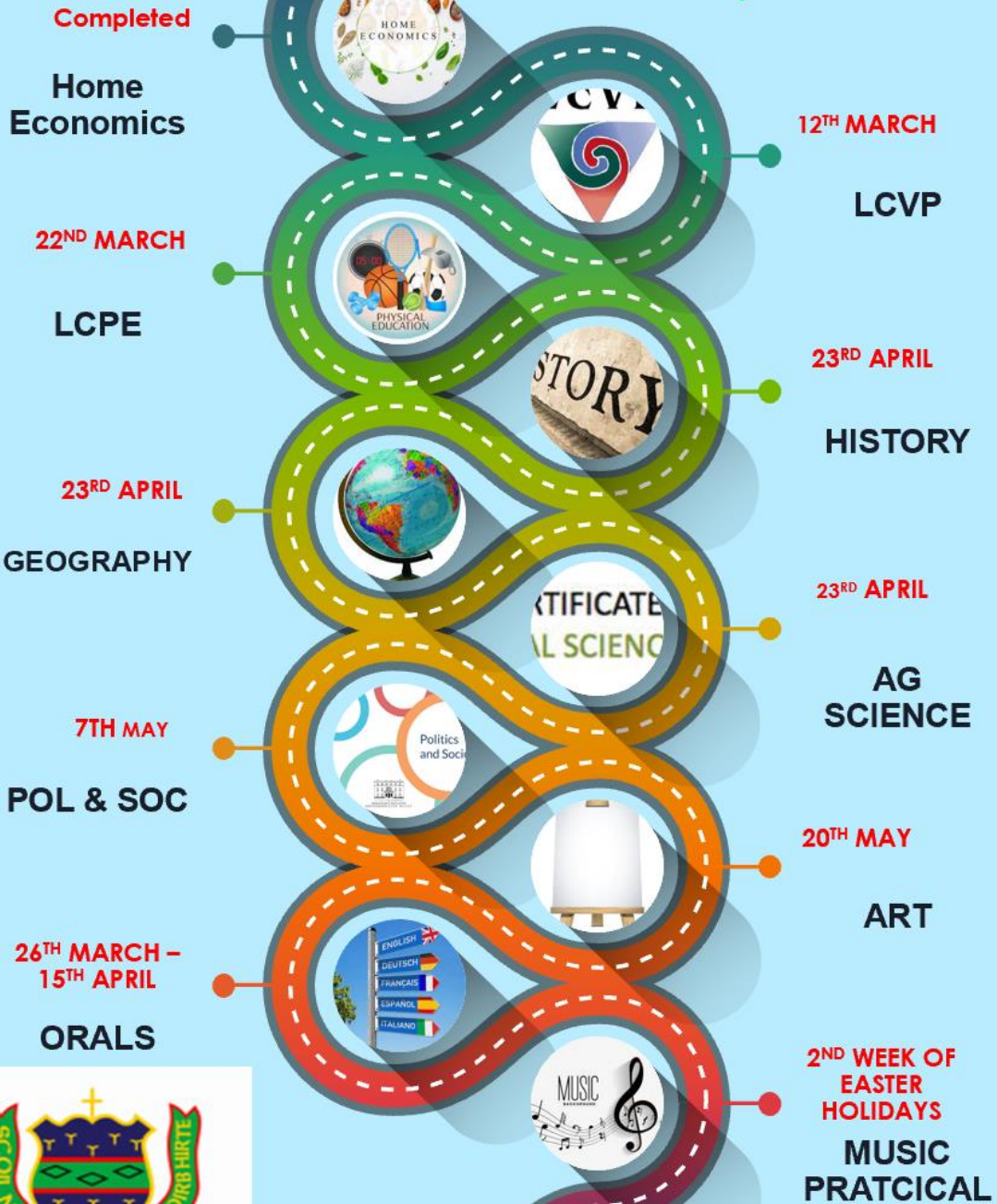
## Leaving Cert 2021 Key dates



### Coursework Completion Dates

The table below sets out the revised completion dates for Leaving Certificate practical coursework to take account of the period of school closure from 6 January to 26 February 2021 inclusive. Details are also provided of the arrangements for the submission\* and/or marking of this work.

**LC2021**  
**Course work**  
**completion dates**



<b>Coursework Leaving Certificate 2021</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Submission/Marking arrangements</b>
Home Economics	1	Completed	Already submitted and marked.
LCVP Portfolio of Coursework	1	March 12	To facilitate timely marking of this subject, return by post to SEC immediately following the completion date of March 12
Economics#	1	March 15	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June.
Design and Communication Graphics	2	March 19	Return by post to the SEC during week ending 26 March.
Physical Education – Physical Activity Project	2	March 22	Projects returned to SEC via School Portal during week beginning April 12.
History	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Geography	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Religious Education	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Agricultural Science#	1	April 23	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Engineering (project)	2	May 7	Retained in schools for marking
Politics and Society#	1	May 7	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Art	2	May 20	Retained in schools for marking
Technology	2	May 27	Retained in schools for marking
Computer Science	2	May 27	Projects returned to SEC via the School Portal immediately following the completion date of May 27
Construction Studies (project)	2	May 28	Retained in schools for marking
Home Economics (Textile Studies Elective)	2	May 28	Retained in schools for marking

\*The SEC will issue further guidance to schools on the requirements for each subject prior to the closing date(s) for submission.

# Practical coursework in these subjects must be returned in hard copy together with the written script and not through the School Portal as previously notified.

### **Covid Related Interruptions to Learning (Not related to closure of Schools Buildings).**

- The arrangements in Circular S64/20 due to interruptions to learning related to COVID 19 still stand and will remain in place now that schools have reopened.
- School authorities continue to have flexibility in this regard.
- There is no change to the exceptional provision made for exemptions from coursework for students under the Adapted Education Provision and applications can be made to the SEC for these noting that this application date is being extended to 26 March 2021.

Queries related to practical coursework should be directed by email to [practicals@examinations.ie](mailto:practicals@examinations.ie) or by phone to 090 644 2867.

## **Orals, Practical Skills Tests and Music**

### Oral Examinations

- Oral examinations in Gaeilge and the Modern Foreign Languages will be arranged by schools during the Easter period and shortly after, outside of tuition time and subject to public health advice.
- Tests should be undertaken in school by a teacher of the school wherever possible. There will also be flexibility to source a teacher locally, should the need arise.
- The tests will be conducted by the locally appointed teacher, recorded and returned to the SEC for marking.
- Following the closure of the portal and the validation of the data, the SEC will provide schools with details of candidates who indicate that they will be sitting the examinations in subjects with oral components.
- However, the timing of the availability of this data is such that schools should engage with their own students about their intentions in order to plan for the oral tests.
- To facilitate the orderly conduct of the marking, the tests must be held between **26 March and 15 April**. Noting that the SEC will not be involved in the delivery of the tests in schools, or in the identification of teachers for this work, guidance on the conduct of these tests will be provided by the SEC no later than 15 March.

### Practical Performance Test in Music

- The Practical Performance Test in Music is planned to take place in **the second week of the Easter holiday**.
- The tests will be conducted by examiners appointed by the SEC. Running the tests outside of the school term means that there will be fewer personnel and students in the school and more space will be available for ensuring physical distancing between the candidate and the examiner.
- Further details on the arrangements for the tests will be provided as soon as possible, based on the public health advice.

### Components Not Proceeding on Public Health Grounds.

- It will not be possible to proceed with the Performance Assessment in Physical Education, given public health considerations.
- Candidates who sit the examinations in this subject will be resultted on the written and physical activity project components with the marks for the performance assessment reallocated to the physical activity project.

## Timetables 2021

- The timetables for the written Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied examinations in June have been published and are available [here](#).
- The following tests will take place in May with the exact date yet to be announced; LCVP Links Modules written examination

## Candidate Entries 2021 and Candidate Self Service Portal

- For 2021, the SEC has, as part of its digital strategy, introduced a facility to allow school-based Leaving Certificate candidates to confirm their subject and level entry details replacing the E7 individual candidate entry forms.
- The Candidate Self Service Portal (CSSP) will open for this purpose on Wednesday 10 March at 12 noon and will remain open until 6 pm on Tuesday 16 March.
- For candidates attending recognised schools, the portal will be pre-populated with the data entered by schools through the PPOD October returns process.
- This means that only those subjects which candidates have been studying in schools will be displayed on the portal. In line with the normal E7 process, candidates will be able to add any subjects that they are studying outside of school or withdraw from subjects.
- Candidates will also be able to indicate whether they want to take the examinations, or to receive SEC Accredited Grades, or both.
- External candidates, those who entered for the examinations directly with the SEC prior to the closing date of 12 February 2021, will be asked to confirm their levels, based on the information already provided by them to the SEC, through the Candidate Portal and to make their selection of examinations, Accredited Grades or both on a subject-by-subject basis.

### Selection of Levels

- It is extremely important at this stage that schools engage with candidates regarding their selection of their level in each subject.
- We know from the data that we have received from the October returns process that the numbers of candidates at Higher Level in most subjects exceeds what we would typically expect to see at this time.
- In Mathematics and Irish, the numbers entered for Foundation Level are significantly lower than would be expected.
- Candidates should be advised by their teachers to select the level at which they are currently studying each subject. SEC will use this information for planning purposes.
- Candidates will have a further opportunity at the end of April/early May to confirm their levels in each subject.
- At that time, candidates can also withdraw their intention to take the written examination but they will not be able to indicate their intention to sit examinations after the 16 March 2021.
- The level selected by candidates at the end of April/early May will be an absolutely final decision when it comes to the level – Higher, Ordinary or Foundation – in which they will receive their accredited grade in each subject. As teachers will then be in the estimation process, candidates (or schools) will not be permitted to change levels for the purpose of the accredited grades process after that time.

**Candidates opting to sit the examinations will be permitted to change their levels in respect of the written examinations on the day of the examination, as they are in a normal year.**

**Please see guide for Student portal here**

<https://www.preswex.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Student-Portal-Information.pdf>

### Candidate Numbers and Matrix

- Before using the Candidate Portal for the first time, candidates will be asked to create their own account and will need their examination number for this process.
- As per guide above
- To access the portal candidates will need their Personal Identification Number as part of the verification process. For most candidates this will be the first four digits of their PPSN.
- As not all candidates have a PPSN recorded, we will be contacting some schools by email later this week in relation to any candidates for whom we do not have a PPSN. Schools will be asked to provide the PPSN details so that we can arrange for the candidates to have access to the portal when it opens.
- Queries related to Entries should be directed to [entries@examinations.ie](mailto:entries@examinations.ie) or by phone to 090 644 2702.

### **RACE Scheme**

- The Leaving Certificate late RACE application form (RA3) for the 2021 examinations is available on our website [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).
- The closing date for the late application process is 9 April 2021.
- The late application process requires the school to explain why a late application is being made.
- School authorities should take particular care to ensure that requests for special examination centres are not made on foot of *concerns* about Covid.
- The objective of the SEC and school authorities is to ensure that all candidates are able to take their examinations safely.
- We can achieve this by establishing examination centres in line with the public health guidance and by taking all necessary precautions.

### Candidates unable to take their examinations

- Some students may be at very high-risk from COVID-19; some students may be required to self-isolate and/or restrict their movements for all or part of the period of the examinations; or they may have a bereavement or other medically certified illness which prevents them from sitting the examinations.
- Unlike in 2019, when there was an alternative sitting of the examinations for candidates who were bereaved, there will be one sitting of the 2021 Leaving Certificate.
- Any candidate unable to take their examinations as scheduled, for any of these reasons, will receive Accredited Grades (whether or not they have opted for Accredited Grades).