

Update on Leaving Certificate 2021: Accredited Grades

Main elements

- Written Leaving Certificate Examinations: Published today
- Be conducted subject to public health advice and providing, as far as possible, access to the examinations for very high risk students, and
 1. Additional assessment components, such as orals, practical performance tests and coursework will run, subject to public health advice with components in certain subjects not running for public health reasons and schools locally sourcing teachers to administer some of the tests, but not assessing their students. Assessment will be arranged by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).
 2. An Accredited Grades system, to be operated by the SEC, will be available whereby Leaving Certificate candidates can opt to have grades in some or all of their subjects (to be known as “SEC Accredited Grades”) issued to them at the same time as the examination results.
 3. The elements of the SEC Accredited Grades system will include the following:
 - The professional judgement of each of the candidate’s teachers which will not be subject to appeal
 - A form of in-school alignment to ensure fairness amongst candidates at school level
 - Approval by the school principal of the estimated subject scores
 - A process of standardisation at national level to ensure as much fairness as possible amongst this year’s candidates
 - The SEC Accredited Grade and examinations outcomes will have regard to the pattern of results in 2020 and previously, with more details of the process to be determined by the Minister having regard to advice from the SEC
 - A right for students to appeal in respect of their Accredited Grade which will comprise a process review focused on examining possible errors in the transmission and processing of student data, and
 - Provision as far as practicable for out-of-school learners or students studying one or more subjects outside school to apply to receive

Accredited Grades through the devising of an appropriate and practicable process

4. Junior Cycle Examinations have been cancelled.
5. It is intended to prepare and publish, in consultation with stakeholders, accessible and detailed guidance for parents, students, teachers and schools to be issued as soon as possible.

Indicative Dates (subject to change)

Key Dates	Task
Over Easter Holidays	Orals completed in school, recorded, and sent to SEC for assessment
Dates to be announced	LCA Modules and Practicals/Projects/Coursework
14 th . May	Student work can be considered up until this point
14-28 th . May	Individual teachers can prepare materials for the alignment process
28 th . May	Schools will close for all students to allow the alignment process begin
1 st . week of June	Alignment process begins in schools
4 th . June	Submission of Accredited Grades data by the school to SEC
9 th . June	SEC written LC begins (for those who wish to sit it)