

FAQs – Examinations in 2020*

What are the arrangements for holding the November 2020 sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examinations?

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) is advancing plans to run the Leaving Certificate Examinations, commencing on 16 November 2020. The examinations will take place at evenings and weekends. Further details regarding these examinations will be provided by the SEC at a later stage. It will not be possible for schools to provide tuition to anyone sitting these examinations in November as schools will have returned to teaching and will be fully occupied in providing education to their current students.

What are the details regarding the written examinations?

The postponed Leaving Certificate examinations will be based on written examinations only (i.e. not including orals or practical exams but including **coursework in 5 subjects** which was completed prior to school closure in March and which will be marked by the SEC).

It is not feasible or practical at this stage to conduct examinations in oral or practical components, or to try to complete unfinished coursework. Oral and practical components are school-based, requiring significant levels of support at school level, including the requirement to take serving teachers out of their schools to undertake state examinations work.

In the case of five subjects, the SEC will also mark coursework which had been completed prior to school closure and these marks will be included in the grading of these subjects. These are:

- Home Economics (already marked by the SEC);
- LCVP Portfolio;
- Design and Communication Graphics;
- Physical Education (PE) Physical Activity Project;
- Engineering.

In all other subjects, candidates will be awarded grades based solely on the written papers.

How do I apply to sit the November Examinations?

Students were offered the option of receiving Calculated Grades and/or sitting Leaving Certificate written examinations at a later date when it was considered safe to do so.

Even if you opted to receive Calculated Grades you still have an opportunity to sit the later Leaving Certificate examinations in one or more subjects.

Details of how to apply to sit the written examinations will shortly be provided by the SEC.

How do I combine Calculated Grades results with the results of the written examinations?

If you decide to sit the postponed Leaving Certificate examination, your final Leaving Certificate will reflect the best results for you.

For example:

- if you sit the later examinations and you receive **a grade lower than the Calculated Grade that you received in the subject, your certificate will display the Calculated Grade**, as this is higher
- if you receive a **higher grade** in the later examination, then this is the grade that will appear on **your certificate**

However, it should be noted that results from the later examinations will not be available in time to take up a higher education place in the 2020/2021 academic year.

When will I get my results of the written examinations?

Results from the November examinations are not expected before early February 2021 at the earliest. Students sitting the written examinations in November who opted to receive Calculated Grades will be credited with the higher subject grade achieved between the Calculated Grade and the written examination. The results will not be available in time to commence first year in 2020/21.

Can I appeal? What is the appeals process for the written examinations?

Yes. Candidates sitting the November Leaving Certificate examinations will have access to the usual appeals process, which will involve the opportunity to view their script(s) in advance of applying for an appeal. Appeal scripts will be marked by a different examiner to the one who marked the work originally and, ultimately, candidates will have access to the Independent Appeals Scrutineer service to confirm that all SEC appeal procedures were correctly followed.

Are there any Fees for the written Leaving Certificate examinations in November?

No fees. Students who opt to sit the Leaving Certificate examination in November will have their examination fee waived.

Am I entitled to RACE/Reasonable accommodation provision for the November examinations?

Yes. Students who were approved a reasonable accommodation for the 2020 Leaving Certificate written examinations, such as a reader or waiver from spelling and grammar, will have access to this accommodation in the November examinations.

Can I mix my 2020 exam grades and Calculated Grades in different subjects to get points for access to higher education?

Yes. In these exceptional circumstances, all of the results issued on foot of the examinations this year, calculated grades; appeals and the later examination sitting will be considered the results of the **2020 Leaving Certificate**.

However, it is not possible to mix Leaving Certificate results from different years for CAO points purposes. Students can repeat a subject or subjects in order to fulfil **minimum subject entry requirements** for college.

How will I be treated for DARE and HEAR college applications?

As a significant part of the 2020/21 academic year will already have passed by the time the November Leaving Certificate Examination results are issued, students will only then be considered for entry in 2021/22. For those students who have already applied to and been made eligible for DARE/HEAR 2020, they can **carry forward their eligibility into 2021** but must follow the procedure for carrying forward eligibility detailed [here](#). (Note that this procedure refers to the current year).

For students who were ineligible for DARE and/or HEAR in 2020, they can reapply in 2021 if they so wish.

**This information has been supplied by the Department of Education in support of the Leaving Certificate Helpline 2020.*