



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Further adjustments
to the written examinations

Leaving Certificate, 2022

Introduction

Context of the further adjustments to the 2022 Leaving Certificate written examination papers

The Department of Education published *Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022* in August 2021. That document set out the adjusted arrangements for post-primary students taking certificate examinations in the 2021/22 school year designed to take account of the disrupted learning experienced by students during the 2020/21 school year with some contingency built in for future further disruptions to learning. In light of the further disruption to learning experienced by students during the 2021/22 school year, it was agreed that further adjustments should be made to the written examination papers to recognise this additional impact on learning. The aim of these further adjustments is to lessen the load, as far as is reasonably possible, for candidates both in their preparation for the written examinations and also on the day of the examination.

These further adjustments are the same as those that were implemented in March 2021 for Leaving Certificate 2021, which were finalised following discussions between the Department of Education, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the State Examinations Commission. They are additional to the previous adjustments, but in some instances these further adjustments supersede the previous ones. Details of the previous adjustments are available in *Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022*.

These further adjustments are the same as those implemented for the Leaving Certificate examinations of 2021. The 2021 examination papers for all subjects, which reflect these further adjustments, are available on the State Examinations Commission website at www.examinations.ie, in the “Examination Material Archive”.

Scope of the further adjustments

These further adjustments apply to the written examinations only. In the case of Gaeilge and the modern foreign languages, there is no change to the aural component, and there is likewise no change to the listening component in music. There are no further adjustments to practical coursework, orals and practical performance tests. Information on the adjustments to these assessment components are set out in *Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2022* and these still apply.

These further adjustments aim to maintain the overall structure and layout of the examination paper so that the examination papers remain as familiar as possible to candidates. This means that no new material has been added to the papers and, for the most part, no material removed. To the greatest extent possible, all amendments to the papers were transacted by changing the instructions on the examination paper. In the case of Gaeilge, no fair adjustment to paper 1 was feasible, so the adjustments have been confined to paper 2.

The adjustments as set out in this document involve, in almost all cases, providing further choice to candidates by reducing the number of questions to be answered in the examination. While this will have the effect of also reducing the time needed to complete the examination, the duration of each examination will remain unchanged, thus substantively relieving time pressures. In this

regard, it is important to note that there is **no** expectation that candidates would produce more extensive or more detailed answers because of this extra time. The relief of time pressure will allow for more time to read and consider the questions carefully, and will thereby help them to make best use of the additional levels of choice available.

Mark totals and the weighting of examination components

The total mark for the examination paper in the majority of cases will be reduced and there may be a small redistribution of marks within examination papers as a result of the introduction of further choice. However, in the case of subjects with more than one paper and subjects with practical coursework, oral, aural or listening tests, the relative weighting between the other components and the written paper will be retained. This will be achieved by re-weighting the components as required during the grading process. For example, in the case of Paper 2 in Gaeilge, which will be marked out of a total of 120 instead of 200 this year, the mark for Paper 2 will be multiplied by 1.67 (which is $200 \div 120$) before being combined in the usual way with the marks from the other components.

It is recognised that the introduction of further choice and the reduction in the number of questions to be answered means that, in many cases, the examination no longer samples across the entire syllabus or subject specification. In the case of some subjects, entire categories of skill may not be assessed at all for candidates who choose particular combinations of questions that would not be allowed in a normal year.

Impact across subjects and levels

It is important to note that, while every effort was made to ensure consistency in the level of reduction in the demand on candidates across different subjects and levels, the different structures of the examinations placed significant limits on the degree to which this could be achieved.

However, the great majority of candidates take a wide range of subjects (six to eight) and therefore, in the round, the level of benefit accruing to candidates from these changes will be broadly even across the range of subjects they take, although it is recognised that this will not be true in respect of all subject combinations.

In order to ensure as much clarity as possible for teachers and candidates, this document provides a description of what candidates will be required to answer in the examination and draws attention to how it differs from what is usually required. The amended instructions as they will appear on the examination paper are also provided.

Communicating these changes and their implications

The varying structures of different examinations has meant that there are differences in the details of what adjustments have been feasible in different subjects, and it is recognised that some of these are easier to understand than others. Schools and teachers will play a key role in communicating these changes to their students and helping them to fully appreciate what the implications are, both for preparing for the examination and for managing their approach to the examination on the day. Students generally rely heavily on their familiarity with the structure of past papers, so teachers will need to engage actively with their students to ensure that they fully

comprehend these adjusted examinations and can approach them with confidence. This will help to avoid unnecessary confusion or anxiety on the day of the examination or in the run up to it.

As noted above, the 2021 examinations, which were subject to the same set of adjustments as those that apply in 2022, will be a valuable resource to assist teachers and students in this regard. Teachers should also reassure their students that the additional time available in the examination as a result of having to answer fewer questions does **not** mean that they should give longer or more detailed answers to the questions than would normally be expected.

Accounting

Higher Level and Ordinary Level

The following changes apply to both Higher Level and Ordinary Level for 2022.

In 2022, both examination papers will, as usual, have three Sections.

In Section 1 candidates will be required to answer either Question 1 **or** any two of the remaining questions in the Section. In 2022, there will be an additional alternative Question 1 (Sole/Company/Manufacturing) to provide additional choice within Question 1.

There will be three questions, as usual, in Section 2. In 2022, Question 5 will be based on Interpretation of Accounts. Candidates will be required to answer only one question from this section; this is one question less than in a normal year.

In 2022, there will be no change to Section 3; there will be two questions as usual and candidates will be required to answer one question.

Given that candidates will answer one question less in Section 2, the total mark allocation for both Higher Level and Ordinary Level will be reduced from 400 marks to 300 marks.

Instructions to candidates on the examination paper, Higher Level and Ordinary Level, 2022

Section 1: Financial Accounting (120 marks).

This section has four questions (numbers 1 - 4). The first question (A or B) carries 120 marks and the remaining three questions carry 60 marks each.

Candidates should answer either QUESTION 1 (A or B) only **OR** answer any **TWO** of the remaining three questions in this section.

Section 2: Financial Accounting (100 marks).

This section has three questions (numbers 5 - 7). Each question carries 100 marks.

Candidates should answer any **ONE** question.

Section 3: Management Accounting (80 marks).

This section has two questions (numbers 8 and 9). Each question carries 80 marks.

Candidates should answer **ONE** of these questions.

Business

Higher Level

The 2022 examination paper will have three sections as usual.

In Section 1, candidates are usually required to answer 8 short answer questions out of 10. In 2022, candidates will be required to answer 4 out of a total of 12 short answer questions.

In Section 2, as always, candidates are required to answer the Applied Business Question (ABQ).

In Section 3, candidates are usually required to answer 4 out of 7 questions – choosing one question from Part 1, two questions from Part 2 and one other question from Part 1 or Part 2. In 2022, there will be an additional question added to Part 1 to provide more choice. Candidates will be required to answer 3 out of 8 questions. They will be required to choose one question from Part 1, one question from Part 2 and the third question from either Part 1 or Part 2.

The total mark allocation for the examination paper will be 300 marks, instead of the usual 400 marks.

Instructions to candidates on the examination paper, Higher level, 2022

CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER:

(A) Four questions from SECTION 1

AND

(B) The Applied Business Question in SECTION 2

AND

(C) Three questions from SECTION 3 as follows:

One question from Part 1,

One question from Part 2

And One other question from either Part 1 or Part 2.

Ordinary Level

The 2022 examination paper will have two sections as usual.

In Section 1, candidates are usually required to answer 10 short answer questions out of 15. In 2022, candidates will be required to answer 5 out of 15 short answer questions, at 15 marks each. Total mark allocation will be 75 marks.

In Section 2, candidates are usually required to answer 4 questions out of 8 - choosing one question from Part 1, two questions from Part 2 and one other question from Part 1 or Part 2. In 2022, there will be an additional question added to Part 1 to provide more choice. Candidates will be required to answer 3 out of 9 questions. Candidates will be required to choose one question from Part 1 and one question from Part 2 and the third question from either Part 1 or Part 2.

The total mark allocation for the examination paper will be 300 marks, instead of the usual 400 marks.

Instructions to candidates on the examination paper, Ordinary Level, 2022

CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER:

(A) Five questions from SECTION 1

AND

(B) Three questions from SECTION 2 as follows:

One question from Part 1 and

One question from Part 2 and

One other question from either Part 1 or Part 2.

Economics

Higher Level and Ordinary Level

The following changes apply to both Higher Level and Ordinary Level for 2022.

In Section A, candidates are usually required to answer 8 short answer questions with internal choice in two of the questions. In 2022, to provide additional choice, there will be 10 short answer questions with internal choice in three of the questions. Candidates will be required to answer 5 out of 10 short answer questions. The total mark allocation for Section A will be 75 marks.

In 2022 the short answer questions will carry 15 marks per question.

In Section B, candidates are usually required to answer 4 out of 5 extended response questions. In 2022, one additional question has been included to provide more choice. In 2022, candidates will be required to answer 3 out of 6 extended response questions with a total mark allocation of 225 marks (75 marks per question).

The total mark allocation for both the Higher Level and Ordinary Level Papers will be 300 marks each, instead of the usual 400 marks.

Instructions to candidates on the examination paper, Higher Level and Ordinary Level, 2022

CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER:

Section A:	Short Answer Questions	Answer 5 out of 10	75 marks
Section B:	Extended Response Questions	Answer 3 out of 6	225 marks

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Link Modules – Written Paper

As usual, candidates will be required to answer all the questions in *Section A – Audio Visual* (30 marks).

Heretofore, *Section B – Case Study* was compulsory and was awarded 30 marks. In 2022, in order to provide further choice, *Section B – Case Study* will be optional and will be awarded 25 marks.

Section C – General questions will have seven questions at 25 marks each.

In the case of Sections B and C, candidates will be required to answer a total of four questions across the two sections. Therefore, candidates may choose to answer *Section B – Case Study* and any three questions from *Section C – General Questions* **or** they may choose four questions from *Section C – General Questions*.

The total mark allocation for the examination paper will be 130 marks, instead of the usual 160 marks.

Instructions to candidates on examination paper, Common Level, 2022

Section A – Audio Visual

There are eight questions. Answer **all eight** of them. 30 marks

Section B – Case Study **and** Section C – General Questions 100 marks

Answer Section B and **any three** questions from Section C

or

Answer **any four** questions from Section C.