



S64/26

JUNIOR CYCLE RESULTS 2026 AND OTHER IMPORTANT JUNIOR CYCLE INFORMATION

TO THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT/AUTHORITIES OF SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOLS

The purpose of this circular is to:

- a) provide you with comprehensive information about the arrangements for the issue of the 2026 Junior Cycle results and the post result services.
- b) Notify you of the forthcoming publication of the SEC's first *Junior Cycle 2026 Léargas Report*.
- c) Alert you to the introduction of mark allocations on Junior Cycle papers in 2027 and 2028.
- d) Advise you of the extension of the Irish Bonus marks to Junior Cycle coursework from 2028.

a) 2026 Junior Cycle Results

The 2026 Junior Cycle provisional results will be available to school authorities from

10 AM on Wednesday 7 October

through the SEC's Schools Portal. The State Examinations Commission (SEC) is pleased to be able to provide the results this year in the same timeframe as in recent years and aligned with the pre-Covid results date.

Junior Cycle results statements as well as any supplementary reports will be provided digitally through the Schools Portal for printing and distribution to candidates.

The section deals with a number of key issues as follows:

1. Arrangements for Access to Results
2. Provisional Status of Results – **Requirement for Check by the School Authority**
3. Supplementary Reports – **For Checking Before You Distribute Results**
4. Name and Date of Birth – **For Checking**
5. Grade Bands 2026
6. Application for Review of Results (Appeals) *****NEW ONLINE SERVICE THIS YEAR*****
7. Retention of Material
8. Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement
9. Annotations
10. Access to Examination Scripts
11. Data Privacy and GDPR
12. Helpline for Schools

1. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESS TO RESULTS

School authorities should arrange for candidates to be provided with their results in school by the school authority with support and advice available to them from their teachers and school leaders. If any school intends to deviate from this best practice, please contact the SEC for advice.

Schools Portal

The SEC's Schools Portal will open at **10 AM on Wednesday 7 October 2026** to provide schools with their results in electronic format. Schools can access the portal at <https://schools.examinations.ie/> and will have access to the following:

- A digital file of Statements of Provisional Results for all candidates in the school. Schools should arrange to print the Statements of Provisional Results, which are in PDF format, and prepare them for issue to candidates.
- A tabular report in PDF format showing examination results for each candidate.
- The same tabular report in CSV format which we are advised can be imported into the school's content management systems for analysis.
- The Junior Cycle subject codes which you will need to read the tabular reports is available at **Appendix 1**.
- Digital supplementary reports of results for individual candidates in your school will be presented in report format at the end of the PDF tabular report of results.

As in other years, the timing of the distribution of the results to candidates is at the discretion of the school authorities and we know schools exercise a common-sense approach in this regard.

Note: There is no postal results mailing for Junior Cycle results.

Candidate Self Service Portal

It is vital to note that this service is not intended to replace the valuable results services and advice provided to candidates by school authorities at results issue time.

Candidates have direct access to their results from the Candidate Self Service Portal (CSSP) from 4 pm on Results Day. The pastoral role of teachers and school leaders is absolutely critical to the issue of the Junior Cycle results to candidates. The SEC provides the online candidate results service as a contingency and to provide for candidates who may not be able to attend school to collect their results. The reason the service is not available before 4 PM is to encourage candidates to go into school on results day to collect their results as schools will be providing the earliest possible access to the results.

This week we issued the relevant PIN letters for candidates in your school.

2. PROVISIONAL STATUS OF RESULTS – REQUIREMENT FOR CHECK BY SCHOOL AUTHORITY

The results provided are provisional and are subject to further check. School authorities are requested to examine the *Statements of Provisional Results* carefully before giving them to candidates. Please inform the SEC immediately of any apparent discrepancy in the results.

3. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

A Supplementary Report on a result indicates that there is some aspect of the result that was not typical in the processing of the results by the SEC. Digital supplementary reports of results for individual candidates in your school will be presented in report format at the end of the PDF tabular report of results. On receipt of the results, school authorities must check the Supplementary Report indicators to ensure all information is correct and accurate. If there are no Supplementary Report indicators on the results for the school, a Nil Report will be presented.

While a Supplementary Report does indicate that the processing of the result was not typical, it does not mean that there is necessarily something wrong with the result or any action required of the school authority. In most cases we will already have been in contact with schools in relation to specific results which will then be the subject of a Supplementary Report indicator when the results issue.

The reasons where these reports might occur are as follows:

- Candidate confirmed absent - Candidate has been marked absent for one or more mandatory component in a multi-component subject.
- Assessor's mark used for this component – The examination session was incomplete, and the SEC assessed a result in a component based on other available information.
- Invalid Practical coursework – The coursework has been deemed invalid as could not be authenticated by the school authority.
- Extrapolated mark - In cases where a candidate has an exemption for a subject under the RACE scheme then the marks in the subject will have been extrapolated from the other components.

Action is required by the school authority if the information indicated by the Supplementary Report conflicts with the position known to the school and candidate (e.g., the candidate was present and submitted work where an absence is attributed.) In such cases, the SEC should be contacted immediately by the School Principal or his/her representative on the Helpline Number. **The SEC will only take queries from schools and not from individual candidates.**

School authorities should also contact the SEC immediately if there is no result for a candidate in a subject in which they expected to see a result (i.e. the candidate sat the examination and the result has not been withheld by the SEC).

4. NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

The SEC will be making the final Junior Cycle examination results information available to the Department of Education and Youth in the coming weeks to facilitate the production of the Junior Cycle Profiles of Achievement.

The Name and Date of Birth shown on the enclosed Statements of Provisional Results will appear on the final JCPA unless the SEC is advised of inaccuracies. Please check these details carefully and advise the SEC of any changes needed.

5. GRADE BANDS 2026

Following a decision by the Minister for Education and Youth, the SEC implemented revised Junior Cycle grades bands with effect from 2025. Last year, the SEC implemented a technical intervention to apply the new grade boundaries to the marks achieved in the Junior Cycle examinations. This approach was necessary in order that this important change could be introduced in 2025. In 2026, the SEC implemented the change through the normal marking process which entailed aligning the examinations standard setting process with the new grade boundaries.

With this change there are still the same number of Junior Cycle grades as before; Distinction, Higher Merit, Merit, Achieved, Partially Achieved and Not Graded. In very simple terms, the Distinction band has been widened and now ranges from 85% or above to 100% and the Merit band has been narrowed and now ranges from 55% or above up to 70%.

The old and new Junior Cycle grade bands are at **Appendix 1.**

6. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW OF RESULTS (APPEALS)

The following conditions apply to applications for a review of Junior Cycle results (appeals):

- (i) Applications will be accepted only from the School Authority.
- (ii) The SEC does not accept appeal applications or appeal fees directly from candidates, parents or individual teachers.
- (iii) With the reintroduction of appeal fees, each appeal review carries a fee of €32 per subject. (Details of the payment of the fees are below).
- (iv) To raise an appeal, the Principal (or authorised representative), must attest that the examination result attained by the candidate is significantly at variance with the school's considered judgement of the performance of the candidate concerned at the examination in question.
- (v) For the reason set out in (iv), the SEC will not accept School or Class based appeal applications.
- (vi) A valid appeal consists of both the online appeal application (see point A below), made by the Principal via the schools portal at <https://schools.examinations.ie/>, and the payment from the school (see point B). School authorities should complete the procedures in both A and B below. **Applications received where payment has been made by the candidate/parent will not be accepted.**
- (vii) It is the schools responsibility to ensure that the appeal fee is collected from the individual candidates.

A. *NEW FOR 2026 *Junior Cycle Appeal Application Online Service

For 2026 the SEC has introduced an online appeal application process via the SEC Schools Portal. The Junior Cycle Appeals Application service will be open between

10am Thursday 8 October and 5pm Wednesday 14 October.

Upon closure of the online application service, you will receive an invoice for the total amount owing at a fee of €32 per subject which must be paid, as set out in part 2 below, to conclude the appeal application process. Both the appeal applications and the payment steps must be completed before the appeals are confirmed as accepted by the SEC.

1. Online Appeals Application step-by-step process:

- Log onto your Schools Portal using your principal login at <https://schools.examinations.ie>
- Select the Junior Cycle Appeals Application TAB
- For each appeal you wish to make, select the correct candidate number from the list for your school
- Tick the appropriate result subject and level to be appealed for that candidate
- Hit Appeal – Repeat this for all of the appeal application(s) in your school.
- A running total of appeal(s) for your school will appear at the bottom and this/these can be amended (added to or applications deleted) up to the application deadline of 5pm Wednesday 14 October 2026, after which these selections will be automatically taken as your provisional* appeal application(s) for your school.
- **Appeals can only be made using the online application service. The deadline of 5pm Wednesday 14 October 2026 will be strictly applied.**
- After the closing date the SEC will notify schools via email on Thursday 15 October confirming the provisional* appeal applications and the invoice amount specific to your school.

*subject to fee payment.

2. Pay the Junior Cycle Appeal Fees

You will receive an invoice by email which must be paid via EFT as set out below.

1. A fee of €32 applies to each appeal. The payment must be made by the school in respect of their candidates and will not be accepted from candidate/parents/guardians. The fee will be refunded to the school if, on review, the candidate's work is deemed to merit the award of a higher grade.
2. Fees must be paid via EFT to the account below before the closing date of **5pm on Wednesday 21 October 2026**:
3. **NB. Include the School Roll Number on the bank transfer, otherwise we cannot identify the school and reconcile the appeals.**

Bank Sort Code:	901634
Account No.:	57817003
Bank Address:	Bank of Ireland, Church St., Athlone BIC No.: BOFIE2D
IBAN No.:	IE44 BOFI 90163457817003

4. A valid appeal is comprised of both the online application and the payment which can be linked to your school through the roll number on the bank transfer description.
5. Appeal applications not submitted online or without the fee having been paid by the school authority, will not be considered.

7. RETENTION OF MATERIAL

In the review process an appeal examiner (an experienced examiner not involved in marking the script originally), will undertake a review of the initial marking of the work submitted by the candidate in the examination. The appeal examiner will consider whether the mark awarded by the original examiner is correct and reasonable, in line with the marking scheme. If it is, the appeal examiner will award the same mark again. If it is not, the appeal examiner will award what they consider to be the correct mark.

It is essential that school authorities do not dispose of, or return to candidates, any practical or coursework pieces until the appeal process has fully concluded, even in instances where a candidate has not appealed a result in that subject, as the SEC may need access to the material during the appeals and related quality assurance processes. For that reason, the integrity of the examinations system requires that the material continue to be securely stored by the school.

8. JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The reporting process at Junior Cycle culminates in the award of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) to students. The JCPA reports on achievement across all elements of assessment including Classroom-Based Assessments; Short Courses, Priority Learning Units and other areas of learning, as well as the SEC examination results.

The JCPA will report the final grades awarded by the SEC following the conclusion of the Junior Cycle appeals and related processes. However, to facilitate the production of the JCPA as soon as possible the SEC will provide the Department of Education and Youth with the provisional examination results. Therefore, changes in results following an appeal may impact the issue or re-issue of the final JCPA by schools.

Further information will be issuing to schools from the **Department of Education and Youth** regarding the arrangements for the production of the 2026 JCPA documents in schools at a later date.

As you may be aware, the Department of Education and Youth are currently undertaking a project with the intention of bringing forward the JCPA production process, which will allow JCPAs to be produced on results day from 2027 onwards. The Department have been in recent communication with all schools on this issue and further communications will issue in due course in order to keep everyone up to date with the project and what is hoped will be a major step forward in giving all students a results day to look forward to, regardless of which Junior Cycle programme they are following.

The JCPA replaces the Junior Certificate and consequently the SEC no longer issues these certificates.

9. ANNOTATIONS

Certain accommodations provided under the Scheme of Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations (RACE Scheme) involve a waiver or exemption from the assessment of a core element of the examination. This normally gives rise to an explanatory note (annotation), indicating the nature of the adjustment, on the Provisional Statements of Results and on the Final Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. These annotations will not appear on the provisional results of the 2026 Junior Cycle Certificate. The SEC continues to reserve the right to apply annotations to the final examination certificates.

10. ACCESS TO EXAMINATION SCRIPTS

The SEC, as data controller, processes candidate's personal data including their examination material (examination scripts, practical pieces, oral tests, journals, and projects) in order to assess, certify and implement the State Examinations. Under the Data Protection legislation, the candidate, as a data subject, has a legal right to a copy of their personal data processed by the SEC.

Candidates who wish to obtain a copy of their examination personal data can make a Subject Access Request using the form available from the Data Protection section of the SEC's website www.examinations.ie or by contacting dpo@examinations.ie.

Under the legislation, the SEC, as a data controller, is required to respond to a data access request within 30 days of receipt of the request. However, the law also allows for this time period to be extended to 90 days depending on the number and complexity of the requests received. The SEC processes one million written examinations scripts and another 1 million related examination components (practical and project work; oral tests; performances, etc.) every year. The SEC will endeavour to provide the requested information within 30 days and will notify applicants should it become necessary to extend the time limit to 90 days.

It should be noted that there is no connection between this process and the appeals process referred to above. Late appeals will not be accepted.

11. DATA PRIVACY AND GDPR

GDPR lays out responsibilities for organisations to ensure the privacy and protection of personal data. Data Protection is an EU fundamental right for all individuals. All organisations that collect, control or process personal data are required under law to make sure that the data they collect is obtained fairly, stored securely and retained for no longer than is necessary. Therefore, you have a responsibility in how you manage personal data and must ensure that all documentation that contains personal data is stored securely and only used for the purpose it was obtained. Access to all documentation should be restricted to authorised staff only. All details of the SEC's data protection policies and procedures can be viewed on our website. [State Examinations Commission - Data Protection](#)

Again, we are very grateful to school authorities for your continued support and assistance with the 2026 Junior Cycle Certificate process.

If in the course of accessing candidates' Provisional Results, you think there might be a possible Data Breach, please immediately contact the SEC Data Protection Officer, Gillian McNamee, by sending an e-mail to dpo@examinations.ie.

12. HELPLINE FOR SCHOOLS - FREEPHONE NUMBER

School Authorities with enquiries about the results that they have received should contact the SEC on **1800 111 135 or 1800 111 136.**

Or email Schoolshelpdesk@examinations.ie

This number will operate from 10 AM on Wednesday 7 October and will deal with enquiries on the results from school authorities.

In general, matters raised by candidates or their parents that necessitate contact with the SEC should be processed through the school authority concerned. Individual candidates or their parents who nonetheless wish to contact the SEC directly should be advised to call 090 6442700 (switchboard) or to send an e-mail to info@examinations.ie

b) SEC JUNIOR CYCLE LÉARGAS REPORT

In March 2023 the State Examinations Commission published an Information note on the Junior Cycle examinations based on the reports from the Chief Examiners. These reports provided additional information and insights into how candidates performed in the 2022 Junior Cycle examinations with respect to the various assessment objectives of the syllabus, and offering advice to future candidates.

Following the issue of the results for Junior Cycle examinations 2026, the SEC will publish a compilation document - the *SEC Junior Cycle Léargas Report* which will comprise individual reports from the relevant Chief Examiners on each of the Junior Cycle subjects.

It will provide insights and observations on the performance of candidates in the examinations and analysis of the standards of answering. In addition, this document will outline the characteristics, skills and approaches that distinguish candidates who perform well together with the patterns commonly observed among candidates who do not perform to their potential. Each of the subject reports will also provide some guidance in relation to areas for development.

c) MARK ALLOCATIONS ON JUNIOR CYCLE EXAMINATION PAPERS

Not all Junior Cycle examination papers contain mark allocations at the level of the question other than the subjects English, Irish, Business and Science. Mathematics contains a suggested maximum time allocation per question. These practices were intended to support the introduction of the new Junior Cycle assessments, introduced under the Framework for Junior Cycle, which involved the transition from two levels to a common level in many subjects and to a compulsory (no-choice) examination format in all subjects. It sought to ensure that candidates were appropriately rewarded for their performance in the examinations as it allowed for flexibility in the standard setting process as these subjects were bedding in. At this stage, levels of attainment have been clarified and have stabilised in recent years. As a result, the SEC is pleased to be able to announce that it will introduce mark allocations at the level of the question on Junior Cycle examination papers from 2027, with the exception of Mathematics.

NOTE: In Mathematics the suggested maximum time allocation per question will remain in place for the 2027 examinations. This will be replaced with mark allocations per question for the Junior Cycle examinations in 2028.

d) APPLICATION OF THE IRISH BONUS IN JUNIOR CYCLE EXAMINATIONS 2028

In January 2026, the Department of Education and Youth announced that, building on the existing system of awarding bonus marks for written examination components, the application of bonus marks had been extended to include all components of State examinations, including additional assessment components and coursework. This change was made in line with the ongoing commitment to the promotion and support of the Irish language through teaching and learning experienced by candidates. SEC Circular [S10/26](#) issued in January 2026 set out details of how the bonus will apply at subject level in the Leaving Certificate from the 2027 examinations onwards.

This change will apply to all Junior Cycle subjects examined in 2028 and in subsequent years. A circular setting out the details of how this bonus is to be applied at subject level in the Junior Cycle examinations from 2028 onwards will be issued by the SEC before the October mid-term break.

Richard Dolan
Director of Operations
October 2026

APPENDIX 1.

JUNIOR CYCLE GRADING SYSTEM 2026

Level	Previous Grade Band Percentage (2015 -2024)	New Grade Band Percentage (from 2025)	Grade
Higher, Ordinary, Common	≥ 90 to 100	≥ 85 to 100	Distinction
Ard, Gnáth, Comhleibhéal	≥75 and < 90	≥ 70 and < 85	Higher Merit
	≥ 55 and < 75	≥ 55 and < 70	Merit
	≥ 40 and < 55	≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
	≥ 20 and < 40	≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
	≥ 0 and < 20	≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded (NG)

JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECT CODES

Subject Name	Sub Code
Irish T2	1
English	2
Mathematics	3
Mathematics	3
History	4
Geography	5
French	10
German	11
Spanish	12
Italian	13
Engineering	27
Business Studies	42
Music	46
Home Economics	52
Science	57
Irish T1	83
Classics	106
Applied Technology	125
Wood Technology	126
Graphics	137
Religious Education	220
Jewish Studies	565
Visual Art	569