



ONLINE MARKING

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) successfully used an online marking system to mark certain Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle subjects in 2019 and Leaving Certificate subjects in 2020. The table below outlines the subjects which will be online marked in 2021. By 2022 the SEC intends to extend online marking to the majority of the remaining Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle subjects. Certain subjects may not be online marked due to low numbers of candidates or for technical reasons.

You will sit your examinations in the normal way. Your scripts in the subjects in the table below will be scanned on return from the exam centre and will become an electronic script. The paper script will also be retained. The scanned images of your examination scripts will then be marked by examiners using software specially designed for this purpose which facilitates the marking. Your work is being marked **ON** a computer not **BY** a computer. Online marking facilitates high quality, reliable marking of your examination responses.

| LEAVING CERTIFICATE | |
|--|---------------------|
| SUBJECT | LEVEL |
| English | Higher |
| Mathematics | Higher and Ordinary |
| History – Written Paper and Coursework | Higher |
| Geography – Written Paper and Coursework | Higher |
| French | Higher |
| Physics | Higher and Ordinary |
| Chemistry | Higher and Ordinary |
| Biology | Higher and Ordinary |
| Home Economics – Written Paper | Higher |
| LCVP – Written Paper | Common |

Are there any changes to examination papers and stationery that I should be aware of as a result of my scripts being marked online?

To facilitate the scanning process, there have been some changes to the appearance of the both the examination papers and the stationery such as:

- The addition of barcodes to the cover and to each page, L-shaped marks in the four corners of each page and 'hatching' along the centre spines.
- Candidates will also be required to provide their **Day and Month of Birth** on the front cover along with their examination number.

Are there different formats of examination paper?

Yes, there are three different formats of examination paper:

- Examinations where the question paper will be separate from the generic answerbook or other stationery used.
- Examinations consisting of a returnable question-and-answerbook that incorporates all the questions and the spaces for answering them.
- Examinations consisting of a returnable question-and-answerbook that incorporates the short answer questions and the spaces for answering them, as well as the lined pages for answering the longer response questions. The longer response questions themselves are presented in a separate question paper.



Are there different types of answerbook?

Yes, there will be a new generic answerbook for use in certain subjects in 2021, some of which will be marked online:

- The generic answerbook applies to the following subjects: Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Art, Chemistry, Engineering, English, History, Physics and Religious Education. This **new 36-page answerbook** consists of the cover, instruction page, and 34 lined pages.

If you are sitting any of these subjects, you will need to indicate the subject, level and language that you are answering through (i.e. English or Gaeilge) by fully shading in the relevant circles on the cover. In the case of English, you will also need to indicate whether you are sitting English Paper 1 or English paper 2 on the day in question. Candidates will also be required to clearly mark each question number in the space provided and to use a new page for every answer.

Can I request extra paper?

The exam papers and the new answerbook outlined above contain plenty of space for your answers. This means that you should not require supplementary paper and Superintendents are instructed not to provide extra paper unless a candidate runs out of space in their main answerbook. This is not a new instruction and applies to all examinations, not just those being online marked. If you do run out of space you can ask the Superintendent for supplementary paper of which there is a new format (see further). You will need to ensure that you write the question number in the space provided.

There will be 3 new types of supplementary books which have been designed to facilitate scanning but which will replace the existing supplementary sheets in all examinations:

- A **4-page Supplementary Paper Answerbook** which will consist of a cover page and three lined pages.
- A **4-page Graph Paper Answerbook** consisting of a cover page and three pages of graph paper.
- A **4-page Accounting Stationery Answerbook** consisting of a cover page and three pages of accounting paper (will not be marked online in 2021).

What if I write outside the margins/designated areas, will my answers be seen by the examiner?

You should complete your responses using the spaces provided on the examination paper/answerbook to ensure that all responses are captured in the scanning process. While the scanning process will capture an image that includes more than just the spaces for writing, there is a small risk that material written outside these areas will not be seen by examiners.

Will I be allowed to use pencil in the examinations or must I just use Blue or Black pen?

The examination papers in subjects being marked online will include the following instruction "*Write your answers in blue or black pen. You may use pencil for graphs and diagrams...*" We strongly recommend that you use blue or black pen for writing your answers. The use of pencils (incl. coloured pencils) should be restricted to graphs and diagrams. If you do use pencil, you should be aware that faint pencil may not be clearly visible to the examiner.

Is there anything I should not use when completing my examination?

Correction fluid (such as Tippex) should not be used nor should you rub out any mistakes. Instead, you are advised to cross out your mistake and carry on. This is the case for all subjects, whether they are marked manually or online, as there is a possibility that the cancelled work may merit the award of marks. It should therefore be crossed out but left visible to the examiner. You should also not use gel pens or highlighters.

Email onlinemarkingqueries@examinations.ie if you have any queries regarding Online Marking.