



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí, N37 TP65.
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 TP65.

S32/25

Senior Cycle Redevelopment – Sample Examination Papers

TO THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT/AUTHORITIES OF SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOLS, CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF ETBs AND MANAGEMENT OF OTHER CENTRES OF EDUCATION RECOGNISED TO HOLD THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

The purpose of this circular is to draw your attention to the publication of the sample examination papers for the nine subjects in Tranche 1 of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme.

Tranche 1 Subjects

New Specifications	Revised Specifications
Climate Action and Sustainable Development	Ancient Greek
Drama, Film and Theatre Studies	Arabic
	Biology
	Business
	Chemistry
	Latin
	Physics

Sample examination papers are designed to provide a guide to the structure and content of the assessment in accordance with the specifications. In a departure from previous practice, there are two sample papers at each level - two at Higher Level and two at Ordinary Level. The suite of materials includes sample listening comprehension tests in Arabic and illustrations in Drama, Film and Theatre Studies. A full list of the sample examination papers and related materials for Tranche 1 subjects is available at Appendix 1. Materials are available in both Irish and English.

The sample examination papers and related materials are now available on the website of the State Examinations Commission (SEC) [here](#)

As part of the roll-out of new/revised subject specifications in Senior Cycle, the SEC has doubled the number of sample examination papers it normally provides. The sample papers are being made available in April of the school year prior to the commencement of the teaching of the new specifications. This is a full 18 months earlier than was the case previously when specifications changed. It is also more than two full (calendar) years before a candidate will sit an examination in

these subjects – and several months before any candidate begins 5th year in one of the new or revised subjects.

The relevant circulars detailing the prescribed material are available from [HERE](#).

Sample briefs for the Additional Assessment Components (AACs) for Tranche 1 subjects are being developed by the SEC and will be available in September 2025.

This is the first tranche of subjects being introduced in the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme. See Appendix 2 for details of the subjects included in each tranche.

The SEC has developed a Frequently Asked Questions document to accompany the sample papers available [here](#)

New and revised subject specifications and AAC guidelines may be found on <https://www.curriculumonline.ie/senior-cycle/senior-cycle-subjects/>

Please bring this information to the attention of the relevant subject teachers and all candidates, their parents/guardians, who will be commencing senior cycle in September 2025.

Any commentary or observations on the content of these sample papers may be submitted by e-mail to scr@examinations.ie.

Jackie Wade
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Appendix 1.

List of Sample Papers and other materials in Tranche 1

Sample Papers for Higher Level	Sample Papers for Ordinary Level
Ancient Greek Higher Level Sample 1	Ancient Greek Ordinary Level Sample 1
Ancient Greek Higher Level Sample 2	Ancient Greek Ordinary Level Sample 2
Arabic Higher Level Sample 1	Arabic Ordinary Level Sample 1
Arabic Listening Comprehension Higher Level Sample 1	Arabic Listening Comprehension Ordinary Level Sample 1
Arabic Sound File Sample 1 (Common to both Levels)	Arabic Sound File Sample 1 (Common to both Levels)
Arabic Higher Level Sample 2	Arabic Ordinary Level Sample 2
Arabic Listening Comprehension Higher Level Sample 2	Arabic Listening Comprehension Ordinary Level Sample 2
Arabic Sound File Sample 2 (Common to both Levels)	Arabic Sound File Sample 2 (Common to both Levels)
Biology Higher Level Sample 1	Biology Ordinary Level Sample 1
Biology Higher Level Sample 2	Biology Ordinary Level Sample 2
Business Higher Level Sample 1	Business Ordinary Level Sample 1
Business Higher Level Sample 2	Business Ordinary Level Sample 2
Chemistry Higher Level Sample 1	Chemistry Ordinary Level Sample 1
Chemistry Higher Level Sample 2	Chemistry Ordinary Level Sample 2
Climate Action and Sustainable Development Higher Level Sample 1	Climate Action and Sustainable Development Ordinary Level Sample 1
Climate Action and Sustainable Development Higher Level Sample 2	Climate Action and Sustainable Development Ordinary Level Sample 2
Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Higher Level Sample 1	Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Ordinary Level Sample 1
Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Higher Level Illustrations Sample 1	Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Ordinary Level Illustrations Sample 1
Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Higher Level Sample 2	Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Ordinary Level Sample 2
Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Higher Level Illustrations Sample 2	Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Ordinary Level Illustrations Sample 2
Latin Higher Level Sample 1	Latin Ordinary Level Sample 1
Latin Higher Level Sample 2	Latin Ordinary Level Sample 2
Physics Higher Level Sample 1	Physics Ordinary Level Sample 1
Physics Higher Level Sample 2	Physics Ordinary Level Sample 2

Appendix 2.

Timeline for the introduction of new subject specifications under Senior Cycle Redevelopment

	Tranche 1	Tranche 2	Tranche 3	Tranche 4	Tranche 5
Introduced in Schools	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29
First Final Written Examination	Jun-27	Jun-28	Jun-29	Jun-30	Jun-31
	Ancient Greek	Accounting	Agricultural Science	Art	Applied Mathematics
	Arabic	Construction Studies	Computer Science	Economics	Classical Studies
	Biology	Engineering	Design and Communications Graphics	French	Japanese
	Business	English	History	Gaeilge	Lithuanian
	Chemistry	Geography	Home Economics	German	Mandarin Chinese
	Climate Action and Sustainable Development	LCVP Link Modules	Mathematics	Italian	Polish
	Drama, Film and Theatre Studies	Physical Education	Music	Politics and Society	Portuguese
	Latin		Physics and Chemistry	Spanish	Religious Education
	Physics			Technology	Russian

