



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
State Examinations Commission  
**Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí**  
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 TP65.

## **Use of Bilingual Dictionaries in the 2024 Certificate Examinations S02/24**

### **To: Authorities of Second Level Schools/External Candidates.**

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) permits the use of bilingual translation dictionaries in the certificate examinations by candidates whose first language is not English or Irish.

#### **Subjects in which the use of dictionaries is not permitted:**

- 1. The candidate's first language e.g. a candidate whose first language is French will not be permitted to use the dictionary in the French examination**
- 2. English**
- 3. Irish**
- 4. A language closely related to the candidate's first language. Where a query arises as to the definition of a closely related language, the SEC must be consulted in advance of the examination for advice in this respect**

#### **Dictionary Specification**

- Bilingual translation dictionaries between the candidate's first language and English or Irish (i.e. without explanation of terms/definition) are permitted.
- Electronic bilingual dictionaries, translators, wordlists or glossaries, are not permitted.

#### **Provision of Bilingual Dictionaries**

Where the use of a bilingual dictionary has been certified by the school, or where an external candidate meets the requirement to use a bilingual dictionary, those candidates may use their own dictionaries provided these are free from additional personal notes/notation during the examinations. The bilingual dictionaries must be made available for inspection by the examination centre superintendent before the commencement of each examination session. There are no circumstances in which the SEC will provide bilingual dictionaries to candidates.

#### **Information for Schools**

Schools are empowered to certify the use of bilingual translation dictionaries in the case of candidates who meet the requirements set out above and who wish to avail of this facility. Details of those candidates should be included on enclosed **Form D24**. **Please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of the candidates concerned.**

The SEC will notify each examination superintendent with regard to the candidate(s) in his/her centre for whom the use of a bilingual dictionary has been approved. In cases where schools appoint superintendents to special centres, school authorities are asked to advise these superintendents of instances where the use of a bilingual dictionary has been certified.

#### **Information for External Candidates**

External candidates who meet the requirement set out above should complete **Form D24/E10**. **Please note the contents of this circular.**

#### **General Information – Return of applications**

All application forms should be returned to the State Examinations Commission no later than **15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**. The forms may be returned by post or scanned and emailed to [race@examinations.ie](mailto:race@examinations.ie). All enquiries relating to this circular should be directed to: Telephone: 090 –6442402/6442784/6442785.

Catherine Wynne  
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