



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission
Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí, N37 TP65
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 TP65
Teileafón: +353-90-644 2845 Gréasán: www.examinations.ie.

ENTRY FEES FOR THE 2026 CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS S27/26

TO THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT/AUTHORITIES OF SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOLS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES ETB'S AND MANAGEMENT OF OTHER CENTRES OF EDUCATION PROVIDING STATE EXAMINATIONS IN 2026

From previous communications since Budget 2026, you are aware that examination entry fees have been re-introduced for the 2026 state examinations.

Fees will be charged at the same rate as when they were last charged in 2019; that is €116 per entry for Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied candidates and €109 per entry for Junior Cycle candidates. Candidates who hold a full medical card, or who are covered for all services on a parent or guardian's full medical card, are exempt from examination fees. The fee payable in respect of a school going candidate who is repeating the Leaving Certificate is €301.

The rate of examination fees which will apply for the 2026 examinations has not been increased since 2012.

The purpose of this circular is to advise school authorities of the arrangements for the collection of fees including the arrangements for claiming an exemption from fees. School authorities are not asked to pay examination fees for candidates. School authorities are required to assist the SEC in the fee collection arrangements by notifying candidates and parents/guardians of how to pay the fee or claim fee exemption through the SEC's online fee service which will open at 2 pm on Thursday 19 March. This includes arranging for the distribution of individualised letters containing details to access the online service to candidates and their families.

Further details are set out below.

1. SEC Online Fee Service – How to Pay Fees or apply for an exemption

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has a facility to allow candidates, or their parent/guardian, to pay examination fees or to apply for an exemption from fees. The Online Fee service will open at 2pm on Thursday 19 March at <https://fees.examinations.ie/> A User Guide will be provided.

The closing date for the payment of examination fees or making an application for a medical card exemption is **30 April 2026**.

The credentials that candidates/parents/guardians require to access to the system will be provided in individualised letter for each candidate that we will issue to schools for onward distribution to candidates. These letters will be available to schools to download from the SEC's Schools Portal from 10 am on Monday 16 March. We require your assistance in arranging for the distribution of the letters to candidates/parents/guardians as soon as possible.

Step by Step Guide to download the letters for distribution:

1. Log in to the Schools Portal [here](#)
2. Select ENTRIES REPORTS Tab
3. Select “Candidate letters for access to the Fees Portal”
4. Select EV or IV version
5. Next step. Print
6. The letters will print as a batch.
7. Arrange to issue the letters to candidates as soon as possible. The Online Fee Service will open at 2 pm on Thursday 19 March and will remain open until Thursday 30 April
8. Please take care to ensure that the correct candidate receives the correct letter.

In the coming weeks, the SEC will issue school authorities with reports of payment compliance for candidates in the school, through the Schools Portal and may seek your further assistance in issuing reminders.

2. 2026 Examinations Entry Fee Rates

The rates of examination fees for entry to the 2026 Certificate Examination are as follows:

(a) School Candidates

For candidates who are recognised pupils in post-primary schools;

Leaving Certificate/Leaving Certificate Applied	€116
Junior Cycle	€109

(b) Candidates following VTOS and analogous courses

For candidates who are following courses of study organised under the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme, the Adult Literacy and Community Education Scheme, the Department of Social Protection second-level scheme for the unemployed, or other analogous courses;

Leaving Certificate subjects, 3 or more	€116
Mix of Leaving and Junior Certificate/Cycle subjects, 3 or more	€116
Junior Certificate/Cycle subjects, 3 or more	€109
Leaving and/or Junior Certificate/Cycle, 1 or 2 subjects	€71

(c) Repeat Leaving Certificate

The fee payable in respect of a recognised pupil who remains at school with a view to repeating the Leaving Certificate is **€301**. It is important to note that there is no provision for recognised pupils who are repeating the Leaving Certificate to pay a lower fee if they enter for only one or two subjects. In such cases the full fee must be paid.

(d) Leaving Certificate Candidates taking Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages ab-initio

Students entering senior cycle may, if schools so wish, follow a course of study Junior Cycle French, German, Spanish or Italian as part of their approved senior cycle course. No additional fee is payable for taking the Junior Cycle language examinations once the Leaving Certificate fee is paid.

Details of all examination fees rates, including fee rates for External candidates, are available from online [here](#).

3. Exemption of Examination Fees for Medical Card Holders

Candidates who hold a full medical card or who are covered for all services on a parent or guardian's full medical card are not liable for examination fees. **Medical cards will be accepted only if valid on or between 1 January 2026 and 30 April 2026.**

N.B. Holders or dependents of holders, of G.P. Visit Cards are **not** eligible for exemption from examination fees.

4. Inability to use the Online Fee Service

Instructions on how to use the online fee service are set out in the User Guide <https://fees.examinations.ie/>. Those who might have a difficulty using the online facility to make a payment or to apply for an exemption should contact Fees Section by e-mail at fees@examinations.ie for assistance.

5. Consequences for Candidates of Non-Payment of Examination Fees

All candidates, unless they have an exemption from payment of fees, must pay their examination fees to the SEC. It is SEC policy to ensure all fees are paid in full.

Failure to pay examination fees may have serious consequences for candidates up to and including the withholding of the final Examination Certificate.

Examination fees are not refundable other than in very exceptional circumstances.

6. Data Privacy and GDPR Compliance

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.

Extreme care should be taken when distributing the individual candidate letters. Providing information to a candidate which belongs to another candidate is a serious matter.

If in the course of distributing the individualized letters, you think there might be a possible Data Breach, please immediately contact the SEC's Data Protection Officer by sending an e-mail to dpo@examinations.ie. There is a requirement on organizations to report personal data breaches to the relevant supervisory authority, where the breach presents a risk to the affected individuals. The SEC will undertake a risk assessment and as necessary will notify the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC) in line with its obligations.

If your school has received any information that is not proper to the school this should be reported immediately to the SEC's Data Protection Officer by sending an e-mail to dpo@examinations.ie

7. Conclusion

School authorities are requested to bring the information contained in this circular to the attention of candidates and their families.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact the Finance and Fees Section by emailing fees@examinations.ie or by telephoning 090 644 2845. Lines open 9.15am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

Yvonne Shanley
Assistant Principal Officer
Finance and Fees Section
March 2026