

Rannóg Pholasáí, Curaclaim agus  
Measúnachta  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna,  
Sráid Mhaoilbhríde  
Baile Atha Cliath 1



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**To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Second Level  
Schools and CEOs of ETBs**

**Circular Letter 0036/2015**

**Revised assessment arrangements for the practical coursework for  
Leaving Certificate Home Economics (Scientific & Social) for the cohort commencing  
study in August 2015 and presenting for examination in 2017 and thereafter**

## **1. Introduction**

Following a review of the arrangements for the assessment of the current syllabus in Leaving Certificate Home Economics (Scientific & Social), it is proposed to make some minor adjustments to the assessment arrangements for the practical coursework. The new arrangements will apply to the cohort of students commencing their two-year Leaving Certificate course of study in September 2015, for examination in 2017 and thereafter.

A revised syllabus for Home Economics – Scientific and Social was introduced in September 2002 and was first examined in 2004. Assessment for both Higher level and Ordinary level comprises the following components:

1. Candidates who select the Home Design and Management or Social Studies elective
  - Written examination (80%)
  - Food Studies Coursework (20%)
2. Candidates who select Textiles, Fashion and Design Elective
  - Written examination (70%)
  - Food Studies Course work (20%)
  - Textile, Fashion and Design Elective Coursework (10%)

## **2. Revisions to Food Studies Coursework**

The changes notified herein refer specifically to the Food Studies Coursework. These changes will not impact on the percentage weighting of the practical coursework vis-à-vis other components. For the Food Studies Coursework there will be a reduction from the present requirement for the completion of a significant account of five practical assignments (from a choice of six) recorded in a pro-forma journal to the completion of any four practical assignments (from a choice of five). This coursework will be required, as heretofore, to be completed by early November of the year preceding the written examination and be submitted to the State Examinations Commission for assessment. The details of the changes are as follows:

1. The State Examinations Commission will issue five assignments, each September of Year 1 of the programme, as follows:
  - Area of Practice A: 2 assignments
  - Area of Practice B: 1 assignment
  - Areas of Practice C, D and E: 2 assignments.The assignments will apply to both Higher and Ordinary Level

Candidates will be required to select any four assignments. The format of the coursework journal will be revised to allow for the completion of four assignments only.

2. The pro-forma Coursework Journal will be revised to facilitate each area of practice. This has been drawn up to enable all assignments, including sensory analysis, to be completed using a common template.
3. Mark allocations will be revised by the State Examinations Commission to reflect the changes.

Revised guidelines and a sample pro-forma booklet will be prepared by the State Examinations Commission and circulated to all schools. These materials will also be published on the SEC website [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).

### **3. General**

Please bring this circular to the attention of all teachers of the Leaving Certificate Home Economics (Scientific & Social) programme in your school and also provide a copy to members of the school board of management.

This circular may also be accessed at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie).

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