



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

**Revision to Assessment Arrangements for Leaving Certificate Art  
for first examination in 2018**

**Circular Letter 0035/2015**

### **1. Introduction**

In order to improve the quality of assessment in Leaving Certificate Art, revised arrangements are being put in place for students entering Leaving Certificate Year 1 in September 2016 and taking their examinations in 2018 and thereafter.

### **2. Revisions to Practical Components**

The *Imaginative Composition or Still Life* component and the *Craft or Design* component will be executed as coursework in schools over an extended period of time; (a period of approximately six weeks, which involves about 15 hours of class time, is envisaged.)

These two components will be based on a single set of stimulus materials issued annually by the State Examinations Commission. Based on these materials, the candidate will choose one theme from which both components will be developed. This thematic approach will facilitate the development of ideas and allow students a better opportunity to display their skills.

The State Examinations Commission is in the process of developing and trialling the necessary arrangements. Each candidate will be required to create and submit a realised work for the *Imaginative Composition or Still Life* component and a realised work for the *Craft or Design* component, as well as preliminary and preparatory material. The execution of these tasks as coursework over an extended period of time, rather than within the constraints of a comparatively short invigilated examination, will provide candidates with more time to develop and produce their work in line with best pedagogical practice. The State Examinations Commission will provide more detailed information on the requirements and arrangements at a later date.

### **3. Coursework and Examinations**

While the precise timing of the coursework period is part of the trialling of arrangements that is currently underway, it is envisaged that the period will fall between the start of February and the end of April of the examination year.

Suitable measures will be put in place by the State Examinations Commission to ensure authenticity of candidates' work, including sign-off by teachers and school authorities, in line with the procedures that apply for coursework in other Leaving Certificate examination subjects. As for other such subjects, the co-operation of teachers and schools will be critical to ensuring that coursework is completed ethically and in line with all regulations.

The *Life Sketching* examination will continue to be an invigilated examination, as it is currently, and will continue to be held at approximately the same time of year as is presently the case.

The written examination component *History and Appreciation of Art* will continue to be held in June as it is currently.

#### **4. The Marking Process**

All of the practical work (the two coursework components and the invigilated Life-Sketching examination) will be marked in the schools by an external examiner appointed by the State Examinations Commission.

The arrangements for marking the *History and Appreciation of Art* component will be unchanged.

#### **5. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Continuing professional development to support art teachers in implementing these changes will be made available through the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST).

It is essential that all teachers have adequate opportunities to avail of this CPD so that they are fully informed about the changes to assessment arrangements. For this reason, school authorities are requested to facilitate the attendance of all teachers at these CPD events. Efforts will be made to minimise disruption to schools; this will involve collaboration and coordination with other support services. Substitution will be available to facilitate teachers attendance at CPD which will begin in January 2016.

#### **6. General**

Please bring this circular to the attention of all art teachers in the 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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