Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit

State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination
2024

Economics

Research Study

Higher and Ordinary Levels

100 marks

General Information

A new specification for Leaving Certificate Economics was introduced in September 2019 and was examined for the first time in 2021. Assessment comprises of two elements: (1) a final written examination, and (2) a Research Study. The Research Study is worth 100 marks, which is 20% of the overall marks for Leaving Certificate Economics. The remaining 400 marks (80%) are for the final examination.

The Research Study will relate directly to the learning outcomes of the specification. A Research Study brief will issue annually from State Examinations Commission (SEC). The brief with its theme and associated topics, is common to Higher and Ordinary level. All candidates (Higher and Ordinary level) are required to undertake a Research Study and to complete and submit a Research Study Report for assessment. Candidates, with the guidance of the teacher, will decide on an individual line of inquiry based on the research theme and the topic they have chosen from the prescribed list. This open-ended research process is intended to empower the candidate to take responsibility for his/her own learning process based on the knowledge, understanding, concepts and skills developed in their study of economics.

The digital completion booklet for 2024 will be available shortly to download at www.examinations.ie. The Research Study must be completed and handed over to your class teacher by the 15th December 2023. The projects will be submitted through the SEC student portal in the New Year, information and instructions will follow in due course.

The school authority should retain securely a digital copy of each candidates' Research Study Report until such time as the candidate has received their final result including until all appeal processes have been completed.
The Research Study and report must be completed under the supervision of the class teacher, in accordance with the conditions set down by the State Examinations Commission, as outlined in Circulars S69/04 and S68/08 available at www.examinations.ie. The report presented for assessment must be the candidates' own individual work – authenticated by the candidate, the teacher and the school management authorities. Where a report cannot be authenticated as the candidate's own work, it will not be accepted for assessment. This will result in the forfeit of the marks associated with this examination component. Any incidence of suspected copying, improper assistance from another party, plagiarism or procurement of work prepared by another party will be thoroughly investigated.

Information for Candidates

You must select one of the topics prescribed under the research theme in the Research Study brief, and complete a research study and report based on this. Given that the brief is common to both Higher and Ordinary level, you do not have to make a final decision on the level that you are taking when submitting the Research Study Report. Your report must not exceed 1500 words (excluding references, diagrams, graphs etc.). You must provide at least two relevant and reliable sources of information/data in your report. All secondary sources used (books, journals, web-sites

etc.) must be acknowledged in the report. Your Research Study and Report must be completed in term one of sixth year. Your report must be presented in the digital completion booklet for 2024 which will be available for download shortly at www.examinations.ie. Candidates must complete their report in the 2024 version of the digital completion booklet.

The project and report must be your own individual work – authenticated by yourself, your teacher and by your school management authority. Authentication is an important part of how we in the State Examinations Commission ensure fairness to everybody in the assessment of coursework.

Any case of suspected copying, plagiarism, improper assistance, or procurement of work prepared by another party will be thoroughly investigated. These actions are breaches of examination rules and attract the penalties described in the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools. The penalties include: loss of the marks for the coursework, loss of the subject, loss of the entire examination in all subjects, or being debarred from the Certificate Examinations in subsequent years. There may be serious consequences for any persons who provides you with inappropriate assistance, as this is an offence under the Education Act 1998.

Your teacher must supervise your completion of both the study and the reporting booklet. If your teacher cannot confirm that the Research Study Report is your own work, and that you carried out the study and completed the report under his or her supervision, the State Examinations Commission will not accept it for assessment. In that case, you will forfeit the marks for this component of the examination.

Responsibility for complying with examination requirements rests with you, the candidate. If the requirements are not followed, your teacher and school will have no choice but to bring this to the attention of the State Examinations Commission.

Research Study Brief – 2024

The study of economics explains how income is generated, how income is used, how resources are employed. Economics Curriculum Specification, NCCA

RESEARCH THEME

Over the last 50 years, Ireland has transformed into a highly globalised economy, reporting record export numbers in 2022 across all sectors (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 2023) whilst there are over 1,600 foreign owned companies in operation in Ireland (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 2023).

'We will deliver on our ambition of a vibrant, resilient, regionally balanced and sustainable economy, made up of a diversified mix of leading global companies, internationally competitive Irish enterprises and thriving local businesses'

Simon Coveney, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, May 2023, Dáil Éireann, 2023

Each candidate is required to complete a Research Study and Report on one of the following research topics in the context of the research theme.

Research Topic 1

Candidates are required to pursue an individual line of inquiry discussing and evaluating the impact of **Foreign Direct Investment** into Ireland, on ***two*** of the following areas:

- Employment
- Government Finances
- Ireland's Balance of Payments
- Balanced Regional Development

OR

Research Topic 2

Candidates are required to pursue an individual line of inquiry discussing and evaluating the impact of **Irish exports** on ***two*** of the following areas:

- Employment
- Government Finances
- Ireland's Balance of Payments
- Balanced Regional Development