



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit

State Examinations Commission

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S79/24

To: Management Authorities of Second Level Schools
Leaving Certificate Religious Education, 2026
Prescribed Titles for Practical Coursework

1. A syllabus for Leaving Certificate Religious Education was introduced in September 2003 and was examined for the first time in 2005.
2. The syllabus indicates that the assessment of Religious Education will have two elements: (1) a final written paper, and (2) coursework.
3. The subject will be assessed externally at Ordinary Level and at Higher Level. At both levels, coursework will account for 20% of the marks.
4. The titles for coursework for the Leaving Certificate examination 2026 are attached. These titles are common to Ordinary Level and Higher Level. Candidates are required to submit coursework on **one title only** taken from *either* Section I *or* Section J. Candidates should note that they will not be examined on these sections of the syllabus in the written examination in 2026.
5. Guidelines for undertaking coursework are included in *Religious Education Leaving Certificate Higher and Ordinary Level - Guidelines for Teachers* which was issued with the syllabus in June 2003.
6. As notified in circulars S71/23, S68/24 and S52/24, as part of the continued rollout of the digital completion and submission of coursework, the previous paper-based reporting booklets for Leaving Certificate Religious Education are being replaced by digital booklets for the 2025 Leaving Certificate examinations and onwards. The coursework must be submitted in a standard form in a digital booklet, which will be issued in due course for that purpose. The coursework booklet will be broken into two components, Part A and Part B.
Part A — a summary of the candidate's investigation of the chosen title.
Part B — the candidate's personal reflection on the learning, skills and experience gained through undertaking coursework on the chosen title.
7. Candidates must reference and acknowledge all research sources used such as: publications including books, professional journals and government reports; online sources and other types of media; any material generated using artificial intelligence (AI) software or applications; and material from specialist organisations and relevant individuals. To include

such material without properly referencing the source will be considered plagiarism. In addition, the copying from, or reproduction of, material from such sources may also be considered plagiarism. Any case of suspected copying, plagiarism (which includes the use of AI software), improper assistance, or procurement of work prepared by another party will be thoroughly investigated by SEC personnel.

8. Please bring this circular and the attached list of coursework titles to the notice of the teachers concerned.
9. Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.
10. If you have any queries regarding this circular please telephone -0906442746/0906442825.

Irene Lynn
Executive Officer
October, 2024.

Prescribed Titles for Religious Education Coursework
in the Leaving Certificate Examination of 2026

A choice of two titles is given in each of Sections I and J below. Candidates should base their coursework on **one** title only, taken from *either* Section I *or* Section J.

Section I Religion: The Irish Experience

- I 1. A case study on the origins of the hermit tradition in the Early Irish Christian Church and its influence on the development of Christianity in Ireland.

- I 2. An investigation into the ways that the Irish Constitution reflects the place of religion, in Irish culture and society.

Section J Religion and Science

- J 1. An analysis of the reasons for the reaction from the secular and religious worlds of Galileo's time, to his discoveries about the universe.

- J 2. A profile of how the relationship between religion and science was influenced by a major development in **each** at the time of the Enlightenment.