

## Assessment for certification

Assessment for certification by the State Examinations (SEC) is based on the rationale, aim and learning outcomes of the Leaving Climate Action and Sustainable Development specification. There are two assessment components.

1. Written Examination - This examination counts for 60% of the marks. It is offered at both Higher and Ordinary levels.
2. Action Project (AAC) - This project counts for 40% of the marks. The Action Project will be based on a common level brief. The brief is published by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) in term 2 of year 1 of the Leaving Certificate.

The Action Project is designed to naturally integrate into everyday teaching and learning in the classroom. Through their study, students develop knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that will support them in the completion of their Action Project.

Both the written exam and the Action Project are set and marked by the SEC.

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Action Project	40%	Common brief
Written examination	60%	Higher and ordinary level

*Overview of assessment for certification*

## At a glance

- Real-world and applied learning in the classroom and other settings
- Minimum 180 class contact hours over 2 years
- Four Applied Learning Tasks
- Action Project
- SEC Examinations:
  - Written Exam – 60%
  - Additional Assessment Component (Action Project) – 40%

The specification for Climate Action and Sustainable Development and Guidelines to support the Leaving Certificate Climate Action and Sustainable Development Action Project are available at [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie) or by scanning the QR codes below.



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## Introduction

A new subject Leaving Certificate Climate Action and Sustainable Development will be introduced to schools in September 2025. Leaving Certificate Climate Action and Sustainable Development aims to develop students' capacity for informed and meaningful action for a just and sustainable world as they engage with key sustainability challenges, including the climate crisis. Leaving Certificate Climate Action and Sustainable Development aims to empower students to build their understanding of a number of interconnected core concepts and principles related to climate action and sustainable development.

### The subject aims to support students in:

- building their understanding of a number of core concepts and principles
- applying their learning in exploring, designing and taking informed action
- making informed decisions based on scientific evidence and grounded in human rights and principles
- considering different perspectives and analysing the root causes of global issues
- responding reflectively to environmental challenges and opportunities
- realising the many benefits of place-based and outdoor learning

## What do students learn?

There are four interconnected strands in Climate Action and Sustainable Development



*There are four interconnected strands*

### Strand One: Earth Systems, Life & Environment

Students learn that a healthy environment is vital to sustainability. They interrogate the evidence of environmental damage and loss caused by human influence (systemic, economic, political, historical) on natural systems.

### Strand Two: People, Power & Place

Students have an opportunity to explore our place in climate action and sustainable development and the constantly evolving relationship between people and place.

### Strand Three: Global Connections

Students explore global thinking and actions. They explore climate justice in the context of transnational efforts to address climate loss, damage and ecological debt.

## Strand Four: Applied Learning Tasks

This strand emphasises the importance of students developing their ability to think and act sustainably. Students plan and carry out tasks in small groups, which they deem relevant to them or their peers, their local community, or to society more broadly.

Over two years, students complete four applied learning tasks (ALTs). They are:

- engaging in dialogue about climate action and sustainable development
- researching action
- designing a nature-based experience
- organising action

## What is the Action Project? (Additional Assessment Component)

The Action Project provides students with an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the concepts and principles they have learned while also employing the practical strategies and thinking they have developed to learn how to take action in the area of Climate Action and Sustainable Development.

Students engage in an action of their choosing that relates to a topic within a brief published by the State Examinations Commission. They research and define an issue within the topic and identify ways others have engaged with a similar issue. They will use their learning to plan, design and carry out an action to address the issue.

