

## Junior Cycle Results 2025

### Information Note for Candidates, Parents and Guardians on the new Junior Cycle Grade Bands

**The 2025 Junior Cycle Results Date is Wednesday 8 October.**

New Junior Cycle grades bands have been introduced this year. The decision to effect this change was made by the Minister for Education and Youth taking on board feedback about the impact that the previous grade bands may have been having on the teaching and learning experience. This feedback came from many stakeholders including those taking examinations, their parents and guardians. The State Examinations Commission (SEC) was asked to implement this change for the 2025 Junior Cycle examinations.

With this change there are still the same number of Junior Cycle grades as before; Distinction, Higher Merit, Merit, Achieved, Partially Achieved and Not Graded. In very simple terms\*, the Distinction band has been widened and now ranges from 85% or above to 100% and the Merit band has been narrowed and now ranges from 55% or above up to 70%. The impact of these changes is that more candidates will achieve the Distinction and Higher Merit Grades than previously with fewer Merits being awarded. This is because more candidates, who would previously have received a Higher Merit, will now achieve a Distinction, and more candidates, who would previously achieved a Merit, will now achieve a Higher Merit. The new and old grade bands are set out in the table below.

| Grade Descriptor   | New Grade Band (2025) | Previous Grade Band (2015 -2024) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Distinction        | ≥ 85 to 100           | ≥ 90 to 100                      |
| Higher Merit       | ≥ 70 and < 85         | ≥ 75 and < 90                    |
| Merit              | ≥ 55 and < 70         | ≥ 55 and < 75                    |
| Achieved           | ≥ 40 and < 55         | ≥ 40 and < 55                    |
| Partially Achieved | ≥ 20 and < 40         | ≥ 20 and < 40                    |
| Not Graded         | ≥ 0 and < 20          | ≥ 0 and < 20                     |

For 2025 these new grade bands have been implemented by the SEC as a technical adjustment. This means that the examinations were marked by examiners in the normal way using the grading standards based on the previous grade bands. When all of the marking and the results quality assurance procedures were completed, the State Examinations Commission (SEC) implemented a technical intervention to apply the new grade boundaries to the marks achieved in the examinations. This approach was necessary in order that this important change could be introduced in 2025. From next year, the SEC intends to implement the change through the normal marking process which will entail aligning the examinations standard setting process with the new grade boundaries.

\*Note percentages are used by the SEC for communication purposes only in order to facilitate understanding of the examination grades awarded. In the examination marking and resulting processes, grades are derived from marks not percentages. At Junior Cycle, the grading tables, which are subject specific, can be out of 180, 240, 270, 360, 400 or 640. For example, a mark of 305 in an examination marked out of 360 is worth 84.7% when expressed as a percentage. However, 306 marks are required to achieve a Distinction in an examination marked out of 360 marks. As the grade is based on the mark of 305 the candidate will achieve a Higher Merit Grade. Rounding up to the next grade band does not arise. Details of the subject specific grading tables are available from the Candidates Section on the SEC's website [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).

## APPENDIX 2.

### Junior Cycle Results 2025

#### Revised Subject Grade Boundaries

H = Higher, O = Ordinary, C = Common

#### 1. Marked out of 180 marks English (H) English (O)

| Grade | Marks From | Mark To |
|-------|------------|---------|
| DN    | 153        | 180     |
| HM    | 126        | 152     |
| MT    | 99         | 125     |
| AD    | 72         | 98      |
| PA    | 36         | 71      |
| NG    | 0          | 35      |

#### 2. Marked out of 200 marks Visual Art (C)

| Grade | Marks From | Mark To |
|-------|------------|---------|
| DN    | 170        | 200     |
| HM    | 140        | 169     |
| MT    | 110        | 139     |
| AD    | 80         | 109     |
| PA    | 40         | 79      |
| NG    | 0          | 39      |

#### 3. Marked out of 270 Marks Irish T1 (H), Irish T1(O), Irish T2 (H) Irish T2 (O), Mathematics (H), Mathematics (O), Business Studies (C).

| Grade | Marks From | Mark To |
|-------|------------|---------|
| DN    | 230        | 270     |
| HM    | 189        | 229     |
| MT    | 149        | 188     |
| AD    | 108        | 148     |
| PA    | 54         | 107     |
| NG    | 0          | 53      |

#### 4. Marked out of 360 Marks History, Geography, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Science, Classics, Religious Education, Jewish Studies. (All C)

| Grade | Marks From | Mark To |
|-------|------------|---------|
| DN    | 306        | 360     |
| HM    | 252        | 305     |
| MT    | 198        | 251     |
| AD    | 144        | 197     |
| PA    | 72         | 143     |
| NG    | 0          | 71      |

#### 5. Marked out of 400 Marks Engineering, Applied Technology, Wood Technology, Music, Graphics. (All C)

| Grade | Marks From | Mark To |
|-------|------------|---------|
| DN    | 340        | 400     |
| HM    | 280        | 339     |
| MT    | 220        | 279     |
| AD    | 160        | 219     |
| PA    | 80         | 159     |
| NG    | 0          | 79      |

#### 6. Marked out of 640 Marks Home Economics (C).

| Grade | Marks From | Mark To |
|-------|------------|---------|
| DN    | 544        | 640     |
| HM    | 448        | 543     |
| MT    | 352        | 447     |
| AD    | 256        | 351     |
| PA    | 128        | 255     |
| NG    | 0          | 127     |