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Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme 2026

Link Modules Examination

Common Level

Wednesday 29 April Morning 10:00 - 12:30

160 marks

Examination Number

Date of Birth

For example, 3rd February 2005 is entered as 03 02 05

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Examination Number in the box on the front cover.

Write all answers into this booklet. There is space for extra work at the end of the booklet. If you need to use it, make sure to label the work clearly with the question number and part.

This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

There are **three** sections in this examination, as follows:

Section A – Audio Visual – Compulsory

There are eight questions. Answer **all eight** of them. 30 marks

Section B – Case Study – Compulsory

There are three questions. Answer **all three** of them. 30 marks

Section C – General Questions – Compulsory

There are seven questions. Answer **any four** of them. 100 marks

You may only use blue or black pen when writing your answers.
Do not use red pen, pencil or any other coloured pen.

Section A	Audio Visual	30 marks

- You will have **three** minutes to read the questions in Section A.
- You will be shown a DVD with A Local Business as the theme.
- You will see the sequence **three** times.
    - The first showing will include the whole sequence.
    - It will then be shown in **three** parts. After each part is shown, you will be given time to write your answers in the appropriate section of the answer book.
    - You will then see the entire DVD sequence again.

Answer **all eight** questions on the pages that follow. This page may be used for notes.

Part 1

Q.1 What is the name of the business? **(1 mark)**

Q.2 Why does Aisling sell products made by other local designers? **(2 marks)**

Q.3 Why did Aisling want to set up her own business? **(3 marks)**

Part 2

Q.4 What challenges has the business faced over the past number of years? **(2 marks)**

Q.5 Outline what Aisling has done to help her business overcome the challenges it has faced in recent years. **(4 marks)**

Q.6 Why does Aisling consult with staff? **(6 marks)**

Part 3

Q.7 Why does Aisling prefer **not** to make staff redundant? **(6 marks)**

Q.8 Describe the factors that contribute to the success of a business. **(6 marks)**

Section B	Case Study	30 marks

Slí Abhaile

Michael worked for a multinational company in the IT sector as a manufacturing technician. The company underwent a restructuring process leading to large scale job losses in its Irish facility. Unfortunately, Michael lost his job and was made unemployed for the first time in his life. He found it difficult to get another job as his skillset was specific to the IT sector. With his redundancy and savings used up, Michael could no longer afford to pay his rent and was evicted.

Michael found himself homeless and turned to Depaul Ireland for help and support. They gave him temporary accommodation in a hostel and helped him to secure a place on a training course allowing him to upskill. Thankfully, on completion of the course, he secured a job and managed to get permanent accommodation. He was able to rebuild his life.

Remembering the friendship and support he received from Depaul Ireland, Michael found ways to give back to the charity whenever he could. He helped with fundraising campaigns and volunteered on the soup run one night a week.

As part of a new job, Michael was relocated to Drumbridge, a medium size town, in the south west. Recently, Michael noticed that there were people sleeping rough in the town centre. The impact of the recent surge in homelessness on the local community has been seen economically and socially in the town.

Michael soon realised there wasn't any homeless charity providing supports in the town. He decided to help by starting a soup run and distributing personal care packs to any homeless people he encountered. It was just himself and his wife, Rita, to begin with which meant they could only help a small number of people. Through setting up a social media account showing the work that they are doing, Michael and Rita now have 20 volunteers helping out regularly, which means they can help a greater number of clients. This account has also helped them to secure sponsorship and donations.

As demand for their services grew, Michael decided to set up a charity, Slí Abhaile. He contacted the Charity Regulator who advised him that the trustees of the charity (Michael and Rita) must apply for a Registered Charity number, as it is a legal requirement.

Michael has decided to form a committee, 'The Slí Abhaile Action Group', as he has many plans for the charity. He hopes to expand the range of supports he is currently offering, including a hostel in the medium term and building social housing in the long term. The action group will need a variety of skills and expertise to help develop and execute these plans successfully.

Answer **all three** questions.

Q.1 Explain **three** sources of finance that could be used to start a charity. **(6 marks)**

Q.2 **(i)** List **two** stakeholders that should be involved in the Slí Abhaile Action Group.

(ii) Outline the benefits to any stakeholder of being involved in the Slí Abhaile Action Group.

(iii) How can the Slí Abhaile Action Group ensure that meetings are effective? **(12 marks)**

Q.3 **(i)** Identify **three** methods of promoting the charity Slí Abhaile.

(ii) Outline the factors that Slí Abhaile may consider when deciding the location for their hostel.

(iii) Construct an action plan for Slí Abhaile to set up the hostel, using relevant headings.

(12 marks)

Section C	General Questions	100 marks

This section has seven questions. Each question carries 25 marks. Answer **any four** questions.

To help you decide which questions to answer and to help you find them in the booklet, here are all the questions with the page range for each. Answer your chosen questions in the appropriate pages in this booklet.

Q.1 **Pages 16 to 18**

Read the job advertisement below and answer the questions which follow.

> ***Beauty by Lola, a make-up brand on the rise, is looking for a***
> ***Content Creator***
> *Key responsibilities include video production, content creation, video editing, storytelling and social media management.*
> *The successful applicant must have technical, creative and communication skills.*
> *Send your Curriculum Vitae and examples of your work to careers@beautybylola.ie.*

(a) Identify **two** skills necessary for this job.

(b) Why have the applicants been asked to submit examples of their work when applying for this position?

(c) Describe **four** ways you would prepare for a job interview.

(d) Identify and explain **three** obligations an employer has regarding the health, safety and welfare of their employees at work.

Q.2 **Pages 19 to 21**

Enterprise Skills.

(a) What are the characteristics of a good leader?

(b) Explain the steps you might take to improve personal enterprise skills.

(c) Name **three** barriers to good communication and describe how they might be overcome.

(d) Outline the benefits of teamwork to an individual team member.

Q.3 **Pages 22 to 24**

Visitors to the classroom are a valuable way of learning about local businesses/community organisations.

(a) Describe **two** ways your class would decide on which business/organisation to invite in.

(b) Explain what is meant by an 'inclusive workplace'.

(c) Describe **three** ways participation in the organisation and running of this activity would benefit you in preparing for your Leaving Certificate.

(d) Discuss how tariffs imposed by other countries affect businesses in Ireland.

Q.4 **Pages 25 to 27**

Work experience/shadowing is a great learning experience.

(a) State **two** personal goals you may have had in relation to your work experience/shadowing.

(b) Interpersonal skills are very important in the workplace. Describe **two** different situations where interpersonal skills could be demonstrated during work placement.

(c) Write the email you could have sent when seeking your work experience/shadowing placement.

(d) Outline the areas you would address as part of the evaluation of your work experience/ shadowing diary.

Q.5 **Pages 28 to 30**

Career Investigation.

(a) **(i)** What job would you like to do when you leave school?

(ii) What qualification would help you to achieve this career?

(b) What are the benefits of carrying out a career investigation?

(c) Explain an out of school activity you engaged in to investigate this career.

Give **two** pieces of information that you learned from this activity.

(d) Explain **two** types of training in the workplace and how each can benefit an employee.

Q.6 **Pages 31 to 33**

A Corporate Social Responsibility policy can have a positive or negative effect on stakeholders.

(a) Explain the term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

(b) When developing a CSR policy, suggest **four** items a company can include to support the environment.

(c) Discuss the benefits that businesses bring to their local area.

(d) Explain the value of CSR to a business.

Q.7 **Pages 34 to 36**

Your Link Modules class has been involved in carrying out an enterprise activity.

(a) List **four** methods of idea generation for a class enterprise activity.

(b) **(i)** Explain what is meant by the term 'market research'.

(ii) Why is market research necessary for this activity?

(c) Outline **three** ways your participation in this enterprise activity will benefit you in future employment.

(d) Explain the methods you would use to review your personal and group performance when evaluating an activity.

Q.1 **25 marks**

Read the job advertisement below and answer the questions which follow.

Beauty by Lola, a make-up brand on the rise, is looking for a
Content Creator
Key responsibilities include video production, content creation, video editing, storytelling and social media management.
The successful applicant must have technical, creative and communication skills.
Send your Curriculum Vitae and examples of your work to careers@beautybylola.ie.

(a) Identify **two** skills necessary for this job. **(4 marks)**

(b) Why have the applicants been asked to submit examples of their work when applying for this position? **(4 marks)**

(c) Describe **four** ways you would prepare for a job interview.

(8 marks)

(d) Identify and explain **three** obligations an employer has regarding the health, safety and welfare of their employees at work. **(9 marks)**

Q.2 **25 marks**

Enterprise Skills.

(a) What are the characteristics of a good leader? **(4 marks)**

(b) Explain the steps you might take to improve personal enterprise skills. **(4 marks)**

(c) Name **three** barriers to good communication and describe how they might be overcome.

(9 marks)

(d) Outline the benefits of teamwork to an individual team member. **(8 marks)**

Q.3 **25 marks**

Visitors to the classroom are a valuable way of learning about local businesses/community organisations.

(a) Describe **two** ways your class would decide on which business/organisation to invite in. **(4 marks)**

(b) Explain what is meant by an 'inclusive workplace'. **(4 marks)**

(c) Describe **three** ways participation in the organisation and running of this activity would benefit you in preparing for your Leaving Certificate. **(9 marks)**

(d) Discuss how tariffs imposed by other countries affect businesses in Ireland. **(8 marks)**

Q.4 **25 marks**

Work experience/shadowing is a great learning experience.

(a) State **two** personal goals you may have had in relation to your work experience/shadowing. **(4 marks)**

(b) Interpersonal skills are very important in the workplace. Describe **two** different situations where interpersonal skills could be demonstrated during work placement. **(4 marks)**

(c) Write the email you could have sent when seeking your work experience/shadowing placement. **(8 marks)**

(d) Outline the areas you would address as part of the evaluation of your work experience/ shadowing diary. **(9 marks)**

Q.5 **25 marks**

Career Investigation.

(a) **(i)** What job would you like to do when you leave school?

(ii) What qualification would help you to achieve this career? **(4 marks)**

(b) What are the benefits of carrying out a career investigation? **(4 marks)**

(c) Explain an out of school activity you engaged in to investigate this career.
Give **two** pieces of information that you learned from this activity. **(9 marks)**

(d) Explain **two** types of training in the workplace and how each can benefit an employee.

(8 marks)

Q.6 **25 marks**

A Corporate Social Responsibility policy can have a positive or negative effect on stakeholders.

(a) Explain the term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). **(4 marks)**

(b) When developing a CSR policy, suggest **four** items a company can include to support the environment. **(4 marks)**

(c) Discuss the benefits that businesses bring to their local area. **(8 marks)**

(d) Explain the value of CSR to a business. **(9 marks)**

Q.7 **25 marks**

Your Link Modules class has been involved in carrying out an enterprise activity.

(a) List **four** methods of idea generation for a class enterprise activity. **(4 marks)**

(b) **(i)** Explain what is meant by the term 'market research'.

(ii) Why is market research necessary for this activity? **(6 marks)**

(c) Outline **three** ways your participation in this enterprise activity will benefit you in future employment. **(6 marks)**

(d) Explain the methods you would use to review your personal and group performance when evaluating an activity. **(9 marks)**

You may use this page for extra work.

Make sure to label extra work clearly with the question number and part.

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Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme – Common Level

Link Modules Examination

Wednesday 29 April

Morning 10:00 - 12:30