



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate 2026

Marking Scheme

Mandarin Chinese

Higher Level

Note to teachers and students on the use of published marking schemes

Marking schemes published by the State Examinations Commission are not intended to be standalone documents. They are an essential resource for examiners who receive training in the correct interpretation and application of the scheme. This training involves, among other things, marking samples of student work and discussing the marks awarded, so as to clarify the correct application of the scheme. The work of examiners is subsequently monitored by Advising Examiners to ensure consistent and accurate application of the marking scheme. This process is overseen by the Chief Examiner, usually assisted by a Chief Advising Examiner. The Chief Examiner is the final authority regarding whether or not the marking scheme has been correctly applied to any piece of candidate work.

Marking schemes are working documents. While a draft marking scheme is prepared in advance of the examination, the scheme is not finalised until examiners have applied it to candidates' work and the feedback from all examiners has been collated and considered in light of the full range of responses of candidates, the overall level of difficulty of the examination and the need to maintain consistency in standards from year to year. This published document contains the finalised scheme, as it was applied to all candidates' work.

In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with their Advising Examiners when in doubt.

Future Marking Schemes

Assumptions about future marking schemes on the basis of past schemes should be avoided. While the underlying assessment principles remain the same, the details of the marking of a particular type of question may change in the context of the contribution of that question to the overall examination in a given year. The Chief Examiner in any given year has the responsibility to determine how best to ensure the fair and accurate assessment of candidates' work and to ensure consistency in the standard of the assessment from year to year. Accordingly, aspects of the structure, detail and application of the marking scheme for a particular examination are subject to change from one year to the next without notice.

READING: 80 MARKS

Answer Question 1, Question 2, Question 3 AND Question 4

Question 1 - 20 marks

- (a) The poster mentions **two** types of animals that need help. Name **one** of them.

(1 x 2 marks)

cat; dog

(Answer any one of the two)

- (b) If you want to donate books, when should you go?

(2 x 2 marks)

Day: Wednesday

Time: 4 p.m.

- (c) If you want to donate clothes, where should you go?

(1 x 2 marks)

(school) sports field

- (d) Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) The poster is seeking donations for an animal shelter.		✓ (3 marks)
(ii) The donations are all carried out on a school campus.	✓ (3 marks)	
(iii) The donations can be made both on weekdays and at the weekend.	✓ (3 marks)	
(iv) The poster does NOT mention the acceptance of plastic products for donation.		✓ (3 marks)

Question 2 - 16 marks

- (a) Which subject does Aoife teach?

(1 x 2 marks)

music

- (b) Where is the graduation ceremony?

(1 x 2 marks)

(school) library

- (c) How many additional guest(s) can one invite to the ceremony?

(1 x 2 marks)

2 / two

- (d) In relation to the dress code, **two** types of clothes are **NOT** allowed. What are they? (2 x 1 mark)
- shorts; sports shoes
- (e) There are **four** activities one can do at the graduation ceremony. Name **two** of them. (2 x 2 marks)
- singing; dancing; chatting; playing games
- (Answer any two of the four)
- (f) What is the deadline for making a reservation to attend the ceremony? (1 x 2 marks)
- (before) 10th June
- (g) In addition to the guest names, what information is also required when making a reservation? (1 x 2 marks)
- dietary restrictions/food allergies/special diet/what you cannot eat or drink
- (Any reasonable answer)

Question 3 - 20 marks

- (a) At what time will the concert start? (1 x 2 marks)
- 6 p.m.
- (b) Apart from the ID card, what item will the staff check? (1 x 2 marks)
- tickets
- (c) **Two** activities are **NOT** allowed during the concert. Name **one** of them. (1 x 2 marks)
- eating; taking photos
- (Answer any one of the two)
- (d) Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) According to the concert regulations, one can drive to the concert.		✓ (3 marks)
(ii) According to the concert regulations, one can take a bus to the concert.	✓ (3 marks)	
(iii) If it rains, the staff will supply concert goers with an umbrella.		✓ (3 marks)
(iv) There are 10 bathrooms in total.	✓ (3 marks)	

- (e) On which side is the female bathroom located? (1 x 2 marks)

right

Question 4 - 24 marks

- (a) According to the text, which **two** types of tea are more commonly consumed in China during warm weather? (2 x 2 marks)

green tea; scented tea

- (b) According to the text, in which city was the first coffee shop opened in China? (1 x 2 marks)

Shanghai

- (c) The text mentioned **three** types of coffee shops in addition to an Italian coffee shop. Name **two** of them. (2 x 2 marks)

Italian coffee shops; American coffee shops; British coffee shops; Chinese coffee shops

(Answer any two of the four)

- (d) According to the text, what is the Chinese name for the “coffee tram”? Answer this question in **Chinese**. (1 x 2 marks)

咖啡电车

- (e) Fill in the blanks in the table below. You will find the characters for the first column in the previous text.

Character in the text (Answer in Chinese)	Meaning of the character (Answer in English)	Radical of the character (Answer in Chinese)	Meaning of the radical (Answer in English)
冷; 次 (1 mark)	cold; verbal measure word (1 mark)	冫	ice; cold (1 mark)
馆	shop; house (1 mark)	饣	food (1 mark)
辆 (1 mark)	The measure word for vehicles	车 (1 mark)	car; vehicle (1 mark)
喝; 咖; 啡 (1 mark)	to drink; coffee (1 mark)	口 (1 mark)	mouth

WRITING - 80 MARKS

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING

Circle errors of characters in red. Only circle the first occurrence of this error.

Use wavy lines for grammatical mistakes.

Use underlines for substitutes of characters.

Marks for Question 5/6 are broken down as follows:

- Communication = 20 marks
- Language = 20 marks

The candidate must deal with three tasks. Each task should be credited as soon as it is encountered in the answer by inserting 1, 2, 3 in the left-hand margin.

The mark awarded under the two headings (communication and language) is then determined by reference to the marking grids below.

Typically a candidate will not go beyond band 2 if they only deal with two of the three tasks and band one if they only deal with one of the three tasks.

The bands are describing the typical characteristics of work in that band. The consequence of the response falling short with respect to one of these criteria does not necessarily move the mark to the next band down if, for instance, the response is comfortably meeting or exceeding the standard with respect to the other characteristics.

MARKING GRID

Questions 5 & 6	Communication (Task Response & Coherence)
14 to 20 marks High level of achievement	1. Material easily comprehensible 2. Clearly conveyed intention and purpose 3. Good or excellent achievement of the task/s 4. Mostly relevant details provided in context
8 to 13 marks Moderate level of achievement	1. Material slightly to reasonably comprehensible 2. Intention and purpose comprehensible 3. Adequate achievement of the task/s 4. Some relevant details provided
0 to 7 marks Low level of achievement	1. Material is incomprehensible or barely comprehensible 2. Intention and purpose barely comprehensible or not comprehensible at all 3. Barely adequate achievement of the task/s or not adequate at all 4. None or few relevant details provided

Question 5 & 6	Language (Lexical Response, Accuracy & Grammatical Range)
14 to 20 marks High level of achievement	1. Sufficient or good range of lexis to complete the task/s 2. Simple but mostly correct grammatical structures 3. Mostly correct word order 4. Some or no mistakes in characters, but do not significantly impede meaning 5. Very few to no substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...) (Up to 3 substitutes for Q5, and up to 6 substitutes for Q6)
8 to 13 marks Moderate level of achievement	1. Limited range of lexis but adequate to complete the task/s 2. Limited use of repeated grammatical structures with occasional mistakes 3. Some mistakes in word order, but do not impede meaning 4. Frequent mistakes in characters which do not or slightly impede meaning 5. Some substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...) (Up to 5 substitutes for Q5, and up to 10 substitutes for Q6)
0 to 7 marks Low level of achievement	1. Insufficient range of lexis, not adequate to complete the task/s 2. Limited use of repeated grammatical structures with many mistakes 3. Some or many mistakes in word order, which impede meaning 4. Frequent mistakes in characters, which impede meaning significantly 5. Frequent substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...) (More than 5 substitutes for Q5, and more than 10 substitutes for Q6)

LISTENING COMPREHENSION - 100 MARKS

When the answer should be English/Irish: award 50% of marks for using language other than English/Irish.

When the answer should be Mandarin Chinese: award 50% of marks for using language other than Mandarin Chinese.

Section A 15 marks

1. (a) What is Mark's mother doing now? (1 x 3 marks)
having breakfast
- (b) What time is it in China now? (1 x 3 marks)
6 p.m.
- (c) Where is Mark's mother at the moment? (1 x 3 marks)
Ireland
2. What is the weather like in Beijing? (1 x 3 marks)
good
3. Where did Mark go with his friends in the morning? (1 x 3 marks)
bookshop

Section B: 15 marks

1. (a) What does Ma Yan want to do? (1 x 3 marks)
to buy a new plane ticket
- (b) Which gate did Ma Yan go to? (1 x 3 marks)
70 / seventy
2. (a) To which city does Ma Yan want to go? (1 x 3 marks)
Dublin
- (b) What is Ma Yan's occupation? (1 x 3 marks)
student
3. How much does the afternoon flight cost? (1 x 3 marks)
800 (euros) / € 800

Section C: 18 marks

1. What subjects does Maria study? Name **one** of them. (1 x 3 marks)

business; Chinese

(Answer any one of the two)

2. (a) Where is Maria from? (1 x 3 marks)

Spain

- (b) How does Maria study with her friends? Give **one** example. (1 x 3 marks)

chatting in Chinese; singing Chinese songs; watching Chinese films

(Answer any one of the three)

3. Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) Maria went to China for the first time in 2023.	✓ (3 marks)	
(ii) Maria was able to write Chinese Characters during the first trip.		✓ (3 marks)
(iii) In 2025 Maria went to China with her classmates.		✓ (3 marks)

Section D: 21 marks

1. (a) How old is Christian? (1 x 3 marks)

19 / nineteen

- (b) What **two** drinks can Christian make? (2 x 3 marks)

fruit tea; milk tea (bubble tea)

2. (a) Christian can speak three languages. Name **one** of them. (1 x 3 marks)

Irish; English; Chinese

(Answer any one of the three)

- (b) Why will Christian go to the hospital tomorrow? (1 x 3 marks)

toothache

3. (a) On which day does Christian work in the flower store? (1 x 3 marks)

Sunday

- (b) What additional skill does Christian have? (1 x 3 marks)

driving

Section E: 15 marks

1. Which season is it now? (1 x 3 marks)

summer

2. Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) Finn likes the spring and autumn in Ireland.	✓ (3 marks)	
(ii) Finn does not like rainy days.		✓ (3 marks)
(iii) Finn likes to travel by plane.		✓ (3 marks)

3. How does Finn celebrate Christmas? (1 x 3 marks)

stays with his family

Section F: 16 marks

1. (a) What is Wang Chen eating? (2 x 2 marks)

rice; egg

- (b) Who made the food for Wang Chen? (1 x 3 marks)

his father

2. (a) What fruit does Emma eat today? (1 x 3 marks)

apple

- (b) Emma has **two** classes in the afternoon. Name **one** of them. (1 x 3 marks)

maths; PE

(Answer any one of the two)

3. Which sport is Wang Chen going to play in the afternoon? (1 x 3 marks)

basketball

Appendix 1

CD Script

Section A

You will hear a video call between Mark and his mother.

Mark: 妈妈，你在干什么？

妈妈：我在吃早饭。Mark，你吃早饭了吗？

Mark: 我在中国，我这里是下午六点，我刚刚吃了晚饭。

妈妈：哦，我忘记了。爱尔兰现在是上午十点。

妈妈：你还在上海吗？

Mark: 没有，我现在在北京。

妈妈：北京天气怎么样？

Mark: 北京天气很好。

妈妈：你今天做了什么？

Mark: 上午我和朋友一起去了书店。你呢，你今天要做什么？

妈妈：早饭后，我想去超市买东西。

Mark: 好的。

Section B

You will hear a conversation between Ma Yan and the check-in staff at Beijing Airport.

staff: 您好。

Ma Yan: 你好，我要买新的机票，因为我没坐上飞机。

staff: 哦？请问为什么？

Ma Yan: 我要去 17 号门，但是，我去了 70 号门，飞机飞走了。

staff: 好的，请问您去哪里？

Ma Yan: 我去爱尔兰都柏林。

staff: 你是学生吗？

Ma Yan: 是的，我是学生。

staff: 我们有上午的飞机，六百欧；下午的飞机，八百欧。

Ma Yan: 我想坐下午的飞机。谢谢！

staff: 好的。

Section C

You will hear Maria introducing herself.

你好，我叫 Maria。我学习商业和中文。我学中文六年了。我觉得中文很有意思。

我是西班牙人。在爱尔兰我有很多朋友。我们一起学习中文。我们用中文聊天，唱中文歌，看中文电影。

2023 年，我第一次去中国。我会说一点儿中文，但是我不会写汉字。2025 年，我和我的家人又去了中国。这次去中国，我觉得我的中文很好。我们认识了很多中国朋友。

Section D

You will hear a part-time job interview between Christian and a bubble tea shop manager.

Manager: 你好，你叫什么名字？

Christian: 你好，我叫 Christian。我今年 19 岁。

manager: 欢迎来我们奶茶店。你会做什么？

Christian: 我会做水果茶和奶茶。

manager: 你会说什么语言？

Christian: 我会说爱尔兰语，英语和中文。但是我的中文不太好，

Manager: 没关系。我们明天会很忙。你明天可以来吗？

Christian: 明天不行，明天我要去医院，我的牙疼。

manager: 好的。你星期六和星期天可以工作吗？

Christian: 星期六可以，星期天不可以，因为星期天我要去花店工作。

manager: 好的，没问题。你会开车吗？

Christian: 我会。

manager: 太好了。

Section E

You will hear a podcast from Finn.

你好！我是 Finn。欢迎来到爱尔兰。我现在在 Galway。现在是夏天，天气 热。看！有很多人在海边游泳。也有很多人吃巧克力冰淇淋和绿茶冰淇淋。我喜欢爱尔兰的夏天。

我也喜欢爱尔兰的春天和秋天。春天和秋天常常下雨。我喜欢雨天。我喜欢坐火车去旅游。

爱尔兰的冬天很冷。但是我们都很开心。冬天有圣诞节，圣诞节我和家人在一起。

Section F

You will hear a conversation between Emma and Wang Chen during lunch time.

Emma: Wang Chen, 你在吃什么？看起来很好吃。

Chen: 我在吃米饭和鸡蛋。

Emma: 你会做中国菜吗？

Chen: 我不会，这个菜是我爸爸做的。

Chen: 你今天吃什么？

Emma: 我吃鸡肉三明治和苹果。

Chen: 看起来很不错。你下午有什么课？

Emma: 我下午有数学课和体育课。你呢？

Chen: 我下午没有课。

Emma: 为什么？

Chen: 因为我要去打篮球。

