



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Telephone: +353-90-644 2741. Fax: +353-90-647 3080. Web: www.examinations.ie. E-mail: orals@examinations.ie

S81/11

Junior Certificate Examination, 2012

Optional Oral Examinations in French, German, Italian and Spanish

To the Authorities of Post-Primary Schools.

1. There is provision for a school-based test of oral expression in French, German, Italian and Spanish for Junior Certificate. The test is optional.

The marks for the examination will be assigned as follows:-

<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>HIGHER LEVEL</u>	<u>ORDINARY</u>
	French/German Italian/Spanish	French/German Italian/Spanish
Listening Comprehension	140	140
Reading Comprehension	100	120
Written Expression	<u>80</u>	<u>60</u>
Total	320	320
Oral Expression Test (optional)	80	80

Candidates who take the Oral Expression Test will be graded out of 400, and those who do not take the Oral

Expression Test will be graded out of 320.

2. The test may be held at any time between 30 January and 30 March, 2012.
3. Teachers are free to choose a format other than those already suggested by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) and teachers in the same school may use a variety of formats if they wish. However, each pupil should be tested for between 5 and 10 minutes.
Where a teacher uses his/her own format, a copy of the format and its marking scheme should be forwarded to the SEC before the 1st May 2012. Copies of the formats already suggested by the SEC are available on our website www.examinations.ie under Schools/Oral Examinations/Junior Certificate Optional Orals.
4. Where a school opts to conduct an oral expression test, a list indicating the estimated order of oral proficiency of the candidates in the subject concerned should be submitted on the enclosed forms BR1 not later than 27 January, 2012.
5. The actual marks awarded for the test should be submitted on the enclosed forms BR2 as soon as the tests have been completed and before 20 April 2012 – please ensure that the correct examination number for each candidate is on this form. All marking sheets are to be retained in the school..
6. The oral tests of 6 candidates, or 10% whichever is greater should be recorded and the recordings retained in the school until requested by SEC.

Please also note:

- Candidates in a class may be entered irrespective of whether the entire class is taking the option.

- Examining of candidates is generally conducted on a class basis by the class teacher however there is some flexibility with this - a teacher other than the class teacher or a teacher from outside the school may be engaged to conduct the examination.
- There is no provision for payment in respect of examining.

Telephone enquiries relating to the subject matter of this circular may be made to; (090) 6442741, 6442742 and 6442745 and all details are on the SEC website www.examinations.ie under Schools/Oral Examinations.

Robert Cornally
Executive Officer
November 2011.