



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit  
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023

**Agricultural Science**  
Individual Investigative Study  
Coursework Reporting Booklet  
Common Level

100 marks

<b>Examination Number</b>	6 Digit Number
<b>Day and Month of Birth</b>	Format DD/MM

## Information for candidates, teachers and schools

### Completion of the report

- Your report on your Individual Investigative Study (IIS) must be completed in this booklet, using the prescribed structure. The booklet has been supplied to you in Microsoft Word (.docx) format. You must submit your completed booklet in this format. It is your responsibility to ensure that all electronic material submitted is free from viruses etc., so that the file can be opened for assessment.
- You must ensure that any text you enter into boxes in this document is visible. Text may overflow and disappear if you type beyond the end of the box or copy and paste text into a box. Any work that is not visible in the box will not be seen by an examiner and will not be awarded any marks.
- **Examiners will only mark work that is submitted as outlined in this booklet.**
- The five sections of your project must not exceed a total length of 2,500 words, excluding references and bibliography. The booklet gives a suggested range for the number of words for each section of the report, and these are listed in the guidance on the report structure below. The total number of pages of your booklet must not exceed twenty.
- You must not change the structure or format of the booklet in any way and should adhere to the following formatting guidelines:
  - The text should be in Arial, font size 12.
  - You may make use of text editing features such as italics, bullets, etc.
  - Document margins have been set and should not be changed. The text margins for each A4 page are:
    - left margin 20 mm
    - right margin 20 mm
    - top margin 20 mm
    - bottom margin 30 mm
- You are not allowed to change these settings or otherwise circumvent these restrictions which are set to facilitate online marking. You are also not allowed to attach or include links to any other material.
- An image can be any relevant tables, graphs, charts, diagrams and photographs. They can be inserted where appropriate in this booklet. When referring in the body of the report, to any specific image, then the image must be properly labelled (Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.). Images should not be used as a means to include additional text. It is advisable not to use images where individuals in these images may be identifiable. The total number of images allowed throughout this booklet is ten. The inclusion of videos are not allowed.
- Penalties may apply where the overall word count, number of images and page count is exceeded.
- At the end of the booklet, you must also include references and bibliography in the space provided. You must reference any information used in your report, such as: publications including books, professional journals and government reports; online sources and other types of media; specialist organisations and relevant individuals. To include such material without properly referencing the source will be considered plagiarism.
- You should keep all notes in relation to coursework (such as records of the planning, research and execution of the project), until the appeals process has concluded. Such

material may also need to be made available to staff of the State Examinations Commission if the authenticity of your work is called into question.

- The State Examinations Commission will provide further information in relation to the appropriate file name to use and how your school will upload the digital coursework to the school portal in due course.
- Your Individual Investigative Study must be backed up by the school on a secure encrypted storage system until the State Examinations Commission is satisfied that the projects have been received and are accessible. This will require material being retained until the examination process is complete, including until after the appeal process is completed.

### **Authentication**

- The project and report must be your own individual work – authenticated by yourself, your teacher and the management authority of your school. Authentication is an important part of how we in the State Examinations Commission ensure fairness to everybody in the assessment of coursework.
- Your teacher must supervise your completion of both the project and the reporting booklet. If your teacher cannot confirm that the Individual Investigative Study is your own work, and that you carried out the project and completed the report under his or her supervision, the State Examinations Commission will not accept it for assessment. In that case, you will forfeit the marks for this component of the examination. Teachers and the authorities of schools are familiar with the detailed requirements to ensure that practical and project work is valid for examination purposes. You should comply fully with all requests that are made by the teacher and the school in order to enable authentication of your work.
- Any case of suspected copying, plagiarism, improper assistance, or procurement of work prepared by another party will be thoroughly investigated. These actions are breaches of examination rules and attract the penalties described in the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools. The penalties include: loss of the marks for the coursework, loss of the subject, loss of the entire examination in all subjects, or being debarred from the Certificate Examinations in subsequent years. There may be serious consequences for any persons who provides you with inappropriate assistance, as this is an offence under the Education Act 1998.
- **Note:** Responsibility for complying with examination requirements rests with **you**, the candidate. If the requirements are not followed, your teacher and school will have no choice but to bring this to the attention of the State Examinations Commission.

## Report structure and mark allocations

Section	Indicative content to be included	Marks
<p><b>Introduction and background research</b></p> <p>Suggested range between 300 and 500 words</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give a title to your Individual Investigative Study.</li> <li>▪ Identify the agricultural enterprise chosen as the context for the study and state the topic selected for investigation.</li> <li>▪ State the research question, and make clear how it relates to the theme of the brief and the chosen enterprise.</li> <li>▪ Outline what the initial research you carried out tells you about the topic and the research question. Include references. (Use short in-line citations here, with full references at the end of the report).</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>The investigative process</b></p> <p>Suggested range between 500 and 800 words</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describe the specific experiments and other relevant investigative activities undertaken, stating clearly the purpose of each and describing how it was carried out.</li> <li>▪ Make clear what specific hypotheses were developed and tested.</li> <li>▪ Describe in detail how you gathered the data.</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>
<p><b>Results, analysis, and conclusions</b></p> <p>Suggested range between 600 and 1000 words</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Present the data and results from your investigation. Use tables, graphs, and photographs as appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Analyse and interpret the data, results, and other information.</li> <li>▪ Make judgements and draw conclusions from your analysis.</li> <li>▪ Take due account of any relevant limitations of your study.</li> <li>▪ Link the conclusions clearly to the research question.</li> </ul>	<b>35</b>
<p><b>Reflection on the study</b></p> <p>Suggested range between 150 and 200 words</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reflect on the insights gained from engagement with the study and comment on:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The degree to which the research question was answered</li> <li>○ Possible changes or alternative approaches that might have made the investigation better</li> <li>○ Future directions and possible areas of further investigation</li> <li>○ Significance of the outcomes of the study for the agri-food sector and/or the study of agricultural science.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>References</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full references for all sources used during the study and/or referred to in the report.</li> </ul> <p>This section will not attract a separate mark. Any deficiencies in referencing will be taken account of when marking the relevant section of the report.</p>	–
<p><b>Communication and innovation</b></p>	<p><b>This is not a distinct section of the report.</b></p> <p>Marks will be awarded for evidence of taking an individual approach, for coherence and for innovative thinking.</p>	<b>10</b>

## Individual Investigative Study Title

Type into the space below the title of your Individual Investigative Study.

Click here to enter text.

### Word count

Complete the following table only after you have finished your report.

Section	Number of words
<b>Introduction and background research</b> (Suggested range between 300 and 500)	Click here to enter text.
<b>The investigative process</b> (Suggested range between 500 and 800)	Click here to enter text.
<b>Results, analysis, and conclusions</b> (Suggested range between 600 and 1000)	Click here to enter text.
<b>Reflection on the study</b> (Suggested range between 150 and 200)	Click here to enter text.
<b>Total</b>	Click here to enter text.

Section	Marks ( <i>maximum 10 marks</i> )
<b>Communication and innovation</b>	

## Introduction and background research

20 marks

*Maximum 500 words*

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**Note:** text will not flow automatically onto the next page. You must click in the box on the next page to continue typing. If you copy and paste text into the box above, some of it may not be visible. Any work that is not visible will not be seen by an examiner and will not be awarded any marks.

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## The investigative process

25 marks

*Maximum 800 words*

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## Results, analysis and conclusions

35 marks

*Maximum 1000 words*

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## Reflections on the study

10 marks

*Maximum 200 words*

Click here to enter text.

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## References

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