

Circular S/IF/97/11

September 2011

To: The Principals of Post Primary Schools (NOT applicable to FE or QCF centres)

For circulation to: All Heads of Modern Languages, Teachers of OLA Modern Languages, Examinations Officers

OLA: Important Information on Assessment Arrangements **Temporary Re-introduction of Paper based tests for 2011-2012**

Dear Colleagues

This circular provides important information to centres on the conduct of OLA for the coming year, 2011-2012.

Thank you to all of you who took part in the May series of OLA in 2011. We are aware that some centres experienced some difficulties in the speed of both downloading and marking the tests. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to you and your candidates for any inconvenience caused. In order to correct the issues of speed we will now carry out a full investigation and will then take appropriate steps to improve all aspects of the system. We would like to thank you for your patience and determination throughout the May series.

I am pleased to advise you that for the winter and summer series of OLA, 2011-2012, centres will be able to select a Paper based assessment option.

During the coming year we will work to improve the candidate and centre experience of OLA, and it is likely that there will be a restricted pilot of any amendments to the system in summer 2012. There will however be a paper option throughout the coming year. We hope that you will avail of this option and thank you in advance for your continued interest in OLA.

Practical Arrangements

Entries

Candidates can be entered using EDI as follows:

Winter series: 7-21 October 2011

Summer Series: 7-21 February 2012



Training

Details of training for OLA will be circulated in the next few weeks and will take place in October 2011.

Request for indication of plans for winter 2011

In order to facilitate the production of examination papers for the winter series, we would be grateful if you would let us know if you intend to enter candidates for winter series. Please send an e-mail indicating centre number, anticipated entry numbers for each level and language. This will enable us to prepare all materials needed. If you have any queries in relation to this circular please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

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