



Dear Ciarán,

On behalf of the Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association, I would like to commend you for the excellent examination papers which seemed to strike the right balance at all levels for this year's Leaving Certificate examinations. 2020/2021 has been a year like no other, and at all branch and council meetings that I attended in relation to the 2021 examinations it was repeated that the SEC had done a good job. Congratulations to all involved.

The time given to students to think and reflect and try different methods and approaches to questions was extremely beneficial to all candidates. This was created by the inclusion of choice for the first time, and despite the obvious reasons for doing this in 2021, we would ask that you seriously consider this for subsequent LC papers. Mathematics is a subject that requires time and thought for so many students, and we welcome the seriously reduced levels of stress on students and teachers alike, while not compromising the standard or integrity of the papers.

There are a few points that the IMTA would like to raise at this point which apply directly to the draft marking schemes. There are other points which we would like to make in greater detail for subsequent papers, but these points are not pressing at the time being. We will communicate these in September 2021 when the LC results have been announced and the appeals process concluded.

For now, however, the following are the points we would like you to discuss in advance of any marking conferences:

1. ATAL P1

Q1(b) Will the use of De Moivre be acceptable here, and if so, what level of accuracy will students be required to use? Will ± 1.99 and 2.99 , and other versions be acceptable given that the question specifies $a, b \in R$.

Q10 – it is felt that due to the choice element of the paper (which we highly commend and implore you to consider for all subsequent LC examination papers), that it would be important to 'frontload' the marks for part (a). We feel many students will struggle massively on Q10(b) and may often leave the response to this part of the question blank. While it is important that students select their questions properly, we feel this question may have caused some students to re-think their question selection having already spent a lot of time doing part (a).



2. ATAL P2

Q8 (c) (ii) It is unfortunate that the question does not stipulate that the keys are drawn 'without replacement' particularly when this is clearly stated in (ii). This may not be an issue, but it is worth considering when drafting a scheme.

Q10 (c) Should the question have mentioned mutually exclusive events? Could this lead to unusual interpretations?

There are no issues that need highlighting in any of the ATGL papers, 1 or 2, the ATBL or LCA Mathematical Applications papers.

Thanking you in advance and every best wish for the challenging work ahead during the summer months. Perhaps you would be able to address our members later in the year in relation to areas of students' strengths and weaknesses to enable us to better prepare our students for the state examinations in mathematics.

Thanking you,

Ciarán Duffy,
Chairperson,
IMTA