

Leaving Certificate Ukrainian Information Sheet



Introduction:

As of June 2025, it is possible for students who meet certain criteria to sit the Leaving Certificate non-curricular examination paper in Ukrainian.

Ukrainian is the first non-EU and non-curricular examination paper to be offered by the State Examinations Commission.

What is a non-curricular Leaving Certificate language examination paper?

Non-curricular languages are offered as examination papers, not typically as subject areas with tuition within schools, and have only reading and written assessments. These examination papers are offered at higher level only.

What is the difference between curricular and non-curricular languages?

In contrast to the non-curricular examination papers, students of curricular languages generally undertake classroom instruction over a number of years and then sit a Leaving Certificate examination in that subject.

Curricular languages include Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish. Ancient Greek, Hebrew Studies, and Latin are also available as curricular languages.

None of the curricular languages are available in a non-curricular format.

What other Leaving Certificate languages are non-curricular?

Any European Union language not offered as a curricular language is available as a non-curricular language paper option: e.g. Czech, Dutch, Hungarian, Romanian.

Who can sit a non-curricular Leaving Certificate language paper, such as Ukrainian?

According to criteria available on the State Examinations Commission website, students may opt to be examined in a non-curricular language if they meet certain criteria, including:

- Speaking the language in which they opt to be examined in as a mother tongue
- Have followed a programme of study leading to the Leaving Certificate
- Be taking Leaving Certificate English
- Candidates may undertake examination in one non-curricular language subject only

How can I best prepare for the non-curricular examination?

While sample examination papers for non-curricular languages are not published, it is expected that the format and structure for Ukrainian will be similar to other non-curricular language examinations.

Past papers for non-curricular examinations can be found [here](#).

We recommend that you familiarise yourself with the examination material archive available on the State Examinations Commission website [here](#).

What is the model for the non-curricular examination papers?

The model for the non-curricular language examination papers is based on the First Foreign Language final written paper of the European Baccalaureate.

How to register for Leaving Certificate Ukrainian?

School candidates can register for the non-curricular language examinations through their schools. Speak to staff at the school reception or to a Guidance Counsellor in your school to find out more.

Candidates studying outside of school or non-school attending candidates (i.e. external candidates) can use the external candidate application form available on the SEC website [here](#).

How do these languages work for the purpose of CAO points?

All Leaving Certificate languages, curricular and non-curricular, count for the purposes of accumulating CAO points.

It is also a possibility, under certain conditions, for learners to undertake both a curricular and a non-curricular language examination in the Leaving Certificate.

Further details available [here](#).