

Rannóg Pholasáí,  
 Curaclaim agus Measúnachta,  
 An Roinn Oideachais agus  
 Scileanna,  
 Sráid Mhaoilbhríde  
 Baile Atha Cliath 1



Curriculum and Assessment  
 Policy Unit,  
 Department of Education  
 and Skills  
 Marlborough Street  
 Dublin 1

**To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Second Level Schools and CEOs of ETBs**

**Leaving Certificate Music for the cohort commencing study in August 2015 and presenting for examination in 2017**

**Circular Letter 0037/2015**

### 1. Conventions for Chord Naming

Following discussions between the Department of Education and Skills (DES), the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and the State Examinations Commission (SEC) it has been decided that, with effect from August 2015, the following conventions shall apply for chord naming in the delivery of Leaving Certificate Music. The rationale for these adjustments is to standardise the system of Chord suffix notation for all candidates. The following conventions, all of which are among the many systems in common use, will apply in respect of the examination of Leaving Certificate Music at Higher and Ordinary level for the 2017 Leaving Certificate examinations and thereafter.

**Key: C major**

**Gléas: C mór**

<b>Chord symbol</b>	C	D <sub>m</sub>	E <sub>m</sub>	F	G	A <sub>m</sub>	B <sup>°</sup>
<b>Siombail an chorda</b>	C	D <sub>m</sub>	E <sub>m</sub>	F	G	A <sub>m</sub>	B <sup>°</sup>
<b>Roman numeral</b>	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii <sup>°</sup>
<b>An uimhir Rómhánach</b>	I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii <sup>°</sup>

**Key: C minor**

**Gléas: C mion**

<b>Chord symbol</b>	C <sub>m</sub>	D <sup>°</sup>	E <sub>b</sub> <sup>+</sup>	F <sub>m</sub>	G	A <sub>b</sub>	B <sup>°</sup>
<b>Siombail an chorda</b>	C <sub>m</sub>	D <sup>°</sup>	E <sub>b</sub> <sup>+</sup>	F <sub>m</sub>	G	A <sub>b</sub>	B <sup>°</sup>
<b>Roman numeral</b>	i	ii <sup>°</sup>	III <sup>+</sup>	iv	V	VI	vii <sup>°</sup>
<b>An uimhir Rómhánach</b>	i	ii <sup>°</sup>	III <sup>+</sup>	iv	V	VI	vii <sup>°</sup>

As a consequence all candidates presenting for the Leaving Certificate Examinations in Music in 2017 and thereafter will be expected to use the suffix ‘<sup>o</sup>’ to indicate diminished chords and ‘<sup>+</sup>’ to indicate augmented chords as exemplified above for the keys of C major and C minor”:

## **2. General**

Please bring this circular to the attention of all music teachers in the school and also provide a copy to members of the school board of management.

This circular may also be accessed at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie).

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Breda Naughton  
Principal Officer  
Curriculum & Assessment Policy Unit  
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