

Electrical Apprentice Phase 4 + Phase 6 June Exams 2026

Apprentice Electricians

Electrical Apprentice Revision Courses Ireland 2026

Trade of Electrician - Phase 2 + Phase 4 + Phase 6

Electrical Exam Burnout

Exam Week has just ended for electrical apprentices all over Ireland, and shock and dismay have resulted in burnout for many apprentices and staff in our colleges because of the dysfunction of the exam system being experienced there this year.

Apprentices have been questioned on course material that was never taught in class, and new exam questions have appeared for the first time this June that have never been asked before.

For example, "American Electrical Symbols" have been questioned this year for the first time, without prior notice, and they were not mentioned in classes around the country.

Other more complex questions have been asked that are more likely to be seen on Electrical Engineering exams rather than Electrical Apprenticeship exams were on the paper.

Some lecturers are incensed by the development as they see themselves under scrutiny by higher management for not being up to date with the new changes and for not teaching the new material in class; in other words, they are guilty of not being mind readers.

Our closest college, The Atlantic Technological University, issued a statement in response to the furore, stating:

"Dear Student,

Due to the large number of emails received about the Electrical Apprenticeship.

If any of the learning outcomes were not addressed by your lecturers during your off-the-job training at ATU, then this will be considered when your assessment papers are being corrected. "

I see this as an admission of guilt and an attempt to find a way out of a bad situation. I applaud the very quick response by ATU to close the stable door after the horse has bolted, but nevertheless they are attempting to prevent a bad situation from becoming worse.

I would urge all apprentices who found themselves in this situation to email the college and make a formal complaint specifying the questions that they could not answer because the course material was not covered in class.

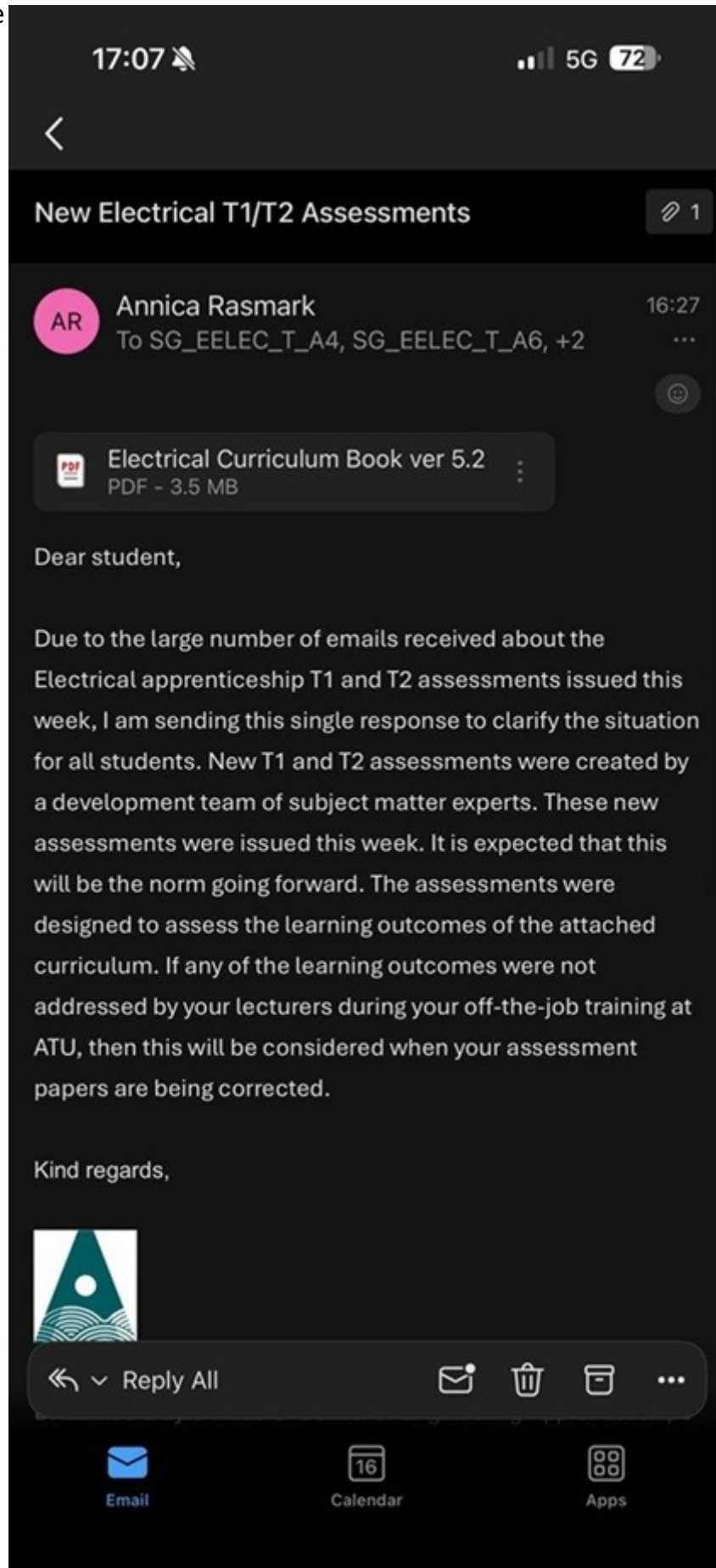
There needs to be a student liaison officer in each college and SOLAS Training Centres to look after these blunders and other blunders that apprentices have to put up with daily as they try to navigate their education and careers.

I have spoken to some of these victims, and they are back at work already and unable to represent themselves or to articulate their complaint adequately to save their exam; they just want to keep their heads down and hope for the best.

We seem to half do everything in this country, then we wonder why so many young people emigrate as soon as they graduate. They have no voice in this country; they are not appreciated here; there is only one way out: emigration.

Tony Grant, June 2026 (theweepaper.ie and on fb page)

Note message
from ATU



Electrical Failure June 2026



Electrical Apprentices who sat their exams in June 2026 complain that they were examined on material in the exams that they did not cover in class. As a result, there was a 70% failure rate in one college that I know of, and as apprentices from other colleges are telling me about the same problem, I must assume the results are the same throughout the country.

I contacted Marian Harkin TD and Minister with responsibility for skills, and she is investigating the issue, saying there seems to be an anomaly here.

I am urging all affected apprentices to request a review of their exam paper and record the questions on the paper so that we can substantiate their complaint.

Some lecturers have admitted they did not cover the material in class, and one lecturer said adjustments would be made when marking the exams; this did not happen.

Apprentices who emailed the colleges for a review of their paper are being told to wait until the academic staff return in September and have it out with them. Earlier, the same college in Cork said non-academic staff, in work at present, will facilitate this in two weeks' time upon request.

Come September, the academic staff will have a new batch of apprentices to teach and will have no time to clean up this mess and they may refuse to deal with it as it may be outside their remit to do so.

Also, apprentices are back at work, and some may be out of the country by then.

In the past, this problem occurred at the post-primary level, where sudden changes were made to exams. The problem was solved at the assessment level by adjusting the exam marks to maintain the percentage pass and fail levels of the previous year.

It is acknowledged that the changes in themselves were not wrong, but they should have been introduced gradually so as to give everybody in the system time to adjust to the changes.

The Electrical Union has abandoned their apprentices a long time ago, and no alternative system has been put in place to represent apprentices of all skills, as they navigate their way through their apprenticeship.

We need an Ombudsman for Apprentices to deal with the rights of all apprenticeship skills in the country.

Apprentices are back fending for themselves as they did back in the 1950's. It is the survival of the fittest out there, only now we have a nice new word for it, "neo-liberalism"

Neo-liberalism is the rot within that will destroy our values and our way of life as we know it.

It gives cover to those with economic power to treat others with less power like sheep.

Tony Grant, July 2026 (theweepaper.ie and on fb page)

Urgent Action required by apprentices effected by this issue:

- (1) email your college and ask for a date to **REVIEW** your exam paper.
- (2) Bring a notepad to record the questions and marks that you got for each question.
- (3) You are allowed to bring a witness but not a mobile into the room.
- (4) Collect evidence to verify that material that you were questioned on was not taught in the class during your 11 week course.
- (5) You now have the evidence to **APPEAL** the assessment of your paper. (after consultation with others)
- (6) Contact the Minister with responsibility for Skills and ask her to implement a nation wide fix for the problem by applying the percentage pass rate for previous years and so prevent all this hassel for apprentices all over the country having to appeal the assessment to fix a problem not of their making.

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Please keep me updated on WhatsApp (0862379704) and on tonygrant.sparks@gmail.com so that I can continue to update this story as it progresses.