

# First Year Subject Choice

A large, full-canopied green tree stands in the center of a path that splits into two directions, leading through a vast field of purple lavender under a dramatic, cloudy sky.

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# Compulsory Subjects

The following subjects are termed compulsory, as they are studied to Junior Certificate level by **all students**.

- English
- Geography
- History
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Religion
- Science
- French or Spanish
- Civic, Social, and Political Education (CSPE)
- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
- Physical Education (PE)
- Wellbeing/Digital Literacy

All are taken as examination subject in the Junior Certificate, with the exception of Physical Education, Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Civic, Social, and Political Education (CSPE) and Wellbeing/Digital Literacy



# Optional subjects

The following subjects are termed optional, as they do not all have to be studied to Junior Certificate level.

- Visual Art
- Business Studies
- Wood Technology
- Technology
- Music
- Graphics

In First Year every student studies **all** of these subjects.

However, students decide which **two** of these subjects they wish to continue to study in Second Year.



# What's the big deal?



- Your choices **now** and affect what you can study to **Leaving Certificate** level, and therefore affect what you can **study in college**
- if you chose to give up Graphics, it may be very difficult to study Design and Communication Graphics at Leaving Certificate Level.
- if you chose to give up Visual Art, it may be very difficult to study Art at Leaving Certificate Level.

What to Consider?

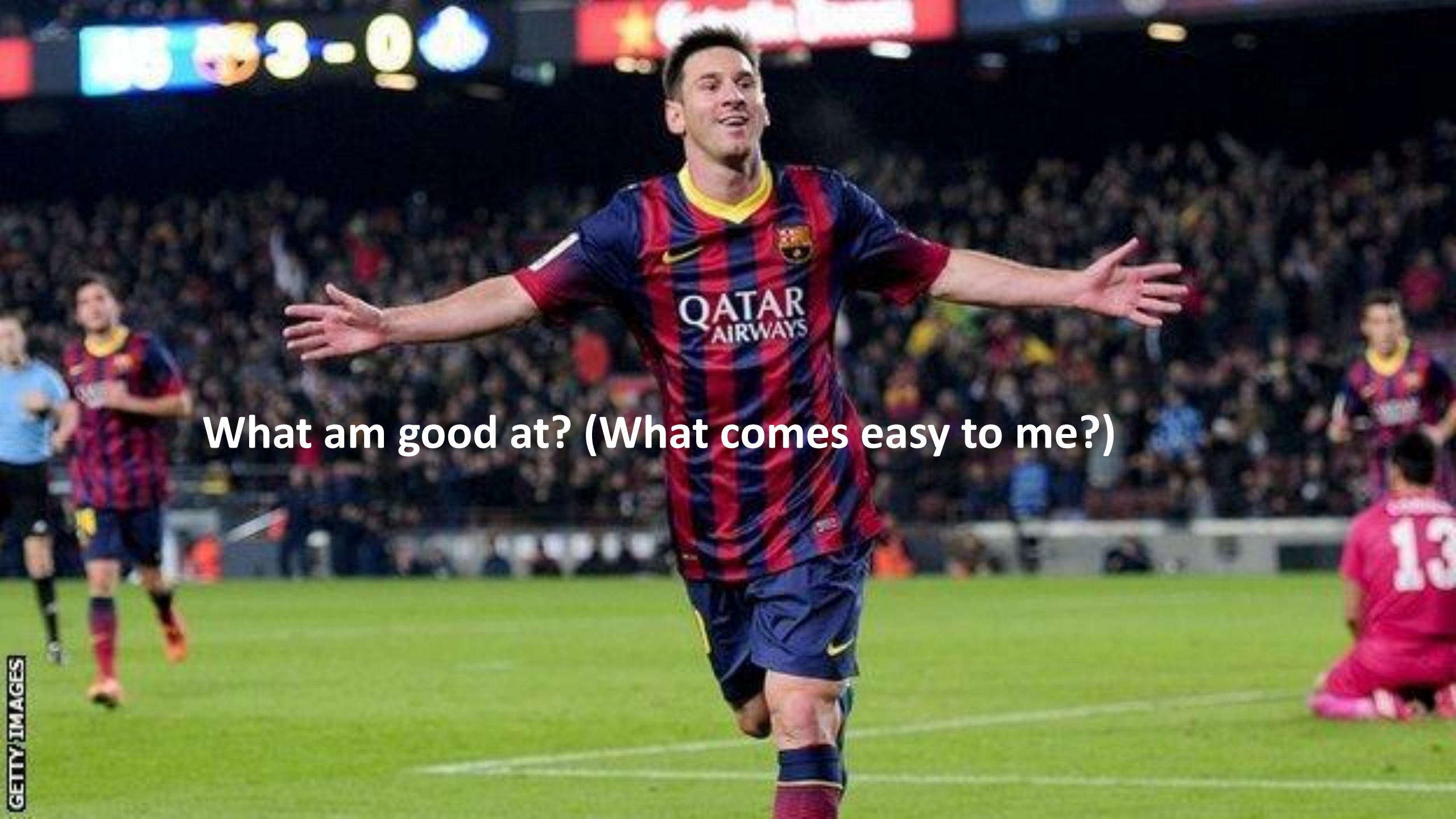
What do I Enjoy?



What to Consider?

What am I interested in?





What am good at? (What comes easy to me?)



Things not to do  
when Picking  
Subjects

**Thinking you can  
mess in that class**



You will learn very  
little and regret it

All my Friends are doing.....

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Think for yourself!

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is looking upwards and to the left. In the background, a chalkboard features a glowing lightbulb drawn in white chalk. The lightbulb has a yellow glow and several short lines radiating from it to represent light. The woman's right hand is raised, with her index finger pointing towards the lightbulb.

**You like the teacher**

**Make sure you like the  
subject also**

**(The teacher may be  
switched or leave)**

A close-up photograph of a person's right hand holding a black pencil with a red and green eraser. The hand is positioned over a sheet of white lined paper. The pencil is held in a tripod grip. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

Lets do a small exercise

**Write your name with your non writing hand**

Now write your name  
with your good hand



Now think how did it feel in each situation?





Purpose of  
exercise.....

Your good hand  
comes naturally  
to you



When  
choosing  
subjects  
pick what  
comes  
naturally  
to you

1. It's easier and more comfortable
2. What make life difficult for yourself

Lets look at each subject

MUSIC

TECHNICAL  
GRAPHICS



WOOD

ART



May be required by some third level Music courses

### The Junior Cycle Course and Exam

What is the Junior Certificate Music exam like?

In Music you will be examined in three ways:

- 2 CBA's
- a practical exam of a Performance
- a combined aural and written exam Composing Skills and Listening Skills

### Career Possibilities

Media work or studies; Teaching; Sound Engineering; Public Relations; Communications; Performance; Entertainment Industry; Speech Therapy; Film and Television Director; Occupational Therapist; Actor; Aerobics; Disc Jockey; Folklore; Instrument maker; and music at third level.

### Useful Information

Music at Leaving Certificate level continues with the three areas covered in Junior Certificate.



## The Junior Cycle Course and Exam

May be required by some third level Engineering or Construction courses

What is the Junior Certificate Wood Technology exam like?

- Two CBA's: Wood science in our environment, and Self-analysis and evaluation
- A Project (70%)
- written examination – (30%).

## Career Possibilities

Auctioneering; Electrical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Civil and Structural Engineering; Construction Industry; Interior Design; Architecture: Building Services Engineer; Quantity Surveyor; Town Planner; Construction Teacher; Property Development; Bricklayer; Decorator; Sheet Metal Worker; Carpenter; Plasterer; Welder; Electrician; Plumber; Machine Operator; Stone Cutter; Slate/Roof Tyler; Tool Maker; Glazier; Floor Tiler; Brickwork Restoration; Heating and Ventilation Technician; Firefighter; Insurance Claims.

## Useful Information

Materials Technology becomes Construction Studies Leaving Certificate level. The curriculum changes slightly with more of an emphasis on the entire construction process and less on woodwork specifically.

# GRAPHICS

May be required by some third level Architecture, Construction or Engineering courses

The Junior cycle Course and Exam

You will learn • how to produce drawings using drawing equipment, freehand sketches and computers • how to read and interpret drawings and diagrams • how graphics relate to the design and manufacture of products.

What is the Junior Certificate Graphics exam like?

- Two CBA's: Communicating through sketching, and Presentation of research
- A Project (30%)
- written examination – (70%).

Career Possibilities

Civil and Structural Engineering; Interior Design; Architecture; Building Services; Teaching; Aircraft Technician; Industrial Design; Motor Mechanic; Town Planner; Industrial Engineer; Apprenticeships; Structural Design; Mechanical Engineer; Carpenter; Bricklayer; and Printing.

Useful Information

It is very difficult to take up Design and Communication Graphics at Leaving Certificate level without studying technical graphics at Junior Certificate



May be required by some third level Art courses

### The Junior certificate Course and Exam

The assessment will comprise two Classroom-Based Assessments (one in second year; one in third year) and a state certified project. You will use a sketchpad throughout your three years in art.

### Career Possibilities

Marketing And Design in the Industrial, Commercial and Advertising Areas; Media Work in T.V. and Video Design Production; Fashion Design and Industry; Craft Businesses; Product Design; Architecture; Graphic Design; Occupational Therapist; Town Planning; Environmental Design; Teacher of Art; Marketing Merchandiser; Gallery and Museum Work; Interior Designer; Photographer.

### Useful Information

Leaving Certificate Art differs greatly from the Junior Certificate course. The exam is not based on project work, it has four parts, each with a separate paper as follows:

- (a) Imaginative Composition or Still Life 2½ hours 100 (25%)
- (b) Design / Craftwork 2½ / 5 hours 100 (25%)
- (c) Life Sketching 1 hour 50 (12.5%)
- (d) History and Appreciation of Art 2½ hours 150 (37.5%)



## The Junior certificate Course and Exam

Useful for business at third level but not an entry requirement.

**Personal Finance** -making informed decisions to effectively and responsibly manage your financial resources.

**Enterprise** - identify opportunities and develops an understanding of the financial, marketing and operational functions of an organisation.

**Our Economy** -understand the dynamic relationship between the local, national and international economic situation.

In second year- complete a group project on one of the above areas; in third year- 3 minute individual presentation demonstrating your understanding of real life business settings. After this presentation you will undertake a reflective assessment worth 10% of the SEC exam. The remaining SEC marks are awarded for a common level 2 hour exam.

## Career Possibilities

Banking; Accountancy; Administration; Clerical Work; Insurance; Stockbroker; Law; Customs and Excise; Management; Marketing; Sales; Stock Control; Credit Control; Taxation; Public Relations; and Teaching.

## Useful Information

Three subjects follow on from Junior Certificate Business Studies in Leaving Certificate: Accounting, Business, and Economics. Each one becomes more specific and allows you to concentrate more on the subject area you choose.



Can meet the entry requirement for a science subject for some Engineering courses.

### The Junior certificate Course and Exam

What is the Technology Junior Certificate exam like?

There are two parts to the exam:

- coursework - you will design and make a project based on a given design brief (instructions). This is worth 50% if you take Higher level and 60% if you take Ordinary level.
- written exam - you will also complete a written exam which is worth the remaining percentage.

### Career Possibilities

Similarly to the other technology subjects, related career areas include electrical and electronic engineering, computer programming, mechanical engineering, product design, and robotics.

### Useful Information

In Technology you will build upon the work you did in Maths in primary school, i.e. you will be working out problems and reading measurements on drawings. You will also be able to use the things you learned in Science. For example, you will have learned about various materials and where they are used. Technology is closely related to the other technology subjects; Technology Wood and Graphics. All the technology subjects involve practical skills, drawing skills and theory



Questions

