

Senior Cycle Subject Choice



Transition to Leaving Certificate 2026

Ms. Burke

Options in Senior Cycle



The Established Leaving Certificate

7 academic subjects is the norm

Subject choice is relevant for 4 subjects after core subjects

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP-Link Modules)

An **extra** subject with est. LC, recognised for points/CAO

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) (Youth Reach)

2 year certificate programme

Aims to prepare students for adult/working life

Recognised by Gardai, Civil Service, Apprenticeships, PLC's, but not in CAO

Leaving Certificate

Two-year programme that gives the opportunity to take seven subjects at Higher, Ordinary or Foundation Level

Foundation level is available in two subjects
-Gaeilge and Mathematics



Subjects Offered at Senior Cycle



Core Subjects

English

Irish

Mathematics

Non-Exam

Religion

PE

Option (one of)

LCVP

PE

4 Optional Subjects from a choice of 16

Science:

Physics

Chemistry

Biology

Agricultural Science

Applied Science:

DCG (Tec. Graphics)

Construction Studies

Technology

Languages:

French

Spanish

Social Studies:

History

Geography

Religious Education

Art

Music

Business:

Accounting

Business

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Minimum of 5 leaving certificate subjects

NO LONGER requires any subject combinations

2 Link Modules
Preparation for the world of work
Enterprise Education

Assessment 60% Project; 40% exam in May



Senior Cycle Subject Choice



When it comes to making subject choice, it is important to get advice and choose wisely.

Consider the big picture for the Leaving Certificate. There are:

- Core Subjects (Maths, English, Irish)
- Essential Subjects for certain third level courses (e.g. 3rd Language, Lab Science, Art etc.)
- Subjects a student likes, has an interest in and an aptitude for

Planning to go to College



You must satisfy 3 requirements

1. College Requirements (these can be the same or slightly less for Tertiary Degrees)
2. Specific Course Requirements (detailed in prospectus and on the Qualifax website)
3. Obtain the relevant number of points

In some cases, you must also undertake an assessment (aptitude test, audition, interview or submit a portfolio)

All subjects are equal in terms of points with one exception- e.g. An H1 in art is the same as an H1 in physics, or English etc. The exception is higher level maths which is awarded 25 bonus points once 40% is achieved in the exam (H6-H1, not H7)

College Entry Requirements



Honours Degree Requirements (Level 8)

Different Universities have different requirements

University of Galway, UCC, Maynooth University, UCD, DCU, UL, and Level 8 degrees in Institutes of Technology and Technological Universities require Two H5 (50-59%) and four O6 (40-49%) or H7 (30-39%)

Trinity College Dublin require Three H5 (50-59%) and Three O6 (40-49%) or H7 (30-39%)

Ordinary Degree Requirements (Level 7)

These vary from 5 passes to two H5 (50-59%) and four O6 (40-49%) or H7 (30-39%)

Higher Certificate (Level 6)

5 passes to include, for most courses, Irish or English, Mathematics and 3 additional subjects

College Entry Requirements - NUI



Passes in (O6/H7):

- ✓ Irish
- ✓ English
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Third Language (this requirement has been dropped for Engineering and some Science courses; Nursing; Law and Business in Maynooth University only; and in the NCAD, art or DCG can be used in place of a third language)
- ✓ Two additional subjects

Colleges in NUI:

- ✓ University College Dublin
- ✓ University College Cork
- ✓ University of Galway
- ✓ NUI Maynooth
- ✓ Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI)
- ✓ National College of Art and Design (NCAD)
- ✓ Shannon College of Hotel Management

College Entry Requirements



Trinity College Dublin University of Limerick

Subjects must include:

- ✓ English
- ✓ Mathematics*
- ✓ A Second Language (Irish or another language)
- ✓ 3 additional subjects

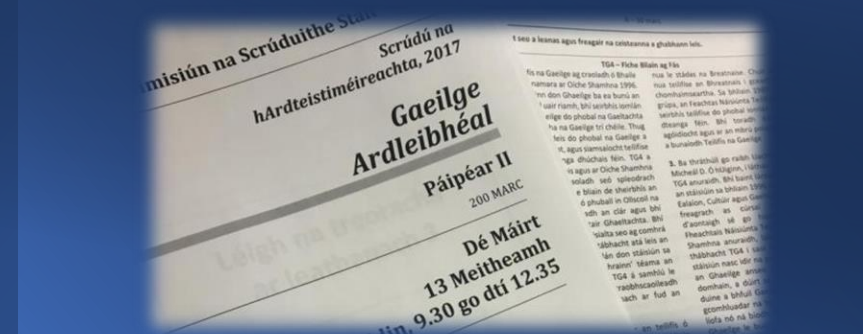
*in Trinity 88 courses accept foundation level maths (55 require ordinary level or higher level)

Dublin City University Technological Universities Institutes of Technology (Level 8)

Subjects must include:

- ✓ English or Irish
- ✓ Mathematics (not required for some Social Science/Arts/ Drama/Law courses, and some courses in the Institutes of Technology)
- ✓ 4 additional subjects

Irish Exemptions



For **Trinity College Dublin** and the **University of Limerick** you may only apply for an Irish exemption on the basis of a specific learning difficulty or disability. Therefore, if you have an DES Irish Exemption as a result of coming to Ireland after the age of 11, you must study a Spanish/French (or another language) to meet the second language requirement.

For **NUI Colleges**, if student was born outside of Ireland, they can apply for an Irish exemption. But if a student has come to Ireland before the age of 11, the DES states they must study Irish. In this case the student must study Irish, but can apply to the NUI for an Irish exemption, and use Irish as their third language.



Specific Subject Requirements



For some, not all, courses there are also specific grades in specific subjects required for entry. Here are a few broad examples,

- H4 in Irish, and an O4/H7 in Maths and English are required for Primary Teaching
- A minimum of one science subject is generally required for courses in the areas of Nursing, Medical, Science, and Engineering
- Most Business courses state a requirement in Maths - not a business subject.
- An Art portfolio is required for most art related courses - Art itself may not be required.
- Similarly Music is not always a requirement for entry into Music courses, but an audition/assessment usually is.

Specific Subject Requirements- Physiotherapy example



Physiotherapy (RSCI, 578 points and UCD, 590 points)

2H5 and 4O6/H7 to include Irish, English, Maths, a **third language**, and an **O6/H7** in one of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science

Physiotherapy (Trinity College Dublin, 580 points)

3H5 and 3O6/H7 to include English, a second language, an **O4 or H6 Mathematics**, a **H4 in two of** Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/ Chemistry, Mathematics or Agricultural Science. However, the combination Agricultural Science and Biology is not permitted.

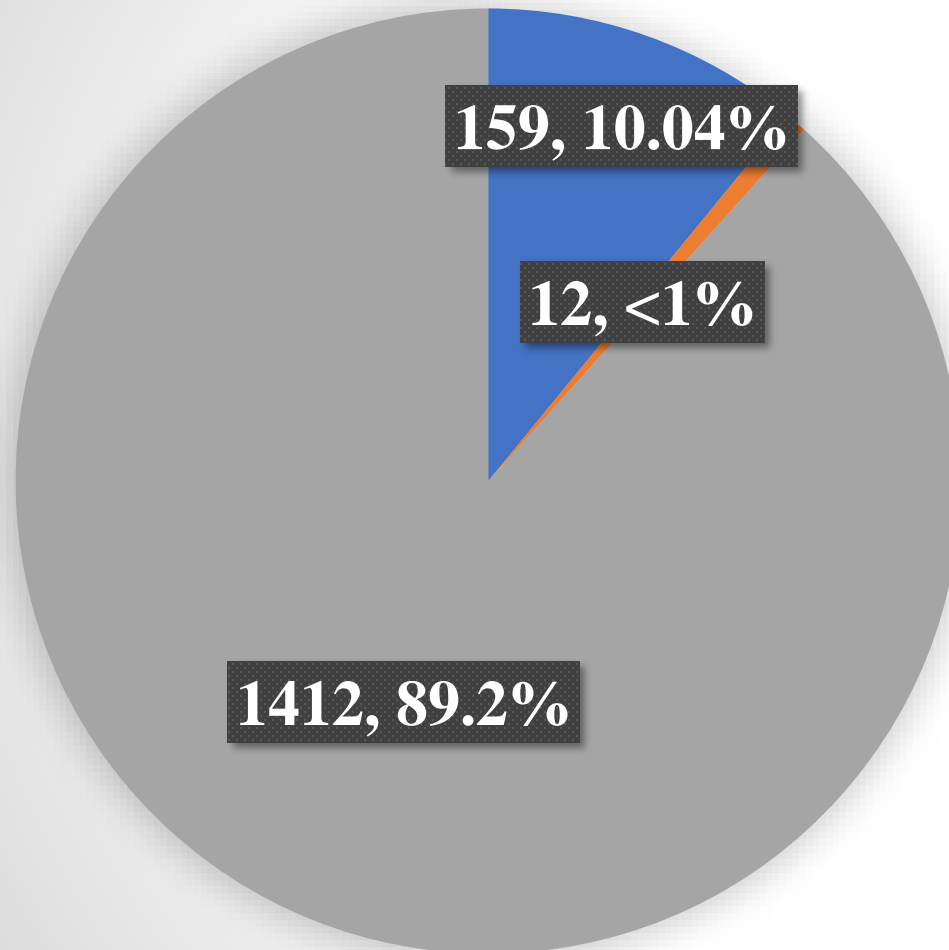
Physiotherapy (University of Limerick, 589 points)

2H5 and 4O6/H7 to include English, a second language, Mathematics (**Maths: F6/O6/H7**), and **O3/H7** in any one of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Biology, PE, Agricultural Science

Should I keep a third language?



3rd Language Requirement



- Requires a 3rd language
- 3rd language or DCG/Art
- Does not require a 3rd language

Should I keep a third language?



What courses are included in the 170 that require a 3rd language?

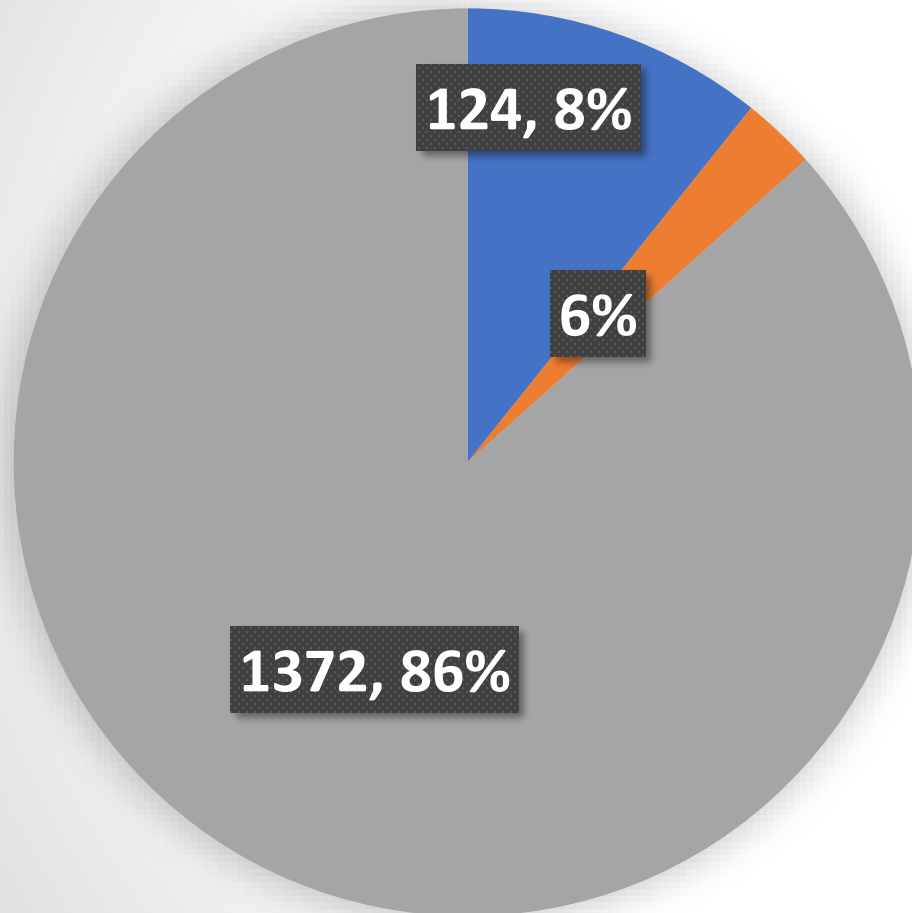
In an NUI college, many of these courses **do not** involve the study of a language (remember college entry earlier). They include:

- Health Science- 2 Pharmacy (of 3), 2 Physiotherapy (of 4), 2 Occupational Therapy (of 3), 4 Medicine (of 5), 1 Dentistry (of 2), the only Veterinary course in Ireland, some Psychology, the only Radiography course in Ireland.
- Many Business, Law, Media, Social Science, Humanities/Arts (English, History, Geography), One PE teaching course in UCC.

Should I keep a science subject?



A Lab Science Requirement



- Requires a Lab Science
- Lab Science or Applied Science
- Does not require a Lab Science

Should I Science Subject?



Sometimes you need a particular science subject for entry (e.g. Biology for Genetics in UCC, these are detailed in the subject choice booklet)

Most times, a science subject is required, because the course involves a great amount of scientific content (unlike most courses that require a third language)

Examples include: Medicine, Nursing, many Engineering (though some accept applied science), Science, Nutrition, Science Teaching, Pharmacy (Chemistry), Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, many Sports Science, Speech and Language Therapy, Veterinary (Chemistry) and Veterinary nursing.

The points system



In the Irish higher education system, the number of qualified applicants (those that meet the minimum subject requirements) usually is greater than the number of course places available and therefore a selection system is needed.

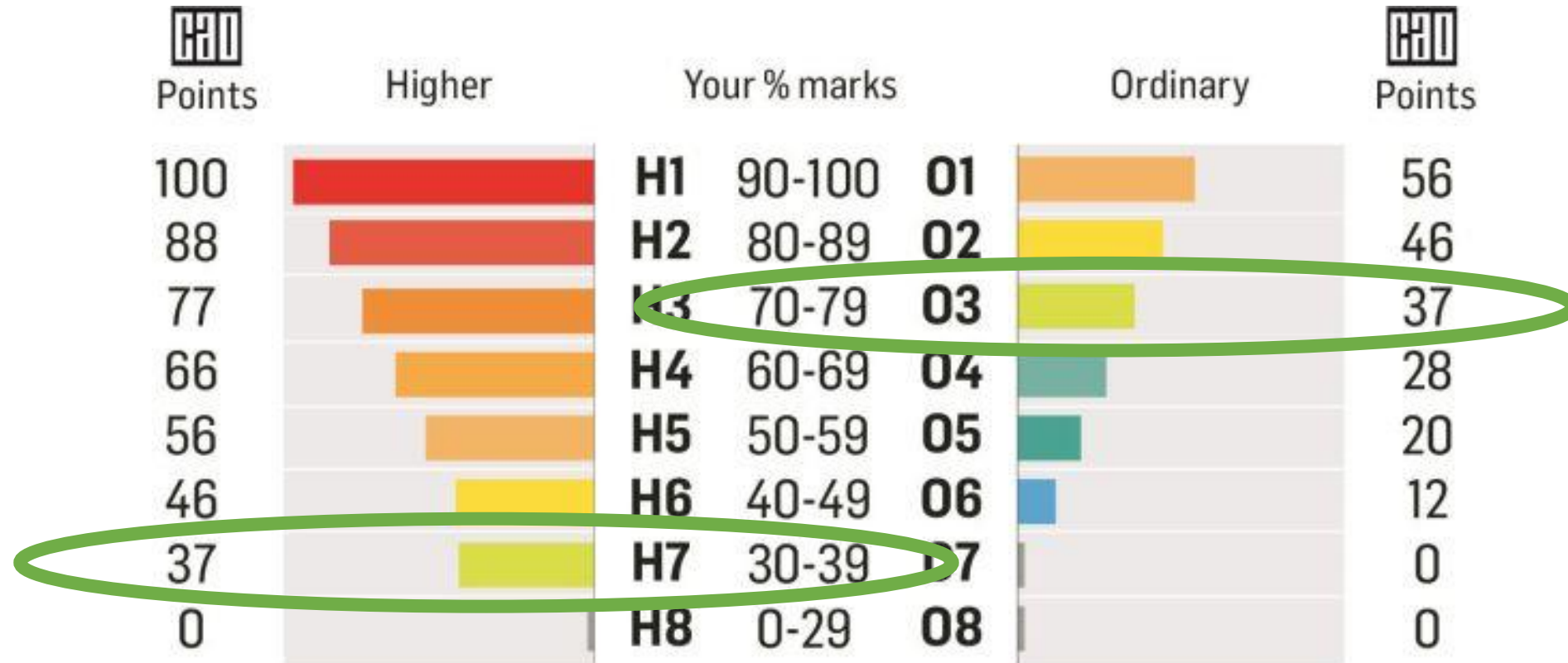
The selection system used is the points system

Points are calculated from **ONE** sitting of the Leaving Certificate only; but Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate (except for Medicine)

Points are calculated from the **SIX** best subjects

There is a big difference in points awarded for higher level subjects over ordinary level subjects, so students should also consider picking subjects they can take at higher level, even if they do not relate to their career aspirations as long as they have met the minimum entry requirements.

The points system



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths



Subject Choice Guidelines



Pick the best senior cycle option for **you**

- Aptitude, Interest and Ability
 - Pick the subjects you are most interested in.
 - Maximise your points by picking the subjects you find easiest.
 - Pick the essential subjects for the courses or careers you would like to have the option of pursuing.
- Check the course content -
 - this will highlight what subjects are predominant

How do you Learn best?



- Mix practical and theory learning
- Do I like a lot of learning and writing?
- Am I better with more hands-on kind of study/work?
- Time/Type?



Examples of Subjects and Learning Types



Accounting

Is a subject that suits the organized person who likes definite answers. Students of accounting move beyond the actual making of records, i.e. book-keeping, and deal with how these records are used, their analysis and interpretation. There is a 100% Terminal Exam involving the making and interpretation of accounts.

Technology

Leaving Certificate Technology emphasizes the use of knowledge, its practical application to real-life situations, and the interaction between thinking and doing. The course encourages practical activities and the production of artefacts and systems as solutions to identified problems or briefs. The assessment includes a terminal examination paper (50%) and (b) a Project with Design Brief (50%)

Examples of Subjects and Learning Types

To find out more....

Use the teacher presentations that explore the content and assessment of each subject:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaWxusSkSgfDCA-a97JOnrr8nj_A8bXX6

What you need to do in exam...

- Physical/Regional/Economic- answer 1 full question out of choice of 3
(must do the A, B & C part of it)
- Geoecology - answer 1 question out of choice of 3
- Total of 7 essays (6 for OL)

2 hr 50 min





Examples of Subject Assessment at LC

Subject	%Project/Practical Exam	% Exam
Accounting/Business	0%	100%
Agri Science	25%	75%
Art	70% (50% Project, 20% Practical Exam)	30%
Biology/Chemistry/Physics	0%	100%
Construction	50% (25% Project, 25% Practical Exam)	50%
DCG	40%	60%
French/Spanish	25% (Oral, HL, 20% OL)	75%
Geography	20%	80%
History	20%	80%
Music	50% (Performance Exam)	50%
Technology	50%	50%

School Programme for Subject Choice



- This presentation on things to consider from a careers perspective
- Subject Choice Careers Module (Teacher presentations on the content and assessment of their subject at senior cycle)
- Subject choice detailed booklet (Updated for 2022)
- Meeting with the Guidance Counsellor

Ms. Burke

Fifth Year Subject Choice 2020

<p>Biological and Chemical Sciences, Biological Earth and Environmental Science, Chemical Sciences, Physics and Astrophysics, Nutritional Sciences, Food Science</p> <p><i>move up ↑ ↑</i></p> <p><i>Public Health Sciences</i></p> <p><i>leave</i></p> <p><i>Food Science</i></p> <p>Engineering</p> <p>Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy (+ H4 in a language)</p>	<p>H4 in either Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Maths or Applied Maths. If H4 in Lab Science subject, then an O6/H7 in Maths required or vice versa. <i>(or maths/applied maths is the case)</i></p> <p>H4 in either Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Maths or Applied Maths</p> <p>H4 in either Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, or Technology.</p> <p>H4 in either Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science</p> <p>H4 in either Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Technology, Engineering or Applied Maths</p> <p>H4 in either Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry or</p>
<p>TU (CITY CAMPUS)</p> <p>Science (general)</p> <p>Analytical Chemistry, Chemical Sciences</p>	<p>H4 in either Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or</p>

As above, but no Comp Science

leave food science

move to O6/H7

O6/H7

leave

As above, but no Comp Science

move up ↑ ↑

Public Health Sciences

leave

Food Science

Engineering

Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy (+ H4 in a language)

TU (CITY CAMPUS)

Science (general)

Analytical Chemistry, Chemical Sciences

School Procedure for Subject Choice



- VShare Form
 - Students indicate their preferences 1-5. Please complete by deadline given or your preferences cannot be considered when assigning subjects.
- Construction of subject lines
 - This will take into account the preferences of every student and tries to accommodate as many students as possible with their top four preferences.
- Students are assigned to classes based on their preferences
- Feedback to students

Restrictions



It may be a mistake to take up a subject you have not already undertaken at Junior Certificate Level. In addition, not all subjects are available to all students, for example, in most instances:

- A pass Junior Certificate Science is needed to study any science subject at Leaving Certificate level.
- Junior Certificate Art is usually needed for Leaving Certificate Art, with some exceptions
- Junior Certificate Technical Graphics is usually needed for Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Graphics.

7 subject Leaving Certificate

- The Core subjects that are essential:
 - 1. Mathematics
 - 2. English
 - 3. Irish
- The remaining choices:
 - 4. French/Spanish?
 - 5. Science Subject?
 - 6. A subject you enjoy and have an aptitude for
 - 7. A subject you enjoy and have an aptitude for



Choose Wisely



Subject choice should not depend on what teacher will be teaching a certain subject at Leaving Certificate.

Neither should it depend on rumours as to what is an 'easy' subject. The easiest subject for **you** is the one that matches **your** aptitude, ability and interest.

What's easy?..... Statistics in 2019 (Nationally)

Subject	H1 (90%+)	H4-H2 (60- 89%)	H7-H5 (30- 59%)	H8 (30%<) Fail	O1 (90%+)	O4-O2 (60%- 89%)	O6-O5 (40- 59%)	O7-O8 (40%<) Fail
History	6.7	61.1	30.4	1.8	5.2	55.2	33.3	6.4
Geography	3.7	56.9	38.5	1	1.9	55.8	36.4	6
French	6.2	55.2	38	0.6	0.1	44.5	45.3	10.1
Spanish	7.7	54	36.8	1.5	0.9	57.7	32.2	9.2
Art	3	60.6	34.9	1.4	2.2	62.4	24.7	10.6
Physics	10.8	45.5	36.3	7.4	3.7	56.8	25.7	13.8
Chemistry	13.2	49.3	30	7.5	3.9	41	32.4	22.6
Agri science	4.8	43.5	44.4	7.3	0	25	47.5	27.5
Biology	7.7	48.9	38.6	4.8	0.2	44	42.6	13.2
Construction	2.9	59.1	36.3	1.7	0.2	33.4	48.1	18.3
Accounting	6.6	57.4	29.6	6.5	8.9	49.3	20.9	20.9
Business	4	54.6	37.9	3.5	3.7	60.9	28.9	6.5
Technology	5	62.5	29.5	3	1.7	48.9	30.1	19.3
Music	3.9	86.6	9.5	0.1	0.5	72.5	23.8	3.3
Religious Ed	3.1	64	31.2	1.7	0	35	29.5	35.7
DCG	6.5	64.9	26.9	1.7	2.1	57.9	27	12.8

What should I do next?



Thoroughly read the Subject Choice Booklet provided on the Coláiste Choilm Website

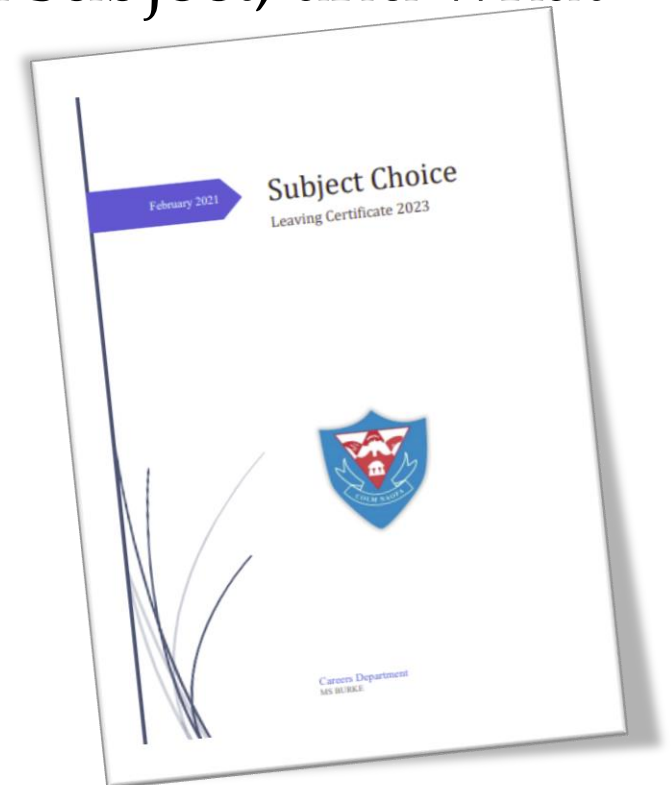
Be sure about the **content** and **assessment** of each subject, and what courses it is needed for. This is ALL in the book.

Visit relevant websites

www.cao.ie

www.qualifax.ie – Excellent Database of courses

www.careersportal.ie – LC Subject descriptions



The Subject Choice Booklet answers most questions about entry requirements



Ms. Burke

Leaving Certificate Subject Choice 2022

A SCIENCE SUBJECT

- If you look at the courses on the following pages and identify courses of interest to you, then it would be a good idea to keep a science subject. Also check to see if a particular science subject is required.
- Conversely, if you look through these pages and do not have any interest in these courses, then it is possible you do not need to keep a science subject.
- As a general rule, a science subject is required for entry to courses where the course has a high scientific content (some courses break this rule, e.g. Carlow IT do not require a science subject for entry to their science based courses).

2 Science Subjects are Required for:

UCC	Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry, and H4 in Physics or Biology (A few CAO Medicine applicants may enter the 5 year <u>programme</u> by entering Stage 2 directly. Such places are offered to graduates or applicants with third level experience and Chemistry/Biochemistry knowledge. School leavers are not usually considered).
	Medical and Health Science	H4 in Chemistry and O6/H7 in Biology, Physics or Agricultural Science
TCD	Pharmacy	H4 Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and H4 In one of Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Geography, Computer Science or Agricultural Science
	Physiotherapy	H4 In two of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/ Chemistry, Mathematics or Agricultural Science
	Dental Science	H3 + H4 In two of: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/ Chemistry, (and O4/H6 in <u>Maths</u> if Physics not included).
	Human Health and Disease	H4 Biology and H4 In one of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry

The Subject Choice Booklet answers most questions about entry requirements



Geography is required for the following third level courses:

Geography is not a sole requirement for any course; it can be useful in many courses. It meets entry for 7 courses:

- Pharmacy (TCD) - H5 Chemistry and H4 in Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Geography or Agricultural Science
- Environmental Science and Engineering (TCD)- H4 Math's and H4 in one of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Geology, Geography, Agricultural Science, Computer Science.
- Geography and Geoscience; Chemical Sciences; Biological & Biomedical Sciences; and Physical Sciences (TCD) H6 /O4 Math's and H4 in two* of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Mathematics, Geology, Geography, Applied Mathematics, Agricultural Science, Computer Science (*certain combinations not allowed such as Agricultural science with Biology; Applied Mathematics with Mathematics).
- Common Science (TCD) O2/H6 in Math's and O2/H6 in a laboratory science (Applied Mathematics, Computer Science or Geography may be used instead of a laboratory science subject)
- Science (UCD)- Min O3/H6 in Applied Mathematics or Geography may be used instead of a laboratory science subject.
- Biological and Geographical Sciences (Maynooth University)- O6/H7 Science subject (one of Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geography, Physics or Physics/Chemistry)

Questions to Ask

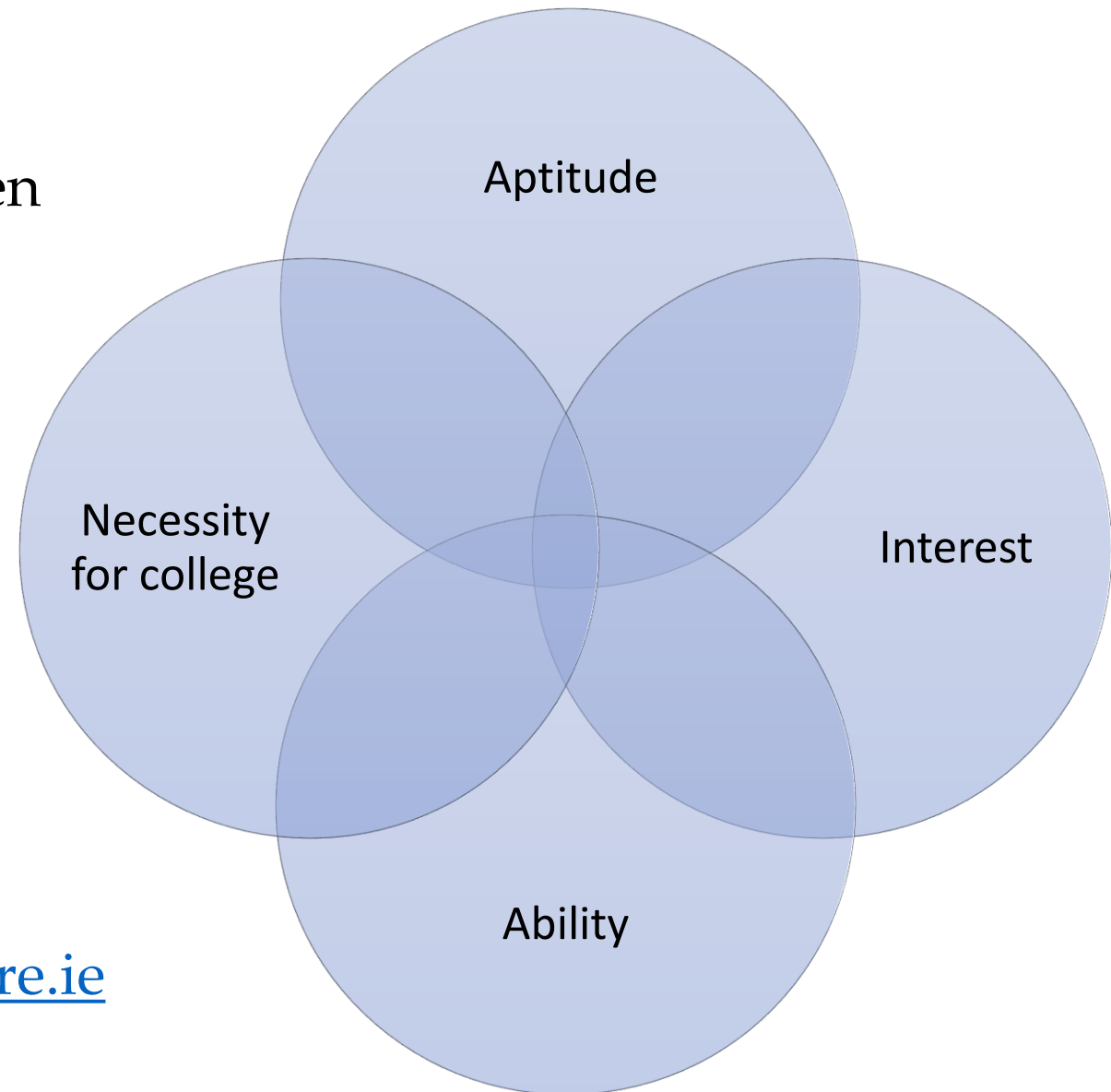
- How interested am I in this subject?
- How much do I like it?
- How prepared am I to work at it?
- What is my past performance at this subject?
- Have I included subjects I need to keep my career/course options open?
- Have I considered all my career options before making my subject choice?





Final Thought

Four things are important when choosing a subject:



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