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# Subject Choice

Leaving Certificate 2027



Guidance Department  
MS BURKE

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## INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

### **Q. What am I trying to do?**

You are aiming to choose a meaningful, manageable package of subjects (a set of subjects which will give you a sense of direction, will provide self-motivation and which are achievable).

When choosing from the list of subject options, it is important to remember that the Leaving Certificate is a general education, and the desirability of a balanced education cannot be overstressed. It is important to remember that most people will change careers several times during their working lives. Therefore, a future career should not be the only determining factor in deciding what subjects to choose. Many factors must be considered when deciding what subjects to take.

These factors include:

- (i) Your interest in or liking for a subject.
- (ii) Your aptitude towards a subject.
- (iii) The value of a subject for your personal development.
- (iv) Whether or not it is necessary to keep options open.
- (v) The relevance of a subject for a particular career.
- (vi) If a subject is an essential requirement for courses at third level.
- (vii) If a subject will be useful for a particular course.

### **Q. What decisions must I make?**

There are three core subjects- Irish, English and Maths. Your Junior Cycle results may determine/indicate what level you take these subjects at.

You must decide if you intend to take a continental language (French or Spanish)

*A continental language is required for entry to National University of Ireland (NUI) Universities and Colleges affiliated to the NUI (with some exceptions in the faculties of Engineering and Science; Nursing; and Business and Law in Maynooth University).*

What **four** subjects you wish to take from the following choice:

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Accounting</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>DCG (Technical Graphics)</b>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Construction Studies (Woodwork).</b>
<b>Physics</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Technology</b>
<b>Agricultural Science</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>Physical Education (exam)</b>

**IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CORRECT DECISIONS IT IS IMPORTANT TO PUT THOUGHT INTO THE PROCESS. RESEARCH WELL IN ORDER TO GET ACCURATE INFORMATION.**

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<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: While every effort was made to include accurate information in this booklet, it should be used for guidance only, and students should source information directly from college prospectuses/websites to ensure that the information is completely up to date before making any decisions.

The following questions are designed as a guideline to help you to make the correct decisions:

1. *What is the content and approach of each subject?*

Be aware of the differences in content and approach between the Junior and Senior cycle

2. *What subjects are you interested in?*

Genuine interest is important in terms of motivation

3. *What subjects are you good at?*

Chatting to your teachers may help you to gauge your ability within a subject area, but remember attitude is as important as ability. Also talk to Ms Burke about your DAT's.

4. *Are there subjects that complement each other?*

e.g., Mathematics and Physics, DCG and Construction Studies etc. If you are good at problem solving in Physics, then you may also be good at problem solving in Accounting, Technology etc. If you can write well in English, then you may also write well in History and Geography. Skills overlap between different subjects. What skills do you have?

5. *What subjects have I taken for Junior Cycle?*

While it may be possible to study a subject you have not studied to Junior Cycle, this can be exceedingly difficult in particular subjects. ***It is therefore important to talk to the subject teacher prior to filling in your selection form.*** In every case it requires a huge commitment on the part of the student.

6. *What careers/career areas are of interest to me?*

Career interest's inventories may be useful here (e.g., Careers Portal Interest Profiler)

7. *If you aim to attend Third Level, or further education or directly enter the workforce, consider what subjects are:*

- (i) Essential (needed)
- (ii) Desirable for courses/areas of work (useful)
- (iii) You have a possibility of taking at higher level and gain more CAO points

8. *Do you have a definite career direction?*

If so, choose a combination of appropriate subjects to enhance career prospects, but be aware of the cost of not doing a particular subject.

9. *What should I do if I am unclear and wish to keep my options as open as possible?*

It may be advisable to choose subjects from diverse groups:

- 1. Science- Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science
- 2. Applied Science- Construction Studies, DCG, Technology, PE
- 3. Languages- French, Spanish
- 4. Social Studies- History, Geography, Art, Music
- 5. Business- Accounting, Business

**GET** as much advice as possible- **BUT** be aware of bias or incorrect information

**REMEMBER** the number of **courses and jobs** which **require specific subjects** are **quite small**.

However, it **may** be a mistake to:

- (a) opt not to take a third language (162 courses require; 14 may require)
- (b) opt not to take a science subject (126 courses require; 91 may require)

Practically all science, medical, paramedical, and engineering courses require at least one laboratory science for level 8 courses, i.e., honours degree level courses.

<b>A SCIENCE SUBJECT</b>
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- If you look at the courses on the following pages and identify courses of interest to you, then it would be a clever 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 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., Southeast Technological University (SETU) Carlow do not require a science subject for entry to their science-based courses).

### 2 Science Subjects are required for:

<b>UCC</b>	Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry, <b>and</b> H4 in Physics or Biology
	Medical and Health Science	H4 in Chemistry and O6/H7 in Biology, Physics or Agricultural Science
<b>TCD</b>	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 Math's if Physics not included).
	Human Health and Disease	H4 Biology and H4 In one of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry
	Biological and Biomedical Science; Chemical Science; Geography and Geoscience; Physical Sciences.	H4 in two of: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Physics/Chemistry, Geography, Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Agricultural Science or Computer Science
Medicine	H3 and H4 from Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry; Biology and Agricultural Science (and O4/H6 in Math's if Physics not included).	
<b>RCSI</b>	Medicine (5 year) Dentistry	H4 in Chemistry and H4 in Physics or Biology. (6-year Medicine programme accepts O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science)
<b>University of Galway</b>	Medicine	H4 in 2 of Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science (5 Years) or O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science (6 Years)

The requirements are quite detailed so check the admission requirements carefully.

- **H3 in a Science Subject Required for:**

<b>TCD</b>	Theoretical Physics	H3 in Physics and Maths
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- H4 in a Science Subject Required for:**

<b>MTU /UCC</b>	Biomedical Science	H4 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science
<b>MTU Cork</b>	Home Economics and Business	H4 in one Science subject or Home Economics
<b>UCC</b>	Genetics	H4 Biology
	Biological and Chemical Sciences, Biological, Environmental and Geological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physics and Astrophysics, Agricultural Science, Science Education, Nutritional Sciences, Food Science	H4 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science and O6/H7 in Maths, Applied Maths or Computer Science or vice versa (O6/H7 Science, H4 Maths).
	Public Health Sciences	H4 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science and O6/H7 in Maths or Applied Maths or vice versa (O6/H7 Science, H4 Maths).
	Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy (+H4 in a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Language for Speech and Language Therapy); Paramedic	H4 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science
<b>TU (CITY CAMPUS)</b>	Science (general)	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Technology, Engineering or Applied Maths
	Analytical Chemistry, Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry or Technology
	Medical Science, Biomedical and Molecular Diagnostics, Optometry, Public Health Nutrition	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or Physics/Chemistry
	Physics with Energy and Environment, Physics Technology, Science with Nanotechnology, Physics with Medical Physics and Bioengineering	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Maths, Applied Maths, Agricultural Science, DCG, Engineering, or Technology
	Human Nutrition and Dietetics	H4 in Chemistry
	Architectural Technology	H4 Art, Construction, DCG, Engineering or Technology
	Clinical Measurement Science	H4 in Maths, Applied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Engineering, or Technology
	Physics and Data Science	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Maths, Applied Maths, Agricultural Science, Engineering, Technology, Computer Science or DCG.
<b>TCD</b>	Clinical Speech and Language Studies	H4 in Maths, Applied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science and O2 in 3 <sup>rd</sup> language, Irish or English or vice versa
	Occupational Therapy	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science
	Radiation Therapy	H4 from Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Physics/Chemistry
	Environmental Science and Engineering	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Geography, Applied Maths, Agricultural Science or Computer Science.

<b>UL</b>	Physics	H4 in Applied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering
	Food Science and Health, Biological and Chemical Sciences, Equine Science, Environmental Science.	H4 in Applied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science
	Science with concurrent Teacher Education (Chemistry and Physics)	H4 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Phy/Chem, Engineering or Agricultural science (and H4 maths)
<b>ATU Sligo</b>	Clinical Measurement Physiology	H4 in Applied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Engineering or Technology (and a H6/O4 maths)

- H5 Science Subject Required for:**

<b>UCD</b>	Veterinary Medicine	H5 in Chemistry (60 hours animal handling experience with two animal groups)
<b>Dundalk IT</b>	Veterinary Nursing	H5 in Biology or Agricultural Science
<b>SETU Waterford</b>	Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering	If no O3/H7 in Maths, then you must have H5 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Engineering, Technology, or DCG
<b>ATU Donegal</b>	Physiotherapy Studies, Occupational Therapy Studies, Dietetics Studies	H5 Biology
<b>Mary I</b>	Education, Home Economics and Business Studies	H5 in Home Economics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science

- O3/H5 Science Subject Required for:**

<b>DCU</b>	Analytical Science, Chemistry with AI, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Science, Chemical Sciences, Environmental Science and Technology, Genetics and Cell Biology, Biotechnology, Biological Science	O3/H5 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Computer Science or Agricultural Science
	Physics	O3/H5 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or Applied Maths
	Health and Society	O3/H5 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science

- H6 in Science Subject Required for:**

<b>UCD</b>	Engineering	H6 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Agri. Science
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- O2/H6 in a Science Subject Required for:**

<b>UCD</b>	Science	O2/H6 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Computer Science or Applied Maths
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- O6/H6 in a Science Subject Required for:**

<b>TCD</b>	All Nursing	O6/H6 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
<b>Dundalk IT</b>	Health and Physical Activity; Nutrition and Health	O6/H6 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science

- O4/H6 in a Science Subject Required for:**

<b>ATU Letterkenny</b>	Computer Science; Cyberpsychology	O4/H6 in Computer Science
<b>DCU</b>	Sports Science & Health, Science and Mathematics Education, Athletic Therapy & Training, Physical Education with Biology, Physical Education with Mathematics	O4/H6 in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science  (+O1/H6 Maths for Science and Mathematics Education, and Physical Education with Mathematics)

- O3/H7 in a Science Subject Required for:**

<b>TUS Midlands</b>	Veterinary Nursing	O3/H7 in any science-based subject
<b>UL</b>	Sports and Exercise Science	O3/H7 in Applied Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science or PE.
	Physiotherapy; Occupational Therapy	O3/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science or PE.

- O4/H7 in Science Subject Required for:**

<b>TU (CITY CAMPUS)</b>	Nutraceuticals in Health and Nutrition, Pharmaceutical Healthcare, Environmental Health; Biotechnology	O4/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or Physics/Chemistry
	Food Science	O4/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Applied Maths, Home Economics, or Agricultural Science
	Ophthalmic Dispensing	O4/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Applied Maths, Home Economics, Engineering or Agricultural Science
<b>UL</b>	Technology Management, Product Design and Technology (+ portfolio), Graphics, Construction Technology with concurrent Teacher Education; Graphics, Engineering, Technology with concurrent Teacher Education, Construction Management and Engineering	O4/H7 in Applied Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Technology, Construction, Engineering, Agricultural Science, Computer Science or DCG
	Science with concurrent Teacher Education – Biology with Physics or Chemistry or Agricultural Science (H4 for Physics/Chemistry option)	O4/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science

• **O6/H7 in a Science Subject Required for:**

<b>TUS Midlands</b>	Pharmacy Technician; All Nursing Courses; Dental Nursing, Culinary Arts.	O6/H7 in any Lab Science based subject
<b>UCC</b>	Engineering	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chem, Agricultural Science, or Technology
	All Nursing	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science
<b>DCU</b>	All Nursing	O6/H7 in Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Biology, or Agricultural Science
<b>Dundalk IT</b>	All Nursing	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
<b>TU (CITY CAMPUS)</b>	Pharmacy Technician Studies	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science or Home Ec.
<b>RCSI</b>	Medicine (6 Year); Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Advanced Therapeutic Technologies	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
<b>TCD</b>	Dental Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/chemistry, or Agricultural Science
<b>NCAD</b>	Product Design, Interaction Design	O6/H7 in Art or DCG OR O6/H7 in Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, Construction Studies, Agricultural Science, Technology, or Biology.
<b>UCD</b>	Agricultural Science, Food Science, Human Nutrition, Medicine, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Sport, Health and Exercise Science, Sport and Exercise Management, Biomedical Health and Life Science, All Nursing, Veterinary Nursing	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
<b>ATU Galway</b>	All Nursing, Medical Science	O6/H7 Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
<b>University of Galway</b>	Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Podiatric Medicine, All Nursing	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
	Science (common entry), Geography and Geosystems, Genetics and Genomics, Agricultural Sciences, Biomedical Science, Biotechnology, Marine Science, Environmental Science, Occupational Health and Safety Management, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Biopharmaceutical Chemistry, Physics	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Computer Science or Agricultural Science
	Engineering (common entry), Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronic and Computer Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Energy Systems Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering,	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Computer Science or Technology
	Project and Construction Management	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/chemistry, Agricultural Science, Computer Science, Technology, DCG, Construction or Engineering

	Medicine	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science (6 Years) or H4 in 2 of Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science (5 Years)
	Financial Mathematics and Economics	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Computer Science, Agricultural Science OR O6/H7 in a language
<b>ATU Donegal</b>	All Nursing, Veterinary Nursing, Pharmacy Technician, Dental Nursing	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
<b>UL</b>	Engineering (Common Entry), All Engineering: Electrical, Aeronautical, Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Electronic and Computer	O6/H7 in one of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Technology, Engineering, DCG, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Computer Science or Construction
	All Nursing, Paramedic Studies	O6/H7 in one of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science Also, B and C1 drivers' licence for paramedic studies
<b>Maynooth University</b>	Science, Physics with Astrophysics, Theoretical Physics and Mathematics, Data Science, Science or Mathematics with Education	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Applied Maths, Computer Science or Agricultural Science  (+H4 maths in Maths Stream of Science or Mathematics with Education)
	Biotechnology, Biological and Biomedical Science, Psychology (BSc), Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Chemistry; Sport Science and Health; Food Science and Human Nutrition	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Computer Science or Agricultural Science
	Biological and Geographical Science	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Computer Science, Geography or Agricultural Science
	Engineering;	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Applied Maths, Agricultural Science, Computer Science or Technology
<b>ATU Sligo St. Angela's</b>	Home Economics with Biology, Nutrition, Food & Business Management, All Nursing	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science.
	Home Economics with Religion; Home Economics with Irish;	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science or Home Economics
	Home Economics, Home Economics Teacher Ed	O6/H7 in Home Economics
<b>MTU Kerry</b>	All Nursing	O6/H7 in Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Physics/Chemistry
<b>SETU Waterford</b>	All Nursing	O6/H7 in Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Physics/Chemistry
	Science, Pharmaceutical Science, Agricultural Science, Food Science, Molecular Biology with Biopharmaceutical Science	Recommended: Biology, Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Physics, Physics/Chemistry

**THIRD LANGUAGE**

The question students often ask is whether they need to keep Spanish or French. Some choose to keep their third language, as they have an aptitude for the subject or an interest in studying languages at third level. For others, they keep the subject to “keep their options open.”

**Keeping options open?**

Sometimes studying a third language keeps options open, but sometimes it can limit a student’s options.

Take the case where a student takes ordinary level French to “keep his options open,” but he could have taken a different subject at higher level. The decision to keep French has now cost him points, as he would have been awarded higher points for a higher level over an ordinary level subject. Clearly this only applies where a student’s aptitudes and interests lie elsewhere, but it is worth considering.

Equally you could have a student who gives up French and maximises his points with subjects he has an aptitude for. This student could discover later in his career research that his points will not get him into the course he wants, even if he gets 625 points, because he does not meet the third language entry requirement, and so is ineligible for the course. So, it is worth looking at when a third language is needed for entry.

Here are the figures.

	As a % of all courses	Number of courses
CAO courses that require at least an O6/H7 in a third language (some have Higher requirements where a language is a component of the course)	10%	162
CAO courses that require at least an O6/H7 in a third language or another subject like Art or DCG (NCAD courses mostly)	<1%	14
CAO courses that <b>do not</b> require a third language	89%	1376

**What courses are these are included in the 176 that require a 3<sup>rd</sup> language?**

- Unlike the science requirement for entry to scientific courses, the vast majority of courses that require a third language for entry are not language courses and do not involve the study of a language as part of the course.
- Most of these courses are the NUI colleges, where a third language is necessary for entry to Arts, Business, Medical, Social Science, Law, and Psychology courses (See college entry requirements below).
- A few examples of where an O6/H7 in a third language is required in health science include- 2 Pharmacy (of 3), 2 Physiotherapy (of 4), 2 Occupational Therapy (of 3), 4 Medicine (of 5), 2 Dentistry (of 3), the only Veterinary course in Ireland (until SETU and ATU are in action), some Psychology, the only Radiography course in Ireland.
- An O6/H7 in a third language is also required for many Business, Law, Media, Social Science, Humanities (English, History, Geography, Religion), one PE teaching (BUT is NO longer needed for Home Economics teaching courses or Architecture in UCD).
- Of course, some courses that involve the study of a language, and speech and language therapy courses, have a higher requirement of a H3 (70% in higher level) or H4 (60% in higher level) in a 3<sup>rd</sup> language, as studying at least one language is a large component of these courses. There are approximately 280 courses in the CAO that require a language to take a language on the course.

The tables below list the courses in the NUI colleges, and outside the NUI colleges, that have a 3<sup>rd</sup> language entry requirement.

<b>NUI College</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Language Requirement</b>	<b>Courses</b>
University College Cork	O6/H7	Accounting, Arts*, Music, Arts International, Anthropology, Business Information Systems, Commerce, Criminology, Dentistry, Digital Humanities & Information Technology, Early Years & Childhood Studies, Economics, Education – Gaeilge, English, Film & Screen Media, Finance, Food Marketing & Entrepreneurship, Government & Political Science, International Development, Law and Business, Law and Irish, Law Pathways, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, PE Sports Studies and Arts (2 <sup>nd</sup> Level Ed), Psychology & Computing, Applied Psychology, Public Health Sciences, Social Science, Theatre & Performative Practices
	H4	Speech and Language Therapy (O6/H7 in a 3 <sup>rd</sup> language and H4 in a language other than English and a H4 in a science subject)
	H3	World Languages, International Business with Languages (O6/H7 in a third language for German, Italian, Chinese Studies, or Hispanic options at beginner's level; H3 in French to study French; H2 in Irish to study Irish, to study a language at non-beginner 's level, a minimum grade H4 in that Language is required), Law and French (H3 French), Law and Irish (H3 Irish and O6/H7 in a 3 <sup>rd</sup> language)
University College Dublin	O6/H7	Arts*, Biomedical Health & Life Sciences, Business and Law, Commerce, Commerce International, Criminology with Psychology, Criminology, Economics & Finance, Education with Gaeilge &/or Modern Languages (2 <sup>nd</sup> level Teaching) (at least a H4 recommended in Irish and or another language too), Humanities, Law, Medicine, Modern Languages - French, German, Italian, or Spanish (H4 in the language needed to study at advanced level), Physiotherapy, Radiography, Veterinary Medicine
	H4	Commerce International with any French combination Social Science recommend a H4 to take French option
	H3	Law with French Law (H3 French recommended, but O6/H7 required for entry)
Maynooth University	O6/H7	Arts*, Community and Youthwork, Media Studies, Music, Psychology, Social Science; Creative Writing and English
	H4	Arts with French
University of Galway	O6/H7	Joint Honors Arts*, Children and Youth Studies, Digital Arts and Technology, Drama Theatre and Performance Studies, Creative Writing and English, Film and Digital Media, Arts- Global Experience, Arts- Global Media, History, Journalism, Mathematics and Education (Second Level Teaching), Music, Human Rights, Business Information Systems, Commerce, Commerce-Accounting, Commerce- Gaeilge, Commerce- Global Experience, Education - Computer Science & Mathematical Studies - Second Level Teaching, Government - Politics Economics & Law, Law and Business, Law & Taxation, Law – BCL, Law - BCL & Human Rights, Law - BCL - Criminology & Criminal Justice, Medicine, Cumarsáid agus Gaeilge, Gaeilge Léann an Aistriuchain, Occupational Therapy, Podiatric Medicine, Psychology, Social Science, Speech & Language Therapy
	O6/H7	Financial Mathematics and Economics (O6/H7 in either a 3 <sup>rd</sup> language or Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science,
	O2/H6	Biotechnology

	H4	Arts Global Languages, Commerce International with German (H4 German), Commerce international with Spanish (H4 a third language)
	H3	Commerce international with French (H3 in French)
Shannon College of Hotel Management	O6/H7	Business Studies- International Hotel Management; Commerce - International Hotel Management
RCSI	O6/H7	Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Advanced Therapeutic Technologies, Dentistry.
Pontifical University	O6/H7	Theology, Theology with Arts, Philosophy.
NCAD- National College of Art and Design	O6/H7 in a language or Art or DCG	Art & Design First Year - Common Entry, Fine Art and Applied Art, Education and Art or Design (Second Level Teaching), Fashion Design, Graphic Design & Moving Image Design, Illustration, Textile & Surface Design & Jewellery & Objects, Visual Culture, Product Design, Interaction Design

In other colleges, a third language is required when it is a component of the course. Here are some examples:

<b>Non-NUI College</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Language Requirement</b>	<b>Courses</b>
Dublin City University	H3	PP Teacher Education with French, German, or Spanish (H3 in relevant Language, French, German, or Spanish)
	H4	Arts- International languages (H4 in chosen language required; Business Studies International, Global Business (France) (H4 in French), Global Business (Germany) (H4 in German), Global Business (Spain) (H4 in Spanish), Applied Languages and Translation Studies (H4 in relevant Language, French, German, or Spanish), Arts Law/Media/International Languages with French, German, or Spanish (H4 in relevant Language, French, German, or Spanish)
Technological University	H4	Law with a Language (H4 in relevant Language, French, German, or Spanish), International Business and Languages, Languages and International Tourism
Trinity College Dublin	O2/H6	Linguistics (O2/H6 in a language other than English or Irish)
	H3	Business Studies with Spanish (H3 in Spanish), European Studies (2 from H3 French, H4 German, Italian, Irish, Polish, Russian, Spanish), Computer Science Linguistics and a Language (H3 in French, Irish or Spanish)
	H4	Classical Languages (H4 in any language other than English), Modern Languages (for German, Italian, Russian, Spanish a H4 in any language other than English, for French H4 in French, for Irish H4 in Irish), Law and French (H4 French), Law and German (H4 German), Classics with Ancient History and Archaeology (H4 in a language other than English), , Business Studies with French (H4 French), Middle Eastern and European Languages and Culture (H4 in a language other than English or Irish), Business Studies with German (H4 German), Business Studies with Russian (H4 in language other than English), Business Studies with Polish (H4 in language other than English).

University of Limerick	H3	European Studies (H3 in a language other than English), Applied Languages (H3 in French, German, Japanese, Spanish or Irish), Languages with concurrent teacher education (H3 in French, German, Japanese, Spanish or Irish)
	H4	Business Studies with French (H4 French); Business Studies with German (H4 German); Business Studies with Japanese (H4 Irish or another language); Business Studies with Spanish (H4 in Spanish for advanced level; H4 in any modern language for beginners level); Arts 0 French (H4 French required to study French)
	O6/H7	Common and Civil Law (O6/H7 French)

**\*Subjects available to study in Arts in UCC, UCD, University of Galway and Maynooth University**

UCC	UCD	University of Galway	Maynooth University
Asian Studies; Computer Science; History; Portuguese;; History of Art; European Studies; Folklore; Gaeilge / Irish; Greek and Roman Civilisation; Archaeology; Chinese Studies; German; Latin; Mathematical Studies; Politics; French; Sociology; Studies in Music; Bealoideas; Economics; English; Greek;; Religions and Global Diversity; Geography; Italian; Celtic Civilisation; Philosophy; Spanish	Archaeology; Art History; Celtic Civilisation; Greek and Roman Civilisation; Drama Studies; English; Film Studies; French; Geography; German; History; Information and Communication Studies; Gaeilge; Irish Folklore; Italian; Linguistics; Mathematics; Music. Philosophy; Portuguese; Sociology; Spanish; Statistics;  Humanities has more options like creative writing, history and politics etc.	Archaeology; French; Mathematics/Mathematic al Studies; Law; Psychology; Celtic Civilisation; Performance and Screen Studies; Ancient Classics; Geography; Léann na Cumarsáide; German Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music); Global Media; English; Economics; Information Technology; Léann an Aistriúcháin; Sociological and Political Studies; History; Spanish; Gaeilge; Italian; Philosophy	Accounting; Anthropology; Business (International); Business (Management); Business (Marketing); Chinese Studies; Classical Studies; Computer Science; Criminology; Economics; English; Finance; French; Geography; German; History; International Development; Law; Mathematical Physics; Mathematical Studies; Pure Maths; Media Film & Cultural Studies; Medieval Celtic Studies; Music; Music Technology; Nua- Ghaeilge; Philosophy; Politics; Psychological Studies; Sociology; Spanish; Statistics;



Also, a third language (O6/H7) is an entry requirement for school leavers applying to the Defence Forces Cadetship in the Army, the Navy, and the Air Corp (Officer ranks only, not Private ranks or Aircraft Technicians). However, this requirement has been dropped for college graduates applying for the Cadets.

An Garda Síochána require applicants to be proficient in either or both of the following:

- (a) The English language
- (b) The Irish language



**OTHER GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO CONSIDER**

- Primary Teaching- H4 in Irish, O4/H7 in English and O4/H7 in Maths
- NUI Colleges (University College Dublin, University College Cork, University of Galway, NUI Maynooth, NCAD, RCSI and colleges affiliated to NUI)- Irish, English, Maths are usually required, along with a third language for arts, medical, business, law and language courses, and a laboratory science subject for engineering and science courses (with exceptions).
- Degrees in Engineering- H4 in Mathematics and a grade O6/H7 in Science or sometimes a technology-based Subject (Ordinary level Maths for most level 6/7 I.T. Courses)
- Journalism- Minimum of H4 in English generally required
- To study a Language at degree level students, need to have a minimum Leaving Certificate Higher level H4/H3 in the language they intend to study (except where these are offered at *ab initio* level)

Summary of entry requirements to colleges: (Specific course requirements also apply in addition to the college requirements)



**Maynooth University**  
**University of Galway**  
**University College Dublin**  
**University College Cork**  
**RSCI**  
**Shannon College**  
**NCAD**

Two H5 and Four O6/H7 to include:

English  
 Irish  
 Mathematics#

A Third language (except Nursing, Engineering and some science Courses, and Law and Business courses in Maynooth University)



**Trinity College Dublin (TCD)**  
**University of Limerick (UL)**

**TCD:** Three H5 and three O6/H7 to include:

English.  
 Mathematics#  
 Another language\*

**UL:** Two H5 and Four O6/H7 to include:

English  
 Mathematics,  
 Irish or another language\*



**Dublin City University**  
**Technological Universities**  
**Institutes of Technology**  
**(Honours Degrees)**

Two H5 and Four O6/H7 to include:

English or Irish  
 Mathematics#

**Irish Exemption Warning** in relation to “another language” in UL, Mary Immaculate College and TCD. If you are exempt from Irish because you came here after the age of 11 or because you were born outside of Ireland, you will be required to present a different language subject in your leaving Certificate in UL, Mary I and TCD (e.g., French, Spanish, Polish).

# Maths is sometimes not required for some courses in art and design, arts and humanities, law, drama, some psychology, and social science.

**ACCOUNTING**

Mr Cassidy

Accounting is a subject that suits the organised methodical 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. Students will be able to see and understand published company accounts, make comparisons of performance between companies, be able to take care of the basic accounting needs of a small business, club, farm, or service firms (cash flows, final accounts, budgeting etc.), study the production of information needed for management decision-making etc.

Accounting is required for the following third level courses:

Accounting is excellent preparation for any business-related occupation. It is a requirement for **Commerce (Accounting)** (University of Galway) (H4 in Accounting).

Though it is not essential for entry into many business courses or professional training in accountancy, it would be a significant help to students wishing to pursue any third level business-related course. Students who are considering a career in accountancy are also highly recommended to study accounting, as it is a good indicator of suitability.

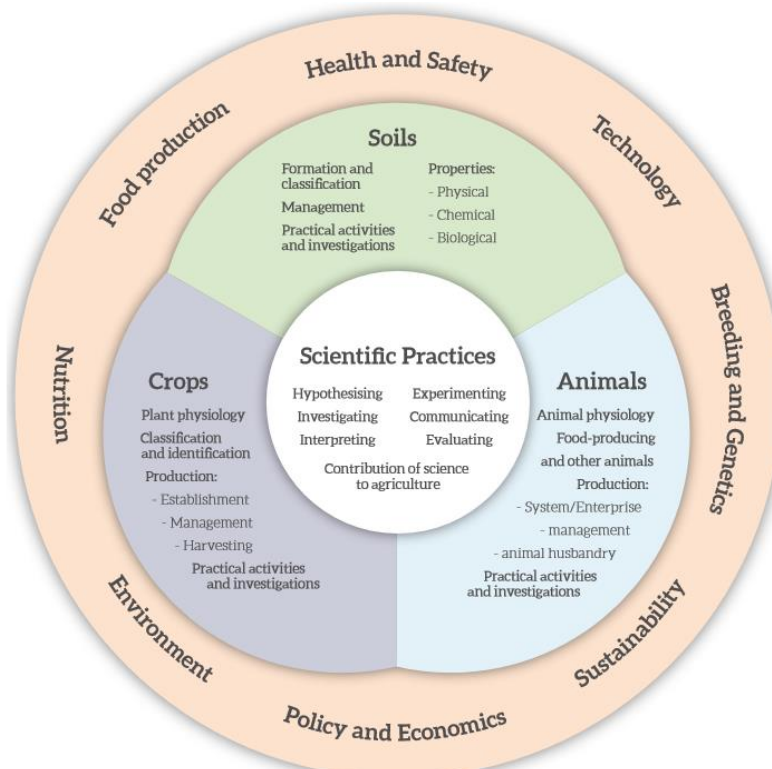
Accounting is useful for careers in:

Accounting Technician; Accountancy, Auctioneering; Auditing; Banking; Book-keeping; Building Society Clerk; A vast array of Clerical Work; Business Teacher, Engineering; Company Secretaryship; Hospital Administration; Hotel Management; Receptionist; Insurance; Market Research; Purchasing Officer; Quantity Surveyor; Sales Representative; Store Manager; Taxation Consultant; Marketing; Teaching; Computer Systems; Advertising; Business Law. It is hard to think of any careers where some knowledge of accounting would not be useful.

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

Mr. Molloy / Mr. Collins

Leaving Certificate agricultural science involves the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the sustainability of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources. Plants and animal types associated with agriculture are studied, and investigations are undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farm crops, farming practices, genetics, and microbiology. The new specification is broken into 4 strands: Soils, Crops, Animals and Scientific Practices.



Requirements of the course:**SPECIFIED PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES**

Over the course's two years, each learner must complete and prepare reports on the specified practical activities. The reports will not be externally assessed but must be available for inspection and retained until the end of the assessment process.

**INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATIVE STUDY (IIS)**

As well as the specified practical activities, each student is required to carry out an individual investigative study related to a topic in agricultural science. The individual study is an investigative activity which is based on and draws from a thematic brief set annually by the State Examinations Commission at the commencement of the two-year course. It is conducted over the two years of the course and facilitates the study of particular areas in greater depth, and which may be of local or regional agricultural significance. It enables students to see at a practical level how science underpins and supports agricultural practices, processes, and research.

Assessment:

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
<b>Written</b>	75
▶ short answer questions	
▶ structured questions	
▶ synoptic questions	
<b>Coursework</b>	25
▶ Individual investigative study	

**Short questions:** address core topics across the entire specification; are made up of both multiple choice and short answer questions and focus on concepts and skills.

**Structured questions:** are drawn from one area of the specification; each structured question may include a variety of scientific ideas in the context of one agricultural science topic.

**Synoptic questions:** these questions will require students to collate knowledge across a number of agricultural science topics.

Agricultural Science is a requirement for the following third level courses:

Agricultural science is accepted as a science subject in some third level colleges in Ireland (for 192 courses), though it may not meet special course requirements where a specific science subject is requested. **Veterinary Nursing** in Dundalk IT required a H5 in either Agricultural Science or Biology.

Agricultural Science is useful for careers in:

Agricultural Engineering; Agricultural Inspector; Agricultural Officer; Agricultural Sales; Agricultural Science Teacher; Animal Breeder; Animal Trainer; Botanist; Biologist; Butter-maker and cheese maker; Clerk in an Agricultural Organisation; Conservation; Creamery Manager; Dairy Scientist; Farmer; Food Science Technologist; Forester; Forestry Inspector; Horticulturalist; Laboratory Technician; Seed Analyst; Stud Farm Employee; Fish Farmer; Veterinary Surgeon; Veterinary Nurse; Zoologist.

**ART**

Ms O'Malley

Leaving Certificate Art aims to develop in learners the knowledge, skills, understanding, and values needed to bring an idea to realisation and to respond to, understand, analyse, and evaluate their own work and the work of others. Each learner is a unique individual and will be enabled to develop their own skill set in a personal way. The learner will become aware of the world of Visual Studies, how it can inform their own work and life, and thereby become more aware of their own place in a wider society.

Why Choose Art?

- Mixture of practical project work and visual studies (art theory)
- Develops skills such as problem solving, self-expression and critical thinking
- Work with a variety of media such as printing, painting, clay/3D work, photography, digital art, graphic design, textiles etc.

Requirements:

- Junior cycle art is ideal but not essential
- You can choose Art in senior cycle even if you did not do it for Junior cycle however Ms O'Malley will need to see examples of some drawings / sketches / artwork that you have done to show that you have an active interest in the subject.
- A decent work ethic – you do not need to be an expert artist just willing to learn and work hard.

Course Content:**Art Practical**

Various areas of practice including (but not limited too) painting, graphic design, printmaking (Lino & Etching) clay, still life and photography

- Focus on developing and experimenting with ideas based on different themes
- Focus on observational drawing and use of objects & photography to develop ideas

Projects also include looking to artworks by other artists to use as inspiration for your own artwork

**Visual Studies** (formally known as Art History)

Consists of 3 principal areas of study

- Pre-Christian Irish Art (Stone Age, Bronze Age & Iron Age)
- European Art (Realism, impressionism, and post impressionism)
- Art in Today's world (Visits to Galleries / museums, explore artwork/artists in the world around us today)

**Assessment:**

## 1. Project work (worth 50%)

Art project completed over a 12-week period starting in January of sixth year

## 2. Practical Art Exam (worth 20%)

This is a day long (5 hour) practical exam completed in the art room which consists of creating one art piece that you have developed the idea for as part of your project work.

## 3. Visual Studies Written Exam (worth 30%)

2.5 hour written exam in June of Leaving Cert based on the visual studies course. Consists of a mix of shorter questions and two essay questions

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	LEVEL
Practical coursework	50%	Higher and Ordinary
Practical Examination	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Written examination	30%	Higher and Ordinary

Art and third level:

Art or DCG is a requirement for some Art courses, but it is not always an essential subject for entry into Art College. However, it is highly recommended that intending students take Art at Leaving Certificate level as most Art Courses require a portfolio and it would be extremely difficult for any student to complete an Art portfolio without the guidance of an Art Teacher. The portfolio for entry to Art College should be worked on in LC1 as there is little time in LC2. The portfolio must show the use of varied media and the talents of the student. There should be approximately 20 mounted pieces and a sketch book of work.

Art is a requirement for the following third level courses:

- **Animation and Illustration; Graphic and Digital design; Digital Engineering, Graphic Design** (level 7) (TUS Athlone) (Portfolio)
- **Art and Design (common entry); B. Ed. Art and Design; Interior Design** (TUS Limerick) (Portfolio)

- **Digital Animation; Game Art and Design; Visual Effects for Film, TV and Animation** (TUS Clonmel) (Portfolio)
- **Visual Communication; Visual Art** (SETU Waterford) (Art or DCG O3/H5)
- **Art** (SETU Wexford) (Portfolio)
- **Contemporary Applied Art; Fine Art; Visual Communications;** (MTU Crawford) (Portfolio)
- **Animation, Visual effects, and Motion Design; Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering** (MTU Kerry) (Portfolio)
- **Art** (ATU Galway) (Portfolio)
- **Art, Design and Graphics Education** (DCG and Art teaching) (ATU GALWAY) (H5 Art or DCG)
- **Fine Art** (ATU Sligo) (Portfolio)
- **Animation; Fashion with Promotion; Graphic and Illustration,** (ATU Donegal) (Art or DCG O6/H7 or Portfolio).
- **Graphic Design; Art; Animation; Photography and Visual Media; Film; Television; Design for Film; 3D Animation** (IADT) (Portfolio)
- **Graphic Communication Design; Interior Architecture; Fashion Design** (Griffith College Dublin) (depending on level a Portfolio or O6/H7 Art or DCG may be required);
- **Art and Design (Common Entry); Graphic Design and Moving Image Design; Textiles & Surface Design & Jewelry & Objects; Fine Art & Applied Art; Education and Art or Design (Second Level Teaching); Fashion Design; Product Design; Illustration; Interaction Design** (NCAD) (Portfolio and an O6/H7 in Art, 3rd Language or DCG); Visual Culture (an O6/H7 in Art, 3rd Language or DCG).
- **Product Design and Technology** (UL) (O3/H7 in Math's and O4/H7 in Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, Design & Communication Graphics, Technology, Construction Studies, Agricultural Science, Biology or Computer Science, plus a portfolio (not LC Art)).
- **Architectural Technology** (TU (CITY CAMPUS)) (H4 in one of Art, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Engineering or Technology). Fine Art; Interior Design (portfolio); Visual Merchandising and Display (TU Blanchardstown) (Portfolio)
- Some schools of **Architecture** recommend Art and can even prefer it to the study of DCG. An art-based portfolio is required for Architecture at the University of Limerick; a suitability test and interview may be required for Architecture in TU (CITY CAMPUS).

#### Art is useful for careers in:

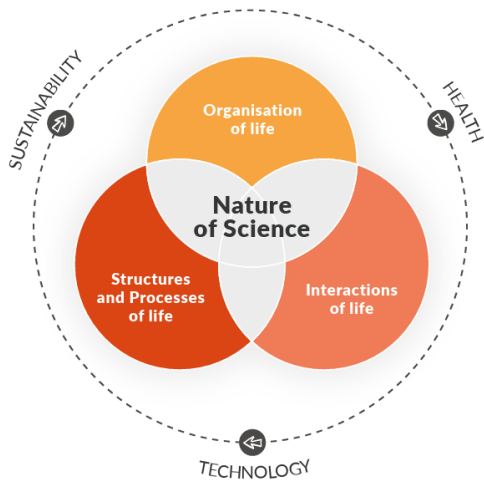
Art is a highly versatile subject, which prepares pupils for a wide range of careers such as Marketing and Design in the Industrial, Commercial and Advertising Areas; Media Work in T.V. and Video Design Production; Fashion Design and Industry; Computer Game Design; Web Designer; Craft Businesses; Product Design; Architecture; Florist; Graphic Design; Occupational Therapist; Environmental Design; Teacher of Art; Marketing Merchandiser; Gallery and Museum Work; Interior Designer; Tattoo Artist; Photographer;

<b>BIOLOGY</b>	Mr Parsons/Ms Rowland / Ms McMullin
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Biology is 'The Study of Life' in all its variety of forms. Humans share this planet with one and a half million species of animals and plants, many of which are essential for our survival as a species. It follows, therefore, that knowledge of the science of biology is essential for an understanding of human life and the living environment around us. Through the study of biology students employ the processes of science in their investigations and explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationship between organisms and their environment. Students develop an understanding and knowledge of the unit of life – the cell – whose structures and processes are shared by all living organisms and, in so doing, gain an insight into the uniqueness, function and role of organisms, including themselves. In addition, they become aware of the use by humans of other living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the human environment and make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues.

There are four strands to the Biology Syllabus: a unifying strand, Nature of Science, and three contextual strands, Organisation of Life, Structures and Processes of Life, and Interactions of Life. The specification identifies three crosscutting themes – Health, Sustainability and Technology. These themes, illustrated as surrounding the contextual strands, permeate and provide contexts for the study of these strands. They act as lenses through which students explore the application of knowledge from biology. Through these lenses, students engage with contemporary issues in biology as they pose questions and integrate and apply their learning from across the specification.

The course covers a wide range of topics related to life sciences, divided into the three major units:



### 1. The Study of Life (Organization of Life)

- **Scientific method:** Principles of biology, experimentation, data collection
- **Food & biomolecules:** Carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, vitamins
- **Cell structure & function:** Microscopy, cell organelles
- **Enzymes & metabolism:** Role of enzymes, factors affecting enzyme activity
- **Ecology:** Ecosystems, food chains, nutrient cycles, human impact on the environment

### 2. The Cell (Structures and Processes of Life)

- **Cell division:** Mitosis and meiosis
- **Genetics:** DNA structure, replication, protein synthesis, Mendelian genetics
- **Photosynthesis & respiration:** Stages, factors affecting them
- **Microbiology:** Bacteria, viruses, fungi, their roles and control

### 3. The Organism (Interaction of Life)

- **Plant biology:** Transport, reproduction, growth regulators
- **Human biology:** Digestive, circulatory, respiratory, nervous, endocrine, and reproductive systems
- **Defence against disease:** Immune system, vaccinations
- **Homeostasis:** Regulation of internal conditions
- **Reproduction & inheritance:** Fertilization, development, genetics

Biology will be assessed through two assessment components: a written examination and an additional assessment component comprising a Biology in Practice Investigation. This **mandatory practical component** may involve students performing experiments, such as testing for biomolecules, enzyme activity, and ecology fieldwork

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Biology in Practice Investigation	40%	Common brief
Written examination	60%	Higher and Ordinary level

Table 2: Overview of Assessment for Certification

Biology is required for the following third level courses:

Biology as a life science is a ground level subject which leads directly to many 'Bio' orientated 3rd level courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Food Technology, Nursing and Beauty Therapy. It is accepted for 207 courses as a science subject, but 5 courses require specifically Biology as an entry requirement:

- **Genetics (UCC)**- H4 in Biology;
- **Human Health & Disease (TCD)**- H4 in Biology and a H4 in one of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry
- **Health Science with Dietetics Studies, Health Science with Occupational Studies and Health Science with Physiotherapy Studies** - ATU Donegal - H5 in Biology
- **Veterinary Medicine (UCD)** - H5 in Chemistry is required and Biology at Leaving Certificate, though not required, is strongly recommended by UCD.
- **Veterinary Nursing** in Dundalk IT required a H5 in either Agricultural Science or Biology.

Biology is useful for careers in:

Agriculture; Horticulture; Animal Trainer; Ambulance Driver; Biochemist; Biologist; Science Teacher; Dental Hygienist; Dentist; Dietician; Doctor; Nurse; Farmer; Fisherman; Food Science Technician; Forester; Laboratory Assistant; Marine Biologist; Naval Officer; medical/Laboratory Technician; Occupational Therapist; Radiographer; Pharmacist; Psychologist; Speech and language Therapist; Veterinary Surgeon; Optician; Physiotherapist; Bio-Engineering; Conservation Worker; Environmental Protection Officer; the Brewing industry.

<b>BUSINESS</b>	Mr Davoren / Ms Murray / Mr Fallon
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Business is concerned with the understanding of the environment in which business operates in Ireland and in the wider world. Business touches everyone's life whether we know it or not. One cannot turn on the television, listen to the radio or read a newspaper without coming into contact with the subject. How much better it would be to have a proper background in the subject before one stumbles across it in real life, in the workplace, through dealings with financial institutions or paying tax. Business will clarify in our minds many of the terms or buzz words which we are constantly exposed to and yet unclear of, for example "Enterprise," "Marketing" and "Return on investment." The course aims to develop students' understanding of the significance of business in both the Irish and international economies. It emphasises fostering an appreciation of how the business world operates and its relevance to students' lives.

The curriculum is structured around several interconnected strands, each focusing on different aspects of business education:

1. **Investigating Business:** Encourages students to research and analyze real-world business scenarios to understand the complexities of the business environment.
2. **Exploring the Business Environment:** Focuses on the various elements that impact businesses, such as market structures, economic policies, and technological advancements.
3. **Understanding Enterprise:** Covers the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, including idea generation, business planning, and the challenges of starting and running a business.
4. **Leading in Business:** Examines leadership theories, management functions, and the role of effective communication in achieving business goals.
5. **Being Informed and Making Informed Decisions:** Emphasizes the importance of data analysis, financial literacy, and ethical considerations in business decision-making.

Ms. Burke

There are two assessment components: a written examination and an Additional Assessment Component comprising (AAC) comprising of the Business Alive Investigative Study.

Business is required for the following third level courses:  
Business forms an intricate part of any third level business course. However, it is not a requirement for entry to any particular course at third level.

Business is useful for careers in:

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

## Leaving Certificate Subject Choice 2025

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Business Alive Investigative Study	40%	Common brief
Written examination	60%	Higher and ordinary level examination papers

Table 2: Overview of assessment for certification

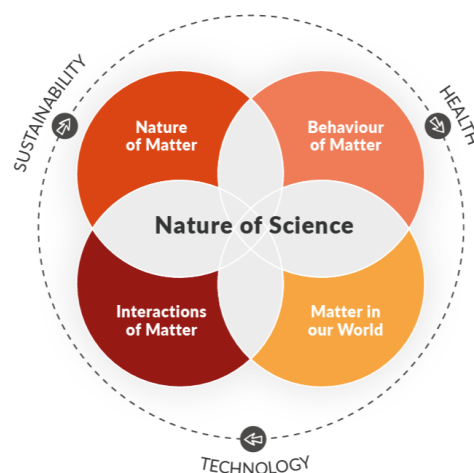
## CHEMISTRY

Ms McMullin / Ms Molloy

The study of Chemistry in senior cycle is desirable not only for those who wish to pursue a career in science, or in careers allied to science, but also for those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. Chemistry is very much the central foundation science subject, which makes it ideal to pair with Physics or Biology.

The **Leaving Certificate Chemistry** specification is structured around five interrelated strands:

1. **The Nature of Science:** This unifying strand emphasizes the scientific method, critical thinking, and the role of chemistry in society.
2. **The Nature of Matter:** Focuses on the composition, structure, and properties of matter, including atomic theory and the periodic table.
3. **Behaviour of Matter:** Examines chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium.
4. **Interactions of Matter:** Explores chemical bonding, intermolecular forces, and the interactions leading to various chemical compounds.
5. **Matter in Our World:** Applies chemical principles to real-world contexts, such as environmental chemistry, industrial processes, and the role of chemistry in everyday life.



The curriculum integrates cross-cutting themes like sustainability, technology, and health throughout the strands. This approach aims to develop students' curiosity and enthusiasm for chemistry, nurturing them into scientifically literate citizens and lifelong learners

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Chemistry in Practice Investigation	40%	Common brief
Written examination	60%	Higher and Ordinary level

Table 2: Overview of Assessment for Certification

There are two assessment components: a written examination and an additional assessment component comprising of a Chemistry in Practice Investigation. The practice assessment is expected to be a **practical exam or coursework** where students complete a set of experiments under exam conditions. It may include a **written reflection or report** on their findings, conclusions, and how the experiment connects to chemistry concepts. These could include titrations, rates of reaction, electrolysis, chromatography, and organic synthesis.

Chemistry is required for the following third level courses:

Not only is the place of chemistry central to most courses in Natural Sciences offered in third level education, but it is also an essential element in the study of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Agricultural Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Technology, and numerous technician courses. It is a requirement for entry to 7 courses and meets the requirement for a science subject for a further 204 courses. These include:

- **Veterinary Medicine** (UCD) (H5 in Chemistry. Biology at Leaving Certificate is not required but it is strongly recommended).
- **Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy** (UCC) (H4 in Chemistry and either Physics or Biology)
- **Dentistry and 5-year Medicine** (RCSI) (H4 in Chemistry and either Physics or Biology)
- **Pharmacy** (TCD) (H4 Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and H4 in one of Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Geography, Agricultural Science or Computer Science).
- **Medical and Health Sciences** (UCC) (H4 in Chemistry and O6/H7 Physics, Biology or Agricultural Science)
- **Human Nutrition and Dietetics** (TU (CITY CAMPUS)) (H4 in Chemistry)

Chemistry is useful for careers in:

Agriculture; Archaeologist; Brewing Technologist; Chemist; Chemistry teacher; Dairy Scientist; Dental Surgeon; Dietician; Doctor; Engineering, particularly Chemical Engineering; Food Science Technologist; Industrial Chemist; Medical Laboratory Technician; Nurse, Optician, Pharmacist; Psychotherapist; Pilot; Polymer Scientist; Radiographer; Speech and Language Therapist; Forensic Science; Photographic Processing; Cosmetic Science; Quality Control and Biotechnology; Fuel Technologist; Veterinary Surgeon.

**CONSTRUCTION STUDIES**

Mr Weldon / Ms O'Neill / Mr Reddin / Mr Molloy

The main focus of the Construction Studies course is on the domestic house, but it also ranges from the construction of sports arenas to skyscrapers. It is a practical course in which the student is given the opportunity to achieve 50% of their Leaving Certificate exam result during their Leaving Certificate year in a project and a practical exam. The other 50% is assessed in a written exam in June.

You will study the historical development of buildings; the simple aesthetic principles related to the appearance of buildings; elements of the built environment; controls over the built environment; how to obtain planning permission, choose a site, purchase a house, get a mortgage, and insurance; the role of the construction industry in the national economy; occupations in the industry; drawings and documents used in the construction process; use of scales, standard symbols and notation; preparation of dimensional drawings using instruments; freehand sketches of conventional details; site investigation information required and typical processes; conservation orders for trees and buildings; office and storage accommodation for a typical site; structural principles of simple forms of construction; problems associated with exposure of structures to the elements; safety precautions on site- fire tests on building material and structures; and principles of building regulations; building foundations; choose material for internal and external walls; how sound, light and heat affect the design of buildings; how to install electricity and plumb your home; how to build an extension; calculate a U-value; how to survey a piece of land for construction; and how to convert your attic.

The assessment of the syllabus is broken into three components:

<b>Task</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Example</b>
Project	25%	May	A model house, a piece of furniture
Practical	25%	May	Materials - cutting, shaping, making a product using wood
Written Exam	50%	June	Answer 5 out of 10 Questions

Construction Studies is required for the following third level courses:

While Construction Studies is not a sole requirement for any course, it can meet the entry requirements for approximately 15 courses. The following is an illustrative list:

- **Design Graphics and Construction Education** at Letterfrack (ATU GALWAY)- (H5 in DCG or Construction Studies).
- **Architectural Technology** (TU (CITY CAMPUS))- (H4 in Art, Construction Studies, DCG, Engineering or Technology).
- **Common Entry Engineering; Aeronautical Engineering; Electronic & Computer Engineering; Chemical and Biochemical Engineering; Electrical Engineering** (UL)- (H4 in Mathematics and O6/H7 in one of Applied Math's, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/ Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Technology, Computer Science, Biology, Agricultural Science, Construction Studies).
- **Technology Management; Graphics and Construction Technology with concurrent Teacher Education; Graphics, Engineering and Technology with concurrent Teacher Education; Construction Management & Engineering** (UL)- (O3/ H7 in Mathematics and O4/H7 grade in Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Technology, Construction Studies, Computer Science, Agricultural Science, or Biology)
- **Product Design; Interaction Design** (NCAD) O6/H7 in A third language or Art or DCG. But the O6/H7 Math's requirement can also be met by one of the following subjects at Grade H7/O6 or Higher in Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, Construction Studies, Agricultural Science, DCG, Biology.
- **Product Design and Technology** (UL) (A Portfolio, an O3/H7 in Math's, and O4/H7 Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Technology, Construction Studies, Computer Science, Agricultural Science, or Biology)
- **Project and Construction Management** (University of Galway) (O6/H7 in either a Laboratory Science subject (i.e., Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, joint Physics/Chemistry, Physics), Technology, Engineering, DCG or Construction Studies)

Construction Studies is useful for careers in:

Auctioneering; Engineering; Construction Industry; Interior Design; Architecture; 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; Heating and Ventilation Technician; Firefighter; Insurance Claims.

<b>DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS</b> (Technical Graphics)	Ms O'Neill / Mr Reddin
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Design and Communication Graphics is the graphic language of Technology. When Architects, Engineers, and Interior Designers, for example, want to communicate their ideas or designs, they use Technical Drawing. It has its own set of rules and regulations that govern how it is used, common worldwide. It is therefore a truly universal language. Design and Communication Graphics is distinguished from other forms of drawings because it requires accuracy and precision. DCG is an educational experience in the broadest sense as it provides students with a body of knowledge and develops their intellect and creative abilities in topics that are appropriate and meaningful in a technological world. This programme is intended to develop the creative thinking and problem-solving abilities of students. The Design and Communication Graphics course makes a unique contribution to cognitive and practical skills development. These skills include graphicacy/graphic communication, creative problem solving, spatial abilities/visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics and CAD modelling. The creative and decision-making capabilities of students in the activities associated with design are developed through three principal areas of study: design and communication graphics, plane, and descriptive geometries, and applied graphics.

There are two assessment components:

1. A student assignment (40% of the examination marks, of which CAD will form a component)
2. A terminal examination paper (60% of the examination marks)

Design and Communication Graphics is required for the following third level courses:

It is not a sole requirement for any course, but it can meet the entry requirements approximately 35 courses - The following is again an illustrative list:

- **Design, Graphics and Construction Education;** at Letterfrack (ATU GALWAY)- (H5 in DCG or Construction Studies).
- **Art, Design and Graphics Education (DCG and Art Teaching)** (ATU GALWAY) (H5 in Art or DCG)
- **Design- Visual Communication: Visual Art** (SETU Waterford) (Art or DCG: O3/H5)
- **Art and Design (Common Entry); Graphic Design and Moving Image Design; Textiles & Surface Design & Jewelry & Objects; Fine Art & Applied Art; Education and Art or Design** (Second Level Teaching); **Fashion Design; Product Design; Illustration; Interaction Design** (NCAD) (Portfolio and an O6/H7 in Art, 3rd Language or DCG); **Visual Culture** (an O6/H7 in Art, 3rd Language or DCG).
- **Animation; Fashion with Promotion; Graphic and Illustration: Design – Common Entry** (ATU Donegal) (Art or Graphic Design O6/H7 or Portfolio).
- **Architectural Technology** (TU (CITY CAMPUS))- (H4 in Art, Construction Studies, DCG, Engineering or Technology).
- **Common Entry Engineering; Aeronautical Engineering; Electronic & Computer Engineering; Chemical and Biochemical Engineering; Electrical Engineering** (UL)- (H4 in Mathematics and O6/H7 in one of Applied Math's, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/ Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Technology, Computer Science, Biology, Agricultural Science, Construction Studies).
- **Technology Management; Graphics and Construction Technology with concurrent Teacher Education; Graphics, Engineering and Technology with concurrent Teacher Education; Construction Management & Engineering** (UL)- (O3/ H7 in Mathematics and O4/H7 grade in Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Technology, Construction Studies, Computer Science, Agricultural Science, or Biology)
- **Product Design and Technology** (UL) (A Portfolio, an O3/H7 in Math's, and O4/H7 Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Technology, Construction Studies, Computer Science, Agricultural Science, or Biology)
- **Science Education Biology with Phy or Chem or Agri Science** (2<sup>nd</sup> Level Ed) (UL)- O3/H7 Maths plus O4/H7 in biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chem, Agricultural Science, Technology or DCG.
- **Science with Nanotechnology; Physics with Medical Physics & Bioengineering; Physics Technology; Physics with Data Science; Physics with Energy and Environment** (TU (CITY CAMPUS) – (Math's O3/H7 and H4 in one of: Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Agricultural Science, Engineering, Technical Drawing, Technology or DCG).
- **Project and Construction Management** (University of Galway) (O6/H7 in either a Laboratory Science subject (Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, joint Physics/Chemistry, Physics), Technology, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics or Construction Studies)
- **Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering** (SETU Waterford) (H5 or better in a Laboratory Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry and Agricultural Science) or Technical (Engineering, Technology, DCG) subject compensates for not making the required grade in Mathematics (O3/H7).

Design and Communication Graphics is useful for careers in:

Design and Communication Graphics may be contributory towards a variety of careers, which might include, 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.

French is the language of diplomatic circles and high finance today. It is one of the main working languages of the UN and the EU. The Leaving Certificate syllabus enables pupils to develop a high competency in the language by fostering the four language skills- reading, writing, speaking, and listening. French provides students with the knowledge of the grammatical workings of the language, which will assist them in further study whether for academic, business or leisure purposes. It offers insights into the culture and civilization of France and encourages an openness of mind to the customs and culture of other people.

The Leaving Certificate examination at both Higher and Ordinary Levels consists of the same component, with different mark allocations as follows:

Higher Level

Speaking (oral examination) 25%

Listening comprehension 20%

Reading comprehension 30%

Writing 25%

Ordinary Level

Speaking (oral examination) 20%

Listening comprehension 25%

Reading comprehension 40%

Writing 15% (tests of written production, letter writing etc.)

A Language is required for the following third level courses:

Let us start by clearing up one misconception- You do not need a foreign language for all third level studies.

The National University of Ireland requires a pass in a third language for entry to almost every course in the faculties of Business, Arts, Law, Medicine, Social Science, Veterinary, Physiotherapy, radiography, Sports Performance - University College Dublin, University of Galway, RCSI, NCAD, University College Cork and Maynooth University. The exceptions are- All nursing courses (all colleges); and All Engineering and some Science programmes; Business and Law courses at Maynooth University and the NCAD will accept Art or DCG instead of a third language.

You may also need a third language to become an Army, Navy, or Air Corps cadet.

Students who have language exemptions (i.e., due to hearing problems or dyslexia) are also exempt from this requirement at third level and in the Defense Forces. Trinity College in Dublin, Mary Immaculate College and the University of Limerick accept Irish as fulfilling its second-language requirement. Dublin City University and the Institutes of Technology require a continental language only if the course involves its study.

French is required for entry to 10 courses in the CAO at the moment and may be required for a further 452 courses (162 of which are a third language requirement). It can meet a H4 or H3 requirement in a Third Language for many more language-based CAO courses. In addition, in many languages courses French is not offered at beginner's level, so a H3/H4 is often required to study French, but this may not always be the case for other languages such as Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Japanese etc. here is an illustrative, not exhaustive list of French requirements:

- **Arts with French** (UL) – H4 French
- **Commerce International with French** (University of Galway) - H3 in French
- **Law and French; Business Studies with French; French and Modern Languages** (TCD) - H3 French
- **Law & French; Commerce International with French** (UCC) H3 in French
- **Arts with French** (UCC)- French 06/H7
- **Global Business – France** (DCU) O4 or H6 in Mathematics and H4 in French;
- **Common and Civil law** (UL) – O6/H7 in French
- **Arts** (UCD) – UCD recommend that you study French, only if you have at least a H4 French

- **Business Studies (International); International Relations; Arts Joint Honors (Media Studies, Law or International Languages)** (if taking a language) **Applied language and Translation Studies;** (DCU)– H4 in the language if taking French, Spanish or German.
- **European Studies (UL)** – H4 grade in a language other than English. Students wishing to take French, Spanish (advanced) or German (advanced) must hold a minimum of a H4 grade in the appropriate language.
- **Applied languages; Global Politics (with a language); Journalism and Digital Communication (with a language); Languages with concurrent Teacher Education (UL)**- Grade H3 in French, German, Irish, or Spanish.
- **Business International; Business, Arts (with a language); Law Plus (UL)** - Students wishing to take a language option must have a H4 in that language, except for Japanese or Beginners Spanish where a H4 in a language other than English is required.
- **Arts (French); Psychology (SETU WATERFORD)** - It is recommended that applicants choosing French, German or Irish have a H5 in that language. **Business with/without a language (SETU WATERFORD)** O3/H6 in French, German or Spanish or H5 in Irish.
- **International Business and Languages- French, Languages and International Tourism- French;** (TU (CITY CAMPUS)) - H4 in one of Chinese, French, German, Irish, Italian, or Spanish
- **Commerce International French (UCD)** - H4 in LC French (or equivalent) to take any French language combinations.
- **Arts with French (Maynooth University)**- H4 French recommended if doing non-beginner French.
- **International Business with a language (MTU Cork)** – H4 in chosen Language for Spanish, French and German
- **Law with a Language (TU City Centre)** – H4 in the Language for French, German and Spanish; **International Business with a Language** - H4 in the Language for French, German, Spanish, Irish or Italian.
- **Classical Languages; Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology (TCD)**- H4 in a language other than English; **Linguistics;** O2/H6 in an language other than English
- **Modern Languages (TCD)** – For German, Italian, Russian or Spanish a H4 in a language other than English; for French and Irish a H4 in that language.
- **European Studies (TCD)** - H4 in two of French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish (H3 in the case of French and German, and H4 in the case of Spanish if non-beginner). Students who have only one language (other than English or Irish) may also be admitted with H3 in the language they wish to study.
- **Middle Eastern & European Languages & Cultures (TCD)**- H4 in an language other than English or Irish.
- **Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language (TCD)** – H3 in French or Irish or Spanish
- **Arts (Global language) (University of Galway)** – H4 in a continental language

If you were born outside of Ireland and have an **exemption from Irish**, you will **need to study French or Spanish (or another language at Leaving Certificate level)** to meet the second language requirement for entry to **TCD, Mary Immaculate and UL**.

French is useful for careers in:

Flight Attendant; Air Traffic Controller; Au Pair; Bilingual Secretary; Chef; Hotel Manager; Receptionist; Marketing; Export Careers; Interpreter; Translator; International Driver; Pilot; Travel Agency Clerk; Waiter; Journalist; Telemarketing; Department of Foreign Affairs; European Union, United Nations; Defense Forces.

Geography is concerned with the study of people and their environment. A study of geography will help you to develop an understanding of your physical and human surroundings. It examines the changing interrelationships between the physical and human worlds. Through a study of geography, you will develop geographical skills that will help you to make informed judgements about issues at local, national, and international levels. The syllabus is wide and varied. If you enjoy drawing, are good at numbers or like to interpret graphs and charts, you will be able to develop these skills while gaining knowledge.

The course is broken into three Core units common to Higher and Ordinary Level, an additional elective unit common to both levels and a further optional unit in Higher Level as follows:

- **Core Unit 1** Patterns and processes in the **physical** environment (Plate Tectonics, Rocks, Karst, Mass Movement etc)
- **Core Unit 2 Regional** geography (Ireland, Europe & Sub-continental region (India or Brazil))
- **Core Unit 3** Geographical Investigation and Skills (**Project**)
- **Elective Unit 4** Patterns and processes in economic activities
- *Elective Unit 5* Patterns and processes in the human environment
- Optional Unit 6 Global interdependence
- **Optional Unit 7** Geo ecology
- Optional Unit 8 Culture and identity
- Optional Unit 9 The atmosphere—ocean environment

Choose ONE Elective Unit. We usually chose Economic Activities- Multinational Companies.

Higher Level students only choose ONE Optional Unit. We usually choose Geoecology (soils and Biome's)

Assessment will take the form of a terminal written examination and a report on a geographical investigation.  
**-Written examination 80%. - A report on the geographical investigation 20%.**

The written examination consists of questions requiring short answers and multi-part questions requiring more developed answers. Longer essay-style discursive answers are required only in the assessment of the optional units. The report on the geographical investigation will be assessed outside of the terminal written examination.

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 9 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).
- **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)
- **PE with concurrent Teacher education (2<sup>nd</sup> Level ed) (UL)** – desirable to have Geography at H4 if taking this elective.

Geography is useful for careers in:

Engineering; Construction; Planning; Tourism; Archaeology; Meteorology; Environmental Protection; Surveying; Landscape; Architecture; Agriculture; Forestry; Marketing; Leisure Industry; Local Government; Conservation Work; Air Traffic Controller; Marine Officer; Developmental Work Abroad; Naval Cadet; Pilot; Quantity Surveyor; Education; Distributive Trades; Mining and Energy Industries.

**HISTORY**

Ms Farrell / Mr Kinevane

Studying history will develop in you an appreciation of the society in which you live and of other societies, both past and present. You will also develop an awareness of your historical heritage and gain insights into your own identity and tradition. You will develop an understanding about different concepts that are relevant to life today, such as democracy and human rights, power and authority, and conflict and reconciliation. History is unique in that it is the only subject that investigates how aspects of human life and human institutions have undergone change over time. You will learn about how such change has taken place in Irish history and the history of Europe and the wider world. Your study will deal with political, social, economic, cultural, religious, and scientific history.

Much of popular culture, whether in films, literature, or theatre, draws on history for inspiration. Many of the issues that affect the planet on a daily basis have their roots in history also, and knowing this history helps us to understand them. History also helps to deepen our understanding of events and people, as it gives us context and a sense of perspective. This may explain why history books and films are so popular nowadays with people who did not study the subject in school, but who now enjoy it as a hobby and can see its relevance. You will encounter many issues and events, both in Irish history and in the history of Europe and the wider world, which have helped to shape the world we live in. You will also learn about the role of many interesting key personalities, from various walks of life, in shaping the past. You will develop analytical skills and the ability to select relevant information, making this a useful subject to study if you decide to take Arts or a Law Degree.

The new Leaving Certificate History Syllabus was introduced in 2004, and its assessment includes the following:

- Research study pre-submitted (can be of local/national and/or international significance) (20%)
- A terminal Examination which includes:
  - A Study of Documentary Evidence (20%)
  - General Questions (60%)

The terminal examination explores areas from the Later Modern field of study (4 topics to be studied; two from Irish history, and two from Europe and the Wider World). Each topic is studied from a range of perspectives. For a majority of topics, this involves the study of the following aspects of a topic: politics and administration; society and economy; culture, religion, and science. In addition, each topic has three associated case studies, which involves an in-depth investigation of a particularly significant or representative aspect of an element of the topic; and a list of key personalities and key concepts. Study includes the following topics:

**Irish History, 1815-1993**

1. The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949
2. Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

**History of Europe and the wider world, 1815-1992**

1. Dictatorship and democracy, 1920-1945
2. The United States and the world, 1945-1989

History is useful for careers in:

Politics; Journalism; Town Planning; Economics; Local Government; Social Work; Sociology; Archaeology; Barrister; Civil Servant; Guide; History Teacher; Law Clerk; Museum Work; Researcher; Solicitor; Trade union Official; Prison Service; Probation Officer; Garda; Writer; Tourism; Librarian.

Music is in its own right a way of “knowing” that also encourages the cognitive processes used in other subject areas. It is an immensely useful subject. The new syllabus - first examined in 1999 - continues to emphasize the integration of the three activity areas introduced at Junior Cycle level:

1. *Performance* (25%)

- Students may perform individually or as a group (Senior choir, band etc.). The standard required is that of a student performing in a school context for 5 years.

2. *Listening* (25%) - includes:

- four prescribed works of different historical context
- Irish music
- general aural skills, i.e., rhythm, melody, vocal & instrumental timbres

3. *Composition* (25%) - includes:

- melodic & harmonic composition
- melody writing
- adding chord symbols (e.g., guitar chords) to melody
- adding bass notes (base line) to melody
- exploring assorted styles of writing from popular to ‘classical’

4. *Remaining* 25%

- students may undertake any one of the above activities as a “higher elective” e.g., performance could total 50 % of total. (Ordinary level students choose one of the three activities to represent 50% of their work with no extra work, while Higher Level students undertake a Higher-Level Elective in one of the three activities that best suits their talents).

The course was designed with the students in mind, so that a package of study areas can be selected to suit the strengths and interests of individual students. The core activity areas of the course include Rock Music (prescribed works by The Beatles / Queen) and Music Technology. A core (up to 50%) of the course can be undertaken in performance- singing, playing an instrument, accompaniment, conductor. However, it is not necessary for the Leaving Certificate to have a musical instrument, as 25% of the practical can be through the medium of computers- inputting music and performing three edits and printing out the finished product.

Music is required for the following third level courses:

While Leaving Certificate music is not a requirement to study all Music courses at third level, particular standards must be achieved, as there is usually a theory (music reading) and practical examination for entry. Those applying would be expected to have reached Grade 7 in a particular instrument. This is an illustrative list of the mix of requirements for music courses:

- **Arts (with Music)** (Maynooth University) H5 Music required if taking Music as an elective.
  - **Theology and Arts (Music)**; (Pontifical University, St. Pat’s College Maynooth)- H5 Music required if taking Music as an elective.
  - **Music (SETU WATERFORD)** - attend written and aural musical tests and to show a performance standard achievement with a musical instrument equivalent to grade 5 of a recognised music examining body.
  - **Music - Popular Music - Bass Guitar; Electric Guitar; Drums; Keyboard, Voice**; at MTU Cork School of Music (MTU CORK) – Entrance test
  - **Arts with Music; Music (UCC)** - Applicants are required to pass a special music test
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- **Post Primary Teacher Education - Religious Education & Music (DCU)** - H4 music or equivalent at discretion of Head of Music.
  - **Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance (DCU)** – Music Audition
  - **Commercial Modern Music (TU (CITY CAMPUS))** - Attend an audition/interview

- **Music (Single Hons) and Music (Joint Hons)** with Maths, Modern language, Religion, Philosophy, Drama or Middle Eastern, Jewish and Islamic Civilisations (TCD) Though desirable, formal musical training is not a prerequisite for entry, but candidates should have a good ear and the ability to read and notate music to a rudimentary level.
- **Music Education** (TCD)- Music Education Entrance Test followed by an interview/audition (two contrasting pieces on their main instrument). Max 200 points awarded which will be combined with Leaving Certificate/equivalent CAO results.
- **Musical Theatre** (Dundalk IT)- Audition and Interview
- **Arts with Music** (University of Galway)- Leaving Cert Music is recommended, but not essential.
- **Irish Music; Irish Dance; Contemporary Dance; Voice; World Music** (UL)- Audition (play/sing two pieces of your own choosing in any style or genre/ one solo dance performance). Max 200 points awarded which will be combined with Leaving Certificate/equivalent CAO results.
- **Music** (Maynooth University) – Music at LC is not an entry requirement, but admission is based on a music assessment/performance.
- **Arts (with Music)** (UCD) - Strongly recommend H4 Music, or Grade 5 ABRSM Music Theory.
- **Creative Music Production** (IADT) – Audition for Practice Stream or portfolio for Production stream.

#### Music is useful for careers in:

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.

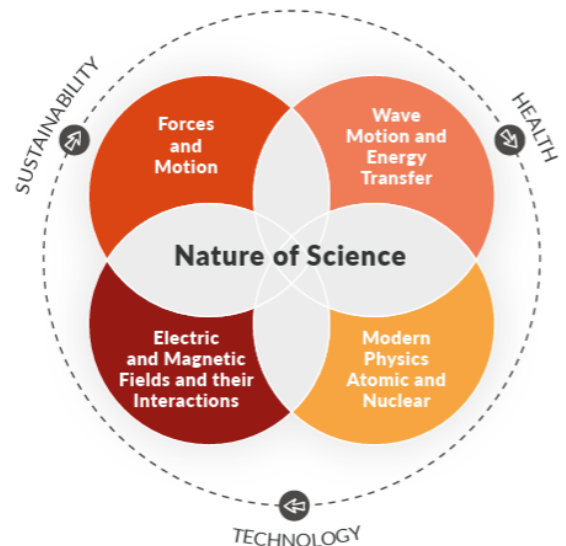
<b>PHYSICS</b>	Mr Scully
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Physics describes the laws and forces governing natural phenomena, which include heat, light, electricity, and magnetism. It uses maths and equations to describe and predict events and phenomena. It is of key importance in technology and particularly relevant for those interested in specialising in most branches of engineering. It can be challenging but it can also be rewarding. Understanding a little more about the often-surprising ways of the physical world can make the world seem a more fascinating and complex place. How does the electric motor work? What evidence do we have that the Universe is expanding (the Big Bang)? Why is it that sound can go around corners but light cannot? How can we measure the power of an athlete? The answer to these questions and many more can be found in the study of Physics.

The specification is organised into five strands:

1. **Nature of Science:** Students develop an understanding that, while science is powerful and generates knowledge leading to societal advancements, it has limitations. They learn that applying scientific knowledge to problem-solving can be influenced by economic, social, sustainability, and ethical factors.
2. **Forces and Motion:** This strand covers Newtonian mechanics, explaining the motion of objects. Students explore how objects move (kinematics) and why they move in specific ways (dynamics), using verbal, mathematical, and graphical representations to discuss motion in one dimension and circular motion.
3. **Waves and Energy Transfer:** Students are introduced to various types of waves, their distinguishing features, and the concept of energy transfer. They learn about wave anatomy, associated vocabulary, mathematical relationships, and delve into electromagnetism as one of the four fundamental forces of nature.

4. **Electricity and Magnetism:** This strand introduces electric and magnetic fields as examples of vector fields of force. Students use field lines to represent the strength and direction of these fields, explore evidence for electric charge, and establish links with atomic structure, Newton's Laws of motion, and work and energy.
5. **Modern Physics:** Students gain an appreciation for the evolving nature of physics by studying developments from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They learn how experimental discoveries challenged accepted theories, leading to the emergence of quantum mechanics and a revised understanding of matter on an atomic scale.



### Assessment:

The assessment comprises two components:

- **Written Examination (60%):** This evaluates students' understanding of the core concepts and principles outlined in the specification.
- **Physics in Practice Investigation (40%):** Students conduct an investigation based on a brief provided by the State Examinations Commission. This involves real-world applications of physics, demonstrating investigative skills, relating their work to that of scientists in society, and effectively communicating their findings.

### Physics is required for the following third level courses:

Physics meets the science subject requirement for medical, science, engineering, electronics, and computer courses. In most engineering courses, you will find a high physics content, while some paramedical careers will involve the study of physics e.g., radiotherapy, physiotherapy etc. In addition, anyone considering a career or course in electronics would be very much encouraged to do physics. Physics is a specific requirement for **Theoretical Physics** in Trinity College Dublin (H3 In Mathematics and Physics). It meets the requirements for “a science subject” for approximately 216 further courses.

Studying leaving certificate physics would be advantageous for any student intending to do science, engineering, medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science at third level.

### Physics is useful for careers in:

Architecture; Astronomy; Biophysicist; Computer Careers; Dentist; Doctor; Engineer, especially electrical and electronic, Geophysicist; Health Inspector; Medical Laboratory Technician; Meteorologist; Naval Service; Nurse; Optician; Pharmacist; Physicist; Physics Teacher; Photographic Technician; Pilot; Radiographer; Science Laboratory Technician; Telecommunications; various trade apprenticeships; Heating and Ventilation Technicians; Forensics; Communications; Information Technology. Indeed, unemployed, or bored physicists are very scarce!

Note: “The physics syllabus does not require Higher level mathematics. Higher level physics may include some of the optional work of Ordinary level mathematics” (syllabus)- However, there are aspects of Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry, Vectors and Graphs involved in the study of Physics. It is therefore recommended that students studying Physics at Leaving Certificate level are comfortable with the study of mathematics.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Exam)**

Mr Parson's

The aim of Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) is to develop students' knowledge, skills, and understanding of physical education, sport, and physical activity.

Key Objectives

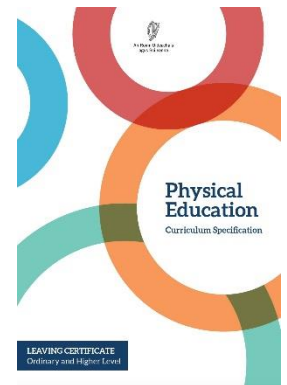
- Promote lifelong Physical Activity
- Develop Knowledge and Skills
- Foster Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- Encourage Teamwork and Leadership
- Prepare For further study and careers
- Promote inclusion and diversity

The **Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE)** course is structured to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of physical activity, sports performance, and their broader impacts on health and society. The course is divided into two main strands: **Strand 1** focuses on *theory* and **Strand 2** emphasizes *practical performance and assessment*.

**Strand 1 Towards Optimum Performance**

This strand covers the theoretical aspects of the course and is divided into six topics:

1. Learning and Improving Skill and Techniques
2. Physical and Psychological demands of Performance
3. Structure, Strategies and Planning
4. Promoting Physical Activity
5. Ethics and Fair Play
6. Technology, Media and Innovation

**Strand 2: Contemporary issues in Physical Activity**

This strand encourages students to explore how physical activity and sport interact with societal trends and challenges. Topics may include:

- Gender Equality in Sport
- The Role of sports in promoting inclusion
- Environmental sustainability in sport activities

Assessment

The assessment components in **Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE)** are designed to evaluate both theoretical knowledge and practical performance. They are divided into three parts: **Written Examination**, **Performance Assessment**, and **Physical Activity Project (PAP)**. Here's a breakdown:

**Written Exam (50%)**

- The written exam tests student's knowledge of theoretical content covered in strand 1 and 2.
- Questions may include multiple-choice, short-answers and extended response formats.

**Physical Activity Project (20%) (PAP)**

- Students select a physical activity or sport and carry out a project analysing their performance in that activity. They focus on specific areas for improvement and create an evidence-based plan to enhance their performance. The project is presented in a digital format, typically including written reflections, data analysis, and multimedia evidence (e.g., video footage).

**Performance Assessment (30%)**

Students demonstrate their practical performance in a chosen physical activity or sport. Students' performances are recorded and submitted digitally for assessment by external examiners. You can also be assessed in Coaching and Officiating a sport

Physical Education is required for the following third level courses:

It is not a requirement for any course, but can meet the Science Subject requirement in UL's Physiotherapy degree (O3/H7 in one of: Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Physical Education, Biology, Agricultural Science) and Sport Science degree (O3/ H7 in one of: Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Biology, Physical Education or Applied Maths)

Physical Education is useful for careers in:

Sports Science, Physical Education teaching, Physiotherapy, Coaching, Sports management, Nutrition, Personal training, Occupational therapy, Officiating

<b>SPANISH</b>	Ms Rasmussen / Mr Mr Kinevane
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In Spanish you will develop your reading, writing, oral and understanding skills. You will also learn about culture in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world; spoken in more than 20 countries, by over 200 million people. The general educational aims of foreign language teaching are:

1. to make it possible for pupils to take up job and further education opportunities, which may involve the use of Spanish (increasingly important in the context of the development of the E.U.)
2. to develop the pupils' capacity to engage in useful interactions in another language.
3. to give pupils an awareness of another culture.
4. to contribute to pupils' awareness of language as a system of communication
5. to develop an awareness of the grammatical structure of language.

Assessment

The Leaving Certificate examination at both Higher and Ordinary levels consists of the same component, with different mark allocations as follows:

Higher Level

Speaking (oral examination) 25%  
 Listening comprehension 20%  
 Reading comprehension 30%  
 Writing 25%

Ordinary Level

Speaking (oral examination) 20%  
 Listening comprehension 25%  
 Reading comprehension 40%  
 Writing 15% (tests of written production, letter writing etc.)

A Language is required for the following third level courses:

As mentioned under the French section, you do not need a foreign language for all third level studies.

The National University of Ireland requires a pass in a third language for entry to almost every course in the faculties of Business, Arts, Law, Medicine, Social Science, Veterinary, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Sports Performance - University College Dublin, University of Galway, RCSI, NCAD, University College Cork and Maynooth University. The exceptions are- All nursing courses (all colleges); and All Engineering and some Science programmes; Business and Law courses at Maynooth University and the NCAD will accept Art or DCG instead of a third language. You may also need a third language to become an Army, Navy, or Air Corps cadet.

Students who have language exemptions (i.e., due to hearing problems or dyslexia) are also exempt from this requirement at third level and in the Defense Forces. Trinity College in Dublin, Mary Immaculate and the University of Limerick accept Irish as fulfilling its second-language requirement.

If you were born outside of Ireland and have an **exemption from Irish**, you will **need to study French or Spanish (or another language at Leaving Certificate level)** to meet the second language requirement for entry to **TCD, Mary Immaculate and UL**.

2 Courses that require Spanish, and a further 445 courses that may require Spanish (162 as a third language):

- **Global Business – Spain** (DCU) H4 in Spanish
- **Business Studies and Spanish** (TCD) H3 Spanish
- **Modern Languages - French, German, Italian, or Spanish** (UCD)- For any language chosen at advanced level during your first year, it is recommended that you have at least a H4 grade in that language at leaving Certificate, or equivalent.
- **Commerce International Spanish** (UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY) - H4 in a modern European language other than Irish or English.
- **Business Studies (International); International Relations; Arts Joint Honors (Media Studies, Law or International Languages)** (if taking a language) **Applied language and Translation Studies;** (DCU)– H4 in the language if taking French, Spanish or German.
- **European Studies** (UL) – H4 grade in a language other than English. Students wishing to take French, Spanish (advanced) or German (advanced) must hold a minimum of a H4 grade in the appropriate language.
- **Applied languages; Global Politics (with a language); Journalism and Digital Communication (with a language); Languages with concurrent Teacher Education** (UL)- Grade H3 in French, German, Irish, or Spanish.
- **Business International; Business, Arts (with a language); Law Plus** (UL) - Students wishing to take a language option must have a H4 in that language, except for Japanese or Beginners Spanish where a H4 in a language other than English is required.
- **Arts (French); Psychology** (SETU WATERFORD) - It is recommended that applicants choosing French, German or Irish have a H5 in that language. **Business with/without a language** (SETU WATERFORD) O3/H6 in French, German or Spanish or H5 in Irish.
- **International Business and Languages- Spanish, Languages and International Tourism-Spanish;** (TU (CITY CAMPUS)) - H4 in one of Chinese, French, German, Irish, Italian, or Spanish
- **Commerce International French** (UCD) - H4 in LC French (or equivalent) to take any French language combinations.
- **Arts with French** (Maynooth University)- H4 French recommended if doing non-beginner French.
- **International Business with a language** (MTU Cork) – H4 in chosen Language for Spanish, French and German
- **Law with a Language** (TU City Centre) – H4 in the Language for French, German and Spanish; **International Business with a Language** - H4 in the Language for French, German, Spanish, Irish or Italian.
- **Classical Languages; Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology** (TCD)- H4 in a language other than English; **Linguistics;** O2/H6 in an language other than English
- **Modern Languages** (TCD) – For German, Italian, Russian or Spanish a H4 in a language other than English; for French and Irish a H4 in that language.
- **European Studies** (TCD) - H4 in two of French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish (H3 in the case of French and German, and H4 in the case of Spanish if non-beginner). Students who have only one language (other than English or Irish) may also be admitted with H3 in the language they wish to study.
- **Middle Eastern & European Languages & Cultures** (TCD)- H4 in an language other than English or Irish.
- **Computer Science, Linguistics and a Language** (TCD) – H3 in French or Irish or Spanish
- **Arts (Global language)** (University of Galway) – H4 in a continental language

Spanish is useful for careers in:

Flight Attendant; Air Traffic Controller; Bilingual Secretary; Chef; Hotel Manager/receptionist; Marketing; Export Careers; Teacher; Interpreter; Translator; International Driver; Pilot; Travel Agency Clerk; Waiter; Journalist; Telemarketing; Department of Foreign Affairs; European Union, United Nations; Defense Forces; Clinical Speech.

Leaving Certificate Technology emphasises 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. Students taking this course should develop their problem-solving skills and a sense of responsibility for their own learning, and become self-directed, creative, and autonomous learners, thus laying the foundation for lifelong learning. Technology involves a study of:

- A Process of Design
- Project & Quality Management
- Materials and Production
- Communication and Graphic Media
- Information & Communications Technology
- Structures and Mechanisms
- Energy, Electricity and Electronics

In addition, students' study two optional modules from:

- Electronics and Control (Electrical Measurement, Components and Circuit Design, Power Supplies and Safety, Electric Motors, Assembly of Pre-designed Circuits, Logic Circuits, Counters and Sensors)
- Applied Control Systems (Robotics, Robotic Control, Control, Programmable Devices, Pneumatics)
- Information & Communication Technology (Computer Architecture, Data Communications, Computer Networks, Internet, Multimedia Design)
- Manufacturing Systems (Context of Manufacturing, Quality Management, Project management, Concurrent Engineering, Manufacturing Systems Design & Control)
- Materials Technology (Classification of Materials, Properties/Structure of Materials, Structure of Materials, Materials Processing, Skills Development, Quality Assurance, Production Techniques)

#### Assessment

There will be one examination paper at Ordinary level (2 hours) and one at Higher level (2.5 hours). In addition, 50% of the assessment requires students to undertake a project based on a specified thematic brief and within stated parameters. The project involves the design and production of an artefact and an accompanying folder.

The project, which must be completed in school and be the unaided work of the student, should integrate the various elements of the study of technology. The folder should reflect all stages of the student's work from design to realisation, and should include an overall evaluation.

#### 34 Courses in the CAO may require Technology:

The following is again an illustrative list:

- **Analytical Chemistry- Environmental Forensic and Pharmaceutical;** Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry (TU (CITY CAMPUS)) - Math's O3/H7 and H4 in one of: Physics, Chemistry, Physics/chemistry, Biology or Technology.
- **Architectural Technology** (TU CITY CAMPUS)- H4 in one of: Art, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Engineering or Technology
- **Clinical Measurement Physiology** (ATU Sligo) (H6/O4 in Math's and H4 in one of: Applied Math's, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/ Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Engineering or Technology).
- **Construction Management and Engineering; Technology Management; Product Design and Technology** (UL). O3/H7 Maths and O4/H7 in any one of: Agricultural Science, Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Construction Studies, Engineering, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, DCG, Technology)

- **Common Entry Engineering; Aeronautical Engineering, Engineering, Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Electronic and Computer Engineering; Electrical Engineering (UL)**- (H4 in Mathematics and O6/H7 in one of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Technology, Engineering, DCG, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Computer Science or Construction).
- **Graphics and Construction Technology (Teaching); Graphics, Engineering and Technology (Teaching) (UL)**; (O3/H7 in Mathematics and O4/H7 in any one of the following: Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Technology, Construction Studies, Agricultural Science, Biology, Computer Science.).
- **Engineering (UCC)** – (H4 in Mathematics or Applied Mathematics (if the H4 is in Applied Math's, a H6 in Math's is also required); O6/H7 Laboratory Science subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science) or Technology)
- **Engineering (Maynooth University)** – O6/H7a Science subject (i.e., Agricultural Science, Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, Physics/Chemistry or Technology) & H4 Mathematics.
- **Biomedical Engineering; Civil Engineering; Electronic and Electrical Engineering; Electronic and Computer Engineering; Energy Systems Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Undenominated Engineering (University of Galway)** - O6/H7 in a laboratory science subject (i.e., Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics/Chemistry (joint), Computer Science or Agricultural Science) or Technology, and H4 Mathematics)
- **Project and Construction Management (University of Galway)** - O6/H7 in a laboratory science subject (i.e. Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, joint Physics/Chemistry, Physics), Technology, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics or Construction Studies, and O3/H7 Math's.
- **Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (SETU Waterford)**- H5 or better in a Laboratory Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry and Agricultural Science) or Technical (Engineering, Technology, DCG) subject compensates for not making the required grade in Mathematics (O3/H7).
- **Science with Nanotechnology; Physics with Medical Physics & Bioengineering; Physics with Energy and Environment; Physics Technology (TU (CITY CAMPUS))** – (Math's O3/H7 and H4 in one of: Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Agricultural Science, Engineering, Technology or DCG).
- **Physics and Data Science (TU (City Campus))**- O3/H7 Maths and H4 in one of: Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Agricultural Science, Engineering, Technical Drawing, Technology or DCG.
- **Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry (TU (City Campus))** - O3/H7 Maths and a H4 in one of: Physics, Chemistry, Physics & Chemistry, Biology or Technology.
- **Clinical Measurement Science (TU (City Campus))** - O3/H7 Math's and H4 in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Agri. Science, Engineering or Technology.
- **Science General Entry (TU (City Campus))** - Math's O3/H7 and H4 in one of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, Engineering, Technology or Applied Mathematics.

Technology is useful for careers in:

Civil and Structural Engineering; Architecture; Building Services; Teaching; Aircraft Technician; Industrial Design; Motor Mechanic; Town Planner; Industrial Engineer; Apprenticeships; Structural Design; Mechanical Engineer; Carpenter; Bricklayer; Computer Careers; Engineer, especially Electrical and Electronic, Medical Laboratory Technician; Naval Service; Pilot; Radiographer; Science Laboratory Technician; Telecommunications; Heating and Ventilation Technicians; Forensics; Communications; Information Technology.

Since the academic year 2022/2023 students may access the LCVP without having to meet the subject-specific criteria. This removes the need to choose two subjects from the designated Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) and the need to follow a recognised course in a Modern European Language (other than Irish or English).

The LCVP is a Leaving Certificate with a focus on enterprise and preparation for working life. This two-year programme combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate with a dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. In most ways the LCVP is like the established Leaving Certificate. LCVP students take two additional courses, called Link Modules, in the areas of Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education.

#### Programme Requirements:

- At least five Leaving Certificate subjects
- Two Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education

#### Assessment of the Link Modules:

LCVP Link Modules are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

The Written Examination (assessed in May) involves the following elements:

- ✓ assessing an Audio Visual Presentation,
- ✓ a Case Study (received in advance),
- ✓ General Questions (4 out of 6).

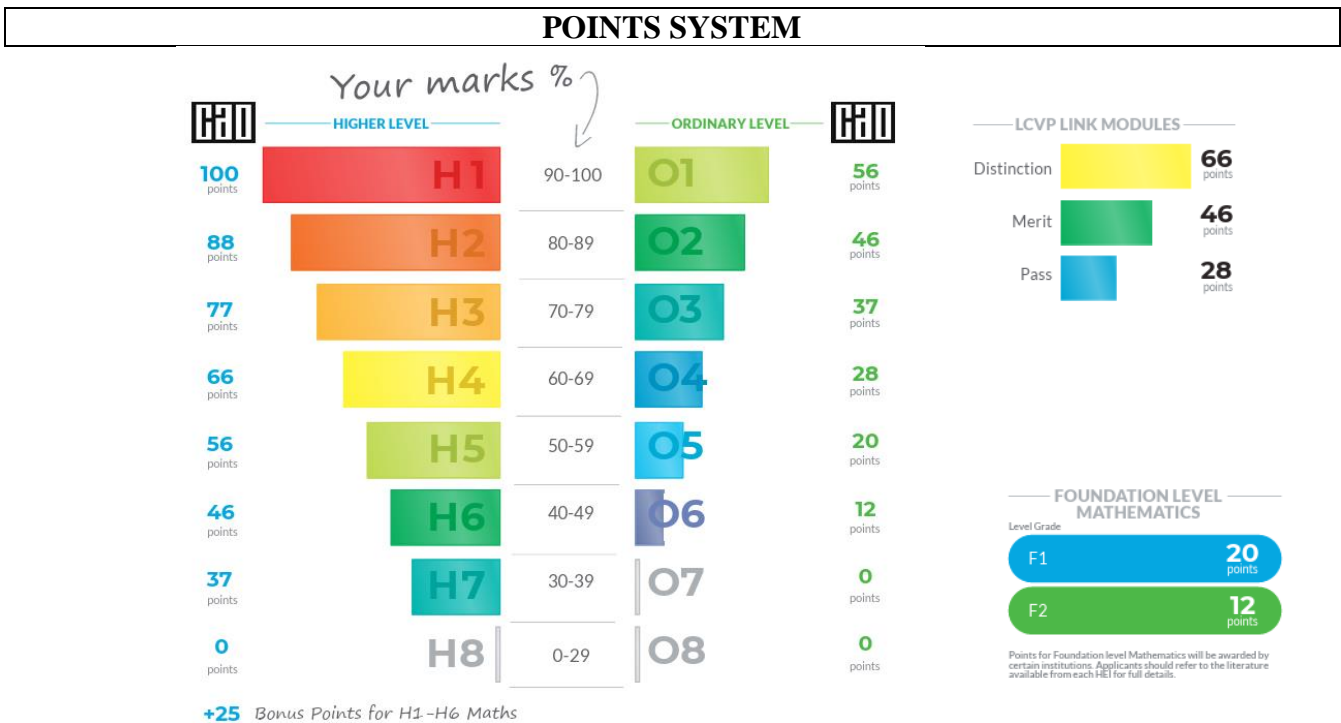
Students assemble the portfolio over the two years of the programme and it is assessed at the end of the final year of the Leaving Certificate. Portfolio items include:

- ✓ Curriculum Vitae,
- ✓ Career Investigation,
- ✓ Enterprise/Action Plan,
- ✓ Summary Report,
- ✓ Work Experience Report
- ✓ and a Recorded Interview.

Scroll down to “Subject Requirements Tool”

Select the subject you wish to research using the drop down menu.

To view courses that require the subject click on the circle labelled “**Definitely requires: xxx subject**”. If you wish to study any of the courses generated in the list that require that particular subject, then you may have to consider keeping that subject. So, for example, if you look up music and see that a course you are interested in or may be interested in requires music or may require music, then it would be wise to continue to study music. Also search for courses that require a science subject or a third language, as these can be searched for separately to the specific subjects themselves.



All points only apply where **Minimum Entry Requirements** have been met. Points are calculated on your **best 6 subjects**

**Bonus points for Higher Level Math's** Universities and Institutes of Technology will award 25 bonus points for Leaving Certificate Higher Level Mathematics to students who achieve a grade H6 or above. This means that the maximum cumulative LC points total is 625. There are generally **no points** awarded for **Foundation Level subjects**, however, a few courses in I.T.'s or Technological Universities may award points in Foundation Level Math's papers. Check the college prospectus.

The maximum possible adjusted points score for applicants to **Medicine** is 565. (For all scores over 550, each 5-point band equals one extra point.) The baseline score of 480 points will still apply.

**Table 3: Moderated Leaving Certificate Points from 550 Points (table applies to EU/EEA school Leaving exams also)**

Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points	Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points	Normal LCE points	Moderated LCE points
551-555	551	576-580	556	601-605	561
556-560	552	581-585	557	606-610	562
561-565	553	586-590	558	611-615	563
566-570	554	591-595	559	616-620	564
571-575	555	596-600	560	621-625	565

## DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TESTS RESULTS

An aptitude test is an instrument used to determine and measure an individual's ability to acquire, through future training, some specific set of skills. There are several aptitude tests on the market, and the one chosen is called the *Differential Aptitude Test*. This test covers several areas including, Verbal Reasoning, Numerical Ability, Abstract reasoning, Perceptual Speed and Accuracy, Mechanical Reasoning, Space Relations, Spelling, and Language Use. The tests are performed under exam conditions and are strictly timed. All questions have a definite right or wrong answer. Very few candidates usually complete the entire test and the questions usually become progressively more difficult. The test is also age related.

These tests can be used to help an individual

1. Choose among educational and career options based on strengths and weakness
2. Help an individual understand why they do well or poorly in certain subjects.
3. Can suggest new career options not previously considered.
4. Change or raise educational and career aspirations.

They cannot however, pinpoint one *specific* career or one *specific* subject that an individual should pursue.

All test of this nature should be viewed with extreme caution. Under no circumstance should the score be interpreted as final indisputable evidence of an individual's characteristics. The results provide only one small part of the information needed to help an individual make informed and realistic decisions and cannot be judged in isolation from other aspects of a person's character including, job and other experiences, interests, goals, personality, values, family, and environmental influences. Other factors that can also influence an individual's scores are; a hearing, visual, or physical disability or a poor command of English, as well as poor health or fatigue or an emotional disturbance on the day. In addition, an individual can lose his place on the answer sheet or may simply not be interested in cooperating with the exercise, or indeed, may simply be in bad humour on the day. Finally, it needs to be remembered that an individual can have an aptitude for a particular area but have no interest in it, and conversely, may have a low aptitude in area a have an extreme interest or liking for it.

### Percentile and Stanine

When an individual takes a test the results a produced are raw scores. For example, if a candidate scores 17 in a test it has very little meaning unless the candidate knows how this score relates to the total possible score. It is common therefore, to convert scores to percentages as this gives an indication as to how the candidate performed relative to a total possible score. However, percentages can themselves be misleading. For example, if a candidate scores 90% in a test, this might seem to be a particularly good score, but, if all the other candidates score 95%, this puts a different perceptive on this score of 90%. Therefore, two systems are used to convert raw scores to a system that gives meaning to the result in terms of (i) the total possible score, (ii) the score relative to the score obtained by other candidates. These two systems are referred to as, *percentiles* and *stanine*.

- A *percentile* score indicates the percentage of candidates who fall below a particular raw score. A score, which falls at the 65th percentile, means that an individual's score is better than 65% of the students. A 95<sup>th</sup> percentile score means that an individual's score is greater than 95% of the students, or, that this student's score is in the top 5% of students.
- *Stanine* scores is a range expressed as a series of single digits numbers between 1 and 9, were 4 to 6 represents an average score.

**What Each Test Measures**

**Verbal Reasoning** This test measures the ability to see relationships among words and use concepts expressed in words. The test may be useful in helping to predict success in academic courses as well as in many occupations including business, law, education, journalism, and the sciences

**Numerical Ability** The ability to reason with numbers, to deal with materials and ideas that use numbers. Numerical reasoning is important for success in such courses as mathematics, physics, chemistry, and engineering. The ability to reason with numbers is also important in many occupations, such as bookkeeping, laboratory work, carpentry and tool making.

**Abstract Reasoning** This test is a non-verbal measure of reasoning ability. It assesses how well individuals can reason with geometric figures or designs. This type of ability is important in courses or occupations that require the ability to see relationships among objects in terms of their size, shape, position, and quantity. Examples include such fields as mathematics, computer programming, drafting and car repair.

**Mechanical Reasoning** The understanding of mechanical principles and devices, and the laws of everyday physics. Those who do well in mechanical reasoning usually find it easy to learn to repair and operate complex devices. Occupations such as carpenter, mechanic, engineer, electrician, and machine operator are among those that require good mechanical ability.

**Space Relations** The ability to visualise, to think in “three-dimensions” or mentally picture the shape, size and position of objects when shown only a picture or pattern. Occupations in which an individual is required to imagine how an object would look if made from a given pattern include drafting, architecture, art, clothing design, carpentry, and dentistry.

**Spelling** The spelling test measures how well test takers can spell common English words. The ability to spell is a basic skill necessary in many academic and vocational pursuits. It is also a helpful skill in courses that require written reports.

**Language Usage** The Language Usage test measures the ability to detect errors in grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Well-developed language skills are needed in most jobs requiring a college degree. Careers in writing and teaching require a high level of ability in this area. This test measures skills which are important in so many areas of education and work – e.g., secretaries, writers, librarians, and editors.

**Perceptual Speed and Accuracy** This test measures the ability to work accurately with detail and at speed. Such an ability is important in many kinds of routine or detailed work (clerical work, data entry or coding, for instance) and is also quite important for scientific or technical work where precision is required (e.g., computer programming or laboratory work). Furthermore, this is an ability required in all work where attention to detail and quality are important (e.g., accountancy and some types of legal work).

<b>Aptitudes</b>	<b>Possible Subjects</b>	<b>Possible Career Areas</b>
Verbal Reasoning	English, Irish, French, Spanish, History, Religion, Business, Geography, Biology, Agricultural Science	Business, Law, Education, Journalism, Sciences
Numerical Reasoning	Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Accounting, Construction, DCG, Technology	Bookkeeping, Laboratory work, Carpentry, Tool making, Engineering, Navigating, Sciences
Abstract Reasoning	Mathematics, Physics, DCG, Technology, Geography, Chemistry, Agricultural Science.	Mathematics, Computer programming, Drafting, Car Repair, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering
Space Relations (3D)	Art, DCG, Chemistry, Construction, Physics, Technology	Drafting, Architecture, Art, Clothing Design, Carpentry, Dentistry, Engineer
Mechanical Reasoning	Construction, DCG, Art, Physics, Technology	Carpenter, Mechanic, Engineer, Electrician, Machine Operator,
Perceptual Speed and Accuracy	DCG, Art, Business, Accounting	Filing, Clerical work and Jobs involving coding, and technical/scientific data
Language Usage	English, Irish, French/Spanish	Writing, Teaching, Secretaries, Librarians, Editors, third level Degree programmes
Spelling	Everything	Necessity in many academic and vocational pursuits.
Educational Aptitude (Verbal and Numerical)	Everything	Your ability to learn from books and teachers. Good indicator of Third Level Performance.

**Caution- DAT's do not give a full picture**

Here are some examples of scores from past students (A to J) and the resulting points scored in their Leaving Certificate. There must be something else contributing to exam success than just aptitude.

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>
<b>Verbal Reasoning</b>	90	37	92	93	25	10	5	80	56
<b>Numerical Ability</b>	91	94	97	99	17	17	50	78	60
<b>Abstract Reasoning</b>	89	42	96	98	42	66	38	50	94
<b>Speed &amp; Accuracy</b>	90	92	68	80	60	90	55	89	21
<b>Mechanical Reasoning</b>	95	58	99	82	4	54	11	90	65
<b>Space Relations</b>	96	51	95	99	45	89	11	88	96
<b>Spelling</b>	88	99	99	81	60	23	32	87	40
<b>Language Use</b>	90	90	85	76	47	27	23	88	40
<b>Educational Aptitude</b>	90	70	97	99	18	12	20	90	45
<b>Points In the Leaving Cert.</b>	<b>600</b>	580	<b>490</b>	450	<b>405</b>	330	310	250	<b>220</b>

In 2019, 56,071 students sat the Leaving Certificate and the average points scored nationally was 340

Remember aptitude tests do not measure many other qualities that are vital in successful careers such as, Determination to succeed; Enthusiasm and confidence; Energy to work long hours to achieve objectives; Determination to identify and find solutions to problems; Integrity, loyalty, and honesty; Commercial and entrepreneurial instinct; Initiative, creativity, and inventiveness; Ability to persuade and motivate others; Team spirit; Leadership; Ability to help others succeed; Empathy; Forward planning; Refusal to accept defeat; Sense of humour; Intrapersonal skills; Interpersonal skill; Having fun; Being socially responsible; Having the skill to make friends; Independence; Impulse control; Stress tolerance; Being realistic; Optimism; Self-regard; Flexibility and adaptability; Being grateful; Self-actualisation

Success is not about how smart you are, but how you are smart!

<b>FINAL REMARKS</b>
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**Career Focus**

Remember that all third-level colleges and courses have minimum subject-entry requirements. If you do not meet them, it does not matter how many points you receive in the Leaving Certificate you will not get a place on the course. It may seem early to be raising the question of a career, but some are accessible only through particular courses, which are open only to students who have successfully taken particular subjects in their Leaving Certificate. Unless you are certain that you want to pursue a career in a particular field and wish to concentrate on associated subjects, I would strongly advise taking a range of subjects from different areas of study. The most crucial factor is whether you enjoy the subjects you have chosen. You are always going to work harder at subjects that you enjoy most.

**Subject Option**

The options form is administered to all TY and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. It is designed to help to identify the level of demand for different subjects and actual subject blocks that we can offer in LC1 next year. This form will be used to allocate subjects into blocks, and students into these blocks. It is especially important that you number your preferences correctly. If your first and third preferences clash, you will be placed in your first selection.

Bear in mind that not all subject combinations may be available due to timetable clashes. In Colaiste Choilm the subject option bands are driven by students' subject choices in a given year group, i.e., the bands are decided on a 'best fit' analysis of the returned subject choice forms. If you do not return your subject choice form, or have not listed your subjects in preference, then you may be disappointed with the combinations or your assigned subjects. So, select at least five subjects, listing them in **order of priority**, to get places in your top preferences, and return the subject choice form **on time**.

**What happens if I take Foundation Level Math's?**

You will be ineligible from many courses. These include most Engineering, Computing, Science, Information and Computer Technology Courses, Business Courses, Construction Courses and Agricultural Courses. However, some Humanities programmes and Social Science Programmes are available in Universities and Institutes of Technology. Please talk to Ms. Burke (Career Guidance) before deciding to undertake Foundation Level Math's.

**What are the hardest and easiest subjects in the Leaving Certificate?**

There is no such thing as easy Honours in the Leaving Certificate. Some subjects may appear to have very high success rates, such as music, in which 90.5% of candidates receive a H4 or above in 2019. However, very few people sit this paper, and they tend to have been passionate about the subject since childhood. Subjects taken by large groups of students, such as English, History, Geography, Biology and Business, tend to have Honours rates of 60-70 per cent. In 2019, 67.8% percent of students studying History secured a H4 or above. Applied Math's candidates generally earn many H1's (16.2% of student secure H1 n 2019). This does not mean it is an easy subject, rather it reflects the fact that these students probably do, and have an aptitude for, Honour Math's and Physics.

However, the question still needs to be asked as to why students think that, for example, Biology is the easiest science and Business is easier than Economics or Accounting? This is **not the case**. The grades obtained in the Leaving Certificate results in Biology are not better than those in Chemistry or Physics and the grades in Business are not better than those in Economics or Accounting (see the table below). It might be that students consider subjects like Business to be easier because a student can pick up the textbook and understand a topic. This is not the case with Economics or Accounting where a teacher's assistance is needed to understand individual topics. This may also explain - to some extent - why Biology is considered easier than Chemistry or Physics. These points are also worth considering when, for example, the next-door neighbour says, "don't do Geography because I found it hard." It being difficult for the cousin or neighbour does not mean it will be difficult for another student. All Leaving Certificate subjects require a two-year

commitment. There are no short cuts. The best advice is to choose subjects *you like*, have an *interest* in, and have an *aptitude* for.

The Stats in 2019 (2020- 2024 not reviewed as grades are considering unusual in these years):

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
Applied math's	16.2	53.5	25.6	4.9	15.5	36.2	25	23.3
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
Politics & society	4.6	52.6	39.1	3.6	0	44.6	45.7	9.7

### Caution re Checking Previous Exam Papers

Care needs to be taken when checking the content of previous exam papers. Below are examples from the Business exam paper and the Physics exam paper. The immediate respond to the Business question might be “that’s easy – I can do that,” and the response to the Physics question might be “I don’t know how to do that – that’s hard.” This is not an appropriate response. The previous exam papers should be viewed with the following in mind, “I would be interested in finding out how to answer/solve that problem/question.”

Business Questions:

#### Question 1

- (A) Outline the procedures an employer should follow under the Unfair Dismissals Acts of 1977-2007, before dismissing an employee. (20 marks)
- (B) A legal contract can be terminated by breach, frustration or agreement. Illustrate your understanding of the underlined terms. (20 marks)

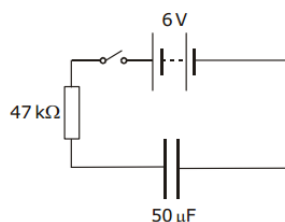
*The Consumer Protection Act 2007 came into effect in Ireland on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2007. The Act provided for the establishment of the National Consumer Agency, which replaced the Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs.*

- (C) Evaluate the role and functions of the National Consumer Agency (NCA) in protecting consumers. (20 marks)

Define (i) potential difference, (ii) capacitance. (12)

Describe an experiment to demonstrate that a capacitor can store energy. (12)

The circuit diagram shows a  $50\ \mu\text{F}$  capacitor connected in series with a  $47\ \text{k}\Omega$  resistor, a  $6\ \text{V}$  battery and a switch. When the switch is closed the capacitor starts to charge and the current flowing at a particular instant in the circuit is  $80\ \mu\text{A}$ .



Calculate

- the potential difference across the resistor and hence the potential difference across the capacitor when the current is  $80\ \mu\text{A}$ ;
- the charge on the capacitor at this instant;
- the energy stored in the capacitor when it is fully charged. (27)

Describe what happens in the circuit when the  $6\ \text{V}$  d.c. supply is replaced with a  $6\ \text{V}$  a.c. supply. (5)

## Overlap of Subject Content?

State Exams Commission regulations state that when there is a certain degree of content overlap between two subjects' students are prohibited from sitting both of these subjects. For example, students are not allowed sit both Latin and Classics. Another example is students are not allowed to sit (the combined subject) of Physics/Chemistry and Chemistry or sit Physics/Chemistry and Physics. There is a common perception that there is content overlap between Higher Level Math's and Physics or Physics and Applied Math's or overlap between all three. This is not the case. If it were, students would be prohibited from sitting exams in more than one of these subjects. Similarly, there is a perception that there is content overlap between Biology and Agricultural Science. Again, if there was, students would not be able to sit both exams. (There may be a tiny/small percentage of content overlap between some of these subjects – but not enough to obtain any advantage). The question must be addressed as to why people perceive considerable overlap in content. Nobody considers that there is overlap between English and History. However, those that obtain a H1 in English tend to well in History (or Religion). Is this because there is an overlap in the skills employed in studying these subjects? Is it that they tap into the same aptitudes? This overlap in skills and aptitude may help explain why students think there is overlap in Higher Level Math's, Physics and Applied Math's, and the other examples mentioned above.

## Useful Websites

[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

[www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie)

College websites, e.g. [www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie); [www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie)

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

[www.studyclix.ie](http://www.studyclix.ie)

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

## Concluding Remarks

Do not make rash decisions- subject choice should not depend on what teacher will be teaching a certain subject at Leaving Certificate. Neither should you copy your friend's decisions or opt to do subjects because a friend says it is easy- everything is easier when you are interested and have the aptitude, so discover your own and use that knowledge to make your decision. In other words pick the subjects you are most interested in and have an aptitude for!

<b>INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON THE SUBJECT CHOICE PROCESS</b>
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1. Students receive guidance from subject teachers regarding the content and assessment of each subject in senior cycle.
2. Students and Parents receive guidance on things to consider regarding subject choice from a career's perspective from the Guidance Counsellor.
3. Each student should refer to this subject choice booklet.
4. Each student is called for a one-to-one meeting with the Guidance Counsellor. This meeting allows students to discuss their questions and needs. It also gives students an opportunity to make an informed decision based on their aptitudes (DAT results), interests, and career plans.
5. Students, with the help of their parents/guardians, use VShare (parental login) to indicate their preferred subjects to the school. Instructions on how to do this are outlined below.

Students must make their subject selection in order of preference. So,

- what you place number 1 should be the subject you most want or need to do;
- number 2 should be the next most important subject for you to have;
- and so on until your 6<sup>th</sup> selection.

You will only study 4 of the 6 subjects selected; numbers 5 and 6 are back-up choices. These back-up choices may be used if your first four subjects cannot be accommodated on the timetable. This happens when two subjects chosen clash on the timetable, or if a class has filled with higher preference students

(A higher preference student is someone who placed the subject as their 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> preference while you selected it as your 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> preference). So, you can see why the order of preference is important.

6. Once the deadline for making your son's selection has passed, the Administrator, Principal and I work to get the best fit timetable for the largest number of students. Securing the preferences of the greatest number of students is what determines the timetable (what subjects are on at the same time).
7. Once the subject lines have been established for LC1 2024-2025, feedback is provided to every student. Feedback will consist of a document stating the subjects your son has been assigned to based on his selection.

An example of feedback from a previous year:

**This is an Example-** Subjects lines may be different this year, as we try to accommodate the greatest number of student preferences for those entering LC1 in 2022. This was the best fit for students entering in 2020.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

You are receiving this feedback as your subject choice preferences could not be accommodated on this year's timetable.

You have been assigned to 4 of your top 6 preferences- History (1), Physics (2), Music (3) and Geography (5).

Business (4) clashed with your higher preference subjects Music and Physics.

Each of the Lines below represents a time on the timetable. Each subject on line 1 takes place at the same time (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> class on Monday), each subject on line 2 takes place at the same time (e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> class on Monday) and so forth.

You have been assigned to the following subjects (in bold):

Line 1 Subjects:	<b>Geography (5)</b>	French	Technology	Spanish
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Line 2 Subjects:	Con Studies	Accounting	<b>History (1)</b>	DCG
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Line 3 Subjects:	Agri Sci.	Biology	Art	<b>Physics (2)</b>	Business
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Line 4 Subjects:	Con Studies	Chemistry	Religion	<b>Music (3)</b>	Business	Technology
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If you are satisfied to stay in Geography, you do not need to take any action.

However, if you wish to change from any of these assigned subjects you must speak to Ms Burke to see if a move to another subject is possible or to assess your subjects in light of your career plans.

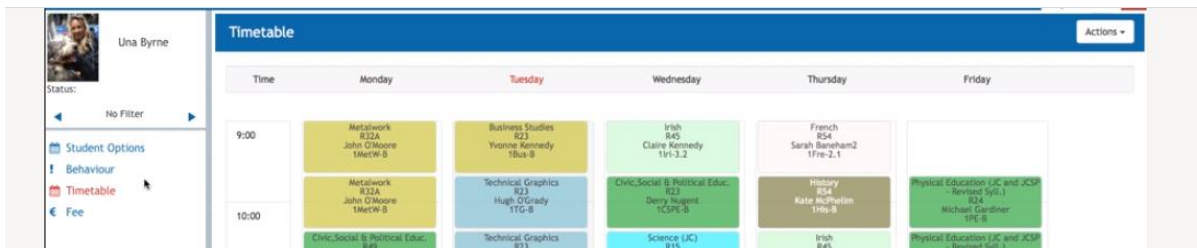
Yours sincerely  
Ms Burke

**PARENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING VSWARE**

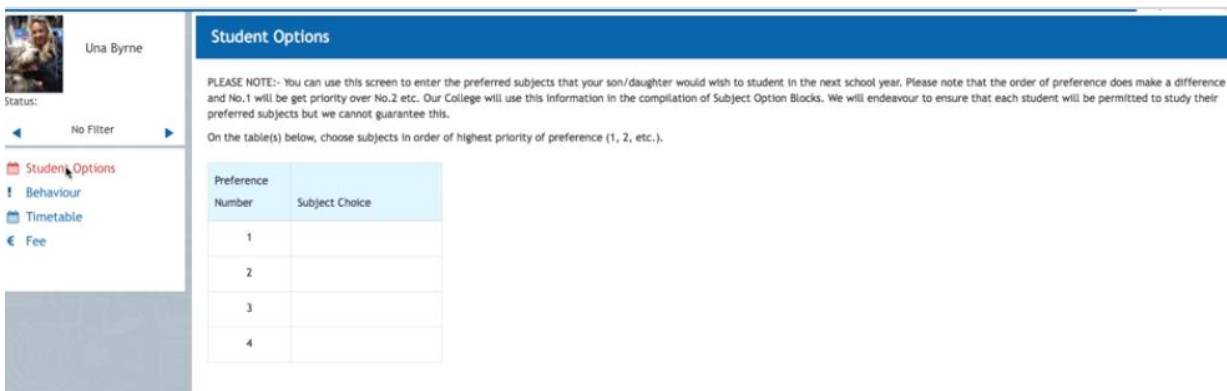
When advised to complete your son’s subject choice selection, please follow the instructions below:

Step 1: Login as usual at [www.colaiestechoilmtullamore.vsware.ie](http://www.colaiestechoilmtullamore.vsware.ie)

Step 2: Using the Left hand side menu, choose **Subject Options**



Step 3: Use the drop-down menu of subjects to choose your son’s subjects **in Order of Preference.**



**Student Options**

PLEASE NOTE:- You can use this screen to enter the preferred subjects that your son/daughter and No.1 will be get priority over No.2 etc. Our College will use this information in the compilation of preferred subjects but we cannot guarantee this.

On the table(s) below, choose subjects in order of highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc.).

Preference Number	Subject Choice
1	✓
2	FRENCH
3	SPANISH
4	HOME ECON.(SCIENTIFIC & SOCIAL)
	ART, CRAFT, DESIGN
	TECHNICAL GRAPHICS
	METALWORK

**Student Options**

PLEASE NOTE:- You can use this screen to enter the preferred subjects that your son/daughter and No.1 will be get priority over No.2 etc. Our College will use this information in the compilation of preferred subjects but we cannot guarantee this.

On the table(s) below, choose subjects in order of highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc.).

Preference Number	Subject Choice
1	SPANISH
2	
3	
4	

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On the table(s) below, choose subjects in order of highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc.).

Preference Number	Subject Choice
1	SPANISH
2	HOME ECON.(SCIENTIFIC & SOCIAL)
3	TECHNICAL GRAPHICS
4	METALWORK

Options entry completed

Once these have been completed, you have made your son's subject choice selection.

It is a good idea to complete this form together with your son, even if you have already discussed the options.

**My Notes:**

Subjects I am considering and why:


Careers I am considering:

Questions I have: