



Senior Cycle Subject Choice

Transition to Leaving Certificate
Ms Burke, Guidance Counsellor

Options in Senior Cycle

Agenda

- Outline the importance of subjects from a career planning perspective
- Outline subjects available in Coláiste Choilm
- Outline the process for subject selection at Coláiste Choilm



Leaving Certificate

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

Foundation level is available in two subjects
-Gaeilge and Mathematics



Subjects Offered at Senior Cycle



Core Subjects

English

Irish

Mathematics

Non-Exam

Religion

PE (non exam)

4 Optional Subjects from a choice of 17

Science Group

Physics

Chemistry

Biology

Agricultural Science

Applied Maths

Practical Group

Construction Tech.

Technology

PE (Exam)

Humanities Group

French

Spanish

History

Geography

Artistic & Creative Group

Art

Music

DCG (Tec. Graphics)

Business Group

Accounting

Business

Senior Cycle Subject Choice



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

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

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

Career Planning and Subject Choice



Apprenticeships – mostly require 5 passes at Junior Cycle

Post Leaving Certificate (FET/PLC) courses generally require five passes at Leaving Certificate

But,

for third level, and some Tertiary Degrees, you must satisfy 3/4 requirements

1. College Requirements (these can be the same or slightly less for Tertiary Degrees)
2. Specific Course Requirements (detailed in prospectus and on the Qualifax website)
3. Obtain the relevant number of points
4. In some cases, you must also undertake an assessment (aptitude test, audition, interview or submit a portfolio)

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

College Entry Requirements



Honours Degree Requirements (Level 8)

Different Universities have different requirements

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

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

Ordinary Degree Requirements (Level 7)

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

Higher Certificate (Level 6)

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

Honours Degree
(3/4 years) Level 8

Ordinary Degree
(3 years) Level 7

Higher Certificate
(2 years) Level 6

Add-on Level 8

Add-on level 7

College Entry Requirements - NUI



Passes in (O6/H7):

- ✓ Irish
- ✓ English
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Third Language (this requirement has been dropped for Engineering and some Science courses; Nursing; Law and Business in Maynooth University only; and the NCAD no longer require a third language)
- ✓ Two additional subjects

Colleges in NUI:

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

College Entry Requirements



Trinity College Dublin

University of Limerick

Subjects must include:

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

*in Trinity 98 courses accept foundation level maths (47 require ordinary level or higher level)

Dublin City University

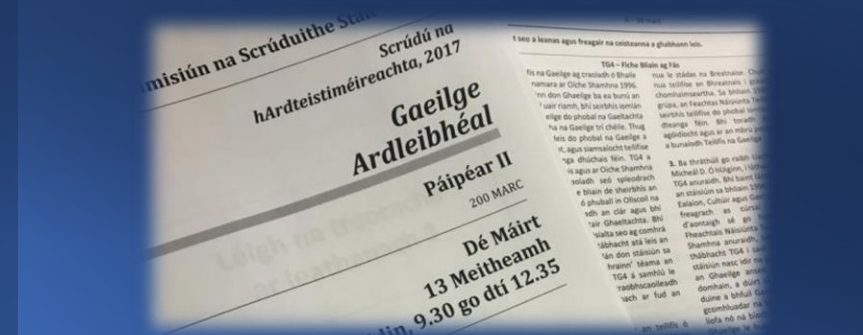
Technological Universities

Institutes of Technology (Level 8)

Subjects must include:

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

Irish Exemptions



For **Trinity College Dublin**, the **University of Limerick** and **Mary Immaculate College** you may only apply for an Irish exemption on the basis of a specific learning difficulty or disability. Therefore, if you have an DES Irish Exemption as a result of coming to Ireland after the age of 11, you must study a Spanish/French (or another language to O6/H7 Leaving Certificate) to meet the second language requirement.

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



Specific Subject Requirements



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

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

Specific Subject Requirements- Physiotherapy example



Physiotherapy (RSCI, 556 points and UCD, 578* points)

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

Physiotherapy (Trinity College Dublin, 577 points)

3H5 and 3O6/H7 to include English, a second language, an **O4 or H6 Mathematics**, a **H4 in two of** Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/ Chemistry, Mathematics or Agricultural Science.

Physiotherapy (University of Limerick, 589 points)

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

Physiotherapy (ATU Letterkenny, 531 points)

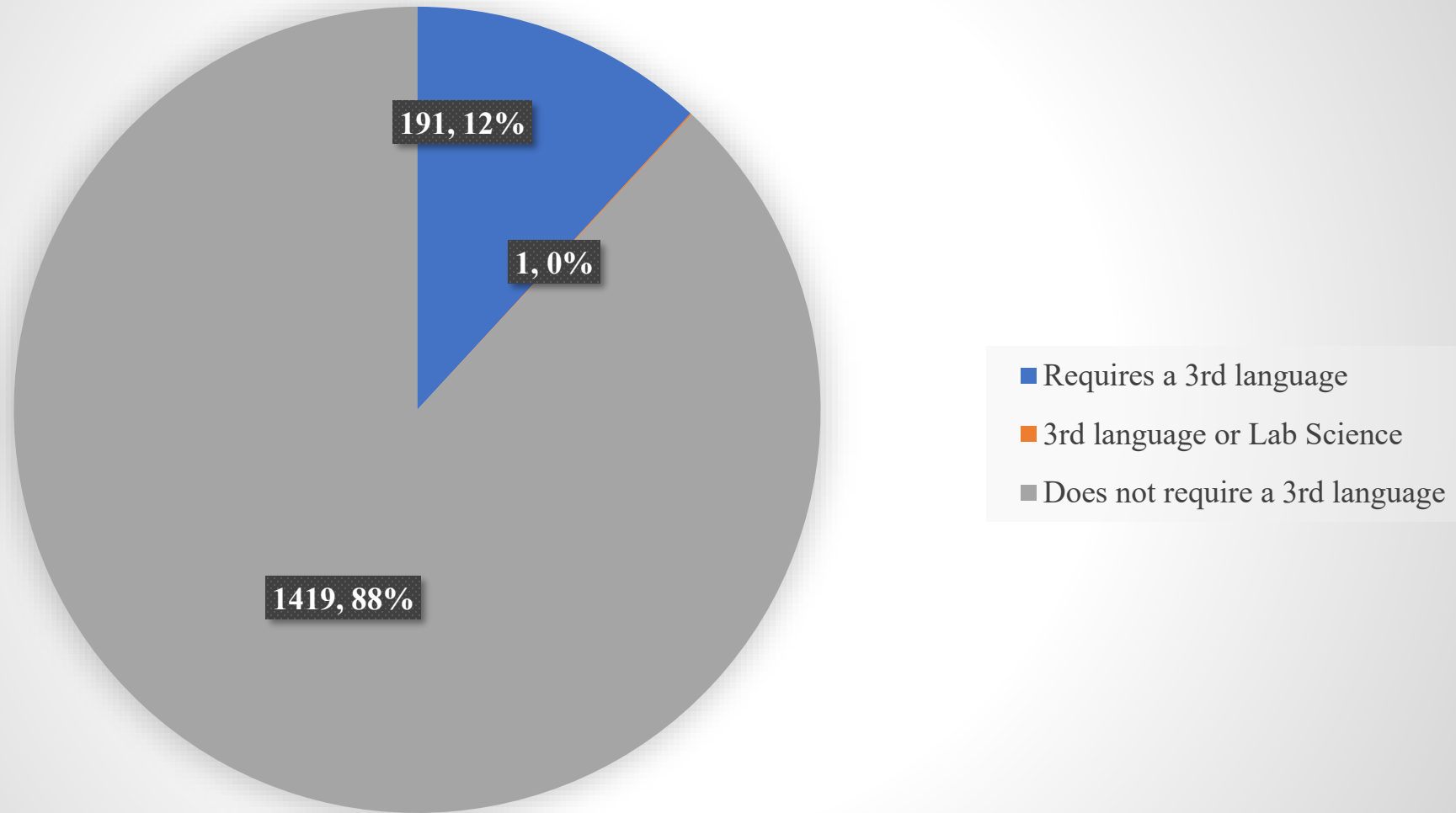
2H5 and 4O6/H7 to include English or Irish, Maths (F2/O6/H7), **H5 Biology**.

Biology, Another Science
(or H4 Maths), and a 3rd
Language to keep all
options available

Should I keep a third language?



3rd Language Requirement





Should I keep a third language?

What courses are included in the 191 that require a 3rd language?

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

- Health Science- 2 Pharmacy (of 6), 2 Physiotherapy (of 5), 2 Occupational Therapy (of 4), 4 Medicine (of 6), 2 Dentistry (of 3), 1 of Veterinary Medicine (of 3) some Psychology, the only Radiography course in Ireland.
- Many Business, Law, Media, Social Science, Humanities/Arts (English, History, Geography, Politics, Music), Some second level teaching courses (those in NUI colleges – e.g. PE in UCC, Maths in University of Galway).



Should I keep a third language?

You may also need a third language to become an Army, Navy, or Air Corps Cadet (if entering as a school leaver and not a graduate of third level)

In addition, many other courses require a third language at a grade higher than an O6/H7, but these usually involve the study of a language at third level.

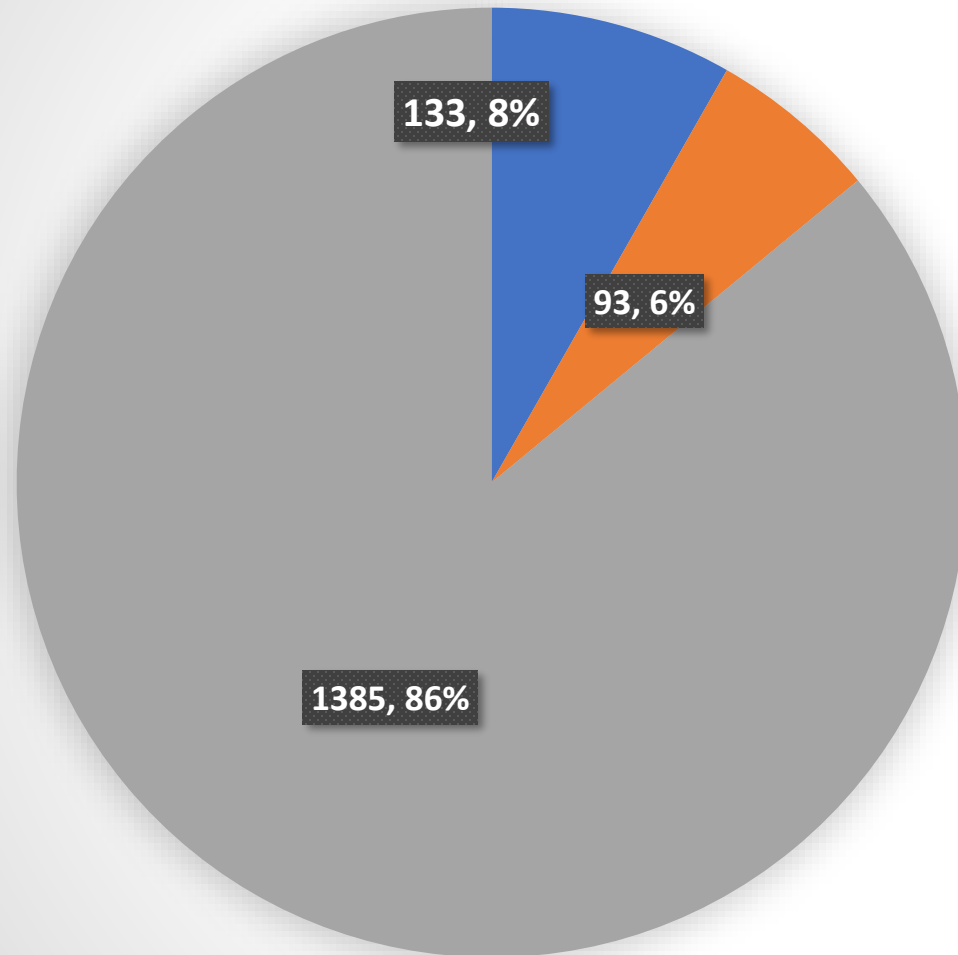
Details are provided in the Coláiste Choilm Subject Choice booklet on pages 11-12.

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 nd 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)

Should I keep a science subject?



A Lab Science Requirement



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

Should I Science Subject?



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

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

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

Should I Science Subject?



3 Science Subjects are required for:

University of Limerick	Immersive Bioscience and Biotherapeutics	H4 in Biology and a H5 in 2 of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, Computer Science, Maths, or Applied Maths
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2 Science Subjects are required for:

ATU Sligo	Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and H4 in Physics, Biology, Applied Maths, Geography, Computer Science, or Agricultural Science. (Physics and Physics/Chemistry cannot be presented together)
ATU Letterkenny	Veterinary Medicine and Surgery	H4 in Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and H4 in Biology or Physics (Physics and Physics/Chemistry cannot be presented together)
SETU Waterford	Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and a H4 in Biology or Agricultural Science (Physics and Physics/Chemistry cannot be presented together)
UCC	Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry, and H4 in Physics or Biology
	Medical Health Science	H4 in Chemistry and O6/H7 in Biology, Physics or Agricultural Science

On the Science pages (pages 3-9)



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
- **Physiotherapy; Health Science with Dietetics Studies, Health Science with Occupational Studies and Health Science with Physiotherapy Studies - ATU Donegal** - H5 in Biology
- **Immersive Bioscience & Biotherapeutics (UL)**-H4 Biology and H5 in 2 of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, Computer Science, Maths or Applied Maths.
- **Veterinary Medicine (SETU Waterford)**- H4 in Biology or Chemistry
- **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.
- **Pharmacy Technician (TU Dublin)** – O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry.

On the Biology page →

The points system



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

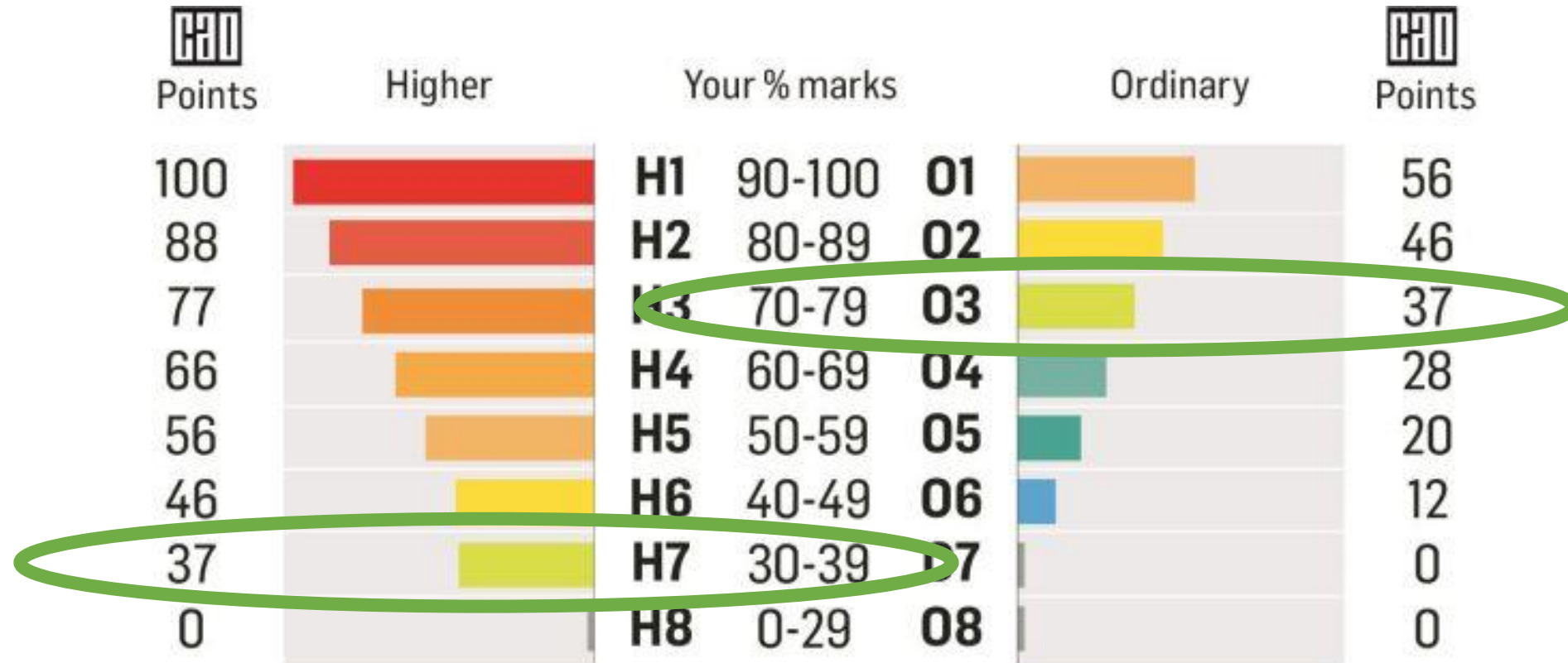
The selection system used is the points system

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

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

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

The points system



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

Subject Choice Guidelines



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

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

CAT4 Results



The CAT4 test gives an indication of **your potential to learn** in four areas, and can be used to help you decide which subjects best suit your learning potential.

Please remember **other factors also affect learning**, such as effort, motivation and engagement, interest, mental and emotional health, physical health, prior knowledge, to name a few.

CAT4 results are **just one area to consider** when making subject choices. Ability tests (such as Junior Cycle exams) can also give insights into your learning.

CAT4 Results







Part One of the Report- Profile Bar Chart

The bar graph on your report provides the results of your potential to learn in the 4 areas. The **yellow band** in the middle, represents the ‘average’ results attained by students of the same age across Ireland. Keep in mind your report is personal to you and you can identify where your learning strengths lie.

Part Two of the Report: Summary The summary will identify areas of strengths and areas that may require additional work. The summary will give recommendations on how to improve in the different areas of learning. Be cautious with this summary as it may not match a student's lived experience – see the examples for misreporting -

Profile

Verbal	
Quantitative	
Non-verbal	
Spatial	

Example of
a Moderate
Spatial Bias

Summary



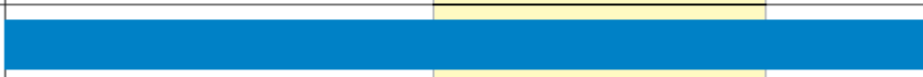

Your profile of scores from *CAT4* shows you have a clear preference for learning by using pictures, diagrams and other visual ways of learning rather than by reading, writing and discussion.

- You may prefer learning that uses visual clues. If so, make sure you use online resources, videos and books with plenty of pictures that will help you remember key facts and information.
- Use your good spatial skills to help across the range of subjects. For example, use mind maps as an aid to remembering key events and characters in a text in English and annotate text to reinforce key facts and information in science.
- You may find some of your schoolwork difficult, particularly if it involves lots of reading and writing.
- Do you find reading difficult? If so, you may need some extra help working on-to-one with a teacher.
- Make sure you understand what you are learning, step-by-step, as it is important for you to learn at a pace that is right for you.
- Always ask your teacher to explain anything that is not clear. If you don't understand the meaning of a key word in a lesson, do ask.

This seems like
it **may not be
true**, as the
student scored
in the average
range



Profile

Verbal	
Quantitative	
Non-verbal	
Spatial	

Example of
Average
Even Profile

Summary

Your profile of scores from *CAT4* is evenly balanced. This means that you can learn in a number of different ways.

- You are likely to learn by reading, writing notes and essays and discussing topics as well as using a more hands-on approach across all subjects.
- This means you should be capable of doing well in a range of subjects.
- You may well enjoy working in a team or as one of a pair where you can try out and discuss ideas.
- Make sure you use a range of methods when learning and revising: reading, writing notes and using pictures, charts and diagrams (mind maps) to provide visual clues to help you remember key facts and information.
- Your verbal skills can be developed further by reading widely and making sure that you understand words used in different school subjects.

This student has a lower Verbal score, yet his feedback says he likes to learn by reading and is far more encouraging



Learning Area	Description	Leaving Cert Subjects that compliment this area	Careers that compliment this area
Verbal	This test measures the ability to reason with words , to understand and use concepts expressed in words. This skill is important in academic courses, in jobs requiring written or oral communication and in jobs involving high levels of authority and responsibility.	English, Languages, History, Geography, Business, Biology, Agri Science	Business • Education • Social science • Marketing • Journalism • Psychology • Law • Media • Human Resource Management • Auctioneering • Librarian • Speech Therapy
Quantitative	This test measures the ability to perform mathematical reasoning tasks. This strength is generally important in school work especially for fields such as maths, science and engineering.	Maths, Physics, Accountancy, Business, Technology, DCG, Construction	Accountancy • Computer Applications • Laboratory Technician • Computer Science • Market Research • Information Systems • Engineering • Valuer • Air Traffic Controller • Buyer • Tax Consultant • Actuary •
Non-verbal	This test is a non-verbal, non-numerical measure of reasoning power. It tests the ability to see relationships among objects, patterns, diagrams or designs . This skill is useful in careers requiring the person to see relationships between objects in terms of their size, shape, position and quantity.	Maths, Art, Music, Agri. Science, Construction Studies, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, DCG, Technology, PE	Maths • Computers • Animation • Design • Architecture • Mechanic • Art • Construction • Photography • Scientist • Conservation Law • Forensic Scientist • Laboratory Technician
Spatial	This test measures the ability to visualise, to think in three dimensions or to picture mentally the size, shape and position of objects when shown only a two dimensional picture or pattern. This skill is vital in order to understand technical drawings.	Construction, Art, DCG, Technology, PE, Chemistry, Geography	Architects • Fashion Design • Architectural Technicians • Interior Design • Engineers Industrial Design • Photographers • Town Planner • Hairdressers • Designers • Surveyors • Technical Illustrator • Animators

Simplified,
we can just
ask how do
you Learn
best?



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



Examples of Subjects and Learning Types



Accounting

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

Technology

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

Examples of Subjects and Learning Types



To find out more....

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

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

What you need to do in exam...

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

2 hr 50 min



Examples of Subject Assessment at LC

Subject	%Project/Practical Exam/ACC	% Exam
Accounting/Business	0% Accounting 40% Business AAC (Additional Assessment Component)	100% 60%
Agri Science	25%	75%
Art	70% (50% Project, 20% Practical Exam)	30%
Biology/Chemistry/Physics	40% AAC (Additional Assessment Component)	60%
Construction	50% (20% Practical Assessment (3 hour exam) and a 30% AAC)	50%
DCG	40%	60%
French/Spanish	25%/20% Oral HL/OL; 20%/25% Aural HL/OL	55%
Geography	40% AAC (Additional Assessment Component)	60%
History	20%	80%
Music	50% (Performance Elective)	50%
Technology	50%	50%
Physical Education	50% AAC (Additional Assessment Component)	50%
Applied Maths	20% Project	80%

School Programme for Subject Choice



- This presentation on things to consider from a careers perspective
- Subject Choice Careers Module (Teacher presentations on the content and assessment of their subject at senior cycle)
- Subject choice detailed booklet (Updated for 2026 in spring); Available on the school website
- Meeting with the Guidance Counsellor if necessary

Leaving Certificate Subject Choice 2025

Ms. Burke	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
ATU Donegal	All Nursing, Veterinary Nursing, Pharmacy Technician, Dental Nursing	O6/H7 in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry or Agricultural Science
UL	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, <i>Medicine</i>	O6/H7 in one of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, or Agricultural Science Also, B and C1 drivers' licence for paramedic studies
Maynooth University	Science, Physics with Astrophysics, Theoretical Physics and Mathematics, Data Science, Science or Mathematics with Education + <i>Comp science</i>	O6/H7 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics/Chemistry, Applied Maths, Computer Science or Agricultural Science <i>Science OR maths + Comp science</i> (+H4 maths in Maths Stream of Science or Mathematics with Education) <i>maths + medical</i>

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Subject Options



Like



Tweet



First Year Subject Choice

First Years are required to make their optional subject selections in December. Below are some links to help with this decision.

[First Year Subject Choice Presentation](#)[Subject Choice Booklet](#)

Senior Cycle Subject Choice

In spring, TY and some 3rd year students will be required to make subject choices. All students will have the opportunity to talk to the guidance counsellor before making this choice.

[Senior Cycle Subject Choice Presentation 2024](#)[Senior Cycle Subject Options Booklet 2024](#)

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	
A SCIENCE SUBJECT	
THIRD LANGUAGE	
OTHER GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO CONSIDER	
ACCOUNTING	
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE	
ART	
BIOLOGY	
BUSINESS	
CHEMISTRY	
CONSTRUCTION STUDIES	
DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS	
FRENCH	
GEOGRAPHY	
HISTORY	
MUSIC	
PHYSICS	
RELIGION	
SPANISH	
TECHNOLOGY	
LCVP	
RESEARCHING ON QUALIFAX	
POINTS SYSTEM	
DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TESTS RESULTS	
FINAL REMARKS	
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON THE SUBJECT CHOICE PROCESS	
PARENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING VSWARE	

School Procedure for Subject Choice



- VShare Form (available in Feb/March) March 2026
 - Students indicate their preferences 1-6 on the subjects offered in 2026. Please complete by deadline given or your preferences cannot be considered when assigning subjects.
- Construction of subject lines
 - This will take into account the preferences of every student and tries to accommodate as many students as possible with their top four preferences.
- Students are assigned to classes based on their preferences and provided with feedback

Feedback



You have been placed in your top 4 subjects:

Biology

French

Geography

Technology

OR

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. 1st class on Monday), each subject on line 2 takes place at the same time (e.g. 2nd class on Monday) and so forth.

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

Line 1 Subjects:	Geography (5)	French	Technology	Spanish
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Line 2 Subjects:	Con Technology	Accounting	History (1)	DCG
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Line 3 Subjects:	Aqri Sci.	Biology	Art	Physics (2)	Business
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Line 4 Subjects:	Con Technology	Chemistry	PE	Music (3)	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.

Example of a Clash Matrix

Why might a subject be
withdrawn?

1. Not enough interest
2. Adversely affects the
number of students
attaining their top 4,
rather than enhancing it



Clash Matrix

	Acc	AgSci	Art	Bio	Bus	Che	ConSt	Des	Fre	Geo	His	Mus	Pol	Phy
Acc	18	2	0	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	2	6
AgSci	2	29	1	5	9	1	17	7	4	11	7	4	2	0
Art	0	1	9	1	1	2	5	1	0	3	2	2	1	1
Bio	5	5	1	23	4	6	4	4	8	9	1	5	0	1
Bus	3	9	1	4	34	3	12	4	2	13	10	2	6	5
Che	3	1	2	6	3	14	1	2	3	3	3	2	0	4
ConSt	3	17	5	4	12	1	47	16	3	21	7	5	6	3
Des	3	7	1	4	4	2	16	27	3	5	3	2	4	7
Fre	5	4	0	8	2	3	3	3	15	2	2	4	1	3
Geo	3	11	3	9	13	3	21	5	2	41	5	6	7	2
His	3	7	2	1	10	3	7	3	2	5	25	3	4	3
Mus	3	4	2	5	2	2	5	2	4	6	3	20	1	5
Pol	2	2	1	0	6	0	6	4	1	7	4	1	16	0
Phy	6	0	1	1	5	4	3	7	3	2	3	5	0	17
Rel	0	2	2	2	5	0	7	1	2	8	5	6	2	0
Spa	10	2	2	9	11	6	3	4	0	14	8	4	7	6
Tec	3	13	3	5	12	3	28	15	3	11	9	6	5	5

Restrictions



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

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

7 subject Leaving Certificate

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



Choose Wisely



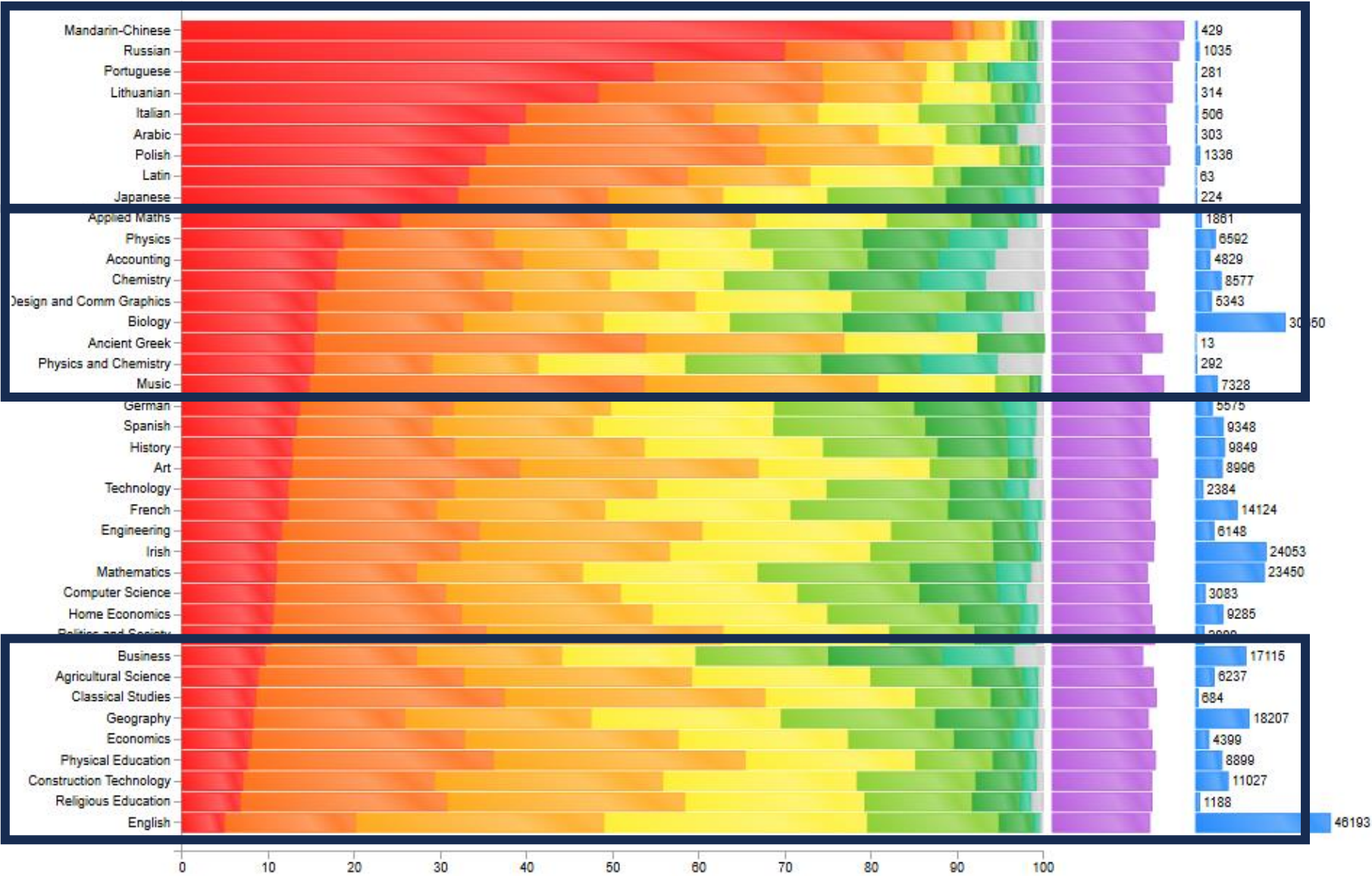
Subject choice should not depend on what teacher will be teaching a certain subject at Leaving Certificate, what friends are taking etc.

Neither should it depend on rumours as to what is an 'easy' subject.

The Myth: "Every student should study _____ to get more points".

The Reality: **There are no easy subjects**, just subject you find easiest because you have an interest or an aptitude for them.

Choose what you are interested in and have an aptitude for. Your interests and aptitudes may differ from older siblings, parents, friends, and could be unique to you.



According to this graph, the “easiest subject” (the one with the most H1s) was Chinese.

So should we all study Chinese?

How come English, Construction, PE, Geography scored lower?

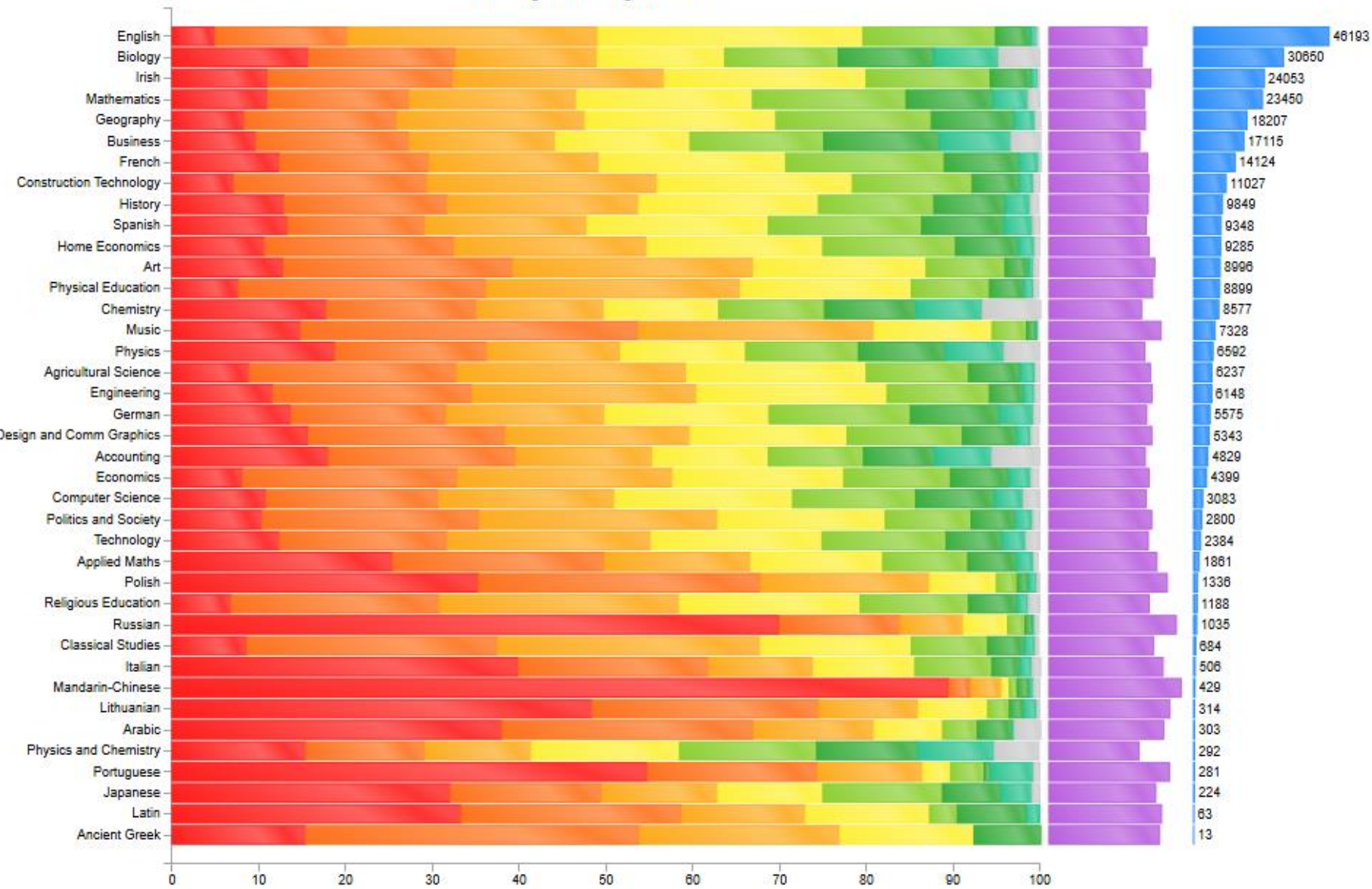
Sort By:

- Subject Name
- Average Points
- Candidates

Sort By Grades:

- H1 (A1)
- H2 (A2-B1)
- H3 (B2-B3)
- H4 (C1-C2)
- H5 (C3-D1)
- H6 (D2-D3)
- H7 (30-39%)
- H8 (0-29%)

Leaving Certificate Higher Level 2025



A different perspective- results by the no. of candidates

There are proportionately less H1s when there are more candidates.

This shows that results are individual to candidates, not subjects

Sort By: Subject Name Average Points Candidates

Sort By Grades: H1 (A1) H2 (A2-B1) H3 (B2-B3) H4 (C1-C2) H5 (C3-D1) H6 (D2-D3) H7 (30-39%) H8 (0-29%)

What should I do next?



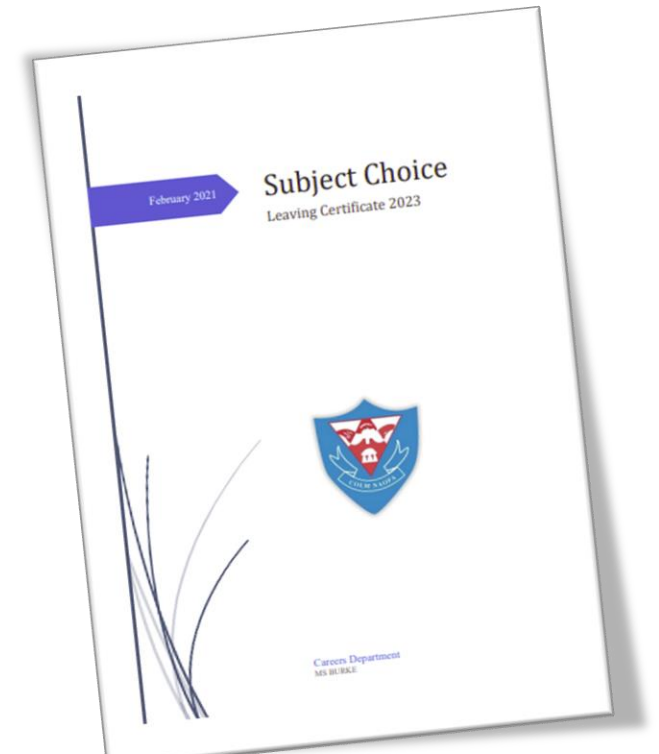
Thoroughly read the Subject Choice Booklet provided on the Coláiste Choilm Website

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

Visit relevant websites

www.qualifax.ie – Subject Requirements Tool

www.careersportal.ie – LC Subject descriptions and excellent database of courses



The Subject Choice Booklet answers most questions about entry requirements



A SCIENCE SUBJECT

- If you look at the courses on the following pages and identify courses of interest to you, then it would be a 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.
- A science subject is usually required for entry to courses where the course has a high scientific content

3 Science Subjects are required for:

University of Limerick	Immersive Bioscience and Biotherapeutics	H4 in Biology and a H5 in 2 of Physics, Chemistry, Physics/Chemistry, Engineering, Computer Science, Maths, or Applied Maths
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2 Science Subjects are required for:

ATU Sligo	Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and H4 in Physics, Biology, Applied Maths, Geography, Computer Science, or Agricultural Science. (Physics and Physics/Chemistry cannot be presented together)
ATU Letterkenny	Veterinary Medicine and Surgery	H4 in Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and H4 in Biology, Agricultural Science or Physics (Physics and Physics/Chemistry cannot be presented together)
SETU Waterford	Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry or Physics/Chemistry and a H4 in Biology, Physics, or Agricultural Science (Physics and Physics/Chemistry cannot be presented together)
UCC	Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy	H4 in Chemistry, and H4 in Physics or Biology
	Medical Health Sciences	H4 in Chemistry and O6/H7 in Biology, Physics or Agricultural Science

The Subject Choice Booklet answers most questions



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

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.
- **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 (2nd Level ed) (UL)** – desirable to have Geography at H4 if taking this elective.

Order of Preference on the form is very important

Next Steps



Use the VShare from (parental login) to indicate preferred subjects.

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 6th 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 chosen subjects 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 1st/2nd preference while you selected it as your 3rd/4th preference). So, you can see why the order of preference is important.

Once the deadline for making your son's selection has passed, we 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).

Feedback is then provided to every student.

Questions to Ask

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





Theresa Burke
B.A., B.Sc., Grad. Dip., M.Ed.
Guidance Counsellor

Thank You