

# St. Joseph's Secondary School



## ***SUBJECT CHOICE FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2024/2025***

*A GUIDE to help you to choose your Leaving Certificate Subjects*

St. Joseph's Secondary School, Drogheda, Senior Cycle

All students take English, Maths and Irish as examination subjects (unless they have an official exemption from the Department of Education).

**Subject Option Form**

The school invites you to **select up to 22** Optional Subjects from the list below, ranking each subject in order of preference, (e.g. 1, 2, 3, etc).

**\*If your son wishes to continue to study French/German or Spanish for his Leaving Certificate he must include the subject in one of his four top choices, i.e 1- 4.**

| Subjects                        | Order of Preference (1, 2, 3) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Accounting                      |                               |
| Agricultural Science            |                               |
| Applied Maths                   |                               |
| Art                             |                               |
| Biology                         |                               |
| Business Studies                |                               |
| Classical Studies               |                               |
| Chemistry                       |                               |
| Construction Studies            |                               |
| Design & Communication Graphics |                               |
| Economics                       |                               |
| French                          |                               |
| Geography                       |                               |
| German                          |                               |
| History                         |                               |
| PE (Exam)                       |                               |
| Physics                         |                               |
| Politics & Society              |                               |
| Music                           |                               |
| Religion ( Exam)                |                               |
| Spanish                         |                               |
| Technology                      |                               |

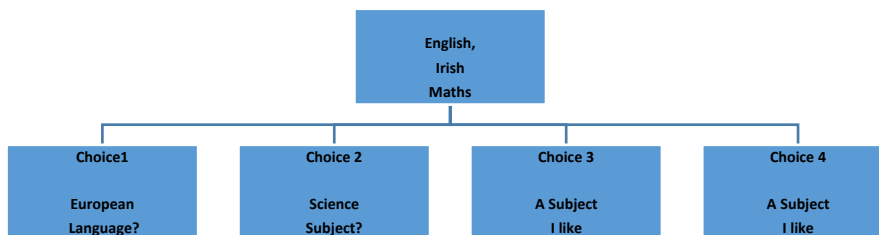
Form to be completed by Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

- *Please note that it may not be possible to give your son his four top choices.*
- *Students applying for Transition Year or Leaving Cert Applied should also fill in this Subject Choice Form.*

*St. Joseph's School Guidance and Counselling Service*

## SUBJECT OPTIONS FOR LEAVING CERT

To allow your son access to the maximum number of Third Level courses in the future, the following combination of Leaving Cert. subjects (if applicable) is recommended.



If your son is not studying a European language the school intends to offer him a choice of another subject or subjects at that time.

## Specific Subject Requirements for Third Level

If you would like more detailed information about Subject Choices and check MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

FOR SPECIFIC COURSES AT THIRD LEVEL:

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

- Click on Student's Page
- Find "Useful Tools"

- Click on Minimum Subject Requirements ;
- Click on Leaving Cert Subjects ;
- Enter the name of the Subject by scrolling down, e.g. “Chemistry” and submit;
- Courses that definitely require Chemistry are then listed.
- Maths requirement: 72 Third Level Courses require Higher Level Maths, 1289 Courses require Ordinary level Maths, 489 courses will accept Foundation Level Maths.

For Colleges in Northern Ireland and Great Britain see [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

## Choosing a Subject

In Choosing Subjects, ask yourself:

What subjects do I like?

What subjects am I good at?

Will I get a good result in it?

What subjects do I need for college?

Will the subject help me to get into my favourite third level course or career?

## Subject Option Form

- Every student must fill in and return the Subject Option Form, even if he intends to apply for a place in Transition Year or Leaving Cert Applied.
- Core Subjects: Students will be doing core subjects Irish, English and Maths, so they do not enter these.
- Religious Studies/Exam PE: All students attend Religion & PE class. If your son wishes to study religion or PE as a Leaving Cert exam subject he should indicate Religion/PE as one of his top subject options.
- List Choices in order of preference: Your son studies four optional subjects from the 22 subjects listed. But he should rank the 22 subjects in order of preference 1 -22.
- French/ German/Spanish: If he wishes to continue to study French or German or Spanish he must list French or German or Spanish in his first four choices, i.e. mark the subject 1 – 4.
- Students from other EU countries (Polish, Russian, Latvian, etc) have the option of putting their names down to sit that language in their Leaving Cert examination as an additional subject.
- Closing date for receipt of the Subject Options forms is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Subjects Offered by St. Joseph’s School:

There are three core subjects which are compulsory: Irish, English and Maths.

Students must then choose a further *four subjects* from the following:

| <b>Languages</b> | <b>Laboratory Science</b> | <b>Business</b> | <b>Social Studies</b> | <b>Applied Science/Technical</b>       | <b>Artistic</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| French           | Physics                   | Accounting      | Classical Studies     | Design & Communications Graphics (DCG) | Art             |
| German           | Chemistry                 | Economics       | Geography             | Technology                             | Music           |
| Spanish          | Biology                   | Business        | History               | Construction Studies                   | PE              |
|                  | Agricultural Science      |                 | Religion              | Applied Maths                          |                 |
|                  |                           |                 | Politics & Society    |  |                 |

## **Business Studies Group**

### **Accounting**

Leaving Certificate accounting provides students with the knowledge, understanding and skills in accounting and financial management necessary for managing personal and basic company accounts. The learning experiences in accounting develop students' organisational, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for their future life, work and study. It also develops their numeracy skills within the context of business and enterprise.

### **Why Study Accounting**

For those considering studying accounting, actuarial studies or finance after the Leaving Cert it would be unwise to leave accounting out of their subject choice. It is also be an important subject choice for those thinking of starting their own business. While not required specifically for studying any third level college course, it is recommended if Accountancy is the career path you want to follow.

### **What kind of Student would Accounting suit**

Commonly seen as the mathematical side of business, accounting attracts the more numerate student. It teaches students the bookkeeping side of business but delves deeper, teaching you to analyse and interpret the figures. Once you can understand and adhere to the basic rules of accountancy, it is a subject that you can do very well in.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

The course is numerically based but theory and procedures must be learned also. While the student needs to be comfortable with numbers he or she does not need to be at higher

maths level. While the Junior Certificate Business Studies Course provides a foundation for this course, it is not essential and it is possible to take accountancy up at senior cycle. This course offers a hard working student the real possibility of high grades because of the unambiguous nature of the questions. An organised student who likes order will be particularly suited to this course

### **Topics covered include:**

Financial Statements Preparation, Farm Accounts, Club Accounts, Company Accounts, Manufacturing Accounts, Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation, Budgeting, Break-even Analysis, Cost Classification, Accounting Theory and Principles.

### **Exam Structure**

The subject is examined at higher and ordinary level. Both levels involve one exam of three hours duration. The exam paper is made up of three sections, the first two are based on the Financial Accounting section of the course and the third covers the Management Accounting section. Questions must be answered from all sections of the exam paper.

### **Career Possibilities**

Accountancy provides a valuable foundation for all business functions and many top executives have an accountancy background. Most chief executive officers of public limited companies have some sort of accountancy qualification. Career pathways might include accountancy, actuarial studies, marketing, business or finance. It would also be an important subject choice for those thinking of starting their own business

### **Business**

Leaving Certificate business creates an awareness of the importance of business activity and develops a positive and ethical attitude towards enterprise. The learning experiences in business develop students' critical thinking, creative and organisational skills while enhancing literacy and numeracy skills using real-life examples. Business provides students with a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in business, marketing, law, enterprise and management.

### **Why Study Business**

Business is not specifically required for entry into any third level course but it would certainly be beneficial for candidates who might be interested in courses or careers in the area of finance, enterprise, law and communications.

### **What kind of student would Business suit?**

Business will suit a candidate who is interested in current affairs and listens to the news, reads the papers and stays alert to what is happening in the general business world. While there is a fair share of learning of key concepts the ability to apply these concepts in everyday life will be the difference between passing the subject and getting a good mark. While the business concepts are easy to understand, it will be important to show that you can apply the concept to everyday business life. This subject suits someone who has an organised mind and likes to answer questions in bullet points, rather than in long essay format. This subject would be useful to anyone thinking of starting his or her own business in the future.

## Recommendations/Tips/Comments

- The subject is suited to students who are willing to work hard and caters for all abilities.
- It is not necessary for students to have studied Junior Certificate Business Studies, but this would be a help.
- Not necessary to write long essays, answers are presented in bullet points.
- Course content is factual and requires a lot of learning, containing only a few mathematical elements.
- Ideally, students would have an interest in business and current affairs and would have an up to date knowledge of economic environment.
- An organised and consistent attitude to homework and study would be essential in this subject.

## Course Content

- This subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates in Ireland and in the wider world.
- It also involves equipping the students with a positive view of enterprise and its applications in the business environment, in both the public and private sectors.
- There are 7 core units covering the following topics: Introduction to people in business; Enterprise; Managing 1 & 2; Business in action; Domestic Environment and International Environment.
- There is a common syllabus covering Higher and Ordinary level, which will fulfil the aims and objectives of the course.
- A flexibility of design that caters for present day Irish business education and yet is capable of adaptation to future developments in a structured and efficient way.
- It assists students to develop their education for adult and working life including the creation of positive attitudes towards self-employment.
- From time to time there may be field trips or guest speakers where the course allows. These are not a compulsory part of the course and are organised at the teachers' discretion.

## Exam Structure - Higher & Ordinary Level

### Higher Level – 1 x 3 hour paper (400 marks); 3 sections.

Section 1 – Short questions (8/10) 80 marks.

Section 2 – Applied Business Question – 80 marks (compulsory).

Section 3 – Long Questions (60 marks per question (4/7))

### Ordinary Level – 1 x 2.5 hour paper (400 marks); 2 sections.

Section 1 – Short Question (10/15) 100 marks.

Section 2 – Long Questions (75 marks per question (4/8)).

## Career Possibilities

Business is useful for careers in a wide range of areas including Banking, Finance, Administration, Law, Insurance, Management and Marketing among others.

## **Economics**

Leaving Certificate economics provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for understanding how the Irish and global economy functions. The learning experiences in economics develop students' critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making and numeracy skills. Economics provides students with a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in business, economics, finance, enterprise and management.

### **Why Study Economics**

Economics deals with the real world business obstacles such as demand and supply, production and consumption, money and banking as well as economic policies, problems and conflicts. With inflation and international trade and payments constantly making headlines, economics requires its students to keep track of real world situations. It helps students to develop a clear understanding of the role of economics, to encourage the development of appropriate learning skills, and to generate in students a positive and ethical attitude to economics in personal, business and public life

### **What kind of student might Economics suit?**

- Anyone considering a future career in any area of business, journalism, communications or finance
- Students who enjoyed Junior Cert Business.
- Students who take an interest in politics, current affairs, or psychology.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

This subject is suited to students who are willing to work hard and caters for all abilities. It is not necessary to have studied business at Junior Certificate to study Economics but it would be helpful. Ideally, students should have a general interest in how the economy works and be interested in current affairs. It would be important to be listening to the news and reading the daily papers. Students show a distinct preference for questions about micro-economics, such as household budgets, rather than macroeconomics, which deals with broader issues, like inflation and growth. To perform well in the macro-economic questions at higher level, candidates need a good knowledge of contemporary economic issues in the Irish economy and an ability to apply the relevant economic theories to particular issues.

### **Course Content**

The subject is concerned with understanding the workings of a modern economy from both Macro and Micro level. Leaving Cert economics consists of eight main examination question areas:

#### **Subject content**

1. Demand, supply, equilibrium, utility and elasticity
2. Costs and market structures
3. Factors of production (including economists)
4. National income and the multiplier
5. Inflation, money, banking and monetary policy
6. International trade, balance of payments and the euro
7. Fiscal policy and taxation



8. The Government in the economy (including economic development and growth, population and emigration)
  - Separate questions on elasticity and costs are also possible, and questions on broader topics such as the national income, Government policy - the list above is just a general guide
  - There are no projects, practical aspects, field trips, etc. Teacher may include project work but it is not a requirement of the syllabus.
  - There is a common syllabus covering Higher and Ordinary level, which will fulfil the aims and objectives.

## **Exam Structure**

The exam can be taken at both Higher Level and Ordinary Level

- One Paper – 2.5 hours duration
- Section A – 9 Q's - Students do 6 (100 marks each)
- Section B – 8 Q's - Students do 4 (75 marks each and 300 in total). There is a large element of choice here.

## **Career Possibilities**

The Leaving Cert economics programme can be an advantage for students considering third level courses with an economics element to course content. It is also useful for careers in Banking, Insurance, Finance, Marketing, Politics, Journalism, current affairs and all aspects of business.

## **Choosing a Science Subject**

Most Science or Medical-related Courses in the CAO require at least one Science subject at Leaving Cert level – any one of Chemistry, Biology, Physics or Agricultural Science. However, Trinity College Dublin usually requires two Leaving Cert science subjects for many of its science-based and medical-related courses.

**For more information on specific subject requirements for Third Level in the CAO and in the Republic of Ireland, see [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie). See Useful tools: Minimum Subject Entry Requirements. Enter Subject name.**

Note: The UK Colleges (including Northern Ireland) are much more specific about which Science subject is required, e.g. Biology is a requirement for most physiotherapy courses in the UK. See [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for specific entry and course requirements for each individual college.

## **Science Group**

### **Agricultural Science**

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. 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.

### **Why Study Agricultural Science?**

Agricultural Science remains a very popular subject among students in Ireland and reflects our agricultural background. This subject proves popular among students who are planning to study Veterinary Science, Science or Medicine in college.

### **What kind of Student would Agricultural Science suit?**

Some experience of farming would be desirable

### **Course Content**

The course consists of the study of a variety of aspects of agriculture under the following headings:

- Soils
- The general structure and function of plants
- Farm crops - cereal and roots
- Farm crops - grassland
- Trees and shelter
- Structure and function of the animal body
- The cow, the sheep, horse, and pig
- Farm buildings (for school assessment only)
- Farm-house environment (for school assessment only)

### **Exam Content**

- The exam in Agricultural Science consist of:
- (a) a terminal examination paper and
- (b) an assessment of the work of the candidate during the course under the headings: identification of plant and animal types associated with agriculture; practical experience with crops, livestock, house and farmyard layouts; investigations carried out related to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics and microbiology.

### **Career Possibilities**

Careers in this area include: Green keeping, Horticulture, Food Science, Agricultural Advisers, Agricultural Engineering, Sports Turf Management, Environmental Science, Forestry, Farming, Marine Science, Careers in Renewable Energy and Teaching.

### **Biology**

Biology is the study of life. Through the study of biology students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and

their environment. They become more aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment.

### **Why Study Biology**

- Biology is a popular subject and is the study of life. It requires a lot of memory work so is a good choice for students with attention to detail and excellent memory work.
- Many courses require at least one science subject and some even require two (see third level entry requirements). Therefore, it is a good idea to have at least one science subject to keep your options open.
- Those considering medicine, nursing and related courses will find that this subject will be of huge benefit in their studies.

### **What kind of student would Biology suit?**

Students who enjoyed science for Junior Cert might wish to consider studying biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in more detail. It is particularly suited to students who have scored highly in the Naturalist and Investigative areas in their interest test.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good understanding of Junior Science at higher level.
- Each student must have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work.
- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject

### **Course Content**

The syllabus consists of approximately 70% biological knowledge, understanding and skills; the remaining 30% deals with the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology.

The syllabus introduced in 2002 has been developed in response to current knowledge and application of biology. Account has been taken of the need to include contemporary biological technologies such as DNA profiling and genetic screening. It aims to create in students an awareness of the application of biological knowledge to modern society and to develop an ability to make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues. The course covers a wide range of topics, including cell structure and diversity, metabolism, genetics and human and flowering plant anatomy and physiology. The general principles of ecology are studied, and one particular ecosystem is examined in detail. An ecology field trip is arranged in the 5th Year. Particular emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of biology, and there are a number of mandatory activities that each student must carry out for themselves.

The course is divided into three units

- Unit 1 The study of life (ecology and food science)
- Unit 2 The Cell (Genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes)
- Unit 3 The organism (a study of body systems, plant biology and microbiology)

There are 22 mandatory practical activities. Three of these are examined each year, two of which have to be answered. A laboratory record of these activities has to be kept and available for inspection by The Department of Education. An ecology portfolio must also be completed. As of yet, no marks are awarded for the laboratory notebook or the portfolio. There is a strong emphasis on social and applied aspects e.g. when studying the breathing system a breathing disorder is studied.

Biology is often perceived as an easier subject than physics or chemistry but this is not so. There are high failure rates at ordinary level.

### **Exam Structure**

The examination at higher and ordinary level is three hours duration. The exam paper is divided into three units.

- Section A - Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks.
- Section B - Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks.
- Section C - Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks.

### **Comments**

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good understanding of Junior Science at higher level.
- Each student must have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work.
- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject.

### **Career Possibilities**

Biology is a great subject if you are considering nursing or medicine. Other careers where studying Biology at second level is useful include: Veterinary, Dentistry, Agriculture, Applied Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Earth Science and Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Science and Aquaculture, Microbiology and Zoology, Psychologist, Astronomer, Teacher, Dietician and Researcher.

### **Chemistry**

Chemistry exists everywhere, not just in laboratories, but in every living thing on land and sea and in our bodies. Chemistry is often described as 'the central science' containing a lot of formulas. So, if you enjoyed Junior Cert Science and have done well in it, and in Maths, you should be a good candidate for Leaving Cert Chemistry.

### **Why Study Chemistry**

This subject aims to provide a relevant course for students who will complete their study of chemistry at this level while, at the same time, providing a foundation course for those who will continue to study chemistry or related subjects following completion of their Leaving Certificate. Chemistry is considered most useful for careers in Pharmacy, Ag Science, Medicine, Engineering, General Sciences and Biotechnology.

### **What kind of student would Chemistry suit?**

- If you enjoyed Junior Cert Science and you have done well in this and in Maths, you should be a good candidate for Leaving Cert Chemistry.

- If you apply attention to detail and are able to describe the procedures of experiments and understand vocabulary.
- Students considering a career in any scientific discipline, such as chemistry, biology, environmental science, medicine, pharmacology, or material science.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the chemistry course has a good understanding of Junior Cert Science at higher level.
- Each student should have an aptitude for and an interest in laboratory work.
- A student would be expected to have a reasonable level of Junior Cert Maths, either at higher or ordinary level.

### **Course Content**

The syllabus consists of approximately 70% pure chemistry; the remaining 30% deals with the social and applied aspects of chemistry. The syllabus is comprised of all the essential and relevant topics within general chemistry. The major topics involved include the following:

1. Atomic structure
2. Volumetric analysis
3. Organic chemistry
4. Water chemistry
5. Reaction mechanisms.

There also is an option to be taken as part of the course which involves the study of atmospheric and industrial chemistry or the study of materials and electrochemistry. Experimental investigations are an essential part of the leaving certificate course. Each student must complete at least 28 experiments over the duration of the course. Experimental work is examined as part of the leaving cert exam and forms the basis for a minimum of three questions on the exam paper.

### **Exam Structure**

The leaving cert exam is three hours in duration. Each candidate must answer at least two questions from Section A (experimental section) and a maximum of six questions from Section B. There are eleven questions in total on the exam paper, each carrying 50 marks. There is no element of continuous assessment but experimental copies must be available for inspection by the State Examinations Commission. Students taking chemistry have to memorize the chemical components of a series of prescribed experiments. They will need to present the elements of four such experiments in their exam.

### **Career Possibilities**

Chemistry is considered extremely useful for a wide range of career areas such as: Pharmacy, Ag Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Engineering, General Sciences, Dietician, Nursing, Food Science, Biotechnology and Medical Laboratory Technology.

### **Physics**

Physics describes the laws and forces that govern natural phenomena. The subject aims to enhance students ability to think logically, to observe, to understand scientific method and to communicate effectively. It offers a general education in physics for all students. Science, Technology and Society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus so that students can be aware of the principles of the applications of physics in the everyday world.

### Why Study Physics

Physics contributes to a student's future career in many ways. It helps, in conjunction with the other Leaving Certificate subjects, to provide a broad, balanced education for any student. Physics teaches students to think logically and enables them to express their thoughts in a concise manner. The skills and knowledge developed through their study of physics can be useful in a wide variety of situations.

### What kind of student would Physics suit?

- Students who wonder why and ask how
- Students who are interested in the following careers would be advised to study Physics: Electrician, Optician, Doctor, Dentist, Engineer, Computer Technician and Programmer.

### Recommendations/Tips

- While there is an element of maths in the physics course, honours maths is not a requirement to do honours physics. Students should not avoid physics on the basis of not having honours maths. It is entirely possible to get on well in honours physics without honours maths.
- Pupils should become capable at drawing and reading graphs and competent in using a calculator through the course.
- The physics syllabus has strong links with the other science subjects especially chemistry. There are strands of physics which overlap with woodwork and construction especially the electricity and heat sections.
- Pupils who will gain the most from studying physics are those who have an interest in science at Junior Cert level and those who enjoy learning about how things work. The science, technology and society section allows students the chance to see where the physics they are learning applies as in TVs, car motors and electricity in the home and also, to see some of the industrial applications of certain topics.
- For students who are interested in proceeding further with physics, check out our sector on [Physical and Mathematical Sciences](#), and also the [Institute of Physics](#), which provides information on the range of career options that students can follow, after physics at third level.

### Course Content

The Physics course also involves a lot of theory which is tested in the written examination. Students are expected to be able to use various formulae with respect to SI units and significant figures, and have a good understanding of the role of physics in modern society and technology. The study of Physics for Leaving Certificate is broken down into eight sections or topic areas: (a) Six compulsory sections (b) Two option sections (Higher paper only, one to be done)

#### Compulsory sections

- **Optics / Waves:** the study of light and sound and real life applications of the theory.
- **Mechanics:** time, space, distance, speed and acceleration.
- **Heat:** changes of state, energy conversions and mathematical problems.
- **Electricity:** develops on from simple circuits to more detailed concepts.
- **Electricity and Magnetism:** gravity, relationship between electricity and magnetism, study of how a motor works, ac. and dc. circuits and phenomena with real world applications.
- **Atomic Physics:** cathode rays, x-rays, radioactive decay, fission and fusion, nuclear reactors and real world applications.

Options:

**Particle Physics:** recent type of physics, delving into the new discoveries leading to a better understanding of the formation of the universe and where we came from.

**Applied Electricity:** detailed study of electricity and the working of a motor developing from electricity already studied.

At Higher Level, there is a deeper, more quantitative treatment of physics. The two option sections are omitted from the Ordinary Level Leaving Certificate course. The course also consists of 24 core mandatory experiments complementing each section in an aim to develop students' technical skills and enhance understanding and reinforce key concepts.

### Exam Structure

The leaving cert exam is three hours in duration. A total of 400 marks are available for the exam.

#### Section A:

- Students must answer 3 out of 4 questions
- 120 marks: 40 marks per question
- Questions are based on experimental procedures and use of results

#### Section B:

- Students must answer 5 out of 8 questions
- 280 marks: 56 marks per question
- Questions are more broad and theory based

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of one terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course.

### Career Possibilities

Physics is a useful subject for many courses and career areas and a good foundation for a broad range of scientific and technical careers in particular. Many careers benefit from the logical and numeracy skills developed in the study of physics. Many technical courses involve components of physics. Students may move into employment or into further study

following their two years of physics at Senior Cycle. They may choose to progress to a Post Leaving Certificate course (PLC) or move on to a third level course.

### Applied Maths

Applied Maths is the study of the practical applications of mathematics to the real world and physical problems. It is typically associated with engineering and physics, but also finds use in economics, finance, business, environmental studies, and even chemistry and medicine.

### **Why Study Applied Maths**

- If you are getting A or B grades in Maths and Physics, you should be capable of getting similar grades in Applied Maths, thus enabling you to increase your points in the Leaving Cert.
- There is overlap between some parts of the Leaving Cert Physics course and the Applied Maths course, such as Linear Motion, Newton's Laws, and Circular Motion. Thus it will also help you to have a deeper understanding of these topics in Physics.
- As there is a high maths content in the course, it will also give you a better understanding of some parts of the Honours Maths course – especially Trigonometry, Calculus (Differentiation and Integration) and Vectors.
- It is ideal for students who may be weak at other subjects (such as languages), and good at Maths, as they can do honours Applied Maths to increase their points.
- It is very possible to cover the whole course in one year if a student is committed. Thus if you are starting Leaving Cert year, it is not too late to start.
- If you are considering studying any kind of engineering in college, Applied Maths is very important – all engineering students have to study Applied Maths in first year in college and you will have a head start if you have the Leaving Cert course done.

### **What kind of student might Applied Maths suit?**

- This subject comes highly recommended for students considering a career in any area of Engineering, Science, Information Technology, Business, Finance, Architecture or Education.
- Students who are studying Leaving Cert higher level Maths. This course also helps students studying physics, due to some overlap in the course content.
- Students who need high entry points to get into university. In the last 5 years, on average 1,800 candidates sat the exam at higher level and upwards of one third of students achieved the equivalent of a H1 or H2 grade.
- Aside from niche languages such as Latin, Russian, and Japanese, this means that Applied Maths has the **highest percentage of H1 grades** in the Leaving Cert.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

- A very suitable subject for the student taking higher-level maths and physics. Some students complete the programme as an additional after-school subject, taken in one or two periods per week, over the two years of Senior Cycle.

### **Course Content**

The course essentially covers the mathematics behind the behaviour of objects when placed in various situations, such as being thrown as projectiles, bounced off walls or other objects,



immersed in fluids, or swung around on a rope. There are 10 questions on the exam paper, each covering one of these topics in detail. However, the exam only requires the student to complete six questions, so it is not uncommon for teachers to focus on six or seven topics, which makes the course and workload more manageable. The course tends to avoid theory-heavy questions (such as proofs and manipulating formulae) which are found on the Mathematics paper, instead offering practical problems with numerical solutions, such as computing the volume of fluid in a container, or finding the optimal angle to throw a projectile at so that it will travel as far as possible. As a result, Applied Maths is excellent for developing strong problem solving skills, which are very valuable for future employment.

## **Exam Structure**

There is a separate examination paper for Ordinary level and Higher level:

### **Ordinary Level Paper**

This is a 2.5 hour paper (150 minutes) and carries 300 marks. You are required to answer 6 out of 9 questions and each carry 50 marks.

### **Higher Level Paper**

This is a 2.5 hour paper (150 minutes) and carries 300 marks. You are required to answer 6 out of 10 questions. Each carry 50 marks.

**Tip:** Allow approx. 25 minutes per question in either paper. If you answer more than six questions, they will all be corrected and you will be given the marks for the best six.

## **Career Possibilities**

Applied Maths is useful for careers such as Engineering, Physics, Construction, IT, Insurance, Systems Analysis and Architecture.

## **Social Studies Group**

### **Art**

The Art course for Leaving Cert is about developing the student's ability in a range of artistic fields and disciplines. The syllabus permits a huge number of media, from the fine arts such as sculpture, drawing, and painting, to puppet-making, embroidery, calligraphy, metalwork, and pottery. Students are expected to spend the duration of the course practicing and developing their skills in several of these areas.

### **Why Study Art**

If you want to study more in an artistic area you can continue in Fine Art and specialise in painting, sculpting or printmaking. Alternatively, you could go into the design area and specialise in areas such as fashion, graphic, interior or furniture design. Studying art as the title suggests allows students to be creative and explore their desire for self-expression and develop an appreciation for artistic work of others including the work of famous artists and the history of art.

## What kind of Student would Art suit?

- Students who have shown an aptitude for art, such as by getting high grades in Junior Cert Art.
- Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, or Advertising.
- Students who are weak in other areas such as languages or mathematics may find it easier to achieve points in Art.
- Students that enjoy expressing themselves through art and like to sketch and doodle.
- Students that are prepared to work hard at developing their artistic talent.
- Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects, or to reduce pressure on themselves in June by having a subject with exams in April/May.

## Tips

- For most third level art and design courses, a portfolio is required as well as the Leaving Cert.

## Course Content

All students, both Ordinary and Higher level, follow a common course. The practical work can include Life Sketching, Still Life, Imaginative Composition, Design and Craftwork. The History of Art and Appreciation is a broad course covering Irish and European Art, and also Art Appreciation. It requires looking at artworks through the use of reproductions, slides and art galleries, reading books and writing essays on different subjects.

## Exam Structure

The exam structure is the same at higher and ordinary level

Candidate will be required to answer all four papers:

- a) Imaginative Composition or Still Life - 100 marks
- b) Design or Craftwork - 100 marks
- c) Life Sketching - 50 marks
- d) History and Appreciation of Art - 150 marks

## Coursework (a) Imaginative Composition or Still Life and (b) Design or Craftwork

The Imaginative Composition or Still Life component and the Craft or Design component is executed as coursework in schools. This coursework is to be completed from Feb- April of 6th year. These two components will be based on a single set of stimulus materials issued annually by the State Examinations Commission. Based on these materials, the candidate will choose one theme from which both components will be developed. Each candidate will be required to create and submit a realised work for the Imaginative Composition or Still Life

component and a realised work for the Craft or Design component, as well as preliminary and preparatory material.

### **(c) Life Sketching**

Candidates will be required to make two sketches of the model. The first will be a pose of 15 minutes. The second will be a more fully worked drawing taking approximately 30 minutes. Colour may be used.

### **(d) History of Art Exam**

The art course also features a written examination on **History and Appreciation** of Art, which counts for **37.5%** of the marks. The exam is divided into three sections, one on Irish art, one on European art, and a final section on artistic appreciation. The course content is extremely broad, and covers everything from prehistoric art to the modern day, but students are free to focus their studies on a few narrow areas of interest such as renaissance or Celtic art. Diagrams and illustrative sketches are encouraged in the exam.

### **Note for Students taking Art outside of School**

The changes to examinations arrangements are especially pertinent to students who intend to take Art as an additional subject outside of the normal school setting, either on their own or with private tuition outside of a school or centre. Practical Coursework must be conducted under the supervision of a class teacher with the work authenticated by the teacher and principal. As it is not possible to meet the authentication requirements outside of a formal educational setting, coursework cannot be accepted from external candidates. If you intend on taking Art outside of school ensure that your coursework can be authenticated otherwise you will forfeit 50% of your Art grade.

### **Career Possibilities**

Art is useful for careers in animation, art teaching, computer design, architecture, fashion design, interior design, graphic design, painting and decorating, photography and art therapy.

### **Music**

Leaving Certificate Music involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening. In performing, students choose from a variety of individual and/or group performing activities. In composing, students develop an understanding of musical structure and form, while the listening component provides for rich aural experiences through exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres.

### **Why Study Music**

- Students can get up to 50 per cent of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent before they even sit the written paper
- In music you can develop your talent and knowledge in this area and continue your studies in a wide range of colleges

### **What kind of student would Music suit?**

- Students who have shown an aptitude for music, such as by getting high grades in Junior Cert Art and are keen to develop and practice more.
- If you can read music and have a competence in singing or playing an instrument
- Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as singing, playing in a band, music production and performance technology and management.
- Those interested in the rock and pop areas of music can develop their talents in a number of PLC courses in Rock and Jazz Music including management.
- Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects

### **Recommendations/Tips**

- Because of the practical nature of this subject, students and/or parents should discuss this with the senior level music teacher before choosing it as a Leaving Certificate subject.

### **Course Content**

The course consists of three main components: (1) Composing (2) Listening (3) Performance

### **Ordinary level**

Students will choose one of the three activities to represent 50 per cent, e.g.

- Performing 50% Composing 25% Listening 25% or...
- Performing 25% Composing 50% Listening 25% or...
- Performing 25% Composing 25% Listening 50%

### **Higher level**

Students will undertake additional studies (a Higher level elective in one of the three activities, e.g.: Performing 25% Composing 25% Listening 25% + One Higher level elective 25%. This will allow Ordinary level and Higher level students to gain up to 50 per cent of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent.

### **Musical Performance:**

As mentioned above you can choose to designate 50% of your assessment to musical performance. If you choose this option you have a few further options open to you: Perform 6 pieces of music on one instrument

### **Or**

You can be examined on two instruments. If you choose this option you are required to perform four pieces of music on each instrument.

### **Or**

You can choose to perform four pieces of music (25%) and be examined in Music Technology (25%). Music Technology involves inputting music into a software package on the computer and being able to perform music edits on it, e.g. add dynamics or tempo

markings, or transpose the music. If you are good on computers this could be a nice option for you.

## **Exam Structure**

### **Listening Paper**

Examined in June of 6<sup>th</sup> year

90 minutes duration

Four set works, Irish music and general listening skills.

### **Composition Paper**

Examined in June of 6<sup>th</sup> year

90 minutes duration

Melody writing and harmony

### **Performance**

Examined in April of 6<sup>th</sup> year

Candidates may perform as a soloist or as part of a group or both.

**Ordinary Level:** 2 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test.

**Higher Level:** 3 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test

OR 2 pieces on each of two instruments and one unprepared test

**Electives for extra 25%: Higher Level only** Each candidate must choose one of the above components to study for this extra credit. The majority tend to opt for a Performance elective.

**Listening Elective:** The candidate must work on a music project over the course of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year. They must submit some work to the State Examinations Commission and sit an extra written paper in June.

**Composition Elective:** The candidate must undertake a large scale composition to be submitted to the Examinations Commission in their final year.

**Performance Elective:** This involves a more substantial performance during the examination period in April of 6<sup>th</sup> year.

## **Career Possibilities**

Music is useful for media work or studies, primary teaching, sound engineering, public relations, library work, speech therapy, film, physical education, communications, production, performance and music at third level. Note: Students are required to be able to read music to study this subject. Little knowledge of music theory or history is not a problem but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc.) is essential.

## **Geography**

Geography is the study of people, their environment, and the interaction between the two. The course follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics (such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map-reading, and economic activities) in a lot more detail. There are a large number of optional sections on the course, allowing students to focus on the sections of the course which they like.

## What kind of student might Geography suit?

- Students considering further study in areas such as geography, economics, environmental science, or politics.
- Students who achieved solid results for Junior Cert Geography.

## Recommendations/Tips

- Students must think abstractly and in 3-D (Be careful about studying Geography if you have any problems with this).

## Course Content

The syllabus is divided into 4 main units. All students study the Core Units 1-3 and Elective Unit 4:

### Core Unit 1 - Patterns and processes in the physical environment

This unit examines the relationship between the tectonic cycle, the rock cycle and the processes of landform development.

### Core Unit 2 - Regional geography

This unit examines how economic, human and physical processes interact in regional settings.

### Core Unit 3 - Geographical investigation and skills

This unit encourages the development of skills in handling spatial information leading to the completion of an individual geographical investigation.

### Elective Unit 4 - Patterns and processes in the economic environment

This unit examines patterns in economic development and the growth of a single interdependent global economy.

## Higher Level

Students taking the Higher Level also study Optional Unit 6 Global Interdependence. This unit examines the interdependent nature of global economic, social and political processes and challenges the differing views of development

## Geographical skills

The teaching and application of skills is integrated into each of the units where appropriate

- Map and aerial photograph interpretation
- Satellite imagery
- Figure interpretation
- Census of population data
- Weather maps and data.

## Exam Structure

Leaving Certificate Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level in ascending order of difficulty. There are two assessment components:

1. Written Examination (80%)
2. Geographical Investigation Report (20%)

Students complete two questions on the core units, one question on an elective unit, and one question on an optional unit.

### **Subject content:**

1. Patterns and processes in the physical environment
2. Regional geography
3. Geographical investigation

Two Elective Units (pick one)

4. Patterns and processes in economic activities
5. Patterns and processes in the human environment

Four Optional Units (pick one; higher level only):

6. Global interdependence
7. Geoecology
8. Culture and identity
9. The Atmosphere-Ocean environment

The teaching of *geographical skills* is an important element of the course; students are encouraged to improve their ability to gather information (from map-reading, statistics, charts), present information (using diagrams, maps, and writing), and evaluate information (separate fact from opinion, make informed judgements, propose sensible solutions to problems). These skills are assessed in the Geographical Investigation.

### **Career Possibilities**

Geography can be studied at third level as a science subject, or as an arts subject. It is useful in a wide variety of careers such as cartography, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), town planning, environmental science, engineering, travel/tourism, meteorology/weather forecasting and in global/development work. Visit Geographical Society of Ireland - [Careers in Geography](#)

### **History**

History aims to record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred. It deals with human experience and involves an investigation of the surviving evidence relating to such experience. History brings students into contact with human experiences that are often very different from their own and fosters their developing understanding of the human condition and human motivation. Through its focus on the evaluation of evidence, it contributes significantly to the development of students' skills of critical thinking. Through its focus on research, it allows students the opportunity to develop their skills of independent learning. History is often studied out of personal interest, but also develops important skills which are of life-long importance.

**What kind of student might History suit?**

- Students who enjoy and appreciate history, and would like to improve their knowledge.
- Students who are willing to commit a lot of time; History is a demanding subject.
- Students who have strong English language skills, and are able to write.
- Students aiming to improve their self-discipline and research skills.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

When considering history as a Leaving Certificate subject students should note the following:

- An interest in the subject is vital; some students choose it on the basis that they like nothing else on the Subject Line.
- A good knowledge of English, an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is important.
- Self-discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general.
- Choosing it because it was an easy subject for the Junior Certificate has absolutely no basis in truth, as they are two completely separate courses. Leaving Certificate history is demanding and some students find out too late to their cost that they cannot cope and drop out.
- If history is a subject that you like and you have the ability, discipline and work ethic to do well in it, but is not related to the course you want to pursue at Third Level, you should consider doing it on the basis that it will get you the required points to get the Third Level course that you want.

### **Course Content**

The Leaving Certificate History Syllabus gives teachers a choice of 4 topics which will be studied from a selection of 12 topics in modern Irish and modern European history. The topics are arranged in two discrete fields of study:

#### **Early Modern, 1492-1815**

#### **Later Modern, 1815-1993**

Students will study topics from one of the fields of study. Within each field of study, there are six topics from Irish history and six from the history of Europe and the wider world. Students will study two topics from Irish history and two from the history of Europe and the wider world from the selected field of study. Two topics will be prescribed for documents-based study: one from the Early Modern field of study and one from the Later Modern field of study. Students will engage in a documents-based study of the prescribed topic from their selected field of study.

### **Research Study**

Students undertake a Research Study which will take the form of a report to be submitted around Easter time before the Leaving Certificate exam in June. This Research Study can be about any aspect of history, in any period. The teacher will help and oversee this work but the choice of subject matter is that of the student. This part of the assessment carries 20% of the total marks.



## Exam Structure

The History exam will last 2 hours 50 minutes and pupils will answer the documents-based study and three essays (one from each topic studied). Ordinary level students follow an identical course, with a different emphasis in the way questions are asked on exam papers. Assessment consists of two components: A written examination paper (80%) and A research study report (20%) submitted around Easter before the June exam. The marks are to be weighted as follows:

### Authentication procedures

The report must be the candidate's own work. Authentication procedures will be put in place to ensure compliance with this requirement. These will include a protocol in relation to the use of internet-sourced material.

### The terminal examination

Mark allocation

The percentage of the total marks to be allocated to this component will be 80%.

- **The Higher level paper**  
Candidates will answer four questions, one on each of the four topics studied. All four questions will be of equal value. One of the questions will be documents-based.
- With the exception of topics nominated for the documents-based study, a specified number of questions will be asked on each of the topics.
- In the case of each topic, at least two of the three perspectives will be examined each year.

### The Ordinary level paper

- Candidates will answer four questions, one on each of the four topics studied. All four questions will be of equal value. Three of the questions will be general questions, while one will be documents-based.
- One question will be set on each topic.
- An element of choice will be "built in" to each of the general questions.

A common format will apply to each of the general questions and each will be stimulus-driven.

The stimulus is intended to facilitate candidate recognition of the topic and as a reasonably gentle lead-in to more testing examination of knowledge and understanding. The common format will include stimulus-driven questions (testing comprehension and/or identification) and paragraphs or short essays linked to the key personalities and case studies.

### Career Possibilities

History develops an ability to think independently and is very useful skill for third-level education. An interest in, and knowledge of history are relevant to any career related to current affairs, such as Journalism, Local and National Radio and TV. History is valuable as a background to studies in Law, Town Planning, Architecture, Politics, Economics, Sociology, Art, Museum and Library work. History is also a good training for work in Administration, Management and Business and is an excellent basis for careers in Tourism, Government and Teaching.

## Classical Studies

Classical Studies is concerned with the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome in all their manifestations and with their continuing influence on the modern world. It includes history, literature, art and architecture, drama and philosophy. Students who have studied Classical Studies at Junior Certificate level will have received a good introduction to the Graeco-Roman world. However, it is by no means essential for the study of Leaving Certificate Classical Studies.

### **Why Study Classical Studies**

The ancient world is one of the foundations on which much of our European civilization is based. This course enables the student to go back to the originals (in translation), and learn the stories and legends which inspired so much in art and literature for the next 2,000 years.

### **What kind of Student would Classical Studies suit?**

- Classical Studies will appeal to those interested in history and those who enjoy reading and writing about the ancient world.
- It can be taken by itself as a Leaving Cert. subject which will broaden the student's outlook and knowledge, as well as gaining points for University entrance. Owing to the nature of the exam, and the material to be studied, it is likely that pupils who are strong in English and History might find themselves best suited to this subject.
- The subject is a popular choice in the Arts faculties of our universities. It is particularly suited to students who have scored highly in the Linguistic and Social areas in their Interest Profiler.
- This subject is helpful in the study of history and religion and even philosophy.
- **Ancient Epic** (The Odyssey; Homer and The Aeneid; Virgil)
- **Roman Art and Architecture** ( Buildings, Sculpture and Paintings from Rome and the Empire)
- **Alexander the Great** ( based on the accounts of Arrian and Plutarch)
- **Greek Drama** (Oedipus the King: Sophocles and Medea; Euripedes)

All the textbooks are in English/Irish, so knowledge of Latin or Greek is not necessary. There is also no need to have done Classical Studies at Junior Cert. There is no coursework / project work in this subject and final assessment consists of one essay-based three hour examination. The Greek Drama section would be very similar to how pupils might study Shakespeare in English while although the Ancient Epics were originally long poems, they are taught in prose form and are similar to adventure novels. While the Alexander section is in the main part History, the Art and Architecture is really a mixture of so many of the different things which make Classical Culture so enduring. Being strong in History and particularly English would be indicative that Classical Studies might be a good choice at Leaving Cert. However, all pupils can prosper in this subject purely because they find the material so interesting and it is this, above all else, which seems to be most important for pupils making a success of choosing Classical Studies.

## **Exam Structure**

Leaving Certificate classical studies is assessed at Ordinary and Higher levels, through a written examination. There is no coursework / project work in this subject and final assessment consists of one essay-based three hour examination. Students are required to answer 6 questions, doing at least one question from each of the four sections listed above.

## **Career Possibilities**

Classical studies offers different interests and a foundation for many career pathways including: Teaching, Archaeology, Theology, Journalism and History among others.

## **Politics & Society**

The Politics & Society Leaving Certificate programme is about the social systems within which people act locally, nationally and more widely. Students who take this course will look at the concepts underpinning contemporary systems of government and the roles of groups such as multinational companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental bodies, in shaping the world we live in.

## **Why study this?**

Politics & Society is a challenging and rewarding subject. It will suit any student who is interested in areas such as human rights, equality, diversity, sustainable development, power and democratic decision-making. If you want to become a more informed and active global citizen then this subject will be of interest to you. Studying Politics & Society gives students a real insight into people, power and how society works.

## **Course content**

The Politics & Society course consists of 4 main areas covered in topics as follows:

### **Power and decision-making:**

Topic 1 Power and decision-making in school

Topic 2 Power and decision-making at national and European level

### **Active citizenship:**

Topic 3 Effectively contributing to communities

Topic 4 Rights and responsibilities in communication with others

### **Human rights and responsibilities:**

Topic 5 Human rights and responsibilities in Ireland

Topic 6 Human rights and responsibilities in Europe and the wider world

### **Globalisation and localisation:**

Topic 7 Globalisation and identity

## Topic 8 Sustainable development

### **Exam Structure**

Politics & Society can be taken at Ordinary or Higher level.

Assessment is based on the course aims, objectives and learning outcomes. There are two assessment components at each level:

- A citizenship project report which accounts for 20% of the total marks.
- A written examination which accounts for 80% of the final grade

The citizenship project changes from year to year and is based number of topics\* from which students choose one to work on. The citizenship project requires students to research a topic of interest to them and then put their learning into action. Assessment of the citizenship project is based on your ability to use the knowledge and concepts of Politics and Society to make judgements as to how to be active in communities, and to reflect on and evaluate what you have learned or achieved from being an active participant in civil, social and political life. The written exam will assess your ability to apply the knowledge and concepts of Politics and Society to make arguments about political and social issues and the skills of analysing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data on social and political issues. The written examination will be two and a half hours long and will have three sections.\*Topics are based on a brief issued annually by the State Examinations Commission (SEC)

### **Career Possibilities**

Politics & Society is a useful subject to take if you want to study politics or sociology or other courses such as law, anthropology, philosophy, development studies, media studies, and many more. The skills of critical thinking and active citizenship that you will develop through this subject will be useful to you in any future learning and in your everyday life.

### **Religion**

Religious education in the Leaving Certificate programme calls for the exploration of issues such as meaning and value, the nature of morality, the development of diversity and belief, the principles of a just society, and the implications of scientific progress. It has a particular role to play in the curriculum in the promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding.

### **Why Study Religious Education**

It seeks to develop in students the skills needed to engage in meaningful dialogue with those of other or of no religious traditions. The RE syllabus supports the development of the inquiry, thinking, and problem solving skills central to the Leaving Cert

### **What kind of student would Religious Education suit?**

Religious Education suits the student with an enquiring mind. A student who is interested in history, current affairs, travel and culture and debating the meaning of life.

## **Recommendations/Tips**

This subject is not offered as an exam subject in every school - see Religious Education non-exam.

## **Course Content**

The subject consists of one core obligatory section, 'The Search for Meaning and Values' and a choice of two other core sections from a list of three:

- Christianity: origins and contemporary expressions,
- World Religions, and
- Moral Decision Making.

There is one optional section also from a list of six which gives the students the opportunity to explore a topic of their own liking. An exciting feature of this subject is the coursework element, which is like an extended essay on a topic supplied by the DES which accounts for 20% of the marks in the final exam. This means that in effect, students will have one fifth of the examination covered before they begin the Leaving Cert itself.

## **Exam Structure**

The course consists of three units:

1. Unit One  
The Search for Meaning and Values
2. Unit Two - Any two of:  
Christianity: Origins and Contemporary Expressions World Religions Moral Decision Making
3. Unit Three - Any one of:  
Religion and Gender Issues of Justice and Peace Worship, Prayer and Ritual The Bible: Literature and Sacred Text Religion: The Irish Experience Religion and Science

Assessment consists of two components

- 1. Coursework
- 2. Terminal written paper

## **Career Possibilities**

Possible future courses/career areas: Arts, Law, Journalism, Education, Teaching, Theology, Philosophy, Religious Vocations, Social Work and Career Guidance among others.

## **Applied Science Group**

### **Construction Studies**

Leaving Certificate construction studies provides students in the senior cycle of post-primary education with an introduction to the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and processes. This subject has proven to be very popular with over 7,000 students taking the subject last year.

#### **Why Study Construction Studies**

This practical subject gives students hands-on experience working with tools and machinery. Students also undertake theoretical and background work for their final examinations which provides the students with useful skills for working in the sector.

#### **What kind of Student would Construction Studies suit**

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment.
- Each student should have an aptitude for, and an interest in design and practical work.

#### **Course Content**

The course is essentially about the study of buildings and the built environment. The theoretical part of the course examines all parts of building from the planning stages to the completed building. The course is studied under the following main headings:

- Planning and Design
- Drawings and Documents
- Site Preliminaries and Foundations
- Walls, Partitions
- Floors, Roofs
- Fireplaces
- Windows and Doors
- Stairs
- Plastering and Painting
- Plumbing and Heating
- Services Drainage

#### **Exam Structure**

- Construction studies is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level
- There is a written examination, a practical test, and an assessment of student project work.

The examination at both higher and ordinary level has three separate components:

**Section A** Three hour written paper worth 300 marks. The exam consists of 10 questions out of which five have to be attempted. Question 1 is a compulsory drawing question of a building detail.

**Section B** 4-hour practical woodwork exam where the student makes a small item out of timber under exam conditions. The exam normally takes place in May. This accounts for 150 marks.

**Section C** Building Project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project that they make. Ideally this project must be completed by Christmas. This accounts for 150 marks.

### **Career Possibilities**

Studying this subject will be useful for anyone thinking of working/studying in the following areas: building management, carpentry, electrician, town planning, insurance claims, heating and ventilation and housing management.

### **Design Communication and Graphics (DCG)**

This subject develops students' comprehension ability, and problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2 and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.

### **Why Study Design and Communications Graphics**

- DCG helps to further students' cognitive and practical skills with modules like graphic communication, problem solving, spatial visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics and much more.

### **What kind of student would DCG suit?**

- Students who have taken Tech Graphics to Junior Cert level.
- Students who have a keen interest in further studies in practical areas of engineering and construction, or in apprenticeships which include the study of technical drawings.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

- It is an advantage to have studied Technical Graphics at Junior Cert. level.
- Free-hand sketching is a main component of the core topics. Therefore, Junior Cert art, materials technology, wood and/or technology would serve as an advantage in this area.
- A basic knowledge of ICT skills is also beneficial.
- Students must also appreciate that work completed must conform to a high standard of neatness and draftsman ship.

### **Course Content**

The course is comprised of two parts; Core areas of study and Optional Areas of Study

#### **Part 1 – Core Areas of Study**

Plane and Descriptive Geometry

- Project Systems

- Plane Geometry
- Conic Sections
- Descriptive Geometry of Lines and Planes
- Intersection and Development of Surfaces

#### Communication of Design and Computer Graphics

- Graphics in Design and Communication
- Communication of Design
- Freehand Drawing
- Information and Communication Technologies

### **Part 2 – Optional Areas of Study**

You will be required to study two of the optional areas listed below:

#### Applied Graphics

- Dynamic Mechanism
- Structural Forms
- Geological Geometry
- Surface Geometry
- Assemblies

### **Exam Structure**

One Terminal Exam Paper: 60%

Student Assignment: 40%

**Terminal Exam:** 3 hours duration.

**Student Assignment** Emphasis on:

1. Elements of design
2. Communication graphics
3. Use of ICT'S in design

Different theme for higher and ordinary level May take the form of:

- A design investigation and modification
- A concept design

### **Career Possibilities**

DCG is a core element of many third level options including: Engineering, Product Design, Construction and Architecture. Knowledge of this subject will greatly enhance a student's ability in any third level engineering-based programme. Other relevant career areas include: toolmaker, engineering technician, and carpentry and aircraft technician.



## Technology

Leaving Certificate technology provides students with the knowledge and skills associated with technology education. Students apply their knowledge and skills creatively in a design-based approach to solving everyday technological problems, mindful of the impact on natural resources and on the environment. The syllabus comprises core areas of study, which are mandatory, and five optional areas of study, from which students choose two.

### Why Study Technology?

- Given the current accelerated advances in technology, this is a very cutting edge subject. This subject aims to boost student's ability to apply knowledge and skills to evaluate technology.
- Technology will help you to solve many of the technological problems you may experience in everyday life.
- This subject teaches you to think about a problem and then use your knowledge and skills to design a solution to that problem.
- It will teach you skills in the use of basic tools and equipment.
- You will also be able to identify many different types of materials and have a basic understanding of electronic circuits and gear systems.

### What kind of Student would Technology suit?

Students do not need to have taken Technology at Junior Cert to do this course. It would however be an advantage if students had taken one of Tech Drawing, Wood Technology or Technology, as this subject consolidates, extends and refines knowledge, skills and techniques acquired at Junior Cert. level in these subjects.

### Course Content

#### Core Elements

The core of the programme is a broad general introduction to the nature of technology that provides students with a consolidation, extension and refinement of the knowledge, skills and techniques acquired in the junior certificate. It is intended that all elements in the core are learned in an integrative manner by means of a 'design and make' approach in the context of safety and the impact of technology on society.

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

#### Optional Modules

The optional modules allow students to undertake a more in-depth study of specific elements within the core. Each student will study **two options** in addition to the core. Reference should be made to the syllabus document for more detailed information.

## **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
- Materials Processing
- Skills Development
- Quality Assurance
- Production Techniques

## **Exam Structure**

Technology is assessed by means of a terminal exam and a project – both are equally weighted, 50% each.

### **Terminal Exam – 50% marks**

At both higher and ordinary levels, the terminal exam is made of two sections:

Section A: Core

Section B: Options.

### **Project – 50% marks**

Students will be required 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 should integrate the various elements of the study of technology and should represent the highest standard of knowledge and skills attained by the student. The folder should reflect all stages of the student's work from design to realisation, and should include an overall evaluation.

### **Career Possibilities**

Technology gives students a basic understanding of the principles of engineering, design and project management. If you enjoyed the technology programme at Junior Cert level, and like hands-on activity, this subject may develop an interest in a career in engineering or technology.

## **LANGUAGES**

### **French**

French as a Leaving Certificate subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the French language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography and national history, in order to provide a context for communication. Senior Cycle French builds on the knowledge acquired for the Junior Certificate.

### **Why Study French**

- This subject may be a requirement for entry to third level and can be used as a third language for entry to a number of courses. See entry requirements for individual colleges.
- This subject is a useful foundation for students with an interest in studying French in third level, or considering a career in a French speaking environment or country.

### **What kind of student would French suit?**

- Anyone with an interest in French culture, history, and language.
- Students who are considering working in France, Canada, the EU or in the area of international relations in the future.
- Students who can already speak French and want easy points.

### **Recommendations/Tips:**

- It is highly advisable that students spend some time in a country where the target language is spoken.
- Students who have shown an aptitude for French at Junior Certificate Level are encouraged to continue with it in Senior Cycle.
- A third language is an entry requirement of a number of third level colleges and may be a specific requirement for certain courses. Always check individual college and course details for current information.
- Course content for Higher and Ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at higher level. A grade 'C' at higher level in the Junior

Certificate is usually a minimum requirement for higher level French at Leaving Certificate.

- Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:
  - Oral/speaking
  - Written
  - Aural/listening
  - Reading
- A wide variety of themes are covered, for example:
  - Family
  - School
  - Hobbies
  - Sport
  - Current affairs
- Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses.

### **Recommendations/Tips:**

- It is highly advisable that students spend some time in a country where the target language is spoken.
- Students who have shown an aptitude for French at Junior Certificate Level are encouraged to continue with it in Senior Cycle.
- A third language is an entry requirement of a number of third level colleges and may be a specific requirement for certain courses. Always check individual college and course details for current information.

Course content for Higher and Ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at higher level. A grade 'C' at higher level in the Junior Certificate is usually a minimum requirement for higher level French at Leaving Certificate.

Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:

Oral/speaking  
Written  
Aural/listening  
Reading

A wide variety of themes are covered, for example:

Family  
School  
Hobbies  
Sport  
Current affairs

Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses.

## Exam Structure

Mark Allocation for Leaving Certificate French:

| Section                 | Higher Level | Ordinary Level |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Speaking                | 25%          | 20%            |
| Listening Comprehension | 20%          | 25%            |
| Reading Comprehension   | 30%          | 40%            |
| Writing                 | 25%          | 15%            |

### Leaving Certificate Exam Tips:

- The key to doing well is practice and individuality. The more reaction essays you write, and comprehension you read, the easier it becomes.
- Try to get your hands on as many past mock comprehensions as well as doing all the past papers so you are well trained in the format and question types.
- After each comprehension make sure it is correct using the marking scheme.
- Any vocabulary you don't understand should be noted and learned as you will most likely see it again or you will be able to use it in your written work.
- You should be able to express yourself and talk about different topics - a rich vocabulary is key.
- Learn five new words every night going to bed and try to recall them in the morning.
- an extensive knowledge of the different tenses will be needed for all aspects of the French exam.
- Some people find downloading French CDs/recordings onto their iPod and listening to it regularly is very helpful.
- When preparing for the aural exam, write out answers to common questions, learn these answers and practise saying them aloud so it comes across as natural as possible.

**The Oral Exam** This takes place in March/April of 6th year.

13 mins for French - French Interview with examiner. Students may prepare a document.

**Aural/Listening Exam** (40 mins) This exam takes place after the written examination in June. It involves listening to a variety of dialogues and news items in the target language and then answering in English.

**Written Exam** (2½ hours) Reading Comprehension is worth 30% of total exam at Higher Level and 40% at Ordinary Level. There are literary and journalistic passages.

For Higher Level the written section involves formal and informal letters, diary entry, message/fax/email, expressing an opinion, and personalised writing.

### Career Possibilities

Specific careers in which French is of benefit include: Teaching, translation, interpreting, linguistics; localisation; journalism and media among others.

## German

German as a Leaving Certificate subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. Germany plays a major role in the European context, and after English, German is the most spoken language in the European Union and the tenth most spoken language in the world. German offers significant career value for the years ahead.

### **What kind of student might German suit?**

- Anyone with an interest in German culture, history, and language.
- Students who are considering working in Germany, Austria, or international relations in the future.
- Students who can already speak German and want easy points.

### **Recommendations/Tips**

- It is highly advisable that students spend some time in a country where the target language is spoken.
- Students who have shown an aptitude in German at Junior Certificate Level are encouraged to continue with it in Leaving Cert.

Some schools require all their Leaving Certificate students to take an additional language, besides English and Irish. If students have the option to choose whether or not to take a third language, they should consider it seriously as it may determine the choices available to them when it comes to applying for college. For example, a third language is a requirement of certain departments in the NUI colleges -- University College Cork (UCC), University College Dublin (UCD), NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth. Departments in NUI colleges that require students to have a language include or Arts, Human Sciences, Law, Social Science, Commerce, Medicine and Health Sciences and some other degrees. A third language is not required for engineering or agriculture in these colleges. Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the University of Limerick require students to have one language -- either Irish or a modern language, while Dublin City University (DCU) and the Institutes of Technology require students to pass Maths and English or Irish.

### **Course Content**

Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:

**Oral Proficiency** in a range of personal, social, cultural and topical areas.

**Aural Proficiency** The ability to listen to and answer questions on a wide variety of auditory stimuli.

**Comprehension Proficiency** The students must be able to read, interpret, extract and manipulate texts ranging from literature to contemporary journalism and answer questions in the target language.

**Written Production Proficiency** The student must be able to react to a given stimulus in grammatically correct everyday German. These stimuli can take the form of an informal or

formal letter, a reaction to a picture, photo, chart, etc. or expressing one's own opinion on a syllabus-related topic.

A wide variety of themes are covered, for example:

- Family
- School
- Hobbies
- Sport
- Current affairs

Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses.

### Exam Structure

The examination will assess a candidate's ability to:

1. Understand the spoken language
2. Understand the written language
3. Communicate in the spoken language
4. Communicate in the written language

Mark Allocation for Leaving Certificate German:

| Section                 | Higher Level | Ordinary Level |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Speaking                | 25%          | 20%            |
| Listening Comprehension | 20%          | 25%            |
| Reading Comprehension   | 30%          | 40%            |
| Writing                 | 25%          | 15%            |

### Leaving Certificate Exam Tips:

The German paper is a fair paper which gives scope to students at all levels to achieve their maximum potential. The paper will test both the students' proficiency in the language as well as skills in answering technique. Students should be very familiar with the layout of the exam paper, being aware of the skills required in each section. It is essential to practise answering a variety of questions that may occur in the exam. Have a definite time plan made out to complete all sections on the day and practice within the time limits given. In reviews of past German exams, **time** was a critical factor on the higher paper for students chasing the top grades.

The **reading comprehension** section carries most marks in both ordinary and higher level papers. Be mindful that:

- **Accuracy** is important
- Marks are deducted for grammatical errors
- Read the questions carefully before you start to read passage
- Underline what you are being asked in each question and highlight where answers can be found
- If the question does not specify length of answer a safe bet is to assume that at least three main points are needed

- Students who **practise** comprehensions on a regular basis build up their skills and gain high marks. You can access all the marking schemes through the resources section of this page.

The German **oral examination** consists of a fifteen minute interview where students are examined in three different sections: German Interview with examiner, presentation of project or picture sequence and role play. At higher level the exam is worth 25% and at ordinary 20%. The secret for success is in your preparation. Criteria used to assess oral competence include:

- Range of vocabulary
- Range of expression
- Awareness and use of grammar
- Independence from examiner support
- Appropriateness
- Fluency
- Pronunciation

The oral exam takes place in March/April of 6th year. 15 mins – German

**Aural/Listening Exam** (40 mins) This exam takes place after the written examination in June. It involves listening to a variety of dialogues and news items in the target language and then answering in English. One section on the German paper requires answers in German.

**Written Exam** (2½ hours) At Higher Level Reading Comprehension involves a literary and a journalistic reading text, followed by questions testing comprehension, language awareness, applied grammar and the student’s ability to give an opinion on a topic raised.

The written section consists of a formal or informal letter or an essay-type response to a picture. At Ordinary Level students do one literary and two journalistic comprehensions with similar exercises to Higher Level. Written exercises include letters, telling a story from a given series of pictures, writing a dialogue.

### **Career Possibilities**

Germany is one of Ireland's leading trading partners and Irish companies need professionals with a good knowledge of German. Germany is also the world's largest outbound market and is the third most important market for visitors to the Ireland. As such, the language would be very useful in a range of career areas: Tourism, Hospitality, Food and Wine, Sales and Marketing, Teaching, Engineering, Finance, Technology and the Public Service. Careers in the Institutions of the European Union are also available - explore [Irish Voices: EU Careers here](#).

### **Spanish**

Spanish as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the Spanish language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, and geography to provide a context for communication. As the second most widely spoken native language, and most widely studied language on the planet, Spanish has widespread use in international business. It also makes travel to Spain, Mexico, and most of South America more accessible.



## What kind of Student would Spanish Suit?

- Anyone with an interest in Spanish culture, history, and language.
- Students interested in travelling the world.
- Students who are considering working in Spain (or other Hispanic countries) or international relations in the future.

## Recommendations/Tips

Some schools require all their Leaving Certificate students to take a language. If students have the option to choose whether or not to take a language, they should consider it seriously as it may determine the choices available to them when it comes to applying for college. For example, a third language is a requirement of a number of departments in the NUI colleges -- University College Cork (UCC), University College Dublin (UCD), NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth. The phrase, third language, refers to a language other than English and Irish, which, it is presumed, most students already study. Departments in NUI colleges that require students to have a language include or Arts, Human Sciences, Law, Social Science, Commerce, Medicine and Health Sciences and some other degrees. A third language is not required for engineering or agriculture in these colleges. Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the University of Limerick require students to have one language -- either Irish or a modern language, while Dublin City University (DCU) and the Institutes of Technology require students to pass Maths and English or Irish.

## Course Content

This syllabus aims to lead every pupil towards four basic outcomes as a result of the experience of modern language learning in the classroom:

- (a) a communicative competence in the target language
- (b) awareness about language and communication
- (c) an understanding of how to go about learning a foreign language
- (d) a level of cultural awareness

1. To foster in learners such communicative skills in the target language as will enable them to:

- take a full part in classroom activities conducted in the target language;
- participate in normal, everyday transactions and interactions, both spoken and written, both at home and abroad;
- extract information and derive enjoyment from the mass media and the more accessible literature of the target language community;
- consider as a realistic option the possibility of pursuing leisure activities, further study and/or career opportunities through the medium of the target language.

2. To give students a critical awareness of how meaning is organised and conveyed by the structures and vocabulary of the target language, and thus to contribute to their understanding of the workings of human language in general.

3. To help learners develop strategies for effective language learning.

4. To equip learners with a broad acquaintance with the cultural, social and political complexion of contexts in which the target language is a normal medium of communication and thus to help raise their awareness of cultural, social and political diversity generally.

## Exam Structure

### Leaving Certificate Exam Tips:

(1) **Oral Examination (25%)** the Spanish oral exam consists of two parts, personal questions and role-plays and typically last between 12 and 15 minutes depending on the student.

Part 1: The examiner will use personal questions to assess knowledge of tenses in the following order; present, past and future and/or conditional tenses. Make sure you respond in the correct tense. If you make a grammatical mistake or mispronounce something don't just keep talking. If you realise your mistake say sorry (Lo siento) and then what you meant to say. You will less likely be penalised for mistakes.

Part 2: this comes after the personal questions when the examiner asks a student one role-play from five prepared. Have fun with this and try avoid monotony, let the examiner know that you are feeling what you are saying by using intonation in your speech and eye contact. Don't spend the whole time looking at the sheet, rather try to enjoy it and leave a positive impression.

(2) **Listening Examination (20%)** to do well in this the most important thing is to be prepared. A segment on the weather forecast always appears. Make this an area you know inside out. If you know the vocabulary it's easy marks. Do the listening comprehensions of previous years, this will help you get used to the process. Learning as much vocabulary is always useful to all parts of the Spanish exam.

(3) **Written exam (55%)** you will need a lot of vocabulary for the written exam. Make a note of the words that come up frequently and learn them off. Also, learn all the tenses and become familiar with the endings of different verbs, especially the irregular ones.

In this exam you will be asked to look within a comprehension piece for a Spanish sentence/phrase/word that is similar to a phrase they have given you. Have a look at the phrase and the tense it is written in - the phrase you are looking for in the text will normally be in the same tense so this will narrow down your search.

## Career Possibilities

Related career opportunities are broad and include business, the IT industry, teaching, translation, the hospitality industry, sales, marketing, tourism and careers in the EU.

## PE

The purpose of the physical education course is to develop the student's ability to participate in physical education and physical activity.

The course is suitable for students who have a strong interest in sports, physical fitness or physical activities such as dancing. It develops the student's performance levels, as well as introducing the student to insights into physical activity from the social and life sciences.

Students choose from a wide variety of physical activities and will work to improve their performance in these activities.

As the written assessment comprises 50% of the marking, ability in the physical activity alone will not be sufficient, students will need to engage with the classroom portion of the course. The course is structured so that knowledge learned in the classroom, such as how to analyse skills and improve nutrition, will directly benefit the student's physical performance goals.

The course recognises the importance of promoting physical activity and the demands an active lifestyle can place on students and adults. The course equips students to be proponents of active lifestyles equipped with the knowledge to maximise their own and others potential.

### **Why Study Physical Education**

- For students with a talent for a physical activity, the course could be a valuable source of leaving cert points. However, students will need good attention to detail to work on the required skills for the physical assessment and a willingness to study the classroom sections of the course.
- For students faced with sacrificing sports or other activities to make time for their leaving cert preparation, the Physical Education course offers a way to balance the two.

### **What kind of student might Physical Education suit?**

- The course should suit physically active students who are engaged in individual or team sports as well as activities such as dance and gymnastics.
- Students who plan to pursue a career in sports and fitness occupations, such as physiotherapy, physical training or sports coaching, will benefit from the course.
- Sports need not be a career goal to justify taking the course, the course content will benefit any student for whom participation in sports or dance makes up a significant part of their day to day lives.

Physical Activity Project  
Performance Assessment

## **The Leaving Cert Applied Programme (LCA)**

This programme represents an alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate. It is a combination of continuous assessment and a final examination. Students study eleven subjects in total over the two years being awarded credits in each, a maximum of 200 credits are available upon completion of the programme. The subjects taken are:

\*English / \*Irish/\* Maths / \*German/\* Computer technology/ \*Graphics & Construction  
Art / Religion /\* Social Education / Vocational Preparation & Guidance/Physical Ed.

(\*indicates final examination as well as continuous assessment)

The final examinations carry 68 credits, in-school assignments 62 credits and projects assessed by SEC 70 credits. Students must also comply with a 90% attendance requirement.

Leaving Cert Applied students typically progress to *Post Leaving Cert* courses such as those offered by Drogheda Institute Further Education.

Leaving Cert Applied is vocational in its focus, students develop skills and knowledge readily applicable to the workplace. In respect of this, students undertake a work placement each Friday during the school year. Throughout the two years students receive close support from their teachers as they work in teams for their projects as well as on their own for individual assignments. The programme features many co-curricular and extra curricular activities such as a *Life skills* course, guitar lessons, guest speakers and a number of trips.

Entry to the Leaving Cert Applied programme is by way of an application form, available from Mr Mc Cole

## LCVP

### LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)

#### What is LCVP?

There are over 520 schools offering LCVP (Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme) at present. The LCVP programme was first introduced in 1994 and updated in 2004. Students taking the LCVP have a unique opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills. These skills are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

Students can take the regular Leaving Certificate Examination **and** take LCVP as an **extra** subject. When students receive their Leaving Certificate results, the LCVP grade is included at the end of their subject list.

#### What is needed to qualify for LCVP?

To qualify for LCVP, students must take the following:

- **Two** subjects in her/his Leaving Certificate from any one of the combinations below (See list of Vocational Subject Groupings.
- A continental language or a language module – unless exempt
- Irish – unless exempt
- A minimum of five Leaving Certificate subjects
- Cover the LCVP course – (Consists of two link modules called *Preparation for the World of Work* and *Enterprise Education*)

#### Vocational Subject Groupings (as specified by Dept of Education & Science):

1. Accounting, Business, Economics (**any two**)
2. Art **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
3. Biology **and** Chemistry **or** Physics
4. Biology, Home Economics, Agricultural Science (**any two**)
5. Construction Studies **or** Design & Communication Graphics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
6. Construction Studies **or** Design & Communication Graphics **and** Physics
7. Construction Studies **and** Design & Communication Graphics
8. Home Economics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
9. Home Economics **and** Art
10. Music **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
11. Physics **and** Chemistry.
12. Art **and** Design & Communication Graphics
13. Agricultural Science **and** Construction Studies **or** DCG
14. Agricultural Science **and** Chemistry **or** Physics

## 15. Agricultural Science **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

**NOTE:** Under Dept of Education & Science Circular Letter 0019/2007, the LCVP requirements must be met in a single school / centre for a student to be deemed an eligible LCVP student.

### **CAO POINTS FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)**

| <b>LCVP AWARD</b>       | <b>UNIVERSITIES &amp; INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Distinction (80 – 100%) | 70 points (equivalent to grade C1 in Higher Level)<br><b>Note:</b> grade A1 in Ordinary Level = 60 points. |
| Merit (65 – 79%)        | 50 points (equivalent to grade D2 in Higher Level / grade A2 in Ordinary Level).                           |
| Pass (50 – 64%)         | 30 points (equivalent to grade C1 in Ordinary Level).  |

### **LCVP Course Content**

60% of LCVP course is made up of portfolio work, which is completed mainly in 5<sup>th</sup> year. The remaining 40% is examined in a written exam held in May of 6<sup>th</sup> year, so all of the LCVP work is completed in advance of the June exam.

In 5<sup>th</sup> year, there are three timetabled classes for LCVP, at least one of which is held in the computer room.

In 6<sup>th</sup> year, there are two timetabled classes for LCVP

#### **Typical LCVP activities include:**

- Presentations from guest speakers from the world of work
- Visit to places of work locally
- Team Enterprises
- Work Experience
- Using Computer Technology
- Interview Preparation and Technique

- Learning how to write up reports and plans
- Preparing Curriculum Vitae
- Investigating Careers

### **Portfolio – 60% of exam**

1. Core items (do all four)
  1. Curriculum Vitae
  2. Summary Report (on a visit in/out)
  3. Action Plan – i.e. on learning a new skill or organising an activity
  4. Career Investigation

Note: Each of these items are 2 pages in length for portfolio purposes.

1. Optional items (do 2 out of 4)
  1. Recorded Interview – 5 minute interview on DVD
  2. Enterprise Report – e.g. on organising and running a fashion show
  3. Report on 'My own place' – i.e. a brief summary of what facilities are available in their local area
  4. Diary of Work Experience – 3/5 days of a work experience placement

Note: Each of these items are 4/6 pages in length for portfolio purposes.

All students usually choose to do the Diary of Work Experience (Work experience placements take place during school holidays) As their second option, students take the Recorded Interview option (Student is interviewed for 5 minutes and the interview is recorded on DVD for exam purposes)

### **Written Paper – 40% of exam – takes place in May in 6<sup>th</sup> year**

#### Section A – Audio Visual Questions:

Students watch a video featuring a business or community enterprise and answer questions on it.

#### Section B – Case Study:

Students read a short outline of a business or community enterprise and answer questions on it

#### Section C:

Students answer 4 out of 6 general questions. Topics here include questions on careers, reports, plans, interview questions, work experience and items that have been written up in their portfolios.

### **Advantages of taking LCVP**

- For CAO purposes, the points achieved in **six** subjects can be used. If a student wishes, they can use the points achieved in LCVP as one of these six subjects. If a student performs poorly on one of their regular Leaving Certificate subjects on the day of the exam, they can swap this disappointing result for the result achieved in the LCVP exam.
- As mentioned earlier, 60% of LCVP course is made up of portfolio work, which is completed mainly in 5<sup>th</sup> year. The remaining 40% is examined in a written exam held in May of 6<sup>th</sup> year, so all of the LCVP work is completed in advance of the June exam.
- Apart from its value in contributing to the overall points achieved by a student, the LCVP course develops skills involving IT, report writing, case studies, interview techniques and teamwork, all of which are very useful for third level and in employment. The LCVP qualification provides an opportunity for students to be become better informed regarding career choices.

Overall, LCVP provides a valuable educational experience – do it, if you qualify for it.



## **Options after Leaving School**

The vast majority of students now recognise the benefit of further education and choose to undertake further study at college or university or take up an apprenticeship. There are thousands of courses to choose from at Universities, Technological Universities, Institutes of Technology, Colleges of Further Education and Private colleges.

**Universities In Ireland the main universities are-** (N.U.I.) - University College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Galway, NUI Maynooth, St Angela's Sligo, National College of Art & Design, Royal College of Surgeons University of Limerick University of Dublin (Trinity College) Dublin City University Universities offer Honours Degree Level 8 qualifications lasting three or four years leading to e.g. B.Comm. (Bachelor of Commerce), B.A. (Bachelor of Arts), B.Sc. (Bachelor of Science), B.Eng. (Bachelor of Engineering). After completing your degree you may choose to take a Postgraduate Level 9 qualification lasting one or two years then progress to Doctorate Level 10.

### ***Technological Universities/ Institutes of Technology***

There are a number of Institutes of Technology and Technological Universities (where Institutes have amalgamated) in various counties around Ireland Athlone, Blanchardstown, Carlow, Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Letterkenny, Limerick, Sligo, TU Dublin, Tralee and Waterford. They offer a wide variety of courses at Higher Certificate Level 6 (2years), Ordinary Degree Level 7 (3 years), Honours Degree Level 8 (3 or 4 years) and Postgraduate Level 9 as well as the opportunity to study to Doctorate Level 10.

### ***Studying overseas***

There are thousands of options to choose from and details of courses and fees payable in the United Kingdom can be obtained from the UCAS (Universities & Colleges Applications Clearing) website at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). Irish Leaving Certificate grades are allocated equivalent UCAS Tariff points for application purposes. Students must apply online through UCAS "Apply" before 15th January of the year they wish to start. All applications for Oxford or Cambridge University or for any courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or veterinary medicine must be made by the 15th October in the year prior to starting university (e.g. Oct 2020 to start in September 2021). Some students may wish to explore the opportunity to study in Europe where there are many courses taught through English at highly ranked universities and fees are generally lower than Ireland. Further information can be obtained at [www.eunicas.ie](http://www.eunicas.ie).

### ***Further Education Courses (FETAC)***

There are a wide variety of Further Education courses available throughout the country offering practical, vocational based training with work experience in areas such as social care, tourism, business, computing, media studies, drama, beauty therapy, music, sports & leisure, and puppetry to name but a few. There are no points requirements for FETAC courses but to qualify you must have five passes at Ordinary level in the Leaving Certificate and attend a selection interview. Applications are made directly to the college and not through the CAO.

FETAC/QQI courses are very popular and can be a qualification in their own right e.g. childcare, beauty therapy, business studies. They can be used as a stepping stone to see if you would like to study the subject in more depth at college or university e.g. Art portfolio courses, Pre - Nursing, Foundation Engineering. An excellent route to Higher Education if you don't get enough points for your CAO course choices. The FETAC links scheme gives you the opportunity to progress to Level 6/7/8 courses in Institutes of Technology and Universities where a percentage of places are reserved each year for FETAC candidates.

### ***Apprenticeships***

Apprenticeship is a method by which a person works for an employer as an apprentice in a chosen trade and learns the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to become a qualified craftsman. On successful completion of the apprenticeship, you will receive a National Craft Certificate, recognised in Ireland as well as other EU and non-EU countries. During the apprenticeship you will receive an apprentice wage for your on-the-job phases from your employer and while off the job you will receive a training allowance if appropriate. Apprenticeship consists of 7 phases of training both on-the-job with your employer and off the job in a Training Centre or Educational College. The normal duration of apprenticeship is 4 years. In order for an employer to register you as an apprentice you must be at least 16 years old and have at least a grade D in any five subjects in the Junior Certificate, although many employers look for the Leaving Certificate. Further information on apprenticeships is available at SOLAS [www.solas.ie](http://www.solas.ie), the Further Education & Training Authority.

### **Useful Websites**

**[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)** Central Applications Office website for applying to college in Ireland

**[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)** Universities & Colleges Admissions Service for applying to colleges in the United Kingdom

**[www.eunicas.ie](http://www.eunicas.ie)** European University Central Application Support Service for applying to courses taught through English in European Universities

**[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)** Careers website with information on all Courses in Ireland, Career Events, Career Interest Assessment, Calculating Points, Subject Choice, Qualifications, Grants, Student Finance and Useful links to careers websites

**[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)** Career Interest & Personality tests, Career Sectors & Videos on different Careers and College courses

**[www.solas.ie](http://www.solas.ie)** Further Education & Training Authority & information on Apprenticeships

**[www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)** Links to JC & LC examination papers and marking schemes

**[www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)** National Council for Curriculum & Assessment information on Junior & Leaving Certificate curriculum

**[www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie)** National University of Ireland website for information on entry requirements to NUI universities and how to apply for Exemption from Irish and the Third Language requirement.

**www.accesscollege.ie** Information on the HEAR & DARE scheme & eligibility criteria. The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The Disabled Access Route to Education (DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities.

**www.susi.ie** Student finance & information on grants for college

**www.careersnews.ie** Ireland's latest Careers and Education news.

**Note: This booklet is intended only as a Guide to Students and Parents on choosing subjects for Leaving Cert. The vast majority of the information on each subject was taken from careersportal.ie. However entry requirements for Third Level courses may change from time to time, and students and parents should update themselves on any such changes by researching specific college websites and other useful websites such as [www. qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie), [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) and [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) (Republic of Ireland), [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) (UK& Northern Ireland) and [www. eunicas.ie](http://www.eunicas.ie) (courses abroad) on a regular basis.**



