

Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School

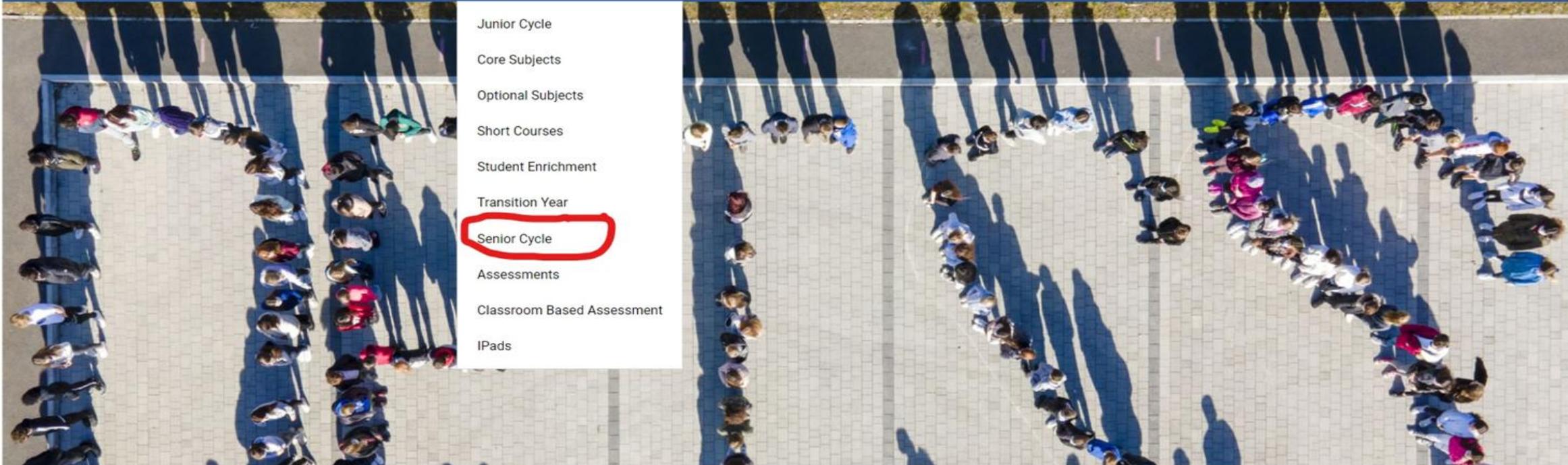


Senior Cycle Information Evening

29th January 2026



Drogheda ETSS

 🔍

- Junior Cycle
- Core Subjects
- Optional Subjects
- Short Courses
- Student Enrichment
- Transition Year
- Senior Cycle**
- Assessments
- Classroom Based Assessment
- IPads

Options After the Junior Cycle



Transition Year



Established Leaving Certificate

Core Subjects

Choosing 3 subjects



LCA (Leaving Certificate Applied)



Leaving Cert Established (Level 5)

Leaving Cert Subjects

Options after Second Level

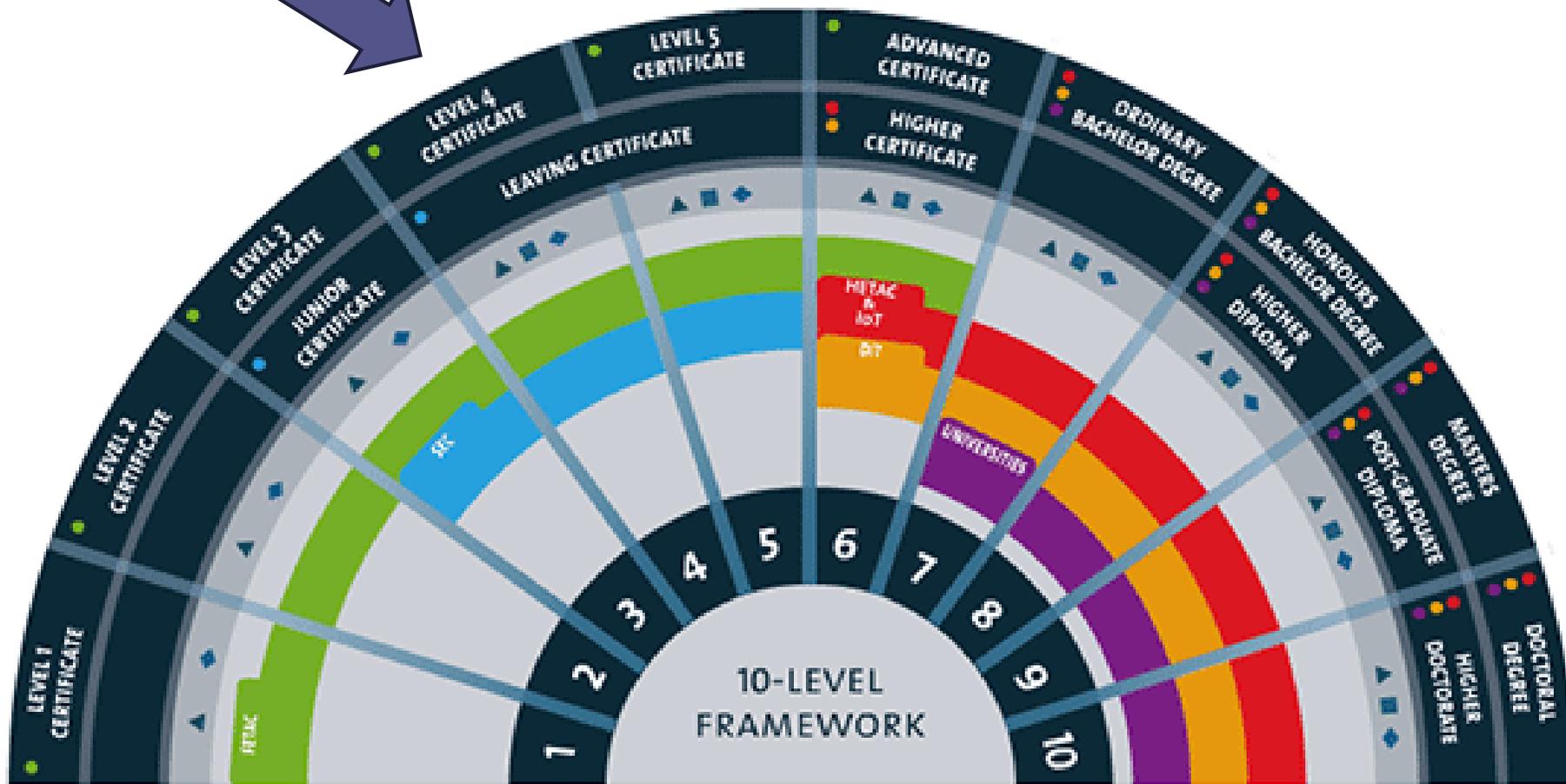
Leaving Cert Guide

Hilda Bailey –
Guidance
Counsellor



LCA Level 4

LCE Level 5



Established Leaving Certificate Subjects



Students sit 7
LC subjects*

4 Core
Subjects

3 Optional
Subjects

***Some students take an 8th Subject outside
of school**

Leaving Cert Subjects - Core



English

Maths

Irish*

French

Leaving Cert Subjects – a Breakdown



Sciences

Humanities

Arts

Business




Biology


Chemistry


Physics

Sciences

Note: All Science subjects are working from the new specification since September 2025



Note: A new Leaving Certificate Biology specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2025 and will replace the current Leaving Certificate Biology syllabus.

In summary

Biology is the scientific study of life, both **plants** and **animals**, and the interactions between living things and their environment.

Biology is a natural follow-on from part of the *Science* course in Junior Cycle. The course is divided into FOUR strands:

Nature of Science: - Understanding and limitations of scientific knowledge.

Organisation of Life - Core concepts to explain the organisation and diversity of life.

Structures and Processes of Life - How life functions through a number of processes taking place within cells, organs and systems.

Interactions of Life - Systems of the living world and how they interact.





Who should study it?

- Students who **enjoyed science** in Junior Cycle and have an **interest** as to **how our bodies function**.
- Students who are planning to study **Nursing, Science, Medicine** or related courses in college.
- Students who have an **aptitude and an interest** for **Laboratory work**.

Career Interest type most suited

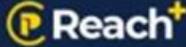
Investigative



"The study of life (plants & animals) and the inter-relationships between them and their environment"



Biology		Science Group	
Exam Structure			
Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	60% of marks	60% of marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	Common Brief 40% of marks	Common Brief 40% of marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-

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Biology

Science
Group

Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Biology **may be a requirement for entry to third level** as it is deemed essential to some related courses. See entry requirements for individual colleges.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors**-

- Farming, Horticulture & Forestry
- Biological, Chemical & Pharmaceutical Science
- Leisure, Sport & Fitness
- Maritime, Fishing & Aquaculture
- Animals & Veterinary Science
- Earth & Environment



Biology

Science
Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeships in [Laboratory Analyst](#) and [Laboratory Technician](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in Applied Sciences, Biosciences and Pre-University Science

Higher Ed (CAO) courses including: *Applied Biology, Microbiology and Genetics & Cell Biology*

Sample Careers

[Biochemist](#)

[Botanist](#)

[Epidemiologist](#)

[Genetic Engineer](#)

[Microbiologist](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)



Note: A new Leaving Certificate Chemistry specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2025 and will replace the current Leaving Certificate Chemistry syllabus.

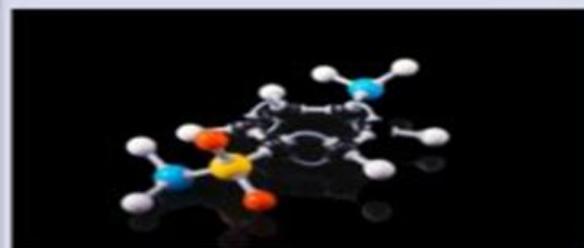
In summary

Chemistry is the scientific study of **matter** and how atoms and molecules **behave** and **interact**.

It is a natural follow on from *Science* in Junior Cycle.

There are FIVE strands:

- **Nature of Science** - Understanding and limitations of scientific knowledge.
- **The Nature of Matter** - States of solids, liquids and gases.
- **Behaviour of Matter** - Properties and behaviours of matter.
- **Interactions of Matter** - Energy transfer in chemical reactions.
- **Matter in Our World** - Core concepts and fundamental principles of chemistry.





Who should study it?

- Students who have an **interest** in and **aptitude** for **scientific experiments**.
- Students who are planning to study **Pharmacy, Science** or **Medicine** in college.
- Students who have an **understanding of formulas** and how to apply them. Therefore, a **reasonable level of Maths** will be useful for this subject.

Career Interest type most suited

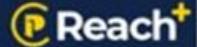
Investigative



"The Study of matter, its properties and interactions with other matter and with energy"



Chemistry		Science Group	
Exam Structure			
Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	1 Paper 60% of marks	1 Paper 60% of marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	Common Brief 40% of mark	Common Brief 40% of mark
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-

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Chemistry

Science
Group

Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Chemistry **may be a requirement for entry to third level** as it is deemed essential to some related courses. See entry requirements for individual colleges.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors**-

- Farming, Horticulture & Forestry
- Biological, Chemical & Pharmaceutical Science
- Fashion & Beauty
- Maritime, Fishing & Aquaculture
- Animals & Veterinary Science
- Biomedical Technologies & Medtech



Chemistry

Science
Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeships in [Laboratory Analyst](#) and [Laboratory Technician](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in Applied Sciences, Laboratory Techniques and Pharmacy Studies

Higher Ed (CAO) courses including:
Analytical & Pharmaceutical Studies, Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmaceutical Science and Science/Applied Chemistry

Sample Careers

[Chemical Engineer](#)
[Pharmacist](#)
[Laboratory Manager](#)
[Toxicologist](#)
[Clinical Trials Scientist](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)



Note: A new Leaving Certificate Physics specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2025 and will replace the current Leaving Certificate Physics syllabus.

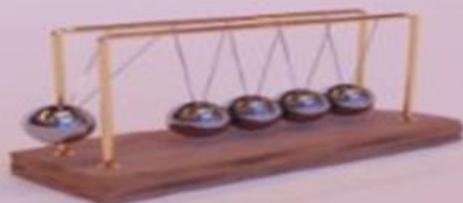
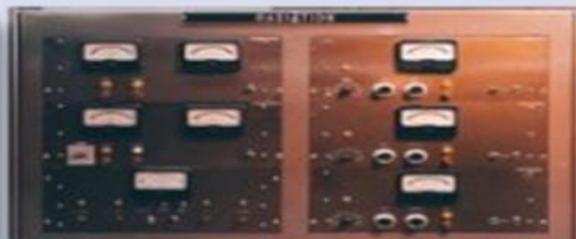
In summary

Physics attempts to develop a unified description of how **matter** and **energy** behave and **interact** with each other.

It is a natural follow-on from *Science* in Junior Cycle.

There are five strands;

- **Nature of Science** - Understanding and limitations of scientific knowledge
- **Forces and Motion** - Newtonian mechanics
- **Waves and Energy Transfer** - Anatomy of a wave, electromagnetism
- **Electricity and Magnetism** - Electric & magnetic fields
- **Modern Physics** - Quantum mechanics





Who should study it?

- Students who have an **aptitude for logical thinking** and can express their thoughts **accurately** and in a **concise manner**.
- Students who are planning to study **Engineering, Electrical, Optometry** or **Medicine/Dentistry** in college.
- Students who have an **inquisitive mind** and **wonder how and why**.

Career Interest type most suited

Investigative



"The study of Gravity, Speed, Sound, light, movement. The fundamentals of how things work"



		Exam Structure	
		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Assessment Methods	Written Paper	1 Paper 60% of marks	1 Paper 60% of marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	Common Brief 40% of marks	Common Brief 40% of marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-



Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Physics **may be a requirement for entry to third level** as it is deemed essential to some related courses. See entry requirements for individual colleges.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors-**

- Biological, Chemical & Pharmaceutical Science
- Computers & ICT
- Healthcare
- Engineering, Manufacturing & Energy
- Physics, Mathematics & Space Science
- Biomedical Technologies & Medtech



Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeships in [Laboratory Analyst](#) and [Laboratory Technician](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in Applied Sciences

Higher Ed (CAO) courses including: Physics, Applied Physics & Instrumentation and Theoretical Physics

Sample Careers

[Aeronautical Engineer](#)
[Computational Physicist](#)
[Mechanical Engineer](#)
[Radiographer](#)
[Solar Physicist](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)

A NOTE ON SCIENCE SUBJECTS



Helpful Tips

- Choosing a subject in the field of science is also a popular choice.
- Having a science subject is a requirement for some courses so it is good to be aware of these before dropping science from your list.
- Be aware that most courses in healthcare professions require a science subject e.g. nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy. Additionally some medical courses require two science subjects such as Dentistry and some courses in medicine.

Humanities



Politics and
Society

Geography

History

Home
Economics



In summary

Politics and Society is the study of the **social systems** within which people act locally, nationally and more widely across the world.

The Politics & Society course consists of FOUR main topics-

- **Power and Decision-Making**

In school, Ireland and in Europe

- **Active Citizenship**

Effectively contributing to communities and working with others

- **Human Rights and Responsibilities**

In Ireland, Europe & the Wider World

- **Globalisation and Localisation**

Globalisation & Identity and Sustainable Development





Why Study it?

- Students who wish to become a **more informed** and **active global citizen**.
- Students who are **interested in** areas such as **Human Rights, Equality, Diversity, Sustainable Development, Power** and **Democratic Decision-making**.
- Students who like to discuss the **large social issues** and **how society deals** with these.

Career Interest type most suited

Social



"A real insight into people, power and how society works by exploring the common issues faced by people living in society"



Politics and Society

Social
Group

Exam Structure

Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	80% of marks	80% of marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	20% of marks	20% of marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-



Politics and Society

Social
Group

What is it about?

Politics and Society **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors-**

- Government, Politics & EU
- Psychology & Social Care
- History, Culture & Languages



Politics and Society

Social
Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

There are currently no *Politics and Society* **Apprenticeships**

Further Ed (PLC) courses in Liberal Arts and Applied Politics and Leadership

Higher Ed (CAO) courses including: Arts, Law with Politics, Sociology & Politics and Politics & International Studies

Sample Careers

Politician

Civil Servant

Political Researcher

Sociologist

Garda

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)



In summary

Home Economics is concerned with the **management of resources** to meet the **Physical, Emotional, Intellectual, Social** and **Economic** needs of **Individuals** and **Families**.

Leaving Certificate Home Economics is very closely related to *Home Economics* in Junior Cycle.

Students study THREE Core Areas:

- **Food Studies**
- **Resource Management and Consumer Studies**
- **Social Studies**

And select ONE elective area from:

- **Home Design and Management**
- **Textiles, Fashion and Design**
- **Social Studies**





Why Study it?

- Students who enjoy **making things, doing things** and **knowing how things work**.
- Students who studied HE at Junior Cycle and are interested in studying **Health, Nutrition, Textiles & Design, Science** or **Social Studies** in college.
- Students who would like to learn more about **essential life skills** that will help them to **manage their own lives**.

Career Interest type most suited

Social



"For those who enjoy making & doing things and knowing how things work in order to manage their own lives"



Home Economics

Social
Group

Exam Structure

Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	80% of marks	80% of marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	20% of marks	20% of marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-



Home Economics

Social
Group

What is it about?

Home Economics **is a requirement for entry to third level** as it is deemed **essential to related Home Economics courses**. See entry requirements for individual colleges.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors-**

- Farming, Horticulture & Forestry
- Biological, Chemical & Pharmaceutical Science
- Clerical & Administration
- Healthcare
- Leisure, Sport & Fitness



Home Economics

Social
Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeships in [Butcher](#), [Commis Chef](#), [Chef de Partie](#) and [Sous Chef](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in Food Science, Nutrition, Health & Wellbeing and Foundation in Social Science & Arts and Food & Bioscience

Higher Ed (CAO) courses including: Home Economics Teaching, Home Economics and Public Health Nutrition

Sample Careers

[HE Teacher](#)

[Catering Manager](#)

[Chef](#)

[Food Safety Consultant](#)

[Nutritionist](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)



Note: A New Leaving Cert Geography specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2026 and will replace the current Geography syllabus

In summary

Geography aims to develop students' understanding of the **Earth and its people**, and their interest in and appreciation of the **real world significance of geography**.

Unifying Strand – Applying geographical thinking and skills

Strand 1 – The physical environment

Focusses on physical processes and systems, and human interactions

Strand 2 – The human environment

Focusses on key aspects of human geography including human settlement, population, and migration

Strand 3 – The global environment

Focusses on agriculture and fisheries, tourism, globalisation, development and geopolitics





Why Study it?

- Students who are **curious** about **people, places and the environment**
- Students who like to **understand how our environment developed** and **how human activities affect this**
- Students who are **interested in real-world issues** e.g. climate change, migration

Career Interest type most suited

Social



"The study of people and the physical world environment that we live in and the interaction between the two"



 **Geography** Social Group

Exam Structure

Assessment Methods		Weighting	Level
	Applied Geography Project	40% of Marks	Common Brief
	Written Examination	60% of Marks	Higher and Ordinary Level
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-

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Geography

Social
Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeship as a [Geo Driller](#) or in [Sportsturf Management](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in Pre-University Arts or Environmental Science, Applied Ecology and Biodiversity, Ecology and Environmental Sustainability

Higher Ed (CAO) courses including: Arts, Geography & Geoscience, Sustainability, Geography/Computer Science, Geography/Political Science, Climate & Environmental Sustainability

Sample Careers

[Cartographer](#)

[Ecologist](#)

[Environmental Scientist](#)

[Planner](#)

[Sustainability Advisor](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)

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Geography

Social
Group

What is it about?

Geography **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system. A small number of courses may **recognise Geography as a Science**. See entry requirements for individual colleges.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors-**

- Farming, Horticulture & Forestry
- Maritime, Fishing & Aquaculture
- Earth & Environment
- Leisure, Sport & Fitness
- History, Culture & Languages
- Tourism & Hospitality

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In summary

The Leaving Certificate History course offers students the chance to study ONE of two discrete fields of study:

Early Modern, 1492-1815

or

Later Modern, 1815-1993

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 also have the opportunity to complete a **Research Study**, worth 20% of overall marks, which can be about any aspect of history from the period of history chosen.





Why Study it?

- Students who have **strong English language skills** and are comfortable writing **essay type answers**.
- Students who **enjoy and appreciate History**, and would like to improve their knowledge.
- Students who are willing to **invest a lot of time** towards **researching topics**.

Career Interest type most suited **Investigative**



"History gives students an appreciation for culture and a in-depth understanding of the past"



History

Humanities
Group

Exam Structure

Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	80% of Marks	80% of Marks
	Practical	-	-
	Research Project	20% of Marks	20% of Marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-



History

Humanities
Group

Progression after the Leaving Certificate

History **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors-**

- ❑ Education & Teaching
- ❑ Security, Defence & Law Enforcement
- ❑ History, Culture & Languages
- ❑ Community & Voluntary



History

Humanities
Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

There are currently no History **Apprenticeships**

Further Ed (PLC) courses in areas such as *Pre-University Arts and Arts, Culture & History*

Higher Ed (CAO) courses across the sectors including *Arts, Humanities, Archaeology and History of Art & Architecture*

Sample Careers

[Second Level Teacher](#)

[Museum Educator](#)

[Archaeologist](#)

[Tour Guide](#)

[Genealogist](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)

Arts & Practical Subjects



Art



Music



Technology



In summary

Art involves developing a student's ability in a range of artistic **techniques, fields** and **disciplines**, as well as the study of **Art History**.

It is a natural follow-on from *Art* in Junior Cycle.

The subject deals with many aspects of the artistic process including-

- **Drawing, Painting and Calligraphy**
- **Sculpture, Metalwork and Pottery**
- **Puppet-making and Embroidery**





Who should Study it?

- Students who have a **creative eye** and an interest in Art.
- Students who have an **aptitude for artistic techniques** and like to create original pieces of art.
- Students with creativity to **design and create** their own art pieces.
- Students interested in learning the **history of art**.

Career Interest type most suited

Creative



"For the creative and artistic individuals who want to explore art and craft"



Art

Artistic and Creative Group

Exam Structure

Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	30% of marks	30% of marks
	Practical	20% of marks	20% of marks
	Project	50% of marks	50% of marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-



Art

Artistic and Creative Group

Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Art **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system. However, students applying to Art courses will need to submit a **portfolio of art work** as part of the application process. See entry requirements for individual colleges.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors**-

- ❑ [Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations](#)
- ❑ [Art, Craft & Design](#)
- ❑ [Education & Teaching](#)
- ❑ [Music & Performing Arts](#)
- ❑ [Fashion & Beauty](#)

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Art

Artistic and Creative Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeship in [CGI Technical Artist](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in areas such as *Animation, Art Portfolio Preparation and Ceramics & Design*

Higher Ed (CAO) courses across the sectors including *3D Animation, Fine Art and Graphic Design & Moving Image Design*

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Sample Careers

[Animator/CGI Artist](#)

[Fine Artist](#)

[Illustrator](#)

[Textile Designer](#)

[MakeUp Artist TV/Film](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)





In summary

Music involves developing a series of interrelated musical activities within the THREE core areas of musical experience – **Performing, Composing** and **Listening**.

It is a natural follow-on from *Music* in Junior Cycle.

- In **performing**, students can choose from a range of individual and/or group activities.
- In **composing**, students develop an understanding of musical structure and form.
- The **listening** component provides for rich aural experiences through exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres.





Who should Study it?

- Students who have an **interest in Music**, how it is composed & performed and appreciate others music.
- Students who have an **aptitude for Musical techniques** such as listening, composing & performing.
- Students with the creativity to **perform and create** their own pieces.

Career Interest type most suited

Creative



"For the creative and artistic individuals who want to develop their creativity"



Music

Artistic and Creative Group

Exam Structure

Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	-	-
	Composing	25% of marks	Choice of 50% / 25% of marks
	Project	(Higher Level Elective) – 25%	-
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	25% of marks	Choice of 50% / 25% of marks
	Performance	25% of marks	Choice of 50% / 25% of marks



Music

Artistic and Creative Group

Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Music **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors**-

- ❑ [Art, Craft & Design](#)
- ❑ [Education & Teaching](#)
- ❑ [Music & Performing Arts](#)
- ❑ [History, Culture & Languages](#)



Music

Artistic and Creative Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

There are currently no Music **Apprenticeships**

Further Ed (PLC) courses in areas such as *Contemporary Music Performance, DJ Techniques & Music Production and Musical instrument Making & Repair*

Higher Ed (CAO) courses across the sectors including *Audio & Music Production, Irish Music and Music & Sound Engineering*

Sample Careers

[Acoustic Consultant](#)

[Composer](#)

[Music Therapist](#)

[Sound Engineer](#)

[Performing Artist](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)



Technology

Practical
Group

In summary

Technology is very much a **Cutting-edge subject**.

It is a natural follow-on from *Technology* in the Junior Cycle.

In the subject students work with many different types of materials and will gain an understanding of technological systems and processes, including-

- **Design process, Project & Quality Management, Materials and Production**
- **Communication and Graphic Media, Information & Communications Technology (ICT)**
- **Structures and Mechanisms**
- **Energy, Electricity and Electronics**





Technology

Practical
Group

Who Should Study it?

- Students who are **inquisitive about technology** and how things work.
- Students who have an **aptitude for solving the technological problems** experienced in everyday life.
- Students with creativity to **design and create** their own technology project piece.
- Students interested in learning the **theory** behind the **key technological processes**.

Career Interest Type Most Suited

REALIST



"Technology is in everything, from phones to cars to satellites"



Technology

Practical
Group

How this subject is examined for the Leaving Certificate

Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	50% of marks	50% of marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	50% of marks	50% of marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-



Technology

Practical
Group

Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Technology **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors-**

- [Art, Craft & Design](#)
- [Construction, Architecture & Property](#)
- [Computers & IT](#)
- [Earth & Environment](#)
- [Engineering, Manufacturing & Energy](#)



Technology

Practical
Group

Related Career/Study Pathways Sample careers

Apprenticeships in [OEM Engineering Technician](#) and [Electrician](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in areas such as *Sustainable Technology, Automotive Technology and Engineering Technology*

Higher Ed (CAO) courses across the sector including *Product Design & Technology, Design, Technology & Innovation and Robotics & Intelligent Devices*

[Auto Electrician](#)

[Design & Development Engineer](#)

[Mechatronic Engineer](#)

[Telecommunications Engineer](#)

[Nanosystems Engineer](#)

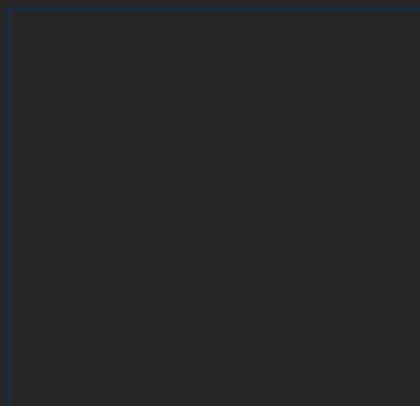
A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)

Business



BUSINESS



ACCOUNTING





Note: A new Leaving Certificate Business specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2025 and will replace the current Leaving Certificate Business syllabus.

In Summary

Business is a **broad subject** and provides students with a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in **Business, Marketing, Law, Enterprise and Management**.

Business Studies in Junior Cycle provides a good foundation for Leaving Certificate Business.

The course is divided into **FIVE** strands:

- **Investigating Business**
- **Exploring the Business Environment**
- **Understanding Enterprise**
- **Leading in Business**
- **Being Informed & Making Informed Decisions**





Who should Study it?

- Students who like to **stay alert** to what is happening in the **general business world**
- Students who have an **organised mind** and likes to answer questions in **bullet points**, rather than in long essay format.
- Students who might want to **run their own business** in the future.

Career interest area most suited

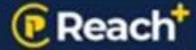
Enterprising Administrative



"For those who have an interest in business and current affairs and have an up to date knowledge of the economic environment"



Business		Business Group	
Exam Structure			
Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	1 Paper 60% of Marks	1 Paper 60% of Marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	Common Brief 40% of Marks	Common Brief 40% of Marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
Performance	-	-	

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Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeships in [Sales](#), [Insurance Practitioner](#) and [Recruitment Executive](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in areas such as *Business Administration, Business & IT and Payroll & Business Law*

Higher Ed (CAO) courses across the sector including *Advertising & Marketing, Communications and Business Management & International Business*

Sample Careers

[Business Analyst](#)

[Marketing Executive](#)

[Human Resources Manager](#)

[Social Media Specialist](#)

[Project Manager](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)



Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Business **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors-**

- [Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations](#)
- [Business Management & Human Resources](#)
- [Public Administration, Politics & EU](#)
- [Clerical & Administration](#)
- [Banking & Financial Services](#)
- [Tourism & Hospitality](#)
- [Leisure, Sport & Fitness](#)



In Summary

Accounting provides students with the knowledge, understanding and skills of **financial management** necessary for managing **personal and basic company accounts**.

Business Studies in Junior Cycle provides a good foundation for Leaving Certificate Accounting.

The key elements of the Accounting course include-

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





Who should Study it?

- Students who have a good **aptitude for numeracy** and like working with figures.
- Students who like to **analyse and interpret data** and who like things to be in order within a **defined set of rules**.
- Students who have an interest in the world of **business and finance** or might want to **run their own business** in the future.

Career interest area most suited

Administrative



"For those who enjoy working with data and details and checking facts and figures with clear routine and instructions"



Exam Structure

Assessment Methods		Higher Level	Ordinary Level
	Written Paper	80% of Marks	80% of Marks
	Practical	-	-
	Project	20% of Marks	20% of Marks
	Oral	-	-
	Aural	-	-
	Performance	-	-



Accounting

Business Group

Progression after the Leaving Certificate

Accounting **is not an essential requirement** for any courses in the CAO system **except for** *Commerce-Accounting* in **University of Galway**.

This subject would be useful in these **Career Sectors**-

- [Business Management & Human Resources](#)
- [Clerical & Administration](#)
- [Banking & Financial Services](#)
- [Physics, Mathematics & Space Science](#)
- [Sales, Retail & Purchasing](#)
- [Accountancy & Taxation](#)



Accounting

Business Group

Related Career/Study Pathways

Apprenticeships in [Accounting Technician](#) and [International Financial Services Associate](#)

Further Ed (PLC) courses in areas such as *Accounting & Finance, Accounts Administration and Payroll & Financial Studies*

Higher Ed (CAO) courses across the sectors including *Accounting, Actuarial Mathematics and Law & Accounting*

Sample Careers

[Accountant](#)

[Actuary](#)

[Financial Advisor](#)

[Taxation Consultant](#)

[Financial Trader](#)

A full list of available courses is available in the [CourseFinder](#)

A full list of Careers is available in the [CareerExplorer](#)

Where to Find Information on Senior Cycle Subjects

Overview on each within this Powerpoint

[CareersPortal Leaving Cert Subject Guide](#)

[Curriculum Online Senior Cycle Subject Guide](#)

Leaving Cert Subjects

Leaving Cert | Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)

Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

Construction Technology

Engineering

Physical Education

Technology

Science Group

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

Agricultural Science

Applied Maths

Biology

Chemistry

Mathematics

Physics

Physics and Chemistry

Computer Science

Artistic & Creative Group

These subjects involve developing creativity and the appreciation of the work of others. This involves learning the methods and techniques of the subject and producing your own work using these skills.

Art

Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

Music

Design and Comm Graphics



Kathryn Reeves, Learning and Development Lead

What subjects did you take in school and how have these influenced your career path?

I don't think the subjects that I studied at school or university have turned out to be especially relevant or helpful for my career. Although the process of studying an arts subject did help. For example, the reviewing, planning, analysis that goes into writing essays, and the ability to be able to communicate your point concisely and persuasively in a class presentation, essay or exam.

These skills I use on a daily basis, so it has been more about the skill learned than the subject itself. While I've forgotten most of the maths I learned at school, I have found that percentages, ratios, the presentation of data, and the interpretation of graphs has featured in all roles that I've had.

Ask me another question!



Kevin O'Hagan, Design Engineer

How to Choose Subjects at Senior Cycle

- Interest
- Ability
- Junior Cycle Subjects
- Entry Requirements into Career Pathway



Interest

Do you/they LIKE the subject?

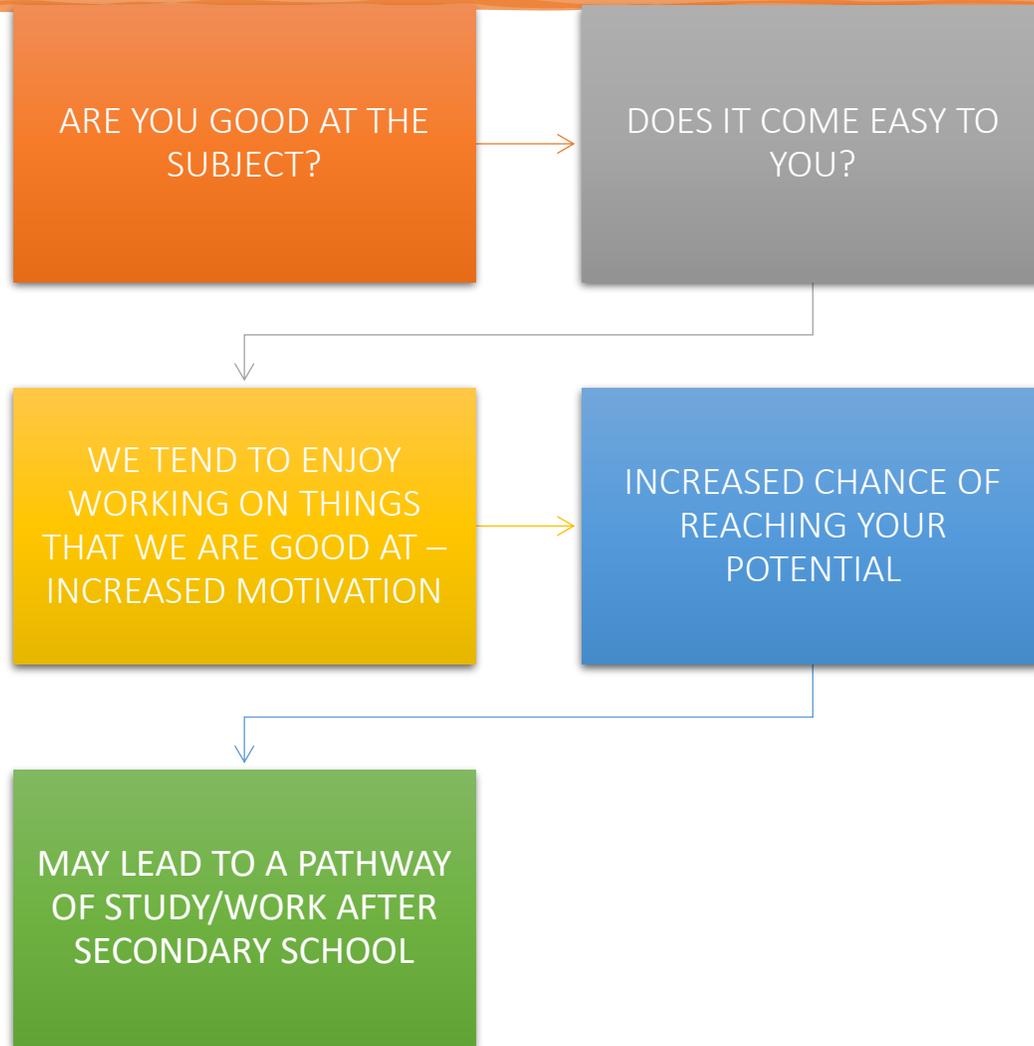
Have you an interest in the subject?

More motivation to study and work hard at a subject if you enjoy it

May lead to a pathway of study/work after Secondary School



Ability





Everyone is a genius.

But if you judge a fish
on its ability to climb a tree,
it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.

~ Albert Einstein





Entry Requirements into Career Pathway



-
- If you have an idea of what Career Pathway you would like to pursue after Second Level...
 - You will need to research this to ensure that you have the Entry Requirements into your Career Pathway
 - Eg. Your choice of College course may require certain subjects to be studied at Leaving Cert

Where to find this Information

portale COMMUNITIES EXPLORE MEDIA TOOLS SEARCH

Career Guidance tools for all

Join to create a Career Profile

Discover your Career Interests CPIP

Match your Interests to Careers & Courses

START HERE! MORE INFO

Courses Careers Apprenticeships Career Sectors Site Search

by Course Title or Code... by College here... SEARCH NOW

Courses Ireland Certificate Options

FIND COURSE FIND PLC COURSES

COURSE LOCATIONS PLC COLLEGES BLOG EVENTS LC POINTS CALCULATOR QQI POINTS CALCULATOR

Categories

Select category

PLC Courses and Further Education in Ire

Pre-University Teaching Level 5

Make Up Artistry - Level 5

Event Management and DJing in Dublin

Home My Application Apply Courses Handbook

January 2023 19:54 As G

The Central Applications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who then make offers to successful candidates.

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licants

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CAO VIRTUAL INFORMATION EVENING

for Students & Parents

Tuesday, 17 January 2023 from 6.30pm

REGISTER NOW

Applicants

Parents / Guardians

Guidance / Schools

Access DARE

Education and Training Apprenticeship

Open Days

Have a question?

Important

- Cao.ie
- CareersPortal.ie
- Apprenticeship.ie
- Plccourses.ie
- Qualifax.ie
- Ucas.com

Qualifax THE NATIONAL LEARNER DATABASE

Home Students Adult learners Guidance professionals Parents/family News FAQ About

Search this site

Search Post Leaving Cert

Search

Supporting learners, career changers, backgrounds, talents and development in Ireland.

Employer Find Apprenticeship Jobs

See All News

Degree - Honours Bachelor

Mental Health Nursing



DCU
Oifige Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

Dublin City University - DCU

☆ Add to favourites

Course Code

DC216

Zone

1 2 3 4 5



Level

8

NFQ Type

Major

Duration

4 Years

Attendance

Full Time

CAO Points 2022

414

Points Change

-6

Course Summary

Language Options

Entry Requirements

QQI / FET Links

The Student

Career Progression

Further Research

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Points History

414[▼]

Minimum Subjects

2 H5 & 4 O6/H7

* **Garda Vetting**

✓ **O6/H7** IN English OR Irish

✓ **O6/H7** IN Maths

✓ **O6/H7** IN Agricultural Science OR Biology OR Physics OR Chemistry

COLLEGE PROFILE



DCU
Oifige Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

Dublin City University - DCU

Visit College Profile

View Prospectus

Chat with Students

If you don't know what Career Pathway you would like to pursue...



Focus on Subjects you like and have an interest in

Focus on Subjects you do well in/are good at

Good idea to choose a broad selection of subjects – to keep your options open in 6th year

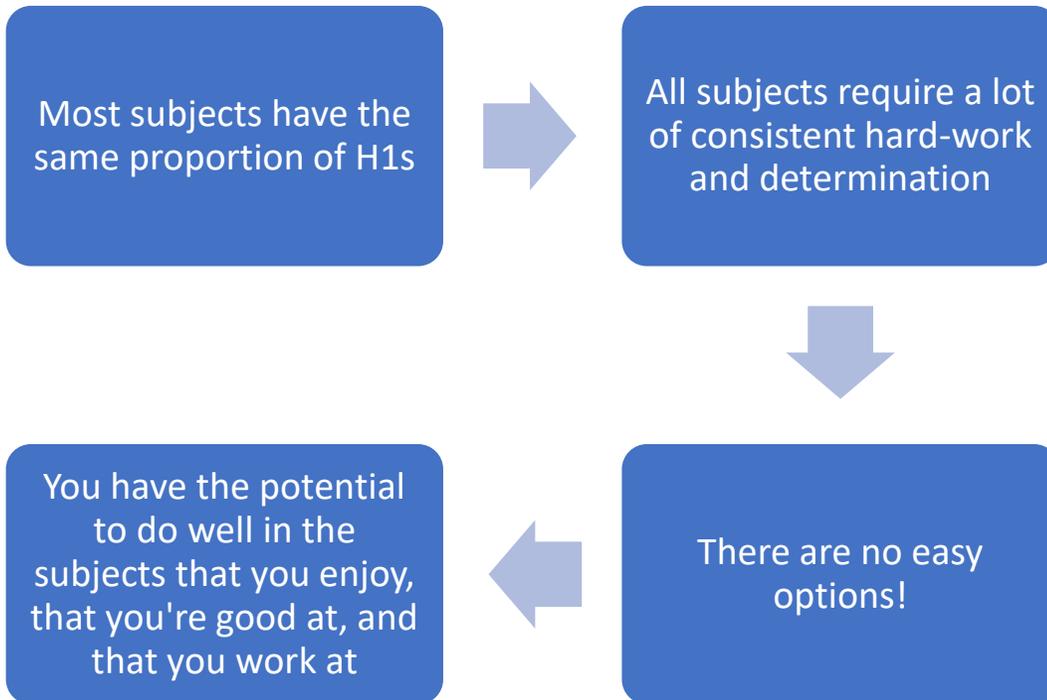




Things NOT
to do when
choosing
Subjects



Don't... Pick a subject because you think it'll be an easy H1



Don't... Pick a subject because you like the teacher!



You may or may not have that teacher for that subject



You should enjoy the subject enough regardless of the teacher



Don't... Pick a subject because your friends are choosing it

Think for YOURSELF

Do subjects that YOU will excel at and enjoy

You may not even be in their class anyway

Your friends will still be your friends

They should do what's right for them

And so should you!



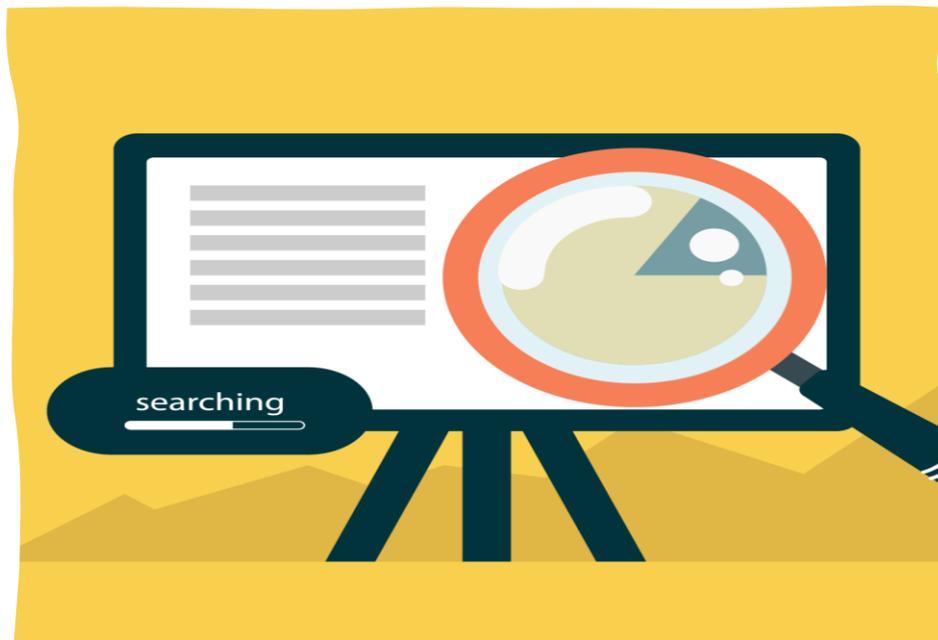
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HELPFUL TIPS

- Take Your Time
- Do your Research
- Make an Appointment with your Guidance Counsellor





Senior Cycle



+

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○



BE AWARE - SIGNIFICANT JUMP
FROM JUNIOR CYCLE TO SENIOR
CYCLE



IT IS A 2 YEAR PROGRAMME!

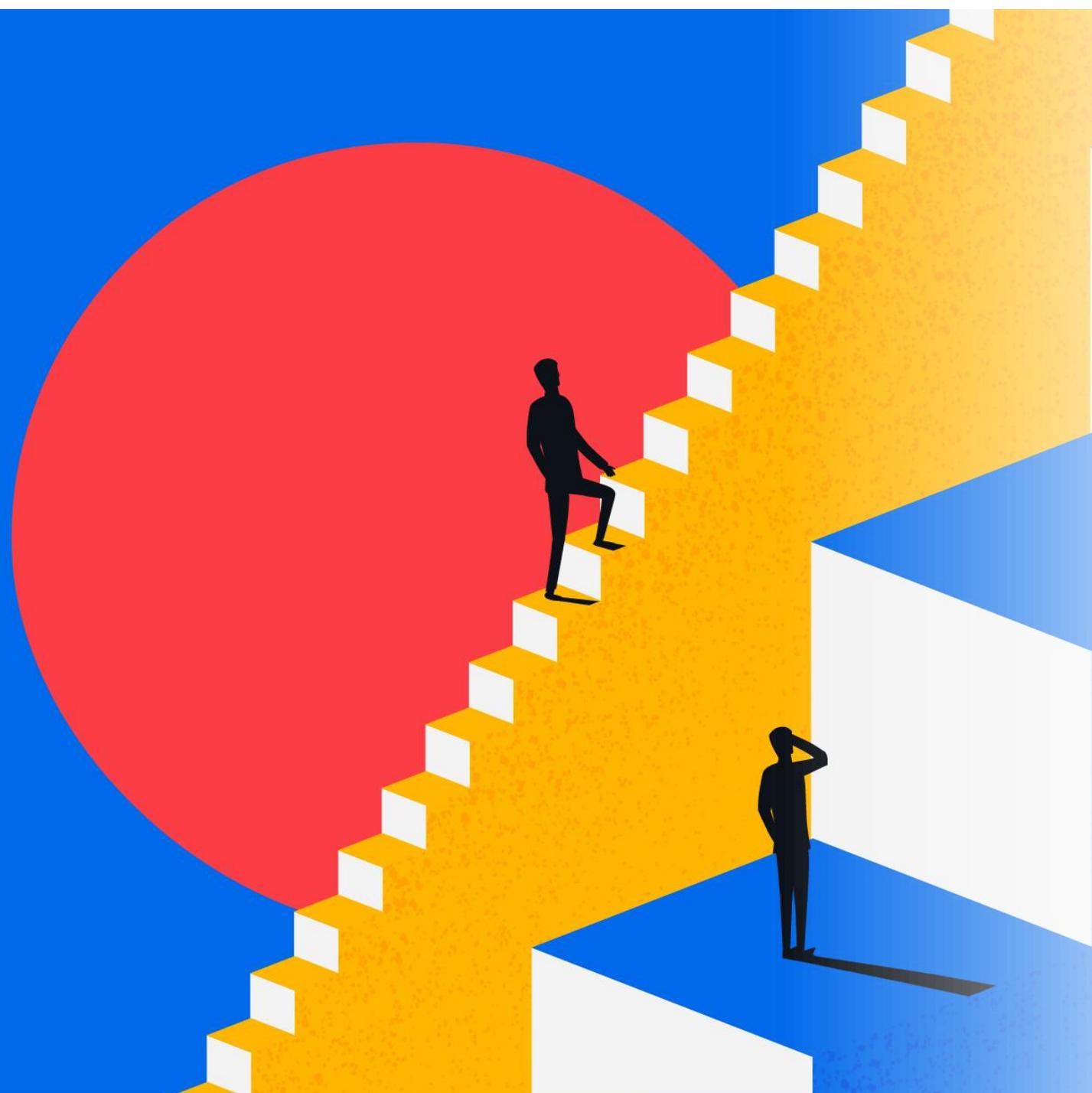


A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF THE
CURRICULUM IN ALL SUBJECTS
IS COVERED IN 5TH YEAR!



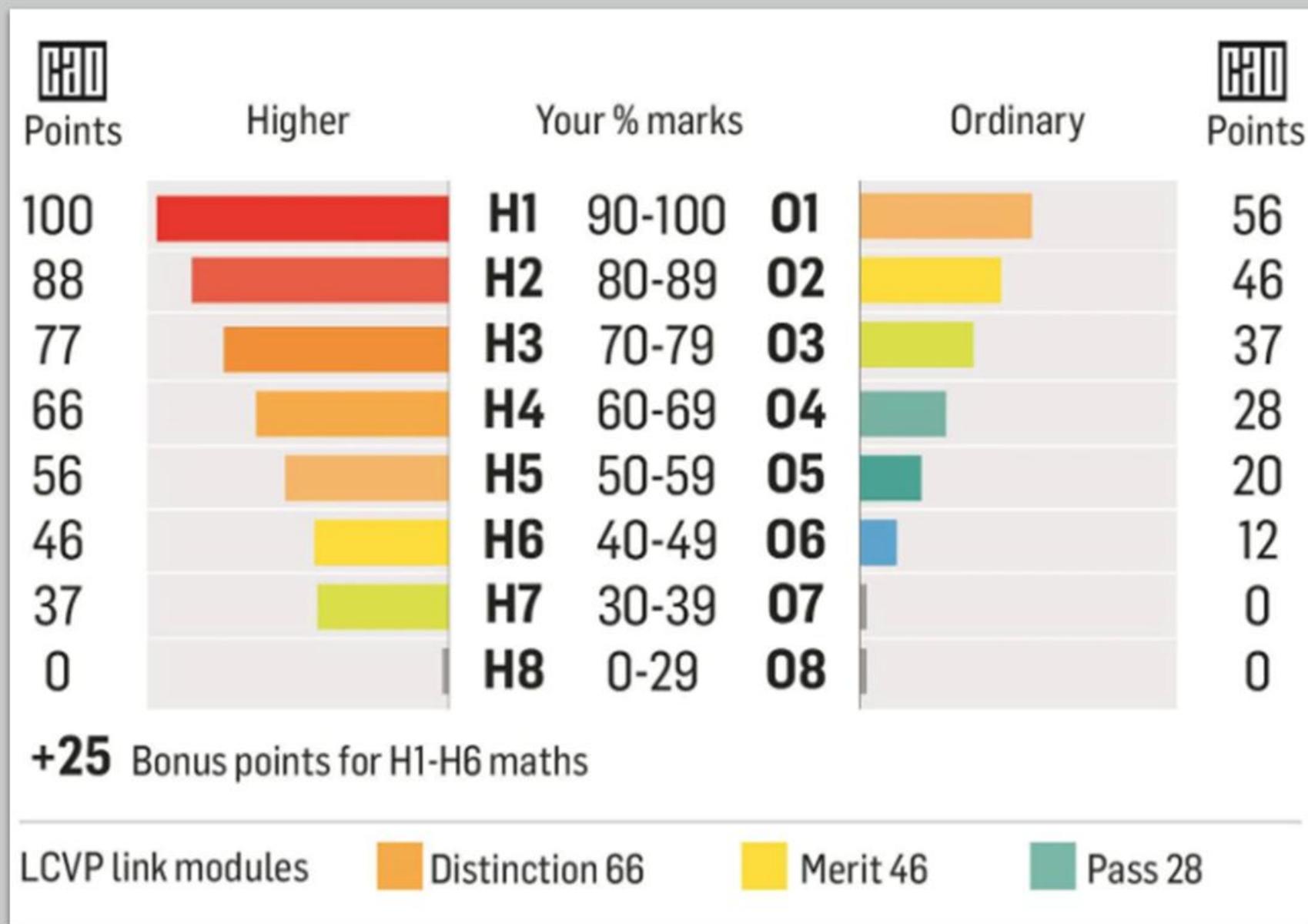
But... it is achievable

- Start working towards your goal from the start
- Small steps consistently pays off
- Work consistently
- Mind your whole self

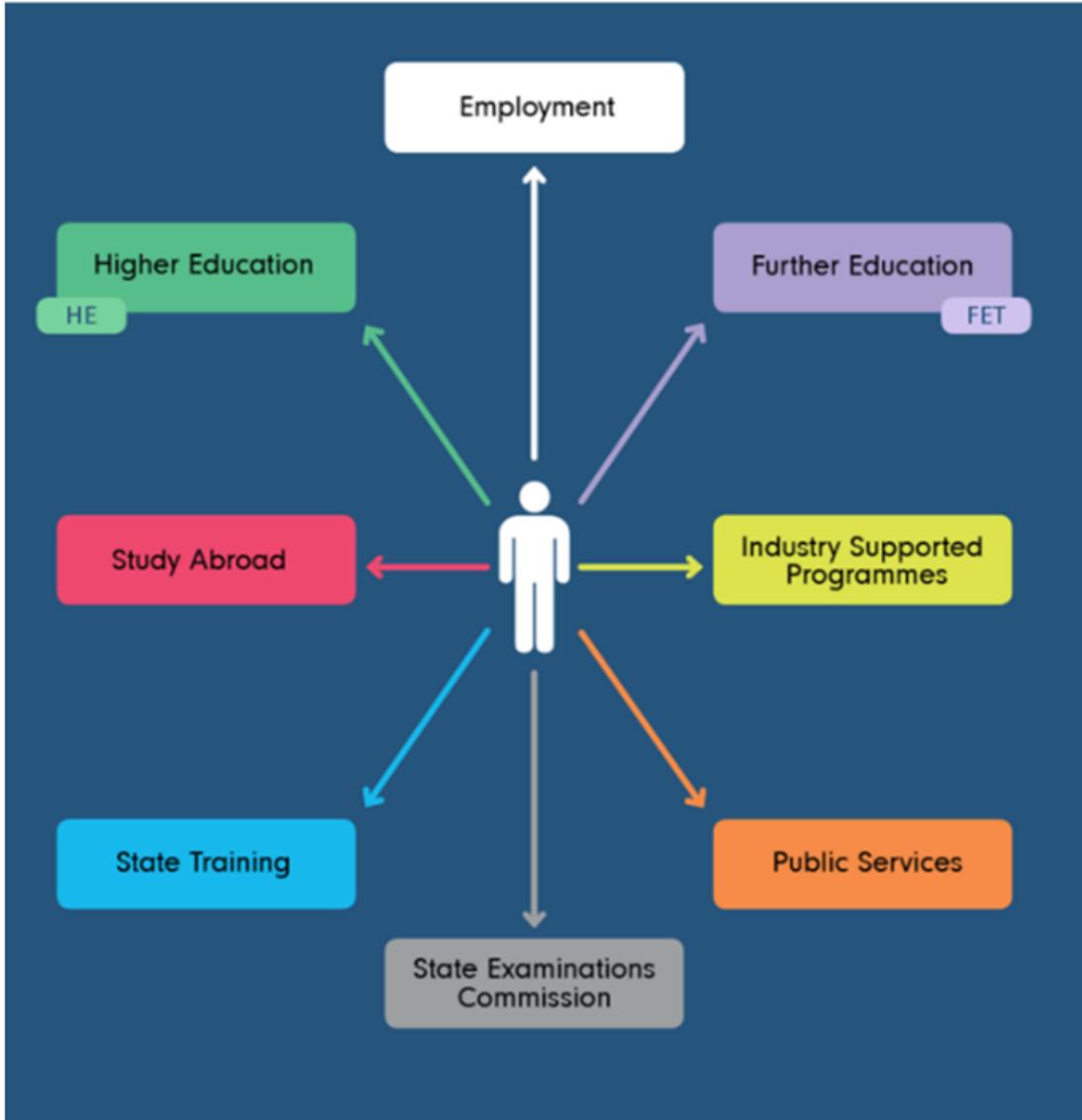




Grades at Leaving Cert



Options post Leaving Cert



3rd Level Education HEI

World of Work

Study Abroad

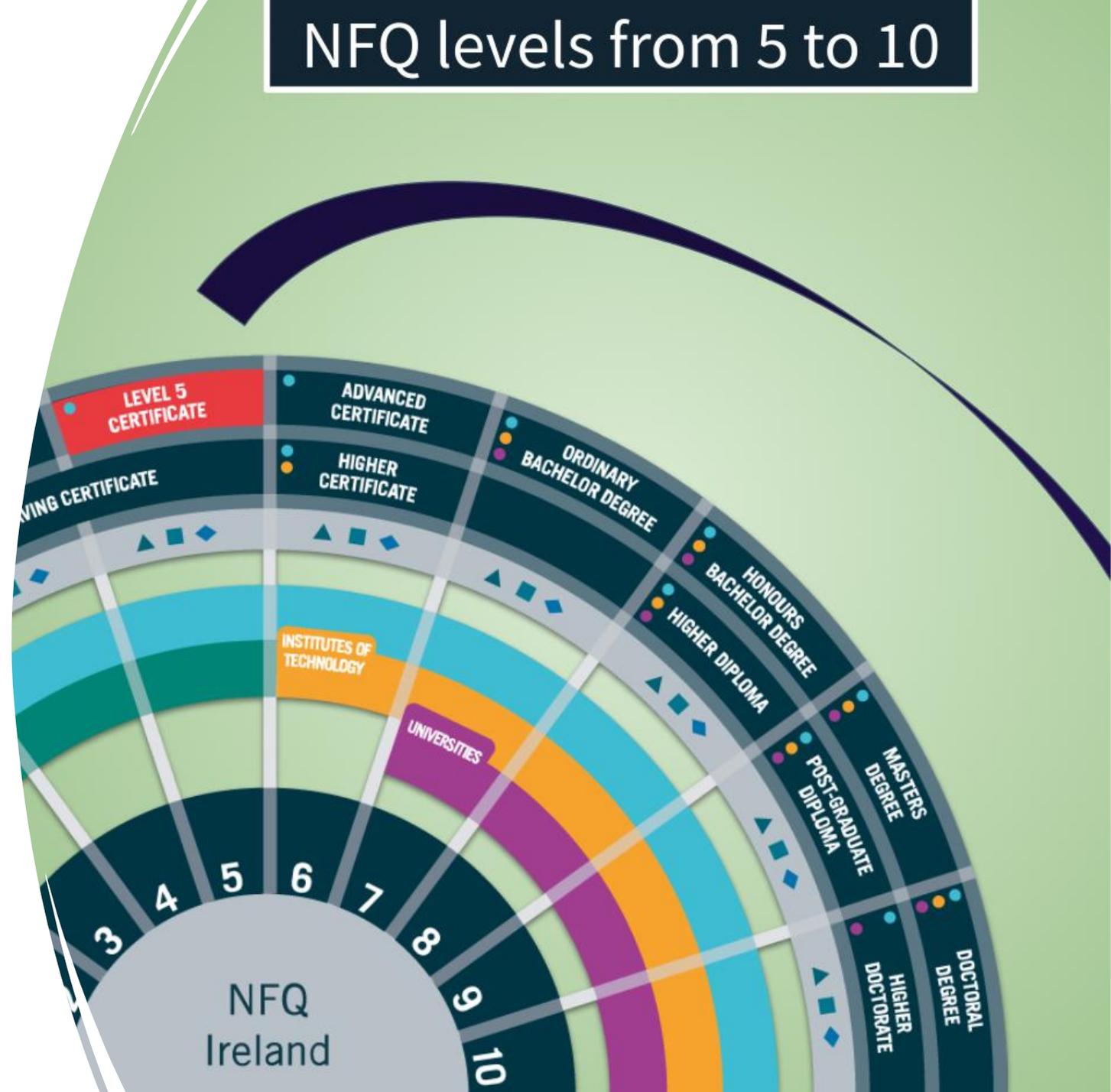
Apprenticeships

PLC Route Further Education

Tertiary Degree Programmes - New

Apprenticeships

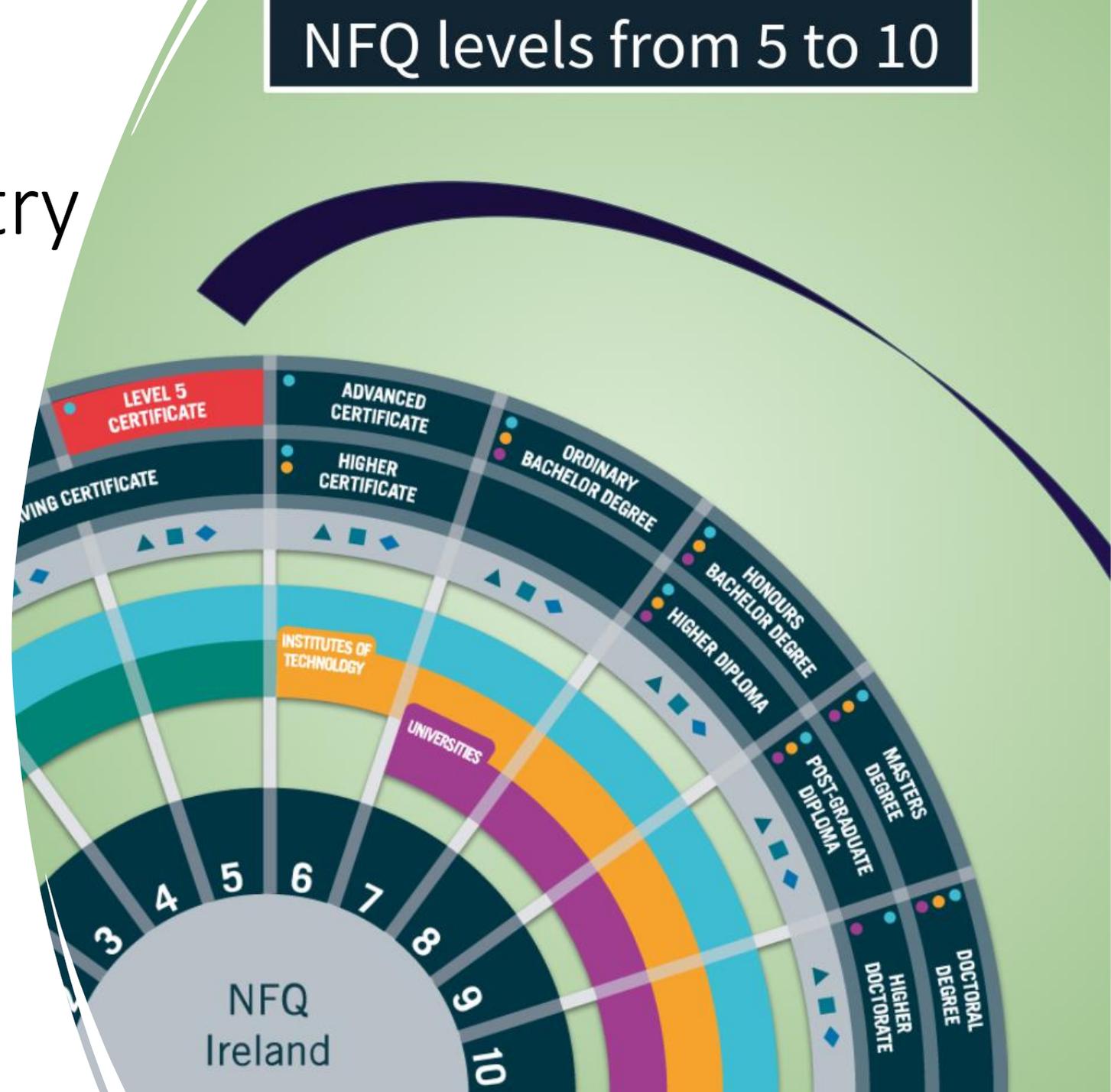
- Earn and Learn model of education and training
- 2 – 4 years in duration



Apprenticeships Entry Requirements

Traditional Apprenticeships:

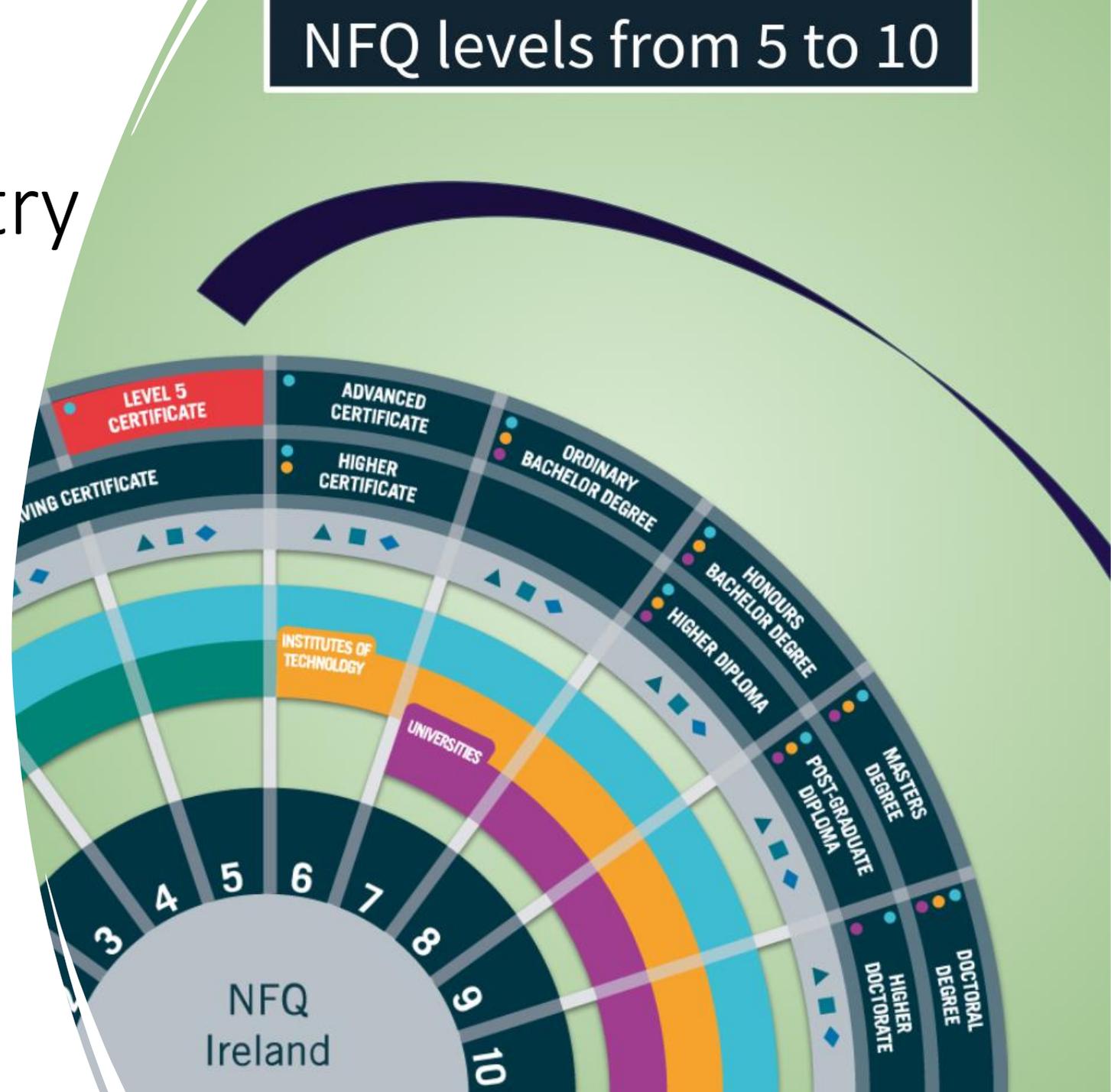
- Must be at least 16
- Minimum of 5 Merits at Junior Cycle
- Some require more
- Lots of employers prefer L.C



Apprenticeships Entry Requirements

New Apprenticeships:

- QQI Level 5
- Either PLC Level 5
- Leaving Cert (Level 5)
- All employers have different requirements





QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Deantú Cállochta agus Cállochtal Éireann

Post Leaving Cert Courses - PLCs

- **1 or 2 year programmes**
- **Level 5 (with some options to progress onto Level 6)**

Entry Requirements:

- **5 passes in 5 Leaving Cert Subjects**
- **Personal Statement &/ Interview**



**PLC Courses
Ireland**

Tertiary Degree Programmes

- An alternative route to obtaining a Bachelors Degree
- Students begin their studies at a Further Education Institution and, upon meeting progression criteria;
- Transition to a Higher Education Institution to complete their degree.
- Co-developed and co-delivered by Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), ensuring a cohesive educational experience.
- Graduates receive a Level 7 or 8 degree awarded by the partnering HEI.
- A total of 41 courses available in 2025



Tertiary Degree Programmes

Benefits:

- **No Points System**
- **Guaranteed Progression**
- **Dual Enrolment:** ETB and HEI

Application Process:

- 1.Course Selection:** Use [Course Finder](#) on Careers Portal
- 2.Application Submission:** Submit your application through the NTO portal.
- 3.Supporting Documents:** Portfolio, Personal Statement, Relevant Work Experience
- 4.Interview or Engagement:** to assess your suitability
- 5.Provisional Offer**
- 6.Acceptance**
- 7.Final Offer:** Upon meeting all criteria, a final confirmed offer will be issued.



CAO

3rd Level Education – HEIs – University & College

- Apply through CAO in 6th Year
- Level 6 – Diploma – 2 years
- Level 7 – Ordinary Degree – 3 years
- Level 8 – Honours Degree – 4 years



Entry Requirements

CAO

College Entry Requirements



Faculty Requirements



CAO Point System



Entry Requirements

CAO

Level 6 – Diploma – 5 O6s in Leaving Cert

Level 7 – Ordinary Degree – 5 O6s in Leaving Cert

Level 8 – Honours Degree – Pass 6 Subjects & at least 2 H5s and 4O6s/H7s*



*Trinity College requires 3 H5s and 3O6/H7

CAO

Faculty Requirements

Certain courses have specific requirements



Eg. Primary Teaching requires H4 in Irish



Eg. MTU Engineering requires a H4 in Maths





CAO Points System

Calculates best 6 out of 7 LC subjects

25 Bonus Point – Higher Level Maths
Grade H6 or above

Points for Courses fluctuate yearly

Supply & Demand

CAO



Thank you

Be well informed – Research

Think it through

Make good decisions for now
and future



Leaving Certificate Applied

A NEW Beginning
A NEW Course





“ What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

It is a distinct, self-contained, 2 year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing learners for adult and working life. It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. It offers a specific opportunity to prepare for and progress to further education and training

Who does LCA Suit?



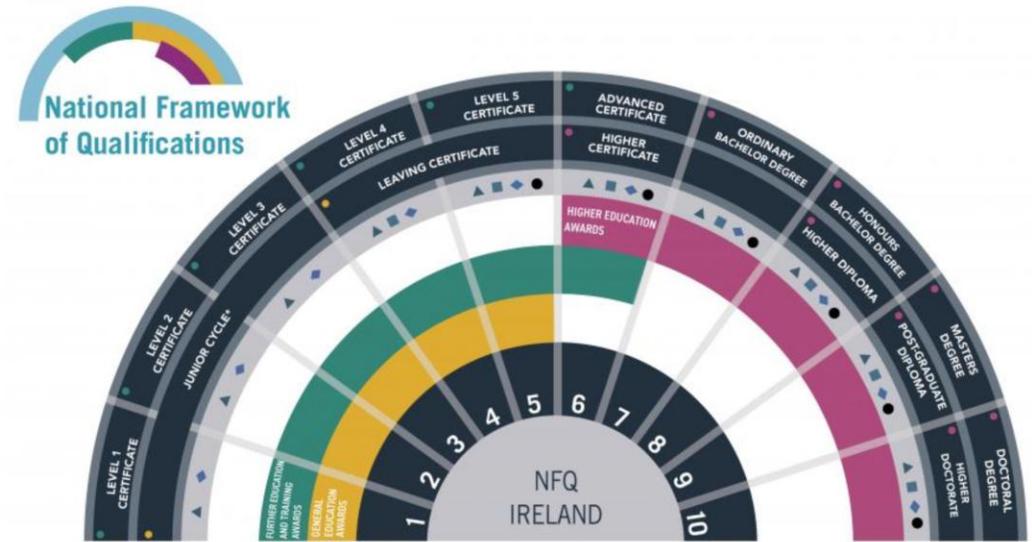
- Students who feel that the traditional leaving certificate does not cater for them
 - Students who would perform better in a continual assessment/reward basis.

- Students who are suited to a practical/hands-on approach to learning

LCA is Level 4 Qualification

It is important to acknowledge at this stage that LCA is a level 4 course and the Leaving Certificate established is Level 5.

To access progression in academic education in the future, a student will have to complete a PLC course.



CLASSES OF AWARD

- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
 - Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
 - Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
 - Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement
 - Professional Awards:** are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships
- *Please refer to NCA website, nca.ie/en/junior-cycle/

IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

- For more information on
- Qualifications
 - Providers
 - Courses
- visit www.irq.ie

Comparison LCA LCE

Differences Between LCA and Traditional Leaving Certificate (LCE)



	LCA	LCE
Assessment	Continuous assessment + tasks + final exams	Mainly final written exams
Subjects	Practical, career-focused modules	Broad academic subjects
Work Experience	Essential part of programme	No compulsory work experience
Credits System	200 credits over two years	Points-based system for CAO
Progression Options	Apprenticeships, PLC Courses	University/College, PLC, Apprenticeships
Examinations	Some final exams, most assessment ongoing	Heavy focus on final exams

Some the Skills and Benefits

- Developing Skills and Contact which could lead to employment
- Learning to be a self-motivated Learner
- Real World experiences which plan for the next step in Training and Education



Curriculum



Vocational Preparation

Vocational Preparation & Guidance

English and Communication

Vocational Education

Mathematical Application

Vocational Specialisms

Information Communication Technology

General Education

Arts Education

Social Education

Languages

Leisure & Recreation

Electives

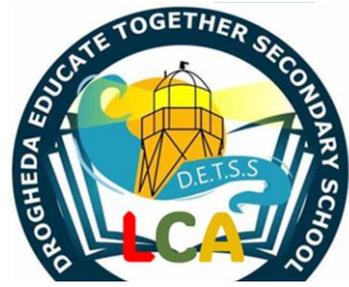
Decided with staffing considerations



How the Two Years Break Down

Subject Area	Credits	Key Assignments	Tasks	Exam	Notes
Vocational Preparation & Guidance	26	16	✓ Yes (10)	✗ No (0)	Mandatory subject
English & Communication	16	4	✗ No (0)	✓ Yes (12)	Mandatory subject
Mathematical Applications	14	4	✗ No (0)	✓ Yes (10)	Mandatory subject
Vocational Specialisms (Choose 2)	52 (26 each)	8	✓ Yes (20)	✓ Yes (24)	Options: Hair & Beauty, Engineering, Hotel & Catering, Office Admin, Graphics & Construction, Childcare, Agriculture, Craft & Design, Tech.
<u>Gaeilge</u>	10	4	✗ No (0)	✓ Yes (6)	Mandatory subject**
Modern European Language	10	4	✗ No (0)	✓ Yes (6)	Mandatory if chosen
Introduction to ICT	4	4	✗ No (0)	✗ No (0)	Mandatory subject
Social Education (incl. SPHE)	22	8	✓ Yes (14)	✗ No (0)	Includes: Contemporary Issues Task (14 credits)
Arts Education (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts)	14	4	✓ Yes (10)	✗ No (0)	Mandatory subject Includes: general Education Task (10 credits)
Leisure & Recreation (incl. PE)	4	4	✗ No (0)	✗ No (0)	Mandatory subject
Elective Modules (Choose 4)	8	8	✗ No (0)	✗ No (0)	Options: Religious Education, Science, Extra Arts, Extra Vocational Specialisms, Extra Language
Practical Achievement Task	10	0	✓ Yes (10)	✗ No (0)	Independent student-led project
Personal Reflection Task	10	0	✓ Yes (10)	✗ No (0)	Assesses student learning across the program
Total Credits	200	68 (34%)	74 (37%)	58 (29%)	

How to Achieve 200 Credits



3 Modes of Assessment

Satisfactory completion of Modules:

68 credits (34%)

7 Student tasks:

74 credits (37%)

Final Exams:

58 credits (29%)

Total:

200 credits (100%)

National Award Programme Fergal Quinn Award



Final Examinations

There are Final Exams!

But worth a lot less
than Leaving Cert
Established

Final Exams	Credits
English & Communication	12
Vocational Specialism (x2)	24 (12 each)
Languages (x2)	12 (6 each)
Mathematical Applications	10
Total	58

LCA Certification

Certificate awarded at 3 levels

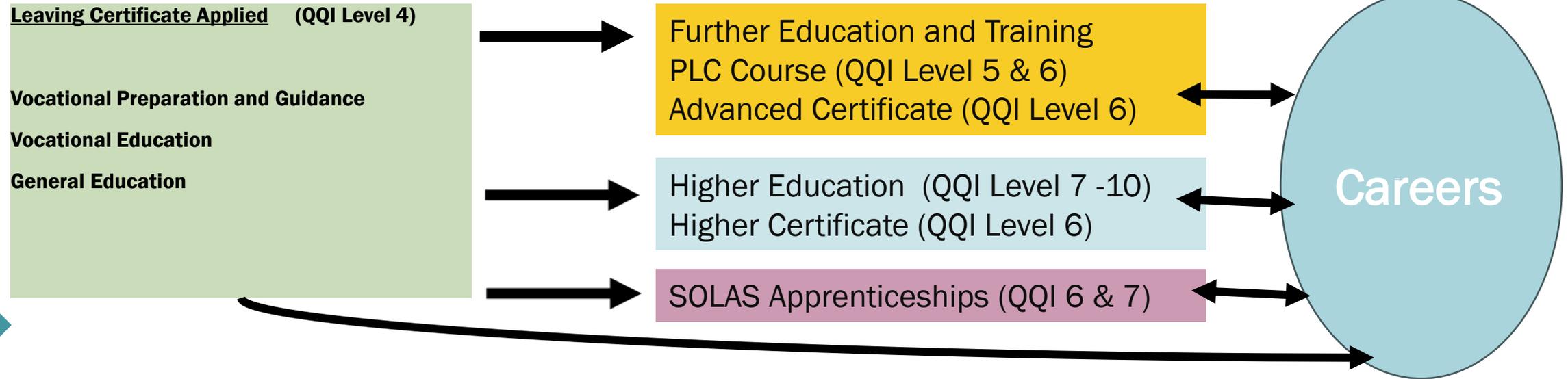
Pass	120 - 139
Merit	140 - 169
Distinction	170 - 200

Below 120 students receive a “Record of Experience”





Route Map From LCA



Summary

A Different Approach

Hands On Learning

More Independence

Project Based Learning

Attendance to prepare for the World of Work

Attendance Gains Credit

Trackable Progress

Continuous Assessment

Skill develop include

IT/Project Work/ Meeting Deadlines / Teamwork/ Practical Skills/ Social Skills



Transition Year Versus 5th Year



If your child is a third year and they think that TY is not for them, and they would be better suited to progressing straight into Senior Cycle...



Fill out the Microsoft Form sent last week on VSware mail



You must outline your reasons why



Deadline 10am 11th February 2026



Susan/Michelle/Hilda will discuss your decision with you

Leaving Cert Established versus LCA



If LCA may be a more suitable programme for your child then...



You must fill out the Microsoft Form which will be sent on Friday, 30th January



You must outline your reasons why



Deadline 10am 11th February 2026



Susan/Michelle/Hilda/Ruairi will discuss your decision with you

Progressing to 5th Year LCE Options on VSware

Friday 30th January to Wednesday 25th February



Students are free to choose their preferred options and then we set the option blocks around their choices.



This method ensures the highest satisfaction rates in terms of subject choice.



Whilst we do our best to ensure students get their first and second choice this cannot be guaranteed so we ask that you please discuss options with your child



They must rank the subjects in order with one being first preference, two being second preference and so on



Options chosen beyond the assigned deadline date will be deemed as late and we will be unable to guarantee any level of preference

VShare Options:

VShare subject options tab will open on Friday, 30th January

Go to Parents section on VShare to access subject options form

You will be required to select a subject for each preference

You must select 6 preferences – In strict order of preference. 1 being the most preferred, 6 being the least.

VShare option subjects will close on Wednesday, 25th February at 10am.



Donald Adams



Pick an area to explore



Attendance

Monitor your child's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson.

[Learn More >](#)



Assessment

View your child's full academic record, track progress over time and download term reports.

[Learn More >](#)



Behaviour

Keep track of your child's behaviour, monitor progress & teacher feedback.

[Learn More >](#)



Timetable

View your child's timetable, see realtime data for which lesson they are in at any given time.

[Learn More >](#)



Personal Info

Overview of your child's key info. Ensure that this is up to date.

[Learn More >](#)



Fees

Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card online.

[Learn More >](#)



Student Options

Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the school.

[Learn More >](#)

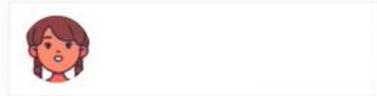


• **Click Student Options**



Child profile

Student Options



Subject Set 1

Preference	Subject Choice
1	Select a subject ▼
2	Select a subject ▼
3	Select a subject ▼
4	Select a subject ▼
5	Select a subject ▼
6	Select a subject ▼

Confirm

- Order of preference
- Select subject from drop down menu





Laytown & Drogheda
Educate Together
Secondary School

Username *

Password *

[Create or reset your password](#)

Don't have an account? [Learn more](#)

[Link - Step-by-step guide on choosing option preferences on VSware](#)

What Next:

- 5th Year Information Session on Optional Subjects was held today.
- Consider Program Choice – deadline **Wednesday 11th February by 10am**
- Subject Choice via VShare – **Friday, 30th January to Wednesday 25th February at 10am**
- Digital Books* will be supplied/Stationery subject to grant funding.
- Resource Fee Payment:
 - School Journal
 - Careers Portal Access
 - Apps
 - Mock Papers
 - Email
 - Microsoft Suite
 - Apple Safe Space
 - Parental Access to VShare
 - 24 Hour Pupil Insurance



Questions

