



Scoil Chuimsitheach
an Tóchar
Causeway
Comprehensive School



Bord Oideachais
agus Oiliúna Chiarraí
Kerry Education
and Training Board

SENIOR CYCLE

SUBJECT CHOICE



SCOIL CHUIMSITHEACH AN TÓCHAIR

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New Leaving Certificate Grading Scale in 2017

The Department of Education and Skills introduced a new Leaving Certificate grading scale in 2017. The new scale has 8 grades, the highest grade is a Grade 1, the lowest grade a Grade 8. The highest seven grades 1-7 divide the marks range 100% to 30% into seven equal grade bands 10% wide, with a grade 8 being awarded for percentage marks of less than 30%.

The grades at higher level and ordinary level are distinguished by prefixing the grade with H or O respectively, giving H1-H8 at higher level, and O1-O8 at ordinary level.

Table : New LC grading scale introduced in 2017

NEW GRADES	% MARKS
H1 / O1	90-100
H2 / O2	80<90
H3 / O3	70<80
H4 / O4	60<70
H5 / O5	50<60
H6 / O6	40<50
H7 / O7	30<40
H8 / O8	0<30



Revised Leaving Certificate Points Scale

CAO points are awarded as follows for each grade at Leaving Certificate. These point are used to obtain places on higher education courses in Universities, Technological Universities and other colleges.

Higher		Ordinary	
GRADE	POINTS	GRADE	POINTS
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0



Revised scoring for LVCP Link Modules

Grades for Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) Link Modules are aligned with the current Leaving Certificate grading scheme and equivalent points. With the introduction in 2017 of the new Leaving Certificate grades, points will be awarded for LCVP Link Models as follows :-

Table 3 : Revised points for LVCP Link Modules, to be introduced in 2017

LCVP LINK MODULES GRADE	CURRENT POINTS	REVISED POINTS
Distinction	70	66
Merit	50	46
Pass	30	28



Calculating your Leaving Certificate Points

Your best 6 grades, achieved in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate exam, will be used to calculate your CAO points score for entry to college. LCVP can be included in your best 6 grades if you score higher in this than one of your seven exam subjects

Higher level subjects carry a higher points reward than sitting the subject at Ordinary level. Students should aim to sit exams at their highest ability level to maximise their points score. Many colleges require you to pass core subjects at Leaving Certificate level, so it is important to make sure you are studying at an appropriate level.

Choosing your Leaving Certificate Subjects

It is important to carefully consider what subjects to take on for the Leaving Certificate. While students at this age cannot be expected to have made definitive career decisions, in making your subject choice you are making a decision that has the potential to effect the course of study you pursue after secondary school. It is normal to explore several career options when thinking about what you want to do after school. You might change your mind every couple of weeks or months – it's all part of the process. However, it is important that the decisions you make for your Leaving Certificate subjects don't close off any areas you may wish to study in future.

The format of this guide is in Question and Answer mode, in an effort to anticipate any questions a pupil may have relating to their Leaving Certificate choices. There is also a subject guide, which gives a brief introduction to all of the subjects offered here, and may assist you in your choice.

Remember, if you need help, are unsure of what to do or just need a word of advice, consult your Guidance Counsellor.



How should I go about making my Leaving Certificate subjects choices?

When choosing subjects, think A B C D E :

Ability – Your ability and interest in a subject are important. You will work harder and achieve more in a subject you enjoy.

Balance – It could be beneficial to keep your range of subjects broad in order to keep options open.

Courses – Some courses have specific subject requirements or pre-requisite.

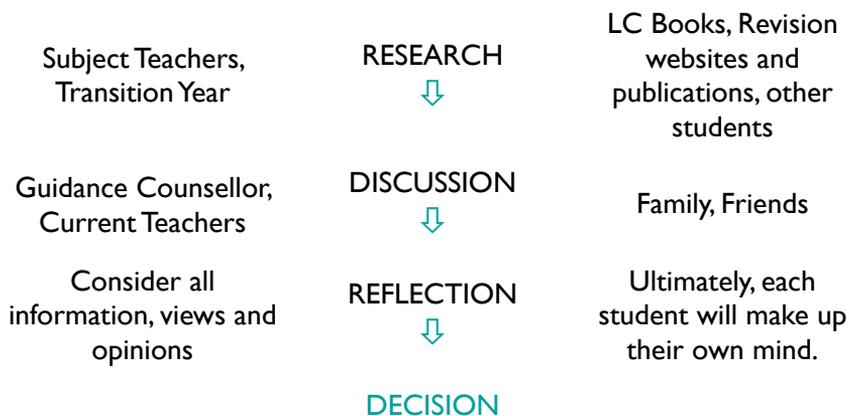
Discussion – Talk to subject teachers, current students, guidance counsellor and family.

Educate yourself – Research is key.

Websites like www.careersportal.ie and www.qualifax.ie contain a lot of information about courses and career areas



The following process indicates how a good subject choice should be made :





Should I continue to study higher level Maths?

It is important to study Maths at the highest level you are capable of achieving. An O6 in ordinary level Maths is essential for entry to many third level courses following the Leaving Certificate.

Note that an extra 25 bonus points are added when a student scores at least 40% in Higher Level Leaving Cert Maths and that for a H7 (30% to 40%), a student will get 37 points.

Some engineering, computing and science courses will have a HL Maths requirement. It is important to research this if you are thinking of pursuing these areas after school.

Table 4 : Revised points for
Higher Level Maths to be
introduced in 2017

Grade	Points
H1	125
H2	113
H3	102
H4	91
H5	81
H6	71
H7	37
H8	0



I am interested in engineering, science and technology, but I am an ordinary level maths student. What should I do?

Every college and course will have differing entry requirements. There is almost always an alternative in this area if you do not have HL Maths. For example:

Engineering (Common Entry) in UCC requires a H4 in HL Maths.

Engineering (Common Entry) in CIT requires an O1/H6 in Maths.

Civil Engineering in Tralee IT requires an O6/H7 in Maths.

Make sure you research your options and talk to your guidance counsellor if you are not sure.



What happens if I do not take a continental language?

The colleges of the national university of Ireland require a pass in a third language (in addition to Irish and English) for entry into most of their courses. These colleges are NUI Maynooth, UCD, NUIG and UCC and a range of associated constituent colleges, all of which are listed on the NUI website at www.nui.ie. A third language is also a requirement for entry into a cadetship in the defence forces and courses at Shannon College of Hotel Management.

The NUI colleges have dropped the third language requirement for many of their engineering, science, agricultural and food science programmes. A third language is not required for entry to nursing or to primary teaching programmes.

Trinity College and UL accept Irish as fulfilling their second language requirement.

UL and DCU, plus all the Institutes of Technology, do not require a third language for entry purposes to most of their courses, apart from those which involve the study of such a language.



What are the easiest subjects in the Leaving Cert and what are the hardest?

There is no one answer to this question. Some subjects may appear to have a very high success rate, but this is usually a reflection of several factors:

- the academic ability of students who select the subject in the first place
- a subject that attracts students with particular aptitudes, for example, music and art.
- Language subjects taken by those for whom it is their native language.

All subjects at Leaving Cert level require a full two-year commitment. There are no short cuts to success. This is why subject choice is so important. You are more likely to succeed in a subject in which you have a good ability or interest in.

What combinations of subjects should I aim for?

You should attempt to select a balanced range of subjects, which will keep your college and career options open. Most students study Irish (unless exempt), English and Maths. A large majority of students also study a continental language.

Good advice is that you should spread your final three choices, across the entire spectrum of business, scientific and practical subjects. You should also be mindful of the results you achieved in any previous examination and aptitude test results when making these choices.

When picking your subjects you should ask yourself the following:

- Am I interested in it?
- Do I love it?
- Am I prepared to work at it?



Will the subjects I choose for my Leaving Cert influence my choice of course?

Yes. Bear in mind that your chosen subjects will have long term consequences on the courses and careers open to you. Not choosing a science subject or a continental language could have serious consequences and lock you out of some third level courses.

If a student is making his or her subject choices has not yet decided what career they wish to follow after school, it would be advisable for them to keep all their options open by taking a science subject and a continental language from among their four optional subjects.

LEAVING CERT SUBJECTS

All Leaving Cert. students study Irish, English and Mathematics, LCVP (Leaving Cert Vocational Programme) and choose four other subjects from the following list.

FRENCH	CONSTRUCTION STUDIES
SPANISH	ENGINEERING
ACCOUNTING	DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS
BUSINESS	AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
HISTORY	MUSIC
BIOLOGY	ART
CHEMISTRY	GEOGRAPHY
PHYSICS	HOME ECONOMICS
ECONOMICS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION (LCPE)
APPLIED MATHS	



ENGLISH

English students develop a respect and appreciation for language used accurately and appropriately; and a competence in a wide range of language skills both oral and written. The following is studied throughout the two year course:

Course Content

- Composition
- Comprehension
- Single text
- Comparative Text including film
- Prescribed Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

Leaving Certificate English is examined through two separate papers sat during final exams in June.

Career Links

Teaching, Law, Translator, Army, Broadcasting, Journalism, Secretary, Acting, Politics, Speech therapy, Solicitor, Psychologist, Film and Media, Literature critic, Social worker.

Essential For

English is an entry requirement subject for almost all 3rd level institutions. This means that the majority of colleges will have a minimum English requirement for students.

DCU – H4 in English required to study Journalism, Multimedia or Communication Studies.

IADT – H4 in English required to study English and Equality Studies OR English, Media and Cultural Studies.

TU Dublin – H4 in English required to study Law; Languages & English Studies; Languages and Tourism Studies; Contemporary Visual Culture; and Creative and Cultural Industries.

Trinity – H4 in English required to study English Literature OR English Studies.



IRISH

A new Senior cycle Irish course was introduced in 2012. Students learn to understand and communicate written and spoken Irish and develop an awareness of Irish culture and civilisation.

Course Content

The oral exam now counts for 40% of the overall work in the subject, while the percentage allocated to the aural exam differs depending on what level is taken. Students sitting ordinary and higher level Irish will be examined in two separate papers in the final exams in June. Foundation level students will sit one paper.

Career Links

Teaching, Law, EU Institutions, Translator, Army, Broadcasting, Journalism, Secretary, Acting, Politics

A H4 in Higher Level Irish is required to study Primary School teaching in Ireland. Primary school teaching courses are available in the following colleges:

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
Marino Institute of Education, Dublin
St. Patrick's College, DCU, Dublin
Froebel Education, Maynooth.

Essential For

A H5 in Higher Level Irish is required to study Post-Primary Irish education in St. Patricks, Thurles. Students qualify to teach Irish in second level with one other subject from Religion, Business Studies or Maths.



MATHS

Students will study a range of mathematical topics, with the higher level course going into greater detail than the ordinary level course. The higher level course also has a number of topics that are not on the ordinary level course.

Topics include:

- Algebra
- Geometry-line and circle
- Complex numbers
- Statistics
- Combinations and Probability
- Geometry
- Calculus
- Sequences and Series
- Arithmetic

Course Content

Ordinary and Higher level Maths students are examined through two separate papers in the final exams in June. Foundation level students will sit one paper.

Career Links

Accountancy, Actuary, Architecture, Engineer, Banking, Medicine, Computing, Pharmacy, Teaching, Chemist, Economist, Physicist, Scientist, Computer programmer, Quantity surveyor, Biochemist, Statistician.

Some universities and Institutes of technology offer a special maths exam after the Leaving Certificate for students who do not meet the maths requirements. Students should check that doing Foundation Maths will not have an adverse effect on 3rd level choices.

Essential For

AIT – H4 required for Civil Engineering
UCC – H4 required for Engineering
DCU – H3 required to study Data Science and Actuarial Mathematics.
NCI – H5 required to study Data Science
UCD – H4 required to study Economics and Finance
UL – H3 required to study Financial Mathematics and H4 require to study post-primary Maths and Computer Science education.



APPLIED MATHS

Course Content

Leaving Certificate Applied Maths is based on mathematical physics. There is an overlap of material covered on the Higher Level Maths and Physics courses, which can help students who take both these subjects. Topics covered in Applied Maths include:

Circular Motion and SHM, Collisions, Connected Particles, Differential Equations, Hydrostatics, Linear Motion, Moments of Inertia, Projectiles, Relative Velocity, Statics.

Examination Structure: 100% final exam.

Applied Maths is run external to the school by Kerry ETB. Students will be required to attend weekend workshops and engage with online classes.

Career Links

Engineer, Computing, Teaching, Chemist, Physicist, Scientist, Computer programmer, Quantity surveyor, Biochemist, Statistician, Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Pollution Control, Conservation, Radiation Protection, Space Technology, Geophysics, Ocean Sciences, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Diagnostic Instrumentation, Laser Technology, Image Analysis, Telecommunications.

UCC – Applied Maths is accepted as meeting Science subject criteria for Biological and Chemical Sciences; Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences; Chemical Sciences; Physics and Astrophysics; Agricultural Science; Nutritional Sciences; Food Science; Public Health Sciences.

Essential For TU Dublin – Applied Maths is accepted as meeting Science subject criteria for Science with Nanotechnology; Clinical Measurement Science; Physics; Culinary Science; Ophthalmic Dispensing

Trinity – Applied Maths is accepted as meeting Science subject criteria for Clinical Speech and Language Therapy; Biological and Chemical Sciences; Chemical Sciences; Geography and Geosciences.



SPANISH

Students learn to understand and communicate written and spoken Spanish and develop an awareness of Spanish culture and civilisation. The marks allocated to the following areas of the exam will differ on whether the student sits higher or ordinary level.

Course Content

Listening Comprehension: Candidates are required to listen to a tape recording in Spanish and answer questions on what they have heard.

Reading Comprehension: Involves understanding written language and answering questions

Written Exercises: Include letter writing, expressing personal opinions, diary entries.

Oral Examination: General conversation based on the syllabus content.

Covers themes such as school, personal life, social life.

Career Links

Teacher, Translator, Army, Broadcasting, Journalism, EU Institutions, Politics, Speech Therapy, Solicitor, Psychologist, Film and Media, Literature Critic, International Business, Tourism.

Third language required for entry to some courses in NUI institutions:

UCD, Maynooth, UCC, NUIG, Royal College of Surgeons, NCAD, St. Angela's, Shannon College of Hotel Management and for Cadetships in the Defence Forces.

Essential For

If studying a third language in college, courses will require a certain grade in a Higher Level paper (e.g. H3 or H4). This varies depending on the course and institution.



FRENCH

Students learn to understand and communicate written and spoken French and develop an awareness of French culture and civilisation. The marks allocated to the following areas of the exam will differ on whether the student sits higher or ordinary level.

Course Content

Listening Comprehension: Candidates are required to listen to a tape recording in Spanish and answer questions on what they have heard.

Reading Comprehension: Involves understanding written language and answering questions

Written Exercises: Include letter writing, expressing personal opinions, diary entries.

Oral Examination: General conversation based on the syllabus content. Covers themes such as school, personal life, social life.

Career Links

Teacher, Translator, Army, Broadcasting, Journalism, EU Institutions, Politics, Speech Therapy, Solicitor, Psychologist, Film and Media, Literature Critic, International Business, Tourism.

Third language required for entry to some courses in NUI institutions:

UCD, Maynooth, UCC, NUIG, Royal College of Surgeons, NCAD, St. Angela's, Shannon College of Hotel Management and for Cadetships in the Defence Forces.

Essential For

If studying a third language in college, courses will require a certain grade in a Higher Level paper (e.g. H3 or H4). This varies depending on the course and institution.



BIOLOGY

Students undertake a range of practical, laboratory and field work during their study. The course contains compulsory experiments and covers theory in the following areas:

Course Study of Life – Scientific methods and Ecology.
Content The Cell – Structure, Metabolism, Diversity and Genetics.
The Organism – Diversity, Organisation, Transport & Nutrition and Body Systems (Plant and Animal)

Examination Structure: 100% final exam

Career Links Engineering, Medicine, Computing, Pharmacy, Pharmacy Technician, Teaching, Chemist, Dentist, Dental Nurse, Physicist, Scientist, Nurse, Fitness Instructor, Geneticist, Marine Scientist, Biochemist, Sport Psychologists, Microbiologist, Zoologist, Vet, Beauty Therapist, Optometrist, Nutritionist, Hairdresser, Agriculture sector and Laboratory technicians.

Some courses will require students to have achieved a certain grade in a 'laboratory science', Biology meets this criteria.

Essential For UCC – H4 in Biology required for Genetics.
Trinity – H4 required for Human Health and Disease
Letterkenny IT – H5 required to study Health Science with Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy/Dietetics Studies.



CHEMISTRY

Chemistry students undertake a range of practical and laboratory work. The subject aims to develop students understanding of chemical terminology, facts, principles and methods. It also examines scientific theories and their limitations as well as exploring the social, historical, environmental, technological and economic aspects of chemistry.

Topics studied include:

Course Content

Periodic table and atomic structure, Bonding, Volumetric Analysis, Fuels, Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Atomic Structure, Radioactivity, Rates of Reaction, Chemical Equilibrium, Environmental Chemistry, Oil Refining, Organic Synthesis, Acids and Bases.

Examination Structure: 100% final exam.

Career Links

Engineering, Medicine, Computing, Pharmacy, Teaching, Chemist, Dentist, Physicist, Scientist, Nurse, Biochemist, Sport Psychologists, Pharmacologist, Vet, Beauty Therapist, Hairdresser, Optometrist, Forensics, Paramedic, Laboratory technician, Food Science, Food Safety, Environmental Chemistry, Pollution Control.

Some courses will require students to have achieved a certain grade in a 'laboratory science', Chemistry meets this criteria.

Essential For

UCC – H4 in Chemistry required for Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy and Medical & Health Sciences..

TU Dublin – H4 required to study Human Nutrition and Dietetics.

Trinity – H4 required for Pharmacy

UCD – H5 required for Veterinary Medicine.



PHYSICS

Course Content

Physics aims to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life. It provides a broad education in physics and develops an understanding of the physical environment and how human beings interact with it. The subjects helps students develop critical and logical thinking skills, communication skills and observation skills. Some topics covered in the course include:

Mechanics, Temperature, Heat, Waves, Vibrations and Sound, Light, Electricity, Modern Physics, Magnetism.

Examination Structure: 100% final exam.

Career Links

Engineering, Physicist, Scientist, Teaching, Electrician, Sound Engineer, Biomedical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Pollution Control, Conservation, Radiation Protection, Space Technology, Geophysics, Ocean Sciences, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Diagnostic Instrumentation, Laser Technology, Image Analysis, Telecommunications.

Essential For

Some courses will require students to have achieved a certain grade in a 'laboratory science', Physics meets this criteria.

Trinity – H3 in Physics required to study Theoretical Physics.



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Students will study a variety of theoretical topics, in addition to experiments and project work:

Course Content

- Identification of plant and animal types associated with agriculture.
- Practical experience with crops, livestock, house and farmyard layouts.
- Investigations carried out relating to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics and microbiology.

Examination Structure: 25% Project and 75% final exam.

Career Links

Engineering, Science teacher, Microbiology, Environmentalist, Vet, Horticulturalist, Botanist, Farming, Agribusiness sector, Agri Advisor.

Essential For

Some courses will require students to have achieved a certain grade in a 'laboratory science', Agricultural Science meets this criteria on the majority of courses.

Dundalk IT – H5 required in either Ag Science or Biology to study Veterinary Nursing.



College Courses Requiring Two Science Subjects

Medicine in UCC – H4 in Chemistry and either Physics and Biology.

Dentistry in UCC - H4 in Chemistry and either Physics and Biology.

Pharmacy in UCC - H4 in Chemistry and either Physics and Biology.

Medical and Health Sciences in UCC – H4 in Chemistry and O6/H7 in Physics, Biology or Agricultural Science.

Medicine in RCSI – H4 in Chemistry and either Physics and Biology

Medicine in Trinity – 1 H3 and 1 H4 from Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Agricultural Science.

Dentistry in Trinity - 1 H3 and 1 H4 from Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Agricultural Science.

Physiotherapy in Trinity – 2 H4's from Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science or Maths.

Pharmacy in Trinity – H4 in Chemistry and either Physics, Biology, Maths, Applied Maths, Geography or Agricultural Science.

Medicine in NUIG – 2 H4's in Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Agricultural Science.



BUSINESS

Business is the theoretical study of business set up, management and activities as well as examining international business and the role of government. The subject benefits students by:

Course Content

- Encourage initiative and self-reliance in each student.
- Developing a clear understanding of the role of enterprise and to encourage the development of appropriate enterprise learning skills.
- Generating in students a positive and ethical attitude to enterprise in personal, business and public life.

Examination Structure: 100% final exam.

Career Links

Business, Accountancy, Banking, Law, Teaching, Marketing, Sales, Taxation, Insurance, Banking, Journalism, Actuary, Manager, Business Analyst, Tourism, IT manager.

Essential For

Leaving Certificate Business is currently not a requirement for any third level courses. However, if students are interested in studying Business or Business education after second level it would be an advantage to study it at Leaving Cert.



ACCOUNTING

Accounting is the study of financial accounting, management accounting and accounting theory. It is a practical, hands on subject that encourages problem solving and initiative.

Topics include:

Course Content

- Financial Accounting – Farm Accounts, Club Accounts, Depreciation, Final Accounts of Businesses, Interpretation of Accounts.
- Management Accounting – Cash Budgets, Production Budgets, Marginal Costing.

Examination Structure: 100% final exam.

Career Links

Business, Accountancy, Banking, Law, Teaching, Marketing, Sales, Taxation, Insurance, Banking, Journalism, Actuary, Manager, Business Analyst, Tourism, IT manager.

Essential For

Leaving Certificate Accounting would be an advantage for any student pursuing a qualification in bookkeeping, accounting or general business.

NUIG – H4 in Accounting required for Commerce (Accounting).



ECONOMICS

Course Content

Economics has five strands which focus on the following fundamental economic questions:

- What is economics about? Economic thinking; Scarcity and Choice; Sustainability
- How are economic decisions made? The market economy; the consumer; the firm; government intervention
- What can markets do? Market structures; the labour market; market failure
- What is the relationship between economic performance and policy? National income; Fiscal policy; employment and unemployment; monetary policy; financial sector
- How is our economy influenced by international economics? Economic growth and development; globalisation; international trade and competitiveness

Students will develop an understanding of the importance of economic events and the implications of individual, business and government economic decision-making.

Examination Structure:

20% - Research Study

80% - Written Examination

Career Links

Business, Accountancy, Banking, Law, Teaching, Taxation, Policy, Government, Insurance, Finance, Data Analyst, Economist, Stockbroker, Actuary, Manager, Business Analyst

Essential For

Leaving Certificate Economics is not currently a requirement for any third level courses. However, if students are interested in studying Business or Economics through Arts or Business degrees after second level it would be an advantage to study it at Leaving Cert.



HISTORY

History encourages students to develop their understanding of Irish, European and World history and develop research skills through project work. Students cover four options, one of which is prescribed for study through the use of historic documents. Each option is studied through a number of perspectives

Course Content

- Political and Administrative
- Social and Economic
- Cultural and Religion

Examination Structure – 20% Project and 80% final exam.

Career Links

Arts, Law, Teaching, Politics, Tourism, Archaeology, Journalism, Law Clerk, Researcher, Writer, Barrister, Civil Service, Film, Actor, Library Assistant, Playwright.

Essential For

Leaving Certificate History is not currently a requirement for any third level courses. However, the subject would be beneficial to any students who would like to pursue the areas of history, politics and journalism after second level.



GEOGRAPHY

Geography aims to develop students knowledge and understanding of physical & human environments and to promote an awareness of conservation and sustained management of the earths resources. An example of topics covered include:

Course Content

- Physical Geography – Plate Tectonics, Rock Cycle, Weathering and Erosion, Mass Movement, River, Sea and Ice.
- Regional Geography – Ireland, France, Italy, India: an examination of farming, industry, tourism and transport in these regions.
- Human Geography – Population Pyramids, Migration, Settlement, Urban Functions, Urban Problems and Solutions. OS Maps, Aerial Photographs, sketch maps, grid references.
- Geo-Ecology – Soils and Biomes e.g. rainforests or deserts.

Examination Structure: 20% for Fieldtrip Project and 80% final exam (including 16% for short questions).

Career Links

Teaching, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Tourism, Civil Service, Surveying, Architecture, Mineral Development, Meteorology, Agriculture, Fishing, Forestry, Urban Planning, Marine Office.

Essential For

Trinity – Geography (H4) accepted as meeting additional requirement for Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Chemical Sciences; Geography and Geoscience; and Physical Sciences.

UCD – Geography accepted as meeting additional requirements for Science.



HOME ECONOMICS

Home Economics focuses on the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills and attitudes that will enable students to take control of their own lives at present and in the future, whether that be in the home, in further education, in the world of work, or other life situations.

The wide range of learning experiences to which the students are exposed will allow them to be flexible and adaptable in the changing situations of modern life. Topics studied in the course include:

Course Content

Food Management – Food Science and Nutrition, Irish Diet, Microbiology, Food Safety and Hygiene, Food Preparation and Cooking Processes, Meal Planning and Preparation, Sensory Analysis.

Resource Management and Consumer Studies – Family Resource Management, Household Finance, Technology, Housing, Consumer Studies.

Social Studies – Family in Society, Family as a Caring Unit, Marriage, Family Law.

Elective – Social Studies

Examination Structure – Food Studies Practical Journal 20% and 80% final exam.

Career Links

Home Economics Teaching, Food Science, Food Technology, Food Business, Culinary Arts, Environmental Health Officer, Hospitality Manager, Food Agencies, Textile Designer, Social Worker, Nursing, Food Business, Bar Management, Child Care, Tourism, Social Worker, Special Needs Education, Health Care Management.

Essential For

St. Angela's – Subject required to study Home Economics and meets additional requirements for all Home Economics education courses.
TU Dublin – Accepted as meeting additional requirements for studying Ophthalmic Dispensing; and Food Science and Management.



MUSIC

Leaving Certificate Music provides continuity and progression in the skills acquired in Junior Certificate Music. The subject promotes the development of music creativity and performance and helps students build confidence and self expression.

Course Content

Music is a largely practical subject. Students can play any instrument and/or sing for the performing element of course, meaning 50% of the exam is complete before the final exam in June.

Examination Structure:

- 50% Performing OR 25% Performing and 25% Music Technology
- 50% final exam – 25% for composing and 25% for listening.

Career Links

Composing, Performance, Teaching, Live Sound and Lighting, Music Technology, Sound Engineering, Occupational Therapy, SEN education, Radio and Television Broadcasting, Media Communications, Theatre and Drama, Music Therapy.

Essential For

DCU – H4 required to study Religion and Music education.

UL – H5 required to study Music through Arts.

Pontifical University, Maynooth – H5 required to study Music through Arts.

Leaving Certificate Music would be an advantage to any student hoping to pursue the study of Music after second level as most Music courses have an audition/interview process.



ART

In Leaving Certificate Art, students develop key transferrable skills, such as time management, project management, organisation, problem solving and creative and critical thinking. These skills are in high demand in the labour market.

Course Content

The project is worth 50% of the final mark and is carried out in school time over a period of 12 weeks in 6th year. The student is at the heart of the process, they identify and research their own ideas, make decisions and submit their individual work with primary resources. The focus is on the process, not the end product.

Examination Structure:

- 62.5% Practical – 50% project and 12.5% life drawing exam
- 37.5% Art History final exam

Career Links

Advertising, Art Teacher, Multimedia, Gallery and Museum work, Graphic Designer, Fashion, Furniture Design, Photographer, Architecture.

Leaving Certificate Art is beneficial to any student who wishes to pursue Art after second level. These courses usually require a Portfolio which will be assessed as part of the admission process.

Essential For

Art OR DCG is an additional requirement in the following:
National College of Art and Design – All courses.
Letterkenny IT – Animation; Fashion with Promotion; and Graphic and Digital Design.
WIT – Design; Visual Art.



CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

Construction Studies aims to introduce pupils to the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and practices; through theoretical study and integrated practical projects. Theoretical topics include:

Course Content

Construction theory and drawing, development of buildings, superstructures, services and external works.

Examination Structure: 50% Practical (25% Project and 25% Practical exam) and 50% final exam.

Career Links

Materials and Architectural Technology Teacher, Architecture, Interior Design, Wood Technology, Design, Crafting, Carpentry, Technological and Apprenticeship courses.

Essential For

TU Dublin – H4 in Technology subject required for Architectural Technology, Construction Studies meets this criteria.

GMIT – H5 in Construction OR DCG for DCG and Construction education.

UL – Construction meets additional subject requirement criteria for Technology Management; Product Design and Technology; Aeronautical Engineering; Construction Management and Engineering; Woodwork Education; Engineering Education; Chemical and Biomedical Engineering; Engineering; Electronic and Computer Engineering.



ENGINEERING

Engineering students study a wide range of mechanical engineering processes, materials and technological applications along with the development of practical skills, resourcefulness and creativity. The following topics are covered on the Engineering course:

Course Content

Health & Safety, Classification and origin of materials, Material Testing, Manufacturing with Polymers, Machining, Mechanisms, Welding, CAD, Design, Problem Solving.

Examination Structure: 50% Practical and 50% final exam

Career Links

Engineering, Teacher, Mechanic, Welder, Fitter, Architecture, Design, Technological and Apprenticeship courses, Product Design, Construction Management.

TU Dublin – H4 in Technology subject required for Architectural Technology, Engineering meets this criteria. It also meets additional subject requirements for Science; Science with Nanotechnology; Physics Technology, Physics with Energy and Environment; Physics with Medical Physics and Bioengineering; and Ophthalmic Dispensing.

Essential For

UL – Engineering meets additional subject requirement criteria for Technology Management; Product Design and Technology; Aeronautical Engineering; Construction Management and Engineering; Woodwork Education; Engineering Education; Chemical and Biomedical Engineering; Engineering; Electronic and Computer Engineering.



DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

DCG builds on the foundation of skills students learn in Junior Certificate Technical Graphics. Students who choose this subject develop a range of communication skills that will encourage students to express their creativity in a practical and imaginative way.

Course Content

Students will study a variety of plane and descriptive geometry, such as projection systems, conic sections, lines and planes, intersection and development of surfaces.

Examination Structure:

60% final exam

40% design and computer graphics project based in Solidworks.

Career Links

Architecture, Interior Design, Naval Architect, Draftsperson, Civil Engineer, IT Technician, Marine Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Scientist, Teacher.

TU Dublin – H4 in Technology subject required for Architectural Technology, DCG meets this criteria.

GMIT – H5 in Construction OR DCG required for DCG Education

Essential For

Art OR DCG is an additional requirement in the following:

National College of Art and Design – All courses.

Letterkenny IT – Animation; Fashion with Promotion; and Graphic and Digital Design.

WIT – Design; Visual Art.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (LCPE)

Theoretical Section:

Strand 1 Towards optimum performance

1. Learning and improving skill and technique
2. Physical and psychological demands of performance
3. Structures, strategies, roles and conventions
4. Planning for optimum performance

Strand 2 Contemporary issues in physical activity

5. Promoting physical activity
6. Ethics and fair play
7. Physical activity and inclusion
8. Technology, media and sport
9. Gender and physical activity
10. Business and enterprise in physical activity and sport

Physical Section:

Students will select three physical activities from the following six categories:

Course Content

- Adventure activities – Orienteering, Kayaking, Rock-climbing, Sailing, Rowing/Sculling.
- Artistic and aesthetic activities – Artistic gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Dance.
- Athletics – Running, Throwing, Jumping.
- Aquatics – Lifesaving, Survival swimming, Two swimming strokes, Water-polo, Synchronised Swimming.
- Games – Gaelic football, Hurling/Camogie, Rugby Union, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Netball, Olympic handball, Badminton, Tennis, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Handball, Squash, Cricket, Softball, Rounders.
- Personal Exercise and Fitness – Training, Aerobics, Spinning, Indoor Rowing, Weight Training, Core Stability, Circuit Training.

Examination Structure

Written Examination: 50%

Physical Activity Project: 20%

Performance Assessment: 30%



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (LCPE) CONT ...

Career Links

Physical Education Teaching, Sports Science, Leisure and Recreation, Sports Media and Journalism, Health and Fitness, Sports Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Sports Management and Coaching, and Sports Administration.

Essential For

TU Dublin – H4 in Technology subject required for Architectural Technology, Construction Studies meets this criteria.

GMIT – H5 in Construction OR DCG for DCG and Construction education.

PE meets the science requirement in UL for the following courses at O3/H7:

- Sport and Exercise Science
- Physiotherapy



Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

WHAT IS THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME?

LCVP is the Leaving Certificate Established with an add-on programme. The add-on programme consists of two short courses, called Link Modules.

Link Module 1 - Preparation for the World of Work.

This module is designed to provide students with an insight into the world of work with opportunities to develop interpersonal, communication and organisational skills. Students complete one week of work experience/work shadowing. Students prepare a C.V. and complete a career investigation into a career that interests them.

Link Module 2- Enterprise Education.

Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on-site and in the classroom, plan and undertake activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

These Link modules count for CAO points.



Points Scoring for LCVP Link Modules

LCVP Link Modules are graded on a different system to other exam subjects. The exam is sat at Common Level and points are awarded as follows :-

LCVP LINK MODULES GRADE	PERCENTAGE	POINTS
Distinction	80-100%	66
Merit	65-79%	46
Pass	50-64%	28



Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

LCVP focuses on transferable skills such as CV creation; report writing and analysis skills. It actively fosters student work skills and ensures that pupils are ready for the world outside of the school place, whether they progress to further education or to the world of work.

In Fifth Year, each student has one class period per week. They carry out many different activities in these classes. The students must complete a typed portfolio during this year, recording these activities.

There are 6 different portfolio items.

- C.V.
- Career Investigation
- Summary Report
- Enterprise/Action Plan
- Recorded Interview
- Work Experience Diary

This work is completed under the guidance of the teacher, who monitors the students work and signs an Examination Commission document stating that the work is the students own. Only portfolio items completed under the supervision of the teacher can be entered for the Leaving Certificate. This portfolio is worth 60% of the overall LCVP marks in the Leaving Certificate.

This is a compulsory subject in Fifth & Sixth year.



Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

In Sixth Year, each student has one class period per week.

This class is spent preparing the students for the LCVP exam, which is in early May. This exam is worth 40% of the overall LCVP marks in the Leaving Certificate.

HOW USEFUL IS THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME?

Approximately 16,000 Students participate nationally in the LCVP Exam.

81% of these students use it as their sixth subject when calculating their CAO points.







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**Bord Oideachais
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Kerry Education
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