

Leaving Certificate Programme & Subject Option Choices



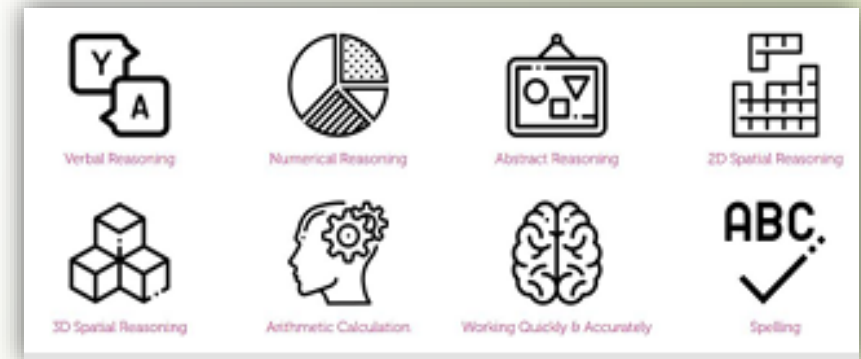
Parents/Guardians of TY 2026

Topics

- Influences on subject choice
- Leaving Certificate Established (LCE)
- Other Commitments
 - Projects
 - Orals
 - Portfolio and Auditions
 - HPAT
- Options after school
- Entry process to HE
- How to best choose subjects

Influences on Subject Choice

- Aptitude tests measure natural ability across 7 domains.
- Interest tests measure areas of interest and match these with career areas.
- Work experience in TY shapes and informs thoughts about a career in a particular area.
- Work experience brings a fresh perspective on what I like and do not like.
- Virtual work experiences in Law, NRH, TUH, Mini Med.
- Subject presentation from teachers in subject areas.
- TY Abbott Internship, 2-week work experience in Business, Finance and IT for 6 Blackrock ETSS students.



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- Current 5th Year option groupings
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LCE

- Seven Examinable subjects
 - Compulsory subjects:
 - Maths
 - English
 - Irish
 - Four subject groupings
- Non examinable subjects
 - PE
 - SPHE
 - Ethical Ed
 - Guidance

Those subjects again

➤ Compulsory

- English
- Irish
- Maths

➤ Optional

- Spanish
- P.E.
- Business
- History
- Geography
- Accounting
- Computer Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Music
- Art
- DCG

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Additional assessment components (AAC) by Subject

Also Called Projects

Subject	Percentage
Business	40%
Biology	40%
Chemistry	40%
Geography	40%
PE	50%

Project topics released Jan
of 5th Year

Submitted Feb – April of 6th
Year

Orals & Practicals

- Orals
 - Take place during the Easter Holidays
 - Subjects
 - Irish (40%)
 - Spanish (25%)
- Art & DCG Practical
 - Art practical 50% + 20% exam is before or after Easter Holidays
 - DCG project 40% in February
 - History 20% research report in March
 - Computer Science 30% course work project in March

Portfolios & Performances

- Some courses require a portfolio.
- Examples include
 - Art
 - Architecture (TUD)
 - Illustration
 - Music
 - Drama
- As an example, half the IADT courses require a portfolio.

HPAT

- Medicine requires a separate aptitude test called the HPAT (Health Professionals Admissions Test)
- Exam is in February
 - 2.5 hours multiple choice assessment
- Significant prep work needed

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Options After Leaving Certificate



- Subject choices affect your higher education opportunities more than your further education or apprenticeship opportunities.

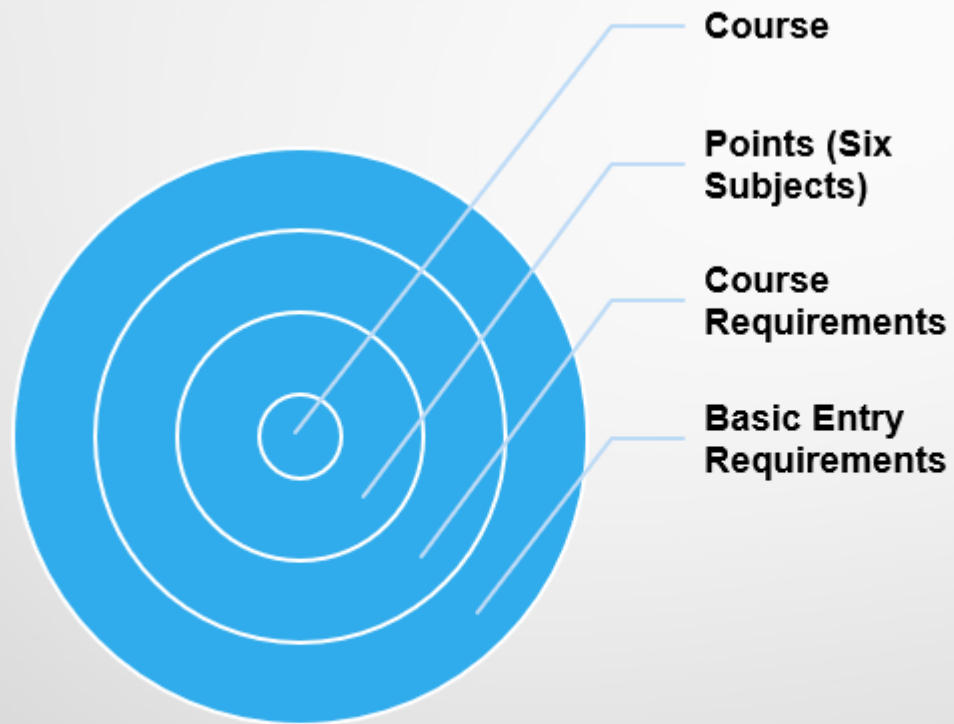
Higher Education

- Universities
- Technological Universities
- Institutes of Technology
- Primary teacher training colleges
- Art Colleges
- Private Colleges (Griffith, DBS)

Colleges of Further Education

- Blackrock Institute of Further Education
- Dun Laoghaire Institute of Further Education
- Stillorgan College of Further Education
- Sallynoggin Institute of Further Education
- Bray Institute Further Education

Higher Education (e.g. Universities, Institutes of Technology, Technological Universities)



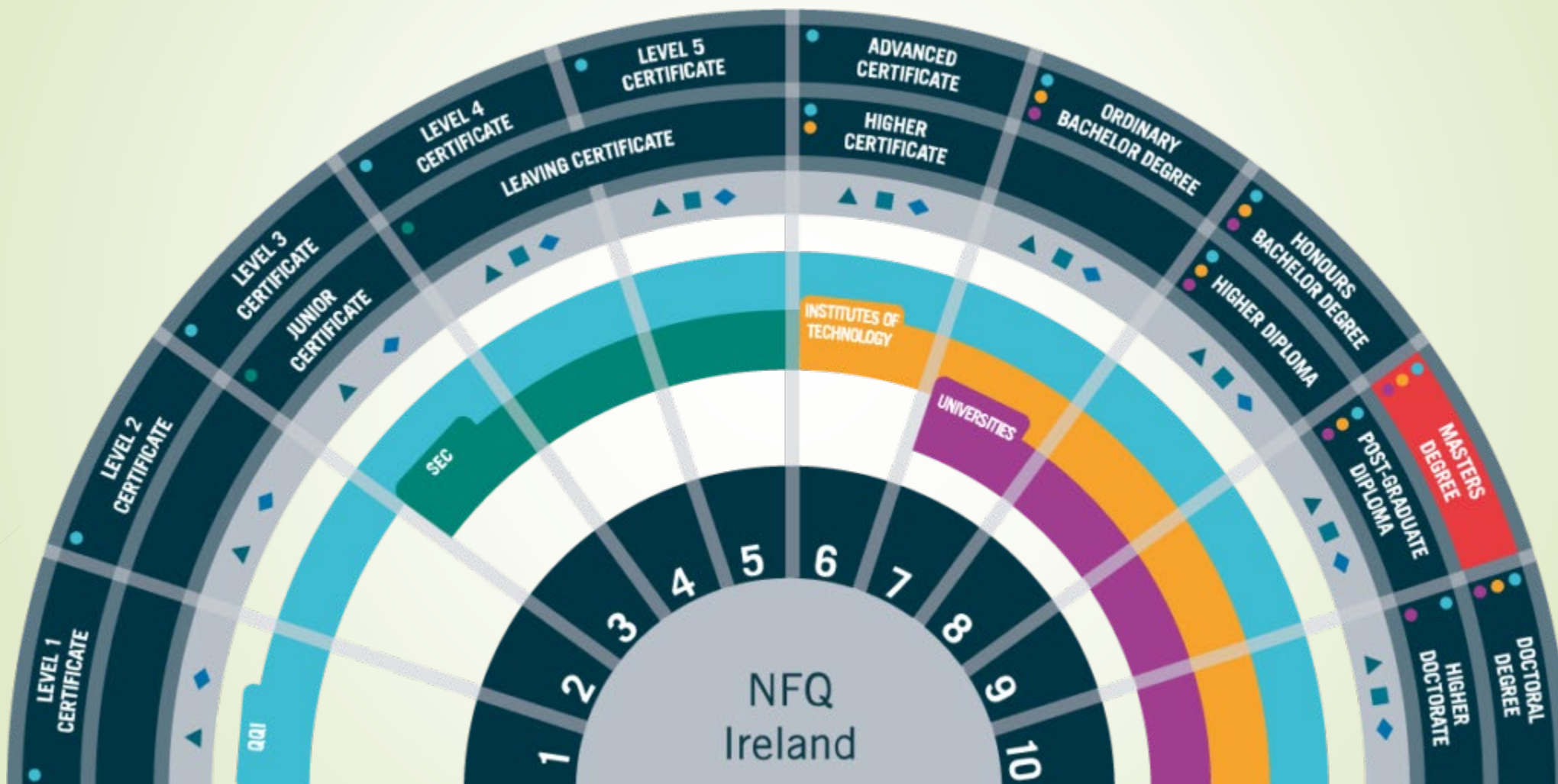
Grading System

Grade	Percentage	Points	Points for Maths
H1	90-100	100	125
H2	80-89	88	113
H3	70-79	77	102
H4	60-69	66	91
H5	50-59	56 (01)	81
H6	40-49	46 (02)	71

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National Framework of Qualifications



Entry Process to HE Level 8

- There are minimum Entry Requirements known as Matriculation Requirements
- They vary by college and course
 - e.g. NUI
 - 2H5 and 4O6
 - O6 Irish (unless exemption)
 - O6 English
 - Most courses require an O6 in a modern foreign language.
- Individual courses have minimum requirements also
 - E.g. UCD
 - O6 Maths essential for all courses except Law, Social Science and Arts
 - Engineering: H4 in Maths, and O6 in one science subject
- Points – Calculated from best 6 subjects
- Interview – Aptitude Test – Portfolio – Performance Test

Entry requirements are complex and vary by course and college. As you can see from the examples here.

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 - Examples of mandatory subject requirements
 - Qualifax: A Tool to understand course requirements
 - Filing out Subject Choice form on VS Ware

Examples of Mandatory Subjects #1

- **Two Science Subjects – TCD**

e.g. Physiotherapy
Medicine
Dental Science
Pharmacy

- Some of the above courses require a H3, H4 or H5, some accept Maths, Applied Maths and Geography.

Check details carefully

Examples of Mandatory Subjects #2

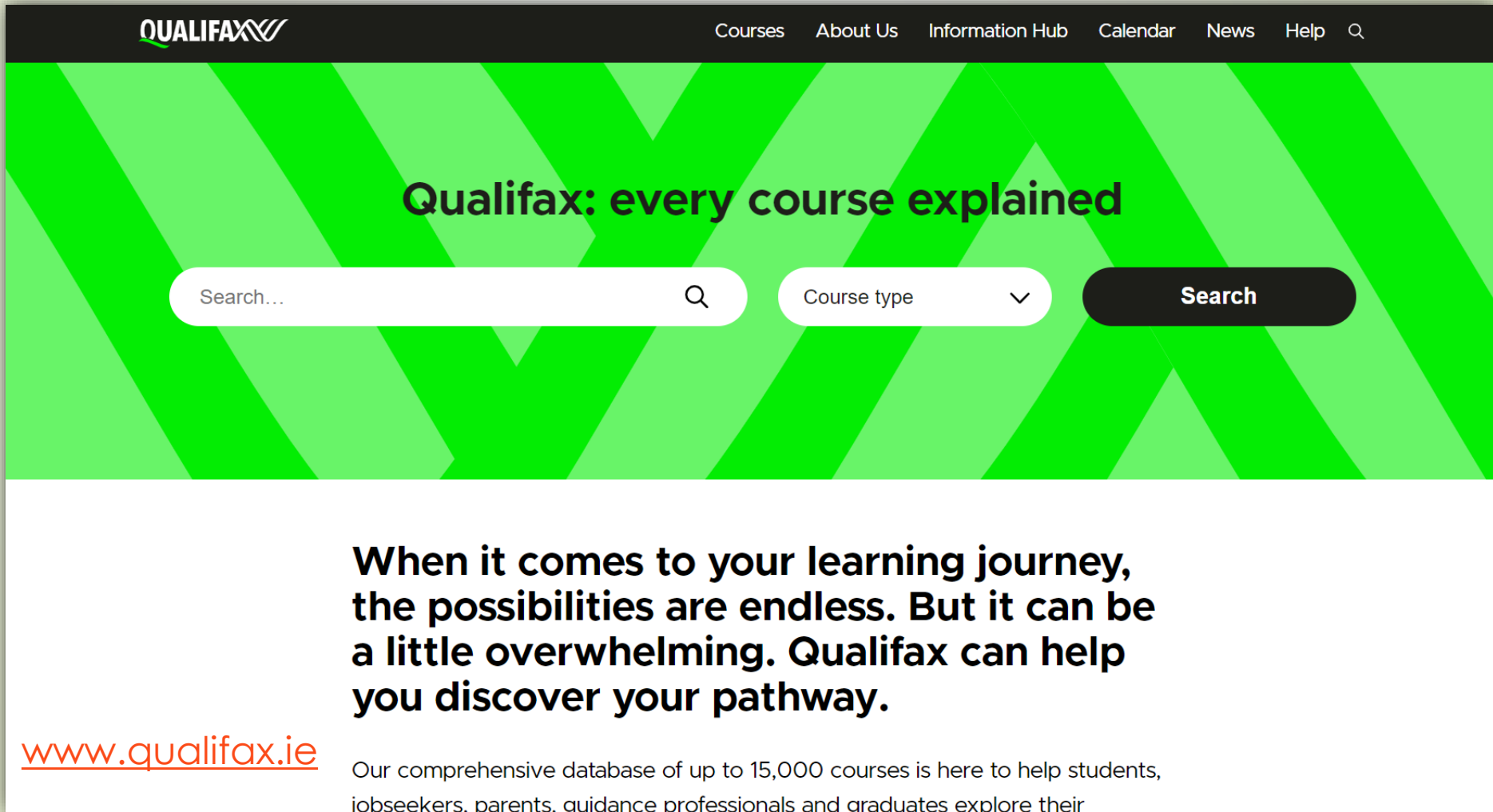
- **Chemistry:**
Veterinary in UCD – H5
Human Nutrition & Dietetics in TUD – H4
- **Biology/Home Economics:**
Beauty Therapy in Colleges of FE -06
- **Nursing:**
– O6/H7 in any Science Subject
- **Primary School Teaching:**
- H4 in Irish



Qualifax:

A Tool to understand course requirements

Qualifax: A useful Guide to Mandatory Subjects



The image shows a screenshot of the Qualifax website. The header is black with the Qualifax logo on the left and navigation links (Courses, About Us, Information Hub, Calendar, News, Help) on the right. The main content area has a green background with a white chevron pattern. It features the text "Qualifax: every course explained" and a search bar with a "Search" button. Below this, there is a white box with a message about the learning journey and the website's purpose.

QUALIFAX

Courses About Us Information Hub Calendar News Help

Qualifax: every course explained

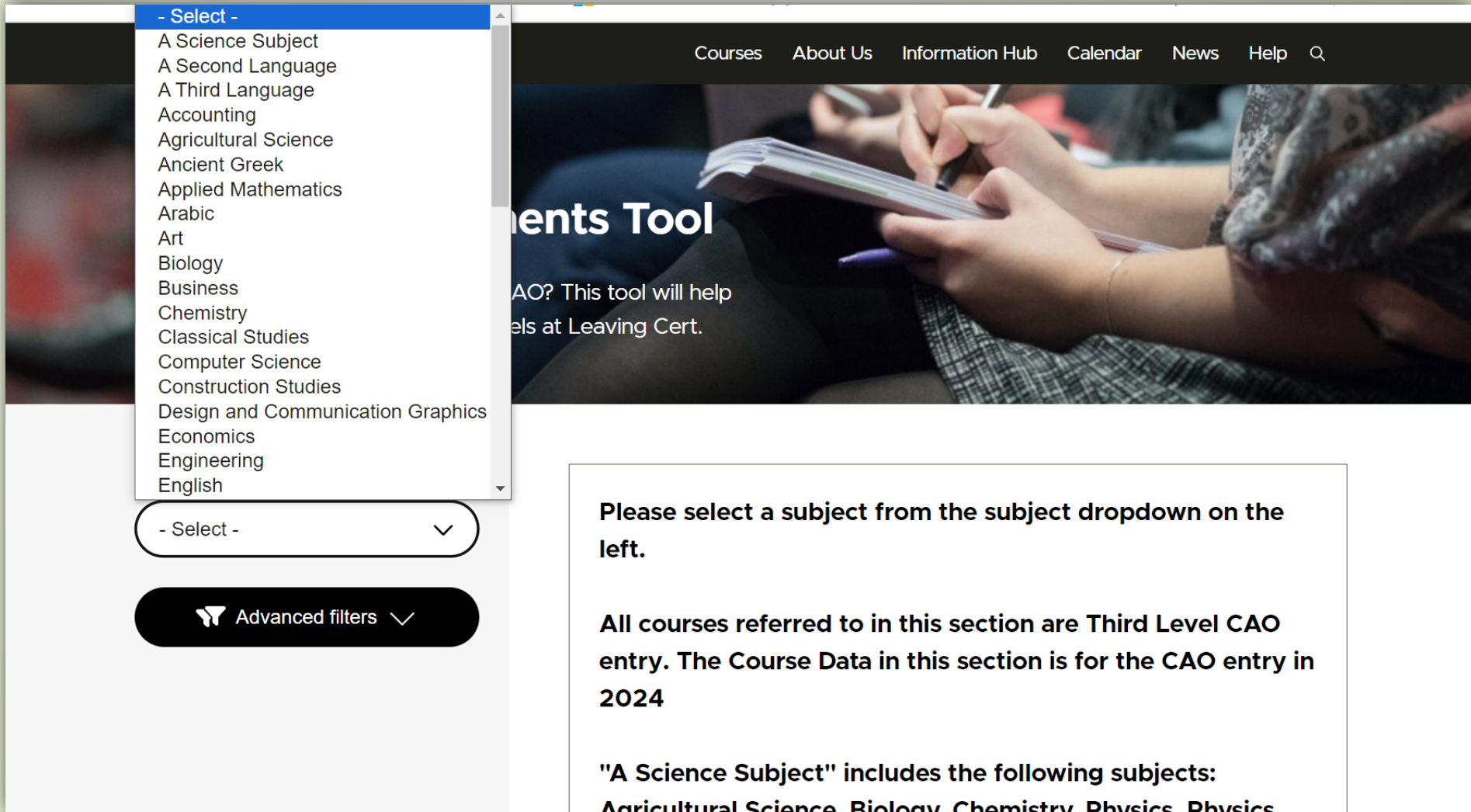
Search... Course type Search

When it comes to your learning journey, the possibilities are endless. But it can be a little overwhelming. Qualifax can help you discover your pathway.

www.qualifax.ie

Our comprehensive database of up to 15,000 courses is here to help students, jobseekers, parents, guidance professionals and graduates explore their

Qualifax: A useful Guide to Mandatory Subjects



The screenshot displays the Qualifax website interface. On the left, a subject dropdown menu is open, listing various subjects. Below the menu is a search bar and an 'Advanced filters' button. The main content area features a 'Subjects Tool' section with a background image of hands writing in a notebook. The text in this section explains the tool's purpose for Third Level CAO entry in 2024 and lists subjects included under 'A Science Subject'.

Subjects Tool

AO? This tool will help
els at Leaving Cert.

Please select a subject from the subject dropdown on the left.

All courses referred to in this section are Third Level CAO entry. The Course Data in this section is for the CAO entry in 2024

"A Science Subject" includes the following subjects:
Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics

Qualifax: A useful Guide to Mandatory Subjects



CoursesAbout UsInformation HubCalendarNewsHelp

Subject Requirements Tool

Planning to make application to the CAO? This tool will help you choose the right subjects and levels at Leaving Cert.

Subject

Chemistry

☐ 6 courses definitely require Chemistry

☐ 204 courses may require Chemistry

☐ 1355 courses do not require Chemistry

Total: 1565

Advanced filters

Please select one of the 3 categories on the left.

All courses referred to in this section are Third Level CAO entry. The Course Data in this section is for the CAO entry in 2024

"A Science Subject" includes the following subjects: Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics and Chemistry.

"A Second Language" includes the following subjects: Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Irish, Italian,

Qualifax: A useful Guide to Mandatory Subjects



[Courses](#)
[About Us](#)
[Information Hub](#)
[Calendar](#)
[News](#)
[Help](#)


Subject

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☒ 6 courses definitely require Chemistry

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 **Advanced filters** 

Courses that definitely require Chemistry

Higher Education CAO
Level 8 NFQ
NFQ Type: Major
CK702

Dentistry

 University College Cork

 Cork City

 CAO Points: 625

Higher Education CAO
Level 8 NFQ
NFQ Type: Major
TU870

Human Nutrition & Dietetics - Grangegorman

 TU Dublin - Technological University Dublin

 Grangegorman

 CAO Points: 556

Higher Education CAO
Level 8 NFQ
NFQ Type: Major
CK707

Undecided?

Everyone takes

- Maths
- English
- Irish

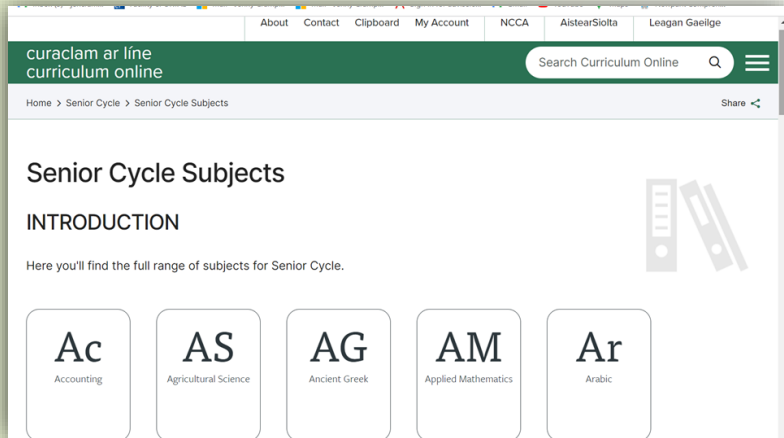
We recommend

- *A foreign language*
- *Consider a Science*
- Two more subjects taking into account your strengths, interests and third level course requirements.



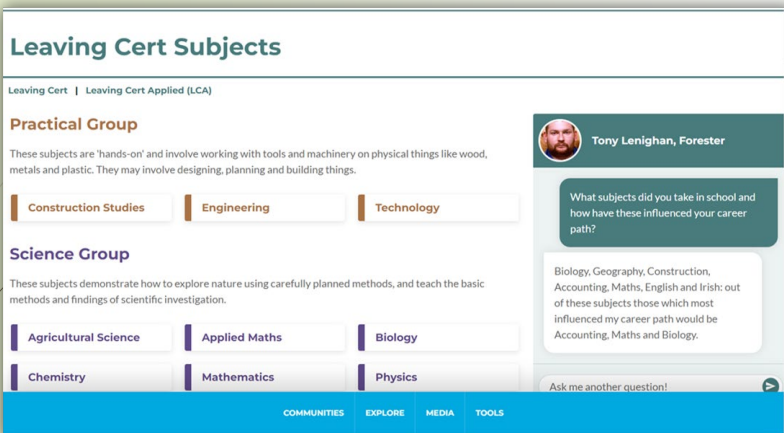
Additional Resources

Useful websites for Further Information

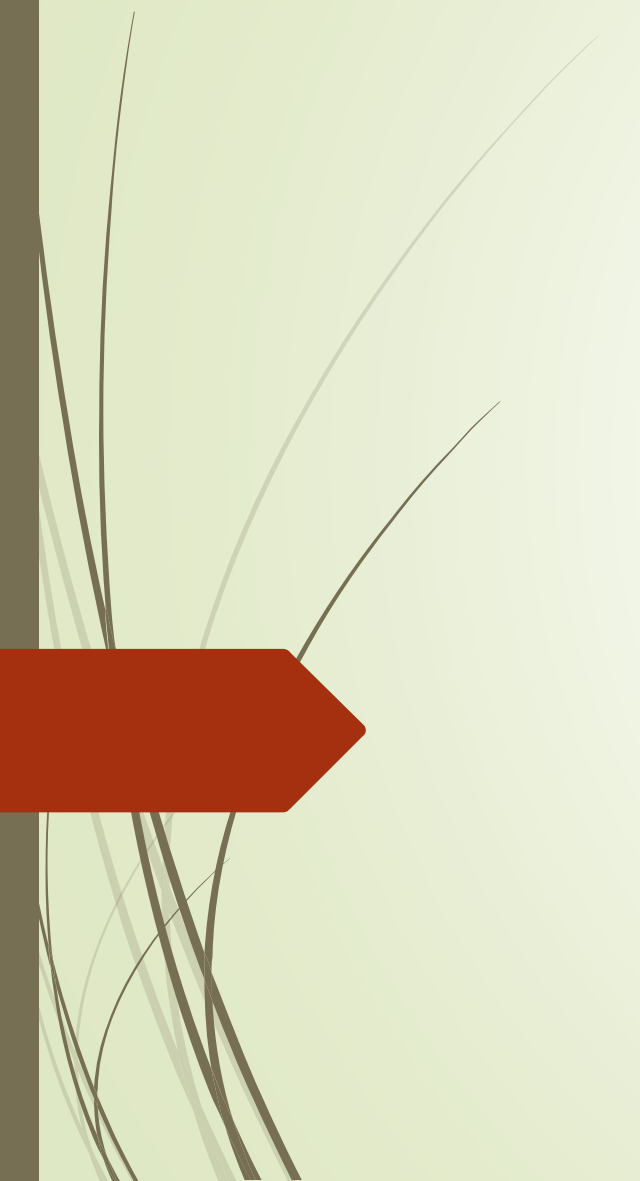


<https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Senior-cycle/Senior-Cycle-Subjects>

https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php



www.cao.ie
www.qualifax.ie



Q and A

Option Blocks Next Year

Blocks	
Option 1	• Biology • Computer Science • P.E. • Accounting
Option 2	• Business • Geography • <u>Spanish</u>
Option 3	• Art • DCG • History
Option 4	• Chemistry • <u>Spanish</u> • Music

Steps To Make Your Choices On VSWare

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](#)

Please make your subject choices, ranking each subject in each block along your preference. e.g. If a block has "Business, Music, and Graphics", you would rank Graphics 1 for your first choice, Music 2 for your second choice, and Business 3 for your third choice. Do this for all subsequent subject blocks. Please note that depending on class sizes, a child's first preference can not be guaranteed, with them moving to their 2nd option should the first option be full. Where entries are late, their preferences will be taken into account after everyone else has made their choices.

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

Closing date: 21/10/2021

Business, Music, Graphics

Preference	Subject Choice
1	Graphics
2	Business Studies
3	Music