

# Climate Action and Sustainable Development

Leaving Certificate Climate Action and Sustainable Development is an interdisciplinary and solutions focused subject which enables students to examine complex sustainability challenges including the climate crisis, which has been introduced as part of a redeveloped senior cycle.



## What is Climate Action and Sustainable Development?

Climate Action and Sustainable Development is a subject where students develop their capacity for informed and meaningful action for a just and sustainable world.

The subject aims to support students in:

- building their understanding of a number of core concepts and principles
- applying their learning in exploring, designing, and taking informed action
- making informed decisions based on scientific evidence and grounded in human rights and principles
- considering different perspectives and analysing the root causes of global issues
- responding reflectively to environmental challenges and opportunities
- realising the many benefits of place-based and outdoor learning.

## What do students learn about?

There are four interconnected strands in Climate Action and Sustainable Development



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## **Strand One: Earth Systems, Life & Environment**

Students learn that a healthy environment is vital to sustainability. They interrogate the evidence of environmental damage and loss caused by human influence (systemic, economic, political, historical) on natural systems.

## **Strand Two: People, Power & Place**

Students have an opportunity to explore our place in climate action and sustainable development and the constantly evolving relationship between people and place.

## **Strand Three: Global Connections**

Students explore global thinking and actions. They explore climate justice in the context of transnational efforts to address climate loss, damage, and ecological debt.

## **Strand Four: Applied Learning Tasks**

This strand emphasises the importance of students developing their ability to think and act sustainably. Students plan and carry out tasks in small groups, which they deem relevant to them or their peers, their local community, or to society more broadly.

Over two years, students complete four applied learning tasks (ALTs). They are:

- engaging in dialogue about climate action and sustainable development
- researching action
- designing a nature-based experience
- organising action

## **What is the Action Project?**

The Action Project allows students to build on their experiences and demonstrate learning related to the learning outcomes of the ALTs

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strand, as well as learning outcomes from the other strands as appropriate to the brief.

Students engage in an action of their choosing that relates to a topic within the brief, issued annually by the State Examinations Commission (SEC). They research and define an issue related to a topic within the brief and identify ways others have engaged with a similar issue. They will use this learning to plan, design and carry out an action to address the issue.

## How is Climate Action and Sustainable Development assessed?

Climate Action and Sustainable Development is assessed by the State Examinations Commission. There are two parts to the assessment:

1. Written Examination - This exam counts for 60% of the marks. It is offered at both Higher and Ordinary levels.
2. Action Project (Additional Assessment Component - AAC) - This project counts for 40% of the marks.

The Action Project is designed to naturally integrate into everyday teaching and learning in classrooms. Through their study, students develop knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that will support them in the completion of the Action Project.

The brief is published annually by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) in term 2 of year 1. Both the written exam and the Action Project are set and marked by the State Examinations Commission.

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Action Project	40%	Common brief
Written examination	60%	Higher and ordinary level

*Overview of assessment for certification*

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## At a glance

- Real-world and applied learning in the classroom and other settings
- Minimum 180 class hours over 2 years
- Four Applied Learning Tasks
- Action Project
- SEC Examinations:
  - Written Exam – 60%
  - Additional Assessment Component (Action Project) – 40%

