

LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECT OPTIONS 2026

MS. CLARE MATTHEWS
GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR



The best six grades, achieved in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate, is used to calculate a points score for entry purposes to Higher Education courses in the R.O. of Ireland.

Along with getting the points needed, applicants must meet the required grade in specified subjects.



DID YOU KNOW?

25 bonus points are awarded in Higher Level Maths if you achieve a H6 or above!

Leaving Certificate Points System

Percentage	Honours Level Grade	Honours Level Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Ordinary Level Points
90% - 100%	H1	100	01	56
80% - 89%	H2	88	02	46
70% - 79%	H3	77	03	37
60% - 69%	H4	66	04	28
50% - 59%	H5	56	05	20
40% - 49%	H6	46	06	12
30% - 39%	H7	37	07	0
0% - 29%	H8	0	08	0

No grade below 40% will be accepted for minimum requirements

Minimum Entry Requirements:

NUI Colleges: (Level 8 Courses) Present 6 subjects, 2 of which must be at grade H5 min & 4 others at grade O6 min. Required: English & Irish & a Modern Language (unless otherwise stated). Maths: if the course requires it.

NUI Colleges:

- UCD
- Maynooth Uni
- UCC
- RCSI
- University of Galway
- NCAD

Minimum Entry Requirements:

- **Technological Universities: (Level 8 Courses)** Present 6 subjects 2 of which must be at grade H5 min & 4 others at grade O6 min. Required: English & Maths.
- **Technological Universities: (level 6 / 7 Courses)** Present 5 subjects: O6/H7 Required: Maths & English
- **Trinity College: (Level 8 Courses)** Present 6 subjects, 3 of which must be at grade H5 or above. Required: Maths & English or Irish. Modern Language: if the course requires it.
- **DCU/UL: (Level 8 Courses)** Present 6 subjects, 2 of which must be at grade H5. Required: Maths, English or Irish: O6/H7. Modern Language: if the course requires it.

IRISH EXEMPTION

1. Students not born in the Republic of Ireland or educated for an extended period outside Ireland may apply to NUI for an exemption from the Irish language requirement.
2. Students with specific learning difficulties affecting language acquisition (dyslexia) may also apply for an NUI Irish exemption.

Modern Foreign Languages



Third Language Requirements for Higher Ed. Colleges

NUI Colleges -require Irish and a 3rd language for some of their courses. (check courses on an individual basis)

Trinity and UL require 2nd language (Irish or modern language)

*Applicants to the cadetship in the defence forces require Irish a 3rd language.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AVAILABLE

Business	Accounting*	Economics	Community, Life and Work
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	
French *	German *	Spanish *	
Art *	Music *	Home Ec.	
Construction	Engineering	DCG *	
History	Geography	Politics and Society	

Other languages for the Leaving Certificate examination not taught in the school include:

Latvian, Romanian, Slovenian, Modern Greek, Finnish, Estonian, Slovakian, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Swedish, Czech, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Danish, Dutch, Croatian, Maltese, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian & Russian.

SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING NON CURRICULAR LANGUAGES

What are Leaving Certificate Saturday Classes?

Languages Connect run classes in lesser-taught languages to support students around Ireland to prepare for the Leaving Certificate exams. These classes are funded by the Department of Education and Youth and are free of charge for students.

Who are these classes for?

The classes are for Leaving Certificate students who cannot access lesser-taught languages as a Leaving Certificate subject in their school. Students should register the spring/summer before they begin fifth year.



When do the classes run?

Classes are run on Saturdays during the school term time and cover the Leaving Certificate course over a two-year period.

To access registration details and FAQs, click in the language that interests you below:

Chinese

Japanese

Lithuanian

Polish

Portuguese

Romanian

Russian

General FAQs

<https://languagesconnect.ie/language-classes/>



The following study areas require a science subject:

- Physiotherapy
- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Health Science
- Physics degrees
- Nursing
- Veterinary
- Other Health: Dentistry/Dietetics/Optomety
- Some Engineering courses
- Science education
- Some PE education courses

Samples of Degree courses that need Laboratory Science subjects are as follows:

Dentistry - TWO Science Subjects - (Chemistry and one other)

Nursing - Any ONE Science Subject

Veterinary - ONE Science Subject

Medicine - ONE or TWO Science Subjects

SCIENCE SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

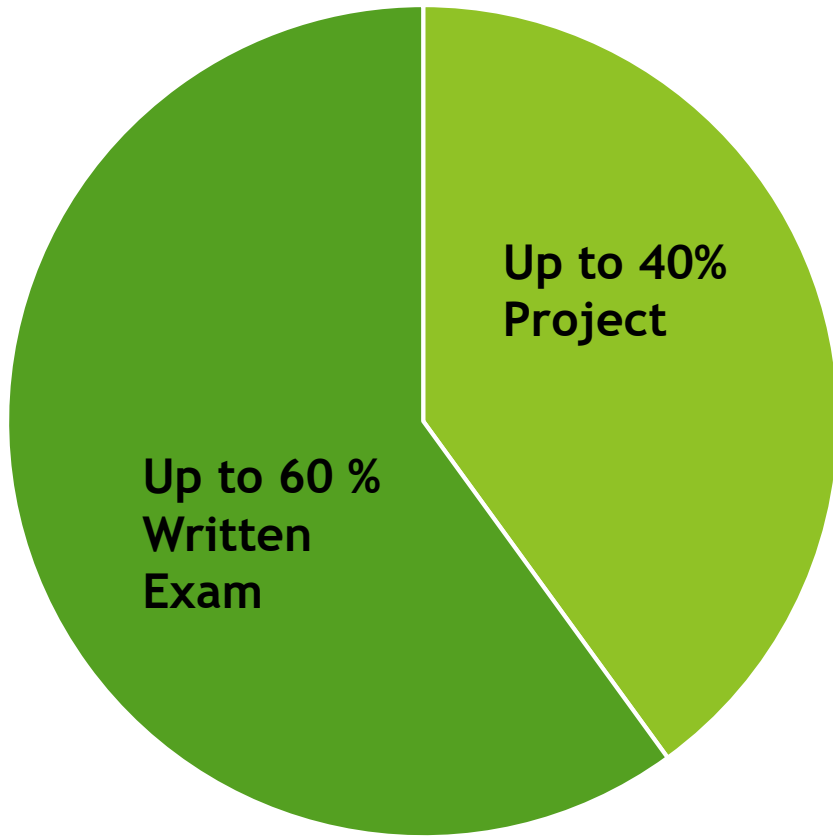
Business	Accounting*	Economics	Community, Life and Work
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	
French *	German *	Spanish *	
Art *	Music *	Home Ec.	
Construction	Engineering	DCG *	
History	Geography	Politics and Society	

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS AVAILABLE

Business	Accounting*	Economics	Community, Life and Work
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	
French *	German *	Spanish *	
Art *	Music *	Home Ec.	
Construction	Engineering	DCG *	
History	Geography	Politics and Society	

RE-DEVELOPED LEAVING CERT

Assessment Structure



■ Investigative Study ■ Written Exam ■ ■

From Sept 2025

- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Business

From Sept 2027

- DCG
- Home Ec.
- History
- Music
- Accounting

From Sept 2026

- Construction
- Engineering
- Geography

Junior Cert Subject	Leaving Cert Subject
History	History
Geography	Geography
SPHE	Politics and Society
Business	Business
	Accountancy
	Economics
	Life, Community and Work
Engineering	Engineering
Wood Technology	Construction
Graphics	DCG
Home Economics	Home Economics
Music	Music
Science	Biology
	Physics
	Chemistry
Art	Art
Spanish	Spanish
German	German
French	French



St Conleth's Community College

Senior Cycle Options Booklet



Table of Contents

Transition Year

Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

Modern Foreign Languages

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Art

Music

Geography

History

Accounting

Business

Economics

Home Economics (Social & Scientific)

Engineering

Construction Studies

Design & Communication Graphics (DCG)

LCVP

The Leaving Certificate (Applied)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING WHEN CHOOSING SUBJECTS

Interest

Aptitude

Career
Needs

DO

- ✓ Choose subjects you enjoy and come naturally to you
- ✓ Choose subjects you were strong at in Junior Cycle
- ✓ Choose subjects you know you need for your chosen career
- ✓ Talk to the teachers and students in the senior cycle subjects
- ✓ Look at the contents page of the textbooks for that subject
- ✓ Make an appointment with the guidance counsellor

Avoid

- Selecting a subject that you did not study in Junior Cycle (some exceptions - consult with subject teachers)
- Selecting a subject without finding out more about it
- Putting down a subject because your friend is selecting it
- Choosing a subject because you assume you will have a certain teacher
- Choosing a subject because you think it will be easy
- Making a last-minute decision about your subject choice

