Junior Cycle Subject Options



www.trionoide.ie

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL / FOCAL ÓN bPRÍOMHÓIDE

A Thuistí / Chaomhnóiri agus Scoláirí

The Junior Cycle examination is a very important milestone for most young adults. The first step in obtaining an excellent Junior Cycle is for each individual to choose subjects most suited to themselves.

We hope you find this booklet a valuable source of information and guidance.

As a matter of policy we will make every effort with the resources available to offer students the subjects of their choice.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Edward Cronin
Príomhoide

Together we respect one another, value learning, nurture community and pursue excellence.
Léirímíd meas ar a chéile, cuirimid luach ar an bhfoghlaim, tugamid tús áite dár bpobal, tugamid í dtreo na foirfeachta de shíor.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains information on choosing subjects for Junior Cycle.
It contains information that will help you to choose your subjects wisely.

Information is provided about the content of optional Junior Cycle subjects.
We have given some examples of career areas linked to the various subjects.

In choosing your subjects for the Junior Cycle, you also need to consider your options on progressing to the Senior Cycle.

We wish to thank all of the Subject teachers who provided the information on subject content for this booklet.

Guidance Department

ACHIEVING YOUR POTENTIAL IN THE JUNIOR CYCLE

The Junior Cycle requires a three year commitment to work and study from students.
The following guidelines are suggested for students.

Minimum Time	**Daily/Incl. Weekend**	**Total Weekly**
First Year	1½ hours	9 hours
Second Year	2 hours	12 hours
Third Year	3 hours	18 hours

EXAMINATION INFORMATION/EOLAS SCRÚDAITHE

Guide to levels

A – Ardleibhéal/Higher Level

G – Gnáthleibhéal/Ordinary Level

C – Comhleibhéal/Common Level

GRADE INTERPRETATION

Percentage range	Grade
85 or over	Distinction
70 but less than 85	Higher Merit
55 but less than 70	Merit
40 but less than 55	Achieved
20 but less than 40	Partially Achieved
Less than 20	Not Graded

Bonus marks are rewarded for completing examinations through the medium of Irish.

HOW MANY SUBJECTS WILL YOU STUDY FOR THE JUNIOR CYCLE?

You will study 10 subjects for the Junior Cycle Examinations

YOU MUST STUDY:

- Irish/Gaeilge
- English/Bearlá
- Maths/Mata
- Modern Foreign Language - French/Fraincis, or German/Gearmánis or Spanish/Spáinnis
- Religion/Creideamh
- Science/Eolaíocht
- History/Stair

YOU WILL ALSO CHOOSE 3 OTHER SUBJECTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- Visual Art/ Amharc Ealaín
- Business/ Staidéar
- Home Economics/ Eacnamaíocht Bhaile
- Music/ Ceol
- Engineering / Innealtóireacht
- Wood Technology/ Adhmadóireacht
- Graphics / Grafaic
- Geography/ Tíreolas

Subjects are offered through the medium of Irish to Students of Gaelscoil na Tríonóide where classes are viable. The core subjects of English, Irish and Mathematics are offered at Higher and Ordinary level.
All other Junior Cycle exam subjects are studied at Common level.

Students are also required to study the following NON EXAM subjects:

- Religious Education (non-exam)
- Wellbeing incorporating –
    - Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)
    - Physical Education (PE)
    - Civil, Social and Political Education (CSPE)
    - Guidance Related Learning
    - Communication Skills (incorporating Digital Literacy Skills).

Wellbeing

As part of the new Junior Cycle students will experience a new area of learning called Wellbeing. This will build on the work schools are already doing in support of students' wellbeing and will make it more visible to students. Through the Wellbeing programme students will gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills to enable them to protect and promote their own wellbeing and that of others.

HOW WILL YOU CHOOSE YOUR SUBJECTS FOR THE JUNIOR CYCLE?

1. Choose subjects you think you will like
2. Some subjects are essential for entry into particular colleges. Check the list of essential subjects required for specific third level courses. Consult websites such as www.careersportal.ie, www.qualifax.ie and college websites e.g. www.ucc.ie (University College Cork), www.mtu.ie (Munster Technological University), www.setu.ie (South East Technological University)
3. If you are uncertain about your future direction, choose a range of subjects which will keep your options open
4. Contact the School to arrange to speak to a Guidance Counsellor should you have a specific query.

In general, it is expected that if a student wishes to study a subject in Fifth Year they are required to have studied that subject at Junior Cycle Level. Outlined below is the range of subjects offered in the Junior Cycle and their corresponding subject(s) in the Senior Cycle.

JUNIOR CYCLE	SENIOR CYCLE
Irish/Gaeilge	Irish/Gaeilge
English	English
Mathematics	Mathematics
German/ French /Spanish	German/ French /Spanish
History	History
Geography	Geography
Science	Applied Mathematics
	Biology
	Chemistry
	Physics
	Agricultural Science
Business	Business Studies
	Economics
	Accounting
Music	Music
Art	Art
Wood Technology	Construction Studies
Engineering	Engineering
Graphics	Design & Comm. Graphics
Home Economics	Home Economics Scientific & Social
	Politics & Society
	Physical Education
	Religious Education
	Computer Science

WHERE CAN YOU GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

- Speak to your parents, older brothers and sisters, family members who may have studied these subjects before
- www.ncca.ie provides detailed information on subject descriptors and assessment components
  www.oide.ie provides information on changes to the Junior Cycle programme
- www.careersportal.ie, www.qualifax.ie both contain information on courses requiring specific subjects in the Leaving Certificate.

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

www.skool.ie
www.scoilnet.ie
www.ucc.ie
www.mtu.ie
www.setu.ie

Parents/Guardians are welcome to contact the School at **024-25836** to discuss any concerns.

VISUAL ART/AMHARC - EALAÍN



https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=44&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

One of the most exciting subjects you can study is Visual Art. You will see examples everywhere you look. It is part of what we are, the way we live and the things we do. The syllabus has a varied and interesting content. Students learn a variety of skills, including drawing, painting, design, 3D studies; sculpture, ceramics and model making.

In Visual Art, students build on the progress and skills they have already achieved in primary school in order to help them further improve. Students of the subject will develop the transversal skills, such as creativity, collaboration, ability to question, risk-assessment, problem identification, problem-solving and management of their own emotions; skills that form a natural learning mechanism that can enhance their own development. Students learn how best to use traditional and contemporary technologies for both creative and operational purposes. All these skills and dispositions are key to future learning in senior cycle, higher education and also in the world of work.

Assessment for Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Students will engage in two classroom based assessments in Visual Art. The first assessment will take place in year two and the second assessment in year three. They will consist of projects based on a theme which is developed through painting, design, craft and 3D studies.

Related Careers:

Architecture, Industrial Design, Art Curator, Product Design, Television, Film and Theatre Set Design, Art Teaching, Advertising, Artist, Graphic Designer, Painter and Decorator, Marketing, Sculptor, Interior Designer, Art Therapist, Multi-Media, Fashion Design, Video Games Design, Illustrator.

BUSINESS/STAIDÉAR GNÓ

https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=10&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

Business Studies informs students about the economic, financial and social factors that affect their lives. They are enabled to make informed decisions, to better manage their personal financial resources and to be adaptable, enterprising and financially literate.

Business Studies encourages students to develop skills for learning, skills for work and skills for life.

The new Business Studies syllabus aims to develop students' knowledge of business in everyday life at local, national and international level.

Content:

The syllabus is divided into three broad strands:

Personal Finance; Enterprise; Our Economy

Assessment for Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement :

1. CBA 1: Classroom – Based Assessment: Group work (Project): End of Second Year
2. CBA 2: Presentation of Findings: Individual work (Presentation): Beginning of Third Year

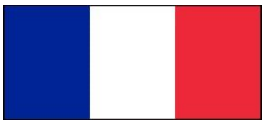
These assessments will be assessed (graded) as

Exceptional Above Expectations In line with Expectations Yet to meet Expectations

3. A written Assessment Task will be based on CBA2 and will be submitted to the SEC (State Examination Commission) for marking.
4. An externally assessed, State-Certified Examination at the end of Third Year, Common Level (2hour paper)

Related Careers:

Chartered/Certified/Cost and Management Accountant, Accounting Technician, Economist, Banker, Business Teacher/Lecturer, Taxation Consultant, Stock Broker, Auditor, Actuary, Business Manager/Administrator, Economic/Business Commentator/Journalist, Marketing Executive/Consultant, Insurance Agent/Broker, Solicitor, influencer.



FRENCH / FRAINCIS

https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=3&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

The benefits of studying a language are many: apart from university entry requirements, studying French raises cultural awareness of the French-speaking world, French speaking graduates are highly sought after by employers and being able to speak French makes travel abroad more enjoyable.

The highlights of learning French in Pobalscoil Na Tríonóide:

- Of the three foreign languages taught in Pobalscoil, French is the only one which offers a week long highly successful **exchange programme** with its partner school in Bordeaux, France.
- The French Department is a very active member of the Cork French Teachers Association, and we regularly involve our students in their **quiz, poster competition, writing competition**. We are very proud that our students have won prizes in all three competitions in recent years.
- As part of our annual **European Language week**, students can enjoy cultural activities such as the French Breakfast, a game of French Boules & the screening of a French film. We aim to expose our students to the French way of life as much as possible through experiencing it first-hand.
- The French Department staff have many years' experience of working with the State Exams Commission as **Leaving Cert French Oral and Written Examiners** & are happy to be able to share our expertise with our students.

Assessment: Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

· Listening comprehension 35%

· Reading comprehension (written exam) 55%

· Written Assessment Task 10%



GERMAN / GEARMÁINIS

https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=21&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

- The development of 4 German language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) through a variety of themes relevant to students' life experiences. Themes include school life, hobbies, part time work, family life, and pets
- Introduction to the culture of German speaking countries
- No prior knowledge of the language is required. The First Year programme is beginner's level

Why choose German?

- 14% of the European population speaks German as a first language, making it the number one most common mother-tongue in Europe
- English and German share 60% of their vocabulary
- German is the official language of 6 countries: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Lichtenstein
- German is a co-official language in many other regions, including parts of Italy, Poland and Brazil
- Germany has the largest national economy in Europe
- German is the second most used language in science, after English
- Studying in a German university is free, so studying the language allows you to avail of a great opportunity

We are very proud in Pobalscoil na Tríonóide that each year many of our students progress to study German at third level, many of whom also avail of the opportunity to spend a year in a German university under the Erasmus scheme.

Assessment: Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Level: Common

• Reading Comprehension and Written Exam	55% marks
• Listening Comprehension	35% marks
• Continuous Assessment Task	10% marks

Each student will also compile a Language Portfolio over the three years of their Junior Cycle. This will include a range of items such as: presentations, posters, podcasts, blogs, vlogs, and much more. This portfolio will be assessed and represented in their Profile of Achievement.

SPANISH/SPÁINNIS



https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=8&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

Raising the awareness and knowledge of the language and culture of a country is to the forefront of the Spanish syllabus in Pobalscoil na Tríonóide.

- The First Year Programme is at beginner's level thus making it accessible to all.
- Spanish is taught using the four language skills, with particular importance on the spoken language.
- As Spanish is so widely spoken today in many countries, this subject provides students with the opportunity to connect and communicate with people and to broaden their horizons with regard to travel at a later stage.

Assessment: Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

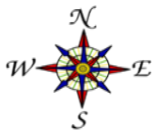
Level: Common

- Listening comprehension 35% marks
- Reading comprehension and written exam 55% marks
- Assessment Task 10% marks

Related Careers:

Teaching, Interpreter, Translator, Tourism Hotels/Restaurants/Tourist Offices, Business/ Marketing at home or abroad, Bilingual Secretary, Law, Journalism, Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Pilot, Army, Navy& Air Corps , Cadetships, Medicine.

GEOGRAPHY/TÍREOLAS



https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=12&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

Geography is the study of the planet Earth. The specification for Junior Cycle Geography focuses on developing students' knowledge and skills to explore and understand the world around us and our role within it. This is achieved through the three interconnected strands: (1) Exploring the physical world; (2) Exploring how we interact with the physical world; (3) Exploring people, place, and change. Junior Cycle Geography allows students to make better sense of the world around us and to answer lots of the questions we hear on the news each day. Questions like: Why does Ireland experience the weather it does and why is there such demand for houses in cities? Geography is a very useful subject. The skills developed in class will serve students well throughout their lives. The ability to recognise patterns and processes, to analyse data, to read maps and graphs and to live sustainably, among other things, are all fostered in the Junior Cycle Geography course. It compliments many other subjects such as History, English, Art, Religion and Science.

Assessment for Junior Cycle Geography: There are two Classroom–Based Assessments in Geography. They are assessed at a common level and will be recorded in the student's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. CBA1: Geography in the News (Second term of Year 2) At the end of a three-week period students will report on their inquiry, based on a recent media source, relating to a geographical event. CBA2: My Geography (First term of Year 3) Students will, over a three-week period, investigate geographical aspects in a local area. The Assessment Task is a written task completed by students during class time. It is not marked by the subject teacher, but is sent to the State Examinations Commission for marking as part of the state-certified examination in Geography. It is worth 10% of the final marks awarded for Geography by the State Examinations Commission. The Assessment Task will link to My Geography (CBA2). There will be one Final Examination Paper at a common level, set and marked by the State Examinations Commission. The exam will be no longer than two hours in duration and will take place in June of Year 3. This exam is worth 90% of the final marks awarded for Geography by the State Examinations Commission.

Related Careers: Geography is useful for careers such as Town Planning, Meteorology, Surveying, Cartography, Agriculture, Horticulture, Archaeology, Anthropologist, Marine Officer, Environmental Officer, Demographer, Geologist, Geographic Information System Specialist, Department of Foreign Affairs, Transport Management and Travel Agents.

HOME ECONOMICS/EACNAMAÍOCHT BHAILE



https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=13&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

Junior Cycle Home Economics aims to develop students' knowledge, attitudes, understanding, skills and values to achieve optimal healthy sustainable living for every person as an individual, and as a member of society. It is divided into 3 main areas that are inter-connected:

Food Health and Culinary Skills

Students will develop their practical food and health literacy skills so that they are enabled to adopt a healthy lifestyle and make informed decisions that positively impact their health and wellbeing as individuals, as well as within their families and society. Their learning will be applied in practical cookery classes on a regular basis.

Responsible Family Living

Home Economics aims to nurture students' resourcefulness, innovation adaptability, and competency as consumers, develop students who are environmentally conscious and dedicated to a sustainable way of life.

Textiles and Craft

Students will develop their creative, design and textile skills. In First year students will complete a simple textiles project, where they will develop their hand sewing skills.

Assessment: Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Assessment of Home Economics will comprise two Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs):

CBA 1 (Second year): Creative Textiles

CBA 2 (Third year): Food Literacy Skills brief

Final Examination (marked by SEC): A practical food skills examination (50% of the marks) and a written examination (50% of the marks). All assessments will be at a common level.

MUSIC/CEOL



https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=16&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

Junior Cycle Music

The new Junior Cycle course in music has been specifically devised to cater for all students regardless of experience or background.

Students are taught music in a fun- filled, hands on environment. Skills learned will include reading and interpreting music, composing music using digital and interactive media and even learning how to play an instrument.

Assessment: Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

- CBA 1 (Second year): Composition Portfolio
- CBA 2 (Third year): Programme Note
- 70% is allocated for the written examination which comprises a one and a half hour's duration. Students are examined on the basic rudiments of music and a variety of musical genres.
- 30% is awarded for the practical examination which is held in third year. For this exam some students elect to do solo performance on an instrument of their choice while others opt for group performance which may be presented using a combination of voices, or a variety of instruments such as guitar, keyboard, piano, ukulele, recorder, tin whistle, Irish traditional instrument etc.

There is no obligation on the student to access private instrumental/vocal tuition beyond the school curriculum. The required standard of performance reflects what can be attained in 3 years of classroom based tuition, again making music accessible to all students.

Students opting for music can access all musical events within the school such as the Trad Band, School Musical, Christmas Carol Service, Community Trips and Workshops. Such activities further enhance the students experience, enjoyment and knowledge of music.

Related Careers

Digital arts and music technology, sound engineering, music therapy, second level teaching, primary school teacher of music, instrumental teacher, composer, events manager and performance.

ENGINEERING/INNEALTÓIREACHT



https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=13&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

- Design Application
- Processes and Principles
- Mechatronics

Engineering knowledge and awareness, developing and manufacturing, innovation and exploration, communicating.

Assessment for Junior Cycle

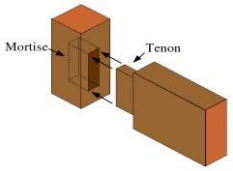
- 2 Classroom- based assessments, one in 2nd Year and one in 3rd Year.
- *PROJECT:* 70% will be specified and marked by the State Examinations Commission annually.
- *WRITTEN EXAMINATION:* 30% Set and marked by State Examinations Commission

Related Careers

Engineering – Mechanical, Electrical, Structural, Biomedical, Civil, Software, Electronic etc.

Welder, mechanic, Designer, Architect, Electrician, Plumber, Army, Teaching and many more.

WOOD TECHNOLOGY /TEICNEOLAÍOCHT AN ADHMAID



https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=6&ed_sub_cat_id=325

What's involved

Wood Technology/Woodwork as it's known around the school gives a good balance between theory and practical hands-on learning. It is a design based course, where pupils have to come up with design solutions for a problem, then go about and create that design with their visualisation and hand skills. It is because of this that pupils must know in theory, the materials and tools that they work with, while also working with them at a practical level. Students learn about the environment and materials around them.

Assessment for Junior Cycle

- 70% of the final marks go toward the designing and making of a project.
- The remaining 30% are awarded through a theory exam in June of Third year.
- Classroom-based assessment: CBA1 (Wood Science in our environment)
  CBA2 (Student self- analysis & evaluation)

What do I need to be good at woodwork?

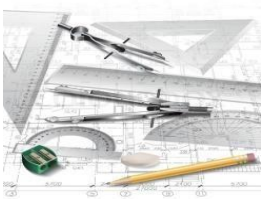
- The sampling you did of the subject was good indication of what is involved
- Choose the subject if you enjoy it, not because your friends are all doing it in Second Year
- You do not have to have Graphics to take the subject. Art could be considered just as important in certain ways.
- Theory is involved, so if you think you wouldn't be the best at the practical side, this will make up for it.
- And finally……there is a common misconception that woodwork is just for boys, not true at all, the best ideas, designs and results in this school have been from girls.

Related Careers

Wood Technology is a Technology subject. It is a stepping stone towards Designing, Engineering, Teaching, Furniture making, Carpentry, Town Planning, Architecture, Construction Management, Forestry, Architectural Technology.

GRAPHICS/GRAFAIC

https://careersportal.ie/school/junior_cert_subjects.php?course_id=6&ed_sub_cat_id=325



What's involved

- Comprises of 3 main sections interlinked that provide the student with spatial problem solving and graphical communication: (1). 2D Graphics
  (2). 3D Graphics
  (3). Applied Graphics
- Plane Geometry – Basic geometric construction
- Plane Loci
- Transformation geometry
- Properties of Plane Figures
- Orthographic Projection
- Pictorial Projection
- Developments of Modelling
- Shade and Shadow Sections of Solids
- Drawing Standards
- Computer Aided Design e.g. Solidworks, Onshape
- Freehand Sketching
- Graphical design, illustration techniques

Assessment for Junior Cycle

- Terminal Exam -2 hours, Common Level (70%)
- CBA1 (2nd Year) Communicating through sketching
- CBA2 (3rd Year) Graphical Presentation Skills
- Project (30%) (3rd Year) Brief set by State Examinations Commission
  1. Theme
  2. Modelling (CAD)
  3. Dimensioned drawing

Related Careers

All Engineering and Engineering Technician Careers, Architecture and Architectural Technician, Construction trades e.g. Bricklayer, Carpenter etc. Engineering Trades e.g. Fitter, Toolmaker etc. Industrial Engineer, Structural Design, Town Planner, Draughtsperson.

Subjects:	Link for further subject information:
Business Studies	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/business-studies/
French	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/modern-foreign-languages/
German	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/modern-foreign-languages/
Spanish	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/modern-foreign-languages/
Geography	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/geography/
Home Economics	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/home-economics/
Music	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/music/
Engineering	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/engineering/
Wood Technology	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/wood-technology/
Graphics	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/graphics/
Visual Art	https://curriculumonline.ie/junior-cycle/junior-cycle-subjects/visual-art/

Reminder:

Do

- choose subjects you think you will enjoy
- choose subjects you think you will be good at
- chose subjects you may need for your chosen career
- keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice.

Don't

- choose a subject because your friend is choosing it
- choose a subject because you think it will be easy
- choose a subject without finding out more about it
- make a decision at the last minute take time to think about the best subjects for you.