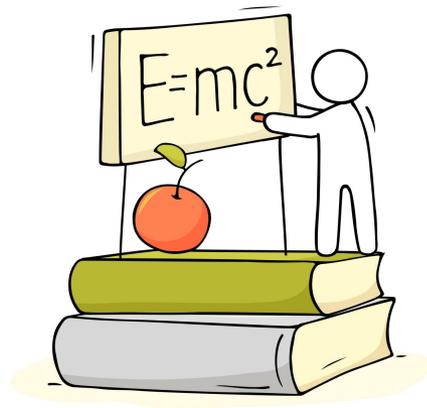




LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECT CHOICE



Gráinne Keane, Guidance Counsellor

AGENDA



- Factors to consider
- Do's & Don'ts of subject choice
- Entry requirements for third level
- Subject options for Leaving Certificate
- Leaving Certificate Applied

Important factors to consider when choosing subjects:



Interest in the subject – you will tend to work harder in areas of interest

Focus on your strengths and Ability/Aptitude in the subject - am I good at it? Do I find it easy?

Will I need this subject for a career in the future? If I want to be an architect I should probably do DCG

If I want to be an Artist or Art teacher I should probably take Art.

Attend the meeting with your guidance counsellor

DO NOT CHOOSE A SUBJECT BASED ON

If your friends are doing

You think it will be easy

The teacher of the subject



Pathways from standard Leaving Certificate - Third Level options:

University - Level 8/ Level 9/ Level 10

Technological University - Level 8

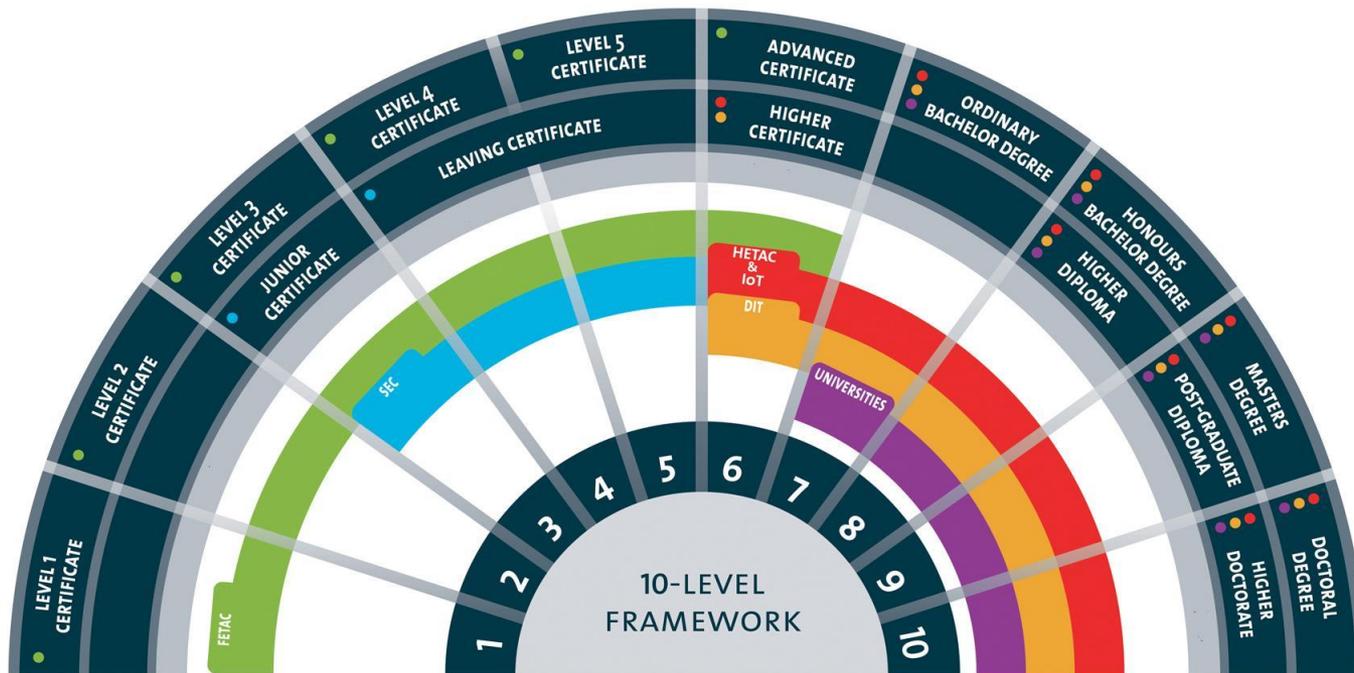
Level 7

Level 6

Colleges of Further Education - Level 6

Level 5

National Framework of Qualifications



Points System

- Selection system used in Irish 3rd Level Colleges is the Points System
- Points are calculated from ONE sitting of the Leaving Certificate only.
- Points total is calculated from SIX best subjects
- Points can include LCVP if they are among your 6 highest results

Points System

New Grades and Common Points Scale for Leaving Certificate 2017

Grade (%)	Points	Grade (%)	Points
H1 (90-100)	100		
H2 (80<90)	88		
H3 (70<80)	77		
H4 (60<70)	66		
H5 (50<60)	56	O1 (90-100)	56
H6 (40<50)	46	O2 (80<90)	46
H7 (30<40)	37	O3 (70<80)	37
H8 (0<30)	0	O4 (60<70)	28
		O5 (50<60)	20
		O6 (40<50)	12
		O7 (30<40)	0
		O8 (0<30)	0

* H6 or above in Maths gets you an additional 25 bonus points

Points System

From 2017 **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)** grades will be aligned as follows:

LCVP Grade	Current Points	Revised LCVP Points
Distinction	70	66
Merit	50	46
Pass	30	28

REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD LEVEL

- CAO points - count your best 6 subjects, maximum 625, 25 extra points bonus for Higher level maths at grade H6 or above
- Minimum Entry Requirements Level 8 - Matriculation - 2 H5's and 4 H7's or O'6s
- English, Irish, Maths and another language (for certain universities)
- Faculty Entry Requirements - Primary Teaching H4 Irish

Some courses require you have certain subjects -so always check if you need a subject to get an offer of a course

Implications of subject choice

Take care to consider the long-term implications of your choices, since certain courses in third level require certain subjects

- A modern language (French/German/Spanish/polish etc) is
- required for entry into any NUI college. (UCC, Galway, UCD, NUI Maynooth) with the following exceptions: Nursing at all Colleges, Engineering and all Science courses at NUI Maynooth, and Engineering and Agricultural Science courses at UCD.
- A science subject / construction/DCG or Higher Level Maths for many Engineering courses
- Science subjects are needed for Medicine, Veterinary, Science degrees

Qualifax subject requirement tool

<https://www.qualifax.ie/subject-requirements>

Choose your 5th Year Subjects

English, Irish, Maths PLUS 4 of:

- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Agricultural Science
- Computer Science

- Home Economics
- Geography
- Politics and Society
- History

- Music
- Art
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Construction Studies

- German
- Spanish
- French

Business
Accounting
World of Work (LCVP)

Physical Education

Do your research!

Check matriculation requirements online and with the Guidance Counsellor
grainne.keane@salesiancollege.ie

Have you the right subjects at the right level?

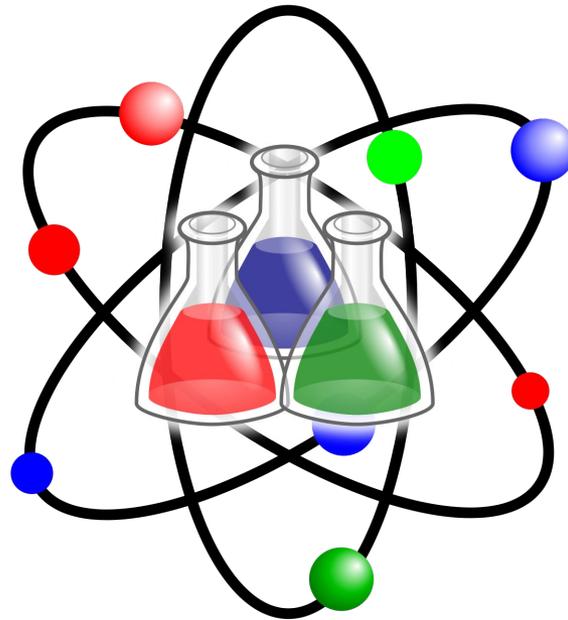
Check subject content online, with subject teachers in school, with friends,
in textbooks

Find out which subjects have difficult concepts, long courses, compulsory
coursework, practical elements, additional components (oral / aural /
performance / portfolio), need JC

Think about how subjects might compliment each other

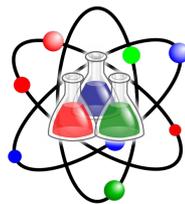


SCIENCE GROUP



Biology:

- Biology is the study of life and living things.
- It appeals to a student who has an interest in understanding how cells work, how plants and animals exist in the world around us and how human anatomy allows us to function
- Biology provides a basis for scientists to develop new technologies in medicine, agriculture and other areas.
- Needed for several courses eg Genetics in UCC



Chemistry:

- Chemistry is concerned with the structure and composition of the materials that make up everything around us, from the food we eat to the fuels that keep us going daily.
- Suits those interested in modern science and investigating how we can change substances from one form to another
- Human nutrition and dietetics
- Medicine in UCC plus a second science subject
- Dentistry in UCC
- Medical and Health Science UCC
- Veterinary Science in UCD
- Pharmacy all Colleges

Agricultural Science:



- Study of the science and technology of agriculture.
- Develops knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning the factors that affect the long-term well-being of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources.
- Project: 25% .
- Careers in Agriculture, horticulture, zoology, food science, microbiology, forestry, rural diversification or veterinary medicine. A
- Agricultural Science qualifies as a science subject in most college admission policies.

Physics:

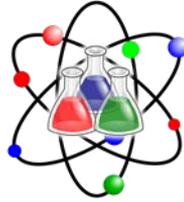
- This is the study of how things work
- Develops understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life.
- Enables students to develop an understanding of the scientific method and their ability to observe, to think logically, and to communicate effectively.
- Student must enjoy maths
- High physics content in most engineering courses and Game Design, along with some paramedical careers such as Radiography

Examples of Courses which require a LAB Science subject:

- Nursing
- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Radiography
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Engineering in some universities

•NB CHECK COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR LAB SCIENCE





Computer Science:

- Problem-solving using programming and computational knowledge
- Develops an understanding of fundamental concepts of computer science and technology's role in society
- Possible for students who haven't excelled in maths or science to engage positively with the Computer Science course

SOCIAL GROUP





Politics and Society:

- Covers topics of interest and concern to students and their world - power, decision-making, identity, conflict, gender justice, climate change, human rights, etc
- Useful for careers in: Politics, sociology, law, anthropology, philosophy, development studies, public administration, teaching, journalism, media studies, and many more
- Project: 20%

Geography:

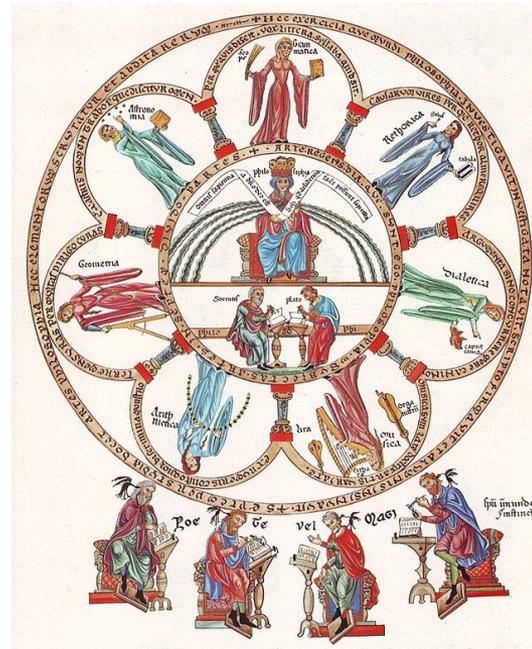
- Students develop an understanding of the changing relationships between the physical and human worlds. They will develop geographical skills that will help them to make informed judgements about issues at local, national and international levels.
- Students are expected to complete a report on a geographical investigation and to sit a written examination: 20%
- Geography is useful for careers in civil engineering, town planning, architecture, geology, pilot, teacher, auctioneering, anthropology, quantity surveying etc.

Home Economics:

- Home Economics is the study of inter-relationships between diet, health, family, home and the management of resources.
- Useful for a variety of further studies including culinary arts and social studies.
- The type of student it would suit is someone who is organised, hardworking and practical minded.
- Strong connection with Biology
- Journal 20%
- No course specifically requires HEC except AS054 Home Economics



PRACTICAL, ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE GROUPS





Music:

- Music is useful for careers in entertainment, orchestra, speech therapy, television and radio production etc.
- Music Tests and performance auditions needed for many Music courses
- Progresses from Junior Certificate.
- Caters for the varying needs of all students including those who wish to pursue further studies in music.
- If students are good at music they can gain valuable points in the Leaving Certificate.
- Practical performance: 25%

Art:

- Art and Design LSAD Tus Clare St Limerick
- If you are considering studying art and design in third level you may need a portfolio.
- Develops ability in a range of fields and disciplines; a huge number of media, from the fine arts such as sculpture, drawing, and painting, to puppet-making, embroidery, calligraphy, metalwork, and pottery.
- History of Art: 37.5%



Construction Studies:

- Students learn about the structural details and architectural designs of houses in Ireland. Emphasis is placed on sustainable, eco-friendly architecture. The subject is assessed by a written exam (50%), a research, design and make project (25%) and a practical skills test (25%).
- JC not required
- Project and practical skills test: 60%
- Suits students with an interest in design, architecture, drawing, building techniques, woodworking etc.
- There is a great deal of practical work and drawing involved so those who struggle with fine motor skills would find it difficult.



DCG:

- Formerly Technical Drawing.
- DCG is the study of the world around us through Geometry ie. identifying Shapes & solids etc.
- and communicating what we see in 3 ways- Drawing equipment ,computer modelling and freehand sketching.
- JC not required
- Coursework: 40%
- May suit students interested in careers in , Design, Engineering, Construction , Architecture, Education etc.

Physical Education



Physical education in senior cycle aims to develop the learner's capacity to participate in physical education and physical activity in a confident and informed way.

The subject should suit physically active students who are engaged in individual or team sports as well as activities such as dance and gymnastics.

- Students who plan to pursue a career in sports and fitness occupations, such as physiotherapy, physical training or sports coaching, will benefit from the course.

- Sports need not be a career goal to justify taking the course, the course content will benefit any student for whom participation in sports or dance makes up a significant part of their day to day lives

It is important that students participate in a physical activity/sport or are involved in sports teams outside of school.

- It will be key also to explain to those who wish to take up PE that 50% is theory and based on an exam so an interest in learning about physical performance is important when considering the subject.

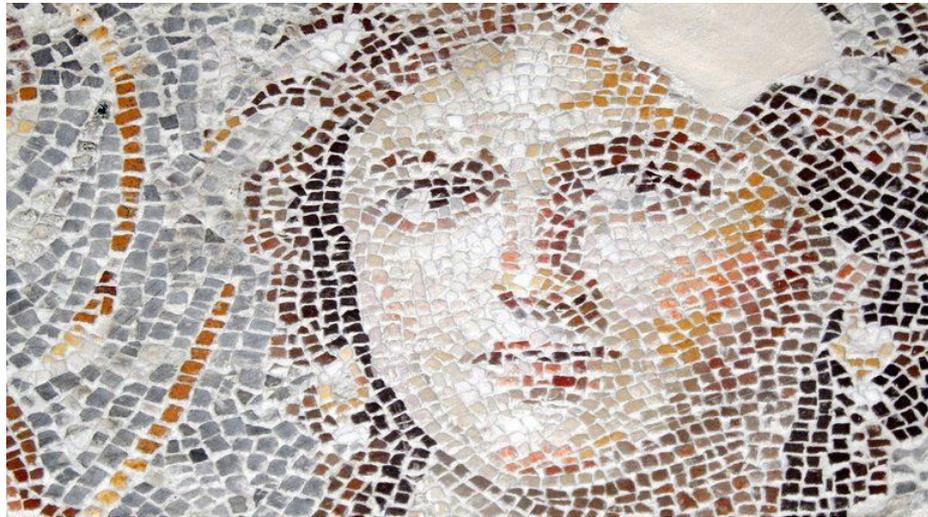
- A background in science or home economics at junior cycle level would be beneficial to students taking up the subject.

Assessment component

Physical Education Project 50%
Common Brief

Written examination 50% Higher
and Ordinary level

HUMANITIES GROUP



French / German / Spanish



- Irish is accepted as the language for TCD, DCU, unless a language is a specific course requirement e.g. Business and French in UL
- No language requirement for the technological universities unless it is for a specific course requirement e.g. Broadcasting and a Language in DIT
- NUI's no longer require a language for entry to courses in Engineering, Science or Nursing
- Languages have oral, aural (40%) and written components

Before deciding on a language it is essential to check course entry requirements

Students may present for other European languages (Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian etc)

History:

- Will develop critical thinking, enquiry based knowledge and research skills coupled with student reflection. Research Study Report is completed along with case studies and essays which will develop an in-depth knowledge of historical sources.
- Research Project: 20%
- Builds skills for careers in: International relations, law, research, journalism, politics, policymaking, teaching, administration, management and media



BUSINESS GROUP



Accounting:

- Study of expenditure and income and how this is recorded in business
- NUIG Accounting requires a H4 in Accounting.
- Will inform a decision to study Business at 3rd Level or when owning a business
- Requires an ORGANISED student with an good understanding of numeracy



Business:

- Study of Enterprise, people in business, business models and systems
- Not required for matriculation
- Will inform a decision to study Business at 3rd Level or when owning a business

World of Work (LCVP):

- Preparation of the student for the workplace and for enterprise: interview, CVs,
- Not allowed for matriculation purposes
- Large coursework component
- NB Different points calculator
- Typical activities: Invited visitors, site visits, case studies, team enterprises, using Computers. video interviews, language component
- Diverse forms of assessment

Leaving Certificate changes

The Irish Leaving Certificate is undergoing major reform.

- Assessment Changes:

Significant components including projects or additional components worth minimum 40% which will be externally marked by the State Examinations Commission (SEC), rather than just the traditional final June written exam.

- Phased Rollout of subjects - our current 5th years will be sitting new components in certain subjects
- Incoming 5th years will be sitting new components in more subjects

Tranche 1 subjects

Ancient Greek

Arabic

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Climate Action and Sustainable Development

Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

Latin

Physics

Tranche 1 subjects will be introduced to the curriculum for all schools in 2025

Tranche 2 subjects

Accounting*

Construction Studies

Engineering

English*

Geography

LCVP Link Modules

Physical Education

Tranche 2 subjects will be introduced to the curriculum for all schools in 2026 **The introduction of these subjects has been postponed until at least September 2027.*

Tranche 3 subjects

Agricultural Science

Computer Science

Design and Communications Graphics

History

Home Economics

Mathematics

Music

Physics and Chemistry

Tranche 3 subjects will be introduced to the curriculum for all schools in 2027

Tranche 4 subjects

Art

Economics

French

Gaeilge

German

Italian

Politics and Society

Spanish

Technology

Tranche 4 subjects will be introduced to the curriculum for all schools in 2028 :

Tranche 5 subjects

Applied Mathematics

Classical Studies

Japanese

Lithuanian

Mandarin Chinese

Polish

Portuguese

Religious Education**

Russian

Tranche 5 subjects will be introduced to the curriculum for all schools in 2029 and are set out here:

The Next Step....

- ✓ Decide on which Leaving Cert is the right Leaving Cert for you: ask us!
- ✓ Pick your subjects: research, think, research some more
- ✓ Subject choices are made on VSWare: pick in order of preference
- ✓ Bands are determined by demand
- ✓ You can change your mind before September, but your subject may not be available
- ✓ You can change your mind up to Halloween
- ✓ Please note it is not a guarantee that students will receive their top four subject choices, therefore it is very important that students fill in all 10 subject options in order of preference.

IRISH EXEMPT students will be given a subject instead of Irish



Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA)

- Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (Applied to needs of the student)
- For students who struggle with working independently
- Who need continued teacher input to the development of skills
- Who have found school a challenge socially and academically
- Who think about leaving school without a Leaving Cert
- Who want to move to courses of study in colleges of further education, apprenticeships, PLCS, the workplace



How does the Applied Programme look?

- It's a LEAVING CERT!
- Classes on 4 days: Work Experience on Day 5
- Core subjects of English, Maths and Social Education
- Specialisms and Electives (eg IT, Horticulture, Tourism, Leisure studies)
- Irish in 5th Year, Language in 6th Year (or vice versa)
- Concentration on preparation for workplace and skill building
- Continuous assessment and credit for attendance
- Some terminal exams in June of 5th Year, some in June 6th Year

How do I get in?

- Apply for a place
- Interview for a place
- Attendance commitment
- Behaviour commitment
- Probationary period or revert to standard 5th Year place

