



Leaving Certificate Subject Choice 2020

A Guide for students and parents.

<u>Content</u>	<u>Page</u>
Transition Year	3
LCA	5
Choosing Subjects	6
German	9
French	11
Construction Studies	13
Engineering	15
Design and Communication Graphics	17
Science	18
Biology	20
Physics	22
Chemistry	24
Agricultural Science	27
Art	29
Physical Education	30
Music	33
Business	35
Geography	37
History	39
Home Economics	41
LCVP	43
LCVP Subject Options	42

What is Transition Year?

Transition Year is a one-year programme between the end of the Junior Certificate and the beginning of the Leaving Certificate programme

What are the main benefits of doing Transition Year?

- A significant benefit to the student is the space provided by the year to grow and mature at a sensitive and key stage of transition through adolescence into young adult life.
- Students have many opportunities to practice team work skills, research skills, IT skills, project skills.
- Students become more self-directed learners through the development of general, technical and academic skills.
- Students gain in maturity in relation to work and careers by developing work-related skills.
- Students gain in personal maturity by being given opportunities to develop communication skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility.
- Students gain in social maturity by developing greater 'people' skills and more awareness of the world outside school.
- By sampling a wide range of subject areas students can make more informed choices about the kind of Leaving Certificate programme and subject choice they may wish to follow at the end of the Transition Year.
- It is generally recognized by teachers that Transition Year equips the now more mature student with a broader range of skills and insights to deal more effectively with a Leaving Certificate programme and therefore they are able to maximize their points.
- There is growing evidence from third level institutions that students who have taken Transition Year are more self-reliant learners.
- It is a year when students are able to take time out from the normal pressure of exams and are given the opportunities to develop their personalities, and their

talents, and many new skills.

- It is also a year where students can take stock of themselves, look outside of the school at the wider community and the world of work, and begin to plan and see where their future lies.
- For these reasons parents should actively encourage their children to participate fully and positively throughout the whole of Transition Year. The very many benefits can only be gained by full time attendance and a positive attitude to all the work on hand.
- Speaking to the Irish Independent, Dr Gerry Jeffers, lecturer in Education at NUI Maynooth, said TY has the "potential to give students good experiences that help them to grow up".

Leaving Cert Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme is pre-vocational by nature and is designed for those students who do not wish to proceed directly to higher education or for those whose needs, aptitudes and learning styles are not fully catered for by the other two Leaving Certificate programmes. Participants in the Leaving Certificate Applied are mainly engaged in work and study of an active, practical and student-centred nature.

The programme sets out to recognise the talents of all students and to provide opportunities for developing personal responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. The programme focuses on the talents of each student and helps students apply what they learn to the real world.

The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called sessions. Achievements are credited in each session. Courses are designed on a modular basis and are of thirty hours duration. Each year is divided into two sessions (September to January and February to May) over the two-year duration of the programme. Learners must take a total of 44 modules. They are also required to complete seven Student Tasks over the two years of the programme.

Eligibility for further education and third-level courses.

A student who has been awarded the Leaving Certificate Applied can go on to a very wide range of Post-Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs). These are available in local post-primary schools and colleges.

Students with the Leaving Certificate Applied cannot gain **direct** entry through the Central Applications Office (CAO) system to the universities or Colleges of Technology.

Traditional Leaving Cert Choosing subjects

Be interested.

If you enjoy doing something, you will ultimately do it well. This is true for learning, too. Pick subjects that you have liked, enjoyed and shown an enthusiasm for. So often you can pick a subject because of the teacher, maybe you like them or hear they are good, but it might not be the subject you would enjoy the most. Although a teacher or parent's input is very important, you are going to be the one who has to do the subject. So make sure you are interested in learning that subject. It makes your chances of success far greater.

Aptitudes

The Differential Aptitude test (taken by Tys and some 5th years) consists of eight different tests. These show where your natural strengths/ aptitudes lie. Consider these results when choosing your subjects as you will do well in subjects in which you have a natural aptitude. Check your DATs and Junior Cert results.

Be true to yourself.

Don't be lulled into following the herd. Some pick a subject based on popular belief that it's easier or they think they've a better chance of getting an A. Try to ignore popular misconceptions and focus on the best subjects for you. It's important to think about what's right for you as a learner.

Be informed

Know your options. Know what subjects you need if you have decided on a particular career or course. Be aware that certain courses require a particular subject at Honours level. Some universities also require a third language for

some/most of their courses. It's much better to know this from the start rather than finding out that you do not meet their requirements. An excellent online reference would be Qualifax.ie – the national course database – or ask your Guidance Counsellor.

Focus on a favourite area or course but keep your options open too. How you feel now about something can change. So keep an open mind. Have a dream. Then work towards it. Choose subjects for this but also consider alternative or back up options. Having a plan B can prove to be smart, even if you never have to use it.

Be Positive

Success is determined as much by your attitude as your ability. This determines how much work you are willing to put in and ultimately your level of success. The willingness stems from your attitude and there is no doubt a positive attitude will help you.

The most important thing is to enjoy what you are doing. It follows that if you are enjoying it, you will do it well. So take time over your choices. Wherever you go, go with all your heart.

What happens if I don't take honours Irish?

Apart from ruling yourself out of degrees with Irish as a core subject, the main consequence is not being able to study to be a primary-school teacher in any of the Irish training colleges.

What happens if I don't take honours Maths?

You will be barred from most Engineering honours degree level 8 courses. If you are interested in a career associated with such courses, you can always start with certificate programmes (Level six) or ordinary degree programmes,

(level seven) which may require only ordinary-level maths, then progress through to an honours degree programme.

What happens if I do not take a language other than Irish and English?

The National University of Ireland demands a pass in a third language for entry to most courses at its colleges - University College Dublin, University College Galway, University College Cork and NUI Maynooth. The exceptions are Engineering and Science courses. You also need a third language to become an Army or Air Corps cadet. Trinity College in Dublin accepts Irish as fulfilling its second-language requirement.

The University of Limerick, Dublin City University and the institutes of Technology require a continental language only if the course involves its study.

What are the hardest and easiest subjects in the Leaving Certificate?

There is no such thing as easy honours in the Leaving Certificate. Subjects taken by large groups of students, such as English, history, geography, biology and business, tend to have honours rates of 70-80 per cent grade. All Leaving Certificate subjects require a two-year commitment. There are no short cuts.



What is German?

German as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. As Germany starts to play a major role in the wider European context, German as a language is becoming ever more important in the lives of young Europeans in offering career opportunities that will be available in the years ahead.

Leaving Cert German lessons consists of four elements oral, aural, reading and written.

What kind of student might German suit?

- Anyone with an interest in German culture, history, and language.
- Students who are considering working in Germany, Austria, or international relations in the future.
- Students who can already speak German.
- Students who have received good grades in Junior Cert German.

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses. (Third language requirement)

Subject Content

Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills

- * Oral/speaking
- * Written
- * Aural/listening
- * Reading

A wide variety of themes are covered, for example

- * Family
- * School
- * Hobbies
- * Sport
- * Current affairs

Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses. The oral is worth 25% of total marks at higher level and 20% at ordinary level.

Comments

* Students who have shown an aptitude in German at Junior Certificate Level are encouraged to continue with it in Leaving Cert.

A good knowledge of German allows students spend their Erasmus year in Germany irrespective of college course.

Also students with fluent German are eligible to apply to colleges in Germany as an EU citizen.

Further information available online at:

<http://germanconnects.ie/>

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/ie/dub/enindex.htm>

Over the last two years BCC has established links with a school in Bavaria in southern Germany. Both schools are interested in developing those links by way of a student exchange for Transition Years. An exchange would involve students from BCC travelling to Germany for a week or so and staying with German host families. The German students would then return here to Ireland on the same basis. School exchanges are hugely beneficial to students in terms of language learning opportunities and real exposure to a foreign country and culture. Any parent interested in finding out more can contact the TY co-ordinator or German Department."



What is French?

French as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the French language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication.

What kind of student might french suit?

- Anyone with an interest in French culture, history, and language.
- Students who are considering working in France, Canada, or international relations in the future.
- Students who can already speak French or who received good grades in Junior Cert French.

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses. Third language requirement. (Check out www.qualifax.ie)

Subject Content

Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills

- * Oral/speaking
- * Written
- * Aural/listening
- * Reading

A wide variety of themes are covered, for example

- * Family
- * School
- * Hobbies
- * Sport
- * Current affairs

Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses.

A good knowledge of French allows students to spend their Erasmus year in France irrespective of their chosen area of study. Like wise employment prospects are much enhanced for graduates who have a good working knowledge of a European language.

However the learning of a language requires steady work over two years, oral and written skills are of particular importance at higher level.



Senior Cycle - Construction Studies

Part of the course examines all parts of building from the planning stages to the completed building. The course is studied under the following main headings.

Planning and Design
Drawings and Documents
Site Preliminaries and Foundations
Walls, Partitions
Floors, Roofs
Fireplaces
Windows and Doors
Stairs
Plastering and Painting
Plumbing and Heating
Services
Drainage
Exam Structure

The examination at higher and ordinary levels has three separate components.

Section A Three hour written paper worth 300 marks. The exam consists of 10 questions out of which five have to be attempted. Question 1 is a compulsory drawing question of a building detail.

Section B 4 hour practical woodwork exam where the

student makes a small item out of timber under exam conditions. The exam normally takes place in May. This accounts for 150 marks.

Section C Building Project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project that they make. Ideally this project must be completed by Christmas. This accounts for 150 marks.

Comment

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment.
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest for design and practical work.
- Woodwork and/or Technical Graphics would be desirable subjects to have taken at Junior Certificate though not compulsory.



Engineering

Engineering promotes an educational understanding of the materials and a knowledge of the processes associated with mechanical engineering. This is achieved through the development of skills and initiative in the planning, development and realization of technological projects in a safe manner.

You would really have to have done Junior Certificate metalwork to have a good idea as to what is involved in engineering. There is a good mix of theory and practice involved in these subjects. Most students enjoy the practical aspect. You will have to present a project as part of the Leaving Certificate examination. Engineering consists of three elements

Project 25% total grade

A six hour exam 25% of total grade

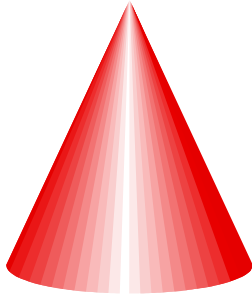
A three hour theory exam which accounts of 50% of total grade.

The content is both practical and theoretical. Students will learn how to use drills, lathes, CAD, various welding procedures etc. Students will be expected to design for themselves various parts of any projects they undertake. Students expecting good grades at higher level will need to do well in the project and written exam.

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system however it is recommended for any trade

such as welder, mechanic or panel beater. It is also useful for Engineering teacher, Structural or Civil Engineering.



Design and Communication Graphics

Design and Communication Graphics provides students with the opportunity for visualizing and comprehending information presented verbally or graphically. Problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2- and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.

If you are interested in taking this subject to Leaving Certificate level you will probably have taken Tech Graphics to Junior Certificate level. There is a great emphasis in the Leaving Certificate course on comprehension, analysis and problem solving. In simple terms you must be able to understand what has to be done, analyse how you are going to approach it and then proceed to solve the problem. Although it is not an essential subject for either architecture or engineering it is regarded as a useful asset if you are thinking of a technical course. This course now has a project aspect.

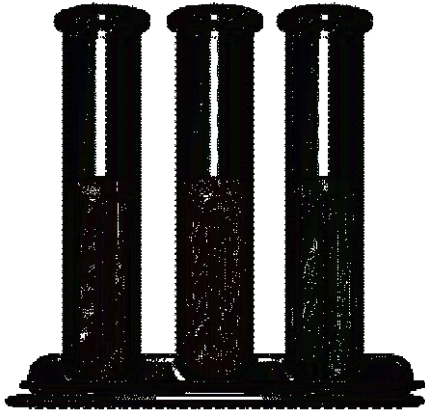
Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

Exam Structure

One Terminal Exam Paper 60%
Student Assignment 40%

Terminal Exam: 3 hours duration.



The Sciences

If you wish to pursue any of the following courses, Engineering, Medical, Paramedical (Radiography, Physiotherapy, Human Nutrition/ Dietician) Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory, Podiatry, Nursing, Veterinary Nursing and all Science courses in Universities you need at least **one** Laboratory science subject.

Laboratory Science subjects are Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Agricultural Science. **All course requirements should be checked on an individual basis on www.qualifax.ie.**

Chemistry is required for Human Nutrition (Dietetics) and Biomedical science in DIT.

Dentistry UCC

Veterinary Science UCD

Medicine

Pharmacy TCD, UCD.

Biology is recommended for

Dental Hygiene UCC

Home Economics and Biology in St Angela's Sligo

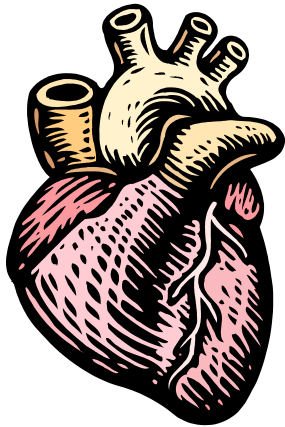
Biology as an elective Arts subject in NUI Maynooth

Recommended for all Nursing courses and for Biology and PE teaching in DCU.

Physics is required for

Theoretical Physics TCD

Recommended for anyone considering Electrical Engineering
or Electronics.



Biology

There are 22 mandatory experiments which are examined in the terminal exam only. Students must maintain a written report of all such experiments.

What type of student might Biology suit?

Students who enjoyed science in the Junior Certificate might wish to consider studying biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in more detail. It is particularly suited to students who have scored highly in the Naturalist and Investigative areas in their interest test.

Associated Careers?

The types of courses and careers where the study of Biology at second level might be helpful would include the following;

Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Nursing and associated careers.

Agriculture, Applied Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Earth Science and Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Science and Aquaculture, Microbiology and Zoology,
Psychologist, Astronomer, Teacher and Researcher.

Subject Requirement for 3rd Level?

It is counted as a science subject in any course which has a science subject as a requirement.

Third Level Entry Requirements

this subject is a requirement for entry into a number of third level **Subject Content**

The course is divided into three units

- Unit 1 The study of life (ecology and food science)
- Unit 2 The Cell (Genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes)
- Unit 3 The organism (a study of body systems, plant biology and microbiology)

There are 22 mandatory practical activities. Three of these are examined each year, two of which have to be answered. A laboratory record of these activities has to be kept and available for inspection by The Department of Education and Science. An ecology portfolio has also to be completed. As of yet no marks are awarded for the laboratory notebook or the portfolio. There is a strong emphasis on social and applied aspects e.g. when studying the breathing system a breathing disorder is studied.

Comments

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good understanding of Junior Science at higher level.
- Each student must have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work.
- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject.
- Students taking higher level would be expected to have a good scientific literacy.



Physics

Topics Covered

Light/Sound

Mechanics

Temperature/Heat

Electricity

Magnetism

Radioactivity

Particle Physics/Applied Electricity (Honours)

Problem solving skills are required to do well in physics.

You must have an inquisitive mind and a desire to know why things work as they do. Physics can help students in real life situations such as how does a motor work? How do speed traps work?

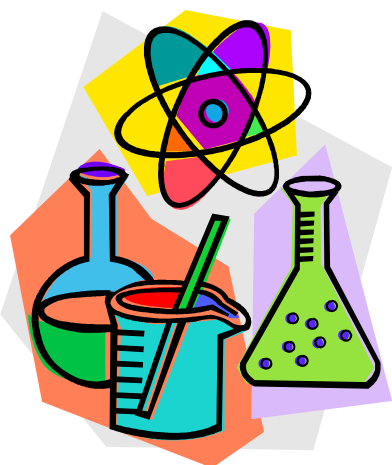
Is Physics for you?

- You are interested in a career in science. Physics is highly desirable for most science courses.

- You are thinking about a career in the following areas, engineering, electronics, medicine, electrician, computer programming.
- You scored above average in Abstract Reasoning and Numerical Reasoning in your Dats test.
- You have a genuine interest in and aptitude for science.
- It is preferable to have studied and passed higher level Junior Cert science.

Careers in Physics

- Electronics
- Engineering
- Computer Programming/ Engineering
- Biomedical Science/ Engineering
- Software Design
- Radiographer
- Medicine
- Pilot
- Electrician
- Military
- Theoretical Physics



Chemistry

The Leaving Cert. course follows directly from Junior Cert Science, and deals with more topics in a lot more depth. The course includes 28 mandatory practical experiments which must be completed in the lab, as well as a written paper including questions on the experiments and examining the theory and applications of chemistry.

Why do Chemistry?

Chemistry exists everywhere not just in laboratories but in every living thing on land and sea and in our bodies. It is often described as 'the central science' containing a lot of formulas. So, if you enjoyed junior cert Science and you have done well in this and in Maths you should be a good Chemistry student. Chemistry is an essential element in the study of careers including: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Pharmacy and Medical Laboratory Technology.

What kind of student might Chemistry suit?

- Students considering a career in any scientific discipline, such as chemistry, biology, environmental science, medicine, pharmacology, or material science.
- Students who were successful in Junior Cert. Science, particularly in the chemistry section.

Third Level Entry Requirements

this subject is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses and a higher level C grade is now needed for some scientific degrees.

Subject Content

Leaving Cert. Chemistry is comprised of all the essential and relevant topics within general chemistry. The major topics involved include the following:

1. Atomic structure
2. Volumetric analysis
3. Organic chemistry
4. Water chemistry
5. Reaction mechanisms.

There also is an option to be taken as part of the course which involves the study of atmospheric and industrial chemistry or the study of materials and electrochemistry.

Experimental investigations are an essential part of the leaving certificate course. Each student must complete at least 28 experiments over the duration of the course.

Experimental work is examined as part of the leaving cert exam and forms the basis for a minimum of three questions on the exam paper.

The Exam

The leaving cert exam is three hours in duration. Each candidate must answer at least two questions from Section

a (experimental section) and a maximum of six questions from Section B.

There are eleven questions in total on the exam paper, each carrying fifty marks.

There is no element of continuous assessment but experimental copies must be available for inspection by the State Examinations Commission. Students taking chemistry have to memorize the chemical components of a series of prescribed experiments. They will need to present the elements of four such experiments in their exam.

Comments

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the course has a good understanding of Junior Cert Science at the higher level.
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work.
- A student would be expected to have a reasonable level of Junior Cert Maths, either at higher or ordinary level.
- Recent observations from journalists writing about careers have suggested that the Irish Economy is experiencing a shortage of people with Chemistry skills.



Agricultural science

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop 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

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

Subject Content

The course consists of the study of a variety of aspects of agriculture under the following headings:

- Soils
- The general structure and function of plants
- Farm crops - cereal and roots
- Farm crops - grassland
- Trees and shelter
- Structure and function of the animal body
- The cow, the sheep, horse, and pig
- Farm buildings

Exam Structure

The examination in Agricultural Science consist of (a) a terminal examination paper and (b) an assessment of the work of the candidate during the course under the headings: identification of plant and animal types associated with agriculture; practical experience with crops, livestock, house

and farmyard layouts; investigations carried out related to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics and microbiology.



Art

The **practical** side of the course is about developing the student's ability in a range of artistic fields and disciplines. The syllabus permits a huge number of media, from the fine arts such as sculpture, drawing, and painting, to puppet-making, embroidery, calligraphy, metalwork, and pottery.

Students are expected to spend the duration of the course practicing and developing their skills in several of these areas. Unlike the Junior Cert, the practical examination takes place over the course of a week in supervised sessions of up to five hours, during which students are to complete a project (such as a sketch or drawing) and submit it for evaluation.

The art course also features a written examination on **History and Appreciation** of Art, which counts for **37.5%** of the marks. The exam is divided into three sections, one on Irish art, one on European art, and a final section on artistic appreciation. The course content is extremely broad, and covers everything from prehistoric art to the modern day, but students are free to focus their studies on a few narrow areas of interest such as renaissance or Celtic art. Diagrams and illustrative sketches are encouraged in the exam.

Note that the Leaving Cert Art course has **nothing** to do with the portfolio submissions which art and design colleges often require. The course does not aim to build a portfolio,

and all marks are given for work done on the day. However, it is common to take Art while preparing a portfolio, and much of the practice work done in class can be included.

What kind of student might Art suit?

- Students who have shown an aptitude for art, such as by getting high grades in Junior Cert Art.
- Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, or Advertising.



Physical Education

The general aim of physical education in senior cycle is to develop the learner's capacity to participate in physical education and physical activity in a confident and informed way. In Leaving Certificate Physical Education, learners have an opportunity to study physical education for certification. The specification is designed to appeal to learners who have an interest in and a commitment to participation and performance in physical activity. The aim of Leaving Certificate Physical Education is to develop the learner's capacity to become an informed, skilled, self-directed and reflective performer in physical education and physical activity in senior cycle and in their future life.

The emphasis is on providing learners with integrated learning experiences where there is a balance between developing personal performance in selected physical activities and deepening their understanding of the theoretical perspectives that impact on performance

and participation in physical activity. These perspectives include learning in the humanities/social sciences and life sciences.

The specification is presented in two strands. In strand 1, students learn about different theoretical perspectives that impact on optimum performance and how to apply this understanding to a range of different activities. In strand 2, students learn about contemporary issues in physical activity and how different people experience physical activity and sport.

Strand 1: Towards optimum performance	Strand 2: Contemporary issues in physical activity
<p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learning and improving skill and technique 2. Physical and psychological demands of performance 3. Structures, strategies, roles and conventions 4. Planning for optimum performance 	<p>Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Promoting physical activity 6. Ethics and fair play <p>In addition, two of the following topics will be prescribed each year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Physical activity and inclusion 8. Technology, media and sport 9. Gender and physical activity 10. Business and enterprise in physical activity and sport

Assessment:

There are three assessment components in Leaving Certificate Physical Education: A physical activity

project, performance assessment and written examination. Differentiation at the point of assessment will be achieved through examinations at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level. The performance assessment will be at a common level.

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Physical activity project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Performance assessment	30%	Common level
Written examination	50%	Higher and Ordinary



Music

The Leaving Certificate Music syllabus provides continuity and progression from Junior Certificate Music. The general aims and overall shape of both is broadly similar. In providing the musical knowledge, understanding, practical competencies and attitudes appropriate to their age, abilities and interests, the syllabus caters for the varying needs of all students including those who wish to pursue further studies in music.

Music is in its own right, a way of “knowing” and a form of knowledge and it also encourages the cognitive processes used in other subject areas.

The syllabus continues to emphasise the integration of the three activity areas introduced at Junior Certificate level.

The syllabus structure has been adopted to provide a fully balanced musical experience central to which is the development of musicality.

Career Areas: Applicants with a well-rounded education are more likely to be successful in this competitive age. Music is useful for media work or studies, teaching, sound engineering, public relations, entertainment, communications, performance and music at third level.

Note: Students are required to be able to read music to study this subject. Little knowledge of music theory or history is not a problem but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc.) is essential.

Subject Content

The course consists of three main components:

- (1) Composing
- (2) Listening
- (3) Performance

Comment

Because of the practical nature of this subject, students and/or parents should discuss this with the music teacher before choosing it as a Leaving Certificate subject.



Business

This is a practical and vocationally-oriented course that introduces students to the world of Business in a straightforward and logical way. It aims to create an awareness of the importance of Business activity and to develop a positive and ethical attitude towards it. The importance of people in Business is highlighted. The course sets out to illustrate the process of setting up a business and developing a new product or service. It emphasises the importance of good management and deals with skills and activities necessary for good management practice. It also deals with the impact of technology, foreign trade, global firms and competition and with business structures and the national economy

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

- This subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates in Ireland and in the wider world. It also involves equipping the students with a positive view of enterprise and its applications in the business environment, in both the public and private sectors.
- There are 7 core units covering the following topics: Introduction to people in business; Enterprise; Managing 1 & 2; Business in action; Domestic Environment and International Environment.

- There is a common syllabus covering Higher and Ordinary level, which will fulfil the aims and objectives of the course.
- A flexibility of design that caters for present day Irish business education and yet is capable of adaptation to future developments in a structured and efficient way.
- It assists students to develop their education for adult and working life including the creation of positive attitudes towards self-employment.

Exam Structure - Higher & Ordinary Level

Higher Level – 3 hour paper (400 marks); 3 sections.

Section 1 – Short questions (8/10) 80 marks.

Section 2 – Applied Business Question – 80 marks (compulsory).

Section 3 – Long Questions (60 marks per question (4/7))

Ordinary Level – 2.5 hour paper (400 marks); 2 sections.

Section 1 – Short Question (10/15) 100 marks.

Section 2 – Long Questions (75 marks per question (4/8)).

Comments

- The subject is suited to students who are interested in business related careers.
- The course content is factual and requires a lot of learning, containing only a few mathematical elements.
- Ideally, students would have an interest in business and current affairs and would have an up to date knowledge of economic environment.



Geography

Geography is the study of people, their environment, and the interaction between the two. The course follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics (such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map-reading, and economic activities) in a lot more detail. There are a large number of optional sections on the course, allowing students to focus on the sections of the course which they like.

What kind of student might Geography suit?

- Students considering further study in areas such as geography, economics, environmental science, or politics.
- Students who achieved solid results for Junior Cert Geography can expect much of the same for the Leaving Cert course.

Third Level Entry Requirements:

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

Subject content:

Three Core Units:

1. Patterns and processes in the physical environment
2. Regional geography
3. Geographical investigation

Two Elective Units (pick one):

4. Patterns and processes in economic activities
5. Patterns and processes in the human environment

Four Optional Units (pick one; higher level only):

6. Global interdependence
7. Geoecology
8. Culture and identity
9. The Atmosphere-Ocean environment

The teaching of *geographical skills* is an important element of the course; students are encouraged to improve their ability to gather information (from map-reading, statistics, charts), present information (using diagrams, maps, and writing), and evaluate information (separate fact from opinion, make informed judgements, propose sensible solutions to problems). These skills are assessed in the Geographical Investigation.

Exam Structure:

Leaving Certificate Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level in ascending order of difficulty. There are two assessment components:

1. Written Examination (80%)
2. Geographical Investigation Report (20%)

Students complete two questions on the core units, one question on an elective unit, and one question on an optional unit.

What is History?



History aims to record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred. It is often studied out of personal interest, but also develops important skills such as self-discipline and critical thinking which are of life-long importance.

It is crucial when studying history to pay attention to the evidence presented, and to keep in mind factors such as bias and propaganda. Students are encouraged to consider the validity of different interpretations of evidence to develop a more balanced and grounded judgement. Research skills such as drawing on a wide variety of sources of evidence (such as maps, public records, political cartoons, and memoirs) are developed throughout the course. When writing, students are taught to produce focused, logical, and supported arguments.

Note that Leaving Cert History is **completely different** from the Junior Cert course!

What kind of student might History suit?

- Students who enjoy and appreciate history, and would like to improve their knowledge. .
- Students who have strong English language skills, and are able to write
- Students aiming to improve their self-discipline and research skills.

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

Content

The Leaving Cert History course is divided into two distinct areas of study; Early Modern (1492-1915) and Late Modern (1815-1993).

Areas of study include:

- The formation of the Irish State in the 20th century.
- Northern Ireland (including The Troubles and Peace Process)
- 20th Century America from Martin Luther King to the Space Race.
- 20th Century Europe including the Interwar years, Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia

One of the topics in each area will be prescribed as a documents-based question, which will involve examining evidence and drawing conclusions.

Assessment consists of two components:

1. A written examination paper (80%)
2. A research study report (20%)

Recommendation

When considering history as a Leaving Certificate subject students should note the following:

- An interest in the subject is vital.
- A good knowledge of English, an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is important.
- Self discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general.
- History gives you many insights into human behaviour and a deeper understanding of current affairs that is relevant to many careers. History also develops an ability to think independently without jumping to unsupported conclusions.
- Studying history will sharpen your communication skills. In learning to write about history, you will learn

about the importance of supporting your argument or point of view with relevant evidence.

- History will help you to develop your research skills, including the ability to locate historical data from different types of sources, and to evaluate and present such data. You will also be encouraged to look at issues from more than one point of view and to understand that evidence is open to more than one valid interpretation.
- You will sharpen your critical thinking skills, which will be of benefit to you in any career and in life generally.



Home Economics

The Home Economics syllabus provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work. The learning experiences in home economics develop flexibility and adaptability in students, prepare them for a consumer-oriented society and provide a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism.

The subject is an applied subject combining theory with practice. It is concerned with the management of resources (material and human) to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs of individuals and families. The study of home economics emphasises the interdependent relationships that exist between individuals, families and their immediate and distant environments.

Third Level Entry Requirements

this subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

Subject Content

The syllabus consists of Core Areas and Three Electives:

The Core Areas

1. Food Studies - 45%
2. Resource Management and Consumer Studies - 25%
3. Social Studies - 10%

Electives

1. Home Design and Management - 20%
- or
2. Textiles, Fashion and Design - 20%
- or
3. Social Studies - 20%

Students opt for one Elective area only. Those choosing the Textiles, Fashion and Design elective must produce a garment which will be inspected and graded.

The Elective areas are extensions of the content contained in the Core Areas and provide students with the opportunity to study certain topics in more depth.

As part of the Core Areas, a mandatory section comprises of

Practical Coursework which must be completed during the two years and will be sent to the Department of Education and Science for inspection. This is 20% of the final examination marks.

Exam Structure

The Leaving Certificate Home Economics (Social and Scientific) syllabus is examined as follows:

1. Written Exam paper – 80%

The written examination consists of three sections:

2. Practical Coursework - 20%

This is worth 20% of the final mark – as stated already; this is submitted in journal form earlier in the Leaving Certificate year.

LCVP (Leaving Cert Vocational Programme)

LCVP is an enhanced Leaving Cert programme whereby students complete seven Leaving Cert subjects plus two Link Modules.

- 1. World of Work**-Preparation for the world of work, completion of Curriculum Vitae, Career Investigation, Work experience, Recorded interview etc.
- 2. Enterprise Education**-what is an Entrepreneur, what is involved in setting up and running a business etc.

- Students qualify for the programme depending on subject choices for the Leaving Cert. (See list)
 - Students must complete a portfolio of work which accounts for 60% of the marks and an exam in **May** of the Leaving Cert year which accounts for the other 40% of the marks.
 - Students obtain points for LCVP (the result can be used as a sixth subject for points purposes)
-
- Distinction 66 points
 - Merit 46 points
 - Pass 28 points
-
- The LCVP programme would normally include external guest speakers, interview and job seeking skills. Students normally participate in a Work Experience placement for one week during fifth year.
 - Further information on LCVP on www.lcvp.ie

In order to do LCVP students must have **one** of the following subject groupings.

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)

Specialist Groupings

1 Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics;

Any Two

2 Physics **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Design & Communication Graphics

3 Agricultural Science **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Design & Communication Graphics

4 Agricultural Science **and** Chemistry **or** Physics

5 Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - **Any Two**

6 Home Economics **and** Art

7 Accounting; Business; Economics - **Any two**

8 Physics **and** Chemistry

9 Biology **and** Chemistry **or** Physics

10 Biology **and** Agricultural Science

11 Art - Design Option or Craft Option **and** Design & Communication

Graphics

Services Groupings

12 Engineering **or** Construction Studies **or** Design & Communication Graphics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

13 Home Economics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

14 Agricultural Science **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

15 Art Design or Craftwork Option **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

16 Music **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics