

SUBJECTS FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE

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Options

French

German

Biology

Physics

Chemistry

Agricultural Science

Home Economics

Music

Physical Education

LCVP

Options

Art

Business

Accounting

Engineering

Construction Studies

Design & Communication Graphics

History

Geography

POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0

GRADING SYSTEM

- **New Grades % Marks**
- **H1 / O1** 90%-100 %
- **H2 / O2** 80<90
- **H3 / O3** 70<80
- **H4 / O4** 60<70
- **H5 / O5** 50<60
- **H6 / O6** 40<50
- **H7 / O7** 30<40
- **H8/ O8** 0<30
- 25 Bonus points for higher maths if you have H6 or better.

LCVP

- **LCVP Points**
- **Distinction 66**
- **Merit 46**
- **Pass 28**

Maths Higher level

Honours Maths are required for the following:

- Actuary (H3)
- Most Engineering *degree* courses (H4)
- Design and Manufacture UL (H4)
- Financial Maths (H3)

Gaeilge

Honours required for the following:

- Primary school teaching H4
- Home Economics teaching with Irish H4
- Education, Irish and Business H5 Mary Immaculate
Thurles

Gaeilge

Ordinary Level required for the following:

- Some NUI Courses
- Institutes of technology require a pass in either Irish or English.

English

Higher level

The following courses require English at the specified grades:

- Journalism DIT H4
- Journalism and New Media H4
- Communication studies DCU H4

English

Ordinary Level

Most colleges and courses require a pass in English

- All NUI colleges.
- TCD, UL and DCU.
- Institutes of Technology will accept it instead of Irish.
- Defence forces (Cadet)
- Gardai

French/German

- You do not require a foreign language for **all** colleges.
- Most Courses in the National University of Ireland and its constituent colleges require a pass in a Modern Continental Language. (UCC, UCD, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, RCSI)
- Science and Engineering courses in the NUI colleges do not require french/german also a number of business courses in NUI maynooth.
- If you have an Irish/language exemption you are not required to study a language. You must apply to the NUI for an exemption if you wish to study in a NUI college.

French/German

- You do **not** need a language for TCD, UL, DCU or the Institutes of Technology unless the course in question includes the study of a language. (European studies)

Biology

- Biology is the science of living things. It is a basis for many careers from nursing to catering.

Biology is required for:

- Human health and Disease TCD H4 in biology.
- Genetics UCC H4
- Highly recommended for Nursing.

Biology

It provides a good background for the following:

- Science
- Catering
- Medical Laboratory technician
- Horticulture
- Medicine

Physics

Physics is a combination of theory and lab work. Provides students with a good understanding of the role of physics in modern society. It is particularly relevant for those interested in studying engineering. It is also a useful background for those wishing to study Radiography or computer sciences. Also anybody wishing to pursue a career in electronics would be advised to take physics. Higher level maths is not necessary to do well in physics.

It is an **essential** requirement for:

- Theoretical physics TCD H3

Physics

It provides a useful basis for the following:

- Computer careers
- Science teaching
- Lab. Technician
- Pilot
- Electrician
- Physiotherapy
- Radiography
- Engineering

Chemistry

Chemistry deals with the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationship between the properties and composition of substances. Suits students who have an interest in laboratory work. A shortage of people with chemistry skills at the moment. It is an **essential** requirement for:

- Human Nutrition and Dietetics DIT H4
- Dentistry H5
- Medicine H4
- Veterinary Medicine UCD H5
- Pharmacy TCD/ UCC H5

Chemistry

It is useful for the following careers:

- Veterinary Nursing
- Chemical Engineering
- Food Science
- Nursing
- Agriculture
- Speech therapy
- All Science related careers

Agricultural Science

This covers the study of soils, plants and their function including farm crops and trees. Farm animals and buildings are also studied. It is recognised as a laboratory science subject in most third level colleges. Curriculum has changed and farm project replaced with a brief where they do their own research.

It is a useful background for the following:

- Agricultural Engineering
- Veterinary nursing
- Science teaching
- Horticulture
- contd

Agricultural Science

- Dairy Science
- Farming
- Equine studies

- UCD – no language requirement.

Science

- Two Science subjects are required for some science based courses at:
- Trinity - Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Dental Science and Medicine
- UCC – Dentistry and Medicine

Home Economics

Home Economic covers topics such as microbiology, food preservation, consumerism and social issues. It is recommended for Home Economics teaching though not essential if you have another science subject. Twenty per cent of the marks are going for the course work journal.

It is useful for the following careers:

- Catering
- Fashion Design
- Child Care

Home Economics

- Hotel Management
- Beauty therapy
- Nursing
- Hairdressing
- Social Work.

Art

Though some Institutes of Technology require it, it is not always an essential subject for entry into Art Colleges.

A Portfolio is required for entry into most Art colleges and this would be difficult without the guidance of an Art teacher.

Some schools of Architecture recommend Art even in preference to DCG.

There will be changes to the current Art curriculum in the coming year.

Art

Art is useful for the following careers:
The current Art course is being revised.

- Graphic Design
- Fashion Design
- Primary School Teaching
- Art teaching
- Sign writing

Business

Business is concerned with how organisations are formed, financed and run. It also looks at banking, taxation and semi state organisations. It provides an excellent background for anybody wishing to study business at third level. It is also useful for the following careers;

- Sales
- Banking
- Hotel Management
- Civil Service

Business

- Insurance
- Administration
- Business Studies teacher
- Trade Union Official

Engineering

This subject replaces Junior Cert. Metal work. It involves the study of a wide range of mechanical engineering processes. The course is divided into a practical and theoretical section.

Engineering is useful for the following careers.

- Mechanics
- Apprenticeships in the Army and Air Corp.
- Civil Engineering
- Health & Safety Courses

Engineering

- Metal work teaching
- Tool Maker
- Air craft Technician

Construction Studies

Construction Studies introduces students to the knowledge, skills materials and practices in the building industry. It provides students with a background for the following careers

- Architecture
- Quantity Surveying
- Auctioneering
- Building Management
- Construction Trades

Design & Communication Graphics

It is an essential component of most technical courses. Although it is not essential it is highly recommended for those wishing to study Architecture. It is useful for the following:

- All Engineering courses
- Construction trades
- Motor mechanic
- Air craft technician
- Draughtsperson
- Architectural Technology Courses

History

History embraces the world of politics, economics, religion and Philosophy. Twenty per cent of the marks are achieved by pre submitting a research paper. You need to be a competent essay writer to do well. It is useful for careers in;

- Journalism
- History teacher
- Museum work
- Archaeology
- Broadcasting
- Tourism

Geography

The study of people and their environment and the interaction between the two. The written exam accounts for 80% of the marks and the project 20% of the marks. The teaching of geographical skills such as map reading, presenting and evaluating information is very important. Accepted as a Lab Sc subject in some colleges. Useful for:

- Tourism
- Geography teacher
- Travel Agency
- Town Planning
- Market Research
- Cartographer

Physical Education

- Aim of Physical Education is for students to become informed, skilled, self directed and reflective performer in Physical Education.
- Physical Activity Project worth 20%
- Performance Assessment 30%
- Written Exam 50%
- Would suit students wishing to study
 - Sports Science
 - Strength and Conditioning courses.
 - PE Teaching
 - Physiotherapy

Accounting

- Provides knowledge and skills for managing personal and company accounts.
- It equips students for many business and financial areas.
- Recommended for those who wish to study Accounting at third level.
- It suits students who have an aptitude for problem solving and good numerical skills.
- Careers in business, finance, management, actuary and banking.

Music

- Not a subject to take on a senior level without prior knowledge.
- Necessary for Music and Arts in NUI Maynooth.
- Religion Teaching and Music in DCU.
- BA music UCD
- Necessary to pass Music exam to study Music at Third Level.

Useful

- Primary School Teaching
- Careers in Entertainment and Music Technology.

Points to Remember

- CHOOSE SUBJECTS THE STUDENT ENJOYS/HAS AN APTITUDE FOR.
- CHOOSE SUBJECTS IN WHICH THE STUDENT HAS RECEIVED GOOD GRADES.
- KEEP CAREER OPTIONS OPEN.
- All subjects awarded same points in Leaving Cert. (Except higher Maths)

Additional Information

- Speak to Class Teachers
- Career Guidance Teacher, Read information emailed to students.
- Read booklet on Subject Choice.
- Read subject textbooks
- Be aware of results in DATs test.
- Check out websites such as www.qualifax.ie careersportal.ie or curriculum.ie
- The information given here tonight is subject to change over time, check qualifax website to keep up to date with changes in college entry requirements.

Other Career Options

- PLC Courses
- Apprenticeships
- Teagasc courses.
- Not as many entry requirements as for CAO courses but can lead to rewarding careers.

Aptitude Tests

- DATs is carried out with TY/Fifth years
- 6 areas
 - Verbal Analogies
 - Numerical calculations
 - Numerical Sequences
 - Abstract Reasoning
 - Mechanical Comprehension
 - Space Relations

Questions?

- Questions?