

Leaving Cert. Established

2 year academic programme studying 7 subjects at HL/ OL
FL maths is available however it may have college implications

Assessment is through terminal exam
(some subjects offer practical elements)

You would benefit from the LCE if you enjoy learning, feel at ease with the structure of the junior cycle, would like to progress directly to college/ university



Senior Cycle Subject Choice

Do	Don't
Choose subjects you enjoy	Choose a subject because your friend is taking it
Choose subjects you are good at	Choose a subject just because you like or dislike the teacher
Choose subjects you need for your chosen career	Choose a subject because you think it will be easy
Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice now	Choose a new subject without finding out more about it
Talk to your Guidance Counsellor and your teachers	Make a decision at the last minute without thinking about it
Talk to your parents or guardians	But don't panic



New Points System 2017



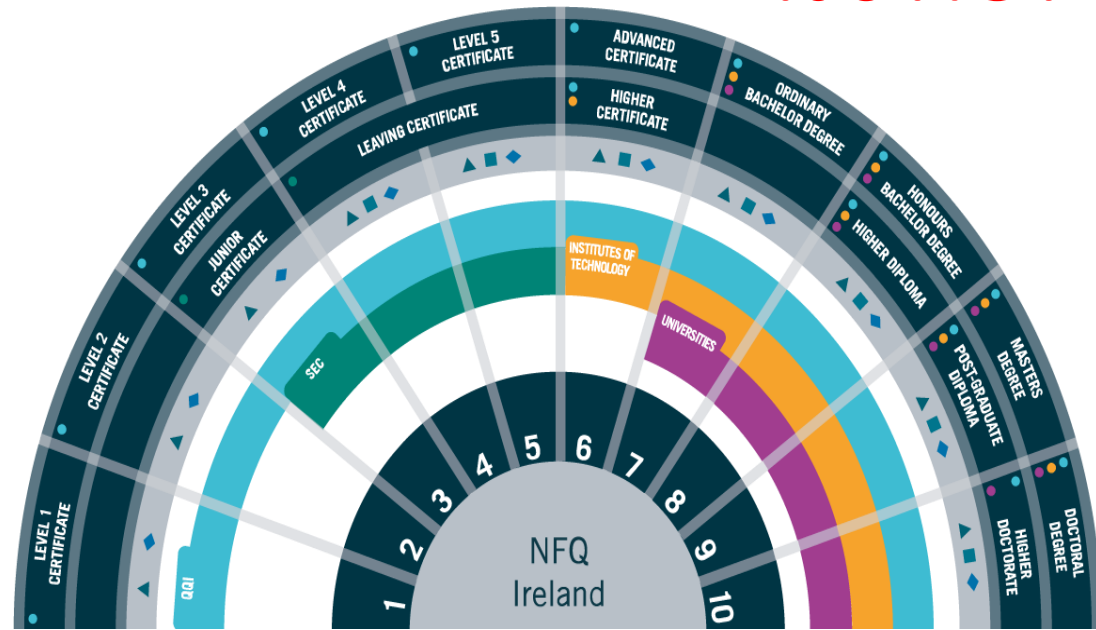
Percentage Score	H. Level Grade	H. Level CAO Points	H. Level Maths CAO Points	O. Level Grade	O. Level CAO Points
90% - 100%	H1	100	125	O1	56
80% < 90%	H2	88	113	O2	46
70% < 80%	H3	77	102	O3	37
60% < 70%	H4	66	91	O4	28
50% < 60%	H5	56	81	O5	20
40% < 50%	H6	46	71	O6	12
30% < 40%	H7	37	37	O7	0
0% < 30%	H8	0	0	O8	0

CAO Points are used for college entry & are calculated from your 6 Best Subjects

Your choice of level for maths deserves due consideration – the bonus points reward students for the time, effort & determination it demands

Factors to consider when making Subject & level Choices

It's NOT all about the Points!



Institution	Minimum grades	Required subjects
NUI Colleges: UCD, NUI Maynooth, NUI Galway, UCC, RCSI, Shannon College of Hotel Management	2H5 + 406/H7(Level 8)	06 in English, Irish and Third Language*
Trinity College Dublin	3H5 + 306/H7(Level 8)	06 in Maths, English & another language
Dublin City University	2H5 + 406/H7(Level 8)	06 in Maths, English or Irish
University of Limerick	2H5 + 406/H7(Level 8)	06 in Maths, English & Irish or another language
Institutes of Technology	2H5 + 406/H7 (Level 8)	06 in Maths, English or Irish
*There are some course exceptions	Level 7 = 5 x 06/H7	e.g of specific requirement Primary teaching DCU Irish H4; Engineering NUIG Maths H4

✓ The subjects needed for a particular college/ level of course i.e **matriculation or minimum entry requirements**

✓ The subjects needed for a particular course i.e **specific subject requirement**

✓ The subjects useful for a particular course

Leaving Certificate Subjects offered at Borrisokane CC



Compulsory Subjects

- Irish
- English
- Maths



Practical Group

- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- Design & Communication Graphics



Science Group

- Ag Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Computer Science * *(Count as science subject for SOME courses)*



Artistic & Creative Group

- Art
- Music



Languages Group

- French
- German



Humanities & Social Group

- History
- Geography
- Home Economics
- LC Physical Education * *(Count as science subject for SOME courses)*



Business Group

- Business
- Accounting
- LCVP *(taken as an additional subject)*

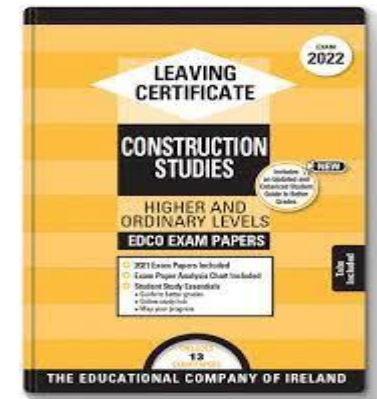
Practical Group

'Hands on' subjects, working with tools & machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

- **Construction Studies**
- **Engineering**
- **Design Communication Graphics**



Leaving Certificate Construction Studies



What is covered?

1. Heritage & Conservation / Planning / Sustainability / Energy Conservation
2. Site Safety / Masonry & Timber Frame Construction
3. Plumbing & Drainage / Heat Retention / Electricity

Examination:

Written Exam:50%

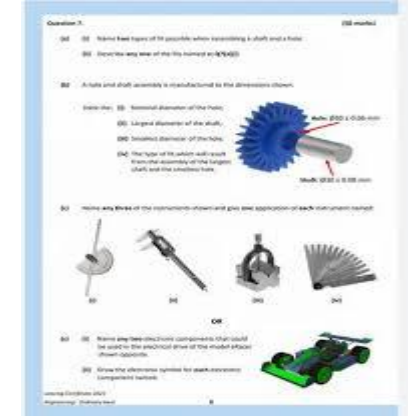
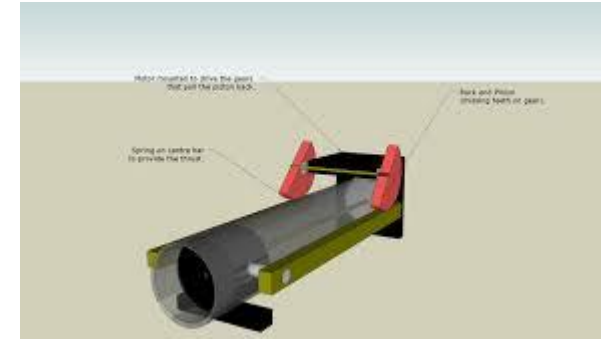
Course work: 25%

Practical bench test: 25%

All practical skills learned in JC carry forward. Theory in LC is not related to JC MTW so can be a fresh start.

Careers/Courses: Sustainable Energy Consultant, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Construction Management, Architecture, Quantity Surveyor, Site Foremen, Plumber, Carpenter, Joiner.

Leaving Certificate Engineering



What is covered?

1. Workshop Processes: Health & safety, Benchwork, Heat treatment of metals, Plastics processing, Fabrication & finishing of metals, Machining, Technology.
2. Materials & Technology: Classification & origin of metals, Structure of metals, Iron & steel, Non-ferrous metals, Corrosion of metals, Materials testing, Plastics, Joining of materials, Machining, Metrology, Manufacturing processes.

Examination: Written Exam:50%

Course work: a Project & a Practical test: 50%

Careers/Courses: Agricultural Engineering, Aircraft Technician, Fitter/Turner, Industrial Design / Operatives, Mechanics, Mechanical Production, Motor Mechanic, Structural & Civil Engineer, Toolmaker and Welder

Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Graphics



What is covered?

DCG involves visualising & understanding information presented verbally or graphically. Drawings & designs (2D / 3D) are prepared using sketching, traditional draughting equipment & Solidworks.

Examination:

Written Exam:60%

Course work: 40% - CAD (Solid Works) will form a significant component.

Careers/Courses: Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Construction Management, Architecture, Product Design, Quantity Surveyor, Draughtsman, Graphic Design and Teaching.

Science Group

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

- **Agricultural Science**
- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**

- **Computer Science****
- **LC PE****

**** (Considered a science subject for a number of specific/related courses- NOT lab sciences)**



Holding on to one Science subject for Senior Cycle (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Agricultural Science) keeps several college options open including all Healthcare courses, most Science courses, Sports & Physical Education and Engineering courses.

Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science



What is covered?

- Food Production, Health & Safety, Technology, Breeding & Genetics, Sustainability.
- Policy & Economics, Environment, Nutrition, Food Production.
- Soils, Crops, Animals, Scientific Practices .

Examination: Written examination: 75% Individual Investigative Study: 25%

(Both components reflect the relationship between practical activity & Theory)

IIS– Students gather & process data, evaluate evidence & develop arguments.

Careers/Courses: Agricultural Engineering, Inspector, Animal Breeder, Animal Trainer, Butter / Cheese-maker, Creamery Manager, Dairy Scientist, Farmer, Fish Farmer, Forester, Horticulturalist, Lab Technician, Stud Farm, Veterinary Surgeon

Leaving Certificate Biology

What is covered?

1. The study of Life : Scientific Method, Characteristics of Life, Ecology, Nutrition.
2. The Cell: Structure, Diversity, Continuity, Metabolism, Genetics.
3. The Organism: Diversity, Organisation, Transport & Nutrition, Breathing, Excretion, Responses, Reproduction & Growth.

Examination: Written Exam (100%): 3 hrs.

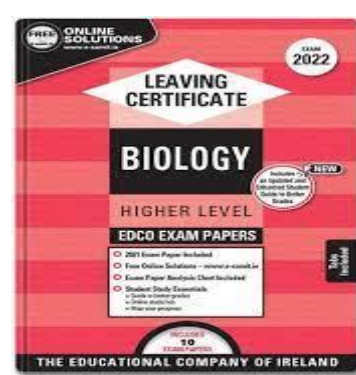
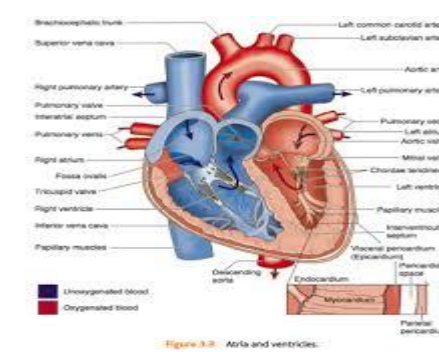
Section A (25%): Short Q's: 5/6.

Section B (15%): Mandatory Experiments: 2/3.

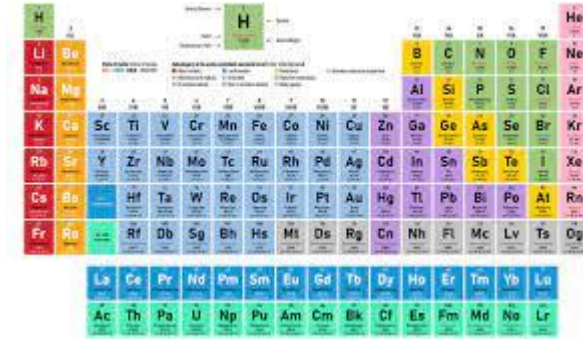
Section C (60%): Long Q's: 4/6.

The course is long. Students need to like learning off information.

Careers/Courses: Nursing, Beautician, Health Professionals, Marine Biology, Food Industry, Environmental Officers



Leaving Certificate Chemistry



What is covered?

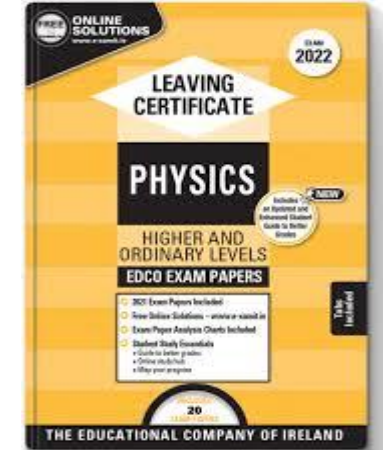
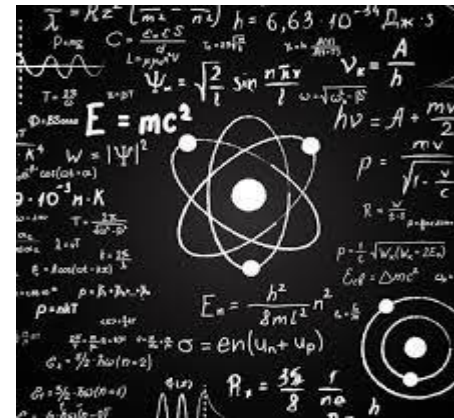
Periodic Table & Atomic Structure, Chemical Bonding, Stoichiometry, Formulas and Equations, Volumetric Analysis Fuels & Heats of Reaction, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Equilibrium, Environmental Chemistry, Water & Options, Industrial & Atmospheric or Metals & Electrochemistry.

A mixture of theory (definitions), calculations and 28 mandatory experiments and demonstrations. Must start learning immediately in 5th year as you can get lost easily. Must be logical, analytical, numerate and creative.

Examination: Written Exam 100%: 3 hrs.

Careers/Courses: Medicine, Dentistry, Science & Engineering

Leaving Certificate Physics



What is covered?

Mechanics, Temperature, Heat, Waves, Vibrations and Sounds, Light, Electricity and Modern Physics. Covers a good mixture of theory (definitions), calculations and mandatory experiments (24). An aptitude & interest in maths necessary.

Examination: Written Exam (100%): 2.5 hrs. Section A: Assesses 24 mandatory experiments (30%). Section B: Assesses knowledge, theory, definitions, calculations & other experiments.

Careers/Courses: Renewable Energy, Environment and Climate, Communications, Music and Television, Sports and Games (without Physics there would be no ipods, games consoles or the internet!!), Transport, Medicine, Education

Leaving Certificate Computer Science **

Strand 1: Practices and principles	Strand 2: Core concepts	Strand 3: Computer science in practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Computers and societyComputational thinkingDesign and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AbstractionAlgorithmsComputer systemsDataEvaluation/Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Applied learning task 1 - Interactive information systemsApplied learning task 2 - AnalyticsApplied learning task 3 - Modelling and simulationApplied learning task 4 - Embedded systems



What is Computer Science?

Computer Science is the study of algorithms and programming, and the impact computers have on society.

How is the course examined?

70% end of course examination

- 38% - written

- 32% - computer based

30% individual final year course work

Assessment Learning Tasks (ALTs):

Students will perform 4 ALTs over the course of the two years. These are practical projects in which students learn the applications of what they have learned.

What will students learn:

Computational Thinking

Programming languages

Design and Collaboration

Computers and Society

How to build and design websites

Number Systems

Embedded Systems (like micro:bit)

Artistic & Creative Group

These subjects involve developing creativity and the appreciation of the work of others. This involves learning the methods and techniques of the subject and producing your own work using these skills.

- **Art**
- **Music**



Leaving Certificate Art

What is covered?

1. Life Drawing
2. Craft or Design
3. Still Life or Imaginative Composition
4. History and Appreciation of Art. Encourages creative thinking (INNOVATION) and critical analysis (PROBLEM SOLVING)

Don't need to have done Art for Junior Cert.

Portfolio preparation not part of course.

Examination:

Project on a topic decided by the state exams 50%

Practical exam: Life drawing 20%

Art History exam: 30% (2.5 hrs)

Careers/Courses: Advertising, Animation, Architecture, Archaeology, Art Worker, Art Therapy, Fashion and Textile Design, Film Making, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Photography, Theatre Design, Product Design, Web Design.....Endless list of careers that reward creativity and innovative thinking.



Leaving Certificate Music

What is covered?

The course is divided into 3 components:

Performing

Performing is fundamental therefore to the course and classwork

Composing

This involves learning about the rudiments and Basic theories of Music. The students learn how to Compose a short melody and how to add backing Chords to a piece of Music.

Listening

This involves analysing four different pieces of Music which includes Music by JS Bach,, Mozart, The Beatles and Queen. The students also study Irish Music and various other styles of Music

Examination: The Practical exam is 50% of the overall mark - student performs on Instrument (s) or soloist or part of a group.

The written exam is in two parts:

The Composing paper and The Listening paper

Careers/Courses: Performer, Teacher, Composer, Music Producer, Advertising, Sound engineer



Languages Group



It is widely believed that if a student does not study a language for the Leaving Cert they will not be able to attend third level - this is not entirely the case, but not having a language can impact certain choices.

Impact of Dropping a Language

Some third level colleges do not require entrants to have a third language in order to meet the matriculation, or minimum entry requirement.

At Trinity College Dublin, students are required to pass English **and** another language, and Maths **or** Latin.

The matriculation requirements for DCU are Maths **and** English **or** Irish.

UL - The University of Limerick requires students to have English, Maths **and** Irish **or** another language.

- **French**
- **German**

Exemption from Irish

A student with an Irish exemption may apply for exemption from the requirement to present Irish as a matriculation subject from the university they will be applying to

The **Institutes of Technology** generally expect students to have O6/H7 in English and Maths - not choosing a language should have **no impact** on a candidate's ability to get place in one of their programmes.

PLC colleges **do not require** students to have taken a language.

A modern European language will also be required for application to cadetships in the **Defence Forces**.

So, while not choosing a language will not affect entry to the majority of third level institutions, it will restrict choice to some extent.

Leaving Certificate French & German

What is covered?

Three components:

1. Basic Communicative Proficiency
2. Language Awareness
3. Cultural Awareness

Examination:

Written Exam: 2.5 hrs (55%).

Aural: 30 mins (H.L: 20%; O.L: 25%)

Oral: 12/15 mins (H.L: 25%; O.L: 20%)

Need a good foundation for chosen language.

Careers/Courses: European Studies, Marketing, Hotel Management, Translation, EU, Teaching, Cadets, Tourism & Leisure.



Humanities & Social Group

These subjects explore ways in which humans live & communicate.

These subjects explore common issues experienced by all people living in society. They develop the skills and knowledge used to manage personal resources and guide human behaviour.

- **History**
- **Geography**
- **Home Economics**
- **Physical Education**



Leaving Certificate History



What is covered?

Students cover Modern Irish History and two topics from European history. The course is divided into three areas:

1. A research study (20%) – Submitted in March.
2. Document based study (20% of the Exam)
3. Three topics (60% of the Exam) - from Irish and European History.

Develops critical, analytical and communication skills based around learning about the world of politics, economics, religion, philosophy.

Examination:

Written Exam 80% (4 Q's): 2 hrs 50 mins.

Investigation 20% : Extended essay.

Careers/Courses: Politics, Journalism, Local Government, Law, Archaeology, Media, Museum Work, Librarian, Civil Service

Leaving Certificate Geography

What is covered?

3 Core Units:

1. Physical Environment
2. Regional Geography
3. Investigation and Skills (Fieldwork)

1 of 2 Elective Units:

4. Economic Geography
5. Social Geography

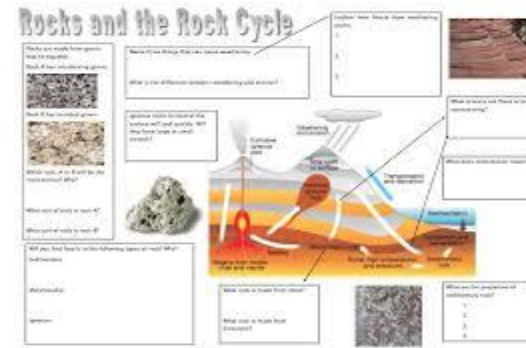
1 of 4 Optional Units:

6. Global Interdependence
7. Geo-Ecology
8. Culture & Identity
9. The Atmosphere

Examination:

- Written Exam (HL: 80%; OL: 75%): 2 hrs 50 mins. Short Answer Questions/Multi-Part Questions/Essay (optional HL only)
- Fieldwork Project due in April: (HL: 20%; OL: 25%) Involves drawing maps, figures, statistics, charts

Careers/Courses: Urban Planning, Map Making, G.P.S. / G.I.S. Environment, Teaching, Demographer, Weather / Climate



Leaving Certificate Home Economics

What is covered?

3 core areas and 1 elective.

Core: Food Studies (45%),

Resource Management & Consumer Studies (25%)

Social Studies (10%).

Electives: 3 of which 1 is chosen (20%):

Home Design and Management, Textiles, Fashion and Design

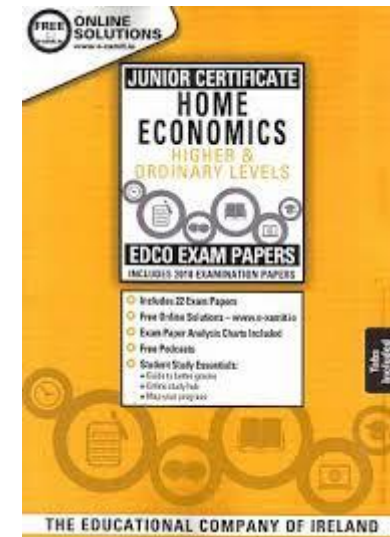
(10%) for written and (10%) for Sewing Assignment & Social Studies.

Examination:

Written Exam: 80%: 2.5 hours (Core: 60% & Electives: 20%)

Practical coursework: 20%

Courses/Careers: Hotel, Catering & Tourism, Culinary Arts, Fashion & Design, Childcare, Home Economics Teaching, Social Care, Food Science



Leaving Certificate Physical Education**

What is Covered?

LCPE is the equivalent of studying sports science in first year of college. As the written assessment comprises 50% of the marking, ability in physical activity alone is not sufficient, students need to engage with theory also. Theoretical knowledge such as how to analyse skills and improve nutrition, will directly benefit student's physical performance goals.

Course Content:

The specification is presented in two strands.

Strand 1 Topics:

- Learning and improving skill and techniques.
- Physical and psychological demands of performance.
- Structures, strategies, roles and conventions.
- Planning for optimum performance.

Strand 2 Topics:

- Promoting physical activity.
- Ethics and fair play.



In addition two of the following each year are prescribed:

- Physical activity and inclusion.
- Technology, media and sport.
- Gender & Physical Activity
- Business & Enterprise in Physical activity & sport

There are three assessment components in LCPE:

- Physical activity project – 20%.
- Performance assessment – 30%.
- Written examination – 50%.

Career Sectors

sports & fitness occupations, Physiotherapy, physical training or sports coaching, Strength & Conditioning

Business Group

These subjects teach the skills and knowledge needed to understand how business works.



Leaving Certificate Accounting



What is covered?

2 Sections

- (1) Financial Accounting (Final A/C's of Sole Traders/Companies, Club/Service Firm A/C's, Cash Flow Forecasts)
- (2) Management Accounting (Costing (Product & Marginal) & Budgeting)

- Accurate, organised and reasonably good at Maths.
- Prepared to be challenged and complete the task.

Examination: Written Exam: 100% (3 hrs).

All long questions : Marks vary from 60m – 120m (3 Parts)

Part 1 & 2 : Financial Accounting

Part 3 : Management Accounting

Careers/Courses: Banking, Advertising, Taxation, Secretary, Law, Sales, H.R, Marketing, Insurance.

Leaving Certificate Business



What is covered?

3 Sections

- A. People in Business
 - B. Enterprise/ Management/ Business in Action
 - C. Environment – Domestic & International
- Business Studies for the Junior Cert is NOT necessary.
 - Does not contain a lot of accounting (Tax Calculation, Ratio Analysis, B/E charts)
 - Learning definitions, assessing companies, regulations/legislation and applying knowledge to case studies.
 - Must like learning things off, but unlike English no essays – bullet point form

Examination:

Written Exam: 100% (H.L: 3 hrs; O.L: 2.5 hrs).

Short + Long questions + ABQ

Each year three different units are examined in detail for a case study called an A.B.Q. – Applied Business Question. (7 Units in Total)

Careers/Courses: Banking, Advertising, Taxation, Secretary, Law, Sales, H.R, Marketing, Insurance.



**Just a
reminder...**

Remember **YOUR** choices **may** have unintended consequences in 2 years' time, when paths into college are blocked by unfortunate subject gaps

- Know which subjects are Required/ Useful for particular courses/careers
- Pick subjects you like/are good at to sustain your motivation over two years
- There is no such thing as an easy subject. All subjects require hard work & effort.
- Keeping a science & language subject will increase third level options.
- Use all available resources to support informed decisions. Talk to subject teachers/ senior students, examine text books (most available online), use qualifax/careersportal, use results from aptitude and ability tests.
- Don't leave your decision until the last minute, rushed decisions have costly implications

Take the time to make an Informed Decision

https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php

- This link allows you to access all the subjects on offer, a summary of their curriculum content and hyperlinks to the course and career areas they are useful for.

https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=26&Mainsec=courses&Subsec=min_courses_select&view=wrapper&xpt=0.61113000%201429190312&xpt=0.87098800%201429191164

- This link allows you to enter the subjects you are considering taking up or dropping for fifth year and assess whether they are essential for the course or career you are considering.

