

# SUBJECT CHOICE FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE



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# WHAT IS SUBJECT CHOICE?



Subject choice involves the choosing of subjects for your Leaving Certificate Examination



It is a very important process that can have implications for future career choices after leaving school



It needs your time and your attention and you should make sure you research your choices.

# ESTABLISHED LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Two-year programme

Study 7 subjects

7 subjects divided up as follows:

- Irish (unless exemption granted)
- English
- Maths
- French?
- Plus - 3 Options



# MAKING THE CHOICE?

Think about how you like to learn:

- Do YOU like learning things off by heart?  
(Biology/Geography/Ag Science/Business/French)
- Do YOU prefer problem solving?  
(Chemistry/Physics/Accounting/Design)
- Do YOU like doing research?  
(History/Home Economics)
- Do YOU prefer more practical tasks?  
(Engineering/Construction/DCG/Art/Music)



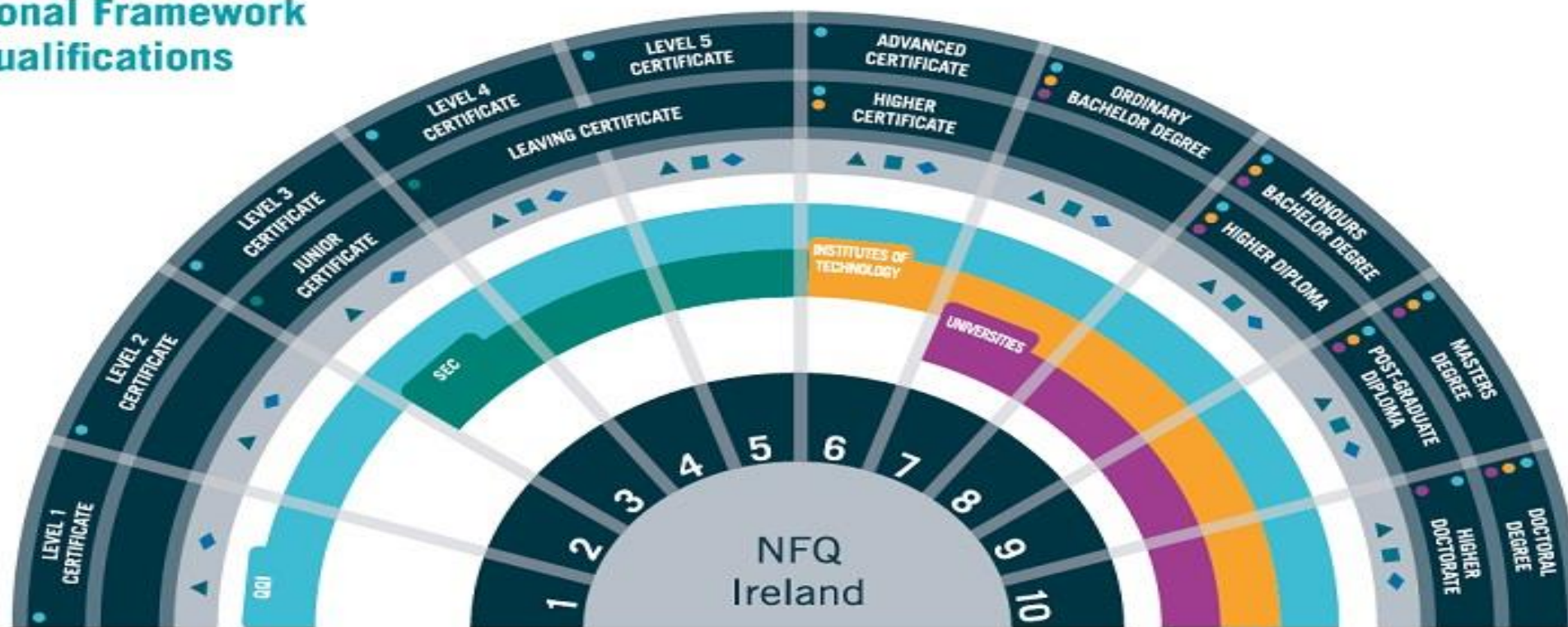


## THINGS TO CONSIDER.....

- What subjects am I good at now?
- What subjects do you like?
- Ask present teachers about your abilities and the subject
- What are your aptitudes/strengths
- Are you neat and tidy in your approach to work tasks?
- Do you like to be challenged?
- Do you like reading/writing?
- Do you like studying abstract concepts and ideas?
- What subjects do I need to study to help me achieve my career goals?
- If you are unsure of your career path, keep your choice of subjects wide to keep your options open



# National Framework of Qualifications



## AWARDING BODIES

- **Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)** makes awards in further and higher education and training
- **SEC - State Examinations Commission** (*Department of Education and Skills*)
- **Institutes of Technology**
- **Universities**

## AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:



- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

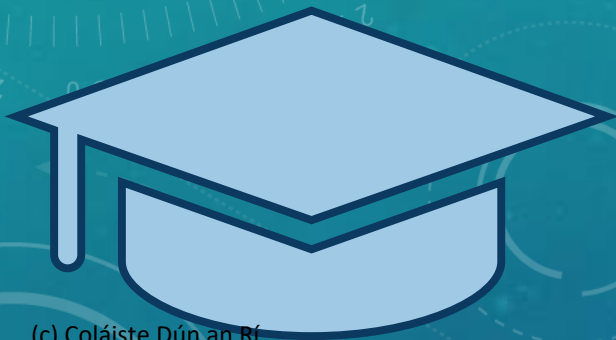
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For further information consult: [www.nfq.ie](http://www.nfq.ie) [www.QQI.ie](http://www.QQI.ie)

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# MATRICULATION- NUI UNIVERSITIES



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Matriculation refers to the minimum entry requirements to the University.

Before you can be considered for admission you must meet these minimum standards.

Matriculation has nothing to do with points -*Honours Degree – level 8*

\*UCD

\* UCC

\* NUI Maynooth

\* University

Galway

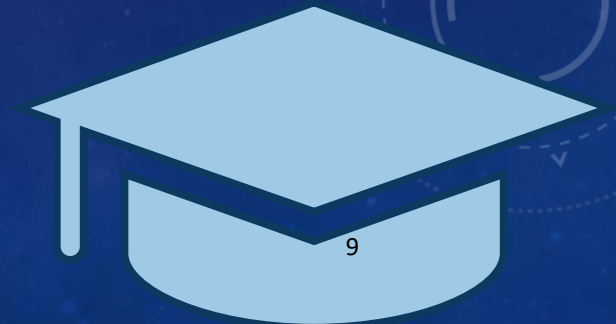


# THIRD LANGUAGE - FRENCH

A **third language** is required for entry to **National University of Ireland colleges** for most degree programmes in Arts, Human Sciences, Social Science, Medicine and Health Sciences and some other degrees.

The following NUI universities and colleges require a pass in a third language for most of their courses:

- UCC
- Galway University
- UCD
- NUI Maynooth
- The Royal College of Surgeons
- Pontifical University, Maynooth
- Shannon College of Hotel Management



- Other colleges have a third language as a requirement for certain courses that have a large language component, e.g. European Studies, Languages & Marketing, Hotel Management, Languages & International Tourism.

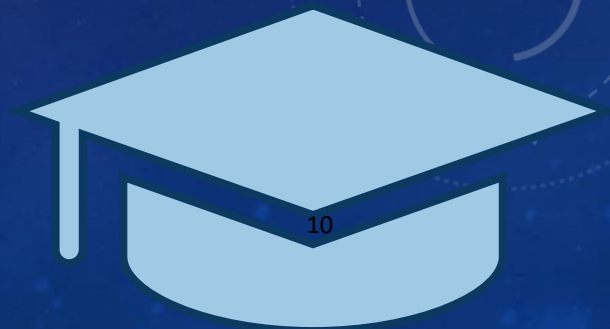
- Health Sciences (e.g. Medicine, Pharmacy, etc) do require a third language in NUI universities and colleges.

- - Entry to the Cadetships in the Army, Army Equitation, Air Corps and Naval Service require a third Language.

- - NCAD require a third language or Art

- Many science and engineering courses include the study of French or German from scratch.

- **This information is subject to change – For a more detailed list, please check Careers Portal Guide to Choosing Leaving Cert Subjects**



# COURSES REQUIRING SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- SCIENCE
- ENGINEERING\*
- MEDICINE
- DENTISTRY
- VETERINARY
- PHARMACY
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- RADIOGRAPHY
- NURSING
- NAVAL CADETS
- ARCHITECTURE
- OCCUP. THERAPY
- SPEECH THERAPY
- SPORTS SCIENCE
- MED LAB SCIENCE
- DIETETICS
- OPTOMETRY
- PRODUCTION MGT
- INFO. TECH.

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# SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

## Pharmacy UCC & TCD

- H4 in Chemistry &
- second Science Subject

## Physiotherapy (TCD)

- H4 in two science subjects

## Medicine

- H3 in Chemistry and
- H4 second science subject

## Human Nutrition

- H4 in Chemistry



**Maynooth  
University**  
National University  
of Ireland Maynooth



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

### Entry Requirements - NUI

- level 8 (3/4year hon's degrees)
- 2H5 and 4O6/H7 – to include Irish and English
- 3<sup>rd</sup> language – for all except Science and Engineering courses (excluding Biotechnology)
- Science requirement – for all Science Engineering Medical Health Science and Nursing programmes



UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
LIMERICK  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



TRINITY  
COLLEGE  
DUBLIN

**3 Other  
Universities**



## UL and DCU - Entry Requirements

level 8 (3/4year honours degrees) only  
*Minimum Entry Requirements*  
2H5 and 4O6/H7 – to include

English and a 2<sup>nd</sup> language (Irish or a modern)

Maths – for all and will accept foundation for some.

Science requirement – for all Science, Engineering Medical Health Science and Nursing programmes



TRINITY  
COLLEGE  
DUBLIN

## Trinity College - Entry Requirements

level 8 (3/4year honours degrees) only

*Minimum Entry Requirements*

3H5 and 3O6/H7 – to include

English and a 2<sup>nd</sup> language (Irish or a modern)

Maths – for all and will accept foundation for some.

Science requirement – for all Science, Engineering  
Medical Health Science and Nursing programmes





**ATU -Atlantic  
Technological  
University =  
GMIT, LYIT  
& IT Sligo**

# 4 Technological Universities

level 8 (3/4year honours degrees)  
only

*Minimum Entry Requirements*

2H5 and 406/H7 – to include

**English OR Irish & Maths**



**Waterford,  
Carlow, Wexford &  
Kilkenny IT's**

# INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

- Entry Requirements

- 2 year Higher Certificate and 3 year Ordinary Degree (level 6/7)

- 506/H7

- Irish or English and Maths

- 4 year Honours Degree

- 2H5 and 406/H7

- Irish or English and Maths



iadt  
IN LAOGHAIRE



Institiúid Teicneolaíochta dhún c'  
DUNDALK  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# IRISH/LANGUAGE EXEMPTION

## 01

If you have a Irish exemption because of a Psychological report/school report that exemption continues to 3<sup>rd</sup> level

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## 02

Some exemptions may also indicate a modern language exemption but not always.

## 03

If you have an Irish Exemption because you began your Education in the Irish System after the age of 12– this continues to 3<sup>rd</sup> level but you do not have modern language exemption – You must have another language

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## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- H4 in Irish for entry into Primary School Teaching in the Republic of Ireland
- Science subject for entry into nursing
- H4 in Maths or higher for entry into Level 8 Engineering programme.
- Chemistry for entry into Pharmacy, Veterinary, Medicine, Dentistry, Human Nutrition

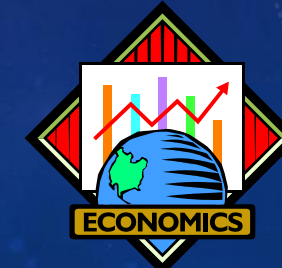
## IMPORTANT TO NOTE -



- A pass in Ordinary level Maths is essential for entry to the majority of courses
- Some honours degrees (level 8) require a minimum of a H4 in Higher Level Maths-e.g. engineering, computer science, science, information and computer technology
- A decision not to take any science subjects or a continental language will have implications for the range of college courses available

# MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENT FOR LEVEL 6 & 7 ARE LOWER

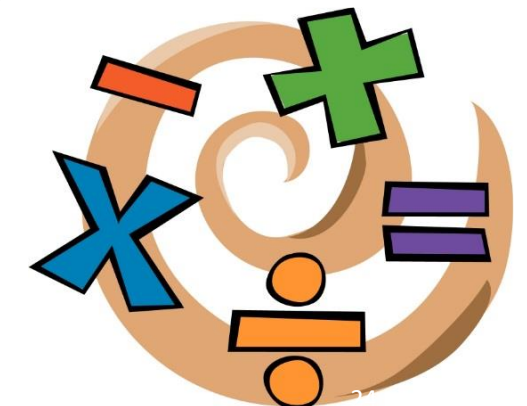
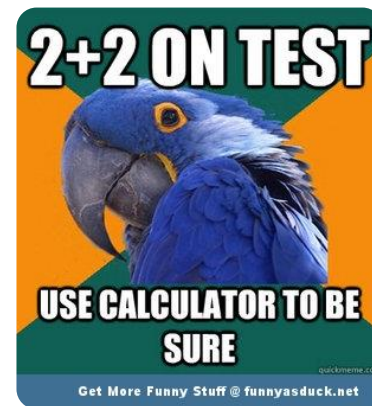
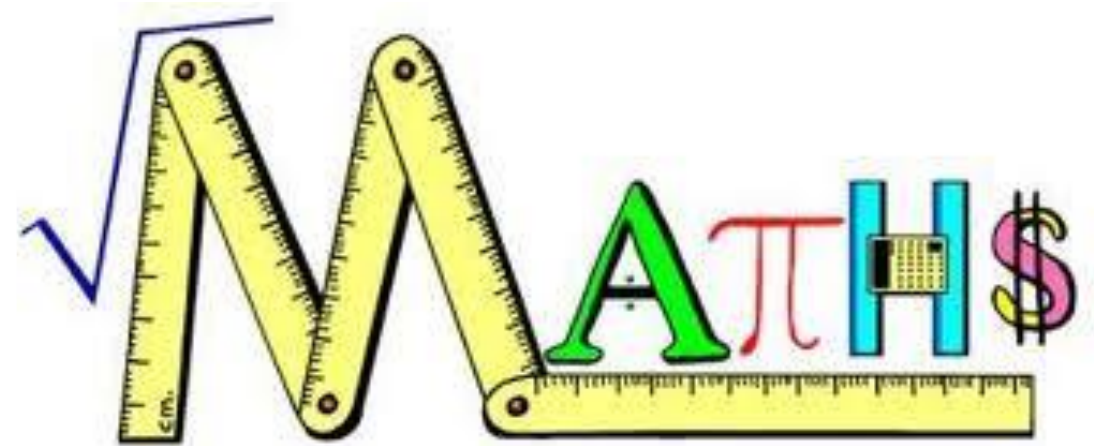
- **Recommendation to always consider level 7 =  
back up plan**



<b>Higher Level Grade (%)</b>	<b>New CAO Points (HL)</b>	<b>Ordinary Level Grade (%)</b>	<b>New CAO Points (OL)</b>
<b>H1 (90-100)</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>H2 (80-89)</b>	<b>88</b>		
<b>H3 (70-79)</b>	<b>77</b>		
<b>H4 (60-69)</b>	<b>66</b>		
<b>H5 (50-59)</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>O1 (90-100)</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>H6 (40-49)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>O2 (80-89)</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>H7 (30-39)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>O3 (70-79)</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>H8 (0-29)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>O4 (60-69)</b>	<b>28</b>
		<b>O5 (50-59)</b>	<b>20</b>
		<b>O6 (40-49)</b>	<b>12</b>
		<b>O7 (30-39)</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>O8 (0-29)</b>	<b>0</b>

# HIGHER MATHS - 25 EXTRA H6 AND ABOVE

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
H1	125	O1	56
H2	113	O2	46
H3	102	O3	37
H4	91	O4	28
H5	81	O5	20
H6	72	O6	12
H7	37	O7	0
H8	0	O8	0





# CORE SUBJECTS

**Irish**

**English**

**Maths**

These subjects must be done by everyone.

Exception: If you have an official exemption from Irish now it follows through to Leaving Cert and on to 3<sup>rd</sup> level.

# SUBJECTS ON OFFER

- Construction
  - Engineering
  - Design and Communication Graphics
  - Home Economics
  
  - Chemistry
  - Physics
  - Biology
  - Agricultural Science
  - Leaving Cert PE?
- Geography
  - History
  - Politics & Society?
  
  - Music
  - Art
  
  - Accounting
  - Business
  
  - French
  - Polish



# THE PROCESS

## 1<sup>ST</sup> – Order of Preference

- Construction
- Engineering
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Home Economics
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Agricultural Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Music
- Art
- Accounting
- Business
- Leaving Cert PE
- Polish
- Politics & Society

You will be asked to number the subjects in the order that you most want them.

The lines offered are created based on these initial responses.

Make your decisions after due consideration and research

Teacher allocation and number of classes per subject are decided at this point

Another class cannot be suddenly created in Sept because some did not put in enough thought **NOW!!!** <sup>27</sup>

# EXAMPLE OF POSSIBLE SUBJECT LINES BASED ON FICTIONAL STUDENT REPLIES

1) Engineering      Home Economics      Art      Business      Music

2) Physics      Construction      French      History      Accounting

3) Biology      Geography      Ag. Science      Home Economics

4) Design/Graphics      French      Chemistry      Construction

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# THE SUBJECTS



This is a brief overview of some of the subjects on offer



You should supplement this information with your own research and by talking to your teachers, people at home and students who have studied the subjects you are interested in.



# ACCOUNTING

- Needs to enjoy bookkeeping
- Get satisfaction when accounts balance
- Enjoy working with numbers
- Be organised
- Good attention to detail
- Having done JC Business an advantage but not essential
- 20% OL get an A in Accounting
- As opposed to 1.3% in OL HE OR 3.8% in OL Geography
- Be prepared to problem solve
- Tasks must be completed fully



# BUSINESS

- One of Business/Accounting subjects
- Study of the environment in which a business operates
- Need to like memorising material
- It is not essential for access into any business courses but certainly helps if you are considering pursuing it at 3<sup>rd</sup> level
- If a student is good at expressing themselves on paper and knows the course it will be a huge advantage and high grades can be achieved
- A very theoretical subject with very useful applications

# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE



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One of the four Science Subjects

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Practical = 25%

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Locality and rural way of life

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Basic knowledge of farming a help but not essential if prepared to work

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Relevant to the real world

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Easy to relate content to the real life

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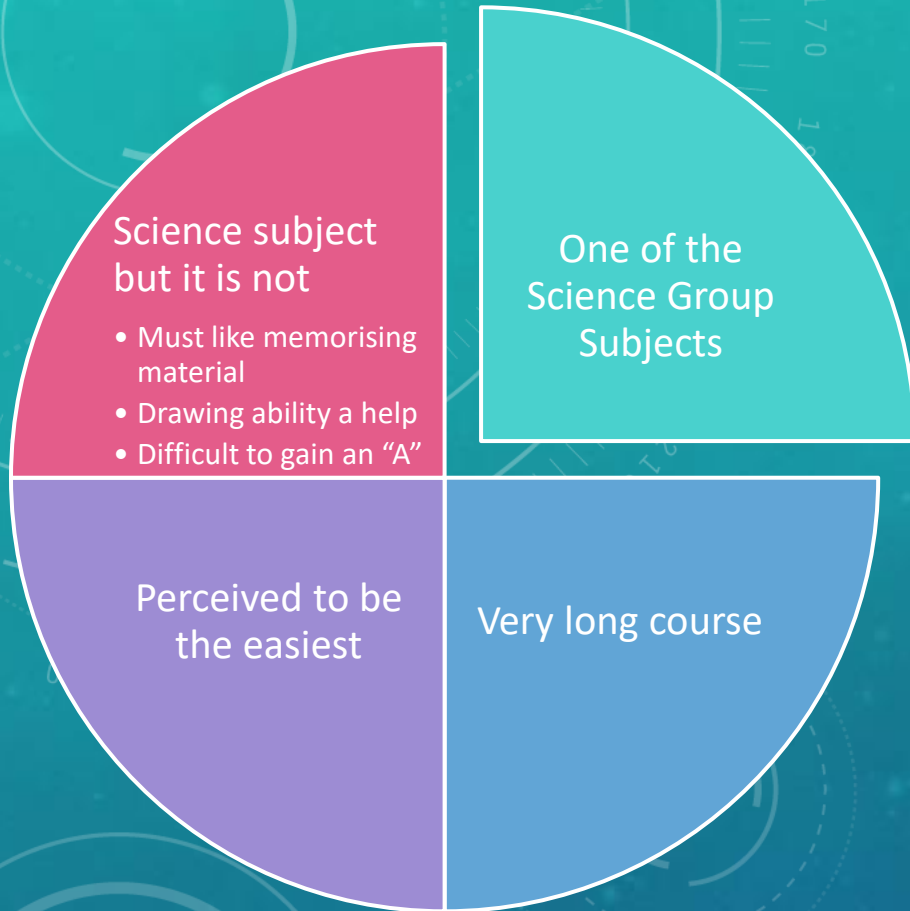
Science of Agriculture not agriculture

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Helps if you like Science at Junior Cert level.



# BIOLOGY



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The syllabus consists of three units:

## **UNIT ONE: THE STUDY OF LIFE**

- The Scientific Method
- The Characteristics of Life
- Nutrition
- General Principles of Ecology
- A Study of an Ecosystem

## **UNIT TWO: THE CELL**

- Cell Structure
- Cell Metabolism
- Cell Continuity
- Cell Diversity
- Genetics

## **UNIT THREE: THE ORGANISM**

- Diversity of Organisms
- Organisation and the Vascular Structures
- Transport and Nutrition
- Breathing System and Excretion
- Responses to Stimuli
- Reproduction and Growth



# CHEMISTRY

- It is a challenging Science subject
- It is essential for entry into some 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses e.g veterinary, dietician, medicine
- A reasonable ability at Maths is necessary
- Huge job opportunities for Chemistry graduates
- Useful foundation for many 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses in the Engineering and Science areas as well as in the food industries.

## Areas of Study

- Periodic Table and chemical structure

- Chemical Bonding

- Stoichiometry, Formulas and Equations

- Volumetric Analysis

- Fuels and Heats of Reaction

- Rates of Reaction

- Organic Chemistry

- Chemical Equilibrium

- Environmental Chemistry: Water



# PHYSICS

- Some of the concepts of Physics are difficult to grasp at first but a dedicated student will be rewarded
- A lot of Maths – don't need honours Maths but it does help and makes the subject easier
- Requires good problem solving skills
- Large quantity of practical work but no marks towards Exam yet
- Huge opportunities for Physic graduates

## Areas of Study

- Mechanics
- Temperature
- Heat
- Waves
- Vibrations and Sound
- Light
- Electricity
- Modern Physics

Option 1: Particle Physics (HL only)

Option 2: Applied Electricity (HL only)

- At Higher level, there is a deeper, more quantitative treatment of physics.

- Students follow a course of practical work, with prescribed experiments in each of the main sections of the syllabus. Students are required to keep a record of this work.

# CONSTRUCTION

Interest in general construction. You will be learning every aspect about the house you live in from foundation to walls, doors, roof, etc....

Interest in drawing. Drawing a house to scale

**Topics:** Energy efficiency, carbon footprint, sustainable development

Junior cert tech and woodwork not essential but are a help.

25% project of your choice e.g table/model of house etc

50% theory and drawing details

25% day practical exam in woodwork

**Careers:** Cabinet making/civil engineering/health and safety/architecture/structural engineering





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# DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

- 40% practical
- 60% written exam

## **Interest in:**

Computers

How objects work/are designed

Problem solving

Analysis of Geometric Shapes

Good at

Hand/eye co-ordination

Spatial relations

Attention to detail/neat/accurate

## Career Areas

- Product Research & Development
- Computers & information Technology
- Graphic Design
- Engineering
- Animation
- Education
- Architect
- Planning & Environmental
- Web Design
- Interior Design

# ENGINEERING – MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY



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25% Project

25% Practical exam

50% Theory

Excellent introduction to any 3<sup>rd</sup> level course in Engineering/design/materials/science/manufacturing

Examines materials both metals and non-metals and their properties

Examines how ordinary everyday items are manufactured and how complex components are assembled

This theory is then applied in the workshop in the projects the students design and make

# ART

## Career Areas:

Graphic design

Interior design

Architecture

Software design Fashion design

Gallery curator

Make-up artistry

Advertising

Film production

Engineering Environmental planning

Primary school teaching.



## Art is examined in three ways:



Practical Coursework – A 10 week project to completed in class between Jan – April of 6th year. This is worth 50% of marks



Practical Exam once finished the coursework. It is a 5 hour exam worth 20%



History of Art and Appreciation – examined in June, worth 30%

# FRENCH

Students need to have a good foundation in Junior Certificate French in order to achieve honours in the Leaving Certificate.

- 45% of marks in the Leaving Certificate exam go between oral and aural exams.
- Students must be committed to working consistently to develop their skills in speaking, reading, listening and writing.
- Cultural understanding- Speaking a new language helps you to get to know another people and culture, as language and culture go hand in hand.
- An obvious reason to learn a new language is to be able to communicate with the people who speak it. This includes both the people you meet when traveling as well as people in your own community.
- French is required for entry into some Universities.

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# GEOGRAPHY



A very interesting subject as it is so varied.



Students must complete a field trip and this accounts for 20% of the total exam.



It involves a mixture of learning, researching, drawing, map reading and reading. Great variety of learning styles



It is not essential for any course but can be counted as a Science subject in a limited number of courses.



An “A” is achievable for a good student.

# WHY STUDY HISTORY?

The topics are arranged in two discrete fields of study:

**Early Modern, 1492-1815**

**Later Modern, 1815-1993**

Students will study topics from one of the fields of study.

Assessment consists of two components:

- A written examination paper (80%)
- A research study report (20%)

submitted around Easter before the June exam.



History gives students the chance to develop research skills and to explore and analyse many of the major developments that have shaped our current world



Studying history provides a sound academic and practical basis for a variety of careers. It is beneficial if the student has a good command of English – 3 essay style answers are required in the exam.

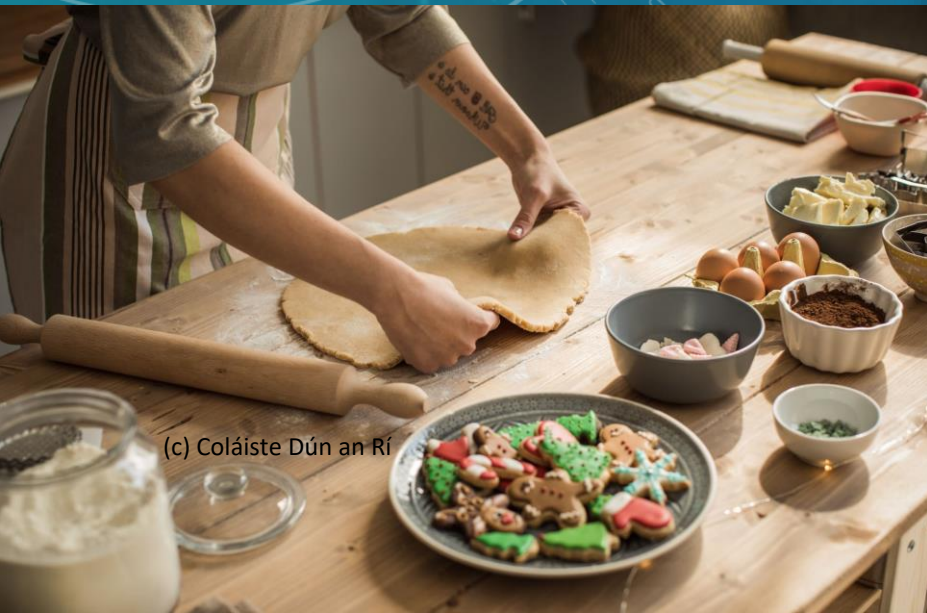


It gives students skills of analysis, problem solving and independent thinking which are essential at third level.



History students acquire a broad perspective that gives them the range and flexibility required in many work situations – law, public administration, research and development and teaching.

# HOME ECONOMICS



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Very relevant to today's world and so material is accessible

Learn about social skills

Optional textiles section

Study interior design

Opportunity to create your own menus

Nutrition and diets etc...

Journal = 20% of final exam

A good Home Economics student will display interest in:

- Nutrition, consumerism, family and social issues
- Meal planning, cooking and getting value for money
- Managing money & resources
- Current affairs & social issues

# MUSIC

## 3 Components

### **Composing 25%**

16 bar Melody writing including modulation and a Harmony question adding chords and a bass line to a piece of music

### **Listening 25%**

4 Set Works from different genres, Irish music, Aural Skills

### **Practical element 50%**

Students must present one or two of the following activities

- Singing solo/group performance
- Music technology - finale or musescore

## Careers in Music

- composer
- conductor
- Radio or Radio
- Sound-engineers/technicians
- (live) entertainment industry
- Event organizer
- Journalism
- Advertising
- Software designers
- P.R. and Marketing
- merchandising
- Law -Copy right & Illegal downloading
- Arts administration - arts councils
- Teacher
- Private tutor
- Music therapy
- Instrument manufacturing and repair

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# MUSIC

- In 2016, 94.5% of all music students taking the Higher Level LC music exam achieved a C or BETTER
- This is not matched in ANY other subject, but you must have an understanding of music from the Junior Cert or from instrumental lessons outside of school.
- It is important to consider the weight of the marks going towards the practical element.
- Being able to read music is an important skill for this subject.



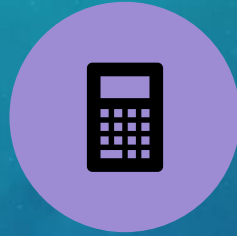
# KEEPING ALL OPTIONS OPEN



ENGLISH



IRISH



MATHS



LANGUAGE



SCIENCE  
SUBJECT

# IMPORTANT!

- THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO EVERY RULE.
- IF YOU HAVE SOME SPECIFIC AREA IN MIND CHECK IF IT HAS ANY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.
- ASK QUESTIONS
- DO YOUR RESEARCH

# USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) – College entry system in Ireland

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – UK/NI College entry system

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) – Course/Career/Subject research

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) – Course/Career/Subject

[www.careersnews.ie](http://www.careersnews.ie) – Daily updates

[www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie) – HEAR/DARE

[www.apprenticeships.ie](http://www.apprenticeships.ie) – How to register for apprenticeships

All 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions have a website





# CONCLUSION



These are important decisions



It is YOU that will have to sit the Leaving Certificate Exam, What papers do you want to be completing?



YOU must be active in your research



Ask questions – subject teachers



It is time to think where you want to go in the future. You don't need to know your absolute destination but in what direction you are headed, just where you want to go for now!



**YOUR FUTURE**

**YOUR EXAMS**

**YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

**YOUR CHOICE**