

Subject Choice for Senior Cycle 2023

Coláiste Dún an Rí
Kingscourt
Co Cavan.



A guide to help you to choose your Leaving Certificate subjects

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Please note: It may not be possible to provide all subjects or provide all students with their preferred choices. We will do our best but depending on resources we may not be able to accommodate all requests. This is the case in every school.

Introduction

The Leaving Certificate is a two-year programme building on the foundation of a successful Junior Cycle and Transition Year. From the beginning of fifth year a responsible approach to class work and a good timetable of personal study of 2½ to 3 hours daily is suggested.

Fifth and Sixth Years students follow a strict academic programme to Leaving Certificate. Senior students also enjoy more responsibility in the school, and they have a greater role to play through the student council.

Support for Students

Each class will have the support of a tutor, who takes a personal interest in every aspect of the student's progress. The Year head, and I as School Guidance Counsellor are available to the students to discuss any problems they may have. We will also liaise with parents to assist each student to reach his/her potential.

In fifth year, students will be expected to show commitment and effort in their work and to display responsibility as a senior student in Coláiste Dún an Rí. Students will have every support from their Teachers, Tutors, the Guidance Counsellor, the Principal Mr Boyle and the Deputy Principal Ms Mullan.

How to Make a Good Choice

As a student entering the senior cycle, you are coming to a cross-road in your life. You need to make decisions and plan for your future. The first decision you will be asked to make is to choose subjects that you will study for the Leaving Certificate.

In Coláiste Dún an Rí, all students take seven subjects in the Leaving Certificate. The following subjects are mandatory:

- Irish
- English
- Maths

You then choose **four** others from the optional list on the contents page of this booklet.

The following broad guidelines form a basis for choice

- 1 Know your aptitudes and interests
2. Choose subjects that you like and would be good at
3. Inform yourself of Leaving Certificate subject requirements for third level colleges or courses

1. Know your aptitudes and Interests – Your aptitudes are strengths that you have in certain areas. You should look back at the results you get in school and see if there is a pattern? Do you always do well at languages and English? Do you find Business and Science challenging or easy? What are the areas of the CAT Tests that you scored higher in? How did you find the subjects in Transition Year?

2. Choose subjects that you like and would be good at – There is no such thing as an easy Honour in any Leaving Cert subject. Over the next two years you will have to work very hard to achieve good results in all your subjects. Liking and enjoying a subject is a huge part of being able to keep up the commitment and study needed.

3. Inform yourself of Leaving Cert subject requirements – If you already have a definite course or career in mind, you need to find out if there are essential subjects that you must have for Leaving Cert to be eligible for that course. If you are unsure of what you want to do after school – RELAX! Most 15/16-year-olds do not know! In 4th Year you had Careers classes where you spent time researching the possibilities. There are also visits to colleges and Open Days as well as speakers to help you decide in 6th year. However, you need to make sure that your subject choices are carefully chosen to make sure that you are not ruling yourself out of anything that you might be interested in later.

REMEMBER: You are the person who is studying the subjects and who is going to take the exam – It is your responsibility to make sure that the information you have is up to date and accurate.

Ask for help from teachers, parents, friends and the Guidance Counsellor if you feel you need it.

Good luck and I hope that your decisions are a positive start of a very exciting and challenging two years to your Leaving Certificate!

Ms Sharon Cumiskey
Guidance Counsellor



RECAP

Subject Choice

- Look at Subject Textbooks
- Seek advice of older students
- Talk to your Guidance Counsellor
- Talk to the Subject Teachers
- Consult with your Parents/Guardians
- Look up career websites (listed at back of this booklet), do some online interest tests- see careers portal, qualifax.

Subjects Offered by Coláiste Dún an Rí:

There are three subjects that are compulsory: Irish, English and Maths

Students must then choose a further *four subjects* from the following groupings:

Languages	Laboratory Science	Social Studies/ Artistic
French	Biology	Geography
Polish	Physics	History
	Ag Science	Art
	Chemistry	Music
Politics and Society		
Business	Applied Science	
	/Technical Group	
Accounting	Design & Communications Graphics	
Business	Construction Studies	
	Engineering	

THIRD LANGUAGE:

The colleges of the National University of Ireland require a pass in a third language for entry into a large number of their courses. These colleges are NUI Maynooth, Dublin, Galway and Cork, and a range of associated constituent colleges, all of which are listed on the NUI website at nui.ie in recent years NUI colleges have dropped their third language requirement for engineering and science programmes. A third language must be included for arts, human sciences, law, social science, commerce, medicine and health sciences and some other degrees. A third language is also a requirement for entry into the cadetship in the army or air corps.

Trinity accepts Irish as a second language requirement. UL and DCU and the Institutes of Technology do not require a continental language for entry purposes to most of their courses, apart from those which involve the study of such a language.

Third language required in:

- UCC, NUI Galway, UCD, NUI Maynooth and the Royal College of Surgeons require a pass in a third language for **most** of their courses. *
- Other colleges have it as a requirement for certain courses that have a large language component. Eg: European Studies, Languages & Marketing, Hotel Management, Languages & International Tourism.
- Entry to the Cadetships in the Defence Forces requires a third Language.
- NCAD require a third language **or** Art
- Many science and engineering courses include the study of Technical French or German ab initio (from the beginning).

NO Third Language is required for:

- Trinity College, University of Limerick, D.C.U., Technological Universities and the Institutes of Technology unless it is a specific course requirement (a pass in Irish will suffice).
- *No language for Engineering & Science NUI Maynooth
- *No language for Engineering, Science & Ag Science in UCD (except for DN037- Biomedical, Health & Life Sciences)
- *No language for Engineering, Science & Food Science UCC
- *No language for Engineering & Science NUI Galway (except for GY304 - Biotechnology)
- Gardai, Nursing, Apprenticeships and most PLC Courses

This information is current but always check with the course provider or your Guidance Counsellor.

Essential Subjects/ Basic Entry Requirements

The Grading system changed in 2017. The 3rd language is not generally required in relation to science, engineering and some agricultural courses in NUI colleges. Also not required for Business, Accounting, Finance and Law in Maynooth University only.

Check individual colleges for minimum entry

Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology - 2H5 + 4O6/H7 for level 8
Passes in English or Irish, Maths + 3 other subjects, 5 O6/H7 for level 6&7

UCD / UCG / UCC / Maynooth - Maths, Irish, English, 3rd Language for some courses,
2H5 + 4 O6/H7

UL - Maths, English, and a language other than English, 2 H5 + 4 O6/H7

TCD - Maths, English, and a language other than English 3 H5 + 3 O6/O7

DCU - Maths, English or Irish, 2 H5 + 4 O6/O7

Primary Teaching - H4 in Irish, English O5/H7, Maths O6/H7. From 2019: Irish H4,
English & Maths O4/H7.

Nursing - 1 Lab Science subject. No 3rd language required

Garda Siochana - Leaving Certificate with 5 passes including English, Irish or another
language and Maths

Cadets - Maths (O6/H7), Irish, English, another Language, 3 H5 in LC.

Veterinary Medicine (UCD) - Chemistry H5, O6 Maths, 2H5 + 4O6/H7. Work exp. x2
weeks

Medicine & Pharmacy (UCC) - (1) Chemistry H4 (2) Physics or Biology H4
(UCD) - O6/H7 in Science subject, including Physics +
Chemistry/Ag. Science

Pharmacy (TCD) - H4 in Chemistry and H4 in Biology or Agric. Science or Physics or
Maths or Geography or Applied Maths. O4/H6 in Maths.

Medicine & Dentistry (TCD) - H3 & H4 in two from: (1) Physics, (2) Chemistry, (3) Biology (4) Ag. Science. H.PAT for Medicine.

Radiography (UCD) - O6/H7 from Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Ag. Science

(TCD) - H4 in Physics, Chemistry or Biology

Physiotherapy - O6/H7 in 1 laboratory science subject, Physics or Chemistry or Biology, or Ag. Science. TCD H4 Science subjects x2. UL O3/H7 Science subject x1

Dentistry (UCC) - H4 Chemistry, H4 Physics or Biology

If the number of applications does not exceed the number of places on any course, students obtain places with the minimum entry requirements. Where there are more applicants than places, those with the highest grades are selected.

Optional Subjects



JUNIOR CERT BUSINESS BRANCHES INTO:

ACCOUNTING

BUSINESS

ACCOUNTING -

What accounting involves:

- The recording of financial information
- The presentation of this financial information
- The interpretation and uses of this information

What do you study?

- You learn how to prepare Business Final Accounts, Cash Flow Statements, Published Accounts and Accounts from Incomplete Records
- You learn Management Accounting. This involves business day to day planning and planning for the future using Costings and Budgets.
- Accounts of non-profit making organisations
- You learn to analyse and comment on financial records

How do you benefit by studying Accounting?

You learn:

- To collect information
- To record and analyse information
- To think logically and clearly
- To understand the importance of financial information for good decision-making. This can be for shareholders, creditors, employers, employees, customers or members of a voluntary organisation.
- About the relationship between accounting and other areas of business

You have an advantage when you go on to further study. Accounting is on the curriculum of many third level courses: the most obvious is Business courses but also Hotel Management, Hospital and School Administration, various Computer courses, Auctioneering, Advertising, Law and Engineering.

You develop an ability to link accounting with relevant computer applications.

Career options:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Banking ○ Insurance ○ Hospital & School administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management ○ Computer industry ○ Auctioneering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law and Engineering ○ Running your own business ○ Advertising
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BUSINESS

What is business?

Business is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates. As a business student you are encouraged to show enterprise, initiative and self-reliance, which you may apply in further education and in your personal working and public life.

What do students study?

Students study about all aspects of the business world.

People	Consumers, Producers, Investors, Interest Groups and Employers/ Employees Industrial Relations
Enterprise	Entrepreneur, Management of Business, Financial Management, Human Resource Management, Marketing Household
Environment	Types of business, Community Development, Governments and Business, International Business, EU, Role of Information Technology in Business.

How do students benefit by studying business?

Students learn to:

- Make informed business decisions
- Understand the structure and management of business
- Use established commercial principles and knowledge
- Understand and appreciate ethics in business
- Practice Communication, Literacy, Numeracy and Problem Solving Skills
- Understand and discuss current affairs as they relate to business

Business is also a foundation for further studies.

Career Options

- Any business related career. The study of Finance and Management will enhance any career choice.
- Set up your own business.



The Sciences

BIOLOGY

The Leaving Certificate course is an extension of the Junior Cert Biology section but is done in much greater detail with extra topics added.

It has been the most popular science subject but like all Leaving Certificate subjects **Honours Level is difficult**. The work involves a lot of theoretical learning by heart but can be very interesting and involves practical work.

The course is divided into three units

Unit 1: Biology – the study of life

1. the scientific method
2. the characteristics of life
3. nutrition
4. general principles of ecology
5. a study of the ecosystem

Unit 2: The Cell

1. Cell structure
2. Cell metabolism (respiration – photosynthesis)
3. Cell continuity (Mitosis – Meiosis)
4. Cell diversity (Tissues – Organs – systems)
5. Genetics

Unit 3: The Organism

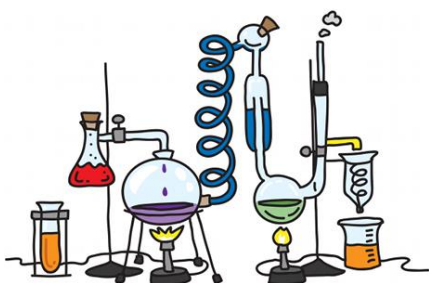
1. diversity of organisms (micro-organisms – flowering plant – animals)
2. plant systems – human systems
(circulatory system – root & shoot system)
3. Transport and Nutrition in plants and animals
4. Breathing systems and excretion in plants and animals

It is important to remember that 70% of the course is based on the pure science of biology and the remaining 30% is based on the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology.

Career Note:

Biology can be useful or necessary for careers in the following areas:

Agriculture, Agriculture Research, Ambulance Driver, Beautician, Biochemical, Biologist, Biology Teacher, Catering Superintendent, Chiropodist, Conservation Worker, Cosmetic Consultant, Dairy Scientist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Technician, Dentist, Dietician, Doctor, Food Science Technician, Forester, Hairdresser, Health Inspector, Horticulturist, Laboratory Assistant, Marine Biologist, Medical Laboratory Assistant, Microbiologist, Nail Technician, Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Oceanographer, Optician, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Radiographer, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Surgeon, Zoologist, etc.



CHEMISTRY

Leaving Certificate Chemistry is quite different from the Junior Certificate Chemistry section. It requires plenty of understanding rather than memory work. The maths required is very basic, probably better described as arithmetic than mathematics. The course gives a good introduction to Chemistry and its many uses in our world. Practical work is an integral part of the study of chemistry and there are a number of experiments on the course, which must be carried out by the students.

The main sections of the chemistry course are:

- Detailed atomic structure and bonding.

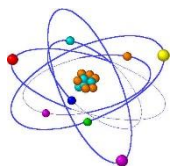
- Working out concentrations and solutions.
- Organic Chemistry and its many important uses in everyday life.
- Rates of chemical reaction and chemical equilibrium.
- Industrial chemistry – e.g. extraction of metals from their ores, making of fertilisers and use of electricity in chemical reactions.
- Social, historical, environmental, technological and economic aspects of chemistry.

All these sections are backed up with suitable practical work.

Career Note:

Chemistry can be useful or necessary for careers in the following area:

Archaeologist, Brewing Technology, Chemistry Teacher, Cosmetic Science, Dairy Scientist, Dental Craftsperson, Dental Hygienist, Dentist, Doctor, Dietician, Engineer, Food Science Technology, Forensic Scientist, Forestry Inspector, Health Inspector, Industrial Chemist, Laboratory Work, Nurse, Optician, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Pilot, Radiographer, Speech Therapist, etc.



PHYSICS

The Leaving Certificate course covers the following core topics:

Mechanics, Study of forces, energy and motion (7 mandatory experiments)

- Temperature & Heat:

Study of heat, heat quantities, heat transfer, temperature and thermometers (4 mandatory experiments)

- Waves:

Study of waves and wave phenomena

- Vibrations & Sound:

Study of wave nature of sound, vibrations in strings and pipes, characteristics of notes (3 mandatory experiments)

- Light:

Study of mirrors, lenses, reflection, refraction and the wave nature of light (5 mandatory experiments)

- Electricity:

Study of static electricity, electric fields, capacitance, electric current and electromagnetism (5 mandatory experiments)

- Modern Physics:

Study of electrons and their properties: the nucleus, radioactivity and nuclear energy.

In addition to the core material there are two options offered.

Option 1: Particle Physics

Option 2: Applied Electricity

Leaving Certificate Physics is a very interesting and challenging subject. The Physics syllabus does not require higher level mathematics. However formulae and mathematical problems occur in most topics. Students studying Physics should enjoy mathematical calculations, and memorisation of key formulae and equations is essential.

Practical work is an integral part of the Physics course; students must carry out the mandatory experiments and keep detailed accounts of procedures, calculations and analysis of results. This practical work will be assessed in the written exam paper.

This revised syllabus places particular emphasis on Science, Technology and Society so that students may relate the various laws and principles to everyday life.

Career Note:

Physics is useful for careers in the following areas :

Architecture, Biophysicist ,Computer Careers, Dentist, Doctor, Engineering, Health Inspector, Marine

Radio Operator, Medical Laboratory Technician, Meteorologist, Naval Service, Nurse, Pharmacist, Physicist, Physics Teacher, Photographic Technician, Pilot, Radiographer, Scientific Laboratory Technician, Scientific Research, etc.



Agricultural Science

The Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science syllabus is designed to provide pupils with the necessary skills, practical experience and knowledge in a range of agricultural and scientific principles. The course is typically aimed at pupils with an interest in Agriculture and Horticulture

or those who wish to pursue a career in Veterinary medicine. An agricultural background is not a necessity, and the course covers a wide variety of topics.

The subject is based on the principles and practices of Irish farms and deals in detail with Sheep Management and Production, Beef Production, Dairy Farm Management, Grassland Management and Tillage Crop Growth and Harvesting etc. Additional topics include Forestry and Farm Safety. It also covers Animal Biology and classification, Plant Biology and classification as well as Soil Science and Genetics.

As well as being classroom and lab orientated, a field trip to a farm is incorporated which will allow those undertaking the course see the practical applications of their learning. Throughout the two year course the pupils will keep a portfolio of their practical experience, which will be assessed and contribute to their overall grade in the Leaving Certificate.

Aptitude and Skills required for subject:

Coming from a farming background would be a distinct advantage however it is not a necessity. The student will have to have access to a farm on which to carry out his/her project on. An interest in agriculture and science (as biology is a key part of Ag Science) are beneficial however a willingness to work hard is most essential for success at this subject.

Final Exam (Leaving Cert): 75%

Project Work: 25%

The Project work is divided into the following sections:

- Identification of Plants and Animals of agricultural importance.
- A detailed Project on an Adopted/Home farm.
- Laboratory Investigations (Experiment Copy).

Career Note:

Agricultural Science can be useful for careers in the following areas:
Agriculture, Agri-Business, Agri-Journalism, Brewing Technology, Dairy Scientist, Dietician, Environmental Inspector, Farmer, Farm Manager, Food Science Technology, Forestry Inspector, Horticultural Work, Laboratory Work, Renewable Energy, Science Teacher, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Surgeon, etc.



Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)

This subject replaces Technical Drawing.

Who should study DCG?

- Any student with an interest in construction or engineering.
- Any student who has studied Technical Graphics for Junior Certificate
- Any student with a flair for mathematics and problem solving who would like to study a challenging and rewarding subject.
- Any student who likes freehand sketching and computers including Computer Graphics and CAD (Computer Aided Design)

Course Content

- The class takes place in a designated DCG room. All course work is drawn by the student using drawing instruments and freehand sketching.
- Over the 2 years the student will compile a portfolio of drawings covering a broad variety of topics from solids in contact to roof geometry. Content includes: Plane and Solid Geometry, Building Applications, Engineering Applications and a Compulsory Computer Aided Design Project
- Neatness and attention to detail are desirable attributes for any student wishing to succeed at this subject.

What career options are there?

DCG is a core element of many 3rd level options i.e. Engineering, Construction, Industrial Design and Architecture. Knowledge of DCG will greatly enhance a student's ability to succeed in any 3rd level engineering based programme.

All apprenticeships include the study and completion of detailed technical drawings. Again the studying of DCG to leaving cert standard is a distinct advantage.

Is it difficult?

The subject requires good levels of concentration and commitment. Traditionally it has been viewed as difficult, but the Dept. Of Education statistics prove otherwise. Very few students fail the subject and most who choose to do higher level obtain a C or higher.

Exam: 3 hour written exam

Research and Design Project in 6th Year.

Free software (CAD) is supplied for use at home for the duration of the Leaving Certificate Course.

Careers: Useful for careers in engineering, construction, interior design, architecture and all apprenticeships.



HOME ECONOMICS -

If I want to study Home Economics for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?

- Be able to research, study, analyse and interpret material
- Be able and willing to learn Nutrition and Culinary skills
- Be able to communicate well
- Be organised
- Be able to discuss topics and work in teams

Leaving Certificate Home Economics V's Junior Certificate Home Economics:

- Practical cookery assessed through written exams only
- Electives – social studies, home design and management
- There is a lot more Sociology e.g. Family /marriage/ relationships/ family problems e.g. alcoholism, gambling, the elderly, housing, problems facing teenagers/ child care development
- In-depth Study of Nutrition, Resource Management and Consumer Studies

Assessment:

- Written exam - 80% of final exam marks
- Practical assessment in Elective - 20% of final exam marks

Assignments during Course:

- Practical work
- Experiments
- Study of various topics
- Group work/ Discussion work
- Project work.

Career Note:

This subject provides a foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies, tourism, and areas such as: Culinary Arts, Catering, Chef, Child Care, Consumer Adviser, Confectionery, Dietician, Environmental Designer, Food Science, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Home Management, Home Economics Teacher, Nursing, Social Work, Social Care, etc.



CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

If I want to study Construction studies for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?

- Experience of Technical Graphics, Materials Technology (Wood), Metal Work and/or Art would be useful, but not essential
- Ability to work safely in a workshop
- Ability to take clear instructions
- A genuine interest in the Built Environment

Leaving Certificate Construction Studies :

- This subject does not have a Junior certificate equivalent. Some see it as a follow on from Materials Technology (Wood).
- The subject deals with all aspects of building a home
- Covers renewable resources - energy efficient homes, insulation, damp proofing, forces and loads,

Assessment:

- Written theory exam - 50%
- Project/Portfolio - 25%
- Practical exam - 25%

Assignments during Course:

- Project work throughout two years.
- Written Assignments

Career Note:

Construction Studies can be useful for careers in the following areas :
 Architecture, Auctioneering, Bricklaying, Construction Studies Teacher, Building Management, Carpenter, Civil and Structural Engineer, Electrician, Environmental Designer, Fire Fighter, Heating and Ventilation Technician, Insurance, Metal Work Teacher, Painter and Decorator, Plasterer, Quantity Surveyor, Site Clerk, Technical Sales, Town and County Planning, etc.

Aircraft Technician, Army/Air Corp, Apprenticeships, Engraver, Engineering Teacher, Fabricator, Fitter, Industrial Design, Industrial Operator, Mechanics, Mechanical Production, Metal Work Teacher, Service and Maintenance Personnel, Structural and Civil Engineer, Technicians, Technical Sales, Toolmaker, Welder.



ART

Requirements: You must be disciplined, hardworking and have a lot of love of the subject. It is desirable to have studied Art Craft and Design at Junior Certificate Level.

COURSE

* Design or Craftwork

* Life Drawing

* Still life or imaginative composition

*History and Appreciation of Art

Class time allotted: one double class and three single classes (5th and 6th year)

Design: 100 marks – 25% of the total marks

Requirements:

Observational and layout skills are necessary. Being able to bring some idea from observational sketches through to **Realisation**, thus producing a **Personal Creative Response** in the finished piece of work.

Design paper break up	Craftwork Paper break up
Poster	Lino cutting
Calligraphy	Calligraphy
Lino Cutting	Poster Making
Bookcraft	Bookcraft
Puppetry	Fabric printing
Embroidery	Screen printing
Batik	Batik
Weaving	Puppetry
Pottery	Embroidery
Carving	Modelling
Art Metalwork	Carving
Screen Painting	Pottery
	Weaving

Craft or Design is chosen and one question is answered on the day. However, the paper is given to students' one week before the examination day.

Imaginative Composition or Still Life (100 marks – 25% of total marks) 2 ½ hour exam

The main mark for this area is given to candidates Personal Creative Response to the question. This is one paper and candidates are given the paper one week before the exam. You must plan out the section you wish to answer well in advance of the examination day as the still life objects must be brought in and set up by the candidate.

Still life – A group of objects

Imaginative Composition: A pictorial Piece, Collage or Abstract Composition

Life Drawing – 50 marks – 12.5% of overall mark. 1 hour exam

Two sketches of the model are required

- One quick sketch and one fully worked up sketch
- Quality drawing is required
- The paper is given to students one week before the examination day.

History & Appreciation of Art -150 marks – 2 ½ hour exam – 37.5% of total mark

- Irish art – art in Ireland from 2000 BC – 20th Century
- European art – 11th – 20th century European art
- General appreciation – covers architecture, design, environmental design and film.

This is a written paper and the candidate must answer one question from each section.

Students are encouraged to enter all competitions and they are also encouraged to produce a portfolio for entry into 3rd level colleges. **Portfolio preparation is not part of the Leaving Certificate syllabus**, but teachers will advise and assist if a student is willing to work.

Career Opportunities: *graphic design, textile design, film making, photography, fashion design, fine art, display design, communications, sculpture, ceramics.*



MUSIC

Music in senior cycle is divided up into three sections:

- I. Listening – 100 Marks/ 25%
1. Composition – 100 Marks/25%
2. Performance – 100 Marks/25%

(i) Listening

This section of the course consists of four set works

- Bach: Cantata No.78
- Tchaikovsky: Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture
- Barry: Piano Quartet No.1
- Queen: Bohemian Rhapsody

Each work is analysed, orchestral, melodically, harmonically and in the case of the more “modern” works technically. Students are also required to study the history of traditional Irish music and dance as well as developing their aural skills through listening to a variety of genres and eras in music.

(ii) Composition

Students are required to compose a 16 bar melody in a variety of keys (major & minor) up to 4 sharps and 4 flats. As part of the composition paper harmonic composition is a requirement. This involves placing suitable chord progressions above a melody and adding a bass line which compliments the chordal structure.

(iii) Performance

The performance element occurs throughout the academic year in music. Students are encouraged to perform in the class room environment and to form groups with other musicians in the class. The key is to develop the musician’s confidence in performing and their musical abilities.

Aptitude & Skills required for the subject

Students should have completed junior cert music or a least have a strong foundation from Transition Year. If a student has not had the opportunity to complete either but can play an instrument up to grade 3 is a suitable level of attainment. Students must have the ability to read music and enjoy different styles and genres of music

Assessment

Each section in the music exam is worth 25%. Student may then choose an area (elective) that they are strongest in for a further 25%.

All music students complete a performance exam in March/April prior to the Leaving Certificate in June. This can be worth either 25% or 50% depending on which elective they have chosen. In June the student complete the remainder of the exam with a 1½ hour listening paper and a 1½ hour composition paper.

All interested students should discuss the subject with Miss O Reilly

Politics and Society



What is Politics and Society?

Politics and Society was introduced as a Leaving Certificate subject in September 2016 and was examined for certification for the first time in June 2018.

Politics and Society draws on the skills of critical thinking and imagination and on the content knowledge of Sociology, Anthropology, Political Studies and Philosophy. The content of these subjects supports the development of an understanding of equality, inequality and diversity in a range of areas of human life including gender, ethnicity and social class. Politics and Society can provide an opportunity for students to develop skills,

knowledge, values and attitudes. In this way, Politics and Society can contribute to the development of active and participatory citizenship through education.

Who should study Politics and Society?

- Students who are interested in current affairs.
- Students who are interested in the political system and how it works.
- Students who are interested in law.
- Students who have a sense of social justice and fairness.
- Students who enjoy debate and discussion and want to share informed opinions.
- Students who are willing to work hard and engage in all aspects of the course work to the best of their ability.

What will I study throughout the course?

The course is comprised of four strands which will be studied over two years;

- Strand 1 - Power and Decision Making
- Strand 2 - Active Citizenship
- Strand 3 - Human Rights and Responsibilities
- Strand 4 - Globalisation and Localisation

As we move through the course it will become very clear to students that these strands are all interlinked.

With each strand of the course, we will look at the ideas of “Key Thinkers” that the course is based around. There are seventeen in total. The ideas of these theorists are linked to the topics and case studies that we will be discussing.

Outline of Course

<p>Strand 1 Power and Decision-Making In Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of power and decision making in schools • Arguments about the need for rules • Ideas that underpin these arguments 	<p>Strand 2 Active Citizenship - Project Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively contributing to communities. • Rights and responsibilities in communication with others
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence concerning the effects of rules and rulemaking processes <p><u>At National Levels at European Levels</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The making of national policy • How is the executive branch of government selected? • Social Class and Gender as important social categories • Arguments concerning representation • Evidence about the effectiveness of representation. • Traditional and New Media in democracy • Participants / theorists in the debate 	<p>Citizenship Project work is worth 20% of the overall assessment in Politics and Society.</p> <p>4 titles are provided for students in December of 5th year to complete a research project.</p> <p>This project is due at the end of April in 6th Year.</p>
<p><u>Strand 3 Human Rights and Responsibilities</u> <u>In Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the rights of young people • Human Rights principles • The idea of equality in relation to human rights • Arguments about rights • State bodies for human rights • Evidence on the right to education • Participants / theorists in the debate <p><u>In the wider world</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights in the wider world • Arguments about rights in the wider world • International cooperation and human rights 	<p><u>Strand 4 Globalisation and Localisation</u> <u>Globalisation and Identity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations of national identity made available to young people • Diversity and cultural change • Diversity in the EU • Understanding identity • Understanding interaction between western and non-western culture • Globalisation and political power • Participants / theorists in the debate <p><u>Sustainable Development</u> Actions that address sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments concerning Sustainable Development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants / theorists in the debate
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Assessment

Assessment for certification in Politics and Society is based on the aims, objectives and learning outcomes in the specification. Differentiation at the point of assessment will be achieved through examinations at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level. There are two assessment components:

1. Written examination (80%) (2 hours 30 mins)

- Section A - Short question section
- Section B - Data based section
- Section C - Discursive essays

2. Report on a citizenship project (20%)

This project is due at the end of April in 6th Year. Titles are provided for students in December of 5th year to complete an individual or group research project.

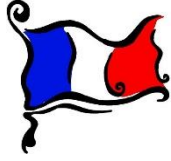
Further Study

Students who have studied Politics and Society as a Leaving Cert subject have studied;

- Politics and International Relations alongside New Media and Cultural Studies in UL
- Law and Economics in UCD
- Economics, Politics and Law in DCU
- Law with Politics in Queens University Belfast,
- Economics, Law and Politics in Galway.
- Politics and International Relations in Royal Holloway, University of London
- Psychology with Criminology – University of Hull
- Law - University of Hull
- International and European Law at The Hague, Netherlands

Career Path

- Local and National Government
- Careers in the public and civil service
- International Relations
- Media
- Psychology and Counselling
- Teaching / Lecturing
- Social Care
- Social work



FRENCH

Only students who have been studying French to Junior Certificate & Transition Year may take the subject to Leaving Certificate.

French for the Leaving Certificate covers the four skills of

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening

An ear for languages is therefore a decided advantage for this subject and as far as possible, class will be conducted through French. The exam demands a sound grasp of French grammar, a broad vocabulary to deal with both literary and journalistic comprehension and an ability to express oneself clearly and accurately in a range of writing exercises - letters, notes, reports, and resumes, expressions of views or opinions. There will be a 15 minutes oral exam and a 40-minute listening comprehension test.

1. In September 1995 a new syllabus for Senior Cycle French was introduced.

The most dramatic change was in the increased importance, which is given to oral and Aural French. The marks at Higher Level were increased to 45%.

2. The syllabus puts an emphasis on French civilisation. Students are expected to have a broad knowledge of French political, social, educational and cultural life.

3. It is important to remember also that French, unlike some other foreign Languages, may not be started at third level

Students are encouraged to look for pen pals in France and if possible to go on exchange to France. In class, tapes, videos, films, songs, magazines and newspapers are used extensively to expose students to a wide range of authentic material and students have one class per week in the language laboratory.

POLISH



The aim of Leaving Certificate Polish is to develop learners' ability to use the target language for communicative purposes, to explore the interdependence between language and culture, to foster an appreciation of the value of languages.

It also aims to develop learners' plurilingual and pluricultural competence. A framework approach has been used to develop this specification for the learning and teaching of a number of Leaving Certificate curricular languages including Polish.

This involves a common approach across each specification including the introduction, aims, expectations for learners and assessment approaches.

Exam Structure

Polish	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 45% of Marks	1 Paper - 45% of Marks
Oral	1 Paper - 30% of Marks	1 Paper - 25% of Marks
Aural	1 Paper - 25% of Marks	1 Paper - 30% of Marks

Leaving Certificate Polish will be assessed through three assessment components: an oral examination an aural examination a written examination. Each component will be administered and assessed by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).

All components of assessment will reflect the integrated approach outlined in this specification. There are two levels of examination, Ordinary level and Higher level, to which a differentiated allocation of marks will apply, as outlined below.

The different mark allocation applied to Ordinary and Higher levels is based on the understanding that for most language learners, the development of receptive skills outpaces the development of productive skills during the process of language learning. Therefore, a greater proportion of the

marks are allocated to receptive tasks at Ordinary level and to productive and interactive tasks at Higher level.

The oral examination will specifically assess learners' ability to: use the target language with accuracy, fluency and complexity consistent with the requirements of the specification, while engaging in spoken reception, interaction, production and mediation demonstrate an awareness of the target language communities and cultures discuss a sample of texts from their Language Portfolio which reflect the plurilingual and pluricultural dimensions of their language learning journey.

The aural and written examination papers will consist of two components and be presented at Higher and Ordinary level.

The first component (aural examination) will assess listening reception and mediation.

The second component (written examination) will assess written reception, written production and mediation.



GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the study of people, their environment and the interaction between the two. Here at Coláiste Dún an Rí, we aim to create an environment of positive learning for students, allowing them to develop an appreciation and a greater knowledge of the world around them. Geography is not just a subject in the classroom, it is current affairs, it is the real world, and as such, we bring the real world into the classroom every day. In Coláiste Dún an Rí it is our goal to guide and motivate learners to explore new ideas and concepts, to grow and develop, with a focus on discovery learning.

The Leaving Certificate geography course follows on from Junior Certificate geography, covering similar topics and new topics in more detail. The Leaving Certificate Geography Syllabus comprises of three sections;

Core Unit Students Take All Three Core Units

Core Unit 1 Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment

Core Unit 2 Regional Geography

Core Unit 3 The Geographical Investigation Unit

Elective Unit 4 Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities

Optional Unit 6 Geo ecology (Higher Level Students Only)

Core Unit 1 and 2: Physical Environment and Regional Geography

These units comprise of students learning and discovering the processes which shape the physical landscape. Students expand their knowledge of global regions through the analysis of current affairs.

Geographical Investigation:

In Coláiste Dún an Rí, we place a focus on active learning. As part of the geographical investigation of the course, 6th year students travel to various locations each year, and actively participate and interact in groups and teams to investigate the river's processes of transportation and deposition. All students gain first-hand experience in conducting such an investigation and acquire the skills to analyse, interpret and represent the data and findings they collected.

Elective Unit:

Students attending Coláiste Dún an Rí study Elective Unit 4: Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities. This unit has great curricular crossover with other subjects such as Economics, Business, Environmental Studies and Agricultural Science.

Optional Units

Here at Coláiste Dún an Rí we study Geoecology. There has never been a more exciting time to study this option as it includes the latest global environmental issues that face society. These issues include views of development, global warming, desertification, deforestation, climate change and how these impact on us.

Skills

Map reading

Surveying

Data collection and analysing

Report writing

Research skills

Intellectual skills through critically evaluating theories

Time-management

Careers and further study

Teaching (Primary and Secondary)

Urban planning

Roles within the tourism industry

Meteorologist

Climatologist

Humanitarian aid work

Environmental science and climate change

Economist



HISTORY

History is the study of important events that have shaped our past but it is also very relevant to modern life and has inspired many films, plays and books. The study of History at Leaving Certificate level aims to develop the skills of handling information and presenting it in a coherent manner. The course requires you to study four topics for your exam and it also requires you to complete a Research Study Report. This framework is common to both Higher and Ordinary Level but the content matter differs for each level.

The Course (Exam: Four Questions)

- Two Topics in Irish History 40%
- Two Topics in European History 40%
(One will be a documents-based study)

The prescribed documents-based question by the State Examinations Commission for examination in the years 2016 and 2017 is Topic 3: Dictatorship and Democracy in Europe, 1920 - 1945.

Research Study (Pre-submitted)

Students choose a subject of historical significance in the case of Ireland or Europe and the wider world with regards to periods covered by the syllabus. This gives students an exciting opportunity to explore an area of interest in more detail. Through independent research students examine sources and produce a detailed report. This Research Study Report is worth 20% of your overall grade.

Skills

- Communication skills
- Research skills
- Evaluation of information
- Detection of bias
- Being able to see all aspects of a problem or situation
- Presentation of a coherent point of view.

- Focused yet aware of a variety of perspectives
- Excellent at research and analysis
- Skilled communicators
- Able to analyse issues, trends and problems
- Unbiased and grounded in inquiry skills

LINK MODULES (LCVP) – A good back up option for students studying 3-4 higher level subjects.

Requirements for the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme, which is of two years duration, are as follows:

- Students take 7 Leaving Certificate subjects, including Irish.
- Two of Leaving Certificate subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings – these are groups of Leaving Certificate subjects which link naturally together. They must follow a recognised course in a Modern European Language, other than English or Irish.
- They must study two additional Link Modules, Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education.

Preparation for the World of Work:

Research and investigate local employment opportunities; develop your job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests you.

Enterprise Education:

Organise study visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop your teamwork communication and computer skills.

Assessment:

- Written Examination in May (40%)
- Portfolio of Coursework (60%)

Career Note:

The Link Modules are activity-based units of study which are designed to help students make connections between school and community, study and future career, enterprise and the business of making a living. They are recognised in points terms by Institutes of Technology and Universities:

LCVP link Modules Grade & Points

Distinction 66

Merit 46

Pass 28



Non Exam Subject

The Role of Physical Education on the Curriculum

Physical Education in Coláiste Dún an Rí is recognised as playing a vital role in the overall development of each and every student. The health and physical benefits are enormous and more so in a society that tends to be less active in its normal daily routine than in the past. Busy and dangerous roads for example discourage parents from allowing children to cycle to school, and the bicycle sheds of yesteryear are long gone. The variety of entertainment packages in the form

of television, cinema, and computer games etc. offer very tempting alternatives to perhaps the other more demanding activities. It is difficult to compete, but the benefits of Physical Education should not be ignored.

At present we are drawn by a points system which can determine ones choice in a future career. However, more and more prospective employers are looking beyond the points and seeking a broader picture of the individual. Companies are organising bonding weekends which foster teamwork and leadership qualities in an attempt to ensure better co-operation and performance in the work place. The candidate, who shows through his/her C.V., involvement in sport and team games can show an ability to work together.

Information for students who are interested in studying medicine:



Applicants to medicine must sit the HPAT (aptitude test). Check out www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au for HPAT practice questions and tips. Register for the HPAT-Ireland online at ACER's website: www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au Registrations for HPAT-Ireland open in early November and must be submitted online by 17:15 GMT on 20th January each year.

The application fee is **€152.80** (reduced application fee may be available).

Late registrations will be accepted until 5.15pm GMT on 1 February on payment of a late fee of €70 in addition to the registration fee.

Note: In addition to an application to ACER, students must first apply to the Central Applications Office (CAO) www.cao.ie to complete the HPAT-Ireland test.

The HPAT-Ireland is usually held in February / March. The results will be released in late June.

The HPAT-Ireland is usually offered in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo and Waterford.

HPAT-Ireland measures a candidate's logical reasoning and problem solving skills, non-verbal reasoning aptitude and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and/or intentions of people. The test results complement the Leaving Certificate Examination in selecting applicants for admission into an undergraduate medical school programme.

Format of the HPAT-Ireland The HPAT-Ireland test is a 2½ hour paper-based test consisting of three modules or sections:

Section 1 (40%): tests your *logical reasoning and problem solving skills*. Some questions test your logical and critical thinking skills. Other questions test your ability to solve problems and interpret data. Overall, this section is designed to test how fast you can interpret information and your ability to think in various ways.

Section 2 (40%): tests your ability to *understand people*. You will be given various passages or scenarios describing people and interactions between people. You will need to empathise (put yourself in another person's shoes), and understand what they might be thinking or feeling. You may also be asked to explain why a person behaves the way they do.

- **Section 3 (20%):** tests your *non-verbal reasoning*. This involves finding patterns and trends in a sequence or block of pictures. It tests your ability to think non-verbally.

All questions are in a multiple choice format with 4 or 5 possible responses. The maximum overall score a candidate can receive is 300. An overall percentile rank is also given. This indicates how well a student has performed against other HPAT-Ireland candidates.

In 2017, undergraduate entry into medicine for school leavers will be based on:

- achieving a minimum of 480 points and meeting the minimum entry requirements for the programme in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination * and
- completing the required admissions test (HPAT-Ireland) in 2017**.

***Previous HPAT results will not be considered as results are only valid for one year.*

Explanation of CAO points for entry to Medicine:

Normal Leaving Certificate Points	Adjusted Leaving Certificate Points before the HPAT score is added
550	550
555	551
560	552
565	553
570	554
575	555
580	556
585	557
590	558
600	560

Maximum HPAT score is **300**.

Therefore maximum possible score for medicine applicants is 860.

20-- Minimum Points for Medicine (Leaving Certificate points & HPAT combined)

CAO Code	Minimum Entry Level
CK701 (UCC)	726
DN400 (UCD)	736*
GY501 (NUI Galway)	728*
RC001 (Royal College of Surgeons)	733
TR051 (Trinity)	735

The Medical Council has launched a new education area of our website, the site is an educational resource for students considering a career in medicine. It provides information on how to become a doctor including where to study, entry requirements and what to expect as a medical student. The site also provides information on specialty options available to medical students along with ethical & professional guidance for those currently in medical training.

The link to the site is <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Education/>



Information on Post Leaving Certificate Options:

When you leave school there are many different options open to you, ranging from apprenticeship training to P.L.C. courses to Honours Degree programmes. Under the National Qualifications Framework students can study for level 5, 6, 7 or 8 qualifications.

- **Level 5:**

- One or two year Post Leaving Cert courses.

- Available in many Second Level schools and colleges around the country

- Can lead on to level 6 courses in Institutes of Technology

- **Level 6:**

- Two year Higher Certificate Courses available in the Institutes of Technology can lead on to Level 7 and 8 courses in the same field.

- **Level 7:**

- Three year Ordinary Degrees available in the Institutes of Technology.

- This can lead on to Level 8 courses in the same field.

- **Level 8:**

These courses are three or four year (with some exceptions such as medicine) Honours Degrees, available in all of the Universities and the Institutes of Technology.



Having completed Level 8 students can continue on to Level 9 (Postgraduate Masters) and Level 10 (Doctorate)

Remember: it is *your* responsibility to check course requirements!

Universities:

- University College Dublin
- Dublin City University
- Trinity College Dublin
- NUI Maynooth
- University of Limerick
- University College Cork
- NUI Galway

4 Technological Universities

- [Atlantic Technological University = GMIT, LYIT & IT Sligo](#)
- [Dublin Technology University](#)
- [Technological University Southeast Ire = Waterford IT and Carlow IT](#)
- [Munster Technological University = Institute of Technology Tralee & Cork Institute of Technology](#)

Institutes of Technology:

- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Dunlaoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology
- Institute of Technology Carlow & Wexford
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- Limerick Institute of Technology, Thurles, Tipperary

Smaller, specialized colleges and private colleges:

- All Hallows College (fees apply for some courses)
- American College Dublin (private-fees apply)
- Carlow College
- Church of Ireland College of Education (primary teacher training)
- College of Computer Training (private-fees apply)
- Dublin Business School (private-fees apply)
- Dunlaoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
- Grafton College of Management Sciences (private-fees apply)
- Griffith College Cork, Dublin & Limerick (private-fees apply)
- IBAT College (private-fees apply)
- ICD Business School (private-fees apply)
- Independent Colleges Dublin (private-fees apply)
- Irish College of Humanities & Applied Health Sciences, Limerick (private-fees apply)
- Marino Institute of Education (primary teacher training)
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick (primary teacher training & arts)
- Mater Dei Institute of Education (second level teacher training) - **NOW DCU**
- National College of Art & Design
- National College of Ireland
- Pontifical University, Maynooth (theology)
- Portobello Institute (private-fees apply)
- Royal College of Surgeons (Medicine, Physiotherapy & Pharmacy)
- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- St. Angela's College, Sligo (home economics teaching, nursing, food, textiles)
- St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra (primary teacher training & arts) – **NOW DCU**

See www.cao.ie for contact details of all the colleges listed above as well as the 1300 courses on offer and the points requirements from previous years.

Students can apply for courses in all of the colleges listed above through the C.A.O. from November- January of their Leaving Certificate Year. Students applying to medicine should

register with the CAO in early November in order to secure a suitable location for the HPAT exam which takes place in February or March.

Points calculated as follows:

Leaving Certificate:

New Common CAO Points Scale

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

Students wishing to apply for Level 5 P.L.C. Courses apply directly to the Course Provider from December of their Leaving Cert year- each college has different application dates so check the websites or ask your Guidance Counsellor for further details.

For Further Information



www.cao.ie (points information & links to Irish college websites)

www.qualifax.ie (general careers website-lists all courses)

www.ucas.co.uk (links to British college websites)

www.nursingboard.ie (nursing courses)

www.fas.ie /solas.ie

www.military.ie (military career information)

www.garda.ie (careers in An Garda Siochana)

www.scoilnet.ie (educational website)

www.skool.ie (educational website)

www.teagasc.ie (agricultural courses)

www.careerdirections.ie (career information and test)

www.careersportal.ie (careers website, information on employment trends)

www.examinations.ie. (link to examination papers and marking schemes)

www.publicjobs.ie (recruitment site, aptitude tests)

www.learnabroad.ie (information on studying in the EU & further afield)

www.eunicas.ie (European Universal Central Application Support Service-apply to up to 8 universities- study through English)

www.accesscollege.ie (information on HEAR & DARE routes-see below)

www.chooseit.ie (information on careers in IT)

www.smartfutures.ie (information on careers in the ICT sector)

www.studentfinance.ie (information on grants- SUSI)

www.careersnews.ie (daily careers updates)

www.skillsireland.ie (future skills needs)

www.studyclix.ie (learning website- covers all junior & leaving cert subjects)

www.examtime.com (learning website- study techniques and resources)

HEAR & DARE:

The **Higher Education Access Route** (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The **Disability Access Route to Education** (DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities. DARE has been set up by a number of colleges and universities as evidence shows that disability can have a negative effect on how well a student does at school and whether they go on to college. See www.accesscollege.ie for more details.

SUSI:

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is Ireland's national awarding authority for all further and higher education grants. SUSI offers funding to eligible students, from school leavers to mature students returning to education, in approved full time third level courses.