



Subject Options for Leaving Certificate

Presented by:

Ms. Cumiskey and Ms. O'Sullivan
Guidance Counsellors
Presentation College, Carlow



Overview of Presentation

- Things to consider when choosing subject options
 - Subject Choice Booklet
- NFQ – CAO points – how it works and what to consider
 - Subject options
 - Summary

Tips for making

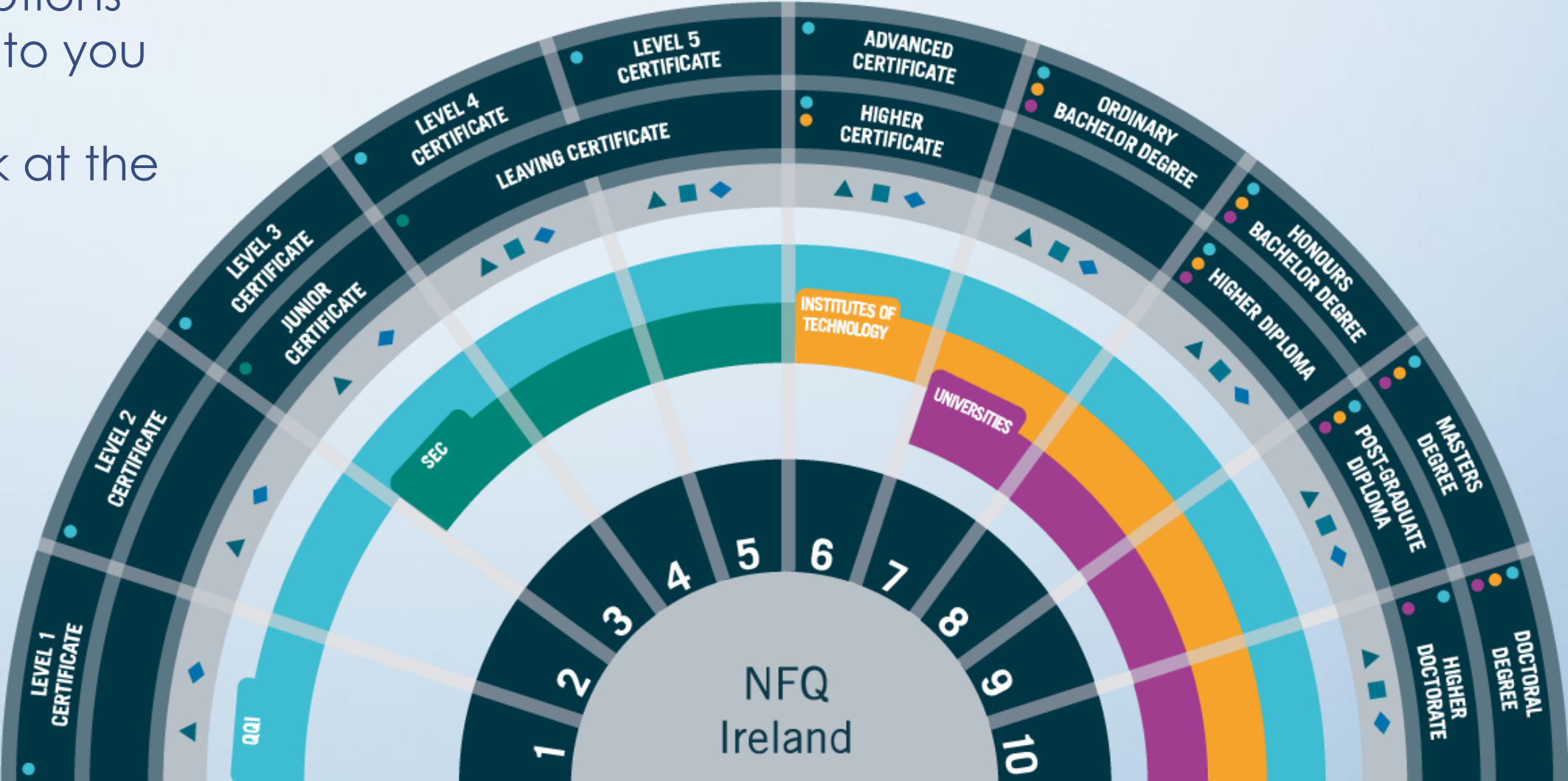
- Look at subject textbooks, talk to subject teachers, talk to guidance counsellors, talk to parents
- Look up career websites (careersportal.ie / qualifax.ie), do their online interest tests
- Find out about each subject - you can see this on careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php
- Go to Qualifax.ie – useful tools – Minimum Subject Requirements – Leaving Certificate Subjects – Select a subject – Click search and view courses that require that subject

SUBJECT
CHOICES

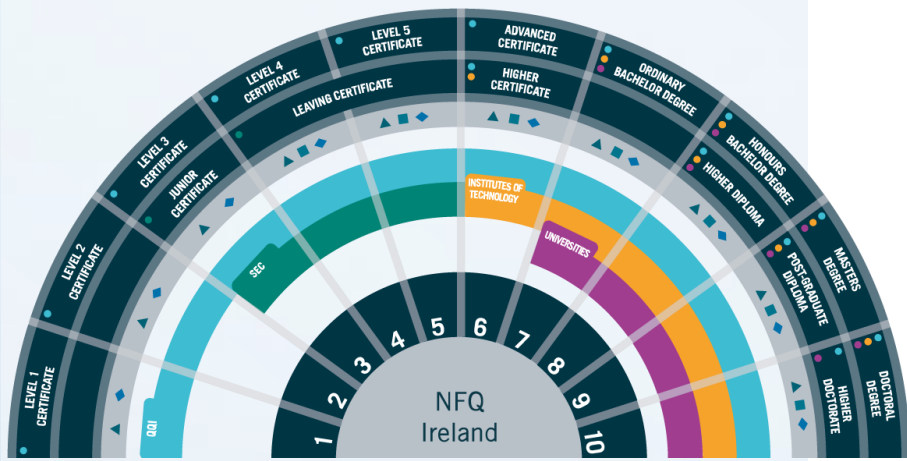


Understanding the options open to you

A look at the levels

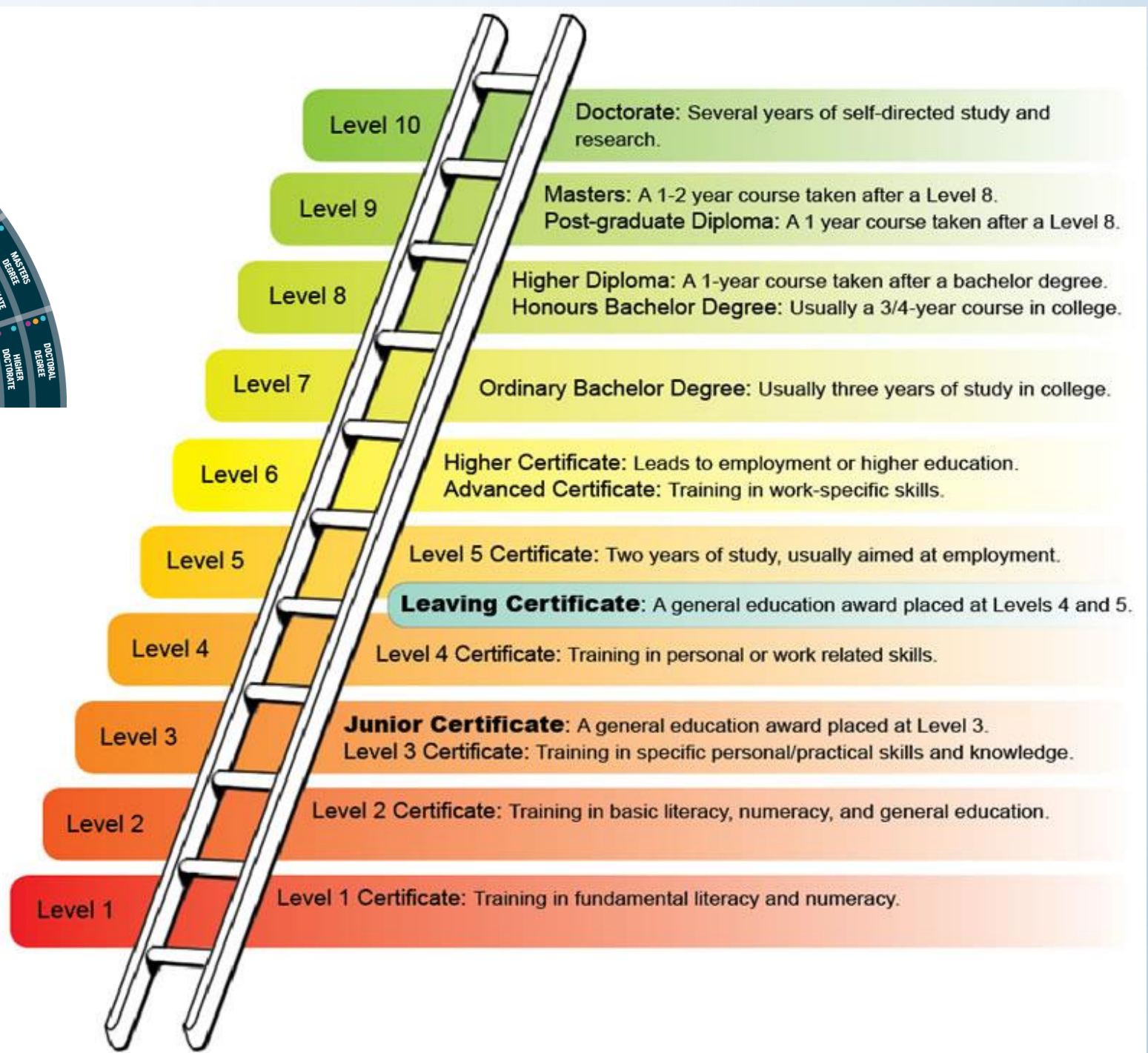


NFQ = National Framework of Qualifications



The NFQ is almost like a ladder system that you can build on.

There are different requirements to enter the different levels after the Leaving Certificate



Leaving Certificate Grading Scale

The Irish Universities, Institutes of Technology and all other colleges, which accept applications through the CAO, will use the following Common Points Scale

| Higher | | % Bands | Ordinary | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|
| Grade | Points | | Grade | Points |
| H1 | 100 | 90-100% | O1 | 56 |
| H2 | 88 | 80-89% | O2 | 46 |
| H3 | 77 | 70-79% | O3 | 37 |
| H4 | 66 | 60-69% | O4 | 28 |
| H5 | 56 | 50-59% | O5 | 20 |
| H6 | 46 | 40-49% | O6 | 12 |
| H7 | 37 | 30-39% | O7 | 0 |
| H8 | 0 | 0-29% | O8 | 0 |

Higher Level Maths - 25 bonus points will continue to be awarded for HL Maths, at grades H6 and above.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) Link Modules

| LCVP LINK MODULE GRADE | % | POINTS |
|------------------------|---------|--------|
| Distinction | 80-100% | 66 |
| Merit | 65-79% | 46 |
| Pass | 50-64% | 28 |

Students who choose subjects which allow them to undertake the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (also known as LCVP) can remove their lowest grade and replace it with their LCVP grade.

Minimum Entry Requirements/Matriculation Requirements examples*

| Institution | Minimum Grades | Required Subjects |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| NUI Colleges: | | |
| UCD, Maynooth University, NUIG, (RCSI, Shannon) | 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades. | O6 in English, Irish and Modern Language* |
| UCC | 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades. | O6 in English, Irish and Modern Language* |
| Trinity College Dublin | 3 H5 and 3 O6/H7 grades. | O6 in Maths, English and another Language |
| Dublin City University | 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades. | O6 in Maths, English or Irish |
| University of Limerick | 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades. | O6 in Maths, English and Irish or another Language |
| Technical University Dublin [formally DIT] (Level 8) | 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades. | O6 in Maths, English or Irish |
| (For Level 6/7) | (5 O6/H7) | |
| Institutes of Technology (Level 8) | 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades. | O6 in Maths, English or Irish |
| (Level 6/Level 7) | (5 O6/H7) | |

Always double check details for courses as some will require specific subjects.

*** See exceptions for Third Language requirements on Page 8 of the subject choice booklet**

Also note:

No modern language requirement for Science and Engineering courses at NUI

Not all Level 6/7 courses need Maths, especially courses where there is no Maths element, e.g. Music, Art and some Social Science Studies

Third Language requirement

- UCC, NUI Galway, UCD, Maynooth University and the Royal College of Surgeons require a pass in a third language for a lot of their courses.*
- Other colleges have it as a requirement for certain courses that have a large language component. E.g. European Studies, Languages & Marketing, Hotel Management, Languages & International Tourism.
- Entry to the Cadetship in the Defence Forces requires a third language.
- NCAD require a third language **or** Art **or** Design and Communication Graphics

No Third Language is required for:

- Trinity College, University of Limerick, DCU, Technical Universities and the Institutes of Technology unless it is a specific course requirement (a pass in Irish will suffice).
- * No third language for Engineering & Science in Maynooth University
- * No third language for Engineering, Science & Ag Science in UCD (except for DN440 – Sciences - Biomedical Health & Life Sciences)
- * No third language for Engineering, and most Science & Food Science in UCC
- * No third language for Engineering and most Science in NUI Galway (except for GY304 – Biotechnology)
- Gardaí, Nursing, Apprenticeships and most PLC Courses

Always check requirements



In this section

Subject Requirements Module

- ▶ For Guidance Professionals
- ▶ Career Events
- ▶ Course Finder
- ▶ DARE and HEAR
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ HEI's Contact Details
- ▶ How to use Qualifax
- ▶ Resources for Guidance
- ▶ Support and Advice
- ▶ **Useful Tools**
 - Interest Assessment
 - Interest Assessment follow up
 - [Minimum Subject Requirements](#)
 - Points Calculator 2016
 - Points Calculator
- ▶ Podcasts
- ▶ Coronavirus / Covid-19

[View Search Help](#) [Return to Main Menu](#)

Show me 3rd level courses which may or may not require the following Subject:

Any

Narrow down your list of courses using one or a combination of the following:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Only show courses from this CAO course provider: | Any |
| Only show courses offered in this Province: | Any |
| Only show courses offered in this county: | Any |
| Only show the course with this CAO code: | |

[Search](#) [Reset](#)

Specific Subject Requirements

(In addition to the minimum entry requirements mentioned previously, certain additional subjects may be required to gain entry to specific courses in a college.)

For most University and College courses, there are no specific subject requirements.

This includes courses in Business, Computing, Law, Psychology, Design, Social Science and many others. The following (page 8 in the subject choice booklet) are EXCEPTIONS and for the most part are required at Higher Level, in all cases check the specific course requirements to ensure the most accurate information.

**Useful tool to check this is:
Qualifax.ie – students – useful tools – minimum subject requirements**

Career Guidance tools for all



Join
to create a
Career Profile



Discover
your Career Interests



Match
your Interests to
Careers & Courses

START HERE!

[MORE INFO](#)

Courses

Careers

Apprenticeships

Career Sectors

Site Search

by Course Title or Code...

by College here... ▾

SEARCH NOW



School

I am a second level student researching my subjects, courses and career options



Graduates

I am an undergraduate/graduate researching career opportunities



Adult Learners

I want to return to education and explore options and supports available

careersportal.ie – excellent site for info on subjects, courses, careers and more

Choosing your

Leaving Cert Subjects

Students must study **English, Maths and Irish** (unless an exemption applies)

Core Subjects

English
Irish
Maths

Optional Subjects (4)

German
French
Agricultural Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Accounting
Business
Economics
Geography
History
Physical Education
Politics and Society
Home Economics
Art
Design and Communication
Graphics
Construction Studies
Music
Technology

Non-exam subjects

Religious Education
Career Guidance
Health Education
Physical Education

French and German

Course content for higher and ordinary levels is similar for both French/German. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at higher level. A grade 'C' at higher level in the Junior Cycle is usually a minimum requirement for higher level French/German at Leaving Certificate.

Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:

- Oral/Speaking
- Written
- Aural/Listening
- Reading

A wide variety of themes are covered, for example:

- Family
- School
- Hobbies
- Sport
- Current Affairs

Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses.



Mark Allocation for Leaving Certificate French and German:

| Section | Higher Level | Ordinary Level |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Speaking | 25% | 20% |
| Listening Comprehension | 20% | 25% |
| Reading Comprehension | 30% | 40% |
| Writing | 25% | 15% |

Agricultural Science

- Project 25% Written Exam 75%. Some overlap with Biology and Geography) Experience of Farming/Gardening not essential. Recognised lab science for almost all courses including nursing.

Biology

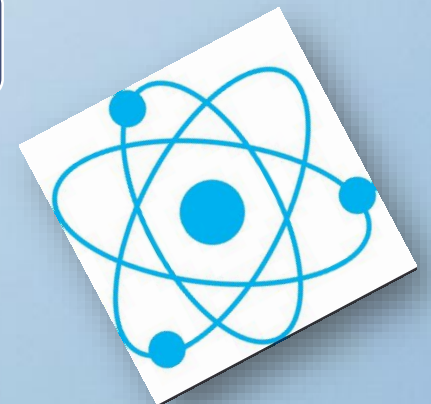
- 100% written exam including assessment of practical work carried out during the course. Wide range of topics and very detailed. A lot of diagrams to draw and learn from. Good choice for those who like science but struggle with Maths.

Chemistry

- 100% written exam. Be reasonably good at Maths. Topics include: Atomic Structure, Volumetric Analysis, Organic Chemistry, Water Chemistry and Reaction Mechanisms.

Physics

- 100% written exam. A mathematical and practical explanation of the physical world. Good mathematical ability required. Practical work and related theory. Example areas: Light Waves and Sound – Heat – Electricity – Nuclear Physics – Particle Physics (HL). Many who study at Third Level end up in finance because of their maths skills.



Business subjects

BUSINESS

- Areas covered: People involved in business, enterprise, industrial relations and marketing. Mainly theory based.
- 100% written exam

ACCOUNTING

- Topics: Financial Accounting – cash flow statements, accounting records...Management Accounting – cash budgeting, product costing...
- 100% written exam

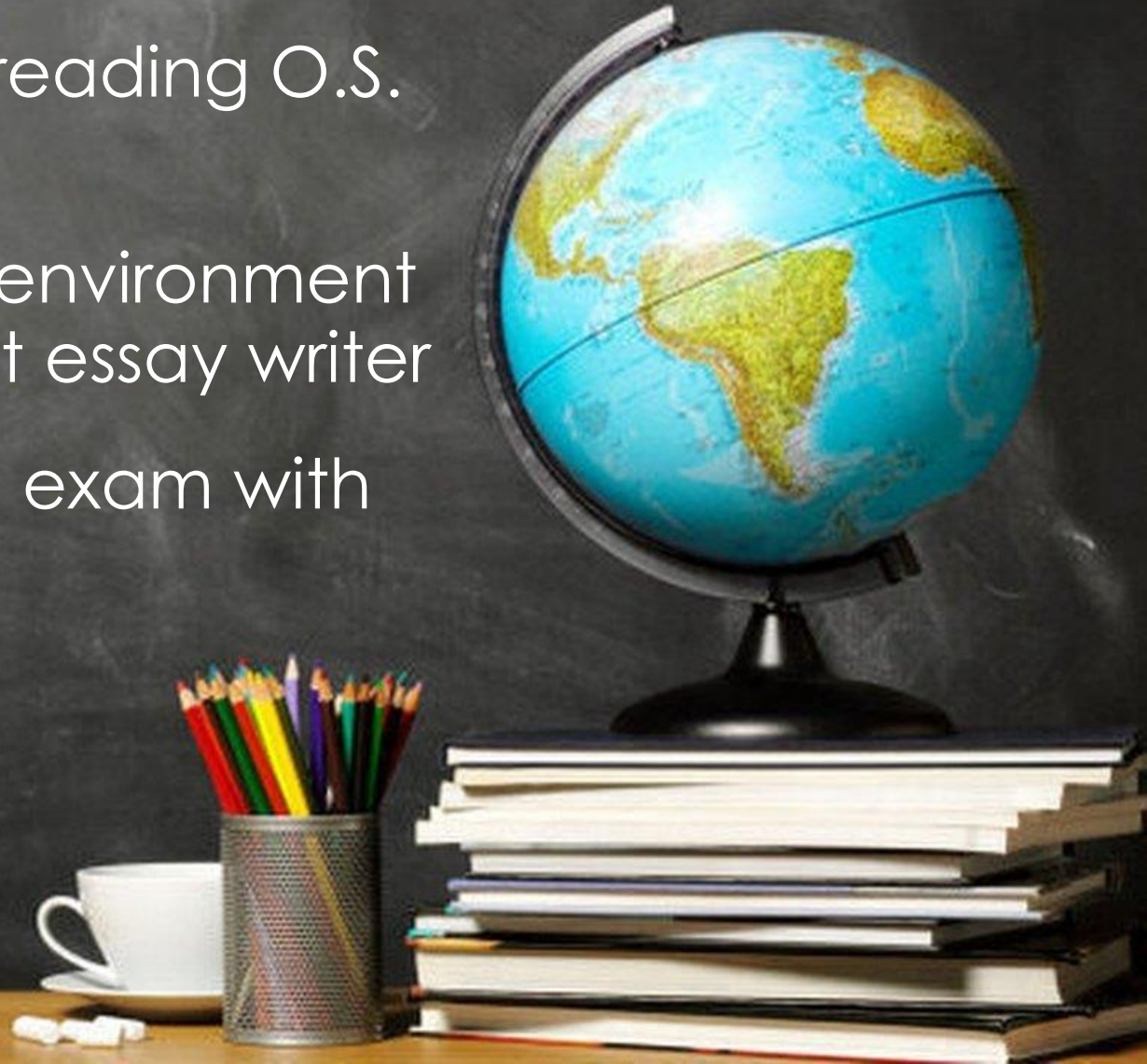
ECONOMICS

- For those enjoy problem-solving and have a general interest in how the economy works – enjoy current affairs
- 20% research study, 80% written exam



- Builds on Junior Cycle – learn similar topics but in more detail
- Develop geographical skills e.g. reading O.S. maps
- Be interested in and respect the environment around you and be a competent essay writer
- 20% report (Field Trip) 80% written exam with essay style questions

Geography



History

- Focus late 19th and 20th centuries. Irish, European and World History.
- Analyse and interpret facts and opinions then use them to support your own views
- No prior knowledge necessary
- 20% project 80% written exam with essay style questions



This course will look at the concepts underpinning contemporary systems of government and the roles of groups such as multinational companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental bodies, in shaping the world we live in.



- Suit those interested in human rights, equality, diversity, sustainable development, power and democratic decision-making
- 20% project and 80% written exam
- Students should show a commitment and willingness to engage in relevant current events and be able to demonstrate an ability to engage in active citizenship

Suit physically active students, engaged in individual or team sports as well as activities such as dance and gymnastics. Need good attention to detail and willingness to study classroom sections of the course.

Theory section = two strands four topics in each

Strand 1: study the **factors that influence physical performance**

Strand 2: **learn about the culture of sports**, its role in society and how people experience physical activity and sport.

For **the physical section, three activities** will be selected based on the facilities of the school, experiences and background of the teacher and the students' abilities.

Written examination 50%

Physical activity project 20%

Performance assessment 30%



Physical Education

New Subject Option



Core Areas Studied:

- Food Studies, e.g. Nutrients, Dietary Guidelines, Processing and Preserving Foods, Microbiology, Food Groups, Meal Planning and Preparation.
 - Resource Management, e.g. Consumer Issues, Budgeting, Home Appliances
 - Social Studies e.g. Family and Marriage, Relationships.
-
- Four Food Assignments to be prepared, worth 20%. Completed by November of Sixth Year.
 - Remaining 80% - Written Paper –made up of core and elective.

- Experience of Materials Technology (Wood) or Technology would be very important.
- Experience of Technical Graphics, Science and/or Art would be useful.
- Develop the ability to work independently on your project
- An interest in developing making skills
- A genuine interest in the Built Environment



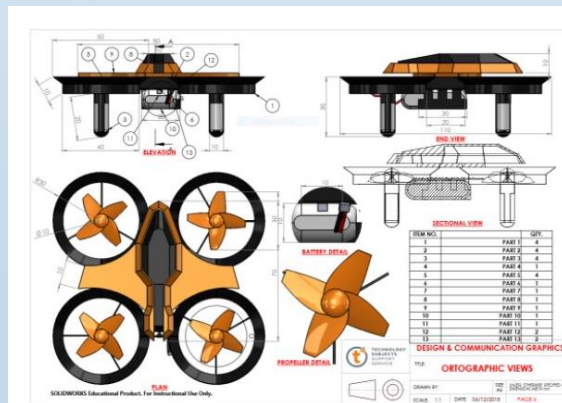
- Written theory exam - 50% (Three hours in June)
- Project/Portfolio - 25% (Forty hours of work carried out in school time)
- Practical exam - 25% (Four hours in May)

Construction Studies



Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)

- Problem-solving skills
- Be able to work in a structured and methodical way
- Be organised, neat and tidy in my work
 - Continuation of work studied at Junior Cycle level (Technical Graphics).
 - Building and Engineering Applications of graphics explored.
 - Inclusion of Computer-Aided Design (SolidWorks)

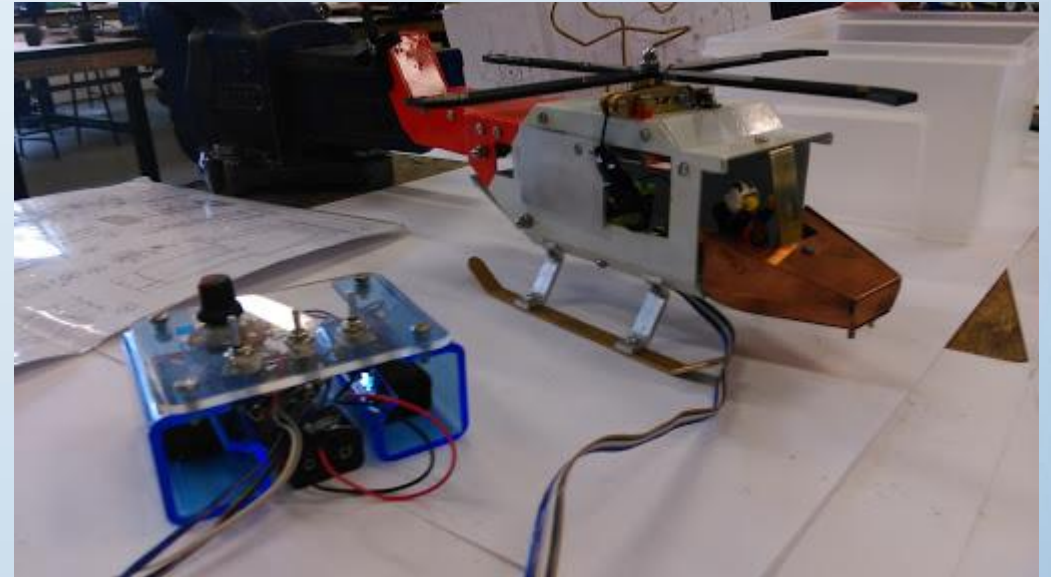


Written Exam - 60%
SolidWorks project (CAD) - 40%

- Experience of Technology at Junior Cycle is strongly advised
- Ability to work on your own on a task
- An interest in understanding how things work, materials, electronic and mechanical systems
- An interest in developing making skills

Core elements covered:

- A Process of Design
- Project and Quality Management
- Materials and Production
- Communication and Graphic Media
- Information and Communications Technology
- Structures and Mechanisms
- Energy, Electricity and Electronics.
- Plus two options



Written Exam - 50%

Design and Realisation Project - 50%

Technology

Art

Practical work will include Still Life (invigilated exam) which will take place at the end of the Craft Coursework project.

The History of Art and Appreciation is a broad course covering Irish and European Art, and also Art Appreciation. It requires looking at artworks through the use of reproductions, slides and art galleries, reading books and writing essays on different subjects.

Practical Art Course 70%
Art History and Appreciation 30%



Music

at Leaving Certificate is a continuation of the course at Junior Cycle.

Highly recommended that students should have studied Music at Junior Cycle level.

Skills in harmony, theory and playing of an instrument or singing are advised. However it is possible to take up Music as a new subject in Fifth Year.

Please talk to the Music Teacher about this if you are interested.

There are three core elements covered on the syllabus:



Listening 25%
Performing 25%
Composing 25%

It provides a creative outlet and builds confidence. The subject gives you an opportunity to develop your performing and composing skills and to study a wide variety of styles and genres.

LCVP



Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

– an additional programme to help support the development of vocational skills for those taking particular subjects

The Link Modules

Students taking the Leaving Certificate Examination will follow two Link Modules over the course of the two years.

Link Module I - Preparation for the World of Work

Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop 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 them.

Link Module II - Enterprise Education

Students will be involved in organising 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 teamwork, communication and computer skills.

Typical LCVP Students

Typically, LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate Subjects plus the Link Modules



Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate (established). For the two Link Modules, students are assessed through written examination (worth 40%, which takes place in May of Leaving Cert. year) and a portfolio of coursework (worth 60%).

The written exam involves the following elements: assessing an audio-visual presentation, a case study (which is received in advance), and general questions (to do four out of six).

The portfolio is assembled over two years and includes; a CV, Career Investigation, Enterprise/Action Plan, Summary Report, Work Experience and a Recorded Interview.

Programme Requirements for students:

- At least **five** Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish **plus** the Link Modules
- Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings (next slide)
- Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education (in addition to Five subjects)
- A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)

Two subjects are selected from one of the Vocational Subject Groupings. These subjects provide students with a focus for developing vocational skills and exploring their career options.

1. Construction Studies, DCG, Technology (any two)
2. Physics and Construction Studies or Technology or DCG
3. Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Technology or DCG
4. Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics
5. Home Economics, Agricultural Science, Biology (any two)
6. Home Economics and Art
7. Accounting or Business or Economics (any two)
8. Physics and Chemistry
9. Biology and Chemistry or Physics
10. Biology and Agricultural Science
11. Art and DCG
12. Technology or Construction Studies or DCG and Accounting or Business or Economics
13. Home Economics and Accounting or Business or Economics
14. Agricultural Science and Accounting or Business or Economics
15. Art and Accounting or Business or Economics
16. Music and Accounting or Business or Economics



Leaving Certificate Grading Scale

The Irish Universities, Institutes of Technology and all other colleges, which accept applications through the CAO, will use the following Common Points Scale

| Higher | | % Bands | Ordinary | |
|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|
| Grade | Points | | Grade | Points |
| H1 | 100 | 90-100% | O1 | 56 |
| H2 | 88 | 80-89% | O2 | 46 |
| H3 | 77 | 70-79% | O3 | 37 |
| H4 | 66 | 60-69% | O4 | 28 |
| H5 | 56 | 50-59% | O5 | 20 |
| H6 | 46 | 40-49% | O6 | 12 |
| H7 | 37 | 30-39% | O7 | 0 |
| H8 | 0 | 0-29% | O8 | 0 |

Higher Level Maths - 25 bonus points will continue to be awarded for HL Maths, at grades H6 and above.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) Link Modules

| LCVP LINK MODULE GRADE | % | POINTS |
|------------------------|---------|--------|
| Distinction | 80-100% | 66 |
| Merit | 65-79% | 46 |
| Pass | 50-64% | 28 |

Students who choose subjects which allow them to undertake the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (also known as LCVP) can remove their lowest grade and replace it with their LCVP grade.

- **Abilities and Aptitudes** – consider your abilities and choose accordingly
- **Interest** – more likely to study something when there is a genuine interest there
- **Course requirements** – some subjects may be essential for some courses or may help to have a knowledge of



Keep in mind – do not choose subjects based on what friends are choosing or who might be teaching it no guarantee



Any questions?

Core Subjects

English
Irish
Maths

Optional Subjects (4)

German
French
Agricultural Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Accounting
Business
Economics
Geography
History
Physical Education
Politics and Society
Home Economics
Art
Design and Communication
Graphics
Construction Studies
Music
Technology

Non-exam subjects

Religious Education
Career Guidance
Health Education
Physical Education