



# Clonturk Community College

SENIOR CYCLE PROGRAMME

# Introduction

In this booklet you will find information on the following Senior Cycle Programmes available in Clonturk Community College:

The Established Leaving Certificate  
The Enhanced Leaving Certificate (LCVP)

Programme which may be offered dependent on demand:  
The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Please read the information carefully and choose the Senior Cycle Programme that would best suit you/your young person.

# Guidance counsellors

## Guidance Counsellor

- Siun Mulrennan

## What do Guidance Counsellors do?

- Guidance Counsellors are professionally trained to undertake the following tasks within the school guidance programme.
- Guidance Counsellors empower students to make decisions, solve problems, change behaviour and resolve issues in their lives in relation to Personal, Educational and Career Issues.
- Personal Counselling - This provides individual, group or class work to promote interpersonal communication skills, decision making, self-awareness and the ability to plan.
- Educational Guidance - This involves individual, group or class work to assist decision making in relation to choice of courses, subject and levels. It includes such topics as motivation and learning, study skills and examination techniques.
- Career Guidance - This involves individual, group and class work to assist decision making in relation to education and training courses, employment opportunities, job search skills work and other life roles.

# The Established Leaving Certificate

## Introduction

The Leaving Certificate is a strict academic programme which commences in 5th year. It is a two year programme. Leaving Certificate students need to be responsible for their own individual class work and commit themselves to a minimum of 2 to 3 hours daily study. In the CAO system, your highest 6 grades will be used to calculate your points for entry purposes to courses offered in all Higher Education Institutes. The Guidance Counsellor will be available to help all students with career choices. The Guidance Counsellor is also available to liaise with parents.

## Subject choices for Leaving Certificate

As a student entering Senior Cycle, you are coming to a cross roads in your life. You need to make decisions and plan your future. The first decision you will make is to choose subjects that you will study for the Leaving Certificate.

In Clonturk Community College, all students take SEVEN subjects in the Leaving Certificate. Irish, English & Mathematics are mandatory. You then choose FOUR other subjects from the options provided.

The following broad guidelines form the basis for choice:

- Knowing your aptitudes and interests.
- Choosing the subjects you like and are good at.
- Informing yourself of Leaving Certificate Subject requirements for third level colleges or courses.

Your aptitudes are your strengths that you have in certain areas. You should look back at the results you have received in school and see if there is a pattern.

- *Do you do well in languages or subjects like History and Geography?*
- *Do you find Business or Science challenging or easy?*
- *Are you creative?*
- *Do you like technical subjects?*

These subject choices will be explored further in this booklet.

There is no such thing as an easy subject for the Leaving Cert.

Hard work over the next two years ensures students achieve their potential in their chosen subjects. Liking and enjoying a subject is a huge part of being able to keep the commitment and study needed. If you already have a definite course or career in mind, you have to find out if there are essential subjects you must have for the Leaving Certificate to be eligible for that course.

Your subject choices need to be very carefully made to ensure you are not ruling yourself out of a 3rd Level course you might be interested in later. The webpage [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) has useful online information for all college courses.

**REMEMBER** you are the person who is studying these subjects and who is taking the Leaving Certificate - it is your responsibility to make sure that the information you have is accurate and up to date.

Ask your teachers, parents and the Guidance Counsellor for help if you need it.

When you are deciding which subjects to take, remember that this decision will have long term consequences on what careers are open to you. Dropping Science subjects or a continental language will have an effect on the range of careers open to you at a later stage.

If a student is unsure of what career area they wish to pursue, I would advise them to keep all options open by taking a Science subject, a Business subject and a Foreign language from their four optional choices, bearing in mind ability, aptitude and subjects that you like.

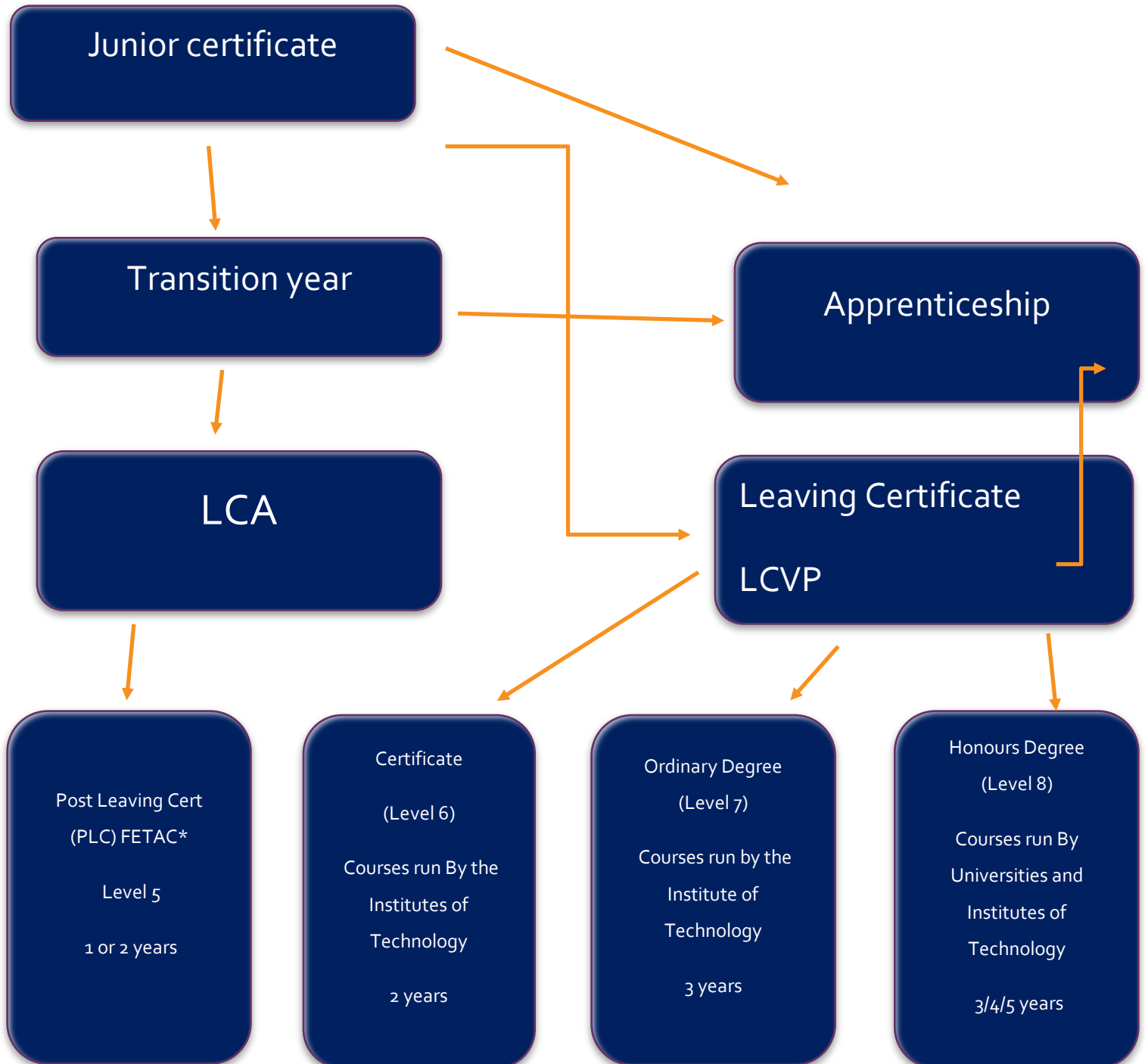
A final point to note is that a pass in Ordinary Level Mathematics is essential to virtually all College courses. Up to 5000 students pick Foundation level Mathematics and a further 5000 fail Ordinary level Mathematics in the Leaving Cert. Whatever you do, don't neglect work in Mathematics during the Leaving Cert Programme.

## Careers Programme

Students interest and liking of a subject are important factors in choosing a subject for Leaving Certificate Level.

Students must be aware of the subject requirements for different courses especially at University

It is necessary that students understand what PLC, Certificate, Ordinary Degree and Honours Degrees Programmes consist of and their duration.



# Examples of Entry Requirements

## Foreign Language and Irish requirement:

To gain entry to the (NUI National University of Ireland Colleges (UCD), UCC, NUI MAYNOOTH, NUI GALWAY) or THE CADETS a student must obtain an O6 in a Continental European Language and Irish.

The NCAD (National College of Art and Design) requires a pass in Irish, English and a foreign language or Art. The faculty of Engineering at NUI Maynooth DOES NOT require a foreign language as part of Matriculation (Entry Requirements).

## Mathematics:

This is an essential subject. Employers expect applicants to have numeracy skills.

The following are examples of courses that require HIGHER LEVEL MATHS.

- Actuary Maths (DCU) H3
- Actuarial Finance (UCD) H2
- Theoretical Physics (TCD) H3
- Engineering Degrees (either in universities or inst. Of technology) Level 8 H4

## English

O6 is required by most employers.

The following are examples of courses that require HIGHER LEVEL ENGLISH

- Journalism (DCU) H4
- Communication studies (DCU) H4
- Multimedia (DCU) H4
- English (TCD) H4

## Irish:

Required for entry in all NUI Colleges.

Many jobs require O6 such as Cadets, Solicitor, Nursing, RTE.

The following courses require IRISH

- Irish (TCD) H5 Primary Teaching H5

# The Enhanced Leaving Certificate - LCVP

## What is the enhanced leaving certificate (LCVP)?

This is a programme that is essentially the 'traditional' Established Leaving Certificate **ENHANCED** with two **LINK MODULES** which are designed to allow the student to have experiences and develop skills sets which will make them ready for Third Level education and the adult world of work. The idea behind LCVP is to produce students at Leaving Certificate level who have reflected on their future and have a clear idea of their career paths and the best way of achieving their educational and career goals.

## How does LCVP fit into the Leaving Certificate Timetable?

The Link Modules replace P.E. or Study Periods on the student's timetable. This does not affect a student's ability to play team sports.

## What are the Link Modules?

The LINK MODULES are entitled The World of Work and Enterprise Education. Many of the lessons and activities, such as visiting a manufacturing plant or having a local business person talk to the class, are designed to stimulate the student's appreciation of entrepreneurship and career focus. Over the two years of LCVP, the student prepares a Portfolio including Curriculum Vitae, a Career Investigation, an Enterprise/Action Plan, a Summary Report plus 2 other items e.g. a popular choice is a recorded interview.

In addition, the student will organise one 3-day **WORK PLACEMENT** during a holiday period and must have it completed before starting back to school in 6th year. These are all activities which every Leaving Certificate candidate will have to tackle in order to be ready to leave secondary school with confidence, knowing what to do after the exam to achieve their goals. In LCVP, students get the chance to do these activities in school time under the guidance of experienced teachers and have the chance to convert their efforts into Leaving Certificate Points for CAO.



## What subjects does a LCVP student study?

A typical LCVP student studies 7 subjects PLUS LINK MODULES e.g. English, Irish, Maths PLUS a modern European Language (Mandatory) PLUS Link Modules PLUS two other subjects (These fall into one of 16 Subject Groupings below)

	- Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) - Specialist Groupings
1	Construction Studies: Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology – Any Two
2	Physics and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
3	Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
4	Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
5	Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - Any Two
6	Home Economics and Art – Design Option or Craft Option
7	Accounting; Business; Economics – Any Two
8	Physics and Chemistry
9	Biology and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
10	Biology and Agricultural Science
11	Art – Design Option or Craft Option and Design & Communication Graphics
12	Engineering or Technology or Construction Studies or Design & Communication Graphics 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, Design or Craftwork Option and Accounting or Business or Economics
16	Music and Accounting or Business or Economics

It is strongly advised to choose your subjects for Leaving Certificate according to your interests and abilities. Then if your subject choices fall into any ONE of the Vocational Subject Groupings above CONSIDER LCVP.

## How is LCVP certified?

The student gets the same certificate as other Leaving Cert student's, but the certificate will include an additional statement of their LINK MODULES

Distinction: 80%-100% 66 CAO Points

Merit: 65%-79% 46 CAO Points

Pass: 50% - 64% 28 CAO Points

Students may count the points awarded towards their CAO points total instead of a subject which received a lower score.

## Is LCVP available to all 5<sup>th</sup> years?

LCVP is suited to students who wish to go on to further study and students who have done Transition Year and wish to convert some of their TY experiences into points for CAO, who meet the programme requirements.

**PLACES ARE LIMITED**

## Programme Requirements

Programme Requirements for students taking Leaving Certificate Examination:

- At least five Leaving Certificate subjects plus the link modules, one of which must be Irish.
- Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings
- Two Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education
- 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. The Specialist Groupings consist of subjects which complement one another naturally.

# The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

## This Programme will only run depending on student numbers

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a two year Leaving Certificate Programme for students who wish to follow a practical Leaving Certificate Programme with a vocational focus.

### What is different about LCA?

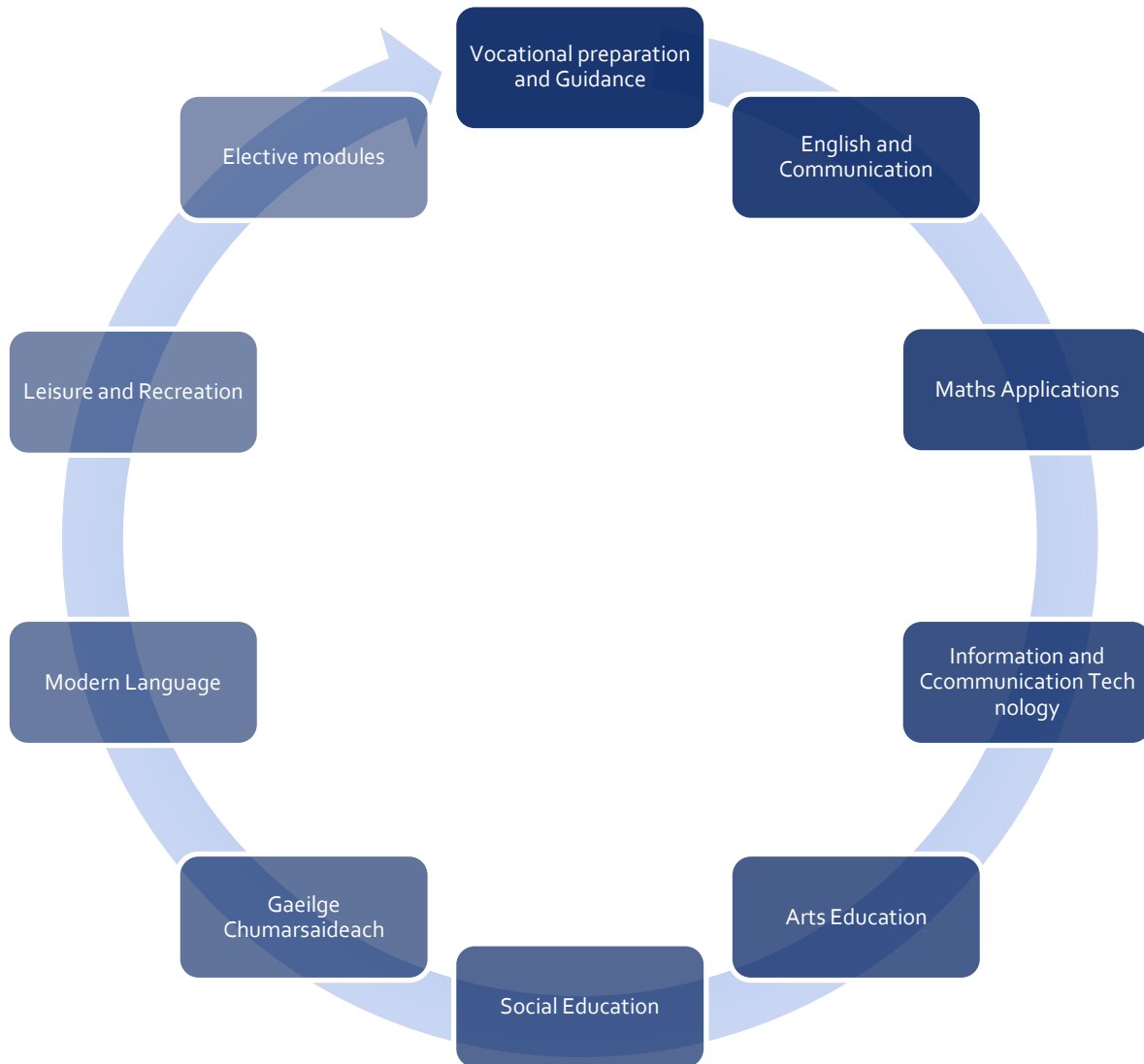
- It is a practical Leaving Certificate programme which places emphasis on preparation for the world of work and lifelong learning
- Work experience is a significant part of the programme, and students get to sample a range of jobs and get first-hand experience of the world of work.
- The learning experiences are active and practical, where students apply their knowledge, skills and experiences to real life situations in the school and wider community
- The programme provides a wealth of opportunities which will enhance the self-esteem and confidence of students.
- There is less emphasis on the final examinations and course work will be assessed throughout the two years and students gain 'credits' as they go along.
- Students work and skill development is assessed in different ways including, interviews, oral, written and practical components.
- Four times throughout the two years, students get a written statement of results from the State Examinations Commission. This way they experience regular feedback on their success and achievements.

### What are credits?

- As students complete and submit their Leaving Certificate Applied course, they are awarded what are called 'credits'.
- There are 200 credits available in total and they are awarded as follows:

- 62 credits	- 31%	- Ongoing attendance, classwork and assignments
- 70 credits	- 35%	- 7 student tasks (projects)
- 68 credits	- 34%	- 7 final examinations

## What courses (subjects) are offered in Leaving Certificate Applied?



- In addition to the above, students will pick two specialist vocational subjects. These vocational specialisms develop specific skills and knowledge relevant to a range of careers.

## Assessment and examinations

Assessment is continuous throughout the course and there is a final examination. Assessment takes place on the completion of modules and practical activities that allow the student to integrate the learning from different courses.

The final examination must be taken in the following areas:

- English and communication
- Two vocational specialisms
- Mathematical applications
- Language
- Social education.

There are written and oral examinations in all languages. There are practical examinations in the vocational specialisms. The written examinations usually take place in June, at the same time as the examinations for the established Leaving Certificate.

## Who should consider Leaving Certificate Applied?

Someone who wants to stay in school and get a Leaving Certificate

Someone who learns by doing

Someone who would be motivated by continuous assessment.

Someone who wants to get work experience to help them with their career choice

Someone who wants to develop skills which will help them with their future career

## Can a student go to further Education and training?

- Yes, the Leaving Certificate Applied is accepted for many PLC courses at FETAC level 5. It also provides access to many apprenticeships and other vocational training awards.
- Graduates of Leaving Certificate Applied, do not have access to higher education through the CAO (Central Applications Office)
- However, achieving an appropriate further education award e.g. FETAC level 5, may provide access for those who wish to apply for courses in third level institutions.

If the LCA programme is the choice you and your student select, but is not run in our school due to lack of demand, please contact our Guidance Counsellor.

The following pages of this booklet will provide an overview of each Leaving Certificate Subject offered to students at Clonturk Community College. Teacher contact information for each subject is also provided if you wish to discuss the subject in more detail.

### Core Subjects

- English
- Gaeilge
- Mathematics

### Optional Subjects

- Accounting
- Applied Mathematics
- Art
- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Construction Studies
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Home Economics – Scientific and Social
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics and Society
- Spanish

As a new school we are proud of the wide number of subjects that we can offer. However, the final subjects that will run will be dependent upon student demand. Therefore, all the subjects listed above will not necessarily be timetabled after students have selected their option choices.

# English

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate English builds on the aims of the Junior Certificate English syllabus, which emphasise the development of a range of literacy and oral skills in a variety of domains, personal, social, and cultural. In the Leaving Certificate course, students will be encouraged to develop a more sophisticated range of skills and concepts. These will enable them to interpret, compose, discriminate, and evaluate a range of material so that they become independent learners who can operate in the world beyond the school in a range of contexts. Students are re-introduced to the study of poetry, novels and drama. Students will sit Higher or Ordinary Level for the examination. At Higher Level, students are required to study 8 poets, 6 poems each. At Ordinary Level, students will study a selection of poets with approximately 40 poems studied. Students will undertake a comparative study of 3 texts. At Higher Level the study of a Shakespearean drama is compulsory. This may be chosen either for study as a single text or as an element in the comparative study of a group of texts.

## How is the subject assessed?

The English course is assessed by the Written Examination which is worth full marks. It is broken into 2 papers.

### I. Written Examination (100%)

Paper 1:

This paper will be specifically aimed at testing the comprehending and composing abilities of students. The paper will consist of one or more texts. A variety of texts will be used, e.g., a report, an argument, a poem, a picture, a story extract etc.

Higher and Ordinary Level students will be required to answer a number of comprehension questions, fulfil a functional writing task, and write an extended composition in a specific genre. In the composition students will be expected to demonstrate clearly their engagement with and understanding of the original text(s), reveal their own coherent, evaluative response to the text(s), and put forward their own view in a particular written genre.

Paper 2:

This paper will test students' knowledge of and response to a range of texts. There will be Three Sections on this Paper.

- SECTION A: In-depth study of a single text
- SECTION B: Comparative study
- SECTION C: Poetry



## **Additional Comments**

- By showing maximum effort in the English classroom, students are learning skills that can be adapted to all subjects.
- The study of language and communication skills prepares students for the world of work outside of school.

## **Career Opportunities**

- Journalism
- Media
- Author
- Playwright
- Directing
- Publishing editor/proof-reader
- Teaching
- Social Media Managing
- Advertising and Marketing
- Law

### **Contact Teacher**

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# Gaeilge

## What is the subject about?

The Irish language is an important part of Irish culture, heritage and identity. As well as cultural benefits, learning a language also supports students cognitive development and encourages a development of social skills. Leaving Certificate Irish builds upon the language developed during Junior Cycle. All four language skills – listening, speaking, reading & writing are further developed in order to be able to share views on a wide range of topics.

## How is the subject assessed?

Irish is assessed at three levels: Foundation Level, Ordinary Level or Higher Level.

Higher and Ordinary level:

### I. Oral Examination (40%)

Students spoken Irish is assessed around Easter time of 6<sup>th</sup> year. The oral examination is a common level exam for students studying the subject at higher and ordinary level. Marks are awarded for fluency and grammatical accuracy. Students will be expected to hold an 8-10 minute conversation based on various topics ranging from their personal interests and hobbies to societal issue and current affairs. These topics will be studied and explored over their two year course. In preparation for their oral examination, students will also study 20 picture stories. This is to facilitate them in building their vocabulary. Students will be presented with one of these picture stories on the day of their exam and be asked to explain what is happening to the examiner. Students are also required to recite a piece of studied poetry.

### II. Aural Examination (10%)

The aural examination assesses student's comprehension of spoken Irish in various different dialects. The students are required to answer questions on the basis of the pieces they have listened to. These pieces include advertisements, notices, bulletins and conversations in Irish.

### III. Written Examination (50%)

The written examination takes place in June. Higher and Ordinary level Irish is examined across two papers. Paper 1 is comprised of the aural examination and a composition piece. Paper 2 examines studied literature. Students are required to study

- 5 pieces of poetry
- 5 pieces of prose
- Higher level students are required to study an extra piece of chosen literature.

For Higher Level a higher standard of language skills is required and a more in depth knowledge of studied literature than Ordinary level.

Foundation level:

### **I. Oral Examination (40%)**

The oral examination for candidates sitting foundation level is based on the following blocks which will be covered over the 2 year course:

- The family and the home
- School and school matters
- Pastimes
- Holidays, time, weather and work

### **II. Aural Examination (20%)**

Like higher and ordinary level, the aural examination assesses student's comprehension of spoken Irish in various different dialects. The students are required to answer multiple choice questions on the basis of the pieces they have listened to

### **III. Written Examination (50%)**

The written examination takes place in June. The examination consists of two parts: written comprehension & composition. The written comprehension involves a matching activity and answering questions about a letter, brochure, news story, extract or poem. The composition piece requires the student to write 2 pieces - one on an announcement, invitation or letter and the other on the basis of a picture or word bank.

## **Additional Comments**

- Irish is a compulsory subject for Leaving Certificate unless the student has been granted an exemption on the basis of their educational circumstances.

## **Career Opportunities**

Irish is a requirement for entry into a number of 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses across the country. Career opportunities with Irish include

- Teaching
- Gardaí
- Translating/ interpretation
- Journalism
- Television/ radio
- Editing
- Marketing
- Law
- Language officer for various organisations nationwide

**Contact Teacher**

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# Mathematics

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Mathematics aims to develop mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding needed for continuing education, life and work. By teaching mathematics in contexts that allow learners to see connections within mathematics, between mathematics and other subjects, and between mathematics and its applications to real life, it is envisaged that learners will develop a flexible, disciplined way of thinking and the enthusiasm to search for creative solutions. Leaving Certificate Mathematics will help students develop a greater understanding of mathematical concepts they studied at Junior Cycle level as well as an idea of how Mathematics can be applied to everyday real-life situations.

## How is the subject assessed?

There are three levels at Leaving Certificate Mathematics Level: Higher, Ordinary and Foundation.

### I. Written Examination (100%):

#### - Higher & Ordinary Level Papers:

Paper One is 2.5 hours long and has two sections

- Section A - Concepts & Skills, 150 marks in 6 questions
- Section B - Contexts & Applications, 150 marks in 3 questions

You **must** answer all nine questions.

Paper Two is 2.5 hours long and has two sections:

- Section A - Concepts & Skills, 150 marks in 6 questions
- Section B - Contexts & Applications, 150 marks in 2 questions

You must answer all eight questions but you are given a choice between 6(a) and 6(b) in section A.

#### - Foundation Level Paper:

One paper that is 2.5 hours long and has two sections

- Section A - 200 marks in 9 questions
- Section B - 100 marks in 3 questions

You must answer all eleven questions.

## Additional Comments

- Higher Level Mathematics is considered the most time consuming of all subjects so it was decided to introduce a bonus point system. If you pass Higher Level Mathematics you get a bonus 25 points. However, for this to apply, Mathematics must be one of your top six points, and you must pass it.
- We would highly recommend that Higher Level Mathematics is studied at Junior Certificate Level in order to achieve at Leaving Certificate Higher Level Mathematics. However, if a student who has not studied at Higher Level for Junior Certificate wishes to proceed with Higher Level Senior Cycle Mathematics, they will be more than welcome to try the Higher Level course in September and see how they equip themselves with the course content.
- We will advise students about their abilities and levels throughout Senior Cycle and remind them that with Mathematics particular levels or grades may be needed as a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses.

## Career Opportunities

- Business
- Finance
- Engineering
- Science
- Accounting
- Statistics
- Medicine

**Contact Teacher**

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# Accounting

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate accounting provides students with the knowledge, understanding and skills in accounting and financial management necessary for managing personal and basic company accounts. It is concerned with the preparation, recording, extraction, presentation and analysis of financial information for the purpose of making economic decisions. The learning experiences in accounting develop students' organisational, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for their future life, work and study. It also develops their numeracy skills within the context of business and enterprise.

Topics studied:

- The Conceptual Framework of Accounting
- The Regulatory Framework of Accounting (H.L.)
- Accounting Records, including double entry bookkeeping, control and suspense accounts
- Sole Traders
- Company Accounting
- Specialised Accounts, including manufacturing and club accounts.
- Incomplete records
- Cash flow Statement
- Analysis and Interpretation of Financial Statement
- Management Accounting
- Information Technology and Computer Applications in Accounting

## How is the subject assessed?

Accounting can be taken at Higher Level or Ordinary Level

### I. Written examination (100%)

The Leaving Certificate Accounting exam is three hours at Higher and Ordinary level. The paper is divided into three sections:

- o Section 1: Financial Accounting – 120 marks (30%) Students are required to do either Q1 or two questions from Q2, Q3, Q4.
- o Section 2: Financial Accounting – 200 marks (50%) Students are required to attempt any two questions from Q5, Q6, Q7.
- o Section 3: Management Accounting – 80 marks (20%) Students are required to attempt one question from Q8, Q9

## Additional comments

- Students who like the accounts section of Business Studies or who like working with figures may find this subject appealing.
- The course is numerically based but theory and procedures must be learned also.
- Junior Cycle Business Studies would be desirable to have taken at Junior Certificate though not compulsory.

## Career Opportunities

- Banking
- Insurance
- Administration
- Owing a business
- Management
- Auctioneering
- Law
- Accountancy

**Contact Teacher**

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# Applied Mathematics

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Applied Mathematics introduces mathematical modelling through exploration of real problems in the physical, natural, and economic worlds. Modelling requires students to turn authentic situations into mathematical structures. They then operate on those mathematical structures and generate a solution or a strategy to address the situation. The cycle of defining the problem, translating it to mathematics, calculating and evaluating the solution provides some of the most challenging, exhilarating, democratic work students will ever do in mathematics, requiring the best from all of them. Applied Mathematics is available for study at both Higher Level and Ordinary Level.

## How is the subject assessed?

- I. **Modelling Project(20%)**
  
- II. **Written Examination (80%)**

The course operates around 4 strands:

- **Stand 1: Mathematical modelling**
  - Problem solving cycle
  - Formulating problems
  - Translating problems into mathematics
  - Computing solutions
  - Evaluating solutions
  
- **Stand 2: Mathematical modelling with networks and graphs**
  - Networks
  - Matrices
  - Optimisation
  - Dynamic Programming
  - Algorithms
  - Project scheduling
  
- **Strand 3: Mathematically modelling the physical world; kinematics and dynamics**
  - Kinematics
  - Particle motion in 2D
  - Forces acting on a particle
  - Work, energy, conservative forces, conservation of energy and momentum
  - Circular motion
  - Dimensional analysis



- **Strand 4: Mathematically modelling a changing world**
  - Recurrence relations
  - Real-world phenomena involving incremental change
  - Solving homogenous and inhomogeneous difference equations
  - Analysing real-world phenomena using continuous change

### **Additional Comments**

- Students who are studying Leaving Certificate higher level Mathematics should consider Applied Mathematics. This course also helps students studying Physics, due to some overlap in the course content.
- There is overlap between some parts of the Leaving Cert Physics course and the Applied Maths course, such as Linear Motion, Newton's Laws, and Circular Motion. Thus it will also help you have a deeper understanding of these topics in Physics
- As there is a high Mathematics content in the course it will also give you a better understanding of some parts of the Higher Level Maths course; especially Trigonometry, Calculus (Differentiation and Integration)
- If you are considering studying any kind of engineering in college, Applied Maths is very important - all engineering students have to study Applied Maths in college and you will have a head start if you have the Leaving Certificate course done

### **Career Opportunities**

- Engineering
- Science
- Information Technology
- Architecture
- Education

**Contact Teacher**

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# Art

## What is the subject about?

The aim of The Clonturk Community College Art Department is to develop imagination, creativity, independence and resourcefulness in our students through the teaching and learning of a wide variety of practical and academic skills in the areas of art, craft and design and the history and appreciation of art. Our students have access to a range of Arts and Crafts media and there are unlimited opportunities to discover the potential of this subject. We aim to foster a lifelong appreciation of art and visual culture through practical art making and creativity and also through the study of art history.

Leaving Certificate Art is studied across the areas of Visual Studies (Art History and Appreciation), Still Life, Imaginative Composition, Design and Craftwork. These are all supported by the underlying use of observational studies, which enables students to build up a range of work and develop their skills and knowledge. A study of Art forms of the past and present to inform this work is also important.

Leaving Certificate Art aims to develop in learners the knowledge, skills, understanding and values needed to bring an idea to realisation and to respond to, understand, analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others. Each learner is a unique individual and will be enabled to develop their own skill set in a personal way. The learner will become aware of the world of Visual Studies, how it can inform their own work and life, and thereby become more aware of their own place in a wider society.

## How is the subject assessed?

A revised Leaving Certificate Art Course is being implemented for students going into 5<sup>th</sup> year in September 2021. \* There are three assessment components in Leaving Certificate Art: practical coursework, a practical examination, and a written examination. Students may choose to be assessed at Higher or Ordinary Level.

### I. Practical Coursework (50%)

The practical coursework component is designed to test the learner's ability to use the knowledge, concepts and skills developed in their study of Art to produce a realised work, from a stimulus, over an extended time period. The use of primary sources, including observational drawings, life drawing and drawing from the imagination are important.

### II. Practical Examination (20%)

Learners will receive the SEC coursework brief at the beginning of Term 2 (Year 2). In the brief, the SEC will outline the time period in which the practical coursework must be completed. During this period, learners will be required to realise one piece of work and plan and develop work for the realisation of a second piece of work during the practical examination.

### III. Written Examination (30%)

The written examination will have a range and balance of question types suited to Visual Studies (formally Art History and Appreciation) and the application of practical knowledge. The questions will focus on a broad understanding of Visual Studies and will require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, and an ability to apply, analyse, evaluate and respond as appropriate.

\*Please note given the uncertain nature of curriculum changes at the moment, this information could change.

## Additional Comments

- Learning through and about the arts enriches the experience of studying while at school as well as preparing students for life after school.
- Arts subjects encourage self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity
- Creativity can also help with wellbeing and improving health and happiness. Art can also act as an outlet for releasing the pressures of studying as well as those of everyday life.
- Studying art can also help to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around us.
- When you study art you learn to work both independently and collaboratively, you also gain experience in time management – skillsets valued by employers.
- The leading people in any field are those who can think creatively and innovatively. These are skills that employers value alongside qualifications. Making and participating in the arts aids the development of these skills
- Studying the arts teaches determination and resilience – qualities useful to any career. It teaches us that it is okay to fail, to not get things totally right the first time and to have the courage to start again.
- Having taken Junior Cycle Art, Craft and Design would be advantageous going into Senior Cycle Art though not compulsory.
- Students who have not completed Art, Craft and Design at Junior Cycle Level should speak to the Art teacher and have artwork prepared to show your interest and drawing skills if taking up the subject for the first time.

## Career Opportunities

- Advertising
- Animation
- Architecture
- Arts Administration
- Fashion Design
- Fine Art
- Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Printmaking
- Publishing
- Product Design
- Special Effects
- Art History
- Art Therapy
- Illustration
- Multimedia
- Teaching
- Web Design
- Curator

**Contact Teacher**

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# Agricultural Science

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of modern agriculture. It is a scientific approach to the knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes that affect the long-term sustainability of natural resources; the land, plants, and animals, and places particular emphasis on the sustainable use of these resources for the economic and social benefit of humankind. Plants, animals and soils are investigated in the following areas: health and safety, technology, breeding and genetics, food production, nutrition, policy and economics, sustainability and environment. The new agricultural science course will be examined for the first time in 2021 and has a particular focus on sustainability.

## How is the subject assessed?

There are two assessment components at Higher Level and Ordinary Level:

### I. Coursework Component (25%)

This consists of a report on an Individual Investigative Study and is worth 100 marks, which is 25% of the overall marks for Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science. It is submitted in April of sixth year. This study will be based on a topical area of research which is set by the State Examinations Commission each year. For example, this year's topic was: "Supporting conservation of the environment through Irish Agricultural practice". As part of their investigation students gather and process data, evaluate evidence, and develop arguments. They read about current research and developments in science and relate their learning to the applications and implications of science for society and the environment.

### II. Written Examination (75%)

There are two sections in the examination, and it is 2 hours 30 minutes duration.

- Section A, you answer 10 short questions. There is some choice within these questions and each question is worth 10 marks.
- Section B, you answer any 4 questions from a possible 5. Each question carries 50 marks.

Questions arise from the areas of: Animals, Plants, Crops and the Nature of Science.

## Additional Comments

- Agricultural Science is a good subject to study with Biology and/or Geography due to the overlap in course content.
- It is a practical subject with 22 experiments to be carried out so an interest in lab work is desirable
- There may be field trips.
- You do not have to be from a farming background to study agricultural science; agricultural science is for students who want to learn about agriculture, food, plants and natural resources.
- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject.

## Career Opportunities

- Horticulture
- Food Science
- Agricultural Roles
- Sports Turf Management
- Environmental Science
- Forestry
- Farming
- Marine Science
- Careers in Renewable Energy
- Teaching

**Contact Teacher**

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# Biology

## What is the subject about?

Biology is the study of life. It involves the study of the cell, genetics, food, ecology, human and plant physiology and anatomy. The Leaving Certificate course is quite detailed and requires the completion of 22 mandatory experiments. Students are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding to pursue further education, training and employment in biology-related fields, and to make judgements on contemporary issues in biology and science that impact on their daily lives and on society. The syllabus consists of approximately 70% biological knowledge, understanding and skills. The remaining 30% deals with the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology. As biology is a practical subject, the course can include field trips. Many of the areas studied in Leaving Certificate Biology may be familiar to you from Junior Cycle Science. We build further on this knowledge during the 2-year course on areas such as: human nutrition, ecology, the human body, plants and microorganisms. There are also opportunities to investigate arising issues such as Virology and Vaccine development.

## How is the subject assessed?

### I. Written Examination (100%)

Biology is assessed fully by examination. There is a large amount of choice on the paper.

There is an examination at both Higher Level and Ordinary Level, and they are both three hours duration. The exam paper is divided into three units.

- Section A – Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks.
- Section B – Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks.
- Section C – Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks.

Questions on the paper range from topics of:

- The study of life (ecology and food science)
- The cell (genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes)
- The organism (a study of body systems, plant biology and microbiology)

## Additional Comments

- Biology proved to be a very popular subject choice in Clonturk last year with a high number of students opting for it
- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology had a good interest in Junior Cycle Science.
- It is a practical subject with 22 mandatory experiments to be carried out, an interest in lab work is desirable.
- Biology is an excellent subject for those wishing to pursue a career or course in science.
- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject.

## Career Opportunities

- Veterinary
- Dentistry
- Beautician
- Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Applied Biology
- Botany
- Ecology
- Earth Science and Environmental Science
- Genetics
- Marine Science and Aquaculture
- Microbiology and Zoology
- Psychologist
- Astronomer
- Teacher
- Dietician

### Contact Teacher

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# Business

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Business creates an awareness of the importance of business activity, both domestically and internationally, and develops a positive and ethical attitude towards enterprise. Students will learn about legislation that protects employees and customers and the impact of these laws on businesses. Students will also study business planning, taxation and finance which are integral when setting up and running a business. Business is a contemporary subject, therefore students who take up this subject will investigate current affairs topics relating to the business environment. The learning experiences in business develop students' critical thinking, creative and organisational skills while enhancing literacy and numeracy skills using real-life examples.

Topics studied:

- Stakeholders in a Business
- Resolving Conflict in the Marketplace & Workplace
- Entrepreneurship
- Types of Management
- Human Resource Management & Change Management
- Evaluation of financial accounts of a Business: Cash flow Statement, Balance Sheet & Profit & Loss Statement
- Marketing
- Legal structures of business
- Business Expansion
- Ethical, Social & Environmental Responsibility of Business
- Globalisation & International Trade
- European Union

## How is the subject assessed?

Students can take the Higher Level or Ordinary Level paper.

### I. Written examination (100%)

**Higher Level** – 3 hour paper (400 marks); 3 sections.

- o Section 1 – Short questions (8/10) 80 marks
- o Section 2 – Applied Business Question – 80 marks (compulsory)
- o Section 3 – Long Questions (60 marks per question (4/7)

**Ordinary Level** – 2.5 hour paper (400 marks); 2 sections.

- o Section 1 – Short Question (10/15) 100 marks.
- o Section 2 – Long Questions (75 marks per question (4/8)).



## **Additional comments**

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Business Studies has a general interest in business from a local and global perspective.
- Junior Cycle Business Studies would be desirable to have taken at Junior Certificate though not compulsory.
- Business does not require students to write essays.

## **Career Opportunities**

- Banking & Finance
- Management
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Owning a business
- Insurance
- Human Resources
- Tourism & Hospitality

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# Chemistry

## What is the subject about?

The Chemistry course deals with some topics introduced in the Junior cycle (acids, alkalis, chemical reactions, atomic structure) but in more depth. More advanced topics are also introduced such as radioactivity and analytical chemistry.



**The course includes 28 mandatory practical experiments** which must be completed in the school laboratory.

The Chemistry course is designed to encourage an appreciation of the scientific, social, economic, environmental, and technological aspects of chemistry and an understanding of the historical development of chemistry (e.g., how the periodic table was developed etc). It develops skills of observation, analysis, evaluation, communication, and problem solving. The syllabus consists of approximately 70% pure chemistry and the remaining 30% deals with the social and applied aspects of chemistry.

## Examples of topics covered include:

- **Atomic structure** – what makes up atoms, how they act, bond and the history of the atom.
- **Volumetric analysis** – Titrations and Redox reactions
- **Organic chemistry** – Deals with compounds made mostly of carbon. You will learn what makes an alcohol and alcohol, how to name compounds and how to draw them.
- **Water chemistry** – What makes water hard, how solutions containing water react etc. Acids and Bases, figuring out pH using calculations etc.
- **Reaction mechanisms** – How will these two things react and what will they make?
- **Gas laws and the mole**
- **Radioactivity**

**Higher Level covers more topics than Ordinary Level and requires more detailed knowledge of all topics.**

In addition to the required topics covered as part of the course, there are **two optional topics** that are also examined:

**Option 1:** Industrial and atmospheric chemistry

**Option 2:** Materials and electrochemistry

These do not need to be covered – the examination can be completed without them.

## How is the subject assessed?

- **The Leaving Certificate exam is examined with a single written exam three hours in duration.** It includes questions on the mandatory experiments and the theory and applications of chemistry.
- Each candidate must answer at least two questions from Section A (experimental section) and a maximum of six questions from Section B.
- There are eleven questions in total on the exam paper, each carrying fifty marks. There is no element of continuous assessment, but experimental notebooks must be carefully maintained with records of the mandatory practical activities carried out.

## The Exam is structured as follows:

There are 11 questions total. Each question is **50 marks**. 8 questions must be attempted with at least 2 from section A. There is a good amount of choice on the examination paper.

- Section A

Students must answer at least 2 of the 3 but you can choose to answer all 3 if preferred.

### Questions 1-3

Based on the 28 mandatory practical activities carried out.



- Section B

Students must answer at least 6 questions from this section.

### Question 4

This has 11 short questions of which 8 must be answered. They can be taken from any part of the course.

### Question 5

Long question requiring detailed answers. The topics asked here will be:

- Atomic structure and periodic table
- Chemical bonding, valency and formulas, shapes of molecules and intermolecular forces
- Oxidation and reduction

### Question 6

Long question requiring detailed answers. The topics asked here will be:

- Organic chemistry – hydrocarbons
- Fuels and thermochemistry
- Rest of organic chemistry (alcohols, alkanes etc)

### Questions 7, 8 and 9

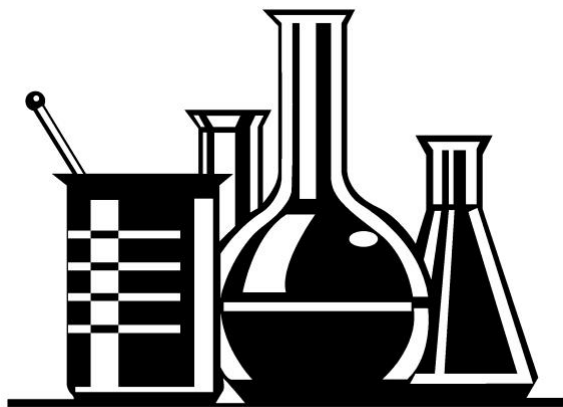
Long questions requiring detailed answers. The topics asked here can vary.

### Questions 10 and 11

Each of these questions contains a choice. Each one consists of 3 “half questions”, 2 of which must be answered. The optional topics are examined as part of these questions.

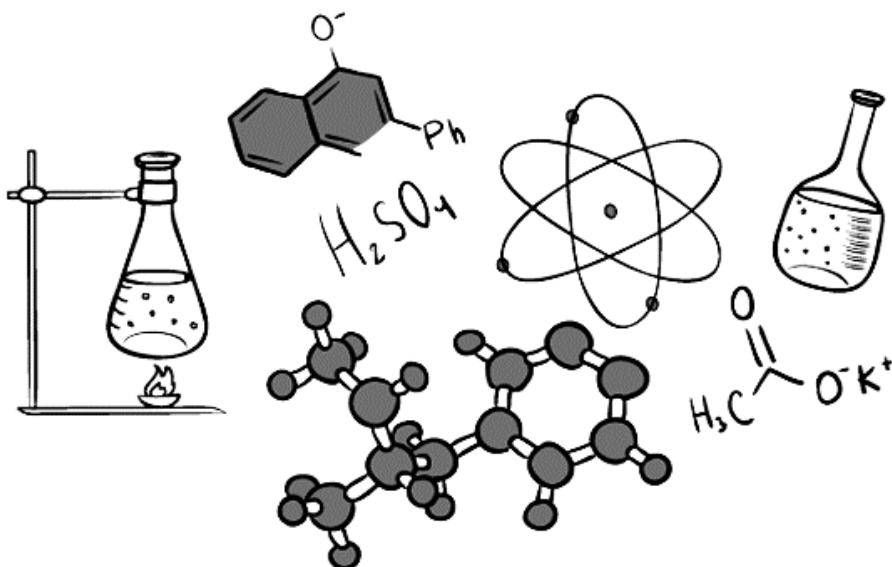
## Additional Comments

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the course has a good understanding/interest of Junior Cycle Science
- A reasonable competence in Maths is required, ordinary level is sufficient.
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work
- Recent observations from journalists writing about careers have suggested that the Irish Economy is experiencing a shortage of people with Chemistry skills. Yet points requirements to get into Applied Chemistry courses in Institutes of Technology are among the lowest. This is the case because the demand for these courses among school leavers is low.
- For more information on the course, you can watch this sort video from the Career Portals YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-jUVjDUgtI>



### Career Opportunities

- Medicine or veterinary
- Health/fitness
- Business
- Forensics/law
- Biochemistry
- Pharmaceutical
- Toxicology/ hospital lab testing
- Lab analyst (quality control)
- Academic/ research
- Cosmetics industry
- Petroleum
- Food
- Commerce
- Journalism
- Education (secondary or university)



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# Classical Studies

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Classical Studies aims to stimulate students' curiosity and interest in the classical civilisations of Greece and Rome. It develops skills, knowledge and attitudes that enable students to understand the political, economic, social, cultural, artistic and literary cultures of these civilisations and promotes using these insights to help them navigate their own worlds. Western society has developed in diverse directions over the past two millennia but the classical world of ancient Greece and Rome remains its central well-spring. This makes Classical Studies an important and exciting area of study today. It is a multi-faceted subject that encompasses the disciplines of history, literature and drama; art, architecture and archaeology; religion, philosophy and political thought. By making connections between these disciplines, Classical Studies students gain a holistic understanding of Greek and Roman culture and thought and learn how the past continues to inform the present.

## How is the subject assessed?

### I. Written Examination (80%)

The written examination paper will be two and a half hours long and will be presented at Higher and Ordinary level. In each case, the paper will be made up of two sections.

#### ○ SECTION A: STIMULUS-DRIVEN QUESTIONS

Section A will present students with questions relating to stimuli, which may be of a range of types, including various kinds of written and visual sources. The weighting of marks at Higher level will give greater emphasis to skills such as explaining, interpreting and evaluating, while the weighting at Ordinary level will give greater emphasis to skills such as identifying, describing and comprehending.

#### ○ SECTION B: EXTENDED WRITING

Section B will require students to engage in writing extended answers appropriate to their level. The extended writing questions will invite students to demonstrate the following:

- Application of knowledge and understanding from different areas of the specification to familiar and new situations.
- Critical thinking, the ability to analyse and evaluate information and to form reasonable and logical arguments and conclusions based on evidence.
- Understanding of the social, political, artistic, ethical, historical and literary concepts and aspects of classical studies and of how these relate to the world of today.

### II. Research Study (20%)

This assessment component requires students to investigate, evaluate and report on a topic that is anchored in the classical studies specification. The research study will be assessed through the medium of a report. The report will be submitted to the State Examinations Commission in sixth year. The report will take the format of a pro-forma booklet

which will be issued to students and submitted in written form. The report may include illustrations. The State Examinations Commission will provide an annual brief indicating the topic options for the examination year in question. The brief should contain three or four options and the students, in consultation with their teacher, will focus on a particular issue or question of their choosing. The briefs will relate to these key areas of the subject:

- Material culture
- Literature
- History
- Thought and ideas

In particular, the research study requires students to demonstrate that they can:

- research and process information that is relevant and meaningful to understanding or expanding on a topic related to the specification
- synthesise and evaluate information in order to apply concepts connected to the classical studies specification and make an informed judgement
- understand the social, political, artistic, ethical, historical and literary concepts and aspects of the classical world and reflect on how this knowledge and understanding contributes to their understanding of the world around them today.

### **Additional Comments**

- Studying Classical Studies in school is not proscriptive in terms of career opportunities. As so many disciplines are encountered, the subject can appropriately cater for any form of Third Level Education and beyond.

### **Career Opportunities**

- o Acting
- o Teaching
- o Lecturing
- o Academia
- o Archaeology
- o Law
- o Psychology
- o Journalism
- o Publishing

**Contact Teacher**

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# Construction Studies

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Construction Studies provides students with an introduction to the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and processes in Ireland. It involves theoretical study and practical projects aimed at developing an understanding of the knowledge and skills concerned with building methods and practices. Students will learn about building regulations and structural principles used in Ireland to create durable buildings, which offer shelter from the elements, provide comfort, warmth and all our living needs in a safe and regulated standard. Construction is mostly related to domestic dwellings but also deals with broader aspects - such as planning permission, town planning and new technologies.

## How is the subject assessed?

The Construction Studies course comprises of three components at Higher Level and Ordinary Level:

### I. Written Examination (50%)

The written examination takes place in June and it is a 3 hour examination where students are required to answer 5 questions from a choice of 10. Question one is a compulsory drawing question of a building detail.

Exam questions cover a range of topics from:

- Substructure (below ground)
- Superstructure (above ground)
- Internal Construction (floors, openings, walls, stairs, stud partitions, chimney, etc)
- Services and external works (plumbing, heating, electrical and waste disposal)
- Heat and thermal properties of buildings
- Illumination and sound in buildings
- Building design and layout
- Energy efficient planning and technologies

Higher Level covers three more topics than Ordinary Level and requires a much greater knowledge of all topics.

### II. Practical Skills Test (25%)

This is a 4 hour practical, woodwork examination held in May under examination conditions. The students are given a working drawing. They have to interpret the drawing, mark out the wood, process and complete the artefact in the time given.

### III. Project Work (25%)

A practical project where the student constructs a scale building detail, a scale model of a building, a research style project or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project clearly evidencing their rationale, research and manufacture. The project work takes approximately forty hours to complete. All work to be carried out during class time.

## **Additional Comments**

- Construction Studies is not the same as Junior Cycle Materials Technology Wood. There are practical aspects to the subject, however there is a larger focus on the theory of Construction Technology
- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest for design and practical work
- Junior Certificate Woodwork and/or Technical Graphics would be desirable subjects to have taken at Junior Certificate though not compulsory
- Students who have not completed either of the above subjects will require the maximum effort during the two years to have any chance of even moderate success at the Senior Cycle

## **Career Opportunities**

- Education
- Architecture
- Architectural Technologist
- Interior Design
- Engineering
- Services Industries
- Construction Management
- Health and Safety Officer
- Quantity Surveyor

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# Design and Communication Graphics

## What is the subject about?

DCG is an exciting and dynamic subject which covers a broad variety of topics including Projection Systems, Pictorial Projection, Dynamic Mechanisms and Structural Forms. Problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional graphics. DCG also includes a Computer Aided Design (CAD) element. This involves the use of computer software (SolidWorks) to virtually model products and artefacts. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and Computer Aided Design. There is a great emphasis in the Leaving Certificate course on comprehension, analysis and problem solving. In simple terms you must be able to understand what has to be done, analyse how you are going to approach it and then proceed to solve the problem.

## How is the subject assessed?

The leaving certificate course comprises of two components at Higher and Ordinary Level

### I. Student Assignment (40%)

The assignment is completed between September and January of 6th year. Students are given a prescribed design brief which requires them to:

- A: create a Model an existing product using SolidWorks
- B: modify the existing design or develop a completely new design concept for the product they designed in Part A

The assignment is presented in a portfolio which will consist of research evidence, initial design ideas/sketches, working drawings and 3D drawings created using SolidWorks.

The design brief changes every year:

- Gaming Headset
- Mobile Phone
- Computer Mouse
- Tap
- Torch
- Reusable Water Bottle

### II. Drawing Examination (60%)

The course is comprised of two parts; Core areas of study and Optional Areas of Study

- o Section A and Section B - Core Areas of Study
  - Plane and Descriptive Geometry
  - Projection Systems
  - Plane Geometry
  - Conic Sections

- Descriptive Geometry of Lines and Planes
  - Intersection and Development of Surfaces
- o Section C - Optional Areas of Study (You will be required to study two of the optional areas listed below)
- Applied Graphics
  - Dynamic Mechanism
  - Structural Forms
  - Geological Geometry
  - Surface Geometry
  - Assemblies

### **Additional Comments**

- If you are interested in taking this subject to Leaving Certificate level, it is a requirement to have taken Technical Graphics to Junior Cycle level
- If you have studied any of the following subjects at Junior Cert Level it will greatly help: Technical Graphics, Materials Technology Wood, Art and Maths
- Leaving Certificate subjects that compliment DCG: Construction Studies, Art, Applied Mathematics and Physics.
- Although it is not an essential subject for either architecture or engineering, it is regarded as a useful asset if you are thinking of a technical course.
- Log on to [www.t4.ie](http://www.t4.ie) to get a better understanding of the course work

### **Career Opportunities**

- Architecture
- Interior Design
- Product Design
- Mechanical Engineering
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Construction Management
- Graphic Design
- Computer Game Design
- Carpentry/Building apprenticeships
- Secondary School teaching

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# Economics

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Economics provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for understanding the economic forces which impact their everyday lives, their society and their economy at local, national and global levels. By exploring the microeconomic and macroeconomic world in which they live, students will understand the economic, social, political and environmental implications of the decisions made by individuals, businesses, our government and others. Economics is a contemporary subject, therefore students who take up this subject will investigate current affairs topics relating to the economic environment. Economics aims to stimulate students' curiosity and interest in the economic environment and how they interact with it and making them more informed as decision-makers. The learning experiences in economics develop students' critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making and numeracy skills.

Topics studied:

- Understanding economics
- Scarcity & Choice
- Environmental Sustainability
- Demand & Supply
- Elasticity
- Government Intervention
- Types of Market structures
- Market failure
- Fiscal and monetary policy
- Employment and unemployment
- National Income
- International economics: economic growth & development
- International trade and competitiveness

## How is the subject assessed?

Economics can be taken at Higher Level or Ordinary Level. There are two assessment components at each level:

### I. Written examination (80%):

- Section A (Choice of Short Answer Questions)
- Section B (Choice of extended response questions)

### II. Research study (20%)

Through the research study, students are afforded an opportunity to engage in research, analysis and reflection. The research study will assess the students' ability to use the knowledge, concepts and skills developed in their study of economics to evaluate information and data and make informed conclusions.

The research study will be based on a brief issued annually by the State Examinations Commission (SEC). A common brief will be issued for Ordinary Level and Higher Level. The brief will outline a number of topics from which students will choose one for their research study. The brief will also outline the parameters for the research study and for the report which will be submitted to the SEC for assessment. The research study will be completed in sixth year.

### **Additional comments**

- Junior Cycle Business Studies would be desirable to have taken at Junior Cycle though not compulsory.
- Students should have a keen interest in current affairs.

### **Career Opportunities**

- Economist
- Politics
- Banking & Finance
- Management
- Logistics
- Journalist
- Education

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# French

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate French builds on the knowledge acquired at Junior Cycle. The curriculum focuses on all four skills of language learning : Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. There will also be an emphasis on the sociocultural knowledge of French speaking nations (La Francophonie).

### Curriculum Aims:

- Undertake the specified grammar and vocabulary topics assigned
- Develop speaking skills through oral practice in class
- Develop listening skills by undertaking different listening activities in the target language
- Encourage reading of real-life texts to improve reading skills and general vocabulary
- Improve free writing skills by practicing writing exercises

## How is the subject assessed?

The French course comprises of two components at Higher Level and Ordinary Level:

### I. Written Examination

The written examination takes place in June and lasts 2 hours and 30 minutes at both Higher and Ordinary Level.

### Breakdown of Leaving Cert French Honours Paper (400 marks)

Aural	80 marks 20%
Comprehensions	120 marks 30%
Written Expression	100 marks 25%
Oral	100 marks 25%

### Breakdown of Leaving Cert French Ordinary Paper (400 marks)

Aural	100 marks 25%
Comprehensions	160 marks 40%
Written Expression	60 marks 15%
Oral	80 marks 20%

## II. Oral Examination

Higher Level and Ordinary Level French require students to undertake an Oral Examination. This is a 12 minute conversation with an external examiner on topics relative to the age and interests of students. The themes include: hobbies, daily routine, my house, school as well as more abstract topics such as: social problems, the media and the advantages of language learning.

### Additional Comments

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate French has a general interest in language learning, culture and the arts
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest language acquisition
- The learning of a language can be achieved by steady work and is much helped by a period spent in France, if that is possible. A motivated, hard-working student can acquire a high standard of spoken and written French in the 2 years of Senior Cycle
- Reading French magazines, newspaper articles, listening to audio clips, watching video clips and looking at French websites will expose students to a wide variety of authentic content.
- In general, a D3 grade in the Leaving Certificate (Ordinary Level) in a foreign language is necessary for entry to the colleges in the National University of Ireland (NUI) – UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, Pontifical University Maynooth and the Royal College of Surgeons. Though increasingly there are exceptions to this rule, particularly for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths degrees.
- Junior Certificate French is compulsory

### Career Opportunities

- Tourism
- Media
- Translator/ Interpreter
- International Law
- Education
- Embassy staff
- European and Irish Public Service
- International business

In all career areas employment prospects are much enhanced for graduates who have a good working knowledge of a European language especially in the post-Brexit era.

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# Geography

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Geography will help students develop an understanding of the changing relationships between the physical and human worlds. Through their study of geography, students will develop geographical skills that will help them to make informed judgements about issues at local, national and international levels. Leaving Certificate Geography is a big course and covers a diverse range of topics from volcanoes to the European Union.

## How is the subject assessed?

The Geography course comprises of two components at Higher Level and Ordinary Level:

### I. Written Examination (80%)

There is one written paper which lasts for 2 hours and 50 minutes. There are three parts to the written paper.

- Twelve short questions where you will be marked out of your best ten. (25 mins, 80 marks).
- Essay style questions where you have a choice of ONE question from three in each section. Spend no more than 30 mins on each question (80 marks).
  - o Section 1: Physical Geography (Q1, Q2, Q3 - Pick one)
  - o Section 2: Regional Geography (Q4, Q5, Q6 - Pick one)
  - o Section 3: Human Elective (Q7, Q8, Q9 - Pick one) OR Economic Elective (Q10, Q11, Q12 - Pick one)
- Optional Unit (Higher Level Only): You will be given 4 questions on your chosen option and you pick one. Each question will require you to write a single longer essay where you discuss three or four aspects of the theme in detail in 30 minutes (80 marks)

### II. Geographical Investigation Report/Project (20%)

The Geographical Investigation is usually submitted in April of 6th year and is worth 20% of the final grade. Usually it is a Coastal investigation where we would go to a local beach in Dublin and investigate processes and landforms made by the sea.

## Additional Comments

- Junior Certificate Geography would be a desirable subject to have taken at Junior Certificate though this is not compulsory.
- Students who have not completed Geography at Junior Cycle may need to study a little more however all basics are covered again at this level.
- Students will go on field studies and trips in this subject to see more areas of Ireland and its unique landscape and features.

## Career Opportunities

- Teacher/lecturer
- Travel agent
- Meteorologists
- Earth Scientist
- Town Planner
- Environmental Science
- Environmental consultant
- Geographical information systems officer
- Conservation officer

**Contact Teacher**

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# German

## What is the subject about?

German as a Leaving Certificate subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. As Germany starts to play a major role in the wider European context, German as a language is becoming ever more important in the lives of young Europeans in offering career opportunities that will be available in the years ahead. Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:

- Oral/speaking
- Written
- Aural/listening
- Reading

## How is the subject assessed?

Assessment is by means of a written examination, an aural and oral examination at two levels, Ordinary Level and Higher Level. Course Content for Higher and Ordinary Levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at Higher Level.

### Higher Level:

- I. Oral Examination (25%)
- II. Aural Examination (20%)
- III. Written Examination (55%)

### Ordinary Level:

- I. Oral Examination (20%)
- II. Aural Examination (25%)
- III. Written Examination (55%)

The German oral examination consists of a fifteen minute interview where students are examined in three different sections. German Interview with examiner, presentation of project or picture sequence and role play. At higher level the exam is worth 25% and at ordinary 20%. The secret for success is in your preparation. Criteria used to assess oral competence include:

- range of vocabulary
- range of expression
- awareness and use of grammar
- independence from examiner support
- appropriateness
- fluency
- pronunciation

The aural examination is 40 minutes in duration and takes place after the written examination in June. It involves listening to a variety of dialogues and news items in the target language and then answering in English. One section on the German paper requires answers in German.

The written examination is 2 ½ hours in duration. At Higher Level Reading Comprehension involves a literary and a journalistic reading text, followed by questions testing comprehension, language awareness, applied grammar and the student's ability to give an opinion on a topic raised. The written section consists of a formal or informal letter or an essay-type response to a picture. At Ordinary Level students do one literary and two journalistic comprehensions with similar exercises to Higher Level. Written exercises include letters, telling a story from a given series of pictures, writing a dialogue.

### **Career Opportunities**

- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Food and Wine
- Sales and Marketing
- Teaching
- Careers in the European Union
- Translator
- Interpreter
- Journalist
- Broadcaster
- Customer Services
- Client Management for Multinational Corporations

**Contact Teacher**

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# History

## What is the subject about?

Students will cover 4 topics over the course of the two years. Two topics will be from the Making of modern Ireland and two topics from the Making of modern Europe and the wider world. Students will start the course in Ireland with the Act of Union 1801 and will finish Irish history with Language, Religion and Culture in 1949. Irish History will look at how they cope with life under English rule and how they try get their independence and we finish the course with how the Irish try surviving being independent. The European course starts in 1920 with the growth of fascists regimes in Europe. We will look at the causes of WWII and the consequences of it. We will look at the Montgomery Bus Boycott in USA. We will look at the Cold war and USA involvement in other wars such as Vietnam and Korea and we will finish with the Space Race and the Moon Landing.

## How is the subject assessed?

There will be two assessment components:

### I. Written examination (80%)

Students will study 4 topics in the two years. In the examination students will answer four questions. One document question and 3 essay questions. All four questions will be of equal value. Higher and Ordinary level have the same examination structure and will cover the same topics, however in the higher-level examination students will have to answer their questions in more depth.

### II. Research Study Report (20%)

As part of the Leaving Certificate course you will produce a research study report. The study involves researching a historical topic from any period of history before 1993. Research will be done at home and in school. A final handwritten copy will be submitted in an exam booklet in the weeks before the Leaving Certificate examination.

## Topics covered in LC History:

Modern Ireland:

- Movement for Political and Social Reform 1870 – 1914
- The pursuit of Sovereignty and the impact of the partition, 1912 – 1949

Modern Europe and the Wider World:

- Dictatorship and democracy in Europe, 1920-1945
- The United States and the world, 1945-1989

## **Additional Comments**

- Junior Cycle History is not a requirement to take Leaving Certificate History, although it will be a bonus if you have done it before.
- A lot of the information taught is in line with the Junior Cycle course, but it will be a lot more in-depth.
- It is important to note that Leaving Certificate History is a big step up from Junior Cycle History. The workload is increased and there will be a lot more information given. We have two years to get the course done instead of three.
- Leaving Certificate History requires students to complete a series of essays, so it is important that students have two copies; one for notes and one for essays.
- Leaving Certificate History is a nice subject and you will do well in this subject if you have a genuine interest in it.

## **Career Opportunities**

- Education
- Current Affairs
- Law
- Journalism
- Local and National Radio and TV
- Politics
- Economics
- Sociology
- Museum and Library Work

**Contact Teacher**

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# Home Economics – Scientific and Social

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Home Economics provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives. It is an applied subject that combines theory with practice in order to develop understanding and solve life problems. It will enable students to take control of their own lives at present and in the future, whether that be in the home, in further education, in the world of work, or other life situations.

The subject has 3 core areas of study along with one elective chosen by the School. Core area 1 is Food studies. It is the largest area in the course and consists of study in topics such as Nutrition, Dietary needs and guidelines, food commodities, food processing, food preservation and microbiology. Core area 2 is resource management and consumer studies. This area explores household finances (budgeting, savings schemes, mortgages etc.), household technology, consumer studies and family resource management. Core area 3 is Social studies. This area explores family law in Ireland in relation to marriage, divorce, domestic violence and the rights of a child. In Clonturk Community College we chose to complete the social studies elective area which consists of studies in education, work and poverty in Ireland.

## How is the subject assessed?

### I. Written Examination (80%)

The written examination takes place in June, it is a 2-and-a-half-hour examination with 3 sections. Section A consists of short questions from all 3 core areas where the students are required to answer 10 questions from 12. Section B consist of 5 long questions from all 3 core areas, Q1 is a compulsory long question and students have a choice to answer 2 more questions out of the remaining 4. Section C consists of questions based on the social studies elective where students must answer 2 out of 3 long questions.

### II. Food Studies Coursework Journal (20%)

A big difference between Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Home Economics is that there is no marked cookery exam and there is also no textiles project. Throughout 5<sup>th</sup> year students will complete written coursework journals which count for 20% of their overall grade. 4 briefs are assigned by the State Examinations Commission at the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> year. Students will research each brief and complete the practical component of the assignment. Students will then complete a written detailed account of their research, practical implementation and evaluation of the task completed. The assignment briefs are based around specific nutritional diets, cooking processes, food technology, properties of food and sensory analysis testing. Assignments are marked at a common level and are completed under supervision of a teacher. The written journals are posted to the State Examinations Commission in late October of 6<sup>th</sup> year for correcting.

## **Additional Comments**

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Home Economics has an interest in food studies, social studies and general health.
- It would be desirable that students completed Home Economics for Junior Cycle but it is not compulsory.
- There is a partial overlap between Home Economics and the Biology course in relation to food science and microbiology. If students are choosing Home Economics and trying to decide on a Science subject Biology is advised.
- Leaving Certificate Home Economics is far more scientific than the Junior Cycle course so it is advised that students are interested or have an aptitude for scientific theory.

## **Career Opportunities**

- Dietetics
- Chef work
- Nutritionist
- Home Economics Secondary School Teacher
- Financial Advisor
- Social Worker
- Food Business Management
- Food Scientist
- Work in the hospitality sector (Waiter, Event Planner, Housekeeper etc.)

**Contact Teacher**

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# Music

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Music involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening. In performing, students choose from a variety of individual and/or group performing activities. In composing, students develop an understanding of musical structure and form, while the listening component provides for rich aural experiences through exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres. The Leaving Certificate Music syllabus provides continuity and progression from Junior Certificate Music. The general aims and overall shape of both is broadly similar. In providing the musical knowledge, understanding, practical competencies and attitudes appropriate to their age, abilities and interests, the syllabus caters for the varying needs of all students including those who wish to pursue further studies in music.

## How is the subject assessed?

The Leaving Certificate Music syllabus contains the following three essential activities:

- I. **Performing** - (including music technology) – examined in April of 6<sup>th</sup> year
- II. **Composing** – Examined in June of 6<sup>th</sup> year and comprises of a 90 minute exam paper of melody writing and harmony
- III. **Listening** - Examined in June of 6<sup>th</sup> year and comprises of a 90 minute exam paper of Four set works, Irish music and general listening skills.

This structure of the three essential activities is flexible. Where students have particular talents, the structure allows them to specialise by undertaking up to 50% of their work in the musical activity that best suits their talent.

- At **Ordinary level**, students will choose one of the three activities to represent 50 per cent of their work:

Performing 50%	Composing 25%	Listening 25%
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Or

Performing 25%	Composing 50%	Listening 25%
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Or

Performing 25%	Composing 25%	Listening 50%
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- At **Higher level**, students will undertake additional studies (a Higher Level elective) in one of the three activities:

Performing	Composing	Listening	One Higher Level Elective
25%	25%	25%	25%

This will allow Ordinary Level and Higher Level students to gain up to 50 per cent of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent.

### **Higher Level Electives:**

**Listening Elective:** The candidate must work on a music project over the course of 5th and 6th year. They must submit some work to the State Examinations Commission and sit an extra written paper in June.

**Composition Elective:** The candidate must undertake a large-scale composition to be submitted to the Examinations Commission in their final year.

**Performance Elective:** This involves a more substantial performance during the examination period in April of 6th year.

Almost all students take the 50% performance option using a combination of group or solo performance and music technology.

### **Additional Comments**

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Music has a general interest in music and a good ability to perform on an instrument or sing.
- Students should also show a willingness to examine various styles of music such as classical, contemporary, rock/pop and Irish music.
- It is not compulsory to have studied Junior Certificate Music although this would be desirable. It is important however, that the student has some knowledge of music theory. This may be through previous private instrumental tuition or graded theory exams.
- Students who have no background in music theory or Junior Certificate Music would be required to complete a significant amount of independent work in order to succeed at Leaving Certificate level.

### **Career Opportunities**

- Musician/performer
- Secondary school teacher
- Private Music teacher/tutor
- Composer
- Conductor
- Music Therapist
- Sound Engineer
- Sound Technician (broadcasting, film, video)
- Programme researcher
- Arts administrator
- Community musician/arts worker

**Contact Teacher**

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# Physical Education

## What is the subject about?

Leaving Certificate Physical Education provides students with an integrated approach to learning between theoretical lessons based in the classroom and practical classes' outdoor/in sports hall. Approximately 1 lesson per week will be practical based and 2 per week will be theory/classroom based throughout the 2 year course. The emphasis in practical lessons is attaining the learning outcomes through physical activity.

The Curriculum comprises of:

### Strand 1 (5<sup>th</sup> year)

- Learning and improving skill and technique (skill acquisition, biomechanics, etc.)
- Physical and psychological demands of performance (components of fitness, psychology, nutrition etc.)
- Structures, strategies, roles and conventions (safe practice, role of the coach/official, etc.)
- Planning for optimum performance (performance analysis, planning for optimum performance etc.)

### Strand 2 (6<sup>th</sup> year)

- Promoting physical activity (pathways to excellence, physical activity promotion/participation, etc.)
- Ethics and fair play (principles of ethical practice, drugs and sport, anti-doping rules, etc.)

In addition, two of the following topics will be prescribed each year by SEC:

- Physical activity and inclusion (addressing barriers to physical activity, adapted physical activity, etc.)
- Technology, media and sport (impact of technology e.g. GPS pouch, impact of media on athletes, etc.)
- Gender and physical activity (gender, media, body image, gender and drop out, etc.)
- Business and enterprise in physical activity and sport (sponsorship in sport, sport and tourism, etc.)

## How is the subject assessed?

The Physical Education course comprises of three components at Higher Level and Ordinary Level:

### I. Written Examination (50%)

The examination is assessed at Higher and Ordinary levels. Both papers follow the same layout and structure. The written examination is the final examination of the leaving Certificate in June. It is a 2.5 hour exam. It comprises of:

- o Section A – Short Questions – Answer all 10 (80 marks)
- o Section B – Case Study (50 marks)
- o Section C – Long Questions – Answer 3 out of 5 (80 marks)

## II. Performance Assessment (PA) (30%)

This is completed between January and March in 6<sup>th</sup> year. It requires approximately 10 hours of in class time. 3 physical activities are chosen to be studied in depth by the class in 5<sup>th</sup> year. The 3 activities must be from 3 different physical activity strands. The strands are as follows, Games, Athletics, Adventure Activities, Dance and Gymnastics, Personal Exercise and Fitness, and Aquatics. Which 3 are chosen are decided as a whole class by vote, while keeping in mind the facilities available in our school. For example our current 5<sup>th</sup> years have chosen soccer from games, 100m sprint from athletics and personal exercise and fitness. The assessment is completed by submitting a video which is approximately 8 minutes in length where students showcase their ability in the physical activity. This requires a lot of footage to be recorded and edited into a well presented video by students. The assessment and grade rewarded is a direct reflection of the student's ability in the chosen physical activity, not their effort. Effort in class and outside of school should improve student's skill levels and ultimately help to improve their grade on the PA. However, effort alone will not automatically guarantee a good grade.

## III. Physical Activity Project (PAP) (20%)

This is completed over 8-10 weeks between Halloween and Christmas in 6<sup>th</sup> year. It must be completed on a different activity strand to the one chosen for the Performance Assessment (e.g. a student could not pick a game like Gaelic Football for their performance assessment and choose another game like Soccer for the PAP). The student chooses the activity/sport themselves.

The project is structured as follows

- Performance Analysis
- Identification of 4 performance goals (based on content learned in 5<sup>th</sup> year from strand 1)
- Evidence of ongoing training/practice and reflection
- Concluding Analysis

### Additional Comments

- It is a new course and is not an entry requirement for any third level institution or college course including PE teaching in DCU and UL. It would however, be a beneficial foundation for many courses to study the subject.
- The first year the exam took place was 2020, where due to C19 students were unable to complete all aspects of their assessments. As a result, the course still has aspects subject to change.
- Students are not guaranteed they will be able to do the sport/activity of their choice for the performance assessment as it is a whole class decision which three sports/activities are chosen.
- It is highly recommended students currently play at least one sport/activity competitively outside of school with a recognised club/sports team.
- Students should have a general interest in several sports and physical activities as several will be studied throughout the course where full participation is a requirement.
- Students must have an interest in performance, students must be motivated to complete physical training, circuit classes, aerobic fitness training, fitness testing etc.
- Students who have not enjoyed PE or participated in PE at Junior Cycle level should not consider the subject.
- Students who do not meet the above criteria regardless of effort are highly unlikely of achieving success in the Leaving Certificate assessments.
- The following link leads to the NCCA website and contains 3 separate PDF's which outline the specification of the course, PAP and PA assessments in further detail.
- <https://curriculumonline.ie/Senior-cycle/Senior-Cycle-Subjects/Physical-Education-Specification/>

## Career Opportunities

- Sports Scientist
- Games Development Officer
- Sports Administration
- Physiotherapy
- Athletic Therapy
- Personal Training
- Dietician/Sports Nutritionist
- Sports Partnerships Careers (Sports Inclusion/Disability officer, etc.)
- Sports Psychologist
- High Performance Athlete
- Physical Education Teacher

**Contact Teacher**

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# Physics

## What is the subject about?

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 (for Higher Level). Practical work is an integral part of the Physics course; students must carry out the mandatory experiments and keep detailed accounts of products, 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.

## How is the subject assessed?

### I. Written Examination (100%)

- **Section A:**
  - Answer 3 out of 4 questions
  - 120 marks: 40 marks per question
  - Questions are based on experimental procedures and use of results
- **Section B:**
  - Answer 5 out of 8 questions
  - 280 marks: 56 marks per question
  - Questions are more broad and theory based

The Leaving Certificate course covers the following core topics:

- **Mechanics:** Study of forces, energy and motion (7 mandatory experiments)
- **Temperature and Heat:** Study of heat, heat quantities, heat transfer, temperature and thermometers (4 mandatory experiments)
- **Waves:** Study of wave phenomena
- **Vibrations and sounds:** Study of wave nature of sound, vibrations in strings and air columns, 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.

- **Option1: Particle Physics**
- **Option2: Applied Electricity**

## Additional Comments

- While there is an element of maths in the physics course, honours maths is not a requirement to do honours physics. It is entirely possible to get on well in honours physics without honours maths.
- Pupils should become able to draw and read graphs and be competent in using a calculator throughout the course. The physics syllabus has strong links with the other science subjects especially chemistry.
- Pupils who will gain the most from studying physics are those who have an interest in Science at Junior Cycle level and those who enjoy learning about how things work.
- The science, technology and society section allows students the chance to see where the physics they are learning applies as in TVs, car motors and electricity in the home and also, to see some of the industrial applications of certain topics.

## Career Opportunities

- Lecturer
- Education
- Data Scientist
- Lab Manager
- Medical Physicist
- Aerospace Engineer
- Optical Engineer
- Process Engineer
- Research Analyst
- Programmer

**Contact Teacher**

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# Politics and Society

## What is the subject about?

Few subjects are as relevant to our everyday lives as Politics & Society. Amongst other things, students will study interesting concepts that affect them such as human rights, rules, equality, identity, diversity, sustainable development, power, conflict, the media, gender and democratic decision-making. In addition, students will study social systems and power structures in society and consider questions such as: Who has power? Who does not? Who abuses power? Who should have power? Studying Politics & Society gives students a real insight into people, power, how society works and the forces that shape the world we live in. It will appeal to students who wish to become more informed and active global citizens as well as those who enjoy debating and analysing the world around them.

## How is the subject assessed?

Politics & Society can be taken at Higher or Ordinary level. Assessment is based on the course aims, objectives and learning outcomes. There are two assessment components at each level:

### I. Citizenship Project Report (20%)

The citizenship project changes annually. Students choose one topic from a choice of four. The project requires students to research a topic of interest to them and then put their learning into action.

### II. Written Examination (80%)

The written examination is 2.5 hours in duration. It is divided into 3 main sections.

- Section A – short questions (answer all questions) 50 marks
- Section B – data based questions (answer all questions) 150 marks
- Section C – discursive essays (answer 2 out of 4 questions) 200 marks

The examination questions will be focused on The Politics & Society specification which consists of 4 main areas covered in topics as follows :

#### Power and decision making:

- Topic 1 - Power and decision making in school
- Topic 2 - Power and decision making at national and European level

#### Active citizenship:

- Topic 3 - Effectively contributing to communities
- Topic 4 - Rights and responsibilities in communication with others

#### Human rights and responsibilities:

- Topic 5 - Human rights and responsibilities in Ireland
- Topic 6 - Human rights and responsibilities in Europe & the wider world

## Globalisation and localisation:

- Topic 7 - Globalisation and identity
- Topic 8 - Sustainable development

## Additional Comments

- Politics & Society is the first new Leaving Cert subject since 2007 and was first examined in June 2018.
- "The need for a sound social and political education...has never been so great. Without it, our young people are forced to operate in the social and political world without the skills and insights that they need to be in control of their own destiny" (Kathleen Lynch, UCD Academic and one of 17 Key Thinkers on the Politics & Society course)
- The skills of critical thinking and active citizenship that are developed through this subject will be useful to students in any future learning and in their everyday life
- Politics and Society will be useful if you also study Geography, History, or Economics. In addition it supports and develops skills needed for Leaving Cycle English and builds on skills developed in Student Enrichment, CSPE and SPHE in Junior Cycle.
- There is ample opportunity for classroom discussion, debate and reflection on the different ideas and perspectives. Through these methods students will develop valuable analytical and evaluation skills as they debate topical and sometimes controversial issues, study different viewpoints and form their own political opinions.

## Career Opportunities

- Politics
- Education
- Sociology
- Law
- Anthropology
- Philosophy
- Media Studies
- Journalism
- Current Affairs
- Media
- Local and National Government (TD / Councillor)
- The EU (diplomat / relations officer)

**Contact Teacher**

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# Spanish

## What is the subject about?

Spanish as a Leaving Certificate subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the Spanish language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. Spanish, as a language is becoming ever more important in the lives of young Europeans in offering career opportunities that will be available in the years ahead. Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:

- Oral/speaking
- Written
- Aural/listening
- Reading

## How is the subject assessed?

Assessment is by means of a written examination, an aural and oral examination at two levels, Ordinary Level and Higher Level. Course Content for Higher and Ordinary Levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at Higher Level.

### Higher Level:

- I. Oral Examination (25%)
- II. Aural Examination (20%)
- III. Written Examination (55%)

### Ordinary Level:

- I. Oral Examination (20%)
- II. Aural Examination (25%)
- III. Written Examination (55%)

The Spanish oral examination consists of a fifteen minute interview where students are under the following criteria:

- General Discussion
- A role play

The aural examination is 40 minutes in duration and takes place after the written examination in June. It involves listening to a variety of dialogues and news items in the target language.

In the written examination at Higher Level there is a great emphasis on reading comprehension, both literary and journalistic style. Questions are asked in both English and Spanish. There is a question relating to grammar within the comprehension passage. Another question requires the student to write 100 words on an abstract topic to the comprehension theme. There is also a letter or other written passage.



At Ordinary Level there are three reading comprehension passages, again of literary and journalistic style, similar to those at Higher Level. There are fewer marks assigned to written Spanish at this level.

### **Career Opportunities**

- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Food and Wine
- Sales and Marketing
- Teaching
- Careers in the European Union
- Translator
- Interpreter
- Journalist
- Broadcaster
- Customer Services
- Client Management for Multinational Corporations

**Contact Teacher**

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