

# THE ABBEY SCHOOL TIPPERARY

Tel.: 062 - 52299 & 062 - 51624 Fax: 062 - 52511

*Although your choice of subjects may have implications when it comes to realizing your ambitions, it should not be the ordeal it tends to be. The decision may be simplified by considering the following:*

1. Having the essential subjects for the job/course.
2. Maximizing your points/achieving the grades specified by employers/colleges.
3. Enjoying the subjects.

## ESSENTIAL SUBJECTS

Taking examinations in the subjects, which are essential to your chosen career hardly, needs emphasizing but there are many misconceptions when it comes to what is required for particular careers. Many students wrongly think that Accounting is needed for entry to accountancy courses; likewise students often think that Design and Communication is required for Architecture. However only a small number of the subjects on the Leaving Certificate Programme are ever mentioned as being essential requirements for entry to either jobs or courses.

**SCIENCE SUBJECTS:** Not all science courses require students to have passed a science subject in their Leaving Cert. But one would be advised to take a science subject if one is any way interested in this area. Most medical or Paramedical courses will require a laboratory science subject. Some courses require two science subjects one being chemistry.

**CHEMISTRY:** Chemistry deals with the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change. It offers a wide range of options in the scientific field including brewing technology, medical and laboratory science. It is required for Medicine and Dentistry in UCC and Veterinary in UCD.

**PHYSICS:** Physics deals with the laws and forces governing natural phenomena and includes heat, light, electricity, and magnetism. It is relevant for those interested in most branches of engineering including paramedical careers eg. Radiography and physiotherapy

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE:** This covers the study soils, plants, and their function including farm, crops, and trees. Farm animals and buildings are also studied. It is now accepted as a laboratory science subject in all third level colleges in Ireland.

**BIOLOGY:** Is the science of life and living things. It is a requirement for entry to Dental Hygiene in UCC and Biology in Maynooth. It is advisable to take if you are considering a career in nursing.

**ART:** Though some Institutes of Technology require art, it is not always an essential subject for entry to Art Colleges. Yet it is highly recommended that all intending art students take it as a Leaving Cert. Subject. A portfolio is normally a requirement for art courses.

**ACCOUNTING:** Extending beyond the actual making of records (bookkeeping) accounting is concerned with the use of these records, their analysis, and interpretation. It is an excellent preparation for any business related occupation, though not essential for entry to any business college or professional training.

It is still a great help to students wishing to pursue any third level business related course.

**BUSINESS:** Business is concerned with how organizations are formed, financed and are run. Looking at the services involved such as banking, transport, taxation, and semi-state organizations. It provides an excellent foundation for anyone contemplating a business career, though like Accounting it is not an essential subject for any course but it would still be a useful subject for any business related courses.

**CONSTRUCTION STUDIES:** Introduces students to the knowledge and skills in construction technology, materials, and practices. The course covers the historical development of buildings in addition to other relevant topics such as house purchase and mortgages. A project is also required to be submitted as part of an assessment for the Leaving Certificate.

**DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS:** Develops intellectual qualities of comprehension, analysis, and problem solving as well as the skills of manipulation and dexterity and the development of overall design sensitivity. Although it is not an essential requirement for those wishing to enter architecture or engineering courses, it is generally an essential component of most technical courses.

**LANGUAGES:** Studying a language to Leaving Cert gives you many options for the future. It promotes cultural understanding and opens many doors to study and work abroad. It is an asset and a much sought after skill in Business, Science and Tourism among other sectors. It is important to remember that you do need to have a proven aptitude for languages. **Languages are not required for all third level studies.** However a third language is required to study in UCC, NUI Galway, Maynooth and UCD except for Science, Engineering, Agriculture and Nursing courses.

**HISTORY:** Embracing the world of politics, economics, religion and philosophy, history can be a most enjoyable challenge, developing skills such as identifying main issues and the ability to select relevant information.

**GEOGRAPHY:** Concerned with the interrelationships between human activities and the physical environment, Geography includes the study of population, farming, industry, pollution, statistics, resources, landscapes and communications. For both Science and Pharmacy (TCD) it is accepted as one of the HC's in science subjects