



THE ABBEY SCHOOL
AN EDMUND RICE SCHOOL



Senior Cycle Subject Choice Booklet

A Guide for Students and Parents
2023-2024

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Introduction

The Leaving Certificate is a two-year programme building on the foundation of a successful Junior Cycle or Transition Year. From the beginning of fifth year a responsible approach to classwork and a good timetable of personal study is required. To assist students, supervised study of 2 hours duration is available after school for fifth- and sixth-year pupils.

Support for Students

Each class will continue under the care of their Year Head who take a personal interest in every aspect of student progress. Principal, Mr. John Kiely, Deputy Principal, Mr. Pat, Donovan and School Guidance Counsellor, Mr. Conor Hayes are available to the students to discuss any problems they may have. They will also liaise with parents to assist each student to reach his potential.

How to Make an Informed Choice

As a student entering the senior cycle, you are coming to a crossroad in your life. You need to make decisions and plan for your future. The first decision you will be asked to make is to choose subjects that you will study for the Leaving Certificate. At The Abbey School, all students take seven subjects in the Leaving Certificate. The following subjects are mandatory:

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics

You then choose **four** others from the optional list on the contents page of this booklet. The following broad guidelines form a basis for choice.

1. Ascertain what motivates you in school and outside of school.
2. Choose subjects that you find relatively easy to understand and know you will work hard and commit to.
3. Inform yourself of Leaving Certificate subject requirements for third level colleges or courses. Qualifax and Careers portal are excellent resources for this.

Do I Need This Subject?

- Go to www.careersportal.ie
- Select: School
- Select: Leaving Cert
- Choose: Leaving Cert Subjects
- Choose: Any Leaving Certificate Subject (e.g. Chemistry)
- Click: Search

- Click: Course Content
- Select: Career Guidance

Know your strengths and interests – Your aptitudes are strengths that you have in certain areas. You should look back at the results you get in school and see if there is a pattern? Do you always do well at languages and English? Do you find Business and Science challenging or easy? How did you find the subjects in TY, if you did it?

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

Inform yourself of Leaving Cert subject requirements – If you already have a definite course or career in mind, you need to find out if there are essential subjects that you must have for Leaving Cert to be eligible for that course. If you are unsure of what you want to do after school – RELAX! Most 3rd and TY students do not know! However, you need to make sure that your subject choices are carefully chosen to make sure that you are not ruling yourself out of anything that you might be interested in later on. The careers portal website is an excellent resource for such research.

Some subject requirements include Chemistry (Medicine in UCC, Dietetics in TU Dublin, Pharmacy).

Higher level Irish (H4) is required for Primary Education.

Higher level Maths (H4) is a requirement for many courses in Engineering.

REMEMBER: You are the person who is studying the subjects and who is going to take the exam – It is your responsibility to make sure that the information you have is up to date and accurate. Ask for help from teachers, parents, friends, and Mr. Conor Hayes.

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

Subjects Offered by The Abbey School

There are three subjects that are compulsory: **Irish, English and Maths**. Students must then choose a further ***four subjects*** from the following groupings:

Languages	Laboratory Sciences	Social Studies
French	Biology	History
German	Agricultural Science	Geography
	Chemistry	
	Physics	

Business	Applied Science/Technical	Artistic Group
Accounting	Construction Studies	Art
Business	Design & Communication Graphics (DCG)	Music (St. Anne's)
	Physical Education (PE)	

MODERN LANGUAGE

How important is a Language with regard to college entry?

- A second language is required for entry into some courses i.e., Arts/Humanities (English, History, Geography, Politics, etc), Commerce, Psychology and Law in the National Universities (UCD, UCC, Maynooth University and NUI Galway only)
- It is generally required for academic courses rather than scientific, technical, or artistic courses. For example, it is no longer required for Nursing, Science, Agriculture and Engineering Degrees in UCD, UCC, Maynooth University and NUI Galway. Maynooth University have recently dropped this requirement for some of their Business and Finance courses.
- A modern language is, however, required for entry into Royal College of Surgeons, St. Angela's College of Home Economics and Shannon College of Hotel Management.
- It is essential for Translating, Interpreting, Army, Navy and Air Force Cadets, European Studies, Bi-lingual secretary, Courier, Teleservices, Au-pair, and cabin crew. A second language is useful for careers in Travel and Tourism,

Receptionist, Hotel Management, Catering, Journalism, Business and Marketing.

NO Third Language is required for:

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

This information is correct in February 2023 but is subject to change - check with the course provider or Mr. Conor Hayes.

GAEILGE

Introduction

Leaving Certificate Irish builds upon the language developed during Junior Cycle. All four language skills are further developed in order to enable the learner to take an active part in the bilingual society in which we live in today in Ireland. The learner is encouraged to develop and share her/his views on a range of topics. The learner is also prepared during Senior Cycle for further study in or through Irish.

Subject Content

- Oral (40%)
- Aural (listening) (10%)
- Written (50%)
 - Reading comprehension
 - Written composition.
 - Studied Prose
 - Studied Poetry
 - Additional Literature (Higher Level only)

Exam Structure

Irish is assessed at three levels i.e. Foundation Level, Ordinary Level or Higher Level. Aspects of literary works must be studied at Ordinary Level while at Higher Level these same works, and additional material must be studied in greater detail.

Ardleibhéal/Higher Level:

- (i) Béaltrial (The Oral/ speaking exam) 240 marks - 40%
- (ii) The Aural/listening exam. 60 marks - 10%
- (iii) Two written papers. 300 marks - 50%

Paper One - 160 marks

A listening section worth 60 marks is the first section of paper 1. The second part is a composition section worth 100 marks and this includes a choice of an essay, a story, a newspaper article, or a debate/speech.

Paper Two - 200 marks

- First there are two reading comprehensions usually connected to cultural affairs, famous people, current affairs, etc.

- Then there are questions on compulsory prose and poetry. There are four stories and one film/drama on the prose course which are also on the ordinary level paper.
- There is a question on a theme or character or an aspect of the story or film.
- There are five poems printed on the paper. These poems are also on the ordinary level paper but the standard of answering expected is more detailed.
- The key difference between Higher and Ordinary level is that Higher Level students are required to study additional literature texts. One area is chosen from the following: an autobiography, drama, short story, folklore story or 5 additional poems.

Gnáthleibhéal/Ordinary Level:

(i) Béaltriall: The Oral exam is an important part of the exam. 240 marks - 40%

(ii) The Aural/listening exam. 60 marks - 10%

(iii) There are two written papers (50%) - Paper one is worth 100 marks and paper two is worth 200 marks

Paper One - 160 Marks - A listening section worth 60 marks is the first section of paper 1. The second part is a composition section worth 100 marks and this includes a choice of a letter, conversation, story, or a paragraph. Usually these options are topics that you will have studied for the Oral exam.

Paper Two - 200 Marks -

There are two reading comprehensions, one usually about a famous person and the other about something to do with young people, current affairs etc.

Next there are questions on compulsory prose and poetry. There are four stories and one film/drama on the prose course.

You must know a summary of the story/film and also discuss a theme or character. You must answer two questions and there is a choice between two in each case.

Three out of the five poems are printed on the paper. You must answer two questions on the poems. The questions are generally about a theme, a feeling, an explanation of a line or did you enjoy the poem, etc.

Bonnleibhéal/Foundation Level.

The main part of this course is listening and speaking. There is one written paper only and this is very similar to Junior Cert Ordinary level consisting mostly of reading comprehensions. There are no prescribed prose or poetry sections in this course.

Possible Career Areas

Fluency in Irish enables graduates to develop interesting careers, not only in the more traditional areas such as teaching, translation, and the media, but also in the arts and cultural sector, in public sector organisations, and in professions such as healthcare, ICT and marketing.

Third Level Entry Requirements

At least a pass in Ordinary Level Irish is a requirement for entry to UCD, UCC, NUIG and NUI Maynooth, so this subject is of utmost importance in your Leaving Cert. A H4 in Higher Level is needed for Primary Teaching.

ENGLISH

Subject Overview

English is a compulsory subject at Leaving Certificate in The Abbey School. There are two papers in the terminal exam.

Paper I (Language, 2 hours 50 minutes)

- Includes a major composition (100 marks)
- A comprehension section (50)
- and a short set composition task (50).

Paper II (Literature, 3 hours 20 minutes)

- The Single Text (60 marks), usually a Shakespeare tragedy such as *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Othello*
- The Comparative Analysis (70 marks), an essay comparing three texts
- Poetry (50 marks) - answer on one of eight set Higher Level poets,
- Unseen poem (20 marks)

Most of the literature texts are covered in 5th Year, apart from some poems and the third comparative text/drama. In 6th Year these texts are revised in considerably more detail. Usually, we leave one comparative text until 6th year. Language work continues throughout 5th and 6th Year. Each class is taught by the same teacher for two years.

Possible career areas for which this subject is useful/ essential

English is an essential subject in almost all professions. There are many careers which stem directly from studying English in third level. Career opportunities are abundant to an individual with a degree in English because skills gained from this area of study can be easily applied to many career areas. Individuals possessing the ability to think clearly and critically, to analyse and interpret data, and communicate results are in great demand by employers. Examples include journalist, novelist, actor, film or stage director, law, teacher, PR and much more.

MATHEMATICS

Introduction

Leaving Certificate Maths builds upon the Mathematical skills developed during Junior Cycle. The learner is also prepared during Senior Cycle for further study of Maths.

Exam Structure

Maths is assessed at three levels i.e. Foundation Level, Ordinary Level or Higher Level. All the same topics that are studied at Ordinary Level are also studied at Higher Level. Higher Level has a few additional topics which are not on the ordinary level course. Also, the questions at higher level are more difficult and require a lot more understanding of mathematical principles.

Higher Level

Both papers are broken into two sections:

Concepts and Skills - 150 marks (Q1-6)

Contexts and Applications – 150 marks(Q7-9)

You must answer all questions. There is no choice on the papers.

Paper One - 300 marks

- Algebra
- Complex Numbers
- Real Numbers
- Differential Calculus
- Integral Calculus
- Area and Volume
- Real Number
- Indices and Logarithms
- Functions
- Arithmetic
- Financial Maths
- Proof by Induction
- Number Patterns Sequences and Series

Paper Two - 300 marks

- Statistics
- Inferential Statistics
- Probability
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Co-ordinate Geometry of the Line
- Co-ordinate Geometry of the Circle
- Constructions
- Enlargements

Ordinary Level

Both papers are broken into two sections:

Concepts and Skills - 150 marks (Q1-6)

Contexts and Applications – 150 marks(Q7-9)

You must answer all questions. There is no choice on the papers.

Paper One - 300 marks

- Algebra
- Complex Numbers
- Real Numbers
- Differential Calculus
- Area and Volume
- Real Number
- Indices and Logarithms
- Functions
- Arithmetic
- Financial Maths
- Number Patterns Sequences and Series

Paper Two – 300 marks

- Statistics
- Inferential Statistics
- Probability
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Co-ordinate Geometry of the Line
- Co-ordinate Geometry of the Circle
- Constructions
- Enlargements

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH AND GERMAN

French and German are offered as Leaving Cert subjects here in The Abbey. The aim of these courses is to bring students closer to fluency in the language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. It builds on the knowledge acquired for the Junior certificate.

What kind of student might a language suit?

- Anyone with an interest in French or German culture, history, and language.
- Students who are considering working in Germany, Austria, France, Canada, or in international relations in the future.

Exam Structure and Mark Allocation

Oral exam	25%
Listening Comprehension	20%
Reading Comprehension	30%
Written Production	25%

Careers Portal Foreign Language Course Finder

Together with [Careers Portal](#) and the Third Level institutes around Ireland, Languages Connect have developed a database of college course that include foreign language subjects at Major, Minor and electives. So, whether you want to study Veterinary with French or Astrophysics with Chinese, you'll be able to find the right course for you. Check them out on [CareersPortal.ie](#).

Career Possibilities

Specific careers in which a language would be of benefit include teaching, translation, interpreting, journalism, and media. However, a language is a transferable skill and can be of benefit in any career path. It is also important to remember that Ireland is now the only English-speaking country in the E.U. following Brexit so a lot of the study abroad options to the UK are no longer available as well as European languages being more important than ever for Irish business, industry and trade.

Student Perspective

"I wasn't sure if I wanted to choose French for my Leaving [Cert](#) but I'm delighted that I did. The excellent teachers and small class sizes create a great class atmosphere and enjoyable learning environment. A foreign language is also necessary for the course I hope to study next year in college. Overall, I would definitely recommend studying French to any incoming Leaving Cert students." **Daniel Moloney 6th Year French**

I chose to study French at Leaving Cert as it was a subject I really enjoyed at Junior Cert and felt it would be beneficial to me after school. I enjoy learning languages; this is helped by the great language teachers we have in the school and the small class sizes. I find French to be a very valuable and rewarding subject to study and would certainly recommend it to other students. **Liam Carew 6th Year French**

German has a good balance of writing, reading, listening and oral work. You will never be writing more than two A4 pages for a question. Our mixed class made it very different to other classes. Some of the oral work can be long and hard initially but you can work through it over time. **Colm Power 6th Year German**

I would recommend German for a few reasons. It's always good to have a foreign language, especially for college options. We had a small class, so it was very interactive and much more beneficial than having a class of 20 or more. We did it with girls from St. Annes, this improved social skills and I was able to meet new people. **Oisin Hogan 6th Year German**

Initially quite daunting having to come to a different school. I needed German for my entry to college and I like learning languages. It's been a very enjoyable experience and I feel my German has really improved. **Ava O Sullivan 6th Year German**

I chose German because it was needed for my course. You get to do various things in German class. I like the change between schools when we have to walk down and back up. **Lara Magellanes 6th Year German**

HISTORY

Introduction

History aims to record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred. It deals with human experience and involves an investigation of the surviving evidence relating to such experience.

History brings students into contact with human experiences that are often very different from their own and fosters their developing understanding of the human condition and human motivation. Through its focus on the evaluation of evidence, it contributes significantly to the development of students' skills of critical thinking. Through its focus on research, it allows students the opportunity to develop their skills of independent learning.

History is often studied out of personal interest, but also develops important skills which are of life-long importance.

What kind of student might History suit?

- Students who enjoy and appreciate history and would like to improve their knowledge.
- Students who are willing to commit the time required to ensure academic success.
- Students who have strong English language skills and are able to write.
- Students aiming to improve their self-discipline and research skills.

Recommendations/Tips

When considering History as a Leaving Certificate subject students should note the following:

- An interest in the subject is vital; some students choose it on the basis that they like nothing else on the Subject Line.
- A good knowledge of English, an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is important.
- Self-discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general.
- If history is a subject that you like and you have the ability, discipline and work ethic to do well in it, but is not related to the course you want to pursue at Third Level, you should consider doing it on the basis that it will get you the required points to get the Third Level course that you want.

Course Overview, Content and Exam Structure

The Leaving Certificate History syllabus gives teachers a choice of 4 topics which will be studied from a selection of 12 topics in modern Irish and modern European history.

Students will study topics from the Later Modern period; 1815 – 1993 in both Ireland and Europe and the Modern World

The study of History at Leaving Certificate fulfils many of the general aims and principles of the Leaving Certificate programmes.

- It emphasises the importance of individual thought.
- It fosters a spirit of inquiry and critical thinking.
- It helps to prepare students both for further education and for adult and working life.
- It helps to prepare students for their role as active and participative citizens.

History is a good all-round education.

It is crucial when studying History to pay attention to the evidence presented, and to keep in mind factors such as bias and propaganda. Students are encouraged to consider the validity of different interpretations of evidence to develop a more balanced and grounded judgement.

The course is quite large and requires constant attention throughout the year. Research skills such as drawing on a wide variety of sources of evidence (such as maps, public records, political cartoons, and memoirs) are developed throughout the course. When writing, students are taught to produce focused, logical, and supported arguments.

Leaving Certificate History is assessed at two levels, ordinary level, and higher level. There are two assessment components: a research study report (submitted prior to the examination) and a written examination.

Students undertake a Research Study which will take the form of a report to be submitted around Easter time before the Leaving Certificate exam in June.

This Research Study can be about any aspect of history, in any period. The teacher will help and oversee this work, but the choice of subject matter is that of the student. This part of the assessment carries 20% of the total marks.

The History exam will last 2 hours 50 minutes and pupils will answer the documents-based study and three essays (one from each topic studied).

Ordinary level students follow an identical course, with a different emphasis in the way questions are asked on exam papers.

Assessment consists of two components: A written examination paper (80%) and A research study report (20%) submitted around Easter before the June exam.

Career Possibilities

History develops an ability to think independently and is very useful skill for third-level education.

An interest in, and knowledge of history are relevant to any career related to current affairs, such as Journalism, Local and National Radio and TV.

History is valuable as a background to studies in Law, Town Planning, Architecture, Politics, Economics, Sociology, Art, Museum and Library work.

History is also good training for work in Administration, Management and Business and is an excellent basis for careers in Tourism, Government and Teaching.

Student Perspective

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Leaving Certificate History, it was by far my favourite subject. To me, history didn't feel like any other subject in the school, I enjoyed doing the work and constantly learning about the world's history as we covered lots of interesting information. History can be a lot of work and challenging but it is definitely worthwhile and enjoyable. – **Will Hogan 6th Year 2021, Currently Studying Law at University of Limerick**

Overall, I found History to be my best subject and one I consistently achieved high marks in. There is a large amount of learning, but I was very interested in it which made it enjoyable. The project is also an area one can do very well in once you follow the guidelines given to you and you are allowed to choose a topic that really interests you personally. The exam is a challenge with the amount to cover and the time allocated but overall, I am very pleased to have chosen History as a Leaving Certificate subject. – **Eoin Kelly 6th Year 2021, Currently studying Engineering at University of Galway.**

GEOGRAPHY

Why study Geography?

Leaving Certificate geography will help you to develop an understanding of the world around you and the dynamic relationship between the physical and human worlds. You will develop geographical skills that will help you with critical thinking and making informed judgements on local, national, and international issues. Geography has elements of Economics and Science which make the course very interesting to students who are also choosing Business Studies, Biology, Chemistry and Agricultural Science. There is also a mathematical element to the subject. For both science and pharmacy at TCD, geography is accepted as a science subject for entry requirements. Choose Geography if you enjoy collecting and analyzing data and information and you are good at memorizing notes.

The Course

Leaving Cert Geography is essay based and is favourable to those who are good at writing essays or reports. The course has four main theory sections: Physical Geography, Regional Geography, Economic Geography and Geoecology. Students base their field study report off a prescribed topic from the physical geography section which is given to the school by the state examinations commission. This field study is worth 20% of the overall exam and is completed in 5th year. The teacher gives guidance and direction on the write up and it is submitted to the State Examination Commission in Spring of 6th year. Students also study GIS systems which include reading mapwork, graphs and charts.

Leaving Certificate Geography Results in the Abbey

Students in the past who have worked well in Geography have reaped the rewards. We have a consistent amount of H1/H2 grades each year with the majority of students falling into the H3/H4 grade band. Students who are struggling will always be advised when necessary to reconsider the level they are studying at so that they can maximise their points, but students must work hard and engage in the work to benefit from it in the long run. The failure rate is over the past 5 years is extremely low.

The Exam

The exam is essay based as well as the student having to complete a geographical field study report before the exam. Geography is studied at both higher and ordinary level. The final exam is 2hr 50min for which students are exceptionally well prepared.

Curriculum and Exam Format

Part 1: Short Questions	80m
Part 2: Physical Geography	80m
Part 3: Regional Geography	80m
Part 4: Economic Geography	80m
Part 5: Geoecology (Higher level only)	80m
Part 6: Field Study Report	100m

Careers

Geography can lead you absolutely anywhere and is a subject that is well received by colleges and universities particularly as a science subject, and future employers.

Public Sector: Teaching (ECCE/Primary/Post Primary), Gardaí Síochána, Civil Service, Administration, County or City Councils, Government Agency work.

Science Sector: Geologist, Pharmacist, Doctor, Archaeologist.

Farming Sector: Agricultural Scientist, Farmer.

Research and Development Sector: Market Researcher, GIS Systems, Analytics, Health Research and Planning, Consultancy.

Construction Industry: Engineering, Architect, Landscaper, Consultancy, Sustainability and Energy, Planning.

Journalism and Broadcasting

Take a look at the noticeboard outside of Room 6, for a full list of careers which require Geography.

Student Perspective

I was delighted that I kept on Geography, it really was an easy subject, and it was very repetitive from what we had learned at Junior Cert. We were given all the notes and guidance we needed and all of us felt confident in June completing the exam. I enjoyed the subject very much because it included a little bit of everything and matched well with my other subjects, especially business and ag science. **Donagh Hickey 6th Year 2021**

I wasn't sure about geography in the beginning but as the time went on and as we got more and more into the topics, I began to really like it. It was one of my best subjects in the end and I'm really happy that I stuck with it. The field trip was really easy and interesting, and the project write up was handy. I would definitely recommend it to anyone. **Taylor Allen Flynn 6th Year 2022**

The best decision I ever made was to keep on Geography. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after school, and I wanted to keep my options open. There are so many interesting parts to the course and although some topics can be a small bit boring, its worth it in the end. I would really recommend it to everyone and even though it is a note heavy subject, we had done it all before and I think that's what made it easy. **Daniel Kelly 6th Year 2022**

BUSINESS

Introduction

Business is a practical and vocational orientated course that introduces students to the concept of business and management in a logical way. The subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates and to develop a positive and ethical attitude towards it. The course also sets out to illustrate the process of start-up businesses and developing a new product or service. The skills and activities necessary for good management practice are a key focus. The impact of technology on business, foreign trade, global firms, competition, business structures and the national economy are all part of the syllabus. As a Business student, you are encouraged to show enterprise and initiative which you may apply in further education and in your personal, working, and public life.

Subject Content

- Concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates in Ireland and the wider world.
- Equipping students with a positive view of enterprise and applications in the business environment, in both the public and private sectors
- 7 units which cover the following areas: 1: People in Business, 2: Enterprise, 3: Managing 1, 4: Managing 2, 5: Business in Action, 6: Domestic Environment and 7: International Environment
- A common syllabus that covers both Higher and Ordinary Levels
- Flexibility of design that caters for present day Irish Business education and yet is capable of adaptation to future developments in a structured and efficient way.
- Promotes students to develop their education for adult and working life, including self-employment.

Exam Structure

100% Exam – There is no project element to assessment with Business.

Higher Level: 3 Hour Exam Paper (400 Marks) 3 Sections which includes short questions, long questions, and an applied business question.

Ordinary Level: 2.5 Hour Paper (400 Marks) 2 Sections which includes short and long questions.

Why Chose Business as a Leaving Certificate Subject?

- Suited to students who are willing to work hard and caters for all abilities.
- It is not necessary for students to have studied Business Studies at Junior Certificate, but previous knowledge would be an advantage.

- Content is factual and requires a lot of learning. There are minimal mathematical elements to the course. Higher Level requires students to apply knowledge learned. Rote learning will not be sufficient to achieve high grades in Business.
- Keeping up to date with current affairs and an interest in both domestic and global economic activity would greatly assist with this.
- Keeping at least one Business subject to Leaving Certificate is recommended, although not compulsory for students interested in studying Business, Commerce, or related areas at third level.
- Organised and consistent attitude to homework and study would be essential with Business.

Possible Career Areas

Business Management	Marketing
Accountancy	Insurance
Banking	Finance
Auditing	Teaching
Company Secretary	Auctioneering
Farming and Agriculture	Hotel Management

Third Level Entry Requirements

Business is not an essential subject for entry to any of the above related career areas. However, previous knowledge of the course content will be a major advantage to any student who pursues studies in one of these areas.

Student Perspective

I would recommend choosing business for the leaving cert as you can learn a lot of things about day-to-day life like insurance and taxation. There is also no project for business which may suit you if you are doing other subjects with projects. Lots of college courses have aspects of business in them also. There is a lot of theory in the subject but as long as you keep on top of your notes you'll be fine. **Joe O Callaghan**
5th Year 2023

I choose Business as I studied it during the Junior Cycle, and I had enjoyed studying about how businesses are run and what it takes to become an Entrepreneur. Business is a popular subject and Mr. Riall will be able to help you out if you are having difficulty with anything. Business is a theory-based subject and contains no project. Business is a helpful subject if you would like to open up your own business in the future or if you would like to pursue a career in marketing. **Rory McCall - 5th Year 2023**

ACCOUNTING

Introduction

Accounting is concerned with the preparation, recording, extraction, presentation, and analysis of financial information for the purpose of making economic decisions. The Accounting course also involves a Management Accounting section, where the student learns how to analyse business costs and how to prepare budgets. It is a continuation of the Book-Keeping Section of the Junior Certificate Business Course. It would be recommended that anyone considering Accounting would have knowledge of the Double Entry Book-Keeping system. It does not require exceptional Mathematical skills. However, you must be conscientious and thorough since it requires careful and detailed analysis of figures and data. Leaving Certificate Accounting is a very rewarding subject at both Ordinary and Higher Level and a good grade is very achievable for students who are prepared to work hard.

Subject Content

80% Financial Accounting and 20% Management Accounting

- Financial Statements Preparation
- Farm Accounts
- Club Accounts
- Company Accounts
- Manufacturing Accounts
- Financial Statement Analysis and Interpretation of Accounts
- Budgeting
- Break Even Analysis
- Cost Classification
- Accounting Theory and Principles

Exam Structure

100% Exam – There is no project element to assessment with Accounting. The content in the Higher-Level course is similar to the Ordinary Level course with some extra topics for Higher Level, which also requires a greater depth of understanding & analysis. There is one final written exam in June of 6th Year at both levels.

Why Study Accounting as a Leaving Certificate Subject?

The Business Studies Syllabus at Junior Certificate Level provided students with a general business and book-keeping knowledge. At senior level, this subject is split into three distinct and separate subjects, Accounting, Business and Economics. The Accounting side is a continuation of what is studied at JC but in greater depth.

Accounting is where students learn the basics of keeping monetary accounts. Students should choose Accounting as a Leaving Certificate subject if they enjoyed or excelled at the bookkeeping element of their Junior Certificate Business Studies course. Students need to be good problem solvers and pay great attention to detail and accuracy. Accounting has become an important part of young people's education, not just for economic reasons, but also because of the ever-increasing involvement of individuals in the running of clubs, societies, and businesses of all types.

Possible Career Areas

Accountants do well in good times and bad, as their expertise is equally in demand when people have money to invest or when the business environment is not so favourable and there is a focus on cost controls. Accountancy provides a valuable foundation for all business functions, and many of the top executives in Irish Business have an accountancy background. A good accountancy qualification, that is recognised internationally, can be a passport to working abroad.

Accountancy	Auditing
Banking	Insurance
Teaching	Finance and Investments
Hotel Management	Company Secretary
Auctioneering	Office Administration

Third Level Entry Requirements

Accounting is not an essential subject for entry to any of the above related career areas, apart from the study of Bachelor of Commerce at NUIG Galway. However, previous knowledge of the course content will be a major advantage to any student who pursues studies in one of these areas.

BIOLOGY

Introduction

If you love to learn about living things and how they relate and interact, studying Biology might be the right fit for you. As a field of science, Biology helps us understand the living world and the ways its many species function and evolve.

Studying Biology gives you an in-depth understanding of the natural world. It also helps you learn how to conduct research; problem solve, organize, and think critically. Many advances in medicine, agriculture, biotechnology, and many other areas of Biology have brought improvements in the quality of life.

Subject Content

- 3 Units of Learning
- A common syllabus that covers both Higher and Ordinary Levels
- Flexibility and design that caters for recent and up to date advances in the field of biology.
- Opportunity to develop laboratory skills as 22 coursework experiments are included.

Examination Structure

- 100% Examination, there is no project work.
- Higher Level AND Ordinary Level: 3-hour exam worth 400marks.
- 3 sections in examination; Short Questions, Experiment Questions and Long Questions.

Why Choose Biology

- Suited to students who are willing to work hard consistently at learning material at both higher and ordinary levels.
- All students have a basis of knowledge regarding the subject as Biology is one of four stands in Junior Cycle Science
- Keeping at least one Science subject to Leaving Certificate is advisable to keep options open for potential college or university courses.

Potential Careers

Biotechnology	Pharmacology
Nursing	Forensic Science
Dentistry	Medicine
Zoology	Ecology
Microbiology	Teaching

Student Perspective

I decided to study Biology for Leaving Cert. Since I began studying science at junior cycle level, Biology was always my favourite out of the sciences as I found it very interesting and relatable. I also thought it was a good subject to choose so that I could keep my options open for college. I liked the topics that we studied in Biology such as Food, Respiration and Enzymes but, it is important to know that there is a lot of theory and text. I didn't mind studying it because I found it interesting! It is very important to keep your notes copy tidy, take my advice - put time into that because your notes are a great study guide. **Brian Marnane (LC 2022) Currently studying Biological and Chemical Sciences at University of Limerick**

I chose Biology to study for my Leaving Cert as I liked it the most at Junior Cycle. I liked learning about how humans and animals function as well as plants - how plants photosynthesise for example. Biology is a popular subject however; class size is never an issue as there is usually two classes. We have three great teachers at the moment, Ms. O'Connell, Ms. McCarthy and Mr. O'Dwyer who are devoted to the subject and are more than happy to help you out if you are having trouble. Biology is also a subject that ties in well with other subjects, particularly Ag Science and I found that really useful! I also think Biology is a good subject to study in college as it allows you to branch into many courses such as Food Science, Environmental Science or Biotechnology. **Jack Moylan (LC 2022) Currently studying Agricultural Science at Southeast Technological University (Formerly WIT)**

I think that Biology was a great subject to pick to study for my Leaving Certificate. The course content is easy to comprehend, and it is straightforward for the most part if you are willing to put in a decent effort to learn the material regularly and practice exam questions. If you are willing to do that, then a high grade is very attainable. There is a lot of college courses that biology can lead you in to - mainly if you are interested in science courses biology would be good to pick. **Oisín McCall (LC 2021) Currently studying Medical and Health Sciences at UCC**

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Introduction

The Abbey School was the first school in Ireland to offer Agricultural Science as a leaving Certificate Subject. The school has had a great tradition of promoting the subject throughout the years. It has always been a very popular choice with students for the leaving Cert.

If you want to gain knowledge about the environment, farming, food and have an interest in animals and plants this subject should be on your list.

Subject Content

Leaving Certificate agricultural science involves the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the sustainability of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources. Plants and animal types associated with agriculture are studied, and investigations are undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farm crops, farming practices, genetics, and microbiology.

The subject is thought under four strands.

1. Scientific Practice
2. Soils
3. Animals
4. Crops

These strands develop into exciting topics like Animal Physiology, Plant Physiology, Soil development, Crop husbandry, Genetics, New technologies and Food science.

Exam Structure

- Exam paper worth 75%
- Student Project worth 25% this is completed and submitted before the leaving cert starts.
- Both a higher and ordinary level paper available to students.

Benefits of studying Agricultural Science

- Keeping on a science subject is advisable to keep options open for third level.
- Agricultural Science is acknowledged as a Science Subject by all Universities and Colleges.
- Suited to all students from both country and urban backgrounds.

- An enjoyable subject with a variety between Science and practical Knowledge.
- The advantage of doing a project worth 25% before you even sit the written exam.
- Large number of resources available and numerous field trips to help students gain better knowledge of the subject.

Potential Careers

Teaching	Agricultural Advisor
Vet	Horticulture
Farming	Microbiology
Environmental Science	Agricultural Engineering
Dairy Business	Food Science

Student Perspective

The main reason I choose Ag Science for the leaving Cert is that it is a very interesting and enjoyable subject. I myself, do not come from a farming background but I can say that it does not make a difference. We all cover the same material. I find it beneficial as it is recognised as a Science Subject for all third level colleges. It has been a really enjoyable and challenging subject. **(6th Year 2023 student)**

I picked Ag Science as I have an interest in agriculture and food. I wanted to learn more about the science behind farming and food. I also like the fact that it can be used as a science subject for third level. One of the most enjoyable experiences was carrying out my own project, which was interesting. There are loads of options from studying this subject. **(Darragh Barlow, LC 2022 and current Veterinary Medicine student)**

PHYSICS

Introduction

Physics is a key part of science and technology; it deals with how and why things behave as they do. Physics is used to solve problems; environmental, social, health, technological and many more. It's about practical things but also involves ideas such as the origin of the universe and the tiniest building blocks of all materials.

Leaving Cert Physics is the most mathematical of the sciences, with many exam questions requiring you to solve a problem using learnt formulas.

Subject Content

- **Mechanics** – force, energy, power, motion, gravity, density, pressure.
- **Sound** – waves, Doppler effect, notes resonance, sound intensity, vibrations.
- **Heat and temperature** – conduction, convection, radiation, heat, thermometric properties, thermometers, heat capacity.
- **Light** – reflection, refraction, lenses, diffraction, interference, dispersion, colours, electromagnetic spectrum, spectrometer.
- **Electricity** – charges, electric fields, capacitance, electric current, resistance, potential, effects, domestic circuits, electromagnetism, alternating current and induction.
- **Modern physics** – the electron, thermionic emission, photoelectric emission, x-rays, the nucleus, radioactivity, nuclear energy, ionising radiation.
- Students also study one of two options, either **particle physics** or **applied electricity**.
- Students also complete 26 mandatory experiments which are related to the various topics outlined above.

Exam Structure

100% Exam – There is no project element to assessment with Physics.

Higher Level: 3 Hour Exam Paper (400 Marks) 2 Sections

Ordinary Level: 3 Hour Paper (400 Marks) 2 Sections

Section A questions students on a sample of the 26 mandatory experiments, which students carry out over the course of the two-year Leaving Certificate programme, (30%). (Note: these experiments are to be written up by students in an experiment copy).

Section B questions students on the concepts in physics and tests students' ability to apply these concepts in solving mathematical related problems (70%).

Why Chose Physics as a Leaving Certificate Subject?

If you want an enjoyable and rewarding career where you use your imagination, your practical ability, and your creative flair, then physics could be for you. If you are thinking about engineering, medicine, dentistry, electronics, astronomy, or technology, then physics is for you. Physics is highly desirable for most science related and engineering courses. With a physics qualification, you could choose to work in the open air, in a hospital, in a laboratory team, in engineering, in education or in many other environments.

Possible Career Areas

The various skills that studying physics develops are useful far beyond the lab and are valued in a vast range of careers, including astronomy, geophysics, electronics, biomedical, mechanical engineering, computer engineering, civil engineering, environmental engineering, military, second and third level education, radiation protection, environmental monitoring, construction, telecommunications, photography, video recording, laser technology, graphics/software design, programming, computers, semiconductors, Architecture, Biophysicist, Dentist, Doctor, Marine Radio Operator, Medical Laboratory Technician, Meteorologist, Naval Service, Pharmacist, Physicist, Photographic Technician, Pilot, Radiographer, Scientific Laboratory Technician, Scientific Research, etc.

Third Level Entry Requirements

Physics is a very helpful course for a whole range of careers and university courses and is essential for many. All forms of engineering, medicine, dentistry, as well as many science-based careers use physics. All university engineering courses, medicine, dentistry and many science courses will require you to study physics for at least the first year, so clearly you are at an advantage if you have studied it in school. In the case of engineering courses, it is essential in most cases.

CHEMISTRY

Introduction

The aims of the course, common to both levels, are:

- To stimulate and sustain students' interest in and enjoyment of Chemistry.
- To provide a relevant course for those students who will complete their study of Chemistry at this level.
- To provide a foundation course in Chemistry for those students who will continue their studies in Chemistry or in related subjects.
- To encourage an appreciation of the scientific, social, economic, environmental, and technological aspects of Chemistry and an understanding of the historical development of Chemistry.
- To illustrate generally how humanity has benefited from the study and practice of Chemistry.
- To develop an appreciation of scientific method and rational thought.
- To develop skills in laboratory procedures and techniques, carried out with due regard for safety, together with the ability to assess the uses and limitations of these procedures.
- To develop skills of observation, analysis, evaluation, communication, and problem solving.

Subject Content

The core content includes.

- Periodic Table and Atomic Structure
- Chemical Bonding
- Stoichiometry and Formulas and Equations
- Acids and Bases
- Volumetric analysis
- Thermochemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Rates of Reaction
- Chemical Equilibrium
- Water Chemistry

28 mandatory experiments associated with these topics are carried out in the laboratory. These experiments are written up in a laboratory notebook.

Exam Structure

100% Exam

Higher and Ordinary Level: 3 Hour Paper (400 Marks) The exam is made up of 2 sections, Section A and Section B.

- **Section A contains 3 questions from the 28 mandatory experiments.**
- Section B contains 8 questions on various topics. The student must answer eight questions in all.

- These must include at least two questions from Section A. All questions carry equal marks (50 marks).

Why Choose Chemistry as a Leaving Certificate Subject?

Chemistry as a subject in the senior cycle curriculum serves a number of functions. One is to familiarise students with Chemistry, and to interest them in proceeding with further studies in Chemistry. Another is to prepare them for careers in which Chemistry is a basic component, such as chemical engineering, civil engineering, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, laboratory technician, and nursing. Yet another function is to help them understand the world in which they live. A command of the concepts of Chemistry explains many of the wonders of our everyday lives. A further function is to help them develop an understanding of concepts, that they, as citizens, may have to consider, particularly in relation to environmental issues, such as the location of industries. The increased emphasis on social and applied aspects of Chemistry is relevant to each of these functions.

Possible Career Areas

- Analytical Chemist
- Biotechnologist
- Chemical Engineer
- Veterinary Medicine
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Forensic Scientist
- Pharmacologist
- Research Scientist (Physical Sciences)
- Scientific Laboratory Technician
- Toxicologist

Third Level Entry Requirements

Chemistry is a requirement in the Leaving Certificate for some third level courses, e.g.

- Pharmacy
- Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics

Students thinking of doing science in college or university should consider studying two science subjects.

Student Perspective

Comments from a First Year College Student

Chemistry is a subject that I would recommend you sit if you would like to study a science course in third level. In the beginning it can be difficult to try conceptualizing the many abstract ideologies that make up the chemistry course. With time and after completing plenty of exam papers questions you begin to form an understanding of the subject and everything you have learned fits into place. I have seen huge benefits in studying chemistry from my time in college. I have found that the calculations and theory learned for Leaving Cert Chemistry are the basis of the chemistry modules I study in my course.

(Brian Marnane, 1st Year Biological and Chemical Sciences Student at The University of Limerick)

Comments from a Fifth Year Student

Chemistry is the most important science subject in my opinion. It is very interesting, but you need to study it to understand it. It opens a lot of future job possibilities like medicine, teaching and pharmacy. It can be practical too, there is a lot of lab work and its good fun.

(Robbie McGrath, 5th Year 2023)

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

Introduction

Leaving Certificate Construction Studies is the follow-on subject to Wood Technology in Junior Cycle and provides students an introduction to the construction industry. This is achieved by integrating theory with practical projects and experiment work.

Construction Studies, while traditionally a very popular subject with students suffered due to the recession in the late noughties. This was reflected in statistics in 2013, when the number of completed homes countrywide dropped to an all-time low of 4,500, resulting in less young people interested in following a career in construction. However, since then there has been an incremental recovery and year on year the number of completed homes has increased, reaching a ten year high in 2019 of 21,500 and increasing to 29,981 in 2022. Economists say that this trend will continue with up to 35,000 housing units needed each year.

This suggests that there are massive opportunities in the construction industry with labour shortages currently evident- however the low number of young people committing to construction as a career is quite startling- e.g just 8,286 registered for apprenticeships in 2022.

This is despite massive opportunities for young people to follow construction as a career path e.g. due to concerns about climate change, 98% of home heating is currently sourced from fossil fuels and ¼ of Irelands energy related CO2 emissions created by inefficient housing. This has brought to the fore the need to ensure the buildings we design, and construct are as efficient as possible. Openings are there to people to design technologies and green materials for the industry, which will play a significant role in what will most certainly be the next stage of building design.

Content

Part I – Construction Theory and Drawing

- Historical development of building
- Planning permission, site investigation and building regulations
- Preparation of scaled dimensioned drawings of building details to include foundations, walls, ground and upper floors, windows, doors, roof types, stairs, fireplace, chimney etc.
- Services and external works - typical pipe work layouts and domestic installation of lighting and power circuits
- Heat and thermal effects on buildings
- Illumination in buildings
- Sound in buildings

Part II – Practical Skills

The aim of part 2 is to develop a sound grasp of woodworking techniques and skills based on a practical experience. It is assessed in a four-hour exam in May, whereby the students are given a working drawing- they have to interpret this drawing, mark out the wood, process and complete the artefact in the time given. Skills include:-

- The maintenance and care of tools
- Safety precautions associated with edged tools and power tools.
- The construction of different types of woodworking joints

- Surface preparation and finishing
- Preparation of cutting lists and working drawings
- Selection and use of glues
- Design and use of gigs

Part III – Course Work and Projects

- Student projects: The project consists of an artefact and a folio, which details the research and manufacture of the artefact. This can be a model, a craft related or research style project. It takes approximately forty hours to complete. All work to be carried out during class time.
- Workshop/laboratory experiments

Exam Structure

The project work and skills test are common to all students. The only differentiation between Ordinary and Higher level is in the theory papers.

Construction studies has three assessment components.

- A three-hour theory paper comprising written and drawing questions (50% of the examination marks)
- A four-hour woodwork practical test (25% of the examination marks)
- Course work and project assessment (25% of the examination marks)

Why Choose Construction Studies?

Suited to students who are willing to work hard at a course, with a number of parts that caters for all abilities.

While it is not a requirement it is preferable to have a

- Previous knowledge of Technical Graphics - to Junior Cycle standard.
- Previous knowledge of Wood Technology - to Junior Cycle standard.

These two components make up to two thirds of the overall Construction Studies course content, while students who have not completed either of the above may take the course -they will require the maximum effort during the two years.

Possible Career Areas

This subject is an ideal choice for any student considering a career in the Engineering (all types), Science or Services (electrical, plumbing etc.) Industries. Also, construction careers e.g. all Trades (Carpentry etc), Quantity Surveying, Construction Management/Construction Economics, Property Economics, Auctioneering, Estate Agency along with careers in Architecture, Architectural Technician, Interior Design etc

DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

Who should study DCG?

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



Course Content

Over the 2 years the student will compile a portfolio of drawings covering a broad variety of topics from solids in contact to roof geometry.

- (1) Plane and Solid Geometry,
- (2) Building Applications,
- (3) Compulsory Computer Aided Design Project.

Neatness and attention to detail are desirable attributes for any student wishing to succeed at this subject.

What career options are there?

DCG is a core element of many 3rd level options.

- Engineering
- Construction,
- Industrial Design and Architecture.
- Knowledge of DCG will greatly enhance a student's ability to succeed in any 3rd level engineering-based programme.
- All apprenticeships include the study and completion of detailed technical drawings. Again, the studying of DCG to leaving cert standard is a distinct advantage.

Exam

3 hour written exam - 60% of Grade.

Research and Design Project completed in 6th Year - 40% of Grade

Careers

- (1) Architecture
- (2) Quantity Surveying
- (3) Engineering, all types of engineering, Biomedical, Structural, Civil, Electrical, and Software Engineering
- (4) Construction
- (5) Product Design
- (6) Graphic Design
- (7) Computer Game Design
- (8) Interior Design
- (9) All apprenticeships.
- (10) DCG, Construction, Woodwork and Graphics Teacher

LCPE – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Introduction

LCPE is designed to appeal to a broad range of learners, whether they excel in sport or have a keen interest in physical activity and sport either as a performer and/or as a coach/choreographer. There are five key skills in senior cycle. You will develop these skills in LCPE, and they will be useful to you in any future learning and in your everyday life.



Subject Content

There are two strands of learning in LCPE.

In Strand 1, Towards Optimum Performance, you will learn about the different theoretical perspectives that impact on performance.

For example, you will learn about what it is to be a skilled performer:

- the skills and techniques required.
- the biomechanics involved.
- performance related fitness.
- the impact of psychological factors on performance.

As you learn the theory, you will learn to apply it to the three physical activities that your class is studying in LCPE. These activities will be selected from six distinct physical activity areas.

In Strand 2, Contemporary issues in physical activity, you will learn about different personal, social, and contextual factors that impact on participation and performance.

You will be learning about

- Promoting physical activity.
- Ethics and fair play.

In addition, two of the following topics will be prescribed each year.

- Physical activity and inclusion.
- Technology, media, and sport.
- Gender and physical activity.
- Business and enterprise in physical activity and sport.

Exam Structure

50% Exam, 30% Performance Assessment, 20% Physical Activity Project

Higher Level: 2 ½ Hour Exam Paper (250 Marks) 3 Sections which includes short questions, long questions, and a case study.

Ordinary Level: 2 ½ Hour Paper (400 Marks) 2 Sections which includes short questions, long questions, and a case study.

Why Chose LCPE as a Leaving Certificate Subject?

Your learning in LCPE will inform how you participate in sport and physical activity in your adult life.

- You will find LCPE useful if you want to study sports science, physical education, leisure, and recreation courses.
- LCPE will be beneficial to any student with an interest in media studies and Journalism.
- For any student who wishes to pursue a career in education, this subject will be of benefit due to the coaching and pedagogy elements of the program.
- Suited to students who are willing to work hard and caters for all abilities.
- Much the subject content is theory based. There are practical elements to the subject, but all require a good base in the theory learned in class. Students will be required to apply knowledge learned in class to achieve a good grade.
- You should have an active interest in a wide range of sports and physical activity in general. This is vital as the subject is
- Organised and consistent attitude to homework and study would be essential with this subject especially as 50% of the grade is achieved in the classroom through two projects.

Possible Career Areas

Personal Training	Coaching
PE Teaching	Teaching (Primary and Secondary)
Journalism and Media	Sport Related Business
Social Work	Medicine
Physiotherapy	Psychology
Sports Analytics (Statistician)	Sports Science

Third Level Entry Requirements

LCPE is not an essential subject for entry to any of the above related career areas. The subject would be seen as a major advantage to any student wishing to pursue a sport and exercise-based degree at 3rd level.

ART

Introduction

Art is the language we use that gives our ideas form. Art promotes creative and critical thinking and opens possibilities to develop many skills that are conceptual and practical. This course promotes the development of problem-solving skills and strengthens the learner's ability to communicate ideas through their own work to an intended audience. The Leaving Certificate Art and Design course aims to provide a breadth of creative experiences, using a wide range of media, allowing students to develop a high level of skill, in the areas which interest them. Art and Design is a subject in which students observe and understand the world around them. It is an interesting and varied course which seeks to develop student's technical skills across a range of media including drawing, painting, design, and sculpture. As students' progress through the course, they begin to direct their own visual enquiry and reach a point where they are thinking and behaving like practising artists and designers. Students will be able to explore their own strengths and preferences and build a portfolio of work. Visual Art and Design have become an integral part of business, currently we are experiencing a surge in the demand for employees in design and digital based careers. This course will enable students to develop strong skill sets including creativity, flexibility, problem solving, the ability to communicate in different ways, self-discipline, critical thinking, innovation and to strive for excellence. The course encourages self-expression and can build confidence as well as a sense of individuality.

Subject Content

- The practical and Art History course will be delivered over a two-year period; students will receive five forty-minute lessons each week.
- Students receive practical demonstrations, and which enable them to build on technical skills in a variety of media.
- Self-directed projects, which encourages freedom and exploration.
- Leaving Certificate primary source drawing advances students' technical skill.
- The Visual Studies Course (formerly known as the Art History Course) has three sections: Section A: Today's World, Section B: Europe and the wider world and Section C: Ireland and its place in the wider world.
- Practical and theory homework will be set weekly, a consistent attitude to homework and study will be essential.
- Common syllabus that covers both Higher and Ordinary.

Course Structure and Assessment

The course consists of a combination of practical project work and two exams.

Component 1: Practical Project: Coursework Workbook developing ideas for two final realised artefacts and Realisation of Artefact A.

Higher Level / Ordinary Level: (250 Marks Total = 50% of Final Result)

Self-directed project work developed in the classroom, and classroom based for Artefact A. Students will follow the creative and design process from initial idea, research, sustained investigation, experimentation, development of ideas, proposals for two realised pieces over a 12-week period.

Component 2: Invigilated Practical Examination (5 Hours): Realisation of Artefact B: Higher Level / Ordinary Level: (100 Marks Total = 20% of Final Result)

Component 3: Visual Studies (Formerly known as History and Appreciation of Art)
Higher Level / Ordinary Level: (150 Marks = 30% of Final Result)

2.5 Hour Exam Paper: 3 Sections which includes one section with short answer questions and two long answer questions: Section A: Today's World, Section B: Europe and the wider world and Section C: Ireland and its place in the wider world.

This course is suitable for students who are:

- Hardworking who have a love of the subject and feel motivated to develop their visual skills in order to express their ideas.
- Creative, enthusiastic, and Imaginative.
- Able to sustain an investigation.
- It is not necessary for students to have studied Visual Art at Junior Cycle, however previous knowledge and practice would be an advantage.
- Organised and consistent in nightly revision of Art History content.
- An inquisitive mind-set, someone who stays up to date with current art news, someone who is keen to visit galleries and museums.
- Willing to reflect and review on their work and take ownership over their progress.
- Above all someone who is willing to experiment and take risks.

Possible Career Areas

Academic: Art Education / Museum Educator / Art Therapy / Art Curating / Arts and Cultural Planner / Art Historian

Digital Arts: Web Designer / App Design / Animation & Motion Design / Digital Illustration / Video Game Art & Design / Digital Set Design / Concept Artist / Digital 3D Modeller

Photo and Film: Broadcast & Film Production / Photojournalism/ Cinematography / Model-Making / Film Editor / Documentary Filmmaker

Design: Architecture / Graphic Design Communication / Interior Design / Product Design / Set Design / Ceramic Design / Printmaking / Special Effects Designer / Packaging Designer / Landscape Designer / Creative Media & User Experience

Fine Art: Painting / Sculpture / Ceramics / Fashion Design / Print

Third Level Entry Requirements

Art is not an essential subject for entry to any of the above related career areas. However, previous knowledge of the course content will be a major advantage.

MUSIC

Introduction

Music is a practical subject that is very beneficial to students that have an interest in performance. Students can acquire high points from this choice subject by showcasing their talents on their chosen instruments.

In 2019 90.5% of students that studied music achieved the top four grades.

In 2018 88.4 % and 2017 89.7% achieved a H4 or higher. These results are very desirable when converted into CAO points.

Year	H1	H2	H3	H4
2019	3.9	32.1	35.8	18.7
2018	3.4	28.8	34.1	22.1
2017	3.4	30.7	34.9	20.7

Students do not need to have studied music for junior cert to take it on for the leaving cert (however that is desirable) but they must have a strong performing ability,

Subject Content

The course is divided into 3 main sections. Listening, composing, and performing.

Paper 1: 25%

Listening

This paper is 1.5 hours long and students will have studied 4 major works covering different styles of music e.g., romantic, classical, baroque, pop and contemporary. They will answer listening questions on each of the works. They will also study Irish music and answer questions on a general listening section.

Paper 2: 25%

Composing

This paper is 1.5 hours long.

Students will have a choice out of 6 questions and will answer 2. These questions follow on from content covered in junior cert on melody writing and chord questions.

Performance Exam

50%

This practical exam takes place in 6th year around Easter. There are a variety of different options that students can choose from in order to suit their individual talents. Some of the most popular options are:

4 songs on instrument 1 & 4 songs on instrument 2

6 songs on 1 instrument

4 songs on 1 instrument & Technology

The Technology option is very popular, and students can download the free software to practise at home.

Students are expected to be playing their instrument to a high standard for the leaving cert exam, 6 years of school playing is the standard set out by the department of education. Often students will be taking lessons outside of school and completing grade exams.

Students should display a variety of styles in their programme and will be required to practise and develop their skills each week throughout senior cycle.

Career Areas

Teaching (Music is a very desirable subject for Primary school teachers) Secondary school music teacher, private lessons.

Sound Engineer/ Music producer

Songwriter

Radio station DJ/ Journalist

Music Therapist

Performer

Composer

Information on Post Leaving Certificate Options

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

Level 5

One or two year Post Leaving Cert courses (FETAC/ QQI)

Available in many Second Level schools and colleges around the country

Can lead on to level 6 courses in Institutes of Technology

Level 6

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

Level 7

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

Can lead on to Level 8 courses in the same field.

Level 8

Three- or four-year (with some exceptions such as medicine) Honours Degrees available in all of the Universities and the Institutes of Technology. Having completed Level 8 students can continue on to Level 9 (Postgraduate Masters) and Level 10 (Doctorate) **Remember: it is your responsibility to check course requirements!**

Central Applications Office (CAO)



Students can apply for courses in all of the colleges listed above through the CAO, from November- January of their Leaving Certificate Year. Courses are available at Level 6, 7 and 8. Students applying to medicine should register with the CAO in early November in order to secure a suitable location for the HPAT exam which takes place in February.

Points are calculated as follows:

The New Common Points Scale for Leaving Certificate from 2017 is as follows:

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

LCVP

Result	Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

FETAC Courses

Students wishing to apply for Level 5, PLC courses apply directly to the

Course Provider from December of their Leaving Cert year - each college has different application dates so check the websites or ask Mr. Conor Hayes for further details.

If you have any queries relating to subject choice or study skills, you should see one of the Guidance Counsellors. All students will be assigned a Guidance Counsellor in 6th Year and will have weekly Careers Classes as well as a one-to-one meeting with their Guidance Counsellor.

Information for students who are interested in studying Medicine

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

The application fee is €152.80

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

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

The HPAT-Ireland is usually held in February / March.

The results will be released in late June.

The HPAT-Ireland is usually offered in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo, and Waterford. Online version in February 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Undergraduate entry into medicine for school leavers will be based on:

achieving a minimum of 480 points and meeting the minimum entry requirements for the programme in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination* and

Completing the required admissions test (HPAT-Ireland) in year of entry

HPAT results are only valid for one year.

Explanation of CAO points for entry to Medicine:

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

Maximum HPAT score is **300**.

Therefore, maximum possible score for medicine applicants is 860.

2022 Minimum Points for Medicine (Leaving Certificate points & HPAT combined)

CAO Code	Minimum Entry Level
CK701 (UCC)	738*
DN400 (UCD)	743
GY501 (NUI Galway)	735*
RC001 (Royal College of Surgeons)	740*
TR051 (Trinity)	742*

* Not all on this points score were offered places. Random selection applied.

Third Level Institutions

Universities

University College Dublin (UCD)

Dublin City University (DCU) now incorporating Church of Ireland College of Education (primary teacher training, Mater Dei Institute of Education (post-primary teacher training) & St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra (primary teacher training & arts)



Trinity College Dublin

Maynooth University – now incorporating Froebel College (Primary teacher training)

University of Limerick

University College Cork

NUI Galway



Institutes of Technology/Technological Universities

Athlone Institute of Technology (**Technological University of the Shannon**)

Cork Institute of Technology (**Munster Technological University**)

Dublin Institute of Technology (**Technological University Dublin**)

Dundalk Institute of Technology

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (**Atlantic Technological University**)

Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (**Technological University Dublin**)

Institute of Technology Carlow & Wexford (**Southeast Technological University**)

Institute of Technology Tallaght (**Technological University Dublin**)

Institute of Technology Tralee (**Munster Technological University**)

Letterkenny Institute of Technology (**Atlantic Technological University**)

Limerick Institute of Technology (**Technological University of the Shannon**)

Sligo Institute of Technology (**Atlantic Technological University**)

Waterford Institute of Technology (**South East Technological University**)



Specialised Colleges and Private Colleges

American College Dublin (private fees apply)

Carlow College

College of Computer Training (private fees apply)

Dorset College (private fees apply)

Dublin Business School (private fees apply)

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology

Galway Business School (private fees apply)

Grafton College of Management Sciences (private fees apply)

Griffith College Cork, Dublin & Limerick (private fees apply)

IBAT College (private fees apply)

ICD Business School (private fees apply)

Independent Colleges Dublin (private fees apply)

Irish College of Humanities & Applied Health Sciences, Limerick (private fees apply)

Marino Institute of Education (Trinity College) (Primary Teacher Training)

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick (Primary Teacher Training and Arts)

National College of Art & Design

National College of Ireland

Pontifical University, Maynooth (Theology)

Portobello Institute (private fees apply)

Pulse College (private fees apply)

Respond College (private fees apply)

Royal College of Surgeons (Medicine, Physiotherapy & Pharmacy)

Shannon College of Hotel Management (NUIG)

St. Angela's College, Sligo (NUIG) (Home-Economics Teaching, Nursing, Food, Textiles)

St. Nicholas Montessori College (private fees apply)



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

Useful Websites

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

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

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

www.nursingboard.ie (Nursing courses)

<https://www.solas.ie/> (Apprenticeship information and links to websites with further information)

www.apprenticeship.ie (Apprenticeship information and links to websites with further information and opportunities)

www.military.ie (military career information)

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

www.teagasc.ie (Agricultural courses)

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

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

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

www.eunicas.ie (European Universal Central Application Support Service-apply and study through English)

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

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

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

www.careersnews.ie (daily careers updates)

www.skillsireland.ie (future skills needs)

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

Points to note

- **If you are considering studying ART at third level, you should work on your portfolio in 5th Year.**
- Students who are applying for courses requiring an interview as part of the application process (e.g. many PLC courses, UCAS courses) should seek work experience in that area during Summer of 5th Year.
- If you need help, **ASK for help-** your parents, teachers and Guidance Counsellor are here to help you.

Additional Information for Students

HEAR, DARE & Supplementary Access Routes:

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

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

NOTE: All of the Universities and some of the Institutes of Technology are part of the HEAR and DARE schemes. Other colleges offer supplementary access routes for students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students. Entry on reduced points and financial assistance are offered.

Check with a Guidance Counsellor or contact the admissions officer at the college directly for further information.



STUDY/ WELLBEING/ LIFESTYLE

Note: The Leaving Certificate is a two-year programme. You need to spend 3.5 hours doing homework and study 6 times per week from the beginning of 5th Year.

Tips for devising a study timetable for Senior Cycle students.

(Please note, this is easily adaptable for Junior Cert students)

- 7 sheets A4 paper- 1 per subject (master list)
- Break each subject down into 40-minute blocks/study sessions.
- Sunday night: Fill in timetable for the week ahead only. Include tests, essays, appointments, training, matches, etc.
- Each Sunday put a tick beside topic on master list that you are going to study during the week ahead.
- Each night cross out the topic on your master list when you have studied it. You will be able to see the progress you are making, and this will motivate you to keep going.
- Study before homework.
- Study 2 subjects per night when possible.
- Mix favourite subjects with more difficult ones, mix higher level with ordinary level. Avoid studying languages on the same evening.
- Before you begin a topic take out the exam papers and read through relevant questions. This focuses the mind. Study must be direct and focused.
- Take **brief** notes- make them visual and colourful. Use diagrams, mind maps.
- Afterwards answer in point form.
- If something unexpected comes up reschedule the study for the weekend or the following week.
- Switch off your phone.

- You should be spending at least 3.5 hours on study and homework combined and you should be doing this at least 6 times per week.
- Have a routine - schedule time with your friends at the weekends.
- Cut back on socialising and part time work.
- Just sit down and get on with it!

Revision Tips

- Exercise: Improve your blood flow and take your mind off studying.
- Take breaks: Take a 10-minute break for every 40-50 minutes studying.
- Take care of yourself: Stay healthy to keep high brain function.
- Meditate: Mindfulness practice can keep stress to a minimum – just take 3 minutes to breathe!
- Record yourself: Record material for orals on your phone.
- Study Apps: Khan Academy.
- Plenty of sleep: Approx. 8 hours each night to feel fully rested.
- Daylight hours are more productive and better for our bodies.
- Less caffeine: Don't overdo it. Stay hydrated with water to improve alertness.
- No late snacks: Avoid the temptation to snack at night and fall asleep easier.
- Past papers: Prepare for exam style questions – www.examinations.ie and www.studyclix.ie
- Study groups can provide new ideas and mutual support. Teach each other.
- Rewrite notes: Increases memory and retention.
- Flash cards: Create your own flash cards on www.cram.com
- Mind maps: Visualise information and make neural connections.
- Use colour: Using different colours keeps your brain stimulated.
- Avoid block text: Big blocks of one-tone text make us lose concentration fast.
- Highlight key notes to make them stand out.
- Talk to yourself: Speaking your notes out loud increases retention. Make it a song: Turn difficult or boring topics into a song for easier learning.
- Eat fish, nuts, seeds, eggs, peanut butter, fruit, vegetables, wholegrains, oats, berries, beans, dairy & lean meats. A healthy diet will boost memory, concentration, and energy levels.

- Consider a supplement – spirulina etc available in health food shops.
- Timetable: Organise your time with a revision timetable.
- Allow enough time: Be realistic with your time to avoid last minute rushing.
- Be organised: Save time and stay organised by keeping notes and papers in folders.
- Good lighting: Getting the right light reduces eye strain so you can read for longer.
- Surroundings: Take some time to organise your study area to minimise distractions.
- Set goals: Set yourself achievable goals to break up big tasks.
- Reward yourself: Stay motivated by rewarding yourself every time you complete something.
- Avoid looking at screens before bedtime as the light has a negative impact on sleep.

Exam Techniques




Read the Instructions: Check the instructions at the beginning of each test paper carefully. There may be a small change in the exam format from year to year.

Read Questions carefully: Read each question carefully. Highlight or underline the key words or phrases.

Check for compulsory questions: Tick the questions that must be answered in each section. Then tick off the question(s) you are likely to answer (using a different colour)

Allocate time for each question: This should be done before the exam itself. The amount of time spent on each question will be determined by the percentage of the overall marks going for the question. For example, the time you allow will double if the marks awarded are double those of other questions. Allow at least five to ten minutes at the start of the test to read over the paper and ten minutes at the end to read your answers. It's important that you try to stay within the time you have allocated for each question.



Begin with your best:  Begin your exam with the question you feel you can best answer. If you do this, you will build confidence in your ability to tackle the remainder of the test.

Plan your answer: Jot down an outline of your answers by noting the main points before you begin to work on the answer proper. It is good to let the examiner see this work.

Avoid Clutter: Remember to allow plenty of space between points and sections and label all your answers clearly. Do everything you can to make the job of the examiner easier.



Keep an eye on the time: If you run over the allocated time when dealing with a question it may be better to leave a space and continue to the next question. Above all, avoid the disaster of not having time to attempt all the required questions.

Don't Waffle: There are simply no marks for repeating the same points or ideas. Be as clear and concise as you can. This does not mean that you don't explain things fully and give examples especially when you are expected to elaborate.

Understand typical question formats: Know exactly what is expected from you in an exam when asked to Compare, Contrast, Define, Discuss, Explain, Trace, Summarize, Describe and Outline. Take special note of words such as including, and, or.



Avoid post-mortems: When your exam is over do not get involved in detailed post-mortems, turn your focus to the next exam. If you feel stressed or worried at the way things went it is best to chat with a sympathetic adult, or someone who can listen and offer you a balanced view of your performance.

If you have time to spare re-read your work: Don't stop working on your paper before time is up. There are no extra marks awarded for being finished early. Your exam is designed to be undertaken within the time allocated. If you have time left after you read over your paper read over it a second time. Ideas may come to you even at this final stage.



Use notes: It could happen that you discover that you have done something wrong, left a question out or perhaps misread a question. If time is not on your side, lay the correct answer out in note form first, then elaborate on the notes. Try not to panic.

Bring a drink and glucose sweets: Bring a drink of water into the exam hall in order to avoid dehydration





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