

Presentation Secondary School
Clonmel



Senior Cycle
Subject Choices 2022

for
Transition Year
and
Third Year
Students

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet will help you to make decisions about the subjects or courses you wish to study at senior level. Our aim has been to give you a sense of:



A The content of Transition Year.

B The content of each subject for Leaving Certificate.

- *Where it is like the Junior Certificate course.*
- *Where it is different to the Junior Certificate course.*
- *Key points you should consider when thinking about this subject.*
- *Careers in which this subject would be useful.*

Most Leaving Certificate students take *seven* subjects:

Irish*, **English**, **Mathematics** are required subjects for all students.

*Some students may be exempt from Irish.

You then select any **four** optional subjects, in order of preference, from the following:

• History	• Computer Science
• French	• German
• Accounting	• Geography
• Business	• Link Modules
• Biology	• Social & Scientific
• Physics	• Music
• Chemistry	• Art

There are restrictions on some subjects, depending on subjects chosen for Junior Cert. Subjects will be available, subject to restrictions due to cutbacks in the Department of Education & Skills staffing allocations.

Subjects dropped at end of 1 st year	Subjects which may be taken up again at Senior level if you dropped it after 1 st year	Subjects which may <u>NOT</u> be taken up again at Senior level
Art	Art (for students with exceptional ability)	
Business Studies	Business (if suitability is shown)	Accounting
French		French
German		German
Home Economics	Social and Scientific (need to have done Science at Junior Cert)	
Music	Music. (If the student has continued to study an instrument or singing to a sufficient standard in the meantime)	
Science		Biology Physics Chemistry

In some exceptional cases, students do take up subjects which they have not done for Junior Certificate.

GUIDELINES TO CHOOSING SUBJECTS

- Think about your skills. Are you good at English?
- Many subjects need **good English skills**.
- What subjects are you interested in? – **Students generally do better in subjects that they like**.
- What subjects are you good at? – Remember that attitude is as important as ability.
- What career area might interest you? - Are some subjects **required** to pursue that area of study?
- What subjects might be **helpful** for a future course choice or area of work?
- Do your choices keep your options open for the future?
- If your choices close off future options – have you discussed this with parents, teachers?

What should you do if you are unclear about what subjects to choose?

To keep future options open – and if this is suitable for you – it may be a good idea to **choose a balanced selection** of subjects from those available.

Beyond the core subjects – English, Irish & Maths – the number of courses that require specific subjects is relatively small and usually refers to a science or a language subject or music or art.



Accounting

Accounting involves the recording of financial information by the individual, voluntary organisation or business, the presentation of this financial information and the interpretation and uses of this financial information.

A student choosing to study accounting can expect to understand:

- ➔ How and why financial information is recorded.
- ➔ How to interpret and use the information in accounts.
- ➔ How to record, present and interpret financial information of voluntary organisations.
- ➔ The importance of financial information for good decision-making.

Aspects of the course which continue strongly from Junior Cert:

Final Accounts – Trading, Profit and Loss Accounts and Balance Sheets.
Club A/Cs, service firms' A/Cs, farm A/Cs.
Analysis of Accounts, Ratios.
Double Entry Book-keeping.
(There is more in-depth treatment of all of these at Leaving Cert level).

Key changes in this subject at Leaving Cert level:

Accounts of Public companies.
Preparation of final accounts from incomplete information.
Management accounting – costing, budgeting.

Key Points to consider

- Must have done Business Studies at Junior Cert, preferably at higher level.
- A student must like book-keeping at Junior Cert level and must like working with figures - must like to get a “kick” from getting accounts to work out.
- Must be able to think abstractly, logically and clearly.
- It is a very practical subject - learning is by “doing”. Revision is done by answering questions.
- There can be relief from “theory” type subjects – where there’s a lot of learning by heart.
- Students need an understanding of “*double entry*”.
- It is a major advantage for studying Accounting / Business at 3rd level, even though it is not a course requirement.

ACCOUNTING IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

Accountancy, Auctioneering, Auditing, Advertising, Banking, Bookkeeping, Building Society Clerk, Business Law, Clerical Work, Company Secretary, Hospital Administration, Hotel Management, Insurance, Market Research, Purchasing Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Receptionist, Sales Representative, Taxation Consultant, Teaching, Computers, etc.



Art

This is a new project-based course which is more student friendly than the previous course.

Art involves being creative, interpreting and appreciating the work of others.

200 marks are assigned to coursework – this is 50% of the total marks.

Art is available at Higher and Ordinary Level.

- ✚ A variety of study includes Craft, Puppetry, or a Graphic Design Poster or Modeling with clay,
- ✚ Painting includes Imaginative Composition or Still Life
- ✚ A project is also completed before the Leaving Certificate and comprises 50% of the students’ marks.

A student can have up to 62.5% of the marks before taking the Art History exam in June. This comprises 37.5% of the total marks.

Aspects of the course which continue strongly from Junior Cert:

Practical Aspects / Skills and techniques are key features which are transferable along with knowledge base of the subject.

Key changes in this subject at Leaving Cert level

Art students will have a ten-week period from January to April of their Leaving Certificate year to complete their project. This is 50% of their marks.



Other practical elements of the course are completed by April / May before the Leaving Certificate exam. The project will be corrected in the school by an external examiner during the month of June.

This course will allow more time for the study of Art History. The Art History exam is a 2½ hour paper dealing with Irish Art (Stone Age to Modern Contemporary) European Art and general appreciation. The exam takes place in June as part of Leaving Certificate. (37.5% of the total marks). Gallery visits are compulsory

Key points to consider:

- Practical aspects: students visit art galleries and enter art competitions.
- Good average literacy skills needed.
- Good problem solving and organisation skills needed.
- Ability to develop ideas and explore concepts.
- Self-motivation is essential.
- Anyone hoping to continue to a degree in Art or design should start work on a portfolio in 5th year.
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses also do a year-long course of preparation for art college after Leaving Certificate.
- **You will have to send your portfolio to the Art College in March / April of Leaving Certificate Year if you are applying for Art College.**

ART IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

Multimedia, Digital Media Design, Web Design, Animation, Visual Communications, Childcare, Advertising, Graphics, Photography, Teaching, Architecture, Crafts, Fashion, Florist, Environmental Designer, Furniture, Curator for Galleries and Museums, Industrial Design, Interior Decoration, Marketing, Merchandiser, Occupational Therapist, Primary School Teacher, Picture Restoration, Printing and Publishing, Sculptor, Sign-writing, Video Production, Media Studies, Textile Design, Poet, Television, Theatre, Town Planning, etc.



Biology



Biology is the science of life, living things and how they interact with the environment. Biology is part of our everyday experiences, from the way we breath and move to how we recycle nutrients and protect endangered species. When you visit a nature reserve, watch the behaviour of a pet animal, or collect a prescription from the chemist, there is a close encounter with Biology. Biology forms a knowledge base for hundreds of careers ranging from oceanography and ecology to medicine, biotechnology, farming and research.

The Leaving Certificate Biology course is an excellent foundation to view the many different life sciences as different chapters of the book of life. The need for a scientifically informed public has never been greater as we are faced with hugely important decisions in areas such as cloning, DNA fingerprinting, genetic modification of organisms, overpopulation, energy sources, disease, vaccine production and pollution.

What do you study in Leaving Cert Biology?

- ➔ The Cell, Plant and Animal Groups, Body Systems and
- ➔ Processes Plant Processes Microbiology, Genetics, Coordination
- ➔ Ecology Evolution
- ➔ Reproduction and Development
- ➔ Dissections
- ➔ Most Biologists become familiar with statistics and computers used in data processing. This skill is directly transferable to many other jobs.
- ➔ Fieldwork and some Laboratory work can be a team activity. Taking personal responsibility and learning to work together with others in a group are qualities valued highly by employers
- ➔ Speaking the language of science is a highly valuable asset in this era of high technology

Aspects of the course that continue strongly from Junior Cert:

- Human Biology – e.g. blood system, nervous system and food.
- Ecology / Plant Biology.
- Experiments.

Experiments

There are 22 mandatory experiments to be completed as part of the Biology course, but many more may be included ranging from dissections to ecological surveys.



Key points to consider:

- You do not need to be mathematical.
- To do well in Biology, consistent hard work is needed.

BIOLOGY IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

All Health careers, Environmental Officer, Publishing, Journalism and Broadcasting, Library work and Information Science, Environmental Conservation, Beautician, Marine and Freshwater Biology, Veterinary Nurse, Education, Horticulture, Zoologist, Food Industry, Production Management, Brewing, etc.

Business

The Leaving Certificate Business course has been designed to prepare you for the rapidly changing business environment. It emphasises on employment and consumer law, the practical skills needed by entrepreneurs, the essential elements of a business plan, the steps involved in developing new products and marketing them to a national or international market. It focuses on the key skills and activities of management. It outlines the global economic environment in which all business now operates, and it examines

some ethical and environmental challenges, household management, monitoring the business, managing change, international trade and the European Union.



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO STUDY IN BUSINESS?

- ➔ The different types of business units which exist and how to set one up e.g. sole trader, partnerships, companies.
- ➔ Understand that for a business to operate efficiently it will require many services such as finance, banking, insurance, market research, advertising and sales promotion.
- ➔ Understand and be able to present information in a variety of forms e.g. reports, agendas etc.
- ➔ Understand the importance of the State in promoting enterprise within Ireland.

HOW WILL YOU BENEFIT FROM STUDYING BUSINESS?

- ➡ You will be able to calculate your own income tax and PRSI.
- ➡ You will understand your rights as a consumer and an employee and how the law protects you.
- ➡ You will understand various types of insurance cover.
- ➡ You will understand the role of trade unions in a modern society and the way they, and the State, protect workers.
- ➡ You will understand the environment within which a business operates in Ireland, in the European Union and in a worldwide context.
- ➡ You will understand how businesses are organised and managed.

Aspects of the course which continue strongly from Junior Cert:

Cash flows, income and expenses projections.

Consumer legislation, setting up an enterprise.

Insurance – individual and business.

Taxation – individual and business.

European Union, marketing, raising finance and borrowing.

Key changes in this subject at Leaving Cert level

- There is a small percentage of accounting involved.
- All topics are examined in more detail.
- A greater focus is placed on the student being able to evaluate e.g. students doing higher level must do a compulsory ABQ (Applied Business Question)

Key points to consider

- To do well at higher level, students must be prepared to learn definitions.

BUSINESS IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN: Accounting, Banking, Clerical Work, Company Secretary, Administration, Hotel Management, Insurance, Sales, Marketing, Merchandising, Customs and Excise, Taxation, Teaching, Law, Business Management, etc.

Chemistry



Chemistry gives you an excellent training for many jobs, both scientific and non-scientific. To be successful in the subject you need to be able to think **logically**, to be **creative, numerate and analytical**. These skills are much sought after in many walks of life and would enable you to pursue a career in computing or finance as well as careers in which you use chemistry directly.

Chemistry is the study of what substances are made of, what effects they have on one another and what changes they undergo. Without this branch of study, we wouldn't have unbreakable bottles or synthetic fabrics, CD players or the silicon chips that drive our TV sets, computers and mobile phones.

About 70% of the syllabus consists of pure chemistry, with the rest concerning the social and applied aspects of the subject.

Essential practical work is included, so there are many experiments that must be done. But chemistry is not just for those who want to work in a laboratory — the knowledge provided by the course gives a scientific base that is useful for a multitude of courses and careers.

GOOD REASONS FOR CHOOSING CHEMISTRY AS A CAREER

- ➔ New ideas and materials are constantly being used in technology to improve society. You could work in a field where **Research** and **Innovation** are of primary importance to standards of living.
- ➔ Chemistry offers many career opportunities whether working in a public service such as a water treatment plant or high-level research and development in industry.
- ➔ As society becomes more technically advanced, the need for suitably qualified chemists will increase.

Aspects of the course that continue strongly from Junior Cert

Leaving Certificate builds on and develops Junior Certificate learning in:

- ➔ Structure of the Atom
- ➔ Elements and Compounds
- ➔ Periodic table
- ➔ Acids / Bases / Salts and Indicators etc.
- ➔ Junior Cert Maths – solving equations in 1 variable, both linear and quadratic
- ➔ Ease with calculator use



Key changes in this subject at Leaving Cert level

New Topics:

- ➔ Radioactivity.
- ➔ Thermo chemistry, stoichiometry rate, chemical equilibrium.
- ➔ There is a big section on Organic Chemistry, Social Aspects and History of Chemistry.
- ➔ Junior Cert areas are extended.

Key Points to consider

- Must start learning immediately in 5th year because you can get lost very easily.
- Ordinary Level **Maths** at Leaving Cert is adequate to support this subject.
- **English** – You need the ability to say exactly what you mean, or to be able to learn definitions off by heart. Higher level English at Junior Cert would be helpful.
- No essay type answers required – there are right answers.

CHEMISTRY IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

Pharmacy, Nursing, Chemical Engineering, Industrial Chemistry, Food Science, Veterinary Science, Medicine, Applied Science, Dentistry, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Polymer Science, Dairy Science, Forensic Science, Photographic Processing, Teaching, Pollution Control, Cosmetic Science, Quality Control, Biotechnology, Health Care and Pharmaceutical Industries.



Computer Science

New Leaving Cert subject.

Leaving Certificate Computer Science aims to develop the learner's creativity and problem solving, along with their ability to work both independently and collaboratively. Students will apply the fundamental practices and concepts of computer science and develop an appreciation of the diverse role of computing technology in society and the environment in which they live.

Leaving Certificate Computer Science includes how programming and computational thinking can be applied to the solution of problems, and how computing technology impacts the world around us. The specification is constructed into three strands, whose learning outcomes are interwoven.

The three strands are:

1. Practices and principles
2. Core concepts
3. Computer science in practice

Students will learn:

- ✓ The practices and principles of computer science, such as computational thinking, computers and society, and creative design.
- ✓ How to analyse problems in computational terms and understand concepts such as abstraction, logic, algorithms, computer systems, data representation and evaluation.
- ✓ Programming languages, specifically Python and JavaScript and how to read, write, test and modify computer programs.
- ✓ The process of designing computational artefacts such as web pages, digital animations, simulations, games, apps and embedded systems.
- ✓ The ethical, historical, environmental and technological aspects of computer science, and how it impacts the social and economic development of society.

Final exam: Computer based exam: 70%

Course work assessment: 30%

As a subject, the reach of Computer Science is extensive. As well as the obvious job prospects in the areas of Web and Software development, Engineering, Security and Data Analysis, Computer Science offers a pathway into many other career areas for example the Gardaí or Civil Service. The skills attained through Computer Science, particularly problem solving and logical thinking, are sought after in many professional sectors in the workplace. In the technological world we are living in, one that is constantly changing and evolving, several concerns have been raised in relation to the number of Irish students with the appropriate qualifications to fill these job profiles.

Geography

It's a big world out there, and studying Geography helps to bring it closer to us. It also helps us make sense of many of the hottest issues of the day – from nuclear reprocessing to urban gridlock, third world debt to the depletion of the ozone layer, from human trafficking to the globalisation debate.

Geography is concerned with the inter-relationships between human activities and the physical environment. It includes the detailed study of European countries, the physical landscape, economic activities, map work and aerial photographs. Geography is a subject that is a relevant and useful part of daily life. Geographical issues include weather forecasts, earthquakes, EU policies, industrial developments, tourism, poverty, unemployment, emigration, famine, pollution, re-zoning controversies, EU enlargement, urban renewal.

The current syllabus allows a “hands-on” approach, with the optional fieldwork question encouraging students to make good use of the rich local environment that surrounds us all. This is always a popular option when it comes to the final exam and the fieldwork trip is often a favourite memory of graduating students.

The course has 5 sections:

➡ **3 Core Units**

➡ **1 of 2 Elective Units**

➡ **1 of 4 Optional Units**

Physical Geography Regional Geography Geographic Investigation & Skills
Social Geography Economic Geography
1. Global Interdependence 2. Geocology 3. Culture / Identity 4. The Atmosphere

Aspects of the course that continue strongly from Junior Cert

- Analysis of Ordnance survey maps and aerial photographs.
- Study of the physical landscapes e.g. weathering / erosion.
- Description and explanation of population trends e.g. Migration patterns.

Key changes in this subject at Leaving Cert level

- ➔ There is a very in-depth study of the above topics.
- ➔ Very detailed case studies
- ➔ Focus on New terminology

Final Exam 400 marks

Investigation 100 marks – Report including maps, figures, statistics & charts.
20% is completed before the final leaving cert exam.

Key points to consider

- Good word power and skill at analysing information.
- Short answer multi-part questions, 1 essay at higher level.
- Geography skills (map reading etc.) will be tested within all questions, where appropriate.
- Large amount of work to be covered.
- Need to work well on projects both as part of a team and individually.



GEOGRAPHY IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

Town Planning, Tourism, Travel Agency, Archaeology, Meteorology, Estate Agency, Environmental Protection, Surveying, Civil Engineering, Cartography, Landscape Architecture, Agriculture, Forestry, Marketing, Leisure Industry, Local Government, Education, etc.

History

History is a subject that embraces the world of politics, economics, religion and philosophy. It develops skills such as identifying main issues and the ability to select relevant information.

A knowledge of history, or access to such knowledge, will enable a student to throw light on other subjects, especially **art, literature** and **language**.

COURSE CONTENT

The History course is made up of two interlocking parts:

A Working with Evidence

- The nature of history and the work of the historian
- Document based study – related to Case Studies given on different topics
- A research Study – The Outline Plan
Evaluation of Sources
The extended essay

B Topics for Study

Students choose **two** from **six** topics in Irish History and **two** from **six** topics in European History.



Two topics that can be studied in Irish History are:

- Politics and Society in Northern Ireland: 1949 – 1993.
- The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of Partition.

Two topics that can be studied in European History are:

- Dictatorship and democracy in Europe 1920 – 1945.
- United States of America and the wider world.

Aspects of the course which continue strongly from Junior Cert

Some modern topics will reappear at Leaving Cert level.

Key Points to consider

- Should enjoy the subject and be prepared to study it and be reasonably good at English.
- **Higher Level** students will be expected to study all aspects of topics deeply and to develop a high level of theoretical understanding.
- **Ordinary Level** will place more emphasis on people / personalities in History.
- General questions on the Ordinary Level paper will be stimulus driven – photos, maps, charts etc.

Final Exam: 80%, 4 questions, 1 document based.

Investigation: 20% Extended essay.

A Research Study presented in April.

This new course, which includes 20% for the extended essay, means students must work consistently.

HISTORY IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:



Politics, Journalism, Local Government, Social Work, Archaeology, Barrister, Civil Service, History Teacher, Law Clerk, Researcher, Trade Union Official, Garda, Tourism, Writer, Broadcaster, Librarian, etc.

Home Economics, Scientific & Social.



How do you run a successful restaurant or manage a household?

Is junk food really bad for you?

How do you know when you are being ripped-off by a retailer?

How has Irish society changed in the last fifty years?

These are just some of the areas covered in the Scientific and Social course.

The first thing you will notice is the diversity of content covered – a breadth of knowledge is required, ranging from Food and Nutrition to Resource Management and Sociology. The key to success is to have a methodical approach to each section and to have the correct emphasis in your study and revision.

The emphasis in Scientific and Social is on:

Personal development and resource management in relation to self and home, extending and applying knowledge, understanding and skills acquired to aspects of food, social and health services, clothing and textile industries and tourism.

The core areas are:

- ① **45% Food Studies** E.g. Factors affecting food choices, current food habits and trends, dietary guidelines, maintaining a healthy body weight, the Irish diet, energy values of individual foods and meals, profiles of processed food, national agencies of food safety, microbiology and food spoilage.
- ① **25% Resource Management and Consumer Studies** e.g. the management process and its application, textiles in the home and small claims procedures.
- ① **10% Social Studies** e.g. the family in society and current legislation.

There are also 3 electives, of which 1 is chosen and researched in more depth. The electives are **20% of the course work**:

- ➡ 1. Home Design and Management
- ➡ 2. Textiles, Fashion and Design
- ➡ 3. Social Studies

In this school, we study the Social Studies elective:

e.g. social change and the family, education, work and unemployment, poverty and the State's and the community's response to these issues.

Aspects of the course which continue strongly from Junior Cert:

- ➡ Food Science and Food Studies is a large component of the course. Food Studies includes practical cookery and household management, Human Resources and decision-making.
- ➡ Household technology also continues.

Key changes in this subject at Leaving Cert level

- » There is in-depth study of nutrients and foods, sociology and social change.
- » 4 Food Assignments to be prepared, submitted and examined as part of Leaving Cert. – worth 20%. This is completed in 5th year and early 6th year.
- » Remaining 80% – Written Paper – made up of core and elective.

Key Points to consider

- It is an advantage to have studied science at Junior Certificate.
- **Practical work** is an integral component of the syllabus.
- There is a mandatory requirement to complete and present a record of 4 assignments for examination.

HOME ECONOMICS IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

Home Economics Teaching, Restaurant and Hotel Management, Business Management, Chef, Travel and Tourism, Textile and Fashion Design, Social Care, Childcare, Dietician, Food Technology, Food Science, Process Engineering, Catering, Counselling, Exercise and Health Instructor, Health Promotion, Interior Design, Environmental Health, Medicine, Nursing, etc.

Link Modules

This is a business subject in the Leaving Certificate.

Students take responsibility for their learning and become more innovative and enterprising. They communicate thoughts and ideas effectively and they investigate and plan their career options.



What do you study?

- Enterprise Education
- Preparation for Work
- Work Experience

These are active learning modules, which involve:

- Going on industry visits
- Having visiting speakers
- Running a mini company
- Making CV's
- Investigating Careers
- Using Information Technology
- Going on work experience



Marks are gained by making a portfolio of work over two years (60%) and a written examination (40%). 50% is required to pass this subject.

Grades awarded are: Distinction, Merit and Pass.

For entry to all colleges which need points: 66, 46 or 28 points can be gained.

You must choose particular subjects to be eligible for Link Modules.

(See next page)

- **Link Modules** are useful for careers in Business, Enterprise, Sales and Marketing.
- Because of the various investigations that students do, they get to learn about and research various careers across a wide spectrum.
- The skills that students develop, including report writing, presenting, and interviews, would assist them in any career.

LINK SUBJECTS

Students must take the following – unless an exemption from the Department of Education and Skills applies:

Irish, English, Maths and a modern language or language module. This is a weekly language class, which does not require an exam.

Also

One of the following pairs of combinations

- **Social and Scientific and Biology**
- **Social and Scientific and Art**
- **Social and Scientific and Business or Accounting**
- **Accounting and Business**

- **Physics and Chemistry**
- **Biology and Chemistry or Physics**

- **Art and Business or Accounting**
- **Music and Business or Accounting**

History and Geography may not be available with Links



Modern Foreign Languages: [French, German]



“In a globalised environment, the opportunities for a career with languages continue to expand [...] There is a demand for graduates with fluency in a European language [...]”
(gradIreland Languages 2019)

Learning a language is a door into another culture and can increase opportunities in the areas of work and travel. Leaving Certificate French and German aim to develop students’ communicative skills in the target language, develop their strategies for effective language learning and raise their cultural awareness. A wide variety of topics are covered, for example:

- Describing yourself, your friends and your family
- Hobbies and socialising
- Holidays
- School and subjects
- Language learning
- Future plans
- Technology
- The environment
- Healthy living
- Europe
- Current affairs

Aspects of the courses which continue strongly from Junior Cert

Senior Cycle French and German build on and develop the knowledge and skills acquired for the Junior Certificate, including:

- Participation in classroom activities conducted in French/German
- Aural and reading comprehension
- Grammar skills
- Written expression
- Knowledge of the French/German culture and traditions

Key Changes in these subjects at Leaving Cert level

- o Students will complete an oral exam in March/April of 6th Year.
- o New styles of writing are introduced, including opinion pieces at Higher Level.
- o Students are expected to answer some comprehension questions in French/German

Students are assessed by means of a written examination, an aural examination and an oral examination. There are two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level.

French		German	
Ordinary Level	Higher Level	Ordinary Level	Higher Level
Oral: 20%	Oral: 25%	Oral: 20%	Oral: 25%
Aural: 25%	Aural: 20%	Aural: 25%	Aural: 20%
Reading: 40%	Reading: 30%	Reading, Writing, Grammar: 55%	Reading, Writing, Grammar: 55%
Writing: 15%	Writing: 25%		

Key Points to consider

- Students should be aware that modern foreign languages are a requirement to access some third level courses.
- For further information on the benefits of language learning visit www.languagesconnect.ie

Specialising in languages can lead to careers in such areas as:

Interpreting, linguistics, teaching, translation

Many careers can benefit from knowledge of a foreign language, e.g.:

Business, diplomacy, food export, international customer services, international sales, journalism, law, marketing, politics, science, technology, tourism

“The Irish government says it believes language learning will be key to attracting more international firms – and key for graduates seeking the highly-paid jobs they create. Native-English speakers who can combine language skills with expertise in areas like technology, marketing and law will play an important role.”

(www.languagesconnect.ie)

Music

The Leaving Certificate Music Syllabus provides an opportunity for the regular practice and development of individual and / or group performing and composing skills. It is designed with students in mind. It covers a broad range of musical styles and you can select parts of the course to suit your strengths.



The structure of the syllabus develops the Junior Certificate outline with the focus on **three essential activities**:

➔ **Listening** 25% – four set pieces of music from classical to modern. Traditional Irish Music and analysis of various styles.

➔ **Performing** 25% – two pieces group or solo in two activities. (i.e. different instruments, styles choir, orchestra, solo, traditional, rock group, band duet).

➔ **Composing** 25% – Harmony and Melody writing.

The remaining 25% of the course is chosen by the student as a specialism. This elective can be in Listening, Performing, Composing or Music Technology.

The aim of the course is to cultivate both active and creative participation in the three core areas and to provide music education for all students, irrespective of whether they want to pursue a career in music.

Key points to consider

- Leaving Certificate Music is a continuation of Junior Certificate Music but in more detail.
- The Ordinary Level programme is very student friendly.



MUSIC IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

Entertainment – Groups, Orchestra, Bands etc., Librarian, Speech Therapy, Composer / Arranger, Dancer, Film and Television Director, Primary School Teacher, Occupational Therapist, PE Teacher, Digital and Audio Careers, etc.

Physics

- ① Ever wonder how live images from around the world are beamed into your living room?
- ① Why do apples fall to the ground, while satellites stay up in the sky?
- ① How does your mobile phone / tablet work?
- ① How would you wire your house?
- ① How can a tennis racket be designed to produce optimum performance?
- ① How do X-rays and endoscopes work to see inside you?
- ① How is Physics used in the fight against cancer?

The Physics Course is broken into 7 main sections:

Below are samples of some of the material covered:

1. **Mechanics:** speed, acceleration, momentum, forces, levers, planetary orbits, types of energy, density, pressure, weather and diving etc.
2. **Light:** the eye, mirrors, lenses, mirage, waves, moving galaxies, Snell's Window, rainbows, microwaves, UV rays, optical fibres, periscopes, how to correct short sightedness etc.
3. **Sound:** e.g. musical notes, musical instruments, waves, Doppler Effect, using ultrasound to check a baby's heartbeat, and the study of the human ear.
4. **Heat:** conduction, convection, radiation, insulation in houses, conductors, working of a fridge, why we sweat, how much heat energy is needed to melt snow or to make a cappuccino.
5. **Electricity:** circuits, semiconductors, current, voltage resistance, workings of a mobile phone, smoke alarms, cookers, oil burners, head lights of a car, transistors, static electricity, lightning, capacitance, how to tune in radios.
6. **Magnetism:** how speakers work, uses of electromagnets, the effect of the magnetic field on current, or the Northern Lights
7. **Nuclear Physics:** the atom, how a nuclear reactor or atomic bomb works, carbon dating, X-rays, Radiation, how lasers work, how your TV screens or Heart monitor screens work, medicine to cure cancer, genetic defects etc.

There are two selected **OPTIONS** of which you will only study **ONE**. They are called Particle Physics and Applied Electricity.

Key points to consider:

- ➔ You need to like work with **Maths**, using formulae, drawing graphs, drawing diagrams and learning off the theory and definitions.
- ➔ **Higher Level Maths is not a necessity.**
- ➔ You need to like carrying out the experiments, analysing and drawing conclusions from your results. There are 24 mandatory experiments and lots of demonstrations.

There is an overlap in the material which is a plus for those studying both Chemistry and Physics.

PHYSICS IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

Pilot, Optician, Radiologist, Doctor, Surgeon, Forensic Physicist, Physics Teacher, Electronic Engineer, Video Producer, Robotic Engineer, Games Developer, Meteorologist, Mechanical Engineer, Rocket Scientist, Imaging Processing Researcher, Geophysicist, Low Yield Analyst, Computational Physicist, Medical Physicist, Audiologist, Nanotechnology Researcher, Astronomer, Solar Physicist, Wind Analyst, Particle Physicist, Solar Thermal Research Physicist, Field Geophysicist, Nuclear Power Engineer. Careers such as designing a building with good acoustics, designing musical instruments or designing the latest phone also use the subject Physics.

Transition Year



Transition Year is a one-year programme after the Junior Certificate and before the Leaving Certificate.

What is the purpose? The purpose is to promote maturity by making students more self-directed learners. Transition Year gives students a chance to do different activities, which are not available in the traditional Leaving Certificate.

What do you study? The subjects can vary from year to year.

English, Irish, Maths, Art, Music, Religion, PE, Foreign Languages, History, Geography, Home Economics, First Aid, I.T. Skills, Science, Life Skills, Business and Enterprise, etc

- ➔ Transition Year focuses on building student's self-confidence and leadership Skills.
- ➔ Transition Year places a strong emphasis on developing students' physical fitness.
- ➔ There is work experience.
- ➔ An **emphasis** is placed on active learning by the students.
- ➔ Several other activities are also included. These vary from year to year depending on the group.
- ➔ Several field trips are organised each year.
- ➔ Students are encouraged to enter competitions and to take part in **ALL** activities.

3rd Level Course Requirements for Traditional Leaving Certificate

A modern foreign language is a requirement for many courses in NUI colleges, except for courses in Nursing, Engineering and most sciences.

There are many choices after you leave school. You do not have to choose a college course. If you do choose to go to a Third Level College, practically all science, medical, paramedical and some engineering courses require at least 1 Laboratory Science subject, and the following must be noted in particular:

2 science subjects required for:

- Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy at UCC
- Dentistry, Medicine at Trinity
- Physiotherapy, Human Genetics at Trinity
- Medicinal Chemistry at Trinity
- UK Paramedical Courses

Chemistry required for:

- Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy at UCC
- Veterinary at UCD
- Human Nutrition DIT
- Pharmacy at Trinity

Language requirements:

- Primary Teaching – H4 Irish
- Language / “with language” Degree – Relevant language
- Journalism – Higher English

Mathematical Requirements (Foundation Level)

Some colleges now accept foundation level Maths.

**Foundation Level Maths is not acceptable for entry to any course in Nursing.*

Parents and students are advised to **always check** the exact **requirements** for courses when final choices are made.

This can be done by using Minimum Subject Requirement module on www.qualifax.ie or on www.careersportal.ie

If you are applying to **Colleges in the UK** for Veterinary, Dentistry or Medicine, applications are due in **OCTOBER** of your **6th** year.



Points System (from 2017).

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

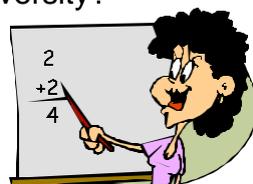
All students achieving a H6 or higher will have 25 points added to their total score for honours Maths. The Maths grade itself does not change. There are no bonus points for Ordinary Level Maths.

- This is a standard 25 points regardless of the grade achieved. The same bonus points are awarded for an H1 as a H6.
- There are no bonus points for a H7 in Honours Maths.
- **If Maths is not included in the top six subjects counted, the bonus points are not included.**
- **If Higher Level Maths is too difficult for you and you have to spend too much time at this subject, it is advisable to consider Ordinary Level. You may be able to get higher marks in other subjects due to the time and effort saved.**

HAVE YOU READ THE BOOKLET?

Answer these questions to make sure you understand what you have read

1. How many subjects will you take for Leaving Certificate?
2. Can you drop a language?
3. What is Links?
4. What subject has work experience?
5. Do you need a modern language to go to a university?
6. What is one difference between Home Economics and Social Scientific?
7. Why would you take two sciences?
8. Which subjects get 100% of their marks from the final exam?



Remember these are **your** decisions and you will do these subjects for two years – think carefully!

Useful Websites

www.careersnews.ie :	Information on courses careers etc.
www.qualifax.ie :	All courses including full-time and part-time
www.science.ie :	Science & Engineering
www.nursingcareers.ie :	Nursing
www.examinations.ie :	Past exam papers
www.skillsireland.ie :	Jobs in the future
www.careersportal.ie :	Jobs, courses and advice for parents and students on subject choice
www.studyclix.ie :	A revision site which shows all Leaving Certificate info
www.transition.ie :	The new points system
www.steps.ie	

For further information:

USE MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS MODULE IN:



USE LEAVING CERT SUBJECTS LIST ON:

