

Subject Choice Booklet for 3rd Years and TY's

At this stage in your school career you, with your parents/guardians, will have to choose the subjects you are going to take for your Leaving Certificate. It is important to consider the implications these choices may have on your future college and career choices.

Choosing your subjects

Subject choice is not as complicated as you think as not many courses have specific requirements. To see what subjects you need make a list of any careers or courses you are interested in, find out the entry requirements and list them. You can get this information from the Central Applications Office at www.cao.ie, careers website www.qualifax.ie or college websites/prospectuses.

- Check the essential subjects you require for college or university – usually Maths, English, and Irish plus a third language if you wish to go to a National University of Ireland (N.U.I.) college. After choosing your essential subjects, select the subjects you enjoy and are interested in.
- Make a list of your favourite subjects and put them in order of preference to help you decide. It will help if you ask yourself the following questions – What subjects do I need?
What subjects am I most interested in?
What subjects am I likely to do well in?
If you select subjects you like and enjoy you are more likely to gain more points in the Leaving Certificate.
- The subjects you enjoy may indicate a future career path e.g. languages, science, engineering or business. Choose subjects that give you a good mix in order to keep as many options open for future career choices - this would probably include Irish, English, Maths, a Language, a Science and two or three other subjects.
- Discuss your choices with your teachers, Guidance Counsellor, family and friends to help you decide.

***There are three requirements to meet for entry to college.
These are General Matriculation, Subject Requirements and Points
Requirements.***

General Matriculation Requirements

These are the general entry requirements you must have to go to college or university. You usually require six subjects for courses at Honours Degree Level 8, two or three of them at Higher level C3 or above. For Higher Certificate Level 6/Ordinary Degree Level 7 courses you require passes in five subjects at Ordinary Level D3 or above to include Maths and English. For nearly all courses you require a pass in Maths and English or Irish.

If you are considering going to any of the National University of Ireland (N.U.I.) colleges listed below a third language should be among your chosen subjects.

University College Dublin (U.C.D.)

University College Cork (U.C.C.)

N.U.I. Galway (U.C.G.)

N.U.I. Maynooth

R.C.S.I. (Royal College of Surgeons)

National College of Art & Design (N.C.A.D.)*

Shannon College of Hotel Management

Institute of Public Administration

Milltown Institute

St Angela's College, Sligo (College of NUI Galway)

*The National College of Art & Design (NCAD) will take Art as a subject in lieu of the third language. Please note that a third language is not a requirement if you wish to study Nursing, Science, Engineering or Agri-food courses. It is your responsibility to check the specific entry requirements for the colleges and courses you are interested in. This information is available from college prospectus, the National University of Ireland website at www.nui.ie or the careers website www.qualifax.ie.

Trinity College Dublin (T.C.D.) and the University of Limerick (U.L.) require Maths, English and Irish or a third language.

Dublin City University (D.C.U.) requires Maths and either English or Irish.

It is important to note that there are a wide variety of Degree & other courses available that do not require a third language as long as you have Maths & English or Irish.

Courses with specific subject requirements

Once you have the core essential subjects of English, Irish and Maths (and a third language for many courses at N.U.I colleges) there are relatively few courses that have specific subject requirements.

Many Engineering/Computer Science Level 8 Degrees need Higher Maths but you can study at Higher Certificate Level 6 (two years) and Ordinary Degree Level 7 (three years) if you have Ordinary level Maths and progress to Honours Degree Level 8 if your grades are good enough.

Also many IT's run maths courses for students who failed to get an 06 for entry

Some Language Courses require a specific Higher grade in your chosen language but others allow you to study from beginner's level. Courses in Science, Medicine (this includes Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Veterinary, Pharmacy), Nursing and some Engineering courses require one or two sciences. Geography is acceptable as a science subject for some courses such as Science at UCD & TCD. Veterinary Medicine, Dietetics and some Medicine and

Pharmacy courses require Chemistry.

Courses with no specific subject requirements

Business subjects are useful but are not required for any Business, Commerce or Accountancy courses.

Design & Communication Graphics is not an essential requirement for Architecture, Architectural Technician, Engineering or Construction courses.

Art is not an essential subject for Art College, but a portfolio is.

Points

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

Points are calculated from your six best results in one Leaving Certificate examination.

All subjects count equally for entry to college or university, with the exception of Higher Level Maths where 25 points will be added to an applicant's points score. For example, a Higher D3 in Mathematics will receive 70 points (45 common scale points + 25 bonus points) and a Higher A1 will receive 125 points (100 common scale points + 25 bonus points) This makes the maximum amount of points awarded 625.

L.C.V.P. – Points are awarded for the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme for entry to University or college as follows - Distinction (70), Merit (50) and Pass (30). Students should check from the college prospectus that L.C.V.P. is an acceptable subject for the particular course they are applying for.

Summary

After choosing your essential subjects, choose subjects that you are good at and enjoy. A suggested choice of subjects could be Irish, English, Maths, a science subject, a language plus two or three other subjects.

To help you in your subject choice it can be useful to complete the following career interest tests to see what careers they suggest.

- www.qualifax.ie Select students, Useful tools and complete the Interest Assessment
- www.careersportal.ie Select School students, Transition year, Subject Choice – guide to Leaving Certificate subjects. Select Self-Assessment and sign up to complete the Career Interest test

It is important to check college prospectuses/websites for general entry requirements and any specific course requirements. These can be checked online at www.qualifax.ie. Select Students, Course Search, Higher Education/CAO courses and type in the area you are interested in e.g. business. A list of all the courses available in Ireland with details of entry requirements will then be displayed.

If you wish to check what CAO courses require specific Leaving Certificate subjects you may do so at www.qualifax.ie under Students, Useful Tools, Minimum Subject Requirements. This will give you list of all courses e.g. requiring a third language or e.g. Chemistry.

Options after leaving school

The vast majority of students now recognise the benefit of further education and choose to undertake further study at college or university or take up an apprenticeship.

There are thousands of courses to choose from at Universities, Institutes of Technology, Colleges of Further Education and Private colleges.

Universities

In Ireland the main universities are-

(N.U.I.) - University College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Galway, NUI Maynooth, St Angela's Sligo, National College of Art & Design, Royal College of Surgeons
University of Limerick
University of Dublin (Trinity College)
Dublin City University

Universities offer Honours Degree Level 8 qualifications lasting three or four years leading to e.g. B.Comm. (Bachelor of Commerce), B.A. (Bachelor of Arts), B.Sc. (Bachelor of Science), B.Eng. (Bachelor of Engineering). After completing your degree you may choose to take a Postgraduate Level 9 qualification lasting one or two years then progress to Doctorate Level 10.

Institutes of Technology

In Ireland there are fourteen Institute of Technologies as follows- Athlone, Blanchardstown, Carlow, Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Letterkenny, Limerick, Sligo, Tallaght, Tralee and Waterford. They offer a wide variety of courses at Higher Certificate Level 6 (2years), Ordinary Degree Level 7 (three years) Honours Degree Level 8 (three or four years) and Postgraduate Level 9 as well as the opportunity to study to Doctorate Level 10.

Studying overseas

There are thousands of options to choose from and details of courses and fees payable in the United Kingdom can be obtained from the UCAS (Universities & Colleges Applications Clearing) website at www.ucas.com. Irish Leaving Certificate grades are allocated equivalent UCAS Tariff points for application purposes. Students must apply online through UCAS "Apply" before 15th January of the year they wish to start. All applications for Oxford or Cambridge University or for any courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or veterinary medicine must be made by the 15th October in the year prior to starting university (e.g. Oct 2015 to start in September 2016).

Some students may wish to explore the opportunity to study in Europe where there are many courses taught through English at highly ranked universities and fees are generally lower than Ireland. Further information can be obtained at www.eunicas.ie.

Further Education Courses (FETAC)

There are a wide variety of Further Education courses available throughout the country offering practical, vocational based training with work experience in areas such as social care, tourism, business, computing, media studies, drama, beauty therapy, music, sports & leisure, and puppetry to name but a few. There are no points requirements for FETAC courses but to qualify you must have five passes at Ordinary level in the Leaving Certificate and attend a selection interview. Applications are made directly to the college and not through the CAO.

FETAC courses are very popular and can be a qualification in their own right e.g. childcare, beauty therapy, business studies

. Can be used as a stepping stone to see if you would like to study the subject in more depth at college or university e.g. Art portfolio courses, Pre - Nursing, Foundation Engineering

. An excellent route to Higher Education if you don't get enough points for your CAO course choices. The FETAC links scheme gives you the opportunity to progress to Level 6/7/8 courses in Institutes of Technology and Universities where a percentage of places are reserved each year for FETAC candidates.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship is a method by which a person works for an employer as an apprentice in a chosen trade and learns the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to become a qualified craftsperson. On successful completion of the apprenticeship, you will receive a National Craft Certificate, recognised in Ireland as well as other EU and non-EU countries. During the apprenticeship you will receive an apprentice wage for your on-the-job phases from your employer and while off the job you will receive a training allowance if appropriate. Apprenticeship consists of 7 phases of training both on-the-job with your employer and off the job in a Training Centre or Educational College. The normal duration of apprenticeship is 4 years. In order for an employer to register you as an apprentice you must be at least 16 years old and have at least a grade D in any five subjects in the Junior Certificate, although many employers look for the Leaving Certificate. Further information on apprenticeships is available at SOLAS www.solas.ie, the Further Education & Training Authority.

Useful Websites

www.cao.ie Central Applications Office website for applying to college in Ireland

www.ucas.com Universities & Colleges Admissions Service for applying to colleges in the United Kingdom

www.eunicas.ie European University Central Application Support Service for applying to courses taught through English in European Universities

www.qualifax.ie Careers website with information on all Courses in Ireland, Career Events, Career Interest Assessment, Calculating Points, Subject Choice, Qualifications, Grants, Student Finance and Useful links to careers websites

www.careersportal.ie Career Interest & Personality tests, Career Sectors & Videos on different Careers and College courses

www.gradireland.ie Ireland's official Graduate jobs and Careers website

www.prospects.ac.uk UK Graduate careers website offering Career Advice and Career Options with different degree subjects

www.solas.ie Further Education & Training Authority & information on Apprenticeships

www.examinations.ie Links to JC & LC examination papers and marking schemes

www.curriculumonline.ie National Council for Curriculum & Assessment information on Junior & Leaving Certificate curriculum

www.nui.ie National University of Ireland website for information on entry requirements to NUI universities and how to apply for Exemption from Irish and the Third Language requirement.

www.accesscollege.ie Information on the HEAR & DARE scheme & eligibility criteria.

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 Disabled 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.

www.susi.ie Student finance & information on grants for college

www.careersnews.ie Ireland's latest Careers and Education news.

Leaving Certificate Subject Options

ACCOUNTING

What is Accounting?

Accounting is where students learn the basics of keeping monetary accounts.

Why choose Accounting?

Students should choose Accounting as a Leaving Certificate subject choice if they enjoyed or excelled at the book-keeping element of their Junior Certificate Business Studies course. They 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. Those who achieved well in Higher level JC Business Studies will enjoy Accounting.

Differences between the JC and LC

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.

I didn't study Business Studies for my Junior Certificate. Can I still study Accounting at Senior Level?

While the Accounting course has been designed to follow on from the book-keeping learned in Junior Certificate Business Studies, well-motivated and hard-working students are welcome to study Accounting at Senior Level even if they have not studied Business Studies at Junior Certificate Level.

What will I study?

You will learn to:

Prepare, understand, interpret and analyse sole trader, company, club, farm and

departmental service firm accounts.

Appreciate and use financial statements as a means of business communication.

Prepare reports using financial information.

You will develop the following skills:

Informed personal and business decision making skills

Computational, problem solving and presentation skills

Summarising and interpreting skills

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

The content is similar with some extra topics for Higher level, which also requires a greater depth of understanding & analysis.

How will I be assessed?

There is one final written exam.

Accounting is useful such careers as:

Accountancy, Auctioneering, Auditing, Banking, Book-keeping, Clerical Work, Teaching,

Company Secretary, Hospital Administration, Hotel Management, Receptionist, Insurance,

Purchasing Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Sales Representative, Store Management, Computer

Systems, Advertising, Business Law.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

What is Agricultural Science?

Agricultural Science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning the factors that affect the long-term well-being of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources.

Why choose Agricultural Science?

Students should choose Agricultural Science if they are interested in Food, Agriculture, Animals, Crops, Nutrition and the Environment, Farming, Horticulture or Science.

Agricultural Science is accepted as a Science subject at all third level colleges in Ireland, although may not meet special course requirements if a specific Science subject is required.

What will I study?

The course consists of the study of a variety of aspects of agriculture under the following headings:

Soils

The general structure and function of plants

Farm crops—cereal and roots

Forestry, trees and shelter

Structure and function of the animal body

Dairy, sheep, pig and beef

Genetics

Farm Buildings (for school assessment only)

Grassland management

Plant Science

Farm machinery

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

The content is similar but requires a greater depth of understanding & analysis.

How will I be assessed?

Written examination in June 75%

Coursework 25%

The coursework comprises of a project (worth 10%) and experiment book (worth 15%). The project involves studying one animal (sheep, dairy or beef) and two crop (potato and barley) production systems and includes a number of farm visits. The student is also required to identify and detail information on ten animals related to agriculture and five weeds in their project folder plus make a detailed farm plan layout. The other 15% for experiment work is given for a minimum of six experiments under the main topic headings. However to secure top marks students should endeavour to complete up to twenty-five experiments.

Agricultural Science is useful such careers as:

Agricultural, Engineering, Agricultural Inspector, Agricultural Officer, Agricultural Sales, Animal breeder, Animal Trainer, Botanist, Biologist, Butter-maker and Cheese-maker, Conservation, Creamery Manger, Dairy Scientist, Farmer, Farrier, Fish Farmer, Food Scientist & Food Safety Inspector, Forester, Forestry Inspector, Horticulturalist, Laboratory Technician, Seed Analyst, Technical Sales Manager, Veterinary Nurse & Surgeon, Zoologist

APPLIED MATHS

What is Applied Maths?

Applied Maths is a great subject for those with a flair for maths and a good grasp of physics. Roll two cans of coke down a plane. One can has liquid coke inside; the other has been in the freezer and has crystallised coke inside. If you can tell which wins the race you are an A student.

Why choose Applied Maths?

Anyone considering engineering or architecture should seriously consider doing applied maths. Your score will help you in your points tally if you have good computational skills.

Applied Maths is excellent for developing problem solving skills which are highly valued by employers

I didn't study Higher Maths for my Junior Certificate. Can I still study Applied Maths at Senior Level?

Students taking Applied Maths should have studied Junior Certificate Maths at Higher Level.

What will I study? Constant Acceleration Relative Velocity Projectiles Work Energy & Power Conservation of Momentum Circular Motion Simple harmonic Motion Rotation around a Rigid Axis Differential Equations Newton's Law & Connected Particles

How will I be assessed? One final written exam. Answer 6/10 questions.
Applied Maths is useful for such careers as:
Engineering, Architecture, Science, Information Technology, Construction,
Finance, Business.

ART

What is Art?

Art at Leaving Certificate is a two year course designed to allow students to develop competence in the visual arts disciplines. The syllabus is structured to combine art history, theory and appreciation with practical creative techniques and methods.

Why Choose Art?

A student who demonstrates an interest or ability in any aspect of Art, Craft or Design may choose the subject. Students will make art that explores different kinds of subject matter, topics and themes. Students will understand and use sensory elements, organisational principles, and expressive images to communicate their own ideas in works of art. Students will use a variety of material, processes, mediums and techniques, new and traditional, for creating and exhibiting works of art. Through the study of Art History and Appreciation students will reflect upon, interpret, and evaluate works of art, using the language of art criticism. Students will analyse the visual characteristics of the natural and built environment and explain the social, cultural, psychological and environmental dimensions of the visual arts.

Differences between the JC and LC

Junior Cert Art includes many of the same disciplines as Leaving Cert but the form of assessment is totally different. JC students experienced a number of art disciplines and learned a variety of art skills to improve both their competence in the physical aspect of the subject as well as attaining an appreciation for the aesthetics of each area. Junior Cert is a continually assessed project. Classwork is examined at the end of the year. Leaving Cert Art develops these skills further and new skills are introduced in all aspects of the curriculum. Students choose between still life and imaginative composition, study life drawing and choose from a range of crafts. There is more of an emphasis on Art History which makes up 37.5 % of the overall mark.

I didn't study Art at JC. Can I still study it at LC?

A certain standard and proficiency in all aspects of Art, Craft and Design is required to study the subject at Leaving Cert Level. Students who don't study Art at JC will find it hard to pick it up at LC, as skills learned in the Junior cycle will not be revised but will be developed to achieve a higher standard.

What will I study? Still Life, Design, Craft, Imaginative Composition, and Art History and Appreciation.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

Students sit the same practical exams and are marked on their work. In Art History Ordinary level students are expected to answer questions factually whereas Higher level are expected to analyse. For both levels, theory (Art History) amounts to 37.5% of the exam so higher level English is beneficial to students who choose Higher Level Art. Both levels require a commitment on behalf of the student to develop their skills to a high standard and to maintain a consistent level through class work and homework.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Area Assessment Type Mark (400) %

History and Appreciation of Art Written 150 37.5

Life Sketching Practical Exam 50 12.5

Still Life or Imaginative Composition Practical Exam 100 25.0

Design or Craft Skills Project 100 25.0

Art is useful in such careers as:

Advertising, Antiques, Art Teacher, Architecture, Book Binding, Fine Artist, Crafts-person, Art Historian, Fashion Industry, Florist, Furniture Design, Gallery and Museum Work, Graphics Design, Industrial Design, Web Design, Game Programming, Merchandiser, Occupational Therapist, Primary Teacher, Picture Restorer, Printing and Publishing, Sculptor, Sign-writer, Video Production, Textile design, Upholstery, Television and Theatre, Town & Country Planning.

BIOLOGY

What is Biology?

Biology is the science of life. It is concerned with the characteristics and behaviours of organisms, how species and individuals come into existence, and the interactions they have with each other and with their environment.

Why Choose Biology?

Biology is the study of life. Through the study of Biology students employ the processes of science in their investigations and explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationship between organisms and their environment. Students develop an understanding and knowledge of the unit of life the cell whose structures and processes are shared by all living organisms and, in so doing, gain an insight into the uniqueness, function and role of organisms, including themselves. In addition, they become aware of the use by humans of other living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the human environment and make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues.

It is intended that this syllabus will prove relevant to the lives of students and inspire in them an interest in and excitement about Biology. It should enable them as future citizens to discuss and make judgements on issues in

Biology and Science that impact on their daily lives and on society. This is a good time to study Biology with new developments such as the human brain project, stem cells regrowing organs and genetics and gene therapy.

Differences between the JC and LC:

The Leaving Certificate course is a continuation of what is studied in the Junior Certificate.

I didn't study Science at JC. Can I still study it at LC?

All students in study Science to JC.

What will I study?

The Cell – study of biochemistry and genetics

Botany – study of plant life

Zoology – study of animal life

Physiology – study of systems of living creatures, including humans

Ecology – study of plants and animals in their environment.

A snapshot of the areas focused on in Biology include genetics, the environment, microbiology, how Biology is used in industry (e.g. biotechnology), and a look at some conditions associated with the lungs, nervous system and so on.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

Ordinary and Higher level Biology are divided on the basis of the material covered and the depth of detail studied. At Higher level, some topics are studied in more detail and the final exam reflects this, although much of the material is similar. You are expected to have a very good understanding of areas covered both at Higher and Ordinary level.

How will I be assessed?

Biology is assessed by examination only. However, the course covers at least 22 laboratory activities which are carried out over 2 years. These are examined in the final exam and so can be prepared well in advance.

Biology is useful for such careers as:

Agriculture, Agricultural Research, Animal Breeder, Animal Trainer, Ambulance Driver, Audiologist, Biochemist, Biologist, Biology Teacher, Catering superintendent, Chiropodist, Conservation Work, Dental Craftsperson, Dairy Scientist, Dental Hygienist or Nurse, Dentist, Dietician, Doctor, Environmental Scientist, Farmer, Fisheries, Food Scientist, Forester, Forestry Inspector, Geneticist, Health Inspector, Horticulturalist, Microbiologist, Nurse, Pharmacist or Technician, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Radiographer, Seed Analyst, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Surgeon or Nurse, Wild life Ranger, Zookeeper, Zoologist, Oceanographer.

BUSINESS

What is Business?

The LC Business course is an enjoyable, informative course about the world of business and the people who are affected by how they are run. It covers business activity on a national and global basis.

Why Choose Business?

The LC course is based around successful businesses who treat their stakeholders (people affected by how a business is run) well. Examples include the Body Shop, Ben & Jerry's Ice-cream, Virgin Atlantic. The course, through the use of case studies and examples, shows the student that successful, profitable businesses can make money by treating employees, consumers and suppliers well. "We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to mankind" – Martin Luther King. "If you have a happy, motivated staff you can achieve anything" – Richard Branson.

Differences between the JC and LC

Unlike “Junior Certificate Business” there is very little use of the calculator in LC Business. The course is mostly Theory and Definitions so all of the accounts, ledgers, etc. done in Junior Cert Business are covered in “Accounting” NOT in Business. There is little overlap in content between the JC and the LC.

I didn't do Business Studies at JC. Can I still study it at LC? Yes.

What will I study?

Unit 1 People in Business – Those people affected by how a business is run, e.g. consumers employees. How employees & consumers can deal with problems e.g. buying faulty goods, unfair dismissal.

Unit 2 Entrepreneurs- The people who come up with the idea of a business e.g. Richard Branson “Virgin Atlantic”.

Unit 3 Management's skills & activities-

Leadership Plan

Motivation Organise

Communications Control

Unit 4 Human Resource Management - Changing role of management, monitoring the success of a business, insurance, tax & finance of a business.

Unit 5 Identifying Business Opportunities - Getting a business started.

Marketing- strategy, product, place, price, promotion. Expanding the business.

Unit 6 Types of Business (e.g. Private limited Company) Economy & business, Government & Business. Setting up business in your own community. Conflict between business & society.

Unit 7 - Ireland's relationship with the world, the European Union & global businesses.

Difference between Ordinary Level & Higher Level:

At Ordinary level you need to know the entire course/ book and are asked for definitions, examples & points in exam. You do not have to analyse situations, problems in great detail.

At Higher level questions assume that you know the course/ book so you will have to use this to analyse situations.

How will I be assessed?

Ordinary Level Test – 2 ½ hours (1 Paper)

15 short questions-answer 10 (100 marks) 25%

8 Long Questions-answer 4 (75 marks each) 75%

Higher Level Test – 3 hours (1 paper)

10 short questions – answer 8 (80 marks) 20% Applied Business Question – Case study about a business or entrepreneur. You have to put in theory about a topic & relate it to case study. (80 marks) 20% 7 Long Questions – Answer 4 (60 marks each) 60%

Business is useful for such careers as:

Administration, Industry, Business, Accounting, Banking, Book-keeping, Clerical Work, Teacher, Barrister, Company Secretary, Hospital Administrator, Hotel Management, Insurance, Office Machine Operator, Purchasing Officer, Receptionist/Telephonist, Store Management, Typist, Stock broking, Sales, Marketing, Merchandising, Customs and Exercise, Taxation Law.

CHEMISTRY

What is Chemistry? - the science of matter; - the branch of the natural sciences dealing with the composition of substances and their properties and reactions.

Why Choose Chemistry?

It gives the learner a good understanding of the structure and behaviour of atoms (elements) the composition and properties of compounds the reactions between substances with their accompanying energy exchange the laws that unite these phenomena into a comprehensive system.

For example the understanding of atomic structure can:

(i) help solve crime, e.g. hit-and-run accidents or forgery; (ii) analyse the soil for fertiliser requirements; (iii) make fireworks displays colourful;

(iv) produce highly efficient, more economical, more environmentally friendly, lighting; (v) monitor the environment for pollutants; (vi) discover the composition of the sun and distant galaxies;

Students gain an understanding of chemical laws and theories. The inclusion of the applications of chemistry in the course emphasise the vocational aspects of the subject and enable students to see where it applies in the world of work.

Practical skills are developed by the 28 mandatory student experiments, e.g.: setting up and manipulating apparatus and making measurements and observations. These experiments must be recorded by the students and there is a mandatory section on the Leaving Certificate paper.

Differences between the JC and LC

A much deeper understanding of the behaviour of matter is expected. Mathematical calculations are an integral part of this course; however Higher Level Maths is not required.

I didn't study Science at JC. Can I still study it at LC?

All students in Bush Post Primary study Science to JC.

What will I study?

The syllabus has the following components:

- Pure chemistry 70% • Applications of chemistry 22.5% • Chemistry for citizens 7.5% The core 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.

Option 1A is additional Industrial Chemistry, (It is recommended that students taking option 1A should visit a local chemical industry.), Option 1B is Atmospheric Chemistry, Option 2A is Materials, Option 2B is Extraction of Metals and additional Electrochemistry.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

Higher and Ordinary levels differ on the basis of the depth of detail studied and quality of answers required.

How will I be assessed?

There is a 3 hour exam of 8 Questions, at the end of 6th Year. This exam consists of 2 sections: Section A: All questions are based on the 28 mandatory experiments carried out throughout 5th and 6th Year. Section B: Long Questions based on theory and practical.

Chemistry is necessary for some courses in:

Veterinary Medicine, Human Nutrition & Dietetics, Pharmacy & Medicine.

Chemistry is useful for such careers as:

Agriculture, Archaeologist, Architect, Brewing Technologist, Chemist, Chemistry Teacher, Dairy Scientist, Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Surgery Assistant, Dietician, Doctor, Engineering, especially Chemical Engineering, Food Science Technologist, Forestry Inspector, Fuel Technologist, Health Inspector, Industrial Chemist, Laboratory Assistant, Medicine, Medical Laboratory scientist, Pharmacist, Pharmacy Technician, Physiotherapist, Pilot, Radiographer, Quality control and Biotechnology, Veterinary Surgeon or Nurse.

DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

What is DCG?

DCG is the LC equivalent of Technical Graphics (TG). This course makes a large contribution to the development of student's cognitive and practical skills. The most important of these skills is the ability to graphically communicate ideas and designs using various mediums including computer generated images, freehand drawing, and traditional instrument drawing. To enable this to happen students are developed in Graphic communication, creative problem solving, spatial abilities & visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics and CAD modelling.

The creative and decision-making capabilities of students in the activities associated with design are developed through three principal areas of study: Design and Communication Graphics, Plane and Descriptive Geometry and Applied Graphics. This programme is designed to keep up with the latest developments in the technologies that are needed in business and industry in Ireland today.

Why choose DCG?

DCG is a natural follow-on from TG. The course traditionally included instrument drawing, but now encompasses Information and Computer Technology (ICT) skills, 3D modelling using Solidworks software and Sketching skills. It also compliments other subjects such as Technology, Engineering and Construction Studies.

Differences between the JC and LC

Like all subjects at LC level Design and Communication Graphics is more difficult than its Junior Cert equivalent. The Ordinary level LC course is broadly similar to the junior cert higher level course. In the Higher-level course some topics will be familiar from the JC, but the new course also contains many new topics that are used in real life in the construction, mining and engineering industries.

I didn't study design and communication graphics at JC. Can I still study it at LC?

In an ideal world, students wishing to complete Design & Communication Graphics would have completed Technical Graphics at JC level. The reality however, is very different in a comparatively small school like ours. Well-motivated and hard-working students who did not do TG, can and do study DCG at senior level, and very recently, a student who took the subject up in Transition Year went on to achieve an A1 at Higher-level in the Leaving Certificate.

How will I be assessed?

The subject is assessed in two areas in the Leaving Certificate:

A 3-hour terminal examination: 60%

A practical student design assignment: 40%

The assignment is done almost entirely on computer over a twelve-week period during sixth-year. It consists of completing a portfolio of drawings, together with making an electronic copy of the entire portfolio.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

The main difference between the Higher and Ordinary level course is the level of difficulty you are expected to study. Naturally the Higher level course covers topics in more detail than the Ordinary level course

Design & Communication Graphics is useful for such careers as:

All branches of Engineering, Aircraft Technician, Architecture and Architectural Technologist, Army and Air Corps Apprenticeship, Cartographer, Construction Trades, Bricklayer, Carpenter, Fitter, Toolmaker, Industrial Designer, Maintenance and Service Personnel, Motor Mechanic, Technical Sales, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) Technicians, Structural Design, Printing, Town Planner, Draughtsperson, Industrial Engineer.

ENGINEERING

What is Engineering?

This course represents a study of a wide range of mechanical engineering materials, processes and technological applications. Students develop and acquire the manipulative skills and techniques necessary for practical resourcefulness, creativity and design realisation in the execution of work. It aims to promote an educational knowledge of the materials; and understanding of the processes; ability in safely using the skills and equipment to achieve objectives through practical work; initiative in the planning and development of technological projects.

A strong emphasis is placed on problem solving, on research and on the design and manufacture of artefacts. Within this framework, skill in decision making is also developed.

Why choose Engineering?

A student who enjoys both the theory and practical side of machines, tools and project work will enjoy Engineering.

Differences between the JC and LC

Engineering is a continuation of the Metalwork course at JC level. Students further develop their knowledge and skills and are also introduced to a wide variety of new technologies.

I didn't study Metalwork at JC. Can I still study Engineering at LC?

Yes. You will need to be self-motivated and work hard at the theoretical and practical elements of the course.

What will I study?

1. Workshop Processes (Practical)

Health & Safety Fabrication and Finishing of Metals Benchwork Heat Treatment of Metals Machining Plastics Processing Technology Project Design & Manufacture Electronics

2. Materials and Technology (Theory) Health And Safety

Classification And Origin Of Metals Structure Of Metals Non-Ferrous Metals Heat Treatment Of Metals Corrosion Of Metals Materials Testing Plastics Joining Of Materials Machining Metrology Manufacturing Processes Technology

Differences between Higher and Ordinary level courses

The topics above apply equally to Ordinary and Higher level. In general terms, the syllabus at Ordinary level consists of clearly defined content aimed at providing an overview of engineering technology and its applications. At Higher level, a more analytical, qualitative and quantitative treatment of topics is required.

How will I be assessed?

Theory: There is a theory paper in June.

Project: The student has approximately 14 weeks to design and make a model to a given design brief set by the Department of Education.

Practical: The student has to make an accuracy exercise in a 6 hour exam to a drawing issued by the Department of Education.

Engineering is useful for such careers as:

Engineering, Mechanics, Aircraft Technician, Army/Air Corps

Apprenticeships, Engineering Teacher, Fitter, Industrial Operatives,

Mechanical Production, Structural and Civil Engineer and Technician,

Metallurgy, Motor Mechanic, Service and Maintenance Personnel, Technical Sales, Toolmaker, Turner, Welder, Engraving, Industrial Design.

FRENCH

What is French?

French is the foreign language studied to Leaving Certificate A third language is needed for some University courses.

Why Choose French?

French at Leaving Cert level is exciting as there is more emphasis on the spoken language. Choosing French widens opportunities of travel and as France is an EU member your business opportunities are greater with

French. Many courses in the NUI Universities require a third language, French fulfils this requirement.

Differences between the JC and LC

The French course is a continuation of the Junior Certificate Course to a more advanced level. There is a higher content of personal writing in the written paper at Leaving Certificate Level. There is much more emphasis on Oral skills for the Leaving Certificate.

I didn't study French at JC. Can I still study it at LC?

French would be extremely difficult to take up as a new subject in 5th year if it was not taken at Junior Cert Level.

What will I study?

The course content extends beyond the self and the family to society and the world. Students at both levels are expected to express their opinion on everyday topics in oral and written form. Students will practise 4 main skills in the target language – Oral, Aural, Reading and Writing.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

Reading Comprehension work is a big part of both Higher and Ordinary Level Courses. Written work on the ordinary level exam consists of letter-writing, postcards, messages and close-tests. Written work on the higher level exam consists of Letter writing, Diary entry, Essay and Creative writing.

How will I be assessed?

An Oral exam takes place in April. A Written and Aural exam takes place in June.

Higher Oral 25% Aural 20% Written 55%

Ordinary Oral 20% Aural 25% Written 55%

French is useful for such careers as:

Interpreter, Translator, Tourism & Travel, Teacher, Hospitality Management, Chef, Marketing & Sales, Receptionist, Customer Services, Software Industry – localisation of software products. Many courses in the NUI Universities require a foreign language at leaving cert, French fulfils this requirement.

GEOGRAPHY

What is Geography?

Geography is not just about maps and places. Senior Geography studies global patterns and processes and how humans interact with the earth. We look at the following geographic areas:

Physical e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes, rivers, coasts and glaciations.

Human e.g. population change, movement and settlement.

Economic e.g. farming, forestry, manufacturing, tourism, development.
Skills e.g. interpretation of maps and photos, graphing, sketching, statistics.
A wide range of issues are studied in each topic, which we hope will lead to a greater appreciation of the world around us and the interdependence of both the physical and human environment.

Why choose Geography?

Leaving Cert Geography compliments other Leaving Certificate subjects such as English, Maths, Business, Biology, and History. It helps develop students' analytical skills and also their awareness of the world in which we live. Geography students develop study and research skills which they can employ in further study and the world of work. The Geographic study is worth 20% of marks, offers students the chance to have some hands on experience, develop a range of skills and get out of the classroom. Leaving Certificate Geography is also an accessible subject for most students and builds on the work carried out in JC.

What are the differences between Junior and Leaving Certificate Geography?

Leaving Certificate Geography is not a continuation of the JC course but a more in-depth study of the topics and skills covered in the Junior cycle. Most of the topics and skills will be familiar to current students of geography. Students will revise these skills/topics and learn to present them in an alternate manner.

I didn't study Geography at Junior Cert. Can I still study it at Leaving Cert?
All students in Bush Post Primary study Geography at JC.

What will I study?

The Leaving Certificate Geography course is divided into different sections. The course has three Core Units that must be studied by all students.

Core Unit One – Physical Geography - Plate tectonics and the formation of the earth; Volcanoes and earthquakes; The rock cycle; Mountains and landforms; River features; Coastal features; Glacial features.

Core Unit Two – Regional Geography - Types of regions; Irish Regions e.g. The Greater Dublin Region; European Regions e.g. The Paris Basin; The EU and EU expansion; Non-European Regions e.g. India or Brazil.

Core Unit Three – Geographic Investigation and Skills - Interpretation of maps, photos, and satellite images; Weather map interpretation; drawing maps and sketching; River study; Study of traffic management; Study of population change.

There are two Elective Units, only one of which must be studied by all students.

Economic Processes - Development; Employment patterns; Patterns in industry e.g. farming, manufacturing OR Human Processes - Population change; Population movement; Settlement patterns. Students who opt to study Higher Level must study one of the following areas: Global Inter Dependence, Geocology (Soils and Rain Forests or Deserts), Culture and Identity, The Atmosphere/Ocean Environment

How will I be assessed?

The Leaving Certificate Examination is divided into two parts A Geographic Study e.g. River processes This is worth 20% of the total exam and is submitted in April of the exam year. The Leaving Certificate Exam itself – worth 80% of the marks. Higher Level and Ordinary Level get a separate exam.

The exam paper is divided into sections which cover the topics mentioned above. The first question on the exam paper is made up of a series of short answer questions. The remainder of the exam consists of longer answer questions.

Geography is useful for such careers as:

Civil Engineering, Construction, Urban and Regional Planning, Architecture, Meteorology, Climatology, Surveying, Mineralogy, Agriculture, Horticulture, Auctioneering, Forestry, Conservation work, Market Research, Statistical Analysis, Archaeology, Air Traffic Control, Anthropology, Cartography,

Development Work, Geology, Teaching, Tourist Officer, International Driver, Naval Deck Cadet, Army Cadet, Pilot, Quantity Surveyor, Civil Service.

HISTORY

What is History?

When we undertake to study history we are dealing with the experiences of human life in the past. Our study involves an investigation of evidence which has survived to this day in relation to events and individuals of the past. Students will become familiar with human experiences which are often very different to his/her own. The student of history will gain an insight into other ways of life and thinking. By coming into contact with past experiences

the student will gain a valuable insight into the roots of his/her own identity as well as the traditions he/she has inherited.

Why Choose History?

By studying History the student will come to appreciate how the world and its people have evolved over the course of centuries. The syllabus allows the student to engage in an exploration of what historians believe happened over the course of time, and this exploration is based on the evidence available to us today. Therefore, the student will involve himself/herself in the study of a number of historical topics relating to Ireland, Europe and the wider world from the early nineteenth century to almost the present day.

The syllabus places a great emphasis on developing certain skills which are particular to the work of the historian, for example, working with evidence and researching. The student will also learn the art of working with documents allowing him/her to develop an expertise in the evaluation of evidence. As a result the student can expect to develop a capacity to make reasoned judgements on our historical past.

Differences between the JC and LC

The content of the Junior Certificate syllabus is focused on very different aspects of history and is far removed from the content of the Leaving Certificate syllabus.

What will I study?

The History Department follows the Later Modern, 1815-1993, course of study and the syllabus comprises of two inter-linking parts as follows:

WORKING WITH EVIDENCE

Here there will be an introduction to history and the work of historians. This will form the basis of the students future work on topics for examination as well as the document based study and the research study. The student will engage in a document-based study of one of the syllabus topics as a means of developing the skill of working with evidence. The student will also undertake a research study of a significant historical subject or individual as a means of developing further his/her skills in working with evidence, and also as a means of developing his/her research skills.

TOPICS

Four sections are studied, two in Irish History and two in Modern European.

In 2016/2017, two options from the Later Modern Ireland will be studied. These may include (for example) Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949-89. One will be Partition and Sovereignty in Ireland, 1912-49.

In addition two options from the Later Modern Europe section will be studied, such as 'European retreat from empire, 1945-1990', 'Dictatorship & Democracy, 1920-45' or 'the U.S. & the World, 1945-89'.

As part of the course one of these options is a Compulsory Document Section

In summation, there are five sections:

- A: Later Modern Ireland Option One
- B: Later Modern Ireland: Option Two
- C: Later Modern Europe: Option One
- D: Later Modern Europe: Option Two – Compulsory Document Section
- E: Special Research Topic

For a full list of options please check the Resource Finder at www.hist.ie

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

Both levels cover the same material. The Higher level requires the student to present answers in the form of analytical essays which show a detailed knowledge of the topic. The Ordinary Level students will be required to present shorter, less analytical essays.

How will I be assessed?

20% of the marks go for the Research Study which is submitted in April of 6th Year. The Final Examination accounts for the remaining 80%.

History is useful for such careers as:

Politics, Journalism, Local Government, Sociology, Archaeology, Barrister, Civil Service, Guide, History Teacher, Law, Museum Work, Historical researcher, Solicitor, Tourism, Writer, Broadcaster, Librarianship, Genealogy.

HOME ECONOMICS (SOCIAL & SCIENTIFIC)

What is Home Economics?

Home Economics is a multi-disciplinary subject combining theory and practical work. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs.

Why Choose Home Economics?

Because of its diversity, Home Economics is of interest to a wide variety of students. The range of careers that are linked to Home Economics is vast, so it is beneficial to many students.

I didn't study Home Economics at JC. Can I still study it at LC?

As the course is a continuation on from JC it is recommended that students have studied Home Economics at JC. However, well-motivated and hard-working students could study Home Economics at Leaving Certificate.

What will I study?

Food Studies 45%

Resource Management and Consumer Studies 25%

Social Studies 30%

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses

The course material is for the most part common but there is some material which is required to be studied at Higher level only. Higher level students will be required to have a more in-depth knowledge of topics and to show a greater degree of practical and procedural skills.

How will I be assessed?

20% - Coursework

80% - Final Written Examination.

Coursework

The Department of Education issues students with six assignments in September of 5th Year. Five of the six assignments must be completed by all students. The assignments involve research into different areas of the Food Studies course.

The research undertaken by students is presented in a journal which is submitted in November of 6th Year. Students will take part in five cookery practicals as part of their research. Absence on the day of these practical classes will result in students losing valuable marks.

NOTE: As a key part of the course is carried out in 5th Year (as detailed above) it is important that any student opting for home economics must be prepared to work from the beginning of 5th Year to maximise their grade in this subject.

Home Economics is useful for such careers as:

Food Science, Chef, Dietician, Human Nutrition, Home Economics Teacher, Baking and Confectionary, Catering, Environmental Health Officer, Consumer Adviser, Hotel Manager, Technologists & Technicians in the Food Industry, Nursing, Occupational Therapist.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)

What is LCVP?

LCVP, introduced by the Department of Education & Skills, consists of Link Modules. It deals with Enterprise and Preparation for the world of work.

Why study LCVP?

LCVP is a useful extra subject to prepare you for the world of work

To improve interpersonal, vocational and technological skills

To learn how to run an enterprise To complete a Curriculum Vitae, conduct a Career Investigation & summary report

To gain up to 70 points in the Leaving Certificate

Skills learned or developed include:

Communication

Research

Teamwork

Information Technology

Problem Solving

Innovation

Evaluation

Self-Confidence

Students will be involved in the following activities:

Arrange visits into and out of school to businesses, financial institutions and/or vocational organisations Run a business or a fundraising event

Word process all documents, send and receive e-mails and conduct on-line research Prepare for interview Do work experience or work shadowing

How will I be assessed?

Portfolio 60%

Written Exam 40% (2.5 hour exam in early May of Leaving Certificate)

Exam structure 1) Audio Visual 2) Case Study 3) Answer 4 out of 6 questions

Portfolio: Core Items Optional Items (select 2)

Curriculum Vitae Work Diary

Career Investigation Enterprise Report

Summary Report Recorded Interview

Action Plan Report on My Own Place

Grade

Distinction 80-100% 70 points

Merit 65-79% 50 points

Pass 50-64% 30 points

MUSIC

What is Music?

While music means different things to different people, the study of music means exploring different genres, time periods and methods of composition. It also involves exploring the performance of various styles, the analysis of stylistic choices and seeking out the purpose or meaning of a piece. People who study music have a lifetime enhanced enjoyment of all types of music.

Why study Music?

Music is an essential part of the human experience. Everyone is musical, has a need for musical expression and enjoys music in different ways.

Studying music provides a creative outlet, helps in employment opportunities and plays an important role in the social fabric of our society.

Students who enjoy music, play an instrument or sing, and wish to develop and stretch their musical knowledge and skills will like this course. Since the new Syllabus was introduced in 1999 many more students have opted for Music at LC. Good exam results are now within reach of more students as published in a recent Chief Examiner's Report:

17.8% of students achieved an A1 or A2 grade at Higher level

74.1% achieved a B3 or grade or higher

97.5% of students achieved Higher (C3 grade or higher) and there was only a 0.1% failure rate.

Differences between JC and LC

Music at LC is a continuation of the course at JC. It follows the same activities but with a greater level of choice to suit the individual student.

I didn't study Music at JC. Can I still study it at LC?

It is possible to take up Music at LC, not having studied it at JC. However, such students would usually have a lot of involvement in Music outside of school. Skills from JC, particularly those in music literacy, would have to be caught up on.

What will I study?

The syllabus is structured into three Essential Activities. Students can select one of these activities as an Elective, constituting 50% of the overall mark.

Listening

Students are required to analyse four prescribed works under such headings as historical context, style, form, texture, instrumental and

compositional techniques (as well as production techniques, in the case of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and the Sergeant Pepper album).

They also learn how to compare and contrast music from different periods and musical styles. In addition, they learn to identify and describe the variety of styles and contexts of Irish traditional music today. Aural awareness (e.g., identification of instruments, as well as melody, rhythm and harmonic cadences) is taught in the context of the prescribed works as well as other instrumental and vocal/choral works. Students presenting a Higher Level

Elective in Listening choose a special topic from an area of musical study. Five pieces are selected by the student, and a tape of ten extracts from these pieces is prepared in advance of the June exam.

Composing

The art of melody writing is taught both in the context of word-setting and as a

continuation of a given phrase. Students are taught the rudiments of harmony and counterpoint in a variety of styles and contexts as the foundation for exam-type questions.

As points of reference, composers and songwriters from Bach and Mozart to the Beatles are used, enabling students to compose using both guitar chords and more traditional forms of notation. In addition to the core components, the Higher Level Elective in Composing requires the presentation of two short pieces or songs, in any style or genre. These are composed, arranged or orchestrated by the student and notated using conventional and/or graphic notation, together with a full written description.

Performing

Music for performance may be chosen from classical art music, traditional Irish, ethnic, folk, rock, jazz, stage musical or other modern popular repertoires. The music chosen must show diversity in style and technique. This is the option that the majority of students choose to allocate 50% of their marks to. The Performing Activity also includes one 'unprepared test'

from a choice of sight reading/singing or melodic/rhythmic repetition. The syllabus also allows students, at both Ordinary and Higher level, to demonstrate as part or the entire Performing requirement 'an ability to understand and to use micro-technology music-making systems using a computer program to write their own music. Performing requirements vary for each student: three or four pieces, depending on one or two activities. Students taking a Higher Level Elective in Performing are required to perform either six or eight pieces, a further expansion of the Core Performing activity.

Differences between Higher and Ordinary level courses

The Higher level includes Ordinary level requirements but Higher students need a greater depth of knowledge, understanding and skill. There is an additional Elective for Higher Level.

How will I be assessed?

Listening, Performing and Composing activities are assessed by means of three categories of examination – aural, written, and practical (takes place in March/April of the exam year).

At both Higher and Ordinary levels, each activity is allocated a 25% weighting in the exam. At Ordinary level, students choose one of the three activities to represent 50%. Students at Higher level undertake additional studies – a Higher Elective – in one of the activities to represent 50%. This allows both Ordinary and Higher level students to gain up to 50% of their total marks in the activity that best suits their interests and abilities.

Music is useful for careers in:

Education Music or Occupational Therapy

Performance Speech and Language Therapy

Production Theatrical Agent

Sound Engineering Composer/ Arranger

Music research positions at regional and national institutions

Music business careers in retail, recording and artistic promotion

Entertainment – groups, orchestra, bands, Disc Jockey, Dancer.

PHYSICS

What is Physics?

A mathematical and practical explanation of the physical world.

Why choose Physics?

Choose physics if you are interested in how things work in the physical world. Are you the sort of person who notices things around them and

wonders why they happen? Physics suits students who like a tough challenge to solve and are very persistent.

Difference between JC and LC?

LC Physics covers most of the same topics as JC, but with more depth and more maths. You don't have to be doing higher maths to do physics, but a basic mathematical ability is required.

What will I study?

The Sections to be covered:

Light Waves & sound Heat Mechanics Electricity Magnetism

Nuclear Physics / Radioactivity Particle Physics (higher level only)

Mandatory experiments - 24 in Higher Level - 22 in Ordinary Level

Done weekly in small groups on a rotational basis.

Differences between Higher level and Ordinary level

The courses are basically the same, with some parts for higher level only (e.g. derivations). Ordinary level questions are, of course, easier! Higher & ordinary levels are taught together in the one class.

How will I be assessed?

There is one paper in the LC: Section A = 30%; Section B = 70%

Section A: Mandatory experiments – answer 3 questions from 4

Section B Answer any 5 long questions from 8

The long questions in section B will include:

Definitions Knowledge Sums!

Do I need to be taking Higher Maths?

No, but often students who are good at maths will be good at Physics. The maths involves basic techniques (e.g. solving equations) which are on the higher and ordinary maths course.

Have you considered taking Applied Maths as well? There is an overlap between the subjects.

Physics is necessary for courses in:

Theoretical Physics in TCD. It fulfils the Laboratory Science subject requirement for many courses in the broad field of Science.

Physics is also useful for careers in:

Architecture, Astronomy, Bio-physicist, Computers, Doctor, Engineer - especially electrical and electronics at all levels, Geophysicist, Health Inspector, Marine Radio Operator, Medical Laboratory Technician, Metallurgist, Meteorologist, Naval Services, Nurse, Oceanographer, Optician, Patent Worker, Pharmacist, Physicist, Laboratory Technician, Pilot, Radiographer, Telecommunications, Apprenticeships, Scientific research, Heating and Ventilation technicians, Sound Engineer, and pure Maths courses. Many Physics graduates end up in finance because of their Maths skills.

SPANISH

What is Spanish?

Leaving Certificate Spanish is a broad course designed to equip you with the ability to effectively communicate in Spanish. As well as the study of the language, this course aims to equip the student with an understanding of Spanish society and culture.

Why choose Spanish?

The ability to communicate in Spanish is a very useful life skill. Being able to talk Spanish brings a whole world of opportunity. Spanish is the official language in 27 countries as well as being spoken in many parts of the world. It is also the second language of the USA.

Employers like employees with strong language skills, knowledge of Spanish opens a range of career possibilities: travel and tourism, translation, international business, teaching, international law, Department of foreign affairs, import and export industries, retail, IT -localisation of software products. Many courses in the NUI Universities require a third language, Spanish fulfils this requirement.

Differences between the JC and LC.

Leaving Cert Spanish is a natural progression from Junior Cert. The basics of the language from Junior Cert are built on and a more in depth knowledge of the language is acquired.

Oral work: There is a far greater emphasis on oral work at Leaving Cert which encourages the student to communicate on a variety of topics.

Written work: This progresses from the basics of a letter at Junior Cert to dialogue construction, formal letter and emails, diary entries, notes and opinion pieces.

Reading and aural work: The texts are topical and relevant to everyday life as well as being more complex.

I didn't study Spanish for my Junior Certificate. Can I still study Spanish at Senior level?

If you have attained a good level in another foreign language it is possible to take up Spanish at senior level. However it is a demanding course and not an option that should be taken lightly. If you choose to do this you would have to take on a large amount of work on your own. It is generally not recommended.

What will I study?

As well as more in depth study of topics already covered such as self, family and home the Leaving Certificate course also covers areas such as current affairs, youth, health, technology, leisure, literature, art and many more.

Higher Level students may also study a novel.

The four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking will be developed through the study of these areas.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses.

The topics covered are the same for both Higher and Ordinary levels, with the exception of the novel which is not an option for Ordinary level students.

Higher level is a much more demanding course in which the student is expected to cope with more complex materials and produce more detailed work.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is by: . Oral exam - 25% for Higher level 20% for Ordinary level (exam is usually in April of 6th year) . Listening exam - 20% for Higher level, 25% for Ordinary level
. Written exam - 55% for Higher and Ordinary levels