Subject Choice Booklet for Third and Transition Year Students
Bush Post Primary School

At this stage in your school career, you, with your parents/guardians, will have to choose the subjects you will 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 (NUI) 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 to keep as many options as possible 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.

Leaving Certificate Subject Options.
The following information is a synopsis of each subject available at the Bush Post Primary, reasons to choose it, what you will study and how it is assessed. Please read carefully before making your decision.

We have divided the subjects into groups,

1. **The Practical Group-** Construction, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics.
2. **The Science group-** Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science
3. **The Artistic/Creative group-** Art and Music
4. **The Humanities Group**- French, History, Spanish
5. **The Social Group-** Geography, Home Economics, Physical Education
6. **The Business group-** Business, Accountancy, Links Modules (LCVP)

Please Note: As a general rule, a modern foreign language, (MFL, French or Spanish are offered at BPP), is required for entry (matriculation) to the NUI group of Irish universities. It is therefore prudent to check course requirements and speak to the Guidance Counsellor if a student intends to drop an MFL.
The list of NUIs is as follows:

University College Dublin (UCD)
University College Cork (UCC)
Maynooth University (MU)
St. Angela's Sligo
the Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI)
University of Galway

1. The Practical Group:

Construction Studies, Engineering, Design & Communication Graphics (DCG)

CONSTRUCTION

What is Construction?

Leaving Certificate construction studies provides students in the senior cycle of post-primary education to introduce the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and processes.
This subject has proven to be very popular with over 7,000 students taking the subject last year

What kind of student would Construction Studies suit?

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment.
- Each student should have an aptitude for and an interest in design and practical work.

What will I study?
Construction Studies introduces students to the knowledge and skills associated with construction technology and construction materials and practices.
This is achieved through theoretical and integrated practical projects, which provide a basis for the thorough exploration of materials and processes.

- Planning and Design, Drawings and Documents, Site Preliminaries and Foundations, Walls, Partitions Floors, Roofs Fireplaces Windows and Doors Stairs Plastering and Painting Plumbing and Heating Services Drainage

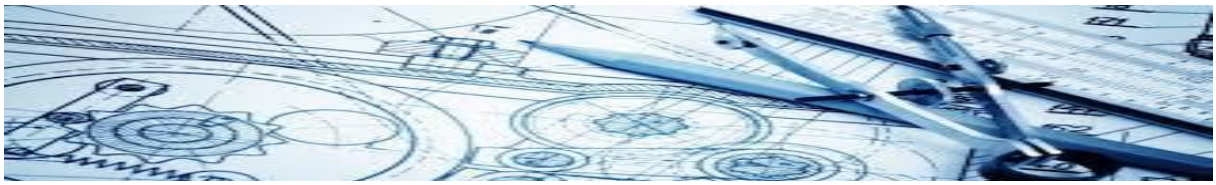
How is it assessed?

- There is a written examination, a practical test, and an assessment of student project work.

The examination at both higher and ordinary level has three separate components:
Section A Three hour written paper worth 300 marks. The exam consists of 10 questions, out of which five must be attempted. Question 1 is a compulsory drawing question of building detail.
Section B 4-hour practical woodwork exam where the student makes a small item out of timber under exam conditions. The exam normally takes place in May. This accounts for 150 marks.
Section C Building Project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project that they make. Ideally, this project must be completed by Christmas. This accounts for 150 marks.

Possible Careers: Building management, Architecture Civil Engineering,, carpentry, electrician, town planning, insurance claims, heating and ventilation and housing management.

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, understand the processes, safely use the skills and equipment to achieve objectives through practical work, and plan and develop technological projects.

A strong emphasis is placed on problem-solving, research and 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 J.C. and L.C.

Engineering is a continuation of the Metalwork course at the J.C. 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 J.C. Can I still study Engineering at L.C.?

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, Bench work, 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, Non-Ferrous Metals, Heat Treatment Of Metals, Corrosion of Metals, Materials Testing Plastics, Joining of Materials, Machining Metrology, Manufacturing Processes Technology.

How will I be assessed?

Theory: There is a theory paper in June.

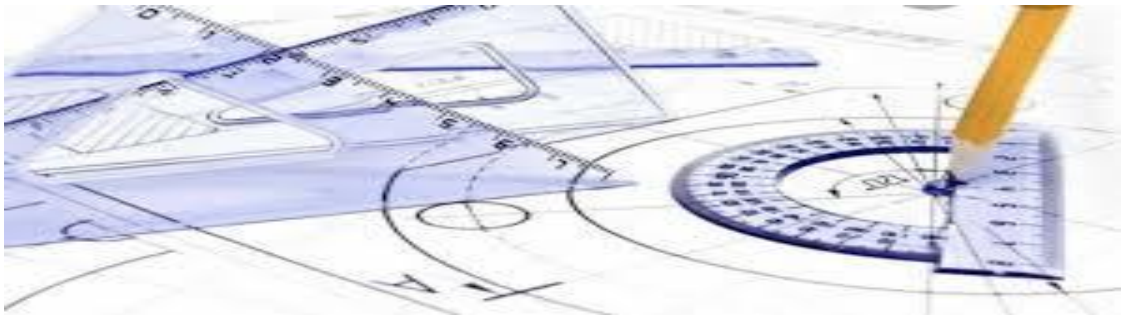
Project: The student has approximately 14 weeks to design and make a model to a given design brief set by the Department of Education.

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.

DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS



What is DCG?

DCG is the Leaving Certificate equivalent of Technical Graphics (T.G.). This course makes an immense contribution to the development of a student's cognitive and practical skills. The most important of these skills is to graphically communicate ideas and designs using various mediums, including computer-generated images, freehand drawing, and traditional instrument drawing. Students are developed in Graphic communication, creative problem solving, spatial abilities and visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics, and CAD modelling to enable this to happen.
Students' creative and decision-making capabilities in the design activities 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 needed in business and industry in Ireland today.

Why choose DCG?

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

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 a computer over twelve weeks during sixth year. It consists of completing a portfolio of drawings and making an electronic copy of the entire portfolio.

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.

2. The Science Group

Agricultural Science
Applied Maths
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Computer Science

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

What is Agricultural Science?
Agricultural Science is the study of 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 emphasise 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 it 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) and Grassland management.

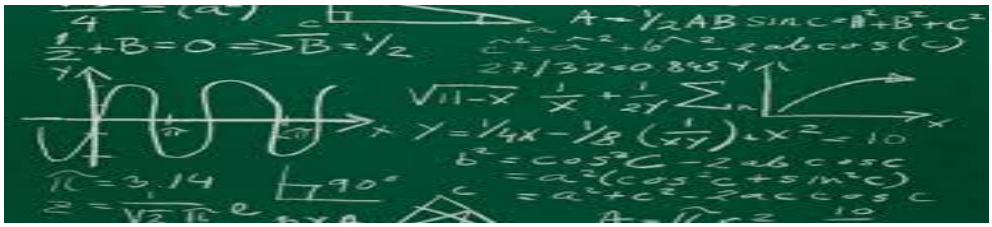
Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses
The content is similar but requires a greater depth of understanding & analysis.

How will I be assessed?
Written examination in June 75%
Coursework 25%
The coursework comprises a project (worth 10%) and an experiment book (worth 15%). The project involves studying one animal (sheep, dairy or beef) and two crops (potato and barley) production systems and includes some farm visits.

The student must also identify and detail information on ten animals related to agriculture and five weeds in their project folder and 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 in such careers as:
Agricultural, Engineering, Agricultural Inspector, Agricultural Officer, Agricultural Sales, Animal breeder, Animal Trainer, Botanist, Biologist, Butter-maker and Cheesemaker, Conservation, Creamery Manager, 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 an excellent subject for those with a flair for maths and a good physics grasp. Applied Maths is the study of the practical applications of mathematics to the real world and physical problems. It is typically associated with engineering and physics and finds use in economics, finance, business, environmental studies, and even chemistry and medicine.

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 employers highly value.

I did not study Higher Maths for my Junior Cycle. Can I still study Applied Maths at Senior Level?
Students taking Applied Maths should have studied Junior Cycle 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.

BIOLOGY

What is Biology?
Biology is the science of life. It is concerned with organisms' characteristics and behaviours, how species and individuals come into existence, and their interactions and environment.

Why Choose Biology?
Biology is the study of life. Students employ science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment through biology. They become more aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment

Differences between the J.C. and L.C.:
The Leaving Certificate course is a continuation of what is studied in the Junior Cycle.

I did not study Science at J.C. Can I still study it at L.C.? Challenging to take if you haven't studied Science at J.C.

What will I study?
The Cell – the study of biochemistry and genetics.
Botany – the study of plant life.
Zoology – the study of animal life.
Physiology – the study of systems of living creatures, including humans.
Ecology – the study of plants and animals in their environment.
A snapshot of the areas focused on in Biology includes 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 is divided based on the material covered, and the depth of detail studied. At Higher level, some topics are explored in more detail, and the final exam reflects this, although much of the material is similar. You are expected to have an excellent 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 two years. These are examined in the final exam and so can be prepared well in advance.

Recommendations/Tips

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good understanding of Junior Cycle Science at higher level.
- Each student must have an aptitude and interest in laboratory work.
- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject
- Biology is often perceived as an easier subject than Physics or Chemistry, but this is not so. There are high failure rates at ordinary level.

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, Wildlife Ranger, Zookeeper, Zoologist, Oceanographer.

CHEMISTRY

What is Chemistry?
Chemistry exists everywhere, not just in laboratories, but in every living thing on land and sea and in our bodies. Chemistry is often described as 'the central science' containing a lot of formulas.

What kind of student would Chemistry suit?

- If you enjoyed Junior Cycle Science and have done well in this, and in Maths, you should be a good candidate for Leaving Cert Chemistry.
- If you apply attention to detail and can describe the procedures of experiments and understand vocabulary.
- Students considering a career in any scientific discipline, such as chemistry, biology, environmental science, medicine, pharmacology, or material Science.

Recommendations/Tips

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the Chemistry course has a good understanding of Junior Cycle Science at higher level.
- Each student should have an aptitude for and an interest in laboratory work.
- A student would be expected to have a reasonable level of Junior Cycle Maths, either at higher or ordinary level

I didn't study Science at J.C. Can I still study it at L.C.? It is recommended that science is studied at Junior Cycle.

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.

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.

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 J.C. and L.C.?
L.C. Physics covers most of the same topics as J.C., but with more depth and more maths. You do not have to be doing higher Maths to do Physics, but an essential 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 the same, with some parts for higher-level only (e.g., derivations). Ordinary level questions are, of course, more straightforward! Higher & ordinary levels are taught together in 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 three questions from four.
Section B Answer any five long questions from eight.
The long questions in section B will include:
Definitions, Knowledge and 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) 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, Biophysicist, 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

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What is Computer Science?
Computer science is the study of computing and algorithmic processes. Leaving Certificate Computer Science includes how programming and computational thinking can be applied to problems and how computing technology impacts the world around us.

What subjects will I study?
Computational Thinking, Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, Abstraction, Embedded Systems, Computer systems, Design Process, Web Design, Information Systems, Modelling, Debugging, the Internet.

What is the format of the exam?
There are two assessment components at each level, an end-of-course examination (70%) and coursework (30%).

Component	Percentage
End-of-course examination Computer-based assessment of learning outcomes	70
Coursework assessment One computational artefact with report	30
Total	100

What careers options are there?
Programmer, software designer, web design, Information technology, troubleshooting, systems analyst, graphic designer, software engineer, a hardware engineer.

What type of student would enjoy Computer Science?

- Students who will gain the most are those who enjoy creating applications with computers. Examples include working with design software, programming languages, database software, video game creation programs or computer hardware.
- More broadly, the course should benefit any students with a strong interest in how computers work, solve problems logically, or affect society.

3. Artistic & Creative Group

Art Music

ART

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

Why Choose Art?
A student who demonstrates 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 artwork ideas. Students will use various 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 natural and built environment's visual characteristics and explain the visual arts' social, cultural, psychological and environmental dimensions.

Differences between the J.C. and LC
Junior Cycle Art includes many of the same disciplines as Leaving Cert, but the assessment is different. J.C. students experienced several art disciplines and learned various art skills to improve their competence in the physical aspect of the subject and appreciate each area's aesthetics. Junior Cycle is a continually assessed project. Leaving Cert Art develops these skillsfurther, 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 various crafts. There is more of an emphasis on Art History, which makes up 37.5 % of the overall mark.

I did not study Art at J.C. Can I still study it at L.C.?
A certain standard and proficiency in all aspects of Art, Craft and Design are required to study the Leaving Cert Level subject. Students who do not study Art at Junior Cycle. will find it hard to pick it up at L.C., 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 is 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 maintain a consistent level through classwork 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.

MUSIC

What is 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 our society's social fabric.
Students who enjoy music, play an instrument or sing, and wish to develop and stretch their musical knowledge and skills will like this course.

Why Study Music

- Students can get up to 50 per cent of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent before they even sit the written paper
- In music, you can develop your talent and knowledge in this area and continue your studies in a wide range of colleges.

I did not study Music at J.C. Can I still study it at L.C.?
It is possible to take up Music at L.C., not having studied it at J.C. However, such students would usually have a lot of involvement in music outside of school. Skills from J.C., particularly those in music literacy, would have to be caught up on.

What will I study?
The course consists of three main components: (1) Composing (2) Listening (3) Performance
Ordinary level
Students will choose one of the three activities to represent 50 per cent, e.g.

- Performing 50% Composing 25% Listening 25%
- Performing 25% Composing 50% Listening 25%
- Performing 25% Composing 25% Listening 50%
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Higher-level
Students will undertake additional studies (a Higher-level elective in one of the three activities, e.g., Performing 25% Composing 25% Listening 25% + One Higher level elective 25%.
This will allow Ordinary and Higher-level students to gain up to 50 per cent of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent.

Musical Performance:
As mentioned above, you can choose to designate 50% of your assessment to musical performance. If you select this option, you have a few further options open to you:

Perform six pieces of music on one instrument.
Or you can be examined on two instruments. If you choose this option, you are required to perform four pieces of music on each instrument.
Or you can choose to perform four pieces of music (25%) and be examined in Music Technology (25%). Music Technology involves inputting music into a software package on the computer and performing music edits on it, e.g., add dynamics or tempo markings to transpose the music. If you are good at computers, this could be an excellent option for you.

Exam Structure:
Listening **Paper**
Examined in June of 6th year
90 minutes duration
Four set works, Irish music and general listening skills.
Composition **Paper**
Examined in June of 6th year
90 minutes duration
Melody writing and harmony
Performance
Examined in April of 6th year
Candidates may perform as a soloist or as part of a group, or both.
Ordinary Level: 2 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test.
Higher Level: 3 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test
OR 2 pieces on each of two instruments and one unprepared test

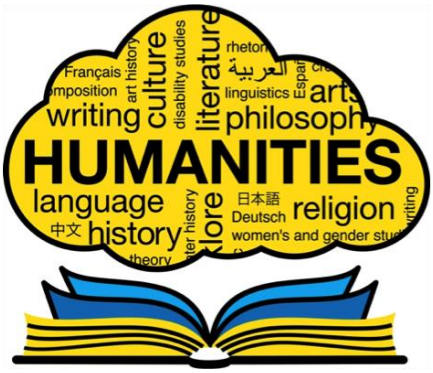
Electives for an extra 25%:

Higher Level only Each candidate must choose one of the above components to study for this extra credit. The majority tend to opt for a Performance elective.
Listening Elective: The candidate must work on a music project throughout 5th and 6th year. They must submit some work to the State Examinations Commission and sit an extra written paper in June.
Composition Elective: The candidate must undertake a large scale composition to be submitted to the Examinations Commission in their final year.
Performance Elective: This involves a more substantial performance during the examination period in April of 6th year.

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.

4. Humanities Group



French History Spanish

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 travel opportunities, and as France is an E.U. member, your business opportunities are more significant with French. Many courses in the NUI Universities require a third language, and French fulfils this requirement.

Differences between the J.C. and L.C.
The French course is a continuation of the Junior Cycle 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 J.C. Can I still study it at L.C.?
French would be extremely difficult to take up as a new subject in 5th year if it was not taken at Junior Cycle 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 four primary 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 NUI Universities courses require a foreign language at leaving Cert, and French fulfils this requirement.

HISTORY

What is History?
When we undertake to study history, we are dealing with human life experiences in the past. Our study involves an investigation of evidence that has survived to this day concerning events and individuals of the past. Students will become familiar with human experiences, which are often very different from their own. The student of history will gain insight into other ways of life and thinking. By coming into contact with past experiences, the student will gain valuable insight into the roots of his/her own identity and the traditions he/she has inherited.

Why Choose History?
What kind of student might History suit?

- Students who enjoy and appreciate history and would like to improve their knowledge.
- Students who are willing to commit a lot of time; History is a demanding subject.
- Students who have strong English language skills and can write critically.
- Students who are aiming to improve their self-discipline and research skills.

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

- An interest in the subject is vital; some students choose it because they like nothing else on the Subject Line.
- Good knowledge of English, and the ability to write and an interest in current affairs is essential.
- Self-discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general.
- Leaving Certificate History is demanding, and some students find out too late to their cost that they cannot cope and drop out.
- Suppose History is a subject that you like, and you have the ability, discipline, and work ethic to do well in it but is not related to the course you want to pursue at Third Level. In that case, you should consider doing it because it will get you the required points to get the Third Level course that you want.

Exam Structure:
The History exam will last 2 hours 50 minutes, and pupils will answer the document-based study and three essays (one from each topic studied).
Ordinary level students follow an identical course, with a different emphasis on the way questions are asked on exam papers.
The assessment consists of two components: A written examination paper (80%) and A research study report (20%) submitted around Easter before the June exam.

How will I be assessed?
20% of the marks go for the Research Study 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.

SPANISH

What is Spanish?

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

Why choose Spanish?
The ability to communicate in Spanish is a beneficial life skill. Being able to speak Spanish brings a whole world of opportunity. Spanish is the official language in 27 countries and is spoken in many parts of the world. It is also the second language of the USA.
Employers like employees with strong language skills and 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, I.T. -localisation of software products. Many courses in the NUI Universities require a third language; Spanish fulfils this requirement.

Differences between the J.C. and L.C.
Leaving Cert Spanish is a natural progression from Junior Cycle. The basics of the language from Junior Cycle are built on, and 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 students to communicate on various topics.
Written work: This progresses from the basics of a letter at Junior Cycle 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.

What will I study?
The Leaving Certificate course covers current affairs, youth, health, technology, leisure, literature, art, and many more in-depth studies of topics already covered, such as self, family, and home.
Higher Level students may also study a novel.
The four skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking will be developed through these areas' study.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses.
The topics covered are the same for both Higher and Ordinary levels, except for 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

Social Group

Geography Home Economics S&S
Physical Education.

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 is 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, develops a range of skills, and gets out of the classroom. Leaving Certificate Geography is also an accessible subject for most students and builds on the work carried out in J.C.

What are the differences between Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Geography?
Leaving Certificate Geography is not a continuation of the J.C. 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 is an alternate manner.

What will I study?

The Leaving Certificate Geography course is divided into different sections. The course has three Core Units that all students must study.
Core Unit One – Physical Geography -
Core Unit Two – Regional Geography –
Core Unit Three – Geographic Investigation and Skills -

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 that 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 long 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.

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 linked to Home Economics is vast, so it is beneficial to many students.
I did not study Home Economics at J.C. Can I still study it at L.C.?

As the course is a continuation of J.C., it is recommended that students have studied Home Economics at J.C. 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
For the most part, the course material is common, but some material must be studied at a 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 projects 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 crucial part of the course is carried out in 5th year (as detailed above), it is vital 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.

Physical Education: NEW

What is Physical Education?
Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) is an optional subject in Bush Post Primary. You will have three lessons per week, two theory and one practical. Students who decide to study LCPE are typically those who enjoy sport and who want to learn more about the theory underpinning performance in physical activity. They also will learn how to improve their own performance.

Why choose Physical Education?

The Physical Education course features theoretical and practical sections. The two sections are interlinked, with the theoretical section's knowledge enabling the student to improve his/her performance in the practical assessments.
In the theoretical section, students will study the factors that impact physical performance, the relationship between sport and society and examine the benefits of participation in physical activity. The topics studied are varied; they include learning how to maintain fitness, nutrition, develop skills, the ethics of sport and the promotion of active lifestyles.
In the physical section, students will be assessed on their skill level in three activities. A wide range of physical activities can be selected, such as football, rugby, sailing, swimming, dance, running, and weight training. Students will then work on improving their preparation, participation and performance in their chosen activity.

What will I study?
Biomechanics, Skill Acquisition, Health and Performance Related Fitness, Diet & Nutrition, Diet & Nutrition, Planning for Performance, Ethics and Fair Play, Technology Media and Sport, Gender in Physical Activity, Business and Enterprise in Sport, Physical Activity and Inclusion, Physical Activity Participation.

How will I be assessed?
Students will be assessed in three ways,

- Written examination, worth 50% and which will have higher and ordinary level versions
- Physical activity project, worth 20% and which will have higher and ordinary level versions
- Performance assessment, worth 30% with common format for both higher and ordinary level.

Physical education is useful for such careers as:
Physiotherapist, P.E teacher, Coaching, Health promotion, Personal trainer, professional athlete, strength and conditioning, nutritionist, sports science.

Business Group

Accounting Business
LCVP Link Modules

ACCOUNTING

What is accounting?

Leaving Certificate accounting provides students with the knowledge, understanding and financial management skills necessary for managing personal and basic company accounts. The learning experiences in Accounting develop students' organisational skills, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for their future life, work and study. It also develops their numeracy skills within the context of business and enterprise.

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 Cycle 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 individuals' ever-increasing involvement in running clubs, societies, and businesses of all types. Those who achieved well in higher-level J.C. Business Studies will enjoy Accounting.

Differences between the J.C. and L.C.

The Business Studies Syllabus at Junior Certificate Level provided students with 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 J.C. but in greater depth.

I did not study Business Studies for my Junior Cycle. 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 Cycle 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 Cycle 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.

Differences between the Higher and Ordinary level courses:
The content is similar to some different topics for a higher level, requiring a greater depth of understanding & analysis.

How will I be assessed? There is one final written exam.

Accounting is useful in 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.

BUSINESS

What is Business?
The L.C. Business course is an enjoyable, informative course about the world of business and the people affected by how it is run. It covers business activity on a national and global basis.

Why Study Business
Business is not specifically required for entry into any third level course. Still, it would undoubtedly be beneficial for candidates who might be interested in courses or careers in the area of finance, enterprise, law, and communications.

What kind of student would business suit?
Business will suit a candidate interested in current affairs, listens to the news, reads the papers, and stays alert to what is happening in the general business world. While business concepts are easy to understand, it will be essential to show that you can apply them to everyday business life.
This subject suits someone who has an organised mind and likes to answer questions in bullet points rather than in a long essay format.
This subject would be useful to anyone thinking of starting his or her own business in the future.

Recommendations/Tips/Comments

- The subject is suited to students who are willing to work hard and caters for all abilities.
- Students do not need to have studied Junior Cycle Business Studies, but this would be a help.
- Not necessary to write long essays; answers are presented in bullet points.
- Course content is factual and requires a lot of learning, containing only a few mathematical elements.
- Ideally, students would be interested in business and current affairs and have up-to-date knowledge of the economic environment.
- An organised and consistent attitude to homework and study would be essential in this subject.

What will I study?
Unit 1 People in Business – Those people affected by how a business is run, e.g. consumers and employees. How employees & consumers can deal with problems, e.g., buying faulty goods, unfair dismissal.
Unit 2 Entrepreneurs- The people who come up with a business idea, e.g., Richard Branson "Virgin Atlantic".
Unit 3 Management skills & activities-
Unit 4 Human Resource Management - Changing role of management, monitoring the success of a company's business, insurance, tax & finance.
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 a business in your community. Conflict between business & society.
Unit 7 - Ireland's relationship with the world, the European Union & global businesses.

Difference between Ordinary Level & Higher Level:
You need to know the entire course/ book at Ordinary level and are asked for definitions, examples & points in the 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)
Ten short questions – answer 8 (80 marks) 20% Applied Business Question – A case study about a business or entrepreneur. You must put in theory about a topic & relate it to a 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, Stockbroking, Sales, Marketing, Merchandising, Customs and Exercise, Taxation Law.

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. They may run a business or a fundraising event.
Students will word process all documents, send and receive emails and conduct online research. They will prepare for an interview and also complete 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

SUMMARY

After choosing your essential subjects, select 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 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 vital 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, and Minimum Subject Requirements. This will give you a list of all courses, e.g., requiring a third language or, e.g. Chemistry.

After the Leaving Certificate Options- What next?

This section deals with College Entry requirements, The Points system and options after leaving school. This information is intended to inform parents of choices available to students following the Leaving Certificate Programme completion.

There are three requirements to meet for college entry.
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 (NUI) colleges listed below, a **third language** should be among your chosen subjects.
University College Dublin (UCD.)

University College Cork (UCC.)
NUI. Galway (UCG.)
NUI. Maynooth
RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons)
National College of Art & Design (NCAD)*
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 place 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 (TCD) and the University of Limerick (U.L.) require Maths, English and Irish **or** a third language. Dublin City University (DCU) requires Maths and either English or Irish.
It is important to note that there is a wide variety of degree & other courses available that do not require a third language if you have Maths & English or Irish.

Subject requirements

Once you have the essential core subjects of English, Irish and Maths (and a third language for many courses at NUI colleges), there are relatively few courses that have specific subject requirements.
Many Engineering/Computer Science Level 8 Degrees need Higher Maths. Still, 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 I.T.'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 a 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, except for 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 number of points awarded 625.

LCVP – 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 LCVP is an acceptable subject for the particular course they are applying for.

Options after leaving school

Most 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-
(NUI.) - 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
Queens University
St Marys 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.

Technological Universities / Institutes of Technology

The institutes of technology have amalgamated to form new centres of excellence under the collective of **Technological Universities.** These include Technical University Dublin, TUD, South-East Technical University, SETU, Munster Technological University, MTU, Technological University of the Shannon, TUS and Atlantic Technological University, ATU. Dundalk Institute of Technology, DKIT and the Institute of Design Technology, IADT have to date not joined with a Technological University.
Both the TUs and the ITs 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. 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 any courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science or veterinary medicine must be made by the 15th of October in the year before starting university. Many medical-related and nursing courses in the north come with a bursary meaning students forego the fees (typically 5,000 sterling)

Some students may wish to explore the opportunity to study in Europe. There are many courses taught through English at highly ranked universities, and fees are generally lower than in 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 you must have five passes at Ordinary Level in the Leaving Certificate and attend a selection interview to qualify. 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 do not get enough points for your CAO course choices. The FETAC links scheme allows you 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. Upon successfully completing the apprenticeship, you will receive a National Craft Certificate, recognised in Ireland and other E.U. 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. The apprenticeship consists of 7 stages of training, both on-the-job with your employer and off the job in a Training Centre or Educational College. The standard duration of an apprenticeship is four years. 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 Cyclee. However, many employers look for a 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 U.K. 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 J.C. & L.C. 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 that 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 that offers places on a reduced-point basis to school leavers with disabilities.
www.susi.ie Student finance & information on grants for college