

Senior Cycle Options

For September 2018, this school is offering the Established Leaving Certificate to 5th year students. Questions about this programme can be addressed to the Guidance Counsellors, Mr. Hutton or Ms. Dooley and / or the Principal, Mr. Gaughran.

Established Leaving Cert. **Subject Choice**

At Leaving Cert. examination level, students normally study seven subjects. For state examinations, they study

- a) *Irish, English and Maths* (the core / compulsory subjects)
- b) and *four other subjects* of their choosing (options).

Choosing subjects for the *Leaving Cert.* programme is both a simple exercise and a very important one. Base your choice on the following guidelines:

- a) **You must have a keen interest in the subject.**
If your talent is in the area of Science, choose one or two Science subjects. The same applies for subjects in the languages, social studies, business studies and applied science groupings (Refer to the Chart below).
- b) **You should choose subjects that give you the best chance of achieving high grades.**
- c) **You should choose subjects from a few different groupings. In this way, you can keep your various career options open.**

REMEMBER: *You must choose four option subjects to study along with the core / compulsory subjects of Irish, English and Maths.*

Leaving Certificate Subjects

Leaving Certificate Subjects are grouped as follows:

<i>Language Group:</i> <i>Compulsory: Irish and English</i> <i>Options: French and German.</i>	<i>Science Group:</i> <i>Compulsory: Mathematics</i> <i>Options: Agricultural Science, Biology;</i> <i>Chemistry and Physics.</i>
<i>Social Studies Group:</i> <i>Art (including Crafts); Geography</i> <i>and History.</i>	<i>Business Studies Group:</i> <i>Accounting and Business.</i>
<i>Applied Science Group:</i> <i>Construction Studies; Engineering; Home Economics (Social & Scientific); Design and</i> <i>Communications Graphics (formerly known as Technical Drawing) and Music.</i>	

The following pages give a brief account of the type of courses provided in the subjects on offer in the school.

Language Group

One of the most important decisions students have to make is whether or not to do a language. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of students choose to study a language, as having a language will lead to greater career choices in the years ahead.

Subject Name: French

What does French involve?

Oral Component – comprising of general conversation.

Aural Test

Written Paper – 2 comprehensions, one of which will be a journalistic comprehension, the other will be a literary piece. There will be questions to be answered in both French and English. There are, also, three short 75 word questions to be answered.

What do you study in French?

Vocabulary / Idiomatic Expressions;

Cultural aspects of France;

General conversation in preparation for the oral exam;

Grammar;

Previous Leaving Cert. exam questions.

How do you benefit by studying French?

You learn:

To communicate in French;

To express yourself orally and to write competently in French;

About the culture of France, about its people, its regions and its food;

How to recognise the various grammatical aspects of the language;

Listening skills.

How is French assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam? If there are oral and / or practical components, when are they assessed?

Oral Exam – 25% for Higher level / 20% for Ordinary level - in April of Leaving Cert. year – 15 – 20 minutes duration.

Aural Exam – 20% for Higher level / 25% for Ordinary level – on the day of the Leaving Cert. exam – 40 minutes duration.

Written Paper – 2 Comprehensions – 30% for Higher level / 4 Comprehensions - 40% for Ordinary level; Short essay style questions - 25% for Higher level / 15% for Ordinary level; Form filling, gap test, messages, postcards, diary entry, formal letter – Have to complete 2 from a choice of 6.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate French

The French course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Business and French, European Studies, Languages (French) and Marketing, Administration, Personnel, Civil Service, Journalism, Broadcasting, Publishing, Tourism and Hotel Sectors, etc.

Also, a continental European language is a requirement for certain universities, e.g. N.U.I. Colleges, Cork, Dublin, Galway and Maynooth, as well as for certain courses in both the universities and the institutes of technology.

Additional Considerations

It is not advisable to take up French for the Leaving Cert. without having studied it for the Junior Cert. Students who wish to study Higher Level French for the Leaving Cert. must have studied Higher Level in the Junior Cert., and, in almost all cases, achieved a minimum of a grade C.

Subject Name: German

What does German involve?

Oral Component – 25% for Higher Level / 20% for Ordinary Level – comprising of general conversation, role plays and a choice between a picture story or project.

Aural Component - 20% for Higher Level / 25% for Ordinary Level.

Written Exam – 2 comprehensions – journalistic and literary – some questions to be answered in German (Ordinary Level – 3 reading comprehensions). Knowledge of grammar is, also, tested here. There are two short essay style questions to be answered, 1 x 100 words and 1 x 160 words. You must complete two from a choice of four. At Ordinary level, there are two written tasks to be answered, 1 x 80 - 100 words and 1 x 25 - 30 words. You must complete two from a choice of four.

What do you study in German?

Textbook –Deutsch Komplet

Vocabulary / Idiomatic sayings.

General conversation in preparation for the oral exam;

Grammar;

Previous Leaving Cert. exam questions.

Cultural aspects of Germany.

How do you benefit by studying German?

You can express yourself competently in a variety of situations.

You can express yourself orally.

You develop your listening skills.

You acquire a broad cultural understanding of Germany.

How is German assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam? If there are oral and / or practical components, when are they assessed?

Oral Exam – 25% for Higher level / 20% for Ordinary level - in April of Leaving Cert. year – 15 – 20 minutes duration.

Aural Exam – 20% for Higher level / 25% for Ordinary level – on the day of the Leaving Cert. exam – 40 minutes duration.

Written Paper – 55% for Higher level / 45% for Ordinary Level

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate German

The German course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Administration, Business, Commerce, Business and German, Civil Service, Commerce and German, Customer Support, German, German Teaching, Interpreter, Journalism, Law and German, Telesales, Tourism and Hotel Sectors, Translator, etc.

Also, a continental European language is a requirement for certain universities, e.g. N.U.I. Colleges, U.C.D., U.C.C., U.C.G. and Maynooth, as well as for certain courses in both the universities and the institutes of technology.

Additional Considerations

It is not advisable to take up German for the Leaving Cert. without having studied it for the Junior Cert.

Science Group

Subject Name: Agricultural Science

What does Agricultural Science involve?

Agricultural Science involves the application of known scientific principles to the production of food and fibre for human use. The basic agricultural resource, soil, is farmed to produce these commodities. This is done either directly (as with wheat, potatoes and forest products) or indirectly (as in meat, milk and wool).

Agricultural science provides students with a broad knowledge of agriculture relating to crops and animals. Students will gain knowledge of the principles underpinning crop and animal production including physiology, genetics and management. It also develops an understanding of the science of soil and how its properties effect plant growth.

What do you study in Agricultural Science?

The main areas of study are:

- Soils
- Fertilizers and Manures
- Plant Science
- Cultivation of Tillage Crops

- Grassland
- Forestry
- Genetics
- Animal Physiology
- Animal Production
- Agricultural and the Environment

How do you benefit by studying Agricultural Science?

The study of Agricultural Science:

- Gives students a broad understanding of the scientific principles behind Irish Agriculture
- Develops a basic understanding of biological facts and principles
- Encourages students to work on their own initiative
- Educates students in the process and completion of scientific investigations
- Provides knowledge of the biological processes and practical procedures in the cultivation of crops
- Gives students an understanding of the growth and development of farm animals, how they function and of animal behaviour and welfare.

How is Agricultural Science assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam? If there are oral and / or practical components, when are they assessed?

The examination in Agricultural Science consists of:

- 1) A written examination (75%)
- 2) An assessment of the work of the candidate during the course (25%)

Marks are awarded for this under the following headings:

- a. Identification of plant and animal types associated with agriculture
- b. Practical experience with crops, livestock, house and farmyard layout
- c. Investigations carried out relating to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics and microbiology

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science

The Agricultural Science course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level. Agriculture and food is an important industry in Ireland. Currently farmers make up almost 7% of the workforce. When employment in inputs, processing and marketing is included, the agri-food sector accounts for almost 10% of employment.

Some related third level Courses

Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Science, Forestry, Veterinary, Equine Studies, Food Science

It is accepted as a laboratory science subject in all third level colleges in Ireland, though may not meet special course requirements where a specific science subject is requested.

Subject Name: Biology

What does Biology involve?

Biology is the study of life and living organisms. Through the study of Biology, students employ the processes of science in their investigations and explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships 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 doing so, students gain an insight into the uniqueness, function and role of organisms, including themselves.

What do you study in Biology?

The main areas of study are:

1. Botany (or Plant Science) – the study of Plants;
2. Zoology – the study of Animals;
3. Microbiology – micro-organisms (Bacteria, Fungi and Viruses);
4. Biochemistry – the internal chemical processes and activities of Plants and Animals;
5. Human Biology – the study of human systems: blood, nerves, skeleton, digestion, excretion, respiration (breathing) and reproduction;
6. Ecology – plants and animals in relation to their environment;
7. Genetics – the study of inheritance, how characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring.

How do you benefit by studying Biology?

The study of Biology

1. Contributes to general education through involvement in the process of scientific investigation and the acquisition of biological knowledge and understanding;
2. Encourages in students an attitude of scientific enquiry, curiosity and self-discovery through a) individual study and personal initiative; b) team work and c) class-directed work;
3. Develops an understanding of biological facts and principles;
4. Creates an awareness of the application of biological knowledge to modern society in personal, social, economic, environmental, industrial, agricultural, medical, waste management and other technological contexts;
5. Develops in students an ability to make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues.

How is Biology assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam? If there are oral and / or practical components, when are they assessed?

Leaving Cert. Biology is assessed by a written exam in June of 6th year. All material is examined. Practical work is an integral part of the syllabus. A practical assessment may be introduced as part of the overall exam at a later stage.

Ordinary and Higher level courses are differentiated on the basis of the range of topics covered (the Higher level course is longer and includes more topics) and the depth of treatment (the Ordinary level course provides an overview of Biology and its application

to everyday life, while, at Higher level, a deeper and more quantitative treatment of Biology is required).

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Biology

The Biology course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Possible Career Opportunities

Biology is required for the following courses:

Dental Hygiene course in N.U.I. Cork;

Home Economics Teacher Training in St. Angela's College, Sligo, if Biology is to be taken as an elective subject;

Arts Degree course in N.U.I. Maynooth, if Biology is to be taken as one of the subjects.

It is advisable to take Biology if considering a career in Nursing / Beauty Therapy.

Biology is useful for careers in Agriculture, Dentistry, Education, Environmental Science / Health, Engineering, Medicine, Oceanography, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Quality Control, etc.

Subject Name: Chemistry

What does Chemistry involve?

Chemistry is concerned with substances that make up our world and how these substances change during chemical reactions to form new substances. For example, chemists manufacture products such as medicines, plastics, paints, fertilisers, synthetic clothes, shampoo, etc. Many substances formed or synthesised are used to keep us healthy, such as antiseptics (e.g. TCP), antibiotics (e.g. penicillin) and painkillers (e.g. aspirin).

What do you study in Chemistry?

The Chemistry syllabus is practically and experimentally based. This is emphasised by the specification of mandatory experiments (28 at Higher level and 21 at Ordinary level). Additional experiments and demonstrations are, also, carried out throughout the course.

Course Content

1. Periodic Table, Atomic Structure, Chemical Bonding (the emphasis is on social and applied aspects).
2. Organic Chemistry – for example, properties and synthesis of organic compounds, such as preparation of soap, preparation of ethanoic acid (vinegar), extraction of clove oil from cloves, etc.
3. Volumetric Analysis – for example, determination of the amount of iron sulphate in iron tablets; determination of the amount of chlorine in samples of swimming pool water, determination of amount of water crystallisation in washing soda, etc.
4. Environmental Chemistry – Water and sewage treatment, testing samples of water for pollution levels, determining the amount of hardness in water samples.
5. Atmospheric Chemistry – Study of CFC's, ozone layer, global warming, greenhouse effect.

6. Industrial Chemistry – Deals with the study and manufacture of medicines, plastics and many chemicals. A Case Study is carried out on a chemical plant. Students may make a site visit to the chemical plant.

Other parts of the course include Acids and Bases, Thermochemistry, Rates of reaction, Chemical equilibrium and Instrumentation.

How do you benefit by studying Chemistry?

You learn:

1. To develop skills of observation, analysis, evaluation, communication and problem solving;
2. To develop skills in laboratory procedures, by using suitable apparatus, interpreting experimental data and assessing results;
3. To develop an appreciation of scientific method, solving problems / calculations;
4. To write reports on experimental procedures and results in a concise and accurate manner.

How is Chemistry assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

All material on the syllabus is examinable. Practical work is an integral part of the study of chemistry and it is assessed through the written exam paper. A laboratory notebook is used to record the mandatory experiments carried out. This laboratory notebook must be retained for the full period of the course.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Chemistry

The Chemistry course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

The chemical industry is of immense importance to the Irish economy. Sixteen of the world's top twenty pharmaceutical and healthcare companies have plants here in Ireland and the chemical industry workforce is currently about 23,000 people, about half of whom are graduates. 32% of all Irish manufactured exports are chemical exports.

Chemistry graduates are, also, actively recruited into the business and financial world by employers, who recognise the value of their strongly quantitative qualifications.

Possible Career Opportunities

Chemistry is required for the following courses:

Human Nutrition at D.I.T.;

Veterinary Science in N.U.I. Dublin;

Dentistry and Medicine in N.U.I. Cork and

Pharmacy in Trinity College, Dublin and N.U.I., Cork.

Chemistry is useful for careers in Agriculture, Biomedical Science, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Environmental Science / Health, Medicine, Nursing, the Food and Pharmaceutical Industries, Medical Laboratory Science, etc.

Additional Considerations

A minimum of grade C in Higher level Science at Junior Cert. level would be required for Higher Level Leaving Cert. Chemistry. For Ordinary Level Chemistry, students should have demonstrated a reasonable ability in Junior Cert. Science. Students should be reasonably good at calculations if they wish to study Leaving Cert. Chemistry (especially Higher level Chemistry).

Subject Name: Physics

What does Physics involve?

Physics explains how and why things in our world and, indeed, in our universe behave as they do. Physics is fundamentally concerned with energy and matter and the way energy can change from one form to another. It solves problems from the microscopic (very small) to the macroscopic (very large), from the splitting of the atom to the expansion of the universe.

What do you study in Physics?

Optics: light, mirrors, lenses, periscopes, microscopes, use of lasers, reflection and refraction;

Sound: measuring the speed of sound, the lowest and highest sounds the human ear can hear;

Mechanics: force, momentum, velocity and acceleration and experiments to test these;

Heat and temperature: electricity and magnetism and their effects as well as heating, magnetic and chemical effects of the above;

Radioactivity and Nuclear Energy: nuclear reactors and the atomic bomb.

How do you benefit by studying Physics?

You learn:

How to design and write up experiments;

To use mathematics and computers in real life situations;

To observe events and think up new theories explaining them.

The aims and objectives of the Physics syllabus provide a clear specification of the ethos of the syllabus. The syllabus emphasises the experimental nature of Physics and its applications.

Pure Science – 70%

Applications of Science – 22.5%

Science for Citizens (Everyday Physics) – 7.5 %

Examples relevant to the lives of all students are included wherever possible, as Physics contributes to a broad balanced education.

How is Physics assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

One exam paper – 3 hours long

Section A: Answer 3 questions out of the 4 given / 30% of the overall mark / This section examines the 28 mandatory experiments carried out by students during the two year course.

Section B: Answer 5 questions out of the 8 given / 70% of the overall mark / This section examines students' knowledge and understanding of the rest of the course.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Physics

The Physics course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Medical Physics, Radiography, Software Development, Fibre Optics Engineering, Semiconductor Physics (Electronics), Aerospace, Meteorologist, Telecommunications, Environmental Monitoring, Sensor Development, etc.

Additional Considerations

Those students who wish to study and achieve high grades in Leaving Cert. Physics should apply themselves fully to the Junior Cert. Science course and should be competent in manipulation of formulae and basic mathematical skills.

Social Studies Group

Subject Name: Art

What does Art involve?

The practical components of Art, i.e. Life Drawing, Craftwork, Still Life and Imaginative Composition involve the five art elements: Line, Shape, Colour, Texture and Form. The academic section (Art History) deals with art and architecture from the past in Ireland and Europe. It, also, involves an appreciation of the world around us, namely, buildings, graphic design, product design, art exhibitions, television and video productions.

What do you study in Art?

- a) Art History: Irish Art and Architecture;
European Art and Architecture;
General Appreciation.
- b) Life Drawing: The study of the human face and anatomy.
- c) Craftwork: Students study a range of craft options, e.g. pottery, poster design, Lino painting and batik, during the two year course. Students select only one option to specialise in for the Leaving Certificate exam.
- d) Still Life or Imaginative Composition: Students gain experience in both of these areas and specialise in one for the Leaving Cert. exam.

Still Life: An arrangement of inanimate objects for interpretation by the student. Students may use any media, e.g. paint, collage, oil, pastels, etc., to create a piece of work based on the arrangement.

Imaginative Composition: Students create a picture based on a given theme. Any media may be used.

How do you benefit by studying Art?

You learn an appreciation for the visual world and develop your unique interpretation of it. The study of Art teaches you skills in observation, use of materials and design. It affords you the opportunity to express yourself and to develop your creativity. By looking to works of the past, you learn how the world of art, craft and design evolved to the present day.

How is Art assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam? If there are oral and / or practical components, when are they assessed?

- a) Art Still Life and Craft / Design: 200 marks assigned to coursework component – Classroom Based Coursework of 30 hours spread over a ten week period (January – March of 6th Year) / 50%
- b) Art Life Drawing: Practical Exam in early May of Leaving Cert. year / 1 hour duration / 12.5%.
- c) Art History: Written exam with 3 Sections (Irish; European and General Appreciation) in June during Leaving Cert. exams / 2 and a half hours duration / 37.5%.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Art

The Art course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Possible Career Opportunities

Art is useful for careers in Advertising, Antiques, Art Teaching, Architecture, Book binding, Crafts, Environmental Design, Fashion, Floristry, Furniture, Gallery and Museum Work, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Marketing, Merchandising, Painting and Decorating, Occupational Therapy, Photography, Picture Restoration, Primary School Teaching, Printing and Publishing, Sculpting, Television, Textile Design, Theatre and Video Production.

Some Related Third Level Courses

There are a number of specialised art colleges in the country, e.g. National College of Art & Design in Dublin (N.C.A.D.) and Cork Institute of Technology. Most Institutes of Technology have art courses, also. In most colleges, the first year of study is a foundation year and it is only in the second year that students specialise into the following areas: Fine Art (painting and sculpture), Craft (ceramics, glass and metalwork), Textiles (weaving, embroidery or fabric printing), Fashion Design, Industrial Design or Graphic Design. Art is, also, useful for the study of architecture. Further studies of art history can be taken at some universities as part of an Arts course.

Additional Considerations

Students have taken up Art in the past without having studied it at Junior Cert. level. Many students who have done this have achieved high grades in both ordinary and higher levels in the Leaving Cert. If you are interested in doing this, you should consult with the Art teacher well in advance of selecting options for the senior cycle. You should bring with you a selection of artwork that you have produced and, perhaps, some written assignments in history.

Subject Name: Geography

What does Geography involve?

Through the study of Geography at Leaving Cert. level, students develop an understanding of their world. They develop valuable insights about the earth (Physical Geography), its people (Social and Economic Geography) and the different relationships that occur between them. Leaving Certificate Geography is skills orientated: the Geography Investigation (Fieldwork) is now a compulsory exam question.

What do you study in Geography?

In the new Geography syllabus, there are Core, Elective and Optional Units.

- Core Units: Studied by all students:
 - a) Physical Geography;
 - b) Regional Geography and
 - c) Geographical Investigation (Fieldwork).
- Elective Units: One of the following:
 - a) Economic Geography or
 - b) Human Geography (Population and Settlement).
- Optional Units: Higher Level students study one of the following:
 - a) Global Interdependence;
 - b) Geoecology;
 - c) Culture and Identity;
 - d) The Atmosphere – ocean environment.

How do you benefit by studying Geography?

- Through the study of Geography, students will develop geographical skills that will help them make more informed judgements about issues at local, national and international levels.
- Geography students will learn to appreciate the major issues facing our planet, rapidly growing population, increasing demands on resources and growing levels of pollution.
- Geography students will learn to recognise and be sensitive other peoples and their cultures, here in Ireland and elsewhere.
- Geography students will develop a variety of geographical skills that can be applied to the world of work and many aspects of life.

How is Geography assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

Assessment in Leaving Cert. Geography takes the form of a terminal written exam and a report on the geographical investigation.

Written Exam – 80%

Report on Geographical Investigation – 20%

The Report on the Geographical Investigation will be assessed outside of the written exam.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Geography

The Geography course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Agriculture, Cartography, Environmental Officer, Forestry, Geography Teaching, Geologist, Horticulture, Third Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Tourist Officer, Tourism Board Official, Town Planning and Regional Planning.

Subject Name: History

What does History involve?

“History is who we are”.

Realising that history is constantly changing, we need to be able to adapt to change.

History involves:

Finding evidence, doing detective work and, then, creating / writing a report with your ideas;

Being able to give opinions / options, having done the research;

Using research skills (locating, selecting, recording, collating, recording and presenting, using various sources (books, videos, interviews, documentaries, newspapers and photographs);

Being able to decide what is bias, truth and / or propaganda;

Researching topics that interest you!

What do you study in History?

Apart from your research study, you do 3 other topics from the following:

Irish History

Sovereignty and Partition 1914 – 1949;

Northern Ireland 1949 – 1963;

Government, Economy and Society in the Republic, 1949 – 1993.

International History

Dictatorships and Democracy in Europe 1930 – 1950;

Divisions and Realignment in Europe 1945 – 1965.

United States and the World 1950 – 1990;

How do you benefit by studying History?

You learn:

To think critically and, most importantly, to think for yourself;
To make statements, not guesses;
To collect valid, accurate information and to record it correctly;
To recognise propaganda and bias, but, also, to learn from other peoples' opinions and reasoning;
From preparing to write an essay or a report or a project, how to organise a business plan, participate on committees, whether you want to be an employer or an employee or to be self-employed, to be able to think independently.

How is History assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

There are two components in the assessment of Leaving Cert. History:

1. A Report on a Research Topic – 20%
2. A Final Written Examination – 80%

Part 1: The student selects a topic and researches it. He / she writes up a report and this is submitted for evaluation before the Leaving Cert. itself. The date for submission of the research report has not been finalised yet.

Part 2: Leaving Cert. Exam – Both Higher and Ordinary Level students answer 4 questions. One of these questions is document based as in the Junior Cert.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate History

The History course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Courses / Career Opportunities

Law: Barrister, Law Clerk, Solicitor, Prison Service, Probation Officer, Researcher and Social Worker.

Media: Journalism, Researcher, Writer and Broadcaster.

Social Science: Social Work, Sociology, Genealogy, Tourism and Archaeology.

Politics: Local Government, Civil Service and Trade Unions.

Other: Librarianship and History Teacher.

Business Studies Group

Subject Name: Accounting

What does Accounting involve?

- The recording of financial information;
- The presentation of this financial information;
- The interpretation and use of this information.

What do you study in Accounting?

- You learn how to prepare Business Final Accounts, Cash Flow Statements, Published Accounts and Accounts from Incomplete Records.

- You learn Management Accounting. This involves business day to day planning and planning for the future using Costing and Budgets.
- Accounts of non-profit making organisations.
- You learn to analyse and comment on financial records.

How do you benefit by studying Accounting?

You learn:

- To collect information;
- To record and analyse information;
- To think logically and clearly;
- To understand the importance of financial information for good decision-making. This can be for shareholders, creditors, employers, employees, customers or members of a voluntary organisation;
- About the relationship between accounting and the other areas of business.

How is Accounting assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

The Leaving Cert. exam, at both Higher and Ordinary levels, lasts for three hours. Students are given 9 questions, of which 4/5 must be attempted.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Accounting

The Accounting course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Accounting is on the curriculum of many 3rd Level Courses, the most obvious being the Business courses. It is on the courses in Hotel Management, Hospital and School Administration, various Computer courses, Auctioneering, Advertising, Banking, Insurance, Law and Engineering to name but a few.

In fact, it is hard to think of any career where some knowledge of Accounting would not be useful.

Additional Considerations

Students have taken up Accounting in the past without having studied Business at Junior Cert. level. Many students who have done this have achieved high grades in both ordinary and higher levels in the Leaving Cert.

The course and textbook are designed to be used by someone with no previous Accounting knowledge. However, a student taking up Leaving Cert. Accounting without having studied Junior Cert. Business should have at least a Grade C in Ordinary level Maths or higher.

Accounting involves the preparation of accounts and, therefore, is a practical subject involving very little learning of theory.

Subject Name: Business

What does Business involve?

- Looking at how a business is set up, business procedures and the business environment;
- Looking at the services needed by businesses so that they can operate;
- Understanding the skills needed by an individual to run a business efficiently.

What do you study in Business?

- Different types of business organisations, e.g. sole trader, private limited companies, semi-state bodies, etc;
- Management activities and skills, e.g. communications, human resource management, market research, advertising, sales and promotion;
- Enterprise – how to set up your own business;
- Environmental issues facing business in the 21st century;
- Consumer laws and organisations;
- Industrial relations, laws and practices in Ireland;
- Communications – theory and practice, e.g. letters, reports.

How do you benefit by studying Business?

You learn about

- Your rights as a consumer and how the law protects you;
- Your rights as a worker and how the law protects you;
- The services provided by various financial institutions, e.g. banks, insurance companies, etc.;
- The environment within which a business operates in Ireland, in the European Union and in the world wide market;
- How to be enterprising as an individual, as a member of my community and as a business person should you set up your own business and how to manage it effectively;

You will understand the key concepts of Business. This will be to your advantage if you continue to study business at 3rd level.

How is Business assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

There are two levels of assessment in the Leaving Cert.

Higher Level:	A 3 Hour Written Exam	10 Short Questions 1 Applied Business Question 4 General Questions
Ordinary Level:	A 2 and a Half Hour Written Exam	10 Short Questions 4 General Questions

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Business

The Business course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses:

1. Post Leaving Cert. Business Related Courses in a Vocational School or College;
2. Business Related Certificate, Diploma and Degree Courses in Institutes of Technology;
3. Business Related Degree Courses at any of the Universities.

Additional Considerations

Can a student take up Business for the Leaving Cert. without having studied it at Junior Cert. level? Very definitely, the answer to this question is yes! Business is very much a “theory type” subject, with lots of learning to be done (just like the Business section at Junior Cert. level).

Applied Science Group

Subject Name: Construction Studies

What does Construction Studies involve?

The course involves the study of Construction Studies, with a concentration on domestic construction, covering all of the trades and the many procedures involved. It, also, covers the environmental and ecological issues relevant to the construction industry. It encompasses many craft areas, with the examination project being the culmination of one year’s work.

What do you study in Construction Studies?

The student studies the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology, construction materials and practices through theoretical study and integrated practical projects. All aspects of domestic construction are covered from drawings, planning procedures, site works, building materials and services, right through to insulation, finishes, building regulations, ergonomics, aesthetics, etc.

How do you benefit by studying Construction Studies?

Construction Studies

- Enables the student to achieve an in-depth understanding of the materials, processes and other issues involved in domestic construction and
- Will help to develop the student’s ability to communicate ideas and information by appropriate methods and encourages him / her to apply accurate observation and scientific investigation through the exploration of various craft works, heritage issues and architectural appreciation.

The knowledge and skills gained through the study of this subject, while of interest to you now, will be of enormous value to you in later life.

How is Construction Studies assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

Construction Studies is assessed in three stages:

- 1) Project Work: A year’s work to be completed by the end of April in 6th Year – 25%;
- 2) Practical Exam: In early May of Leaving Cert. Year – 25%;

3) Theoretical Study: Examined in June of 6th Year – 50%.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Construction Studies

The Construction Studies course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Architecture, Construction Economics (Quantity Surveying), Property Economics (Valuation Surveying), Construction Management, Engineering (Civil, Structural and Building Services), Wood Science and Building Technology (Teaching), Technical Courses and Professional Trades related to the construction industry, i.e. Cabinet Maker, Carpenter / Joiner, Electrician, Fitter, Blocklayer, Plasterer, Plumber and many more.

Additional Considerations

It is possible, in some cases, to take up the subject at Leaving Cert. if students have a genuine interest in Construction Studies.

Subject Name: Engineering (More information can be found at www.etta.ie)

What does Engineering involve?

Engineering involves a lot of practical work, along with related theory. Students are involved in a wide range of activities and related theory.

1. Health and Safety;
2. Use of machines (lathes, mill, CNC);
3. Study of machines and mechanisms;
4. Joining materials (soldering, welding, brazing);
5. Fabrication of various metals;
6. Control systems (electronic and pneumatic);
7. Measurement and Inspection;
8. Design.

Students, also, carry out many practical projects, that involve fabricating, welding, soldering, machine work, etc.

How do you benefit by studying Engineering?

You learn:

- How everyday articles are manufactured;
- The suitability of materials for specific jobs;
- How machines and mechanisms work;
- An awareness of safety at work;
- To be part of a design team;
- To use many machines, e.g. welding, CNC, lathes, milling machines, etc;
- How to make articles that are useful in everyday life.

How is Engineering assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam? If there are oral and / or practical components, when are they assessed?

Higher Level:

Written Exam

300 marks

	Practical Exam	150 marks
	Design and Make a Project	150 marks
Ordinary Level:	Written Exam	200 marks
	Practical Exam	150 marks
	Design and Make a Project	150 marks

The project is manufactured in 6th year, in class time from October – February / March.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Engineering

The Engineering course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Manufacturing Technology, Aeronautical Engineering, Engineering Technology Teaching, Computer and Software Engineering.

Other possible careers / courses include professional trades, motor mechanic, welder, plumber, industrial design, toolmaker and technician.

Additional Considerations

The study of Technology in the Junior Cert. is an advantage, but is not essential.

Subject Name: Social and Scientific / Home Economics

What does Social and Scientific / Home Economics involve?

Social and Scientific / Home Economics is an applied subject, combining theory with practice. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage resources in order to understand physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs.

What do you study in Social and Scientific / Home Economics?

You study:

Food – 45% - The study of nutrients and every aspect of food – choice, preparation and evaluation in both practice and theory.

Resource Management and Consumer Studies – 25% - Using resources wisely and efficiently, how to make wise decisions about goods and services in order to get value for money.

Social Studies – 10% - The study of society with regard to factors affecting the individual and families.

An Elective – 20% - A choice of study from one of three areas: Home Design and Management; Social Studies or Textile Studies. Generally, in this school, we study Home Design and Management.

How do you benefit by studying Social and Scientific / Home Economics?

You learn:

1. Best practices for developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, depending on whether you have or have not a particular dietary requirement;
2. How to develop skills and attitudes that will help students to take control of their lives in the future;
3. To be flexible and adaptable to change in modern life;
4. To be part of a consumer orientated society;
5. To be responsible for protecting the environment;
6. To understand social issues that affect everyday life.

How is Social and Scientific / Home Economics assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam? If there are oral and / or practical components, when are they assessed?

Practical Assessment – 20% - Assessment of practical work in a recorded journal, submitted in November of 6th year.

Written Exam – 80% - In June of Leaving Cert. year.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Social and Scientific / Home Economics

The Social and Scientific / Home Economics course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of courses at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Home Economics Teaching, Food Industry, Child Care, Parenthood, Social Studies, Health Care, Nursing, Health Inspector, Occupational Therapy, Tourism and C.E.R.T. / Fáilte courses for the hospitality industry.

Additional Considerations

While it is desirable to have studied Home Economics at Junior Cert. level, a motivated, hard working student can achieve a high level of competency in the Leaving Cert.

Subject Name: Design and Communications Graphics

What does Design and Communications Graphics involve?

Design and Communications Graphics is a method used to communicate information and ideas through geometry and graphics. There are three areas of study: 1) Plane and Descriptive Geometry; 2) Communication of Design and Computer Graphics and 3) Applied Graphics.

Design and Communications Graphics:

Develops students' ability to interpret and communicate graphically;

Develops an appreciation for, and understanding of, aesthetic principles and their importance in design and the human environment;

Develops I.C.T. / Solidworks through Graphics.

What do you study in Design and Communications Graphics?

All students study the core area: Plane and Descriptive Geometry and communication of Design and C.A.D. Students, also, study two options in Applied Graphics.

Plane & Descriptive Geometry

Projection Systems
Conic Sections
Intersection of Surfaces
Developments, etc.

Communication of Design (Solidworks)

Communication of Design
I.C.T. in Design
Solidworks
Freehand Sketching

Applied Graphics

Geologic Geometry
Assemblies
Mechanisms
Structural Forms

How do you benefit by studying Design and Communications Graphics?

You learn:

To communicate using Graphics / Solidworks, a method of communication that is universally accepted and understood;
To solve problems using geometry and I.C.T. as a tool;
To evaluate design solutions and solve design problems;
To be competent and confident in the application of Solidworks.

How is D.C.G. assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

D.C.G. is assessed in two components:

- 1) A course assignment (40% of the available marks, of which Solidworks will form a significant and compulsory component) and
- 2) A terminal exam (60% of the available marks).

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Design and Communications Graphics

D.C.G. contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level.

Some Related Third Level Courses

Architecture, Engineering, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Surveying and Construction Management.

Other possible career opportunities include electrician, plumber, welder, joiner, fitter, cabinet-maker and many more.

Additional Considerations

Knowledge of Junior Cert. Technical Graphics is highly desirable, but there is no restriction on a student who has not completed this course. However, arrangements must be made by the student to make up the deficit.

Subject Name: Music

What does Music involve?

The Leaving Certificate Music syllabus will provide students with a broad, general music education. It is designed to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes and to encourage excellence in a variety of musical activities. The syllabus caters for the varying needs of all students, including those who wish to pursue further, 3rd level studies in music.

What do you study in Music?

At Leaving Cert., Music is available at two levels: higher and ordinary. For both levels, There are three activities taught and, later, assessed.

- Performing:** Playing an instrument or singing. It does not matter what performing style (i.e. rock, jazz, traditional Irish music, classical, etc.) that a student chooses. Also, there is a music technology option available (using computers and software to compose, arrange and print music).
- Listening:** Students should be able to discuss and recognise various aspects of four prescribed works and traditional Irish music.
- Composing:** Melody writing and harmony.

How is Music assessed in the Leaving Cert. exam?

Music is assessed at both Higher and Ordinary Levels. The three components referred to above are assessed at the end of 6th Year.

Ordinary level students are assessed on each of the three components, with each component worth 25% each. The highest component score achieved is then doubled for the final 25%.

Higher level students select which component they are most comfortable with and this component will be worth 50 %, while the other two components will be worth 25% each. However, there is extra work required for the component students select; this is called the “elective”.

The performing component is assessed during the two week examination period in March / April of Leaving Cert. year. The listening and composing elements are assessed by aural and written examinations in June of Leaving Cert. year. Each exam is of 90 minutes duration.

Possible Career Opportunities for Students of Leaving Certificate Music

Music is an ever expanding field and it contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of subjects at third level. Some music related careers are: concert promoter; video producer; disc jockey; producer; director; music agent; sound engineer; music teacher; music therapist, performing and composing.

It is possible, in some cases, to take up the subject at Leaving Cert. if students have a genuine interest in Music.

Conclusion

As stated earlier, choosing your subjects for the Leaving Certificate is a very important decision. If you need further information, you should consult with the individual subject teacher. For a broad outlook on your subjects and / or future career plans, you should see the Guidance Counsellors, Mr. Hutton or Ms. Dooley.

N.B. You should not make a final decision unless you have discussed your ideas and plans with your parents / guardians.