



**Subject Choice
for Senior Cycle
2022**

SUBJECT CHOICE FOR SENIOR CY-CLE



Third year students are now faced with a decision regarding the choice of subjects they will study for Leaving Certificate.

This is a very important decision as the choices made will affect their future career options.

While some students may be in the enviable position of knowing what career they would like to pursue at this early stage, quite a number are still investigating the options available to them. In this instance, rather than planning for a particular and fixed career, one may keep an open mind and engage on a process of curious enquiry. This can be achieved by way of active exploration such as engaging in learning activities, seeking opportunities for temporary and voluntary work and investing time in researching career and course opportunities available. Students should be realistic and flexible in order to keep as many options as possible open to them.

While there are many questions to be asked and answered, there is not doubt that this is a very exciting time for students as they take another step in planning for their future. Enjoy the process.

Career Guidance Counsellor

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING SUBJECTS

- Choose subjects you have an interest in.
- Choose subjects you have good ability in.
- Choose subjects that are necessary for the course you hope to pursue. There are certain subjects that are essential.
- Select subjects which will maximise your points.
- Points for third-level courses are calculated on your best 6 subjects.
- All subjects at Leaving Certificate are capable of being taken at higher or ordinary (i.e. honours or pass) level. Irish and Mathematics can be taken at Foundation level.
- A maximum of 7 subjects is recommended. Each subject is studied at much greater depth at Leaving Certificate level. There will be more classwork, more homework and a much more extensive curriculum.

PREPARATION FOR CHOOSING SUBJECTS

1. It is vital for parents and students to do some research before choosing subjects by reading career literature, internet research and prospectus booklets from the relevant colleges as different courses have different entry requirements.
2. For entry to any third level college it is necessary to fulfil all 3 of the following
 - a. **entry requirements (matriculation)**
 - b. **course requirements**
 - c. **points**
3. It is advisable to pick seven subjects for the Leaving Certificate.
4. Irish, English and Mathematics are essential for most pupils.
5. Bonus Points Scheme for Honours Mathematics.
25 bonus points will be awarded for Higher Level Mathematics for H6 grades and above.

6. Many courses at the National University of Ireland Colleges (UCD, UCC, NUIG & Maynooth University) require a continental language, e.g. French or German. There are some exceptions.
7. Try to have a balance of subjects for the remaining three - keeping in mind the guidelines of
 - Subjects you have an interest in
 - Subjects you have a good ability in
 - Subjects necessary for your course
 - Subjects which will help maximise your points
8. Some courses require **two science subjects**, and other courses require certain subjects with specific grades.

SUBJECT CHART

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Compulsory Subjects | Irish English Mathematics |
| Plus | Choice of Four Other Subjects |
| Language Group | Continental Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• French• German |



SUBJECTS

Languages

Irish

Essential for careers/courses in:

Civil Service

Army

Nursing

Gardaí

Primary Teaching Training

Journalism

- Some colleges accept Irish, or another language and English as the language requirement, e.g. DCU, UL, TCD.
- Institutes of Technology require Irish or English.
- All NUI Colleges, e.g. NUIG, UCC, UCD, NUI Maynooth require Irish and English and a continental language, with some exceptions.

English

Essential for most careers/courses. It is important therefore to choose the level which best suits the student's ability.

French

A continental language is essential for entry to NUI colleges with some exceptions and also a continental language requirement is necessary for entry into certain courses.

German

As a continental language for entry into NUI colleges again with some exceptions. Essential for entry to courses with German as the main language.

Mathematics

Mathematics

Essential for entry to almost all Third Level courses in ITs and Universities.

Note: Higher Maths is essential for degrees in Engineering in the NUI Colleges. Actuarial Studies, Maths in TCD and DCU, Management Science and Theoretical Physics in TCD.

Honours Maths (H6 or above) carries bonus points for entry to the seven universities.

Note: For Engineering courses in many HEI's including NUIG and UL and Sligo IT there is a special entrance examination in Maths for those candidates who do not obtain an honours grade on the Higher-level Maths paper. Check with individual HEI's to see if this option is available

Foundation Maths

Grade F1 and Grade F2 are acceptable for most courses at **most** Institutes of Technology with the exception of Engineering courses and some Science courses.

Applied Maths

A great foundation for careers/courses in Engineering/Science.

Science

A Science subject is a necessary entry requirement for a number of courses at NUI Colleges.

Physics

A good foundation for courses/careers in the Scientific/Engineering/Technical/Meteorological/Medical and Paramedical area.

Chemistry

It is an important subject for most science courses and for many engineering courses too. In Irish Colleges, Chemistry is now a **required subject** for many medical/paramedical and science related courses (see page “Revised entry requirements for certain colleges”). Many English colleges often demand Chemistry for many of their relevant courses.

Physics with Chemistry

This course combines certain parts of both Leaving Cert Physics and Leaving Cert Chemistry into a single course. It is accepted as a laboratory science subject.

Biology

It is a desirable subject for Nursing and for Medical and Paramedical courses and also for Science courses/careers.

Agricultural Science

Is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. The course consists of the study of a variety of aspects of agriculture. It is acceptable as a laboratory science subject.

Humanities

History

It is a good background subject for courses/careers in Politics/ Law/Journalism/Broadcasting/Teaching/Librarian and Museum work.

Geography

A good subject for careers in town planning, surveying, meteorology, map-making, geology, agriculture and archaeology.

Business

Accounting

This subject gives students a good foundation in Accounting which is very useful if they choose a Business course at third level. Useful for courses in Commerce, Accounting and Finance.

Business

It has a very practical and modern approach to Business and is useful though not essential for courses in Commerce, Accounting and Finance.

Other

Home Economics

The study of Home Economics complements the study of Biology. It is a good subject if pursuing a career/course in Hotel and Catering Management, Nursing, Home Economics Teaching, Fáilte Ireland courses and all courses in the catering area.

Art

Art is a desirable, and for some courses it is an essential subject, e.g. Art and Design courses at the National College of Art and Design. It is also a very helpful subject for Primary and Montessori teaching and apprenticeships. Art as a subject can be used instead of the third language requirement at the National College of Art and Design.

Music

Music is essential for entry into third level courses where Music is one of the subjects studied, e.g. B.A. in Music in Maynooth College, UCC, Cork School of Music and TCD have entrance tests in Music. Waterford Institute of Technology and Dublin Institute of Technology have an audition for their courses in Music.

Design and Communications Graphics

A practical subject which is desirable and of great benefit if applying for Engineering and Technology courses, Architecture and Apprenticeships.

Construction Studies

A practical subject which is desirable and of great benefit if applying for technological courses, Structural/Civil Engineering, Apprenticeships, Architecture and Wood Technology.

Finally...

- All students should see the importance of continuing to do the Leaving Certificate.
- Most employers and Third level entry requirements specify that students should pass ***English*** and ***Mathematics***.
- When you do settle on the career areas you might pursue after your Leaving Certificate make sure you know if there are any essential subjects required and the minimum grade you need.

Summary

1. If you intend to study at one of the National Universities of Ireland colleges you may have to choose a continental language. Check the entry requirements of the course you are interested in.
2. So there are four subjects that you really do not have much choice in - Irish, English, Mathematics and a continental language - as they are either desirable or essential.
3. So what about the next three?
4. You should certainly consider taking a Science subject. A Science subject is essential for careers in medical, para-medical careers (Physiotherapy, Radiography, Human Nutrition, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Science) and Nursing. You require a Science subject if you are interested in a course in Engineering at the National University of Ireland Colleges. Most faculties of Science require you to have a laboratory Science subject. However, it really comes down to your interest in Science to date. If you are struggling with Science now it is highly unlikely that it will suddenly become one of your best subjects at Leaving Certificate.
5. For your sixth and seventh subjects it is your chance to choose subjects that you enjoyed at Junior level. There is no doubt that points play a significant role in subject choice so it is important to choose two subjects that you will enjoy studying and in the process make up six good scoring subjects.

6. The levels at which students will take subjects will depend on their ability, previous examination results and the advice from their teachers.
7. The choice of Irish, English, Mathematics, a third language and at least one laboratory science subject will cover all students for the vast majority of courses.
8. Research each subject on the Internet, look at the text books involved and talk to the teacher who teaches that subject. Look at the text books involved and check on the Internet.
9. When you have made your final selection you should examine them very carefully to see that you have kept your career options open.

Faculty/College Matriculation (Minimum Entry) Requirements

(for further information refer to Matriculation Faculty Entry Requirements Booklet)

Note: The faculties listed here are as provided in NUI statutes. Changes in faculty structures in the Constituent Universities do not affect matriculation requirements.

FACULTY/COLLEGE OF:

- ◇ **Arts**
- ◇ **Human Sciences**
- ◇ **Philosophy**
- ◇ **Celtic Studies**
- ◇ **Law**
- ◇ **Social Science***
 - (i) Irish
 - (ii) English
 - (iii) A Third language accepted for Matriculation Registration purposes
 - (iv), (v) and (vi) Any three subjects accepted for Matriculation purposes not already selected
- ◇ **Commerce**
 - (i) Irish
 - (ii) English
 - (iii) Mathematics
 - (iv) A Third language accepted for Matriculation Registration purposes
 - (v) and (vi) Any two subjects accepted for Matriculation purposes not already selected
- ◇ **Agriculture**
- ◇ **Architecture (UCC, UCD))**
- ◇ **Engineering**
- ◇ **Food Science & Technology**
- ◇ **Nursing**
- ◇ **Medicine (including Dentistry)**

◇ **Science**

- (i) Irish
- (ii) English
- (iii) Mathematics
- (iv) A laboratory Science subject**
- (v) and (vi) Any two subjects accepted for Matriculation purposes not already selected

◇ **Veterinary Medicine**

- (i) Irish
- (ii) English
- (iii) Mathematics
- (iv) A Third language accepted for Matriculation Registration purposes
- (v) A laboratory Science subject**
- (vi) Any other subject accepted for Matriculation purposes not already selected

The Laboratory Science subjects are:

Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry, Agricultural Science

For exact up to date information, please check http://www.nui.ie/college/docs/matricRegs/matricRegs_2019_2020_ENG.pdf

NOTES

For Basic Matriculation on Leaving Certificate results you need six subjects. Among the six subjects, for all programmes, English and Irish must be included and there are other subject requirements related to the area of study, as follows:

- Architecture: Mathematics (UCC), a Third Language and Mathematics (UCD)
- Arts, Human Sciences, Law: a Third Language
- Art and Design (NCAD): a Third Language or Art or DCG
- Commerce: a Third Language and Mathematics
- Computer Science: Mathematics (Maynooth University, UCC, UCD), Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject or Technology (NUI Galway)
- Economics: For UCD BA Economics from 2018 a third language will not be required and will be replaced with a requirement to present Mathematics (a subject entry requirement of H4 will apply)

- Engineering: Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject (UCD); Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject or Technology (UCC, NUI Galway); Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject or Applied Mathematics or Technology (Maynooth University)
- Maynooth University will accept Applied Mathematics in place of an Applied Laboratory Science subject for certain BSc courses but not for Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Engineering: Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject (UCD), Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject or Technology (UCC, NUI Galway and Maynooth University)
- Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Veterinary Medicine: a Third Language, Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject
- Nursing: Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject
- Science, Agriculture, Engineering & Architecture, Food Science and Technology: Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject (NUI Galway, Maynooth University, UCC), Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject or Applied Mathematics or Geography (UCD)
- Social Science: A Third Language (UCC, NUI Galway and Maynooth University), UCD Bachelor of Social Science: A third language is not required and is replaced with a requirement to present Mathematics (minimum OD3) for matriculation purposes
- Specialist degrees in Business and Law Maynooth University : A third language is not required in the case of the following programmes: - BA in Finance - BA in International Finance and Economics - BA in Accounting & Finance - BBS/BBA in Business & Management, BBS/BBA in Marketing, BBS/BBA in International Business - BBS/BBA in Equine Business - BBS/BBA in Entrepreneurship - LLB Law - BCL Law and Accounting, BCL Law and Business, BCL Law, Law and Criminology, BCL Law and Arts
- Veterinary Nursing (UCD): Mathematics and a Laboratory Science subject or Home Economics

Students from outside the European Union presenting the results of examinations other than those of the European Union countries may substitute two recognised subjects for (a) Irish and (b) the language other than English.

Students are advised to consult Constituent University, Recognised or other Associated College admissions literature for details of specific subject/course requirements.

Standard Required for Leaving Certificate

For Matriculation from 2017

Candidates must obtain a pass in at least six subjects selected according to college/faculty requirements, with at least Grade H5 in two subjects on the Higher Course and at least Grade H7 (Higher Course) or O6 (Ordinary Course) in four subjects.

Common Points Scale for Applicants from 2017

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

LCVP Grade: New LCVP Points:

Distinction = 66 points

Merit = 46 points

Pass = 28 points

Number of Subjects

Six Leaving Certificate Subjects will be counted for points purposes.

Number of Examination Sitzings: A student's results from only one sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examination will be counted for **points purposes**.

However, a student can **combine** results from different sittings for **Entry Requirements** to the majority of courses (an exception to the rule is medicine)

Options for Leaving Certificate Students

Going to a Third Level College, (i.e. University / Institute of Technology) is one of the many options available to Leaving Certificate students.

However, many other options are also available, e.g.

- Agricultural Colleges
- Apprenticeships
- Courses in Private Colleges
- FÁS/SOLAS
- Fáilte Ireland—Hotel/Catering/Tourism Training
- Garda Training
- Other training agencies
- Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) / QQI courses
- UK & European Colleges

In today's economic climate, immediate recruitment following the Leaving Certificate Examination may not be as easily available as it has been in previous years.

LCVP Link Modules

All Universities and Institutes of Technology Colleges now award points as set out below for results in the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme Link Modules, in place of a sixth Leaving Certificate subject. You must however have certain subject combinations to take LCVP as listed below and these subject combinations be found at <https://pdst.ie/node/2354> .

| <u>Result</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Distinction | 66 |
| Merit | 46 |
| Pass | 28 |



Guide to Abbreviations

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| UCD | University College Dublin |  NUI Colleges i.e. National University of Ireland |
| UCC | University College Cork | |
| NUIG | National University of Ireland Galway | |
| Maynooth | Maynooth University | |
| HEI's | Higher Education Institutes | |
| TCD | Trinity College Dublin | |
| DCU | Dublin City University | |
| UL | University of Limerick | |
| DIT | Dublin Institute of Technology | |
| WIT | Waterford Institute of Technology | |
| NCI | National College of Ireland | |
| IT | Institute of Technology | |
| NCAD | National College of Art & Design | |
| TEAGASC | Agriculture and Food Development Authority | |
| Fáilte Ireland | Hotel Industrial Training Authority | |
| RCSI | Royal College of Surgeons in | |

Useful WEB Addresses

www.qualifax.ie

www.scoilnet.ie

www.skooool.ie

www.cao.ie

www.solas.ie

www.ucas.com

www.publicjobs.ie

www.careersportal.ie

www.studentfinance.ie

www.eunicas.ie





Note:

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this booklet, it is subject to change and you should ensure that you research your colleges and courses and obtain the most up to date information.

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