



# **5th Year**

## **Subject Choice & College Guide**

22/23



Your choice of subjects for Senior Cycle should be taken after very careful consideration. In making your choice, you are planning to some extent the course of study/career that you may pursue post second level. You cannot, at this age, be expected to have made definitive career decisions, or, if you have, these decisions may change many times, so it is important that the choices you make now will not close off options for later decisions.

Entry requirements for third level courses are complex and vary from course to course and over time, it is important to refer regularly to the relevant literature or university website for the most up to date information. To make your choice of subjects easier, we have prepared the following notes on the subjects available. The information given is not exhaustive and, naturally, the circumstances for each individual are different, so, if in doubt, please discuss this with your Guidance Counsellor or the Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

## LEAVING CERTIFICATE

### Senior Cycle

Some very important points before we go on to the individual subjects:

- **The Leaving Certificate requires a great amount of hard work over two years.**
- **It is much easier to work hard if you have chosen, in so far as is possible, subjects that you like.**

These notes are given for your guidance and we have made every effort to ensure that they are up-to-date and correct. However, there are many variations in minimum entry requirements and additional entry requirements to third level courses. It is your responsibility to check and satisfy yourself that these are the correct requirements for your course choice. All students are encouraged to use the resources of the Guidance Department.



**St. David's**  
Holy Faith Greystones



# Subject Groups



At senior cycle, in St David’s Holy Faith Secondary School, we offer a wide range of subjects encompassing a broad diversity of skills and knowledge. We classify subjects here according to particular common skills between groups of subjects.

**Humanities Group**

These subjects explore the ways in which humans live and communicate in the world. Human life is examined by looking at our past, our present and into our future. These subjects help people to express themselves clearly and develop their reasoning ability. Subjects in this category include French, Spanish, English, History and Gaeilge.

**Science Group**

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation. These subjects include Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics (offered outside of school hours).

**Social Group**

These subjects explore common issues faced by all people living in society. They develop the skills and knowledge used to manage personal resources and guide human behaviour. Subjects here consist of Geography, Home Economics, Physical Education, Politics and Society, Religious Education (Non-Exam).

**Artistic and Creative Group**

Some of these subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things. In our school, these include Construction Studies and Engineering.

Other subjects involve developing creativity and the appreciation of the work of others. This involves learning the methods and techniques of the subject and producing your own work using these skills. This group of subjects include Art, and Design and Communication Graphics.

**Business Group**

These subjects teach the skills and knowledge needed to understand how business works and include Accounting, Business and Economics.

At this stage in your school career you, with your parents/guardians, have come to a time when you must choose the subjects you are going to take in the Leaving Certificate. It is important to consider the implications these choices may have on your future third level and career choices. There are eighteen subjects to choose from within the Leaving Certificate programme in the school. You will be required to do the three core subjects, English, Gaeilge (unless exempt) and Mathematics and choose four other subjects. If Exempt Irish, there are two separate classes: Language Support and Business.

You should aim to choose subjects which will give you a good balance in order to keep as many options open as possible for your future career choice. It is not recommended that students over-specialise, e.g. take all three laboratory sciences, or all three business subjects, unless you are sure that these really are the areas you want to get into when you leave school and that they are course entry requirements. Very few young people of 15 or 16 years of age, are sure of what they want to do after school and may change their minds about possible future careers a number

of times over the next couple of years. You can help yourself, to make the wisest choice if you keep in mind that entry to many courses and careers from the Leaving Certificate depends, very often, on the standard of the results you achieve, rather than the subjects in which you achieve them. It would also help to ask yourself the following questions; remember if you are interested in a subject, it is easier to do well at it:

1. What subject am I most interested in?

2. Which subjects am I likely to be best at?

3. What subjects will I need?

# CORE SUBJECTS

- GAEILGE**
- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Physical Education (Non Exam)

## Course Overview

Irish is assessed at three levels: foundation level, ordinary level or higher level. The learner’s oral competency is assessed around Easter of the final year, in an oral examination worth 40%, at each level, of the overall mark. The other three skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing are assessed in June. Aspects of literary works must be studied at ordinary level, while at higher level these same works and additional material must be studied in greater detail.

## Course Content

Students at Leaving Cert are introduced to Irish Literature and culture. The Leaving Cert exam takes the form of three parts: oral, aural (listening skills) and written examinations. Recent revisions to the syllabus mean that there is now a greater emphasis on the spoken word and trying to be more fluent in our native tongue.

The oral exam is now worth 40% of the overall mark. Students engage in conversation with an examiner and discuss different topics in Irish.

The aural exam takes place on the same day as the written paper and has been shortened in length as part of the new syllabus. The aural exam now will last about 20-25 minutes. Students will listen to a series of dialogues/conversations and answer questions about the content.

There are four components to the Leaving Certificate examination: an oral exam, a listening comprehension, a language paper and a literature paper.

**Career Possibilities**

Teaching; Public Service and Politics; Law; Public Administration; Journalism;

EXAM STRUCTURE		Higher	Ordinary
	Written Paper	2 Papers - 50% of Marks	2 Papers - 50% of Marks
	Oral	1 Paper - 40% of Marks	1 Paper - 40% of Marks
	Aural	1 Paper - 10% of Marks	1 Paper - 10% of Marks





CORE SUBJECTS

CORE SUBJECTS

Gaeilge	Gaeilge
ENGLISH	English
Mathematics	MATHEMATICS
Religious Education	Religious Education
Physical Education (Non Exam)	Physical Education (Non Exam)

Career Possibilities

English is valuable for a number of careers in a wide range of areas including:  
Advertising; Broadcasting; Journalism; Law; Librarianship; Politics; Speech Therapy; Teaching; Sales; Linguistics; Interpretation; Translation



Course Overview

Higher level Maths is available to students who have completed higher level Junior Cycle Maths and achieved a Merit or higher in the Junior Cycle. Ordinary level Maths is offered to a minority of students. Twenty-five bonus points are awarded for higher level Mathematics at Grades H6 and above. The bonus points are included in the overall points calculation only when Mathematics is one of the applicant’s best six subjects following the addition of the bonus.

Course Overview

English is a core subject and is compulsory in all schools. The exams at both higher and ordinary level require students to sit two papers. Junior Certificate results are often a good indication of what level a student should choose for Senior Cycle English. A large number of students take English at higher level but you should not underestimate the amount of work required to obtain a high grade.

Course Content

Language

Students are required to study five designated areas of language (information, persuasion, argument, aesthetic and narrative) in a wide variety of contexts, functions and styles.

Literature

Students are required to study one literary text from a list of prescribed texts. Students are required to study three other texts in the Comparative manner, according to the comparative modes prescribed for that year. Students are required to study at least six poets from the eight poets prescribed at higher level. At ordinary level, 36 poems are prescribed.

Compulsory elements:At higher level, a Shakespearean Play must be one of the texts chosen for study on its own or as an element of the Comparative study.

Optional Elements

At ordinary level, the study of a Shakespearean play is optional.

Career Possibilities

From a careers perspective, students considering opportunities in any area of science, medicine, engineering, business, or finance should study higher level Maths if at all possible, as large portions of the higher level course will be reviewed or assumed at third level. There are many other careers and courses which benefit from a knowledge of higher level Maths including: accountancy, astronomy, clerical work, marketing, computers and banking.

Course Content

Project Maths was to senior cycle in September 2010. The emphasis of the Project Maths Syllabus is on a more practical approach to problemsolving, engaging students wholly in appreciation of numeracy and mathematics.divides the course into five ‘strands’ of maths which are studied at all levels, and in greater depth at higher level: Statistics and Probability; Geometry andTrigonometry; Complex numbers; Sequences and Series; Algebra; Financial Maths

EXAM STRUCTURE		Higher	Ordinary
	Paper One (Comprehension and Composition)	50% of Marks	50% of Marks
	Paper Two (Studied Texts)	50% of Marks	50% of Marks

EXAM STRUCTURE		Higher	Ordinary	Foundation
	Written Paper	2 Papers - 100% of Marks	2 Papers - 100% of Marks	1 Papers - 100% of Marks
	At Ordinary level and Higher level the papers are 2 hours and 30 minutes in duration. There are two assessment components: Mathematics Paper 1, Mathematics Paper 2 Each paper will contain two sections – A and B. Section A will address core mathematics topics, with a focus on concepts/skills. Section B will include questions that are context-based applications of mathematics.			



CORE SUBJECTS

Course Overview

As part of fostering their social, cultural, physical & spiritual development, all Fifth and Sixth Year students follow a programme of Religious Education, for two periods per week. This explores a range of moral and social issues relevant to young adults.

Religious Education also provides opportunities for personal development and reflection otherwise unavailable to students during this exam-oriented stage of their education. Religion is a non-examination subject. This subject follows the National Curriculum and is fully compliant with the requirements of Relationship & Sexuality Education (RSE). With RSE important topics such as sexuality, relationships, consent and mindfulness are taught.

Gaeilge

English

Mathematics

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Physical Education (Non Exam)



CORE SUBJECTS

Gaeilge

English

Mathematics

Religious Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (NON EXAM)

Course Overview

Physical Education is an integral part of well-being. Here in St David’s we have a new state of the art Sports Arena with a sports hall and fully-equipped gym to facilitate training for groups and individuals. Our appointment of a Sports Coordinator and Sports Campus Director demonstrates our commitment to invest in Physical Education and Sport as a necessary part of physical, emotional and mental health.

Physical Education in senior cycle will have one`hour timetabled per week. It will centre around a games based and physical activity model that focuses on participation. We will utilise all school based facilities (indoor arena and school gym and our outdoor spaces). Senior P.E. will link with school wellbeing and will provide a non-exam based class where positive sporting interactions will occur.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES	AIMS	Students will participate in a sports-based curriculum that will emphasise the benefits of participation and the therapeutic effects of leading an active lifestyle.
	OBJECTIVES	<p><b>The students will...</b></p> <p>Participate actively in all modules in the curriculum</p> <p>Partake in a safe and controlled setting</p> <p>Co-operate and work together in various team settings</p> <p>Gain a greater understanding of the therapeutic and health benefits associated with an active lifestyle.</p>

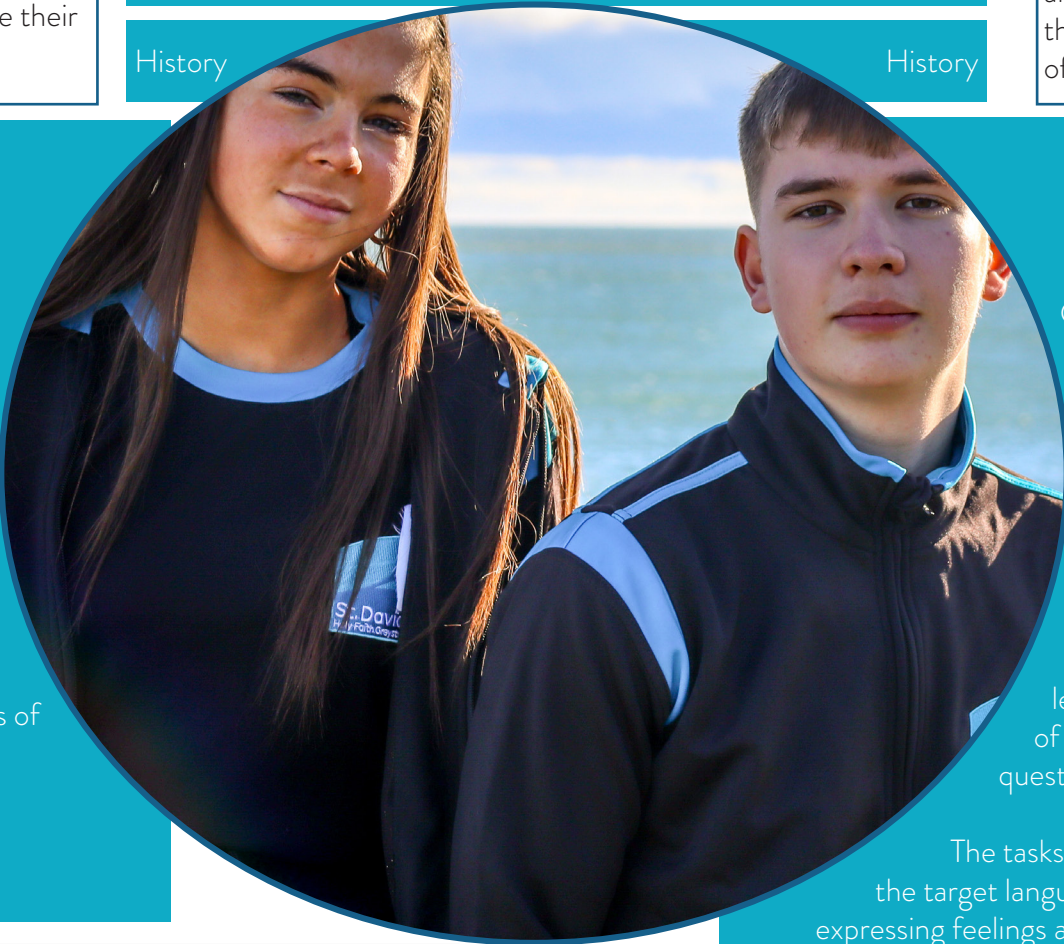


5th Year  
Subject Choice &  
College Guide  
Humanities Group

**Course Overview**  
 Leaving Certificate French aims to develop learners' communicative skills in French, to develop their strategies for effective language learning and raise their awareness of cultural, social and political diversity.

**Career Possibilities**  
 Specific careers in which French is of benefit include:  
 Teaching; Translation;  
 Interpreting; Linguistics;  
 Localisation; Journalism and  
 Media among others.

**Course Content**  
 Course content for higher and ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at higher level. A grade 'C' at higher level in the Junior Certificate is usually a minimum requirement for higher level French at Leaving Certificate. Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills: Oral/Speaking, Written, Aural/Listening, Reading. Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses.



FRENCH

French

Spanish

SPANISH

History

History

**Course Overview**  
 Spanish follows a common syllabus framework for the teaching and examining of modern languages in the Leaving Certificate. The syllabus aims to develop learners' communicative skills in Spanish, to develop their strategies for effective language learning and raise their awareness of cultural, social and political diversity.

**Course Content**

**Listening Comprehension**  
 Candidates will be required to listen to a CD and answer questions in English. Sources used in the listening include dialogues, conversations, public announcements, news, extracts from radio, articles, etc.

**Reading Comprehension**  
 Candidates will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of, and extract relevant specific information from texts found on public signs, menus, timetables, brochures, guides, letters, newspapers, magazine articles and works of literature. There is also the option of answering questions on literary texts the students have studied.

**Written Production**  
 The tasks set will primarily require the candidate to use the target language for the purpose of communication such as expressing feelings and attitudes, giving and obtaining information, describing, offering explanations, summarising, elaborating, etc. The candidate will be expected to use different verb tenses.

**Career Possibilities**  
 Related career opportunities are broad and include  
 Business; the IT Industry;  
 Teaching; Translation; the  
 Hospitality Industry; Sales;  
 Marketing; Tourism and  
 Careers  
 in the EU.

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 55% of Marks	1 Paper 55% of Marks	Exam (2½ hours) Reading Comprehension is worth 30% of total exam at higher level and 40% at ordinary level. There are literary and journalistic passages. For higher level, the written section involves formal and informal letters, diary entry, message/fax/email, expressing an opinion, and personalised writing.
	Aural	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 25% of Marks	(40 mins) This exam takes place after the written examination in June. It involves listening to a variety of dialogues and news items in the target language and then answering in English.
	Oral	1 Paper 25% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks	This takes place in March/April, 13 minutes for French - French interview with examiner. Students may prepare a document.

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 55% of Marks	1 Paper 55% of Marks	Papers at both Higher and Ordinary levels are 3 hours and 10 minutes (inclusive of aural).
	Aural	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 25% of Marks	(40 mins) This exam takes place after the written examination in June. It involves listening to a variety of dialogues and news items in the target language and then answering in English.
	Oral	1 Paper 25% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks	The Oral Examination takes place in March/April of Sixth Year.



### Course Overview

The Leaving Certificate History Syllabus gives teachers a choice of four topics which will be studied from a selection of twelve topics in modern Irish and modern European history. The topics are arranged in two discrete fields of study:  
Early Modern, 1492-1815

### Course Content

Students will study topics from one of the fields of study. Within each field of study, there are six topics from Irish history and six from the history of Europe and the wider world. Students will study two topics from Irish history and two from the history of Europe and the wider world from the selected field of study.

Two topics will be prescribed for documents-based study: one from the Early Modern field of study and one from the Later Modern field of study. Students will engage in a documents-based study of the prescribed topic from their selected field of study.

## HUMANITIES GROUP

French

Spanish

## HISTORY

### Career Possibilities

History develops an ability to think independently and is very useful skill for Third-Level Education; Journalism; Local and National Radio and TV; Law; Town Planning; Architecture; Politics; Economics; Sociology; Art; Museum and Library work. History is also a good training for work in Administration, Management and Business and is an excellent basis for careers in Tourism, Government and Teaching.



## 5th Year Subject Choice & College Guide Science Group

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 80% of Marks	1 Paper 80% of Marks	The History exam will last 2 hours 50 minutes and pupils will answer the documents-based study and three essays (one from each topic studied). Ordinary level students follow an identical course, with a different emphasis in the way questions are asked on exam papers. Assessment consists of two components: A written examination paper (80%) and a Research Study report (20%) submitted around Easter before the June exam.
	Research Study	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 25% of Marks	Students undertake a Research Study which will take the form of a report to be submitted around Easter time before the Leaving Certificate exam in June. This Research Study can be about any aspect of history, in any period. The teacher will help and oversee this work but the choice of subject matter is that of the student. This part of the assessment carries 20% of the total marks.



SCIENCE GROUP

SCIENCE GROUP

BIOLOGY	Biology
Chemistry	CHEMISTRY
Physics	Physics
Applied Maths	Applied Maths

**Course Overview**

The Leaving Cert. course follows on directly from Junior Cycle Science, and deals with more topics in a lot more depth. The course includes 28 mandatory practical experiments which must be completed in the lab, as well as a written paper including questions on the experiments and examining the theory and applications of chemistry. Chemistry has been the second most popular science subject for some time now.

**Career Possibilities**

Pharmacy; Medicine; Dentistry; Veterinary Science; Pharmacy; Physiotherapy; Engineering; General Sciences; Dietician; Nursing; Food Science; Biotechnology and Medical Laboratory Technology.

**Course Overview**

Biology remains one of the most popular subject choices. The syllabus requires a lot of memory work. If your chosen subject is biology you will gain an understanding of yourself and the natural world in which you live. The course uses practical activity and investigation to develop your skills and knowledge. The scope of biology is wide and varied and covers not only the traditional study of plants and animals but also areas such as molecular biology and biotechnology which have clear relevance to modern society.

**Career Possibilities**

Nursing; Medicine; Veterinary; Dentistry; Agriculture; Applied Biology; Biochemistry; Biotechnology; Botany; Ecology; Earth Science and Environmental Science; Genetics; Marine Science and Aquaculture; Microbiology and Zoology; Psychologist; Astronomer; Teaching; Dietician and Researcher.



**Course Content**

The syllabus consists of approximately 70% biological knowledge, understanding and skills; the remaining 30% deals with the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology. The general principles of ecology are studied, and one particular ecosystem is examined in detail. An ecology field trip is arranged in the 5th Year. Particular emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of biology, and there are a number of mandatory activities that each student must carry out for themselves.

**The course is divided into three units:**  
Unit 1 The study of life (ecology and food science)  
Unit 2 The Cell (genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes)  
Unit 3 The organism (a study of body systems, plant biology and microbiology)  
There are 22 mandatory practical activities.

**Course Content**

The syllabus consists of approximately 70% pure chemistry; the remaining 30% deals with the social and applied aspects of chemistry.

The syllabus is comprised of all the essential and relevant topics within general chemistry. The major topics involved include the following: Atomic structure, Volumetric analysis, Organic chemistry, Water chemistry, Reaction mechanisms. There also is an option to be taken as part of the course which involves the study of atmospheric and industrial chemistry or the study of materials and electrochemistry. Experimental investigations are an essential part of the leaving certificate course. Each student must complete at least 28 experiments over the duration of the course. Experimental work is examined as part of the leaving cert exam and forms the basis for a minimum of three questions on the exam paper.

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary
	Written Paper	1 Paper 100% of Marks	1 Paper 100% of Marks
	The examination at Higher and Ordinary level is three hours in duration. The exam paper is divided into three units. Section A - Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks. Section B - Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks. Section C - Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks.		

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary
	Written Paper	1 Paper 100% of Marks	1 Paper 100% of Marks
	The Leaving Certificate exam is three hours in duration. Each candidate must answer at least two questions from Section A (experimental section) and a maximum of six questions from Section B. There are eleven questions in total on the exam paper, each carrying 50 marks. There is no element of continuous assessment but experimental copies must be available for inspection by the State Examinations Commission. Students taking chemistry have to memorize the chemical components of a series of prescribed experiments. They will need to present the elements of four such experiments in their exam.		





## Course Overview

The Leaving Cert Physics course follows directly from Junior Cycle Science, and covers more topics in greater depth. Physics is often referred to as the Maths side of science, even though only a small proportion of the course is based on Maths. Physics aims to enhance the student's ability to think logically, observe and understand scientific method.

### Career Possibilities

Physics is a useful subject for many courses and career areas and a good foundation for a broad range of scientific and technical careers in particular. Many careers benefit from the logical and numeracy skills developed in the study of Physics. Many technical courses involve components of Physics. Students may move into employment or into further study following their two years of Physics at Senior Cycle. They may choose to progress to a Post Leaving Certificate course (PLC) or move on to a third level course.

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## Course Content

The study of Physics for Leaving Certificate is broken down into eight sections or topic areas:

**Six Compulsory sections**

**Optics / Waves:** the study of light and sound and real-life applications of the theory.

**Mechanics:** time, space, distance, speed and acceleration.

**Heat:** Changes of state, energy conversions and mathematical problems.

**Electricity:** Develops on from simple circuits to more detailed concepts.

**Electricity and Magnetism:** Gravity, relationship between electricity and magnetism, study of how a motor works, AC and DC. circuits and phenomena with real world applications.

**Atomic Physics:** Cathode rays, x-rays, radioactive decay, fission and fusion, nuclear reactors and real world applications.

**Two option sections (Higher Level only, one to be done)**

**Option 1:** Particle Physics: recent type of physics, delving into the new discoveries leading to a better understanding of the formation of the universe and where we came from.

**Option 2:** Applied Electricity: detailed study of electricity and the working of a motor developing from electricity already studied.

At Higher Level, there is a deeper, more quantitative treatment of physics. The two option sections are omitted from the Ordinary Level Leaving Certificate course. The course also consists of 24 core mandatory experiments complementing each section in an aim to develop students' technical skills and enhance understanding and reinforce key concepts.

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SCIENCE GROUP		SCIENCE GROUP	
Biology		Biology	
Chemistry		Chemistry	
<b>PHYSICS</b>		Physics	
Applied Maths		<b>APPLIED MATHS</b>	

gher Level only, one to be



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SCIENCE GROUP	
Biology	Biology
Chemistry	Chemistry
<b>PHYSICS</b>	Physics
Applied Maths	<b>APPLIED MATHS</b>



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The Applied Mathematics course at Leaving Certificate is called 'Theoretical Mechanics' or 'Mathematical Physics' in third level courses. It is one of many branches of the more general field of Applied Mathematics.

### Career Possibilities

Applied Maths is useful for careers such as Engineering, Physics, Construction, IT, Insurance, Systems Analysis and Architecture.

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## Course Content

The course covers topics such as linear motion, relative velocities, projectiles, collisions, connected particles, circular motives, simple harmonic motions, statics, differential equations. As a result, Applied Maths is excellent for developing strong problem-solving skills, which are very valuable for future employment.

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EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 80% of Marks	1 Paper 80% of Marks	<b>Ordinary Level Paper</b> This is a 2.5 hour paper (150 minutes) and carries 300 marks. You are required to answer 6 out of 9 questions and each carry 50 marks.
				<b>Higher Level Paper</b> This is a 2.5 hour paper (150 minutes) and carries 300 marks. You are required to answer 6 out of 10 questions. Each carry 50 marks.
Practical	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks	<b>Practical - Modelling Project 20%</b> The modelling project assessment will require students to demonstrate proficiency in course content and skills that cannot be easily assessed by the written examination. The assessment will require students to present a solution to an authentic modelling problem, and to report on the work and process involved.	



**5th Year**  
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College Guide  
Social Group

**SOCIAL GROUP**

**HOME ECONOMICS**

Geography

Politics and Society

Physical Education



**Course Overview**

The subject is an applied subject combining theory with practice. It is concerned with the management of resources (material and human) to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs of individuals and families. The study of Home Economics emphasises the interdependent relationships that exist between individuals, families and their immediate and distant environments.

**Career Possibilities**

This subject provides a good foundation for careers in a wide range of areas including Health, Nutrition, Education, Tourism, Textiles, Design, the Food industry, Science and Social Studies.

**Course Content**

The syllabus consists of Core Areas and Three Electives:

**The Core Areas**

1. Food Studies - 45%
2. Resource Management and Consumer Studies - 25%
3. Social Studies - 10%

**Electives (Students study one of the following)**

1. Home Design and Management - 20%
2. Textiles, Fashion and Design - 20%
3. Social Studies - 20%



EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 80% of Marks	1 Paper 80% of Marks	The written examination consists of three sections.
	Project	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks	<b>Project Coursework</b> This is worth 20% of the final mark; this is submitted in journal form earlier in the Leaving Certificate year.



SOCIAL GROUP

SOCIAL GROUP

**Course Overview**  
Geography is a very popular subject choice.

**Career Possibilities**  
Geography can be studied at third level as a science subject, or as an arts subject. It is useful in a wide variety of careers such as Cartography, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Town Planning, Environmental Science, Engineering, Travel/Tourism, Meteorology/Weather Forecasting and in Global/Development work.

Home Economics

Home Economics

**GEOGRAPHY**

Geography

Politics and Society

**POLITICS & SOCIETY**

Physical Education

Physical Education

**Course Overview**  
Politics and Society aims to develop the learner’s capacity to engage in reflective and active citizenship, informed by the insights and skills of social and political sciences. The changing local, national and global environment presents many challenges and opportunities for young people. It requires a range of skills, knowledge, values and attitudes so that they can achieve their goals in this environment.

**Career Possibilities**  
Politics; Sociology; Social Care or other courses such as Law; Anthropology; Philosophy; Development Studies; Media Studies; Equality and Gender Studies; Human Rights; European Studies; Environmentalism, Green Energy and many more.

**Course Content**

The syllabus is divided into 4 main units. All students study the Core Units 1-3 and Elective Unit 4:

**Core Unit 1- Patterns and processes in the physical environment**  
This unit examines the relationship between the tectonic cycle, the rock cycle and the processes of landform development.

**Core Unit 2- Regional geography**  
This unit examines how economic, human and physical processes interact in regional settings.

**Core Unit 3 - Geographical investigation and skills**  
This unit encourages the development of skills in handling spatial information leading to the completion of an individual geographical investigation.

**Elective Unit 4 - Patterns and processes in the economic environment**  
This unit examines patterns in economic development and the growth of a single interdependent global economy.

**Course Content**

The content of these subjects can support the development of an understanding of equality, inequality and diversity in a range of areas of human life, including gender, ethnicity and social class.

- Strand 1: Power and Decision-making**  
Focuses on local democracy power & decision making at a national and European level.
- Strand 2: Active Citizenship**  
Focus on communities and the rights and responsibilities of active citizenship. This strand requires the completion of a social action project.
- Strand 3: Human Rights and Responsibilities**  
This strand focuses on Ireland, Europe and the wider world.
- Strand 4: Globalisation and Localisation**  
This strand focuses on globalisation, identity and sustainable development.

Only 80% of the final grade awarded to candidates comes from the final written exams. For the remaining 20%, candidates will produce a project booklet based on a meaningful social action that they have undertaken during Senior Cycle. These social actions are wide and varied, based on everything from the impacts of social media, to human rights, identity politics, racism and environmentalism. This is a great opportunity for candidates to secure up to 20% prior to the written exam.



EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 80% of Marks	1 Paper 80% of Marks	
	Project	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks	Up to 20% of the final grade is achieved before sitting the actual examination by completing a report on a geographical investigation - this is a great advantage for students. The remaining 80% is a written examination.

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 80% of Marks	1 Paper 80% of Marks	The Written Paper is comprised of 3 sections: Section one: Short Questions Section two: Data Based Questions Section three: Essay Questions (Ordinary Level candidates have more choice and differentiated questioning in the exam paper)
	Project	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks	Up to 20% of the final grade is achieved before sitting the actual examination by completing a report on based on a citizenship project - this is a great advantage for students. The remaining 80% is a written examination. (Ordinary Level candidates have differentiated marking applied to the project)

Course Overview

Physical Education as an academic subject has a new specification at senior cycle. It was introduced in 2018 at this level and is graded in the same way as other academic subjects in the Leaving Certificate. This course suits physically active students engaged in individual or team sports as well as activities such as dance and gymnastics. It requires good attention to detail and a willingness to study classroom sections of the course.

The Physical Education course features theoretical and practical sections. The two sections are interlinked, with the knowledge gained in the theoretical section enabling the student to improve his/her performance in the practical assessments.

SOCIAL GROUP

Home Economics

Geography

Politics and Society

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Content

The theoretical section is separated into two strands, students will study 4 topics in each strand for a total of 8 topics studied.

Strand 1  
Towards optimum performance  
Two option sections (Higher Level only, one to be done)

- 1. Learning and improving skill and technique
- 2. Physical and psychological demands of performance
- 3. Structures, strategies, roles and conventions
- 4. Planning for optimum performance

Strand 2  
Contemporary issues in physical activity

- 5. Promoting physical activity
- 6. Ethics and fair play

In addition, two of the following will be prescribed each year:

- 7. Physical activity and inclusion
- 8. Technology, media and sport
- 9. Gender and physical activity
- 10. Business and enterprise in physical activity and sport

For the physical section the three areas for study will be selected as a class group. There are 6 categories of physical activity and students must select one from three different categories. The six categories of physical activity are:

- Adventure activities
- Artistic and aesthetic activities
- Athletics
- Aquatics
- Games
- Personal exercise and fitness

Career Possibilities

The immediate image suggested by the Leaving Certificate Physical Education course is a career as a career as an athlete or dancer. However, horizons are much broader; the Leaving Certificate course will equip students with knowledge and skills suited to a wide range of career paths. The course would be a first step towards careers in health and fitness, nutrition, physiotherapy or sports administration. For students who do not pursue a career in a related area the knowledge gained from the course could still have an enormously beneficial contribution throughout their life, enabling them to maximise their own physical activity and that of the members of their community.



5th Year  
Subject Choice &  
College Guide  
Artistic and Creative Group

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary
	Written Paper	1 Paper 50% of Marks	1 Paper 50% of Marks
	Project	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks
	Performance	1 Paper 30% of Marks	1 Paper 30% of Marks





ARTISTIC & CREATIVE GROUP

ARTISTIC & CREATIVE GROUP



ENGINEERING

Engineering

Construction

CONSTRUCTION

Art

Art

Design and Communication Graphics

Design and Communication Graphics



Course Overview

Engineering promotes an educational understanding of the materials and a knowledge of the processes associated with mechanical engineering. This is achieved through the development of skills and initiative in the planning, development and realization of technological projects in a safe manner.

Career Possibilities

Engineering is useful for the following careers: Mechanic; Panel Beater; Welder; Plumber; Electronic and Mechanical Engineering; Architecture; Aircraft Technician; Army/Air Corps and Industrial Design.

Course Content

Class time is divided into two main class types: practical classes and theory classes. During practical class, students engage in the manual practice of the various engineering processes. In theory class, students study the science behind these engineering processes and the science of engineering materials. It includes areas such as Health and Safety, Benchwork, Classification and Origin of Metals, Structure of Metals, Iron and Steel, Non-Ferrous Metals, Heat Treatment of Metals, Fabrication and Finishing of Metals, Corrosion of Metals, Plastics Processing, Machining, Materials and Technology, Materials Testing, Joining of Materials, Metrology, Manufacturing Processes, Technology.

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 50% of Marks	1 Paper 40% of Marks	Engineering is assessed at both Ordinary level and Higher level by means of an examination paper, a student project and a practical examination.  Materials Technology: This section represents the wider knowledge and technology as a whole. In the written exam this section will carry 200 marks at Ordinary level and 300 marks at Higher level.
	Practical	1 Paper 25% of Marks	1 Paper 30% of Marks	Workshop Processes: This section represents all the practical processes which may be applied in the school workshop integral with the related theory. This section carries 300 marks in the exam at both levels - Ordinary and Higher: There will be 150 marks for a practical exam and 150 marks for assessment of workshop/laboratory work and projects.
	Project	1 Paper 25% of Marks	1 Paper 30% of Marks	

Course Overview

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

Career Possibilities

Building Management; Carpentry; Electrician; Town Planning; Insurance Claims; Heating and Ventilation and Housing Management.

Course Content

The course is essentially about the study of buildings and the built environment. The theoretical part of the course examines all parts of building from the planning stages to the completed building. The course is studied under the following main headings:  
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.

Construction Studies is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level. 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:

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 50% of Marks	1 Paper 40% of Marks	Three hour written paper worth 300 marks. The exam consists of 10 questions out of which five have to be attempted. Question 1 is a compulsory drawing question of a building detail.
	Practical	1 Paper 25% of Marks	1 Paper 30% of Marks	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.
	Project	1 Paper 25% of Marks	1 Paper 30% of Marks	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.



### Course Overview

The Leaving Certificate Art syllabus is a broadly based course, which is made up of four units. These units link together and are based on the everyday visual experience of the student's own environment.

This subject requires a lot of work and study for the Leaving Certificate and students need to be creative and/or be able to interpret the creative work of others.

### Career Possibilities

Art is useful for careers in Animation; Art Teaching; Computer Design; Architecture; Fashion Design; Interior Design; Graphic Design; Painting and Decorating; Photography and Art Therapy.

### Course Content

All students, both ordinary and higher level, follow a common course. The practical work can include Life Sketching, Still Life, Imaginative composition, Design and Craftwork.

The History of Art and Appreciation is a broad course covering Irish and European Art, and also Art Appreciation. It requires looking at artworks through the use of reproductions, slides and art galleries, reading books and writing essays on different subjects.

## ARTISTIC & CREATIVE GROUP

Engineering

Construction

ART

Design and Communication Graphics

## ARTISTIC & CREATIVE GROUP

Engineering

Construction

Art

## DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

### Course Overview

Design and Communication Graphics (DCG) has taken the place of technical drawing for the Leaving Certificate and provides students with the opportunity for visualising and comprehending information presented verbally or graphically.

### Career Possibilities

Engineering; Product Design; Construction and Architecture; Toolmaker; Engineering Technician; Carpentry and Aircraft Technician.

### Course Content

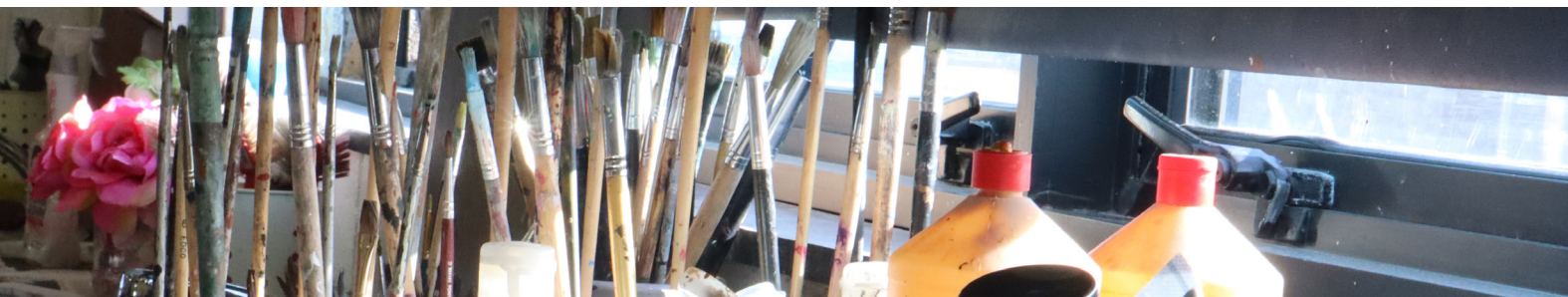
The course is comprised of two parts: Core Areas of Study and Optional Areas

#### Part One – Core Areas of Study

Plane and Descriptive Geometry  
Project Systems  
Plane Geometry  
Conic Sections  
Descriptive Geometry of Lines and Planes  
Intersection and Development of Surfaces  
Communication of Design and Computer Graphics  
Graphics in Design and Communication  
Communication of Design  
Freehand Drawing  
Information and Communication Technologies

#### Part 2 – Optional Areas of Study

You will be required to study two of the optional areas listed below:  
Applied Graphics  
Dynamic Mechanism  
Structural Forms  
Geological Geometry  
Surface Geometry  
Assemblies



EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 30% of Marks	1 Paper 30% of Marks	The exam structure is the same at higher and ordinary level. Candidate will be required to answer all four papers:  a) Imaginative Composition or Still Life - 100 marks b) Design or Craftwork - 100 marks c) Life Sketching - 50 marks d) History and Appreciation of Art - 150 marks
	Practical	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 20% of Marks	
	Project	1 Paper 50% of Marks	1 Paper 50% of Marks	

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 60% of Marks	1 Paper 60% of Marks	One Terminal Exam Paper: 60% (3 hours)
EXAM STRUCTURE	Project	1 Paper 40% of Marks	1 Paper 40% of Marks	Student Assignment: 40%







5th Year  
Subject Choice &  
College Guide  
Business Group

BUSINESS GROUP

ACCOUNTING

Business

Economics

**Course Overview**

Accounting is a Business Studies option within the Leaving Certificate programme. It covers aspects of business and social life which are not dealt with in any other subject in that programme. It is concerned with the preparation, recording, extraction, presentation and analysis of financial information for the purpose of making economic decisions.

**Course Content**

Topics covered include: Financial Statements Preparation, Farm Accounts, Club Accounts, Company Accounts, Manufacturing Accounts, Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation, Budgeting, Break-even Analysis, Cost Classification, Accounting Theory and Principles.

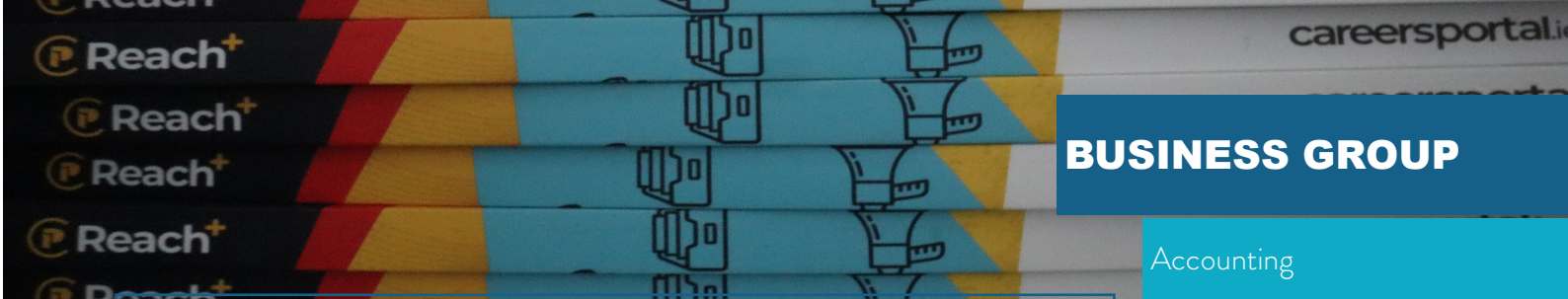
**Career Possibilities**

Accountancy provides a valuable foundation for all business functions and many top executives have an accountancy background. Most chief executive officers of public limited companies have some sort of accountancy qualification. Career pathways might include Accountancy; Actuarial Studies; Marketing; Business or Finance. It would also be an important subject choice for those thinking of starting their own business.

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	The subject is examined at higher and ordinary level. Both levels involve one exam of three hours duration. The exam paper is made up of three sections, the first two are based on the Financial Accounting section of the course and the third covers the Management Accounting section. Questions must be answered from all sections of the exam paper.
	Written Paper	1 Paper 100% of Marks	1 Paper 100% of Marks	







BUSINESS GROUP

BUSINESS GROUP



Course Overview

Leaving Certificate Business creates an awareness of the importance of business activity and develops a positive and ethical attitude towards enterprise. The learning experiences in business develop students’ critical thinking, creative and organisational skills while enhancing literacy and numeracy skills using real-life examples.

Career Possibilities

Business is useful for careers in a wide range of areas including Banking, Finance, Administration, Law, Insurance, Management and Marketing among others.

Course Content

This subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates in Ireland and in the wider world. It promotes a positive view of enterprise and its applications in the business environment, in both the public and private sectors. It comprises 7 core units covering the following topics: Introduction to people in business; Enterprise; Managing 1 & 2; Business in action; Domestic Environment and International Environment. Business is a common syllabus covering Higher and Ordinary level, a flexibility of design that caters for present day Irish business education and yet is capable of adaptation to future developments. It assists students to develop their education for adult and working life including the creation of positive attitudes towards self-employment. From time to time there may be field trips or guest speakers where the course allows. These are not a compulsory part of the course and are organised at the teachers’ discretion.

Accounting

Accounting

BUSINESS

Business

Economics

ECONOMICS



Course Overview

Economics is regarded as the most practical business subject and is the study of how people manage limited resources such as money to meet their goals. By understanding the reasons why people spend their money in certain ways, economists can try to introduce incentives to change their behaviours.

Course Content

The subject is concerned with understanding the workings of a modern economy from both Macro and Micro level.

Leaving Cert economics consists of eight main examination question areas:

- Demand, supply, equilibrium, utility and elasticity.
- Costs and market structures
- Factors of production (including economists)
- National income and the multiplier effect
- Inflation, money, banking and monetary policy
- International trade, balance of payments and the euro
- Fiscal policy and taxation
- The Government in the economy (including economic development and growth, population and emigration)

Career Possibilities

Third level courses with an economics element to course content. It is also useful for careers in Banking; Insurance; Finance; Marketing; Politics; Journalism; Current Affairs

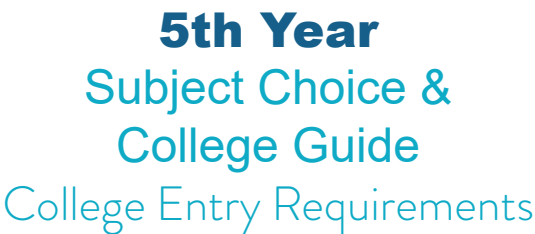


EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 100% of Marks	1 Paper 100% of Marks	<p><b>Higher Level – 1 x 3 hour paper (400 marks) - 3 sections.</b></p> <p>Section 1 – Short questions (8/10) 80 marks. Section 2 – Applied Business Question – 80 marks (compulsory). Section 3 – Long Questions (60 marks per question (4/7))</p> <p><b>Ordinary Level – 1 x 2.5 hour paper (400 marks) - 2 sections.</b></p> <p>Section 1 – Short Question (10/15) 100 marks. Section 2 – Long Questions (75 marks per question (4/8)).</p>

EXAM STRUCTURE	Section	Higher	Ordinary	
	Written Paper	1 Paper 80% of Marks	1 Paper 55% of Marks	The written exam is comprised of: Section A: Short Questions (60%) Section B: Extended Response Questions (20%)
EXAM STRUCTURE	Research Report	1 Paper 20% of Marks	1 Paper 25% of Marks	Both the exam and the research project components of assessment reflect the relationship between the application of skills and the theoretical content of the specification.





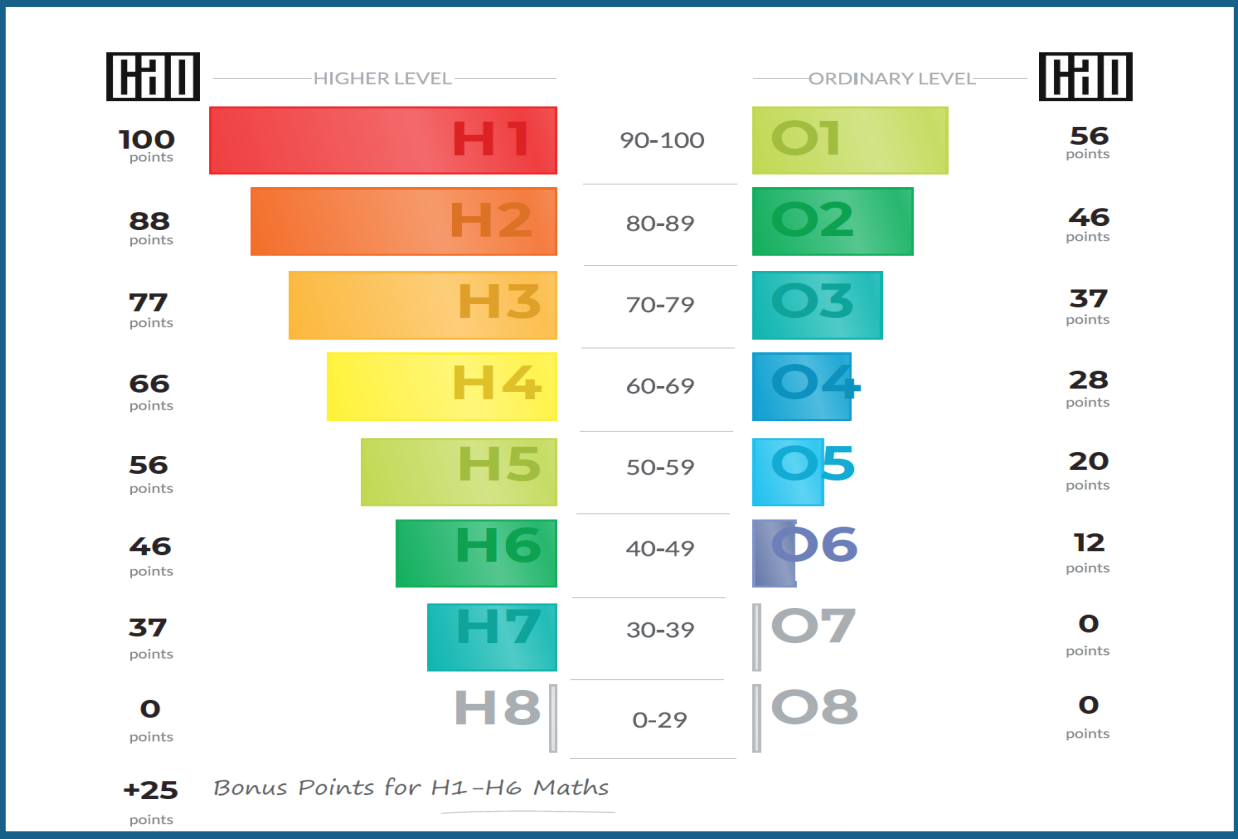
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Requirement		Detail	Further Details	
1. Matriculation Requirements		The Matriculation Requirement is the minimum academic qualification for entry that a college demands from an applicant.	Trinity College (TCD) requires three H5 and three O6/H7 grades.  According to the current guidelines from the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), to study an Honours Bachelor's Degree (Level 8) universities require a minimum of six subjects to include at least two Grade H5 and at least four Grade O6/H7. An Institute of Technology or Technical University requires a minimum of five subjects at O6/H7 to include Irish or English and Mathematics Grade O6 for an Ordinary Bachelor's Degree (Level 7) and Advanced Certificate (Level 6) course.  There are some exceptions.	
2. Course Requirements / Subject Requirements		<p>Please consult the HEI websites and Qualifax <a href="http://www.qualifax.ie">www.qualifax.ie</a> for more detailed and ongoing requirements.</p> <p>Particular courses may require grades, at certain levels, in particular subjects. For example, a Grade H4 in the higher-level Leaving Certificate Mathematics paper is the minimum entry requirement for most Engineering Degree courses.</p> <p>If you do intend on specialising after leaving school, then you should, almost certainly, choose some relevant subjects for the Leaving Certificate. This applies to science, business and languages. For example, Medicine is a restricted entry course requiring students to sit the Health Professions Admission Test (HPAT).</p>	<p><b>a) Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Courses:</b> <i>Medicine/Dentistry Courses – Trinity College Dublin (TCD)</i> These courses require Grade H3 and H4 in two laboratory sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science). If you do not have a qualification in Physics, you must present Mathematics at O3/H6 or better. Combinations of subjects not permitted to meet subject requirements: Physics/Chemistry with Physics or Chemistry; Agricultural Science with Biology.</p> <p><i>Medicine/Dentistry Courses - University College Cork (UCC):</i> H4 in Chemistry and H4 in either Physics or Biology.</p> <p><i>Medicine - Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI):</i> Five-year programme: H4 minimum in Chemistry and H4 in either Physics or Biology. Six-year programme: A science subject from the group physics, chemistry and biology, or agricultural science.</p> <p><i>Medicine - University College Dublin (UCD):</i> One laboratory science subject at O6/H7</p> <p><i>Medicine - NUI Galway (NUIG):</i> Five-year Programme: H4 in two of biology, chemistry, physics or agricultural science. Six-year Programme: 1 laboratory science subject chemistry, biology, physics or agricultural science.</p> <p><i>Veterinary Medicine - (UCD):</i> Requires a H5 in chemistry and 15 hours of animal handling.</p> <p><i>Human Nutrition and Dietetics - Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin):</i> Requires a H4 in chemistry</p>	<p><b>b) Accounting / Business / Economics:</b> These may be helpful but not essential to taking a Business course at third level.</p> <p><b>c) Languages:</b> <i>Trinity College Dublin:</i> For matriculation purposes TCD requires English and another language - that other language can be Irish for the matriculation requirement.</p> <p><i>TCD Law</i> with a language requires a H4 in the language.</p> <p><i>Dublin City University (DCU):</i> Languages are required at H4 for certain courses such as: Global Business/French/Spanish.</p> <p><i>TU Dublin:</i> Some courses require a language at H4. For example: Languages and International Tourism</p> <p><i>National College of Art and Design (NCAD):</i> English, Irish and a third language or art or DCG are required for matriculation.</p> <p><i>Other Institutes of Technology:</i> Some courses require a language.</p> <p><b>d) Science:</b> <i>TCD</i> usually requires a H4 in two of: physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, geography or applied mathematics.</p> <p><i>UCD</i> requires O2/H6 in either physics, chemistry, biology, geography or applied mathematics.</p>
3. Restricted Entry		Restricted entry courses are those which require additional tests, portfolios or interviews in addition to Leaving Certificate Points. These must be applied for by February 1st of Sixth Year.	<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>This is a restricted entry course. There is a music assessment entrance test held prior to entry. It is imperative to check the entry requirements.</p> <p><b>Art</b></p> <p>A Portfolio is an essential requirement for Art Courses.</p>	<p><b>Post Leaving Certificate Colleges (PLC)</b> The Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme is a full-time programme for young people who have completed their Leaving Certificate and adults returning to education. PLC courses are generally at QQI Level 5 and of one-year duration. They usually include options to progress to Degrees. Admission is usually based on suitability and interview. Typical matriculation requirement is 5 passes at Leaving Certificate, for example, Blackrock College of Further Education, Level 5 Auctioneering, Estate Agency and Valuation (5M2102) with progression to Level 6 and Level 7(See the National Framework of Qualifications)</p>
4. Points		Points are allocated for the applicant's six best grades from one sitting of the Leaving Certificate. These grades must be achieved in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examination.	Entry to a course that is competitive will be granted to those holding the highest number of points. The number of points required for any course in any year is not pre-set by any college.	The points levels reflect the results of the applicants for that year and the number of available places for that year on that course. Bonus points are awarded for Higher Level Mathematics



# Useful Information

The CAO Points System



## Useful Websites

**Guidance Section of the St David's website**  
[https://careersportal.ie/careerguidance/office.php?school\\_id=725](https://careersportal.ie/careerguidance/office.php?school_id=725)

**Email Contact:**  
Guidance@stdavids.ie

**Course Search for Ireland:**  
- [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)  
- [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)  
- [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)  
- [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)

**A Selection of College Websites:**  
TCD: [www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie)  
UCD: [www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie)  
IADT: [www.iadt.ie](http://www.iadt.ie)  
TUD: [www.tudublin.ie](http://www.tudublin.ie)  
NCAD: [www.ncad.ie](http://www.ncad.ie)  
DCU: [www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie)  
UL: [www.ul.ie](http://www.ul.ie)  
MU: [www.maynoothuniversity.ie](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie)

NUIG: [www.nuig.ie](http://www.nuig.ie)  
UCC: [www.ucc.ie](http://www.ucc.ie)

**PLC Courses and Further Education Websites:**  
[www.plccourses.ie](http://www.plccourses.ie)  
[www.fetchcourses.ie](http://www.fetchcourses.ie)

**Course Search for the United Kingdom (UK):**  
[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

**Course Search for the Netherlands:**  
[info.studielink.nl](http://info.studielink.nl)

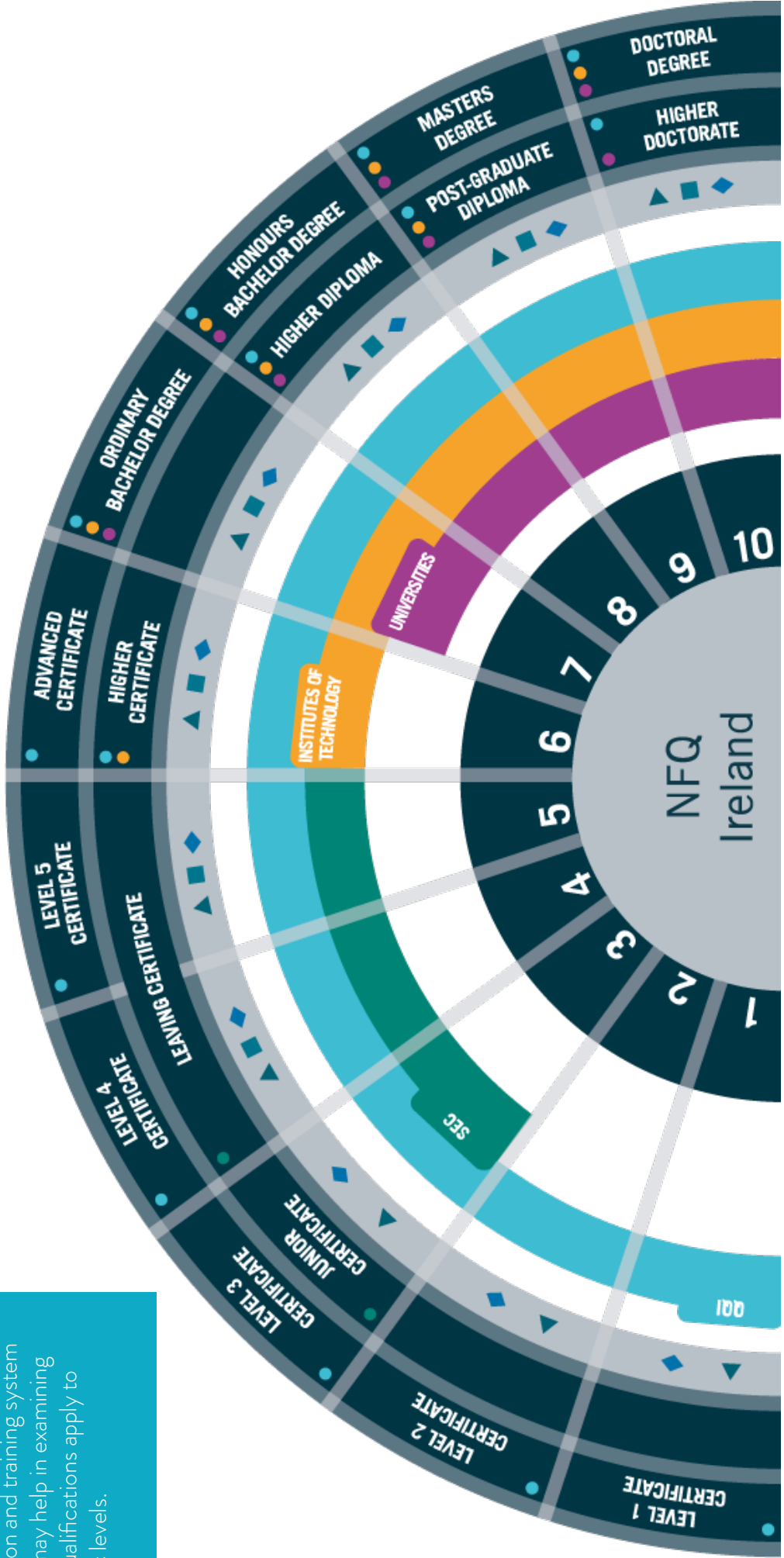
**Course Search for Europe:**  
[www.eunicas.com](http://www.eunicas.com)

**Course Search Worldwide:**  
[www.bachelorsportal.com](http://www.bachelorsportal.com)

**Leaving Certificate Examination Past Papers and Marking Schemes:**  
[www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) (Examination Material Archive)

## National Framework of Qualifications

The following diagram of The Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is a ten-level system used to describe qualifications in the Irish education and training system which may help in examining what qualifications apply to specific levels.





**5th Year**  
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