

Senior Cycle Options



Introduction to Options

We recognise that 3rd and 4th Year students are still in the process of vocational development and may find it difficult to select the necessary subjects when their long term career plans are not yet clarified.

However, choices must be made and this meeting is to try and ensure that your daughter's choice of option subjects at senior level will not delimit her future educational and career options.

However apart from the essential core subjects of English, Irish, Maths and a foreign language the number of 3rd level courses and career paths that require specific subjects are, in fact, quite small. Indeed there are many 3rd level courses which require no previous study at Leaving Cert viz, Accountancy, Business Studies, History, Geography.

Choose the Right Path for Your Future Career

Students hoping to pursue engineering and science careers at degree or sub-degree level would be advised to take two of the science subjects. Most engineering degrees require Higher Level Leaving Cert Maths. Practically all engineering courses have a high physics content and students without previous knowledge of the subject would be at

an initial disadvantage. Pharmacy in Trinity College requires Chemistry. Entry to nursing from 1999 requires a Leaving Cert Laboratory science subject, Maths (not Foundation Level) and varying requirements regarding English, Irish and a Continental Language depending on the college involved.

If your daughter requires more information and help she may make an appointment to meet me during the school day.

Ms Patricia Kennedy
Guidance Counsellor



Topic

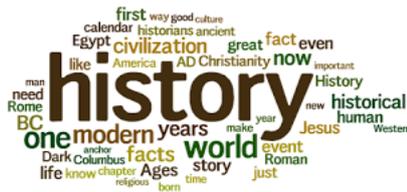
Design & Communication Graphics DCG

A continuation and development of the Junior certificate Technical Graphics course. This subject develops qualities of comprehension, analysis and problem solving as well as the physical skills and hand/eye co-ordination involved in drawing and an awareness of design.

The course is examined in 2 parts: 60% Final 1 Paper, 3 Hr exam in June of 6th Year and 40% Project which is given in Sept. of 6th Year to be completed by February. The Project involves communication and design through sketches, computer aided design (solidworks) and other ICT applications. Pupils must produce and model 2D and 3D drawings on paper and using CAD. They must use appropriate presentation techniques including colour and rendering. They must also evaluate their own designs.

Art:-

The Leaving Certificate Art Course covers similar areas to the Junior Cert course except the pupils go into everything in more depth. Art at Senior level is exam based rather than project based. The course includes observational drawing, figure drawing, still life, design and imaginative composition. Art history and appreciation is an important part of the course since 37% of the Leaving Cert marks are allocated to this exam. Generally speaking it is not advisable to opt for Art in L. Cert unless you have done Art for the Junior Cert or else are well able to draw - (you can get advice from Art teacher). Art is accepted as a subject at third level.



Later modern 1815-1993—Irish and European History.

1. Students study 4 topics in all 2 from Irish History and 2 from European history
 2. One of the topics will be studied as a document-based study.
 3. The other 3 topics are examined in a more essay-style way. The student will study topics from different perspectives, for example, politics and administration; society and the economy; culture, religion and science; key personalities and case studies. This will cover 80% of the paper.
 4. One special study topic is to be prepared by all honours and ordinary level students. This is submitted prior to the written examination in June. It covers 20% of the paper.
- The list of topics are as follows:

LATER MODERN FIELD OF STUDY

Irish History, 1815 - 1993

1. Ireland and the Union, 1815 - 1870
2. Movement for political and social reform.
3. The pursuit of sovereignty and the impacts of partition, 1912 - 1949.
4. The Irish Diaspora, 1840—1966
5. Politics and society in Northern Ireland 1949 - 1993
6. Government, economy and society in the Republic of Ireland 1949—1989

History of Europe and the Wider World, 1815 - 1992

1. Nationalism and state formation in Europe, 1815 - 1871
2. Nation states and international tensions, 1871—1920
3. Dictatorship and democracy, 1920 - 1945
4. Division and realignment in Europe, 1945—1992
5. European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945—1990.
6. The United States and the world, 1945—1989.



Music

The Leaving Certificate Music course provides continuity and progression from J.C. Music. Providing musical knowledge, understanding and practical work that caters for various needs of all students, including those who wish to pursue further studies in music.

The Course involves a series of interrelated musical activities within 3 core areas of:

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening

Students study prescribed works, Irish music and aural skills.

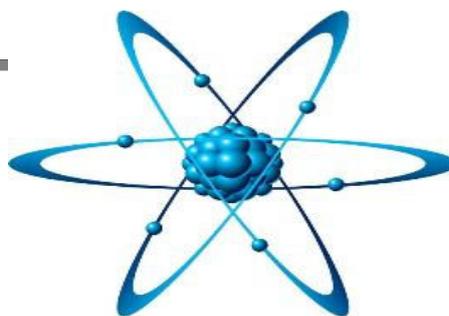
Leaving Certificate music is examined at 2 levels - Higher and Ordinary—the examination consists of a practical examination and or/group performance (50%) and a combined aural and written examination (50%).



Biology

Biology is the study of life. In this course students explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationship between organisms and their environment. The syllabus is composed of science for the enquiring mind, which constitutes approx. 70% of the syllabus, and the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology, which constitutes the remaining 30%.

In the course of their studies, students should undertake a range of laboratory work and fieldwork. A record of this work should be retained. While students generally find this subject interesting the course involves a lot of new terminology and so involves a considerable amount of work.



PHYSICS

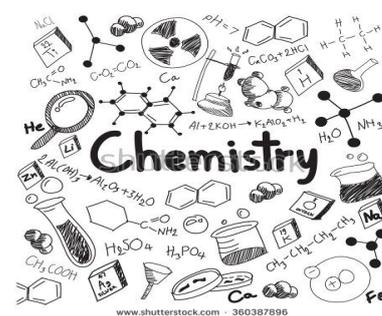
Physics is the study of the laws and principles which describe the natural universe.

It involves the study of Electricity, Light, Sound, Heat and Radioactivity. Since Physics only comprises one third of a subject at Junior Cert, students will find that each topic will be covered in much greater detail at Leaving Cert level. Physics is of key importance in the technology of today and tomorrow. It is particularly important to those interested in specialising in most branches of engineering, e.g. Electrical, Civil, Mechanical, Industrial, Electronic, Telecommunications, Computers and Agricultural. Practically all engineering courses have a high physics content and students without previous knowledge of the subject would certainly be at a greater disadvantage.

Chemistry

Chemistry is traditionally subdivided into three areas, physical, inorganic and organic chemistry. The Leaving Certificate course includes material from each of these three areas.

Any student considering the subject should have good mathematical reasoning ability. She must also be prepared to memorise exactly many definitions as well as the preparations and properties of a large number of chemical elements and compounds. The course includes a considerable amount of practical work and each student must keep a practical notebook. For some 3rd Level courses a Science subject is essential eg Chemistry H5 for Veterinary (UCD), Chemistry H4 for Human Nutrition and Dietetics (DIT) and Pharmacy (TCD)



Footnote! The Faculty requirement for some courses is 2 Science subjects e.g. Trinity College Entry to Medicine and Dental Science require that you have two or one Science subjects and Maths in place of physics. However, the entry requirement for Medicine (6 Years) and Physiotherapy at NUI Colleges is only for one science subject.



BUSINESS:

Involves -

- looking at people and their relationships in Business.
- How a Business is Set Up e.g. Enterprise
- Understanding the skills needed to run a Business e.g. Leadership, motivation, communication.
- Business procedures e.g market research, business planning
- The Business Environment e.g. Business, Government, Economy, International Trade, European Union.

It is Not necessary to have taken Business Studies in Junior Cycle in order to study Business at Leaving Cert Level.



For Further Information On Any of the Subjects – Checkout Websites :

www.loretoswords.ie
www.careersportal.ie

- **second level students**
- **Leaving cert**
- **Subject choice**



Accounts:-

This involves -

1. The recording of financial information by an individual, voluntary organisation or business.
2. The presentation of this financial information.
3. The interpretation and uses of this financial information.
4. Management Accounting - costings and budgeting for internal use.

It also provides a good foundation for many specific careers e.g. Accountancy, Auctioneering, Banking and Hotel Management to name but a few.

It is recommended that students considering this option would consult their teacher as a good knowledge of basic book-keeping at Junior Cert level is desirable.



Topic

Home Economics, Social and Scientific

The examination for both higher & ordinary levels will comprise either of the following:-

A. Candidates who choose either Home Design or Management or Social Studies Electives

1. Written Examination (80%)
2. Food Studies Coursework(20%)

B. Candidates who choose Textiles, Fashion & Design Elective

1. Written Examination(70%)
2. Food St. Coursework(20%)
3. Textile Studies Elective Coursework (10%)

Examination/Coursework

Completion dates:-

The written exam will take place in June as normal. The Food Studies Coursework and the Textile Studies Coursework (Journal) must be completed by a specified date. Each of these coursework areas are assessed prior to written exam.

A) Food studies: scientific includes a study of nutrition, diet, food science, food safety, microbiology, food spoilage, preservation, the food industry, meal planning etc.

B) Resource management & consumer studies includes family resources, management, financial resource management, household technology, textiles, consumer studies. Social

includes sociology definitions, family, marriage, relationships, family responsibilities, family law. The Food Studies Coursework journal must be completed under Teacher supervision: it's imperative students are present for all practical cookery classes for completion of same. Parents are requested to oversee research undertaken by the students and to ensure completion dates are met

Before taking this course, students should have reached a high standard in Home Economics at Junior Level. A good knowledge of Junior Cert. is an advantage. It is not possible to take on Home Ec. for Leaving Cert. without a foundation in Home. Economics at Junior Level.



Please note a new grading system for the Leaving Certificate is being introduced from 2017 onwards. Details can be found on cao.ie (Student Resources—New Common Points Scale 2017)

Higher Grade	Points	Ordinary Grade	Points
H1 90-100%	100	O1 90-100%	56
H2 80<90%	88	O2 80<90%	46
H3 70<80%	77	O3 70<80%	37
H4 60<70%	66	O4 60<70%	28
H5 50<60%	56	O5 50<60%	20
H6 40<50%	46	O6 40<50%	12
H7 30<40%	37	O7 30<40%	0
H8 0<30%	0	O8	0

Geography:

The Geography course serves to give the student a better understanding of our world and its resources, and also the relationship which exists between people and their environment. The course also aims to achieve an awareness of other peoples' problems and a concern for the quality of the environment and the conservation of world resources. The broad areas dealt with at Senior level are Map-work, Physical Social Economics and Regional Geography.

Skills such as the reading and interpretation of photographs, maps, pictures, tables and graphs are developed, as well as the processes of observation and recording during field-work.

Students are encouraged to take a keen interest in their local area as well as keeping up-to-date with newspaper articles and television programmes relating to the subject.

Computer science is being introduced from September 2018 with the first Leaving Cert exams in the new subject to take place in 2020.

Syllabus

The new syllabus aims to foster creativity and problem solving and develop in students an appreciation of the diverse role of computing technology in society and the environment in which they live. Among the objectives is to teach students how to read, write, test and modify computer programs and how computers work.

Students will develop an appreciation of the ethical and social implications of computing technology and how to evaluate the accuracy and bias of online information sources. Over the two years of the new Senior Cycle programme, students will put computer science to practice. In a series of five projects, each six-week in duration, students will work in groups to produce computational artefacts that are personally relevant to them, their community or society. These will include programs, digital animations, robotic systems and apps.



Politics and Society

This is a new subject which is being offered to students for the first time in Loreto College, Swords from September 2018. The first state examination in this subject will take place in June 2018.



This subject will build on Civil Social and Political Education, which is taken at Junior Cert level, and will bring a social-science perspective to Leaving Cert studies.

Politics and Society will aim to develop a student's ability to be a reflective and active citizen and will cover areas such as democracy, culture, conflict, globalisation, equality, diversity and sustainability.

Assessment will include a written report by students on an active citizenship project, for 20pc of the total mark. It will also help equip students for study in areas such as sociology, philosophy and anthropology at third-level.