

**Information on subject &  
Programme choice  
Senior Cycle**

# Leaving Cert Subjects

- Students **must choose 7 subjects for Leaving Certificate**, of which their **best six are counted for points**.
- **It is necessary to pass Maths and English** to enter the vast majority of third level courses, regardless of how well you do in other subjects or how many points you attain.
- All subjects carry equal points with the exception of Hons Maths.

# Considerations

- What subjects most interest you?  
Choose subjects that you like.
- What subjects are you likely to be best at?  
Check with subject teacher
- What subjects do you need (if any) for your interest area/course you wish to do
- What did the Eirquest report suggest for you

# Core Group of Subjects

## *3 CORE SUBJECTS*

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- +
- Modern Language (Generally)
- + 3 options

# Choosing Subjects

- **Maths, English & Irish (Unless Exempt from Irish)**

**Students are requested to choose their top five subjects in order of preference**

- **We will endeavour to grant them their top 4 preferences (choice subjects) but cannot guarantee this due to timetabling and resourcing.**

# French/German/Spanish

- ❖ A modern Language essential for NUI Universities
- ❖ NUI Galway, Cork, Maynooth and Dublin, and St Angela's Sligo. However not required for specific courses, science/ engineering, agriculture or nursing in these colleges.
- ❖ Accepted in UL and DCU as a second language. Colleges where a second language is required
- ❖ People with a business and a language degree are highly employable; Multi-cultural society, a foreign language is an added advantage.
- ❖ Many courses build in language options
- ❖ Required for Cadets in Army and Air Corps
- ❖ Useful for Tourism – Hotel and Catering and International Business.

# Other universities

- University of limerick
- Dublin City University
- Trinity College Dublin
- These require 2 languages
- English plus Irish or
- English plus a foreign language

# Science Group

- One science subject is essential for the following careers, but \*two science subjects are advisable for many.

Science	Technology	Nursing	Home Ec
Radiography	Physiotherapy	Occupational therapy	
Speech therapy	Human Nutrition	Engineering	Agriculture
Ind. Design	Environmental Health	Med Lab	Architecture
*Veterinary Medicine			
*Veterinary	* Medicine	*Dentistry	*Pharmacy



# Some courses require specifics

- Chemistry most specific

Chemistry required for Dentistry, Dietician, Pharmacy, Vet Medicine and Medicine in some colleges.

However unless you are capable of 500 points plus, these courses may be difficult to get.

# Specifics- Chemistry

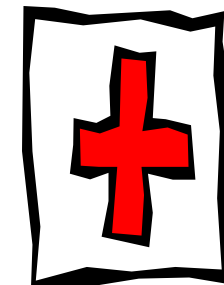
- Dentistry Cork and Trinity
- **Trinity- H3 + H4 In two of: Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Physics/ Chemistry**  
If you do not have a qualification in Physics you must present Mathematics at O5/H6 or better  
Combinations of subjects not permitted: Physics/Chemistry with Physics or Chemistry
- **Cork- Chemistry and Physics or Biology**

**Chemistry and another science subject recommended/required for**

**Veterinary Medicine (Chemistry req, & Biol. highly recommended**

**Pharmacy**

**Human Nutrition and Dietetics**



# Physics

- Very relevant and desirable subject in Engineering and Computers/Software although not necessary as an entry subject
- Acts as an entry requirement to all courses requiring a science subject

# Biology

- **22 mandatory experiments**
  - **Biology required for beautician**
- **Often used as science subject requirement for nursing**
- **Requirement for Genetics course at UCC**

**And human health and disease at Trinity**

# Ag. Science

- Ask teachers of subject for advice (Ms Carty)
- Project in Ag Science 25% of Leaving Cert
- One subject can help the other but on courses that require 2 science subjects, Ag. Science and Biology not always accepted together

# Applied Maths

- 1) supports students studying Physics and/or H.L. Maths
- 2) Very useful but not required for Engineering courses

# Medicine

- **Some courses require 2 science subjects, i.e chemistry plus another**
- **Some require specific combinations**
- **In all colleges 3 science subjects qualifies you in 5 years instead of 6**

# Business Group



- Accountancy
- Accounting is an entry requirement onto the Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) degree from NUI Galway. An Honors H4 is the minimum requirement. Some of the Careers open to Accounting students are as follows: Accounting and Finance, Taxation, Banking and Financial services
- Business Studies
- Possible to do Business at Third level without having studied Business to Leaving Certificate. Career prospects include Banking, Finance, Insurance, Sales, Marketing and Accountancy
- Economics
- Economics is not an entry requirement for any Commerce Degree course however,
- students who have taken Economics for their Leaving Certificate have a distinct advantage over students who have not. The following are just a few examples of where Economic studies can lead a career. Central Bank, Finance, Insurance, Economist and Consulting and Management



# Applied Science Group



## Construction Studies

Construction studies continuation of Materials Technology (Woodwork)

Useful not necessary for careers in Construction

Apprenticeships, Electrician, Quantity Surveyor, Civil Engineering, Teaching

# Engineering

- A continuation from Metalwork
- Useful for engineering careers, apprenticeships and construction
- If you have had an aptitude for this subject, good idea to carry on with it.
- Physics and Maths most important subjects for a career in engineering.

# Design and Communication Graphics

- Continuation of Technical Graphics

Useful for architecture, design, all engineering careers, manufacture, motor mechanic, and construction Industry

- Elements of Engineering and Construction.
- Good subject to take with either Engineering or Construction if you like practical subjects
- Taking Engineering and Construction together can be difficult due to project deadlines and workload

# Home Economics

- 20% Journal (project based)
- Less focus on cooking than at Junior Cycle
- Strong interest subject

# Humanities/History and Geography



Hugely popular subjects

- 20% of exam project based in both subjects
- Ask subject teachers for advice
- Both useful for Teaching – Journalism – Politics.
- Geography Town Planning – Tourism – Agriculture
- Geog. regarded as science subject in Trinity for TR071 general Science
- No course specifically requires these subjects

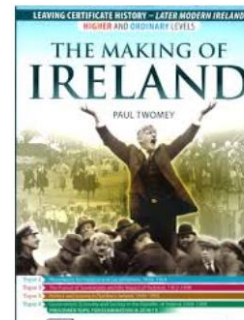
# Politics and Society

- 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.

There are two assessment components:

- Report on a citizenship project (20% ).
- Written examination (80% ).

Journalism – Politics- Media – Teaching



# Art

- Requirement for Art college courses and where portfolios are required
- Useful in Print Media, Industrial Design and Primary Teaching and Advertising.
- Probably the most useful subject in Architecture as portfolio required
- Students need to be genuinely interested in subject. Attitude; important
- Art History; 38% of mark



# Music

- Useful for any career that involves working in partnership with others or problem-solving
- 50% of marks awarded for practical exam (Easter 6<sup>th</sup> Year)
  - Music Technology option available
- Remaining 50% comes from listening and composition paper
  - Students will learn about music theory to be successful here
- Students can take it up for the first time if they have shown an interest in the subject before 5<sup>th</sup> year
  - e.g. Member of School Choir, Trad Group, took part in school shows...
- Talk to music teachers for advice



# Religious Education

Relatively few study in Ireland for examination

Leaving Certificate religious education promotes tolerance and mutual understanding.

It is a broad course which seeks to develop the skills needed to engage in meaningful dialogue with those of other or of no religious traditions.

1. Coursework 20%
2. Terminal written paper 80%

# LCVP

## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

**60% - Portfolio – CV, Action Plan, Career Investigation, summary Report plus 2 options**

**Submitted March**

**40% - Examination May**

**• Specific Subject Groupings**

**Distinction – 66 points**

**Merit – 46 points**

**Pass – 28 points**

# Considerations

- **Entry requirements versus points**
- **Without the right subject no amount of points will get you into medicine, Hons engineering courses, veterinary, Arts**

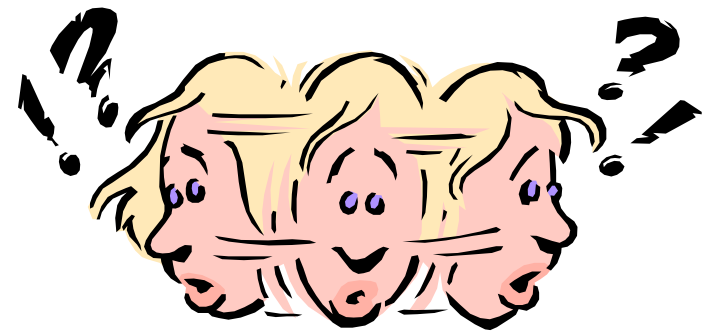
# Apprenticeships

- Now being developed to level 9 Masters level
- Many look for an honour in maths and science at Junior Cert Level
- Many require students to do aptitude tests
- May take people on with just Junior Cert but strongly advised to do leaving Cert.

# Considerations

- There is no easy subject at Leaving Cert level
- It is possible to take up new subject for first time but huge commitment required but
- If you decide to take an additional subject consider time and risk

# Consult subject teachers



- Vast array of course choices now so nobody needs to be locked into any area.
- Natural at 15, 16 not to have a clue!
- Leaving Cert is important but not the final exam for many people- Some students find their vocational area later in life....

Assess level you will study at Hons or Ordinary further down the road

# Mistakes

- Taking a subject because friends are or because you like a teacher
- Not working in first year of senior cycle
- Not consulting with a teacher of the subject you are choosing
- Not consulting with family

# Changes to the LC grading system

- Reducing the number of grade bands from 14 to 8
- Candidates receiving Leaving Certificate results in August 2017 will have their results expressed in the following new Leaving Certificate grades:

Higher Level Grade	Ordinary Level Grade
H1 (90-100)	O1 (90-100)
H2 (80 < 90)	O2 (80 < 90)
H3 (70 < 80)	O3 (70 < 80)
H4 (60 < 70)	O4 (60 < 70)
H5 (50 < 60)	O5 (50 < 60)
H6 (40 < 50)	O6 (40 < 50)
H7 (30 < 40)	O7 (30 < 40)
H8 (0 < 30)	O8 (0 < 30)



# Changes to the Common Points Scale

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

# Changes to the Common Points Scale

- **Maths Bonus Points**

25 bonus points will continue to be awarded for Higher Level Mathematics for H6 grades and above. For example, if an applicant receives a H6 grade, an additional 25 points will be added to the 46 points already awarded for a H6 grade i.e. Higher Level Mathematics now carries a points score of 71 for this applicant.

- **Foundation Level Mathematics**

Universities do not award points for Foundation Level, the IoTs are currently considering a conversion for 2017.

- **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme**

LCVP Grade	Revised LCVP Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

# Subject option that cover every career area.

- **Very bright and confused!**
- **Subject Option that covers everything**
- **Irish**
- **English**
- **Maths**
- **French/German/Spanish**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics/Biology**
- **Any other subject you like practical/humanities**



# Useful Website

- [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

Over next two weeks read documentation on the school website under the Parents and Students tabs

Analyse and discuss your personal workbook from Eirquest

Complete the application form for TY if applying

Complete the subject preferences in VSWARE under your son or daughters name