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Beaufort College Senior Cycle Options Booklet

This booklet aims to inform parents/guardians, our 3rd year and TY students about the programme options and subject choices on offer for Senior Cycle in Beaufort College.

The information seeks to support you in making informed decisions that best suit individual abilities and future ambitions. It is advised that this booklet be read taking into consideration the student's ongoing & existing research and career assessments, which took place earlier this month.

Senior Cycle Programme Options and Progression Routes



Pathways to Further Education (FE), Higher Education (HE) & Training/Apprenticeship





Tips on choosing course options and subjects:

Do your research. Read this booklet! Consider the student career interests/strengths and experiences. Click on the info links ! Understand what the courses and subjects are about. Find out more online if you need to at CareersPortal - Qualifax Subject Requirement Checker

Tool - Programmes Info

- Consider the young person's strengths and the challenges they have faced in their education journey so far. How do they learn best?
- What has been interesting, enjoyable, comes easy to the young person?
- > Keep in mind that with every choice, a positive attitude and effort will be required to get the best results!
- > Consider the My Guidance career interest assessment completed in class and accessible on MyGuidance (student's chool email & password with a! Will allow access to their platform.
- Consider hobbies and pastimes as a factor.
- > Enquire with your student what they learned at the school information fair & from their guidance counsellor.
- > Watch the information videos available on social media and played during tutor time.
- Ask teachers or older pupils who teach or study this subject.
- Consider future ambitions the young person may have expressed. E.g. Do they need to select a specific subject in LC to access a college course?
- > There is an old rule of thumb if you cannot decide what to choose keep your options open by choosing a combination that covers all the bases - language, science, humanities, practical/creative.
- > Does your child have a heritage language they might sit a Leaving Certificate exam in? (Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Latvian? More info here
- ➤ Think independently choose for you not the popular choice with your friends.



Transition Year – TY

What

is Transition Year?

Transition Year (TY) is an optional, one-year programme designed to bridge the gap between the Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle. It provides students with the opportunity to engage in independent learning, explore career options, and develop personal and academic skills without the pressure of exams. The programme allows students to try a variety of subjects, helping them make more informed decisions about their future Leaving Certificate choices.

What are the main benefits of completing the Transition Year Programme?

Academic Advantages	Studies show TY Students score 50 CAO points more on average and a higher percentage go on to study at 3rd level. TY enables students to take a greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making.
Career and Work Experience	Gives Students time to explore different career options and then to pursue work experience in these areas. Students also get interview experience, learn to write CV's and get the opportunity to sample 3rd Level Courses.
Self Confidence and Leadership	Students undertake multiple leadership courses and activities. They also get the opportunity to work with younger classes, which develops confidence in public speaking.
Certification	Over the course of the year, students complete various certifiable courses and are encouraged to achieve the GAISCE president's award. These will bolster CV and college applications.
Personal Developmentmen t	TY promotes students' time management and their ability to work independently amongst many others.
Social Contribution	Students undertake various volunteering opportunities with organisations such as SVP. They also run an annual fundraiser for a chosen charity.

What Subjects are undertaken during TY?

TY students engage in a mix of core and optional subjects, including but not limited to:

- Core Subjects: Maths, Irish, English, Climate Action, Modern Foreign Language (French/German), Enterprise (Mini Company) Guidance, Physical Education
- **Option Subjects:** Accounting, Business, Exam PE, Music, Art, Food and Nutrition, Materials Technology, Wood Technology, Graphics, Geography, History, Politics & Society, and more.

Work Experience

Students are in regular contact with career guidance teachers who will help them to explore and investigate potential careers as well as help them to develop skills and competencies that will allow them to maximise potential opportunities. They learn how to write CVs over the year, get various opportunities in interview settings, and receive feedback from them.

Students are timetabled for one day of Work Experience placement per week in an area that is of interest to them. **Students are required to secure their own placements**. This means students will have one day per week when they are not in school.

Students must have their first Work Experience placement sourced by September 1st in the first term and January 1st in the second term.

Some sample placements from previous students are Pet Shops, Subway, Car Dealers, Mechanics, Music shops, GameStop, libraries, Gyms, Restaurants, Barbers/hairdressers, and Supervalu.

How is Transition Year Assessed and Reported on?

Transition Year students will be assessed continuously throughout the year through a combination of summative and formative assessments, alongside a credit-based system. This approach serves three key purposes:

- **Enhancing student accountability** by promoting consistent engagement with the programme.
- **Rewarding active participation** and recognizing students who are most involved.
- Maintaining a balanced academic focus to ensure a smooth transition into 5th Year.

Additionally, parents of Transition Year students will receive formal reports every 11 weeks, in line with other year groups. They will also have the opportunity to attend a Parent-Teacher Meeting as normal.

Credit System based on 2024/25		
Subject/Module	Total	
Core Subjects	135	
Option Subjects	75	
TY Portfolio	30	
Work Experience (2 x 35 credits)	70	
Attendance (90% incremental)	40	
TY Interview (End of the year)	25	
Extra Curricular Activites	25	
Total	400	

End of Year Grade Descriptors		
Distinction	85% – 100%	
Higher Merit	70% – 84%	
Merit	55% – 69%	
Pass	40% – 54%	

Not Ashiomed	00/ 200/
Not Achieved	0% – 39%

Extra-Curricular Activities

Transition Year (TY) students will have the chance to represent our school on various trips and participate in workshops hosted by visiting speakers. Below is a list of some of our previous trips and workshops, although these are subject to change:

Bonding Trip to	Sustainabilit	Careers Fairs
Flynn	\mathbf{y}	
Park	Worksh	
	ор	
Mini Company	Financial Planning	Alone Workshop
Competition	Workshops	
CPR Workshop	Sports Leadership &	Glasnevin Cemetery
	Coaching	
Forensic	2 Day Film Making	Emerald Park
Science	Workshop	
Workshop	_	
Trip to Art Gallery	Prosper Workshop	Hike in Glendalough
Resilience Workshops	Self Defense Courses	Drumming Workshop
Museum Trips	Gaisce	Kilmainham Jail

Fees for the Transition Year Programme

The Transition Year Programme fee at Beaufort College is €300. A deposit of €150 is required at the time of acceptance, with the remaining balance to be paid in full (installments are accepted) by **1st September**. This fee is allocated to scheduling and organising workshops, guest speakers, and trips. Failure to pay the fee may result in limited experiences for your child.

Should any additional opportunities requiring extra funding arise, parents will be notified in advance.

Contact Information

Niamh Collins

Transition-Year Year Head

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Programme Coordinator

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Leaving Certificate Applied – LCA



What is Leaving Certificate Applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical Leaving Certificate programme with a vocational/job focus. It is especially designed for students who prefer to learn by doing practical activities.

What is different about Leaving Certificate Applied?

It is a practical Leaving Certificate programme which places emphasis on preparation for the world of work and life-long learning. Work experience is a significant component of the programme and students get to sample a range of jobs and get first-hand experience of the world of work. Students complete four weeks of work experience in LCA 1 and another four weeks in LCA 2. Work experience is broken into two-week blocks (dates to be confirmed). Students are expected to organise their own work placement. It is recommended that students organise two different employers and gain as much experience as possible.

The learning experiences are active and practical where students apply their knowledge, skills, and experience to real life situations in the school, in the workplace and in the wider community.

The programme provides a wealth of opportunities which enhance the self-esteem and confidence of students.

There is less emphasis on the final examinations as coursework is assessed / examined throughout the two years through a continuous assessment model. Students attain 'credits' (marks) as they progress through the programme. Students' work and skill development is assessed in different ways including interviews, written, oral and practical components. At four intervals during the programme students get a statement of their results from the State Examinations Commission. In this way they experience regular feedback on their success and achievement.

What are 'credits?

As students complete and submit their LCA coursework they are awarded 'credits.' There are 200 credits available in total which are awarded as follows:

Module = Subject / Task = Major Project / Final Examinations = LCA Exams in June alongside the LC Exams

	Credits	Percentage
Satisfactory completion of modules + 90% attendance	62 credits	31%
7 Students Tasks @ 10 credits each	70 credits	35%
Final Examinations (some subjects only)	68 credits	34%

Total	200 credits	100%
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How is the Leaving Certificate Applied awarded?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels – based on the total credits a student has accumulated over the 2 years over all their subjects combined.

Award	Credits	Percentage
Pass	120 – 139	60 – 69%
Merit	140 - 169	70 – 84%
Distinction	170 - 2 00	85 – 100%

Students who do not receive the minimum of 120 credits receive a 'record of experience' on their certificate.

What subjects are offered in Leaving Certificate Applied?

At Beaufort College, all students take the following subjects:

- Vocational Preparation and Guidance skills needed for starting work
- English and Communication English for everyday living
- Mathematical Applications Maths for everyday living Information and Communication Technology Basic ICT skills
- Arts Education Art
- Social Education Examining societal events and priorities
- Gaeilge Chumarsáideach Conversational Irish & Irish culture
- Modern European Language French or German Conversational & Culture
- Leisure and Recreation PE
- Elective Modules o Music in LCA1 5th year o Engineering in LCA2 6th year

In addition to the above students complete two specialist vocational courses. These Vocational Specialisms develop specific skills and knowledge relevant to a range of careers. Beaufort College offers two Vocational Specialism (based on resources available):

- Graphics and Construction Studies
- Hotel Catering and Tourism
- Information and Communication Technology

Can a student go to further education and training?

Yes, the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA) is accepted for a wide range of Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses at QQI Level 5. It also provides access to most apprenticeships and other vocational training awards. PLC colleges now offer a range of pre – apprenticeship courses with work experience and additional maths to assist students prepare for competitive apprenticeships.

Can a student go to Higher Education?

Graduates of Leaving Certificate Applied do not have direct access to Higher Education through the Central Applications Office (CAO). However, achieving an appropriate further education award e.g., QQI Level 5 may provide access for those who wish to apply to courses in Third Level colleges.

Who should consider Leaving Certificate Applied?

- Students who wish to progress to Senior Cycle but understand the challenges of completing the traditional Leaving Certificate.
- Students who **prefer learning by doing** and completing practical coursework.
- Students who would be **motivated by continuous assessment** over the two years of work.
- Students who want to gain work experience to help me with career choices.
- Students who wish to **develop key life skills** which will support me in my future career or studies.

For further information, contact the

School Programmes Coordinator; Ms. Michelle Brady, mbrady.bft@lmetb.ie

LCA Year Head; Ciara Carry, ccarry.bft@lmetb.ie



The Leaving Certificate Established is a two-year academic programme which leads to a level 5 qualification on *the National Framework of Qualifications*. This means that students who

successfully take this programme and who achieve the required grades may progress onto level 6, 7 and 8 courses in Institutes of Technology and Universities.

Students may also opt to progress to Post Leaving Certificate Colleges to do pre university courses, pre apprenticeship courses or gain qualifications in specific career areas. The apprenticeship route is also a popular choice for students who have completed the Leaving Certificate, with traditional craft apprenticeships and modern professional apprenticeships.

Students who opt for the Leaving Certificate Established programme will take seven subjects. These subjects will include English, Maths and Irish (unless exempt) along with four other optional subjects. Students who wish to apply for courses at institutes of technology or universities do so through the CAO or Central Application Office system. Here the students best 6 subject results will be converted into Leaving Certificate points. Courses are offered through this system by getting a specific number of points inclusive of specific subject minimum grades. For more on courses and points see CareersPortal.ie.

The Leaving Certificate Established is a challenging programme. For best results students need to be prepared for academic work, committed to regular homework and have a study routine established from the start. Subject selection is also very important for successful outcomes. Specific subject information as well as advice on selecting subjects can be found in the subject choice section of this booklet. Please take the time to study this carefully and do any necessary research before making your choices. The school Guidance Counsellors and subject teachers are an excellent source of support with this.

Please note, due to Senior Cycle Redevelopment, Business, Chemistry & Biology are within the first 'tranche' of subjects offered in Beaufort College to be rolled out for examination in 2027. These subjects will be marked as 'redeveloped' as you read through the sections. One of the main changes for these 'redeveloped' subjects is they will henceforth have a significant component which is project-based; as well as a traditional exam.



The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is a two-year compulsory programme <u>within</u> the Leaving Certificate. It aims to give a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate (established). The programme combines academic study and vocational subjects with a focus

on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. Students follow the LCVP modules as part of the Leaving Certificate Established programme.

With L.C.V.P. young people have a unique opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills. These skills will be an asset to the student in any future path they take. Students will complete a block period of work experience. Leaving Certificate points are awarded for this programme and accepted in the majority but not all higher education courses. In circa 70% of cases in recent years students have used their LCVP points in place of another subject for the purpose of calculating points for CAO.

* in exemption cases

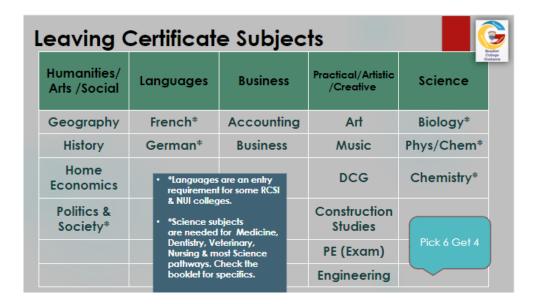


Leaving Certificate Established Subject Choice

<u>All students are asked to select subject choices</u> as places in TY and LCA must be applied for through an application form.

- > Students will study 7 subjects for their Leaving Certificate. If they chose additional subjects (outside of school hours), they can register to sit these exams in Beaufort College, but do not prepare for the subject during their timetabled hours in school.
- ➤ 3 core subjects, English, Irish (unless exempt) and Maths
- ➤ 4 optional subjects.
- L.C.V.P.
- > Students will be asked to select six optional subjects in order of preference to maximise preferences for everyone. The vast majority of students will be allocated 4 subjects from their 6 preferences.
- ➤ Please note in the Science band students cannot pick Phys/Chem & Chemistry as a combination.
- > Students exempt from Irish will avail of Learning Support / English Language Support.
- > Subjects can be taken at either Higher or Ordinary Level. Levels are determined by the student's ability in the subject. Performance during Junior Cycle is a key factor. Two subjects can be taken at Foundation Level. They are Irish and Maths. Subject teachers are best placed to advise on levels.

Beaufort College LC Optional Subjects





Geography is the study of people, their environment, and the interaction between the two. The course follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics (such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map-reading, and economic activities) in a lot more detail.

What kind of student might Geography suit?

- Students considering further study in areas such as geography, economics, environmental science, or politics.
- Students who enjoyed this subject and performed well in assessments for Junior Cycle.

Careers information and useful notes

Students must think abstractly and in 3-D (be careful about studying Geography if this is challenging). Geography is not a specific entry requirement for most higher education courses or apprenticeships but very useful for careers relating to planning, environmental sciences, education, agriculture and horticulture. Geography can be studied as a subject in its own right at third level and is useful for careers in education.

<u>Geography</u> Higher	Ordinary
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Written Paper	1 Paper - 80% of Marks	1 Paper - 80% of Marks
Project	1 Paper - 20% of Marks	1 Paper - 20% of Marks



History aims to record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred. It deals with human experience and involves an investigation of the surviving evidence relating to such experience. Students will study topics in Irish, European and World History.

What kind of student might History suit?

- Students who enjoy and appreciate history and would like to improve their knowledge.
- Students who enjoyed this subject and performed well in assessments for Junior Cycle.
- Students who have good English language skills and can write essay style questions.

Careers information and useful notes

History is not a specific entry requirement for higher education courses, but the academic skills developed studying history are very useful at third level for most courses. History can be studied at third level through the arts and is useful in education careers. History is also a useful subject for careers relating to culture and heritage, research and journalism to name a few.

Exam structure

<u>History</u>	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



The Politics & Society Leaving Certificate programme is about the social systems within which people act locally, nationally and more widely.

Students who take this course will look at the concepts underpinning contemporary systems of government and the roles of groups such as multinational companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental bodies, in shaping the world we live in.

Studying Politics & Society gives students a real insight into people, power and how society works.

What kind of student might Politics & Society suit?

If you want to become a more informed and active global citizen then this subject will be of interest to you.

Careers information and useful notes

Politics & Society is a useful subject to take if you want to study politics or sociology or other courses such as law, anthropology, philosophy, development studies, media studies, and many more.

The skills of critical thinking and active citizenship that you will develop through this subject will be useful to you in any future learning and in your everyday life.

Exam structure

Politics and Society	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

Politics & Society can be taken at Ordinary or Higher level.



Home Economics provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further / higher education and work. The learning experiences in home economics develops flexibility and adaptability in students, prepare them for a consumer-oriented society and provide a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism.

What kind of student would Home Economics suit?

- A practical minded student who enjoys learning theory behind everyday life.
- A student who is interested in sociology. Leaving Certificate Home Economics covers topics in this area e.g., family /marriage/ relationships/ family difficulties e.g.,

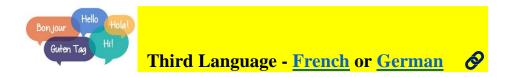
- alcoholism, gambling, the elderly, housing, problems facing teenagers/ childcare development.
- A student who is interested in the study of nutrition, resource management and consumer studies.

Careers information and useful notes

- Much of this course is theory based.
- Practical cookery is assessed through written exams only.
- Home Economics is not a specific entry requirement for apprenticeships or third level
 courses but is a very useful subject for many courses relating to hotel and catering as
 well as further study in the social sciences and education. This subject contributes
 significantly to essential life skills in the modern world.

Exam Structure

Home Economics	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



Choosing a language for the Leaving Certificate exam

As languages are optional at Junior and Senior Cycle some students may be considering keeping or dropping their language at this point. Therefor it is important to understand the implications of this choice before making it.

A *third language is a specific entry requirement* for some further education courses and career areas. That said, there are hundreds of third level courses that do not require a third language. This is important as not all students excel at languages. Preferable that a student studied the language at Junior Cycle to choose this option at Senior Cycle unless a native speaker.

Where languages are a specific entry requirement

A modern foreign language unless exempt, is an entry requirement for **some** courses at some universities and career paths. They include the National Universities of Ireland, UCC, UCD, NUI Galway, MU and the Royal College of Surgeons.

A modern foreign language is required for cadetships in the Defense Forces and is considered in place of Irish for the two-language requirement for entry to An Garda Siochana. This subject is also considered in place of art for entry to NCAD.

Where languages are not a specific entry requirement

There are an increasing number of courses at the National Universities of Ireland (mostly in science and technology) in which a language is not required. Trinity College, DCU, TU Dublin and the Institutes of Technology do not require a third language as an entry requirement unless the course is language specific.

To check if a language or any other subject is a specific entry requirement for particular college courses see Minimum Subject Requirements (qualifax.ie)

Exam Structure to Modern Foreign Languages at Leaving Certificate

French/German	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 55% of Marks	1 Paper - 55% of Marks
Oral	1 Paper - 25% of Marks	1 Paper - 20% of Marks
Aural	1 Paper - 20% of Marks	1 Paper - 25% of Marks



Lab Science Subjects – Biology / Physics and Chemistry Combined

(Phys/Chem) / Chemistry & Chemistry

While science was a core subject in Junior Cycle, a science subject (or lab science subject as it is sometimes referred to for college applications) is optional at Senior Cycle.

Beaufort College offers three lab science subjects, Biology / Physics and Chemistry Combined (Phys/Chem) & Chemistry. Some third level courses require one, two or a specific lab science subject as an entry requirement. Therefore, it is important to check if a science subject is needed as an entry requirement for a particular career path.

To check if a science subject or any other subject is a specific entry requirement for college courses see Minimum Subject Requirements (qualifax.ie)

Please note that **not all engineering** courses require a science subject or higher-level Maths for entry. Some college also offer a catch up Maths option in cases where the desired level/grade was not achieved. Specific course research is very important in such instances. In some cases, where an entry requirement is missing or in question, students often plan with their guidance counsellor to research a QQI pathway (PLC College) to the desired course. This can be a alternative, back-up option to be aware of.



Students wishing to study veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry and medicine in **UCC** will need to study pure Chemistry. These courses have exceptionally high points for entry and require significant preparation from Junior Cycle. Phys/ Chem will not be accepted in these cases. Please consult a Guidance Counsellor for advice if this is

an area of interest to your child.



Biology is the study of life. Through the study of Biology students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment. They become more aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment.

The new course is broken up into three main sections:

- Organisation of Life
- Structures and Processes of Life
- Interactions of Life

What kind of student would Biology suit?

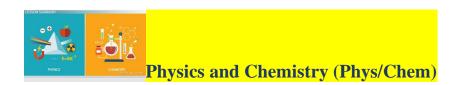
- Students who enjoyed science for Junior Cycle. Biology is particularly suited to students who have scored highly in the Naturalist and Investigative areas in their careers interest test.
- Students with an aptitude for memory work and lab work.
- Those who are organised and like the idea of 40% of the work set as a project.
- Someone considering a career in healthcare e.g., nursing, medicine etc.

Careers information and useful notes

 Biology is a popular science subject for students who have shown an aptitude for science at Junior Cycle, are not sure of their future career path at present and wish to keep their options open by keeping a science subject.

Assessment Structure

Biology	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Biology in Practice Investigation	Project – 40% of Marks	Project – 40% of Marks



This course combines parts of both Leaving Certificate Physics and Leaving Cert Chemistry into a single course which is examined separately. It includes mandatory practical experiments which must be completed and written up, as well as a written examination on the theory and applications of both disciplines.

What kind of Student would Physics and Chemistry suit?

- A student who enjoyed science and showed ability in it at Junior Cycle.
- Anyone considering a career in a scientific discipline, such as physics, chemistry, environmental science, medicine or any third level course where a science subject is required.

Careers information and useful notes

Please note that Physics and Chemistry (Phys/Chem) is not physics or chemistry. All
three subjects have distinct courses and separate exams. Please speak to a science
teacher if you wish to find out more about this subject.

Physics and Chemistry	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 100% of Marks	1 Paper - 100% of Marks



Chemistry is often described as 'the central science' containing a lot of formulas. So, if you enjoyed Junior Cert Science and have done well in it, and in Maths, you should be a good candidate for Leaving Cert Chemistry.

What kind of student would Chemistry suit?

- If you enjoyed Junior Cert Science and you have done well in this and in Maths, you should be a good candidate for Leaving Cert Chemistry.
- If you apply attention to detail and are able to describe the procedures of experiments and understand vocabulary.
- Students considering a career in any scientific discipline, such as chemistry, biology, environmental science, medicine, pharmacology, or material science.

Recommendations/Tips

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the chemistry course has a good understanding of Junior Cert Science at Higher level.
- Each student should have an aptitude for and an interest in laboratory work.
- A student would be expected to have a reasonable level of Junior Cert Maths, either at Higher or Ordinary level.
- There is now an element of continuous assessment being introduced as per the senior cycle redevelopments.

Assessment Structure

Chemistry	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Project	40% - Common Brief	40% - Common Brief

Careers information and useful notes

This subject *may* be essential for entry into some Third Level courses. Click on the link <u>HERE</u> to view courses that may require this subject for entry.

Chemistry is considered extremely useful for a wide range of career areas such as: Pharmacy, Ag Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Engineering, General Sciences, Dietician, Nursing, Food Science, Biotechnology and Medical Laboratory Technology.



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. The new project included as part of the assessment will add to the competencies developed in this subject.

What kind of student would Business suit?

- A student who is interested in current affairs and listens to the news, reads the papers and stays alert to what is happening in the general business world.
- A student who can apply business concepts in everyday life.
- A student who has an organised mind and likes to answer questions in bullet points, rather than in long essay format.
- Anyone thinking of starting his or her own business in the future.

Careers information and useful notes

- Business is not specifically required for entry into third level courses, but it would certainly be beneficial for candidates who might be interested in courses or careers in the area of finance, enterprise, law and communications.
- While helpful, it is not essential to have studied Business in Junior Cycle to take it up
 in Senior Cycle. However, for a successful outcome, commitment to working at the
 subject is essential.

Assessment Structure

Business	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Project	40% - Common Brief	40% - Common Brief



Leaving Certificate Accounting provides students with the knowledge, understanding and skills in accounting and financial management necessary for managing personal and basic company accounts. The learning experiences in accounting develop students' organisational, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for their future life, work and study. It also develops their numeracy skills within the context of business and enterprise.

What kind of student would accounting suit?

- Students who like working with numbers.
- It teaches students the bookkeeping side of business but delves deeper, teaching you to analyse and interpret the figures. Once you can understand and adhere to the basic rules of accountancy, it is a subject that you can do very well in.
- For those considering careers in accounting, actuarial studies, finance or business.
- An organised student who is hard working will do well in this subject due to its structured nature.

Careers information and useful notes

While this subject is not a specific entry requirement for apprenticeships or third level courses it would be highly recommended for students wishing to pursue an apprenticeship as an account's technician or a third level course in accountancy or business.

Exam Structure

Accounting	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 100% of Marks	1 Paper - 100% of Mark



Leaving Cert Art is built around the artistic process and how it supports learning. Art is both creative and expressive and it provides an opportunity for the development of the skills necessary for creative engagement with the world. The course of study sets out clear expectations for students, across three inter-related and inter-dependent strands: Research, Create and Respond.

What kind of Student would Art suit?

- Students who have shown an aptitude for Art in Junior Cycle.
- Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, or Advertising.
- Students who enjoy expressing themselves through art and like to sketch and doodle.
- Students who are prepared to work hard at developing their artistic talent.
- Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects, or to reduce pressure on themselves in June by having a subject with exams in April/May.

Careers information and useful notes

- While not essential as a specific entry requirement to apprenticeships or most college courses, anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, or Advertising should consider this subject.
- Entry to art courses at third level require an art portfolio. Studying Art at Senior Cycle would help prepare for this project which is usually undertaken in a specific portfolio preparation course at a PLC college.

Exam Structure

Art	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 30% of Marks	1 Paper - 30% of Marks
Practical	1 Paper - 20% of Marks	1 Paper - 20% of Marks
Project	1 Paper - 50% of Marks	1 Paper - 50% of Marks



Leaving Certificate Music involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening.

What kind of student would Music suit?

- Students who have shown an aptitude for music in Junior Cycle and are keen to develop and practice more.
- Students who can read music and have a competence in singing or playing an instrument.
- Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as singing, playing in a band, music production and performance technology and management.
- Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects.

Careers information and useful notes

- Students can get up to 50 per cent of the total marks in a musical activity that best suits their talent before they sit the written paper.
- Music is required as a specific entry requirement for some music specific courses at third level. Auditions may also be a part of this process.
- While not a specific subject requirement for apprenticeships or most college courses
 including many music courses, a student considering a career in a creative discipline
 such as singing, playing in a band, music production, performance technology and
 management should consider this subject.

Exam Structure

<u>Music</u>	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper		
Composing	25%	Choice of 50% / 25% of Marks
Project	(Higher Level Elective) - 25%	
Aural	25%	Choice of 50% / 25% of Marks
Performance	25%	Choice of 50% / 25% of Marks



The course is suitable for students who have a strong interest in sports, physical fitness or physical activities such as dancing. It develops the student's performance levels, as well as introducing the student to insights into physical activity from the social and life sciences.

Students choose from a wide variety of physical activities and will work to improve their performance in these activities.

What kind of student might Physical Education suit?

- The course should suit physically active students who are engaged in individual or team sports, as well as activities such as fitness, dance and gymnastics.
- An interest in Biology/Science can be a benefit.
- Students who like the challenge of significant project work and deadlines (including videos, diaries, diet plans etc)
- Students who plan to pursue a career in sports and fitness occupations, such as physiotherapy, physical training or sports coaching, will benefit from the course.
- Sports need not be a career goal to justify taking the course, the course content will benefit any student for whom participation in sports or dance makes up a significant part of their day to day lives.

Careers information and useful notes While not an entry requirement for apprenticeships or third level courses Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate exam subject is very useful for students considering a career in the sport and fitness career sector.

Exam Structure

Physical Education	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



Leaving Certificate Construction Studies provides students with an introduction to the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and processes. It builds on the skills students have developed through Junior Cycle Wood Technology, Engineering and Graphics.

What kind of Student would Construction Studies suit?

It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment. Each student should have an aptitude for, and an interest in design and practical work.

Careers information and useful notes

This subject follows on from Technology Wood in Junior Cycle. While not a specific entry requirement for apprenticeships or third level courses, it goes without saying Construction Studies would be very useful for students considering an apprenticeship or third level course in construction or engineering.

Construction Studies	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 50% of Marks	1 Paper - 40% of Marks
Practical	1 Paper - 25% of Marks	1 Paper - 30% of Marks
Project	1 Paper - 25% of Marks	1 Paper - 30% of Marks



Leaving Certificate Engineering is the study of mechanical engineering. Students develop skills and initiative in the planning, development and realisation of technological projects in a safe manner. There are two main areas of study: workshop processes, and materials and technology.

What kind of Student would Engineering suit?

- A student who enjoys practical hands-on learning as well as the theory behind it.
- A student with an aptitude for and an interest in design and practical work. This subject
 follows on from Junior Cycle Engineering, but it may be possible to choose this subject
 without previous study.

Careers information and useful notes

While not a specific entry requirement for most apprenticeship and third level courses, it goes without saying that engineering would be very useful for any student wishing to do a traditional craft apprenticeship in an area of construction or engineering. It would also be very useful for third level courses and careers in the construction and engineering sectors.

Exam Structure

Engineering	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 50% of Marks	1 Paper - 40% of Marks
Practical	1 Paper - 25% of Marks	1 Paper - 30% of Marks
Project	1 Paper - 25% of Marks	1 Paper - 30% of Marks



Known as 'DCG', this subject develops students' comprehension ability, problem solving and creative thinking skills through the analysis and solution of both 2 and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.

What kind of Student would DCG suit?

- Students who have enjoyed Visual Art / Graphics / Wood Technology / Engineering in Junior Cycle.
- Students who have a keen interest in further studies in practical areas of engineering and construction, or in apprenticeships which include the study of technical drawings.
- Students who have used free hand sketching in either Art or Wood Technology in Junior
 Cycle would find this skill useful. Knowledge of ICT is also beneficial. Finally, those
 who pride themselves on neatness, as draughtmanship requires a level of neatness for
 completion of drawings.

Careers information and useful notes

While not an entry specific entry requirement for apprenticeships or third level courses, it goes without saying DCG would be very useful for students considering a pursuing an apprenticeship or third level course in Engineering, Product Design, Construction and Architecture.

Exam Structure

Design & Comm Graphics	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Project	1 Paper - 40% of Marks	1 Paper - 40% of Marks

Finding out more about subjects and careers

For information on how subjects relate to third level choices see the minimum subject requirements tool at Minimum Subject Requirements (qualifax.ie)

To learn more about each subject in more detail, including course content, course structure and career possibilities, please see the Leaving Certificate subject explorer section CareersPortal.ie. To learn more about the changes due to the Senior Cycle Redevelopment you can read more HERE.



English

Notes:

- Skills in English language are important for further study at PLC and Apprenticeship level as well as generally in the world of work.
- A pass in English is required for most higher education courses. Specific levels may be required. Students will need to research specific levels required for third level courses as part of careers research when in Senior Cycle. In many cases a pass in Irish is accepted in place of English.
- English teachers are best placed to advise on the level most suited to each student. Levels are determined by ability. Higher Level English for Leaving Certificate demands significant effort and dedication.

Exam Structure

English	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	2 Papers - 100% of Marks	2 Papers - 100% of Marks

Gaeilge (Irish)*

Notes

- Leaving Certificate Irish builds on the language skills developed during Junior Cycle. Language skills are further developed towards enabling the learner to take an active part in the bilingual society in which we live in today in Ireland.
- Irish is an entry requirement for a significant number of third level courses, unless exempt. For institutes of technology students must pass either Irish or English. Students will need to research specific requirements when in Senior Cycle.
- It is highly advisable that students spend some time in the Gaeltacht where the language is spoken to help them improve their Irish language skills.
- A H4 in Irish is required for entry to primary school teaching.

Exam Structure

Gaeilge	Higher	Ordinary	Foundation
Written Paper	2 Papers - 50% of	2 Papers - 50% of	1 Paper - 40% - of
	Marks	Marks	Marks
Oral	1 Paper - 40% of	1 Paper - 40% of	1 Paper - 40% of
	Marks	Marks	Marks
Aural	1 Paper - 10% of	1 Paper - 10% of	1 Paper - 20% of
	Marks	Marks	Marks

[•] An exemption from Irish may apply

Mathematics

Project Maths, the current Leaving Cert curriculum, provides students with the opportunity to gain an understanding of and familiarity with several branches of mathematics, as well as developing their overall appreciation of the subject. The branches, or 'strands', of the course have been chosen because they have applications in everyday life, are useful in other disciplines, and provide a foundation for further education.

Careers information and useful notes

Mathematics is available for study at three levels, Foundation, Ordinary, and Higher. Each level covers everything in the levels below it. Students are encouraged to study at the level appropriate to their needs and aspirations. Securing a minimum of a pass mark on an Ordinary level paper is necessary for entry into the majority (but not all) of third level college courses.

There are many careers which require or benefit greatly from having a Higher level of mathematics, and it's a good idea to research and consider your needs and commitments before coming to a decision. If you choose to study higher level maths it is worth noting that you will be rewarded an extra 25 points provided you achieve a H1 - H6 grade. Maths is not a requirement for every course and the number of courses now accepting foundation level maths has increased. These can be found using the filters on the Course Finder tool.

Exam Structure

Mathematics	Higher	Ordinary	Foundation
Written Paper	2 Papers - 100% of	2 Papers - 100% of	1 Paper - 100% of
	Marks	Marks	Marks



Students also avail of subjects to support their wellbeing during senior cycle. These consist of:

- Social Personal Health Education
- Physical Education
- Career Guidance

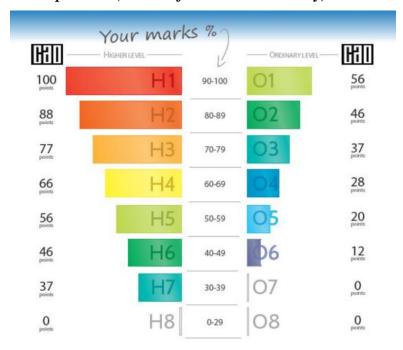
None of the above are examinable, but all support the social, emotional and vocational development of the students.

Some Useful Information

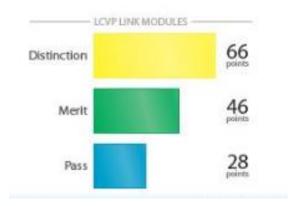
All Courses fall onto the NFQ:



The Points Breakdown per level (relevant for CAO courses only):



LCVP Grading System:



LCA Grading Breakdown:

	Junior Certificate		Junior Cycle	
Level	Percentage	Grade Descriptor	Percentage	Grade Descriptor
	≥ 85 to 100	Α	≥ 90 to 100	Distinction
	≥ 70 and < 85	В	≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit
Higher, Ordinary, Foundation/ Ard, Gnath, Bonn	≥ 55 and < 70	С	≥ 55 and < 75	Merit
	≥ 40 and < 55	D	≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
	≥ 25 and < 40	E	≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
	≥ 10 and < 25	F	≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded (NG)
	≥ 0 and < 10	NG		



Understanding the Careers Interest Assessments &

Results



The MyGuidance Self-Assessment tool is a valuable resource for students transitioning from junior to senior cycle. Here's how it can help your child make informed decisions about their subjects and programmes:

- Personalised Insights: The assessment provides tailored information about your child's strengths, interests, and aptitudes.
- Subject Exploration: Students can discover which subjects align best with their abilities and preferences.
- Programme Matching: The tool helps identify suitable senior cycle programmes based on individual profiles.
- Career Connections: It links subject choices to potential career paths, offering a glimpse into future opportunities.
- Decision Support: Results can guide discussions with guidance counsellors, teachers, and you as parents.
- Confidence Building: By understanding their strengths, students can make choices with greater assurance.
- Time-Efficient: The online format allows for quick completion and immediate results.
- Accessibility: The platform will work on any device, so you can easily login to check
 the results as you discuss options with your student. Accessible using your student's
 school email & password (with a ! Symbol added at the end).

Using this self-assessment tool can significantly aid your child in navigating the important decisions ahead for their senior cycle education & beyond! Self-awareness is the key to making informed choices.

The MUSAIC Psychometric Test

Also known as the M.U.A.S.I.C Career Category Test, identifies six main interest profiles:

Manual (M)

Understanding (U)

Artistic (A)

Social (S)

Influencing (I)

Clerical (C)

These profiles help students identify their strengths and preferences in different career areas.

While specific subject recommendations for the senior cycle are open to individual interpretation and research, the categories can help to inform and organise choices based on these interest categories:

Manual: Practical subjects like Construction Studies, Engineering, Art, DCG or perhaps the LCA Program could be explored.

Understanding: Science subjects, mathematics, or computer science.

Artistic: Art, music, or design and communication graphics.

Social: Languages, history, or social studies.

Influencing: Business studies, economics, or politics and society.

Clerical: Accounting, business studies, or computer applications.

Students can use their test results to explore subjects that align with their strongest interest areas, potentially leading to more informed decisions about their senior cycle subject choices.

Manual/Practical

For students with manual/practical interests, the following subjects are recommended for senior cycle:

- 1. Construction Studies
- Hands-on experience in building and construction
- Practical knowledge of materials and techniques
- Includes elements of design and project management
- 2. Engineering
- Focuses on design principles and problem-solving
- Practical application of scientific and mathematical concepts
- Develops skills in manufacturing and production
- 3. Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)
- Technical drawing and design skills
- 3D modeling and spatial reasoning
- Practical application in various fields including architecture and product design
- 4. Phys/Chem
- Practical experiments to understand physical principles
- Hands-on approach to studying mechanics, electricity, and energy
- Develops problem-solving skills with real-world applications

- 5. Exam PE
- Practical aspects to the course, although there is a lot a lot of theory
- Develops an awareness of physical health
- Project aspect to the course
- 6. Leaving Certificate Applied
- Practical skills in continuous assessmnts and project work
- Includes elements of many subjects
- Develops teamwork and gain work experience
- 7. Transition Year
- Practical skills in continuous assessments and project work
- Includes elements of many subjects
- Work experience
- Sampling subjects and experiences first hand

Understanding/Investigative

For students with understanding/investigative interests, the following subjects are recommended for senior cycle:

- 1. Biology
- Study of complex life systems
- Practical experiments and lab work
- 40% continuous assessment
- Exploration of environmental and genetic topics
- 2. Chemistry
- Investigation of substance properties and chemical reactions
- Hands-on laboratory experiments
- Application of scientific principles to real-world scenarios
- 3. Phys/Chem
- Exploration of fundamental laws of nature
- Problem-solving and experimental work
- Understanding of energy, motion, and matter
- 4. Geography
- Investigation of physical landscapes and human impact
- Study of global issues and environmental challenges
- Development of research and analytical skills
- 5. Home Economics
- Study of human body, health & nutrition
- Focus on society and lifestyle management
- Exploration of parts of biology and life sciences

- 6. Exam PE
- Investigative and physiological aspects to the course, with an exam requiring a lot of higher order thinking.
- Develops an awareness of physical health
- Project aspect to the course, developing planing and organising skills
- 7. Transition Year
- Subject sampling
- Work experience opportunities of choice
- Workshops that may align with this interest area

These subjects provide opportunities for in-depth investigation, critical thinking, and practical application of scientific principles, catering to students who enjoy exploring and understanding complex systems and phenomena.

Artistic/Creative

For students with artistic and creative interests, the following subjects are recommended for senior cycle:

- 1. Art
- Develops creative skills and personal expression
- Explores various artistic mediums
- Includes art history and critical analysis
- Supports development of visual communication skills
- 2. Music
- Provides opportunities for performance and composition
- Enhances understanding of musical theory
- Develops creative and technical musical skills
- 3. Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)
- Focuses on visual problem-solving
- Develops design principles and technical drawing skills
- Encourages innovative thinking
- 4. Home Economics
- Offers creative projects in textiles and design
- Combines practical skills with creative expression
- 5. Construction Studies
- Includes architectural design elements
- Encourages creativity in building and design
- Develops practical and innovative skills

- 8. Leaving Certificate Applied
- Practical skills in continuous assessments and project work
- Includes elements of many subjects, including Art, Design & Engineering.
- Develops creative thinking
- Chance to seek work placement in an area of interest
- 6. Transition Year
- Creative skills in work shops and project work
- Includes elements of many subjects
- Work experience

Additional Considerations:

- These subjects support creative thinking across multiple disciplines
- They provide opportunities for personal expression and skill development
- Many of these subjects can complement each other and support future creative career paths

Social

For students with social interests, the following subjects/programmes may be of interest for senior cycle:

- 1. Home Economics
- Study of family structures and dynamics
- Focus on health, nutrition, and lifestyle management
- Exploration of consumer studies and resource management
- 2. Geography
- Analysis of human-environment interactions
- Study of global societies and cultures
- Examination of social and economic issues on a global scale
- 3. History
- Exploration of human societies over time
- Analysis of social, political, and cultural changes
- Development of critical thinking about historical events and their impacts
- 4. Politics and Society
- Study of civic structures and political systems
- Examination of contemporary social issues
- Development of active citizenship skills
- 5. Modern Languages (e.g., French, German, Spanish)
- Development of cross-cultural communication skills

- Study of different cultures and societies
- Enhancement of global awareness and understanding
- 6. Business Studies
- Examination of organizational structures and their social impacts.
- Study of economic systems and their effects on society
- Exploration of ethical business practices and corporate social responsibility
- 7. Leaving Certificate Applied
- Social skills in continuous assessments and project work.
- Includes elements of many subjects, including many with aspects of society and the community.
- Develops teamwork & collaborative thinking.
- Chance to seek work placement in an area of interest.
- 8. Transition Year
- Social and collaborative skills in workshops and project work.
- Includes elements of many subjects.
- Work experience to suit interests.

Influencing/Persuasive

For students with influencing/persuasive interests, the following subjects are recommended for senior cycle:

- 1. Business
- Study of organizational structures and management
- Development of leadership and decision-making skills
- Understanding of marketing and business strategies
- 2. History
- Critical analysis of historical arguments and perspectives
- Development of research and presentation skills
- Understanding of societal changes and their impacts
- 3. Politics and Society
- Study of political theories and structures
- Examination of current societal issues
- Development of debating and argumentation skills
- 4. Modern Languages (e.g., French, German, Heritage Language*)
- Enhancement of communication skills in a global context
- Development of cultural awareness and sensitivity
- Improvement of persuasive writing and speaking abilities
- 5. LCVP/Link Modues

- Study of the world of work
- Portfolio is 60%
- Understanding of enterprise
- Compliments business subjects
- Includes a work experience opportunity (during term-break)
- Optional subject
- A Distinction in this subject is equivilant to a H4 (66 points) and can be counted for MOST courses on the CAO.
- 6. Leaving Certificate Applied
- Continuous assessments and project work.
- Includes elements of many subjects, including many with aspects of preapring for work and the world of business.
- Chance to seek work placement in an area of interest.
- 7. Transition Year
- Enterprise/business skills in workshops and project work.
- Includes elements of many subjects.
- Work experience to suit interests.

Clerical/Organisational

For students with clerical/organizational interests, the following subjects are recommended for senior cycle:

- 1. Accounting
- Precise financial record-keeping skills
- Understanding of business financial structures
- Development of attention to detail and accuracy
- 2. Business
- Study of management principles and organizational structures
- Skills in business planning and administration
- Understanding of business operations and coordination
- 3. Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)
- Skills in technical drawing and visual organization
- Development of spatial awareness and planning abilities
- Use of computer-aided design software
- 4. LCVP/Link Modues
- Study of the world of work
- Portfolio is 60%

^{*}Studied in student's own time, but can be registered as an exam if agreed with examinations officer

- Understanding of enterprise
- Compliments business subjects
- Includes a work experience opportunity (during term-break)
- Optional subject
- A Distinction in this subject is equivalent to a H4 (66 points) and can be counted for MOST courses on the CAO.
- 5. Leaving Certificate Applied
- Continuous assessments and project work.
- Includes elements of many subjects, including many with aspects of preparing for work and the world of business.
- Chance to seek work placement in an area of interest.
- 6. Transition Year
- Enterprise/business skills in workshops and project work.
- Includes elements of many subjects.
- Work experience to suit interests.

Making your Final Choices

Manual/ Practical	Understanding/ Investigative	Artistic/ Creative	Social	Influencing/ Persuasive	Clerical/ Organisational
Construction Studies	Biology*	Art/Art History	Geography	Business*	Accounting
Engineering	Phys/Chem	Music	History	Politics & Society	Business*
How the career interest areas map to our subjects. Have you done your research?	Chemistry*	Design Communicat ion Graphics	Politics & Society	History	LCVP (optiional)
	Geography	Construction	Home Economics	German	DCG
	Design Communication Graphics			French	
	Home Economics				

Remember, your senior cycle journey is not just about choosing subjects/programmes, but it is also you taking the lead to shape your future. Stay curious, stay open to new ideas, and trust yourself to make the choices that feel right for you and your student now that you have signposts to the right information. The path ahead is yours to create—making choices is a big part of self-awareness and knowing that there are many pathways that are open to you on the road ahead! Knowledge is power when it comes to making such key, informed decisions.