

## SUBJECT CHOICE INFORMATION BOOKLET



### Introduction

Choosing subjects to study in the Leaving Certificate is not an easy decision to make and students must consider their possible future careers when doing so. The end of both Third Year and Transition Year are big milestones in a student's educational life and **the choices they make now will have implications for their future career.**

For this reason, it is important that they take their subject choices seriously. Consultation with teachers, parents/ guardians, senior cycle students, family and the guidance counsellor are essential.

**STUDENTS SHOULD READ THIS BOOKLET FULLY! A student should never choose a subject without knowing what he/ she will be studying.** It is important to note that some future careers require certain subjects at leaving certificate (For example medicine requires a strong knowledge of chemistry).

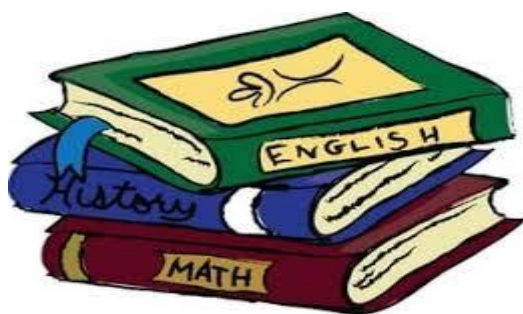
As the Guidance Counsellor, I must make sure that each student is informed about the subjects available to them. However, **students must also take a certain level of responsibility for their career development and should speak to their teachers and parents about these choices.** There are many factors which must be considered when choosing subjects, most notably **whether you like the subject or not and, of course, your ability in the subject.**

Students should consider their possible or preferred future career when making these choices. Research into college courses which may lead to these careers will reveal the essential subjects required, these are the minimum entry requirements. The remainder of this booklet will explain the process involved in making subject choices in St. John Bosco Community College and will provide detailed information on each subject available in the school, both compulsory and optional.

Josephine Ryan

Guidance Counsellor

## Subjects on offer in St John Bosco Community College



<b>Compulsory Subjects:</b>	English  Irish (Unless exempt based on a number of criteria)  Mathematics  Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
<b>Modern Foreign Languages:</b>	French  German
<b>Business:</b>	Business  Accounting
<b>Laboratory Science:</b>	Biology  Chemistry  Agricultural Science
<b>Social Studies:</b>	History  Geography
<b>Artistic Group:</b>	Music  Art and Design
<b>Applied Science/ Technical:</b>	Engineering  Construction Studies  Home Economics

## Subject Choice Procedure in St. John Bosco Community College



**Step 1:** You will be asked to select your senior cycle subjects. You will study English Irish (unless exempt) Maths and LCVP as these are compulsory subjects. You will then be asked to choose five option subjects. You must put your subjects in order of preference. The fifth choice is a backup.

**Step 2:** The school will enter students' preferences on the VSware computer system. This will then create student option bands. The bands are created by student demand for subjects.

**Step 3:** The school will give students the bands and they will choose their subjects. Students will choose **four subjects in order of preference**. They will study these four subjects. In St John Bosco Community College, we endeavour to do our best to ensure all students are accommodated with their subject choice.

### Subject Choice Guidelines

Depending on what you want to study after the Leaving Cert, some subjects are a matriculation requirement for certain courses.

This means that they are mandatory to gain entry into a given college course. For example, a minimum H5 in higher level chemistry is required for veterinary; a minimum H4 in higher level mathematics is required for Engineering – Common Entry in the University of Limerick. It's important not to lock yourself out of a course you want to study by not choosing a required subject.

Do your research.

Different colleges have different requirements for the same course. Check each college prospectus and make sure you've covered the course requirements for what you want to study after the Leaving Cert.

### You're good at what you enjoy

It's much harder to do well in a subject that you don't enjoy or aren't naturally good at. Make sure to choose your favourite subject(s). When it comes to studying each subject, it is important you find them interesting to be able to excel at them. Studying a subject you enjoy can decrease the pressure and workload immensely. If you're good at a subject it will come naturally to you. Take all of the budding engineers we have; these students tend to be naturals at mathematical subjects. Therefore higher level maths and chemistry would probably be subjects that would suit their ability and one they would be good at.

### Adopt a strategy

Always pick the subjects you want to do and that you think you'll be good at. If you find an area that you are particularly good at, you could boost your ability by choosing subjects which complement each other. Some subjects can contain an overlap with other subjects, such as biology and agricultural science. Approaching subject choice in this style may help to lighten your work load. For example, if you study both biology and home economics, you'll only have to learn about biomolecules once.

### Test your compatibility

If you're unsure of what subjects to choose, there are aptitude tests available in school or even online e.g. [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie). These often include a series of questions related to your personality. Your answers are then calculated to match what subjects or career is best suited to you. It might also be very useful to do an interest test at this point. An interest test can be the first indication of what career paths might appeal to you. If you're very unsure of what subjects to choose, aptitude tests or interest tests can often be a great starting point.

### Advice is only a question away

If you're wondering about whether or not to choose a particular subject, it's important to do some investigating. Firstly, ask your teachers, and also friends or family members already studying the subject. **Read the subject outline, browse through the text book, look at the chapters and headings and see if**

**they appeal to you. Arrange to meet the teacher of the subject and ask them what will be covered in the subject. Ask questions about project work, practical exams and the terminal exam.**

Organising to meet with your Guidance Counsellor can be of great value. Your Guidance Counsellor will have experience in helping students choose subjects that suit their desired career path, or subjects that complement each other. Your Guidance Counsellor will also have knowledge of subject requirements which are necessary to gain entry into particular college courses.

### **Common Questions**



#### **How many subjects should I choose?**

Your Leaving Cert results will be calculated using the six subjects that you performed best in. In St John Bosco Community College, you will study seven subjects and LCVP.

**Are there any subjects that I have to choose?** Unless you are exempt from any subject, students must choose English, Irish and Maths. Other than these subjects, it is important to check any subject requirements there are for your preferred courses. These are subjects that candidates must have completed to gain entry to particular courses. For example, pharmacy in Trinity requires candidates to achieve a minimum of a H5 in higher level chemistry. Primary Teaching in Mary Immaculate College requires H4 in Irish. To check if your preferred course has any requirements you must meet upon entry, you can go to the college websites or use [qualifax.ie](http://qualifax.ie).

**How do I choose the right subjects that suit me?** There are lots of things to consider when choosing your subjects. Firstly, look at your Junior Cert results

and find the subjects that you were best at. Choosing subjects that you are good at will help you achieve higher grades in the Leaving Cert. Next, consider the subjects that you enjoyed the most. Taking an interest in a subject will greatly help to motivate you when it comes to studying and allows the information to stick in your mind easily. Next, make sure to include any subjects you might need for third level study (either required by the course, or which will benefit your studies for that course).

### **Why do different colleges have different requirements for the same course?**

Due to the structure of the CAO system, you may have to opt for your preferred course in several different colleges. This is the real problem with choosing subjects because all colleges have different minimum entry requirements, even for the same course. For example, if you wish to study business, assuming all students take English, Trinity and UL require you to have one language (Irish or a modern language), NUI colleges require you to have both Irish and a modern language, DCU and institutes of technologies require neither. On top of this, each college has 8 different grade requirements in maths for their business course. I would advise you to assume you may not get the points you need for your first choice of college and make sure to meet the requirements for as many colleges as possible. You need an insurance policy where courses are concerned. You will apply to CAO for 10 Level 8 Courses (Honours Degree). If you achieve the points and have the minimum entry requirements you will be offered the course if not then you will not be offered the course.

**Are there any subjects that are easier than others?** This is a common misconception. There is no such thing as an easy grade. It depends entirely on the student. A student with strong mathematical ability may favour maths over languages and find it easier, but a student with a flair for languages may favour French or German over maths and find them easier. There is no easy subject. Each subject requires time, dedication and consistent attention for two years.

**If I don't know what I want to study at third level yet, what subjects should I choose?** If you still aren't sure what you wish to study, I would advise you to take a good mixture of subjects. A language and a science subject are important so that you don't limit your options when it comes to your CAO. In order to maximise your Leaving Cert points, you should then choose subjects you are interested in and will enjoy studying. Aptitude and interest tests are a great idea for any student who is struggling to choose a path that suits them.

There are plenty available on the internet or students can ask the guidance counsellor.

### **Helpful Websites**

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

[www.careerdirections.ie](http://www.careerdirections.ie)

[www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

[www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk)

[www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie)

[www.apprentices.ie](http://www.apprentices.ie)

[www.solas.ie](http://www.solas.ie)

### **Your Subject Choice**

From the Leaving Certificate subject options available in St. John Bosco Community College you must choose your subjects with the following in mind;

- There are certain subjects that are essential for entry into particular courses, colleges and careers.
- Points for third level courses are calculated from your best 6 subjects.
- You get 25 Bonus points for Higher Level Maths.
- It is important to realise that in choosing your subject options, you are not locked into specific careers or eliminated from others. You do not have to study Construction Studies, for example, to become a builder or Accounting to become an accountant however it is always an advantage.
- Each third level college gives the subject requirements, necessary for entry onto their courses in their prospectus and on their website.
- When deciding your subject choices never pick a subject believing that this subject is easy.

- Pick subjects that you have enjoyed to date and subjects that you have gained good results in to date. Ask your teachers for advice on the course content for that subject.
- Never pick a subject because your friends are doing that subject. Similarly, your subject choice should not depend upon what teacher is teaching a certain subject.

## **REMEMBER IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Irish Leaving Certificate Examination Points System**

<b>Leaving Cert Grades</b>	<b>% Mark</b>	<b>Points Higher Level</b>	<b>Points Ordinary Level</b>
<b>H1/O1</b>	<b>90 - 100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>H2/O2</b>	<b>80 &lt; 90</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>H3/O3</b>	<b>70 &lt; 80</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>H4/O4</b>	<b>60 &lt; 70</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>H5/O5</b>	<b>50 &lt; 60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>H6/O6</b>	<b>40 &lt; 50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>H7/O7</b>	<b>30 &lt; 40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Leaving Certificate Vocational Link Modules (LCVP)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
	Distinction	<b>66</b>
	Merit	<b>46</b>
	Pass	<b>28</b>

### **Higher Level Maths – Bonus Points**

25 bonus points will be awarded for Higher Level Mathematics, at grades H6 and above.

A student's **SIX BEST** subjects from any one sitting of the Leaving Certificate is used to calculate the total points scored.

### **Questions to Ask your Subject Teachers**

Before opting or committing yourself to any one course, make sure that you ask each subject teacher some questions, such as:

- |                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| • How much reading is involved?    |
| • How much writing is involved?    |
| • How much coursework is involved? |



- |  |
|--|
| • Is there the option of Higher, Ordinary or Foundation Level? |
| • Is there an oral test?                                       |
| • Is there an interview?                                       |
| • Do I have to do a project/ portfolio?                        |
| • Will there be a practical exam?                              |
| • What practical skills are involved?                          |
| • How much laboratory or fieldwork is involved?                |

It is also important to get a sense of the curriculum. Browse the text book, look at the chapters and topics covered in the course and see if they appeal to you.

The Following Websites May Be Helpful

[www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)

[www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

[www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie)

[www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

### **Do I Need This Subject?**

- Go to [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- Select: Parents/Family
- Choose: Useful Tools
- Select: Minimum Subject Requirements
- Click: Leaving Certificate Subjects
- Choose: Any Leaving Certificate Subject (eg Chemistry)
- Click: Search
- Select: View Courses (all courses requiring the subject will be listed).

## INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT INFORMATION

### English



#### Brief Summary of Course Content

There are two papers in the terminal exam-

**Paper I** (Language, 2 hours 50 minutes) includes a major composition (100 marks), a comprehension section (50) and a short set composition task (50).

**Paper II** (Literature, 3 hours 20 minutes) has three sections:-The Single Text (60), almost always a Shakespeare tragedy such as Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear, Othello); Ordinary Level do not do Shakespeare as a single text. The Comparative Mode (70), an essay comparing three texts - in the current 5th Year, The Great Gatsby, The Playboy of the Western World, and the film Brooklyn); Poetry (50) - answer on one of eight set Higher Level poets, and (20) - an unseen poem).

The literature texts are almost completely covered in 5th Year, apart from some poems and introducing the third comparative text/drama. In 6th Year these texts are revised in considerably more detail. Language work continues throughout 5th and 6th Year.

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

English is an essential subject in almost all professions. There are many careers which stem directly from studying English in third level. Career opportunities are abundant to an individual with a degree in English because skills gained from this area of study can be easily applied to many career areas. Individuals possessing the ability to think clearly and critically, to analyse and interpret data, and communicate results are in great demand by employers. Examples include: journalist, novelist, acting, film or stage direction, law, teacher, PR and much more.

## Irish



---

### Brief Summary of Course Content

Particular emphasis is placed on the spoken language and on developing effective communication skills in diverse speech-events.

The oral examination is worth 40% of the overall result. There are two papers in the written exam. Paper 1 tests creative writing skills.

Paper 2 tests reading comprehension skills and the student's knowledge of prescribed prose and poetry.

- Higher level – (for students who have a good ability in Irish and who want the highest grades in this subject)
  - Ordinary level – (for those students who are taking the subject at ordinary level)
- Possible Career

### Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Primary Education\*\*, Education (secondary & third level), Telecommunications, Journalism, Civil Service, Politics, Law

\*\*A 'H4' grade at Higher Level is required for those wishing to become primary school teachers.

## Mathematics



### Brief Summary of Course Content

The Leaving Certificate Mathematics course builds on the foundation of the Junior Certificate syllabus. The final examination is offered at both higher, ordinary and foundation level. The topics covered are the same for both levels, but the depth of treatment is significantly different.

The ordinary level course is much more manageable for those who are less mathematically minded.

At higher level, students will find mathematics a demanding yet satisfying course to undertake. A solid background in mathematics is essential, as there is a large syllabus to cover meaning we move at a quick pace. The main strands are:

Strand 1: Statistics and Probability

Strand 2: Geometry and Trigonometry

Strand 3: Number

Strand 4: Algebra

Strand 5: Functions

### Assessment

At Ordinary level and Higher level 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 and skills.

- Section B will include questions that are context-based applications of mathematics.

At Foundation level there is one assessment component, a written paper. Learners will be assessed by means of problems set in meaningful contexts.

### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Traditionally many university courses such as engineering and architecture require higher level mathematics for entry but mathematics can be used in a huge variety of careers, from science, criminology, financial to actuary. A number of universities and colleges are now offering a maths competency test. This is aimed at students who had a poor outcome in their Leaving Cert maths, as a second chance to demonstrate their Maths competencies. For more information on careers in maths, visit: [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk)

### Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)



---

### Brief Summary of Course Content

The LCVP course is divided into two modules – ‘*Preparation for the World of Work*’ and ‘*Enterprise Education*’ (more detail on these below) there is a mix of academic theory and a practical focus.

Over the two years, students will explore the world of work and gain an insight into running a business, through company visits, interviews, work experience, visiting speakers, CV’s, letter writing etc.

**Link Module I** – Preparation for the World of Work Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them.

**Link Module II** – Enterprise Education Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview

enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

Assessment of LCVP is based on a portfolio, which is maintained over the two years, and a final (common level) exam in May of 6th year.

The portfolio is worth 60% of the final mark – the exam 40%.

A period of work experience is compulsory during the two years.

LCVP is graded as follows:

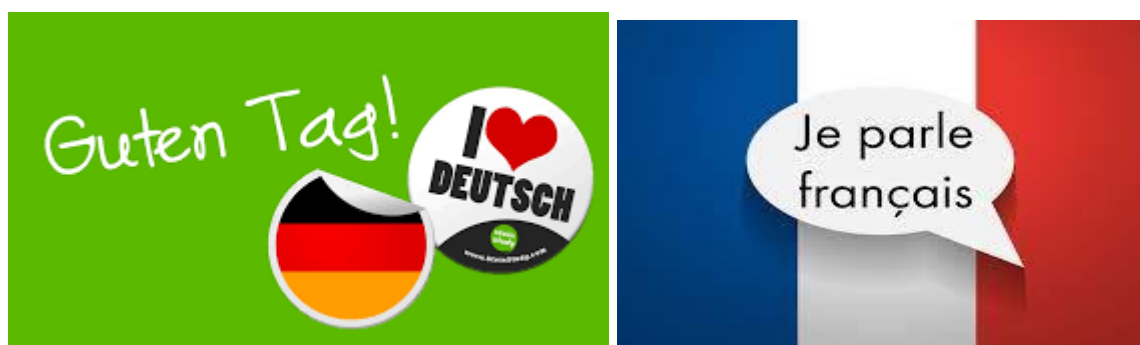
Distinction (80% to 100%),	CAO points: 66 for a Distinction
Merit (65% to 79%)	CAO points: 46 for a Merit
Pass (50% to 64%).	CAO points: 28 for a Pass

### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful / Essential

Students completing LCVP will gain a lot of necessary skills for their future working life and is applicable to a wide range of career areas.

### Modern Foreign Language

#### German/ French



### Brief Summary of Course Content

The study of a Modern Language for Leaving Certificate is obligatory in some colleges depending on your particular course of study.

The examination can be taken either at Higher Level or Ordinary. The Leaving Certificate course begins in fifth year building on a student's prior knowledge. Students are assessed on their progress on a continuous basis.

Assessment is made by means of class work, class tests, effort marks and term exams. All exams at all levels include an oral and aural component. Teaching centres on developing the four main skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. All topics studied are firmly rooted in the contemporary culture of the language in question and we expect students to be able to communicate successfully with native speakers within a short period of time. High expectations are also set regarding accuracy of the written language. ICT is fully integrated into the curriculum, serving both to consolidate material covered and give a fresh perspective.

#### THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE Modern Foreign Language Exam

Below is an outline of the components:

- Oral Examination 15 mins worth 25% of the total grade
- Listening Comprehension 40 mins worth 20% of the total grade
- Reading Comprehension & Writing Paper 2h 30mins worth 55% of the total grade.

**THUS 45% OF THE LEAVING CERT EXAM IS BASED ON THE SPEAKING AND LISTENING ELEMENTS OF THE COURSE. STUDENTS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DO VERY WELL IN THESE AREAS.**

The senior course is however not just about exams. We also aim to give pupils a cultural appreciation of the world and an understanding of contemporary society and politics.

Our aim is to give pupils an abiding and lifelong interest in all things German/French.

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful / Essential

Speaking a foreign language such as German/French is a very useful tool for any business career that has an international dimension, for example working for a multinational company, be it accountancy, banking or retail. It is a huge asset for any post in the European Union. Other areas: translating, international law, teaching / lecturing, tourism industry.

## Business



---

### Brief Summary of Course Content

The Leaving Certificate course involves the study of topics such as industrial relations, taxation and insurance, sources of finance, marketing, contract law and the role of the EU in the business world. The course is divided into a number of modules including:

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Consumerism   | • Marketing  |
| • World of Work | • Enterprise |
| • Finance       | • Insurance  |
| • Advertising   |              |

### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Any career requires an understanding of the principles of business. Whether employer, employee or consumer, a pupil will benefit greatly from studying this course. It gives information which is practical and relevant to everyone's daily life.



## Accounting



### Brief Summary of Course Content

The Business Studies Syllabus at Junior Certificate Level provided students with a general business and book-keeping knowledge. At senior level, this subject is split into three distinct and separate subjects, Accounting, Business and Economics.

The Accounting side is a continuation of what is studied at JC but in greater depth. Accounting is where students learn the basics of keeping monetary accounts. Students should choose Accounting as a Leaving Certificate subject if they enjoyed or excelled at the bookkeeping element of their Junior Certificate Business Studies course. **Students need to be good problem solvers and pay great attention to detail and accuracy.** Accounting has become an important part of young people's education, not just for economic reasons, but also because of the ever increasing involvement of individuals in the running of clubs, societies and businesses of all types. Students will learn to: Prepare, understand, interpret and analyse sole trader, company, club, farm and departmental service firm accounts. Appreciate and use financial statements as a means of business communication. Prepare reports using financial information. Students will develop the following skills:

- Informed personal and business decision making skills
- Computational, problem solving and presentation skills
- Summarising and interpreting skills

The content in the Higher Level course is similar to the Ordinary Level course with some extra topics for Higher Level, which also requires a greater depth of understanding & analysis. **There is one final written exam in June.** While the Accounting course has been designed to follow on from the book-keeping learned in Junior Certificate Business Studies, well-motivated and hard-working

students are welcome to study Accounting at Senior Level even if they have not studied Business Studies at Junior Certificate Level.

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Accountancy, Auctioneering, Auditing, Banking, Book-keeping, Clerical Work  
Teaching, Company Secretary, Hospital Administration, Hotel Management  
Receptionist, Insurance.

### Biology



#### Brief Summary of Course Content

Biology is a fascinating, popular and useful subject. Students learn about all aspects of the living world – and about the functioning of our own bodies. The course is divided into three units.

**Unit 1:** looks at living things and how they interact and feed.

**Unit 2:** looks closely at the cell, its structure, function and biochemistry.

**Unit 3:** looks at the organism and extensive study of both animal and plant physiology is carried out.

The course content is broad, challenging yet interesting and rewarding. **As part of the course of study, there are also 24 mandatory laboratory investigations to be carried out.**

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful / Essential

Biology is a broad subject and students will find it particularly useful no matter what area of study is pursued at higher education. Biology is useful for any course of study especially in the area of science, engineering or medicine:

- Research / Laboratory Work
- Further Education
- Teaching

- Zoology
- Environmental Careers
- Medical / Drug Research
- Microbiologist
- Veterinary Medicine
- Doctors / Nurse

### Chemistry



### Brief Summary of Course Content

Chemistry is essential for those intending to study medicine or veterinary. Chemistry is highly desirable and beneficial to those intending studying any science course at college. **Mathematical ability is not essential but it is helpful in some sections of the course.** Success depends on working from the start and not allowing oneself to become lost. We start from absolute scratch, good results are very achievable providing you are willing to work hard.

The leaving course covers the following topics:

1. Atomic Structure and Periodic Table
2. Bonding
3. Stoichiometry [calculations]
4. Volumetric analysis
5. Fuels and heats of reaction
6. Reaction rates
7. Organic chemistry
8. Equilibrium

9. Environmental chemistry

10. Atmospheric chemistry

11. Industrial chemistry

### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Any science area, industry, pharmaceuticals, fire service, teaching, health and safety, medical – those who do chemistry have a good versatile brain which is adaptable to go into any work environment. Chemistry is essential for students who wish to study medicine in Ireland or the UK.

### Agricultural Science



### Brief Summary of Course Content

The Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science syllabus is designed to provide students with the necessary skills, practical experience and knowledge in a range of agricultural and scientific principles. The broad course takes in a wide array of topics including Soil Science, Animal Enterprises, Tillage, Plant Physiology & Animal Physiology. **The course is typically aimed at students with an interest in Agriculture and Horticulture or those who wish to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine.**

An agricultural background is not a necessity, and the course covers a wide variety of topics. The subject is based on the principles and practices of Irish farms and deals in detail with Sheep Management and Production, Beef Production, Dairy Farm Management, Pig Production, Grassland Management and Tillage Crop Growth & Harvesting. Additional topics include Forestry, Soil Science and Farm Safety. It also covers Animal Biology and Taxonomy, Plant Biology and Classification as well as Soil Science. As well as being classroom and lab orientated, a number of field trips and excursions to farms, will allow those undertaking the course see the practical applications of their learning. Throughout the two-year course the students will keep **a portfolio of their**

**practical experience, which will be assessed and contribute to their overall grade in the Leaving Certificate.**

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful / Essential

Students completing a course in Agricultural Science may wish to pursue further scientific study at university. Courses such as Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Horticulture, Equine Science, Zoology or General Science are complimented by the topics covered in the course. Obviously, students may wish to study areas of agricultural such as agri-business or farm management at third level also.

### History



#### Brief Summary of Course Content

In the course we study modern European, US and Irish history and **20% of the course is coursework in which each student prepares work on a subject of their choice well in advance of the final examination.** The Leaving Certificate course consists of four modules.

We study 'Dictatorship and Democracy in Europe, 1920-1945' which essentially consists of studying the fascist regimes of Mussolini and Hitler, Stalin's totalitarian state, the Second World War and Britain in the inter-war period. This is a popular and interesting part of the course.

We then look at The History of the United States 1945-1989 which covers topics such as American foreign policy, the civil rights movement and the U.S. economy during the period.

Students complete a Research Study Report; students undertake to write a report on an area of independent research and topics have ranged from the historical importance of Anna Parnell to the Battle of Stalingrad.

**Essentially students can choose any historical topic they wish (within very broad parameters) and produce an essay of 1500-1800 words reporting on the results of that research.**

We also study a course on Modern Irish history – Sovereignty and Partition - 1912 - 1949.

Finally we study a document-based module of modern Irish history or European history which examines very limited aspects of specific events in depth with a view to developing document analysis skills (it is referred to as the DBQ – or Documents-based question)

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Employers tend to see those with a history education as independent thinkers, open-minded and objective, disciplined good communicators, able to analyse issues and problems and able to put together logical arguments. History training imparts vital transferable skills. Typically, historians are to be found in the law, teaching, museums, journalism and the media, business, commerce, finance, sales and marketing, the armed forces, diplomacy, the Civil service and the Church.

### **Geography**



#### Brief Summary of Course Content

Geography has strong links with other subjects such as biology, maths, history, geology, environmental science, economics, and business studies. It develops a range of enquiry, scientific and analytical skills, and encourages more independent approaches to learning through your own research.

Who is it for? **Geography is for YOU if you are interested in issues of current relevance and concern like natural hazards, physical geography, globalisation, poverty, inequality and sustainable development.**

#### Brief Summary of Course Content

The coursework consists of core modules, elective modules and an optional module. There is also a series of coursework activities, which are undertaken in Lahinch. **This means you will be able to complete 20% of the course in class.**

Core Material:

- ♣ Physical Geography- hazards, plate tectonics, landslides etc.
- ♣ OS maps, Aerial and Satellite photos & Weather charts
- ♣ Regional geography –Ireland, Southern Italy, Paris Basin, Brazil
- ♣ Elective topic– Economic Geography (Developmental issues)
- ♣ Option topic – Geo-ecology
- ♣ Fieldwork – Lahinch Expedition

### University & Career Prospects

It's highly valued by universities and employers. Many students move on to higher education to do geography or related subjects. Geography leads on to many career opportunities and is in demand in such areas as marketing, tourism, agriculture, outdoor leisure, human resources, oceanography, travel, economics, environmental science, engineering, teaching, anthropology, development studies, earth studies and many, many more.

Weekly commitment Timetabled classes every week, with private study, research and background reading expected of you.

Coursework Primary and secondary research for the coursework section is a core aspect of Leaving Certificate geography and counts for a total of 20% of the overall mark.

Students must be willing to work independently and in groups and will be assessed on their fieldwork experience by writing up their results in a structured form.

Assessment Leaving Certificate- **Written Examination in June of 6th year (80%) and a written section for their coursework must also be completed (20%).**

## Music



### Brief Summary of Course Content

The Leaving Cert Music course is divided into **THREE** sections - **Performance, Listening and Composition. Each section is worth 25% (75% in total).** With their teacher's guidance students will choose the discipline they are best at to make up the remaining 25%. Therefore, students choose the section they are best at-Performance, Listening or Composition to count for 50% of the overall mark. Usually students choose performance. The performance exam takes place in late March/early April of sixth year.

**At higher level** each student must perform SIX pieces or songs on their instrument or voice or they may choose two activities e.g. playing an instrument for FOUR pieces and playing a different instrument/singing for FOUR songs or students can perform/sing FOUR pieces for 25% and Answer a music technology question which involves knowing your way around a music computer programme for the remaining 25%.

**At ordinary level** each student must perform two pieces or songs. This makes up 25% of their result. Composition and listening also make up 25% each. The best result from the three completed sections is doubled to make up the full 100%.

Performance is an integral part of music making, both for enjoyment, and academic success.

The Listening Section consists of the study of FOUR Set Works and Irish Music. The Set works examined in 2020, 2021 and 2022 are a *Mozart Concerto*, *Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique*, *Raymond Deane Sea changes*, *The Beatles Sgt. Pepper's Lonely-Hearts Club Band* – selected songs. The study of Irish music is continued from Junior Cert. It is examined through an essay and a listening question.

Composition at Leaving Cert consists of writing a melody and a harmony question- usually a backing chord question. These are a continuation of



composition questions studied in Junior Cycle. This course is very suitable and enjoyable for anyone who likes music and who has reached a reasonable standard of performance in their instrument.

### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

A degree in Music can lead to a career in Performance, Teaching, sound technology, music production, music therapy, the recording industry, music journalism, radio, TV and other music associated areas such as Arts Administration. Music can also be taken as a module subject in a General Arts Degree.

### Art



### Brief Summary of Course Content

The Art course brings together practical Art with Art History. This curriculum necessitates us to draw on our own experiences of life and to concentrate on the exciting world of art, craft and design around us.

The course is broken into **two main sections**; the Practical Art Course, comprised of a chosen craft, a still-life painting/drawing and two life drawings. And the History of Art Course (See Q-Set History of Art).

Section 1: Practical Art Section (62.7% of overall marks).

The Craft and the Still-life/Imaginative Composition elements of the L.C. Art Exam are developed from a chosen theme and worked on from a primary source. All of the original concepts, notes and developmental drawings/tests for each of these two sections are to be worked on in a Department of Ed. provided workbook. This workbook along with the two final realised pieces of work will be kept in the school and examined here by a Department of Ed. examiner sometime in June.

**Craft-** covers crafts such as clay modelling, batik, poster design, pottery, puppetry, block printing. This section accounts for 25% of the overall mark. During fifth year all crafts are explored and in the second year of the programme students choose one craft which they enjoy and feel most confident in. Drawing skills are developed, and a mature and personal artistic style is encouraged.

**Still- Life/ Imaginative Composition-** covers personal interpretation of their chosen theme in order to assemble a still life or compose a strong imaginative composition based on the development work done in their workbook. This aspect of the course develops observational drawing and composition skills worked from a primary source, and aims to enhance their abilities in using various drawing/painting media. This section of the course accounts for 25%. 3.

**Life Drawing-** covers elements and principles such as perspective, proportion, composition and scale in order to draw the human figure. Students can also opt to draw portraits along with the entire figure. Observational and drawing skills are developed and the use of various media is encouraged.

This section of the course is examined in 1 hour (one fifteen-minute drawing, and one 30 min drawing). It accounts for 12.7%. Visits to Galleries and Museums are an integral part of studying this subject. **All Sections of the practical exams take place in early May. This puts more than 60% of the Art exam behind students in the run up to all other written exams in June.**

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Architect, Industrial Design, Web Design, Graphic Artist, Poster Designer, Book Illustrator, Calligrapher, Advertising, Display Design, Cartoonist, Animator, Camera Operator, Fashion Photographer, Fashion Stylist, Make-up Artist, Special Effects, Stage Design, Photographer, Photojournalist, Forensic Photographer, Fine Artist, Ceramicist, Stained Glass Maker, Jeweller, Tattoo Artist, Printmaker, Sculptor, Textiles, Wood Craft, Educator, Art Therapist, Film Director, Film Editor, Film Set Constructor, Art Historian, Art Critic, Antiques Specialist, Restoration, Gallery Curator.....

#### **History of Art**

**History of Art contributes to 37.3% of the overall mark in Leaving Certificate Art.**

Brief Summary of Course Content

### **Three Sub - Sections: Irish Art, European Art and Art Appreciation:**

Students will study aspects of Irish Art. We study the art of pre-Christian Ireland examining such aspects as Newgrange, the art of the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. We then study the art of Christian Ireland looking at illuminated manuscripts, Christian metal-work, stone crosses etc.

The European Art section includes aspects of Romanesque and Gothic architecture and sculpture, the early Renaissance (we explore the work painters such as Giotto, Masaccio, Piero Della Francesca, Botticelli etc and the work of sculptors such as Ghiberti and Donatello). We will also study artists of the High Renaissance such as Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael. Students are encouraged to visit museums and galleries both at home and abroad in order to complement their studies. We will also explore Georgian architecture. Our study of European art then continues with an examination of the work of some of the masters of the Baroque including Bernini, Caravaggio, Vermeer, Rubens and Rembrandt.

The final aspect of the course is entitled 'Appreciation' where students look critically at such diverse subjects as product design, interior design, poster design, theatre design etc. as well as looking at the built environment. Students are required to critically analyse the setting up of an art or craft exhibition and this requires visiting various types of exhibits from painting to ceramics. The examination contains an extremely large choice and students can essentially specialise in their favourite topics.

The exam for this section of the course takes place in June with all the other written exams.

### **Engineering**



#### **Brief Summary of Course Content**

This course represents a study of a wide range of mechanical engineering materials, processes and technological applications. Students develop and

acquire the manipulative skills and techniques necessary for practical resourcefulness, creativity and design realisation in the execution of work. It aims to promote an educational knowledge of the materials; and understanding of the processes; ability in safely using the skills and equipment to achieve objectives through practical work; initiative in the planning and development of technological projects. **A strong emphasis is place on problem solving, on research and on the design and manufacture of artefacts.** Within this framework, skill in decision making is also developed. **A student who enjoys both the theory and practical side of machines, tools and project work will enjoy Engineering. Leaving Certificate Engineering is a continuation of the Metalwork course at JC level.** Students further develop their knowledge and skills and are also introduced to a wide variety of new technologies. You will need to be self-motivated and work hard at the theoretical and practical elements of the course.

### Course Content

The content of Engineering is split between a practical (hands on experience) element and a theory (written knowledge) element. Students who take Engineering will be expected, over a period of two years, to **complete practical projects which include the use of hand tools and electrical machinery. They will be required to fine-tune these skills to enable them to complete their exam project and six-hour practical (assembly) exam.** Students will use machines such as: Drilling; Milling, Lathes, Band Saws, Various Welding procedures and computer aided machinery. Students will also be expected to design for themselves various parts of any projects they undertake. This will be of extreme benefit to them in designing their final year examination project (25%).

The main headings of the theory aspect are as follows: (A) Metals (B) plastics (C) materials testing (D) welding (E) machining techniques (F) alloy technology (G) mechanisms and electronics

The topics above apply equally to Ordinary and Higher level.

In general terms, the syllabus at Ordinary level consists of clearly defined content aimed at providing an overview of engineering technology and its applications.

At Higher level, a more analytical, qualitative and qualitative treatment of topics is required.

Assessment It has three elements to its examination:

(A) Project: A twelve -week design and make project in the final year which accounts for 25% of the total grade.

(B) Practical: A six-hour examination in May of the final year which accounts for 25% of the total grade

(C) Theory: A three-hour theory examination in June of the final year which accounts for the remaining 50% of the total grade.

#### Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Engineering is useful for such careers as: Engineering Mechanics Aircraft Technician Motor Mechanic Engineering Teacher Fitter Industrial Operatives Mechanical Production Metallurgy Turner Technical Sales Toolmaker Industrial Design Welder Engraving Army/Air Corps Apprenticeships Structural and Civil Engineer and Technician Service and Maintenance Personnel

#### Construction Studies



#### Brief Summary of Course Content

Course Content:

**Theory:** The theory of Construction Studies focuses mainly on all aspects of domestic dwelling construction. Everything from Site Investigation and Planning Permission, through to the building of the structure, from Foundation to Roof level are addressed. The services to the building are looked at also. A major aspect of the study of these topics is the creation of scaled sectional details or drawings of the dwellings, performed using a T-square and Set-squares. More recently, due to the current state of the environment, topics such as Low Impact Housing, Passive Design and Sustainable Energy have been at the forefront of the subject.

**Practical:** Project: The main practical part is a building/craft/model project which is backed up with a written report. The project can be a piece of furniture, a model or a wet trade such as a Prefabricated Roof, chimney at roof level or other such building component.

Practical Skills: There is a practical woodwork component which focuses on traditional woodwork jointing and hand skills, building on skills developed at Junior Cycle Materials Technology Wood.

Suitable For: **Construction Studies caters for a student who is inquisitive and interested in the built environment around them. A student who is precise and neat, with good draughtsmanship skills will achieve in the drawing aspect of the course. Naturally, it appeals to those who love to work with their hands. Although having studied Materials Technology Wood at Junior Cycle is not a requirement, it does serve as a great base to start from.**

Assessment:

It has three elements to its examination:

(A) Project: A twelve-week design and make project in the final year which accounts for 25% of the total grade.

(B) Practical Skills Test: A four-hour examination in May of the final year which accounts for 25% of the total grade (C) Theory: A three-hour theory examination in June of the final year which accounts for the remaining 50% of the total grade.

Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Studying Construction Studies is of general use in everyday life as well as suitable for specific careers including:

- Architecture • Landscaping • Construction trades • Design and Manufacture Careers. • Technical sales • Construction Management • Civil Engineering • Structural Engineering • Construction Studies Teaching • Army/Air Corps Apprenticeships.

## Home Economics (Social & Scientific)



### Brief Summary of Course Content

Home Economics is a multi-disciplinary subject combining theory and practical work. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs. As a result of its diversity, Home Economics is of interest to a wide variety of students. The range of careers that are linked to Home Economics is vast, so it is beneficial to many students. As the course is a continuation on from JC it is recommended that students have studied Home Economics at JC. However, well-motivated and hard-working students could study Home Economics at Leaving Certificate.

The course consists of:

- Food Studies 45%
- Resource Management and Consumer Studies 25%
- Social Studies 30%

The course material is for the most part common but there is some material which is required to be studied at Higher level only.

Higher level students will be required to have a more in-depth knowledge of topics and to show a greater degree of practical and procedural skills.

Assessment

Coursework -20%

Final Written Examination – 80%

**The Department of Education issues students with five assignments in September of 5th Year. Four of the five assignments must be completed by all students. The assignments involve research into different areas of the Food**

**Studies course.** The research undertaken by students is presented in a journal. Students will take part in five cookery practical exams as part of their research.

NOTE: As a key part of the course is carried out in 5th Year (as detailed above) it is important that any student opting for home economics must be prepared to work from the beginning of 5th Year to maximise their grade in this subject.

Possible Career Areas for which this Subject is Useful/ Essential

Home Economics is useful for such careers as:

Food Science, Chef, Dietician, Human Nutrition, Home Economics Teacher, Baking and Confectionary, Catering, Environmental Health Officer, Consumer Adviser, Hotel Manager, Nursing, Occupational Therapist, Technologists & Technicians in the Food Industry.
---