



Choosing Leaving Certificate Subjects

Points to Consider



Overview

- TYO students have been having classes on Senior Cycle choice and subject choice since October and will continue to have these classes until the end of January



What needs to be decided?

- **Core Subjects for all students (no decision needed):**
- Irish (unless a student has a D.E.S. exemption)
- English
- Maths



Choose any 4 from the following:

- Applied Maths, French, German, History, Geography, Accounting, Economics, Business, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Home Economics, Music, Art, Technology and the Link Modules (LCVP)



Subject Choice Deadline

- Deadline Thursday 2nd February



Timetabling

- The vast majority of students get the four subjects they choose.
- Sometimes there is a problem. If this is the case it is very useful to have considered a fifth subject option.



Timetabling

- Every effort is made to give students who apply in time the subjects they want.
- It **may not be possible** for students who apply late or change their mind after 2nd February to join a class.



A very useful website

- www.careersportal.ie
- Click on “Schools” and “Leaving Certificate”
- Detailed Information on subjects
- Content for each subject



When Deciding Between Subjects

- What does the student like and do well at?
- Keeping career options open.

What Careers might you be interested in?

- Career Interest Questionnaires on www.careersportal.ie and www.qualifax.ie



Deciding Between Subjects cont.

- Students have individual Career Guidance Appointments
- Teachers talk to classes about subjects
- If unsure talk to teachers individually.
- Talk to older students who study the subject and ask to see books.



Specific Subjects Necessary for Some Courses

- Use the website www.qualifax.ie to find entry requirements for every course.
- Also check the college websites



A Third Language (French or German)

- Necessary for all courses except Nursing, Science and Engineering at the following colleges:
 - UCC
 - UCD
 - NUI Galway



Cont.

- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- National College of Art and Design
- St. Angela's College Sligo
- Royal College of Surgeons



Maynooth University

- A third language is needed for all courses except:
 - Primary Teaching
 - Nursing
 - Engineering
 - Business
 - Law

Colleges which don't require a third language

- Trinity College Dublin
- Dublin City University
- University of Limerick
- All the Institutes of Technology e.g. CIT, WIT, DIT, LIT etc.
- Colleges of Primary Teacher Training



Advantages of a third language

- The ability to communicate in another language is an advantage in the workplace.
- With Brexit we cannot rely as much on English speaking employment opportunities.
- Having a language with for example a business or a law degree is very valuable.



Science

- Science is needed for health care and scientific courses but certainly not for all courses.

Necessary Subjects for College Courses

- Biology is necessary for most Beauty Therapy courses.
- Chemistry is necessary for courses in Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Dietetics, Pharmacy and for some courses in Medicine. (Students without Chemistry can study the 6 year Medicine course in some colleges but not UCC.)

Examples where one science subject is necessary

- Nursing
- Dental Hygiene and Dental Nursing (Exception direct entry UCC)
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Environmental Health
- Physiotherapy in UL and UCD (T.C.D. requires 2 or 1 + Hons. Maths)
- Radiography
- Optometry
- Engineering
- Science Degrees (Some colleges but not all)
- Paramedic Studies in UL



U.C.C. Requirements

- U.C.C. requires Chemistry and one of Physics or Biology for:
- Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy

Examples of some Colleges' Requirements

- T.C.D. - Chemistry and another science for Pharmacy.
- T.C.D. – Two science subjects for Medicine and Dentistry. The subjects are not specified but there are restrictions.
- T.C.D. – Physiotherapy 2 science or 1 plus Honours Maths. (UL, UCD and RCSI ask for one science)

One Science is enough in some colleges

- R.C.S.I. – for Pharmacy one science subject is required. (N.B. It must be Chemistry)
- NUI Galway, R.C.S.I. and U.C.D. Require one science subject for the 6 year Medicine course but two science (including Chemistry) subjects for the 5 year course.



Always check the fine print

- e.g. Some colleges accept Agricultural Science as a Science subject and others do not.



Extra Subjects Outside School

- New commercial phenomenon. Even highly academic students can find it very difficult.
- Under no circumstances may a student drop a school subject because of this extra pressure.



Common effect of extra subject

- It can take time from the study of the main subjects and reduce the grades achieved.
- Flattening out of grades.
- Students believe that they will achieve top marks in these extra subjects but this is certainly not the case.




Language spoken at home

It is possible to sit the Leaving Certificate in certain languages if students speak them at home and prepare for the exam at home.



These subjects are:

- Arabic
- Hebrew Studies
- Italian
- Japanese
- Russian
- Spanish,



EU students may sit the Leaving Cert in:

- Estonian
- Hungarian
- Latvian,
- Lithuanian
- Modern Greek
- Bulgarian



Cont.

- Polish,
- Portuguese
- Romanian,
- Slovakian,
- Swedish
- Finnish



EU Languages cont.

- Croatian,
- Czech
- Danish,
- Dutch
- Slovakian