



Choosing Leaving Certificate Subjects

Points to Consider



Overview

- TYO students have been having classes on Senior Cycle choice and subject choice since January and will continue to have these classes until late February.

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:

- French, German, History, Geography, Accounting, Economics, Business, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Home Economics, Music, Art and Technology



Complete free choice of four subjects so:

- These subjects are mixed ability and all students have the opportunity to study for the Higher Level.



Form for Subject Choice

- Deadline Thursday 28th February
- Have a fifth subject possibility in mind just in case the four subjects you pick are not all possible together.



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 know the fifth subject option. (Maybe 3 students each year)

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 the deadline.

A very useful website

- www.careersportal.ie
- Click on “School students” 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.

- Teachers give details of their subjects at Leaving Cert to TY students.
- If unsure talk to teachers individually.
- Talk to older students who study the subject and ask to see books.
- Note specific subjects are required for some courses.



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 under the umbrella of the NUI
- 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



In Maynooth University

- A third language not needed for:
- Primary Teaching
- Nursing
- Engineering
- Business
- Law



Applying for an NUI exemption

- Students who have an exemption from Irish because of dyslexia would also be able to get an NUI exemption from the Third Language.



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 (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

Other 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 subjects for the 5-year course.



Always check the fine print

- Colleges differ as to what they accept as a science subject.



Students have a choice of an extra subjects in school

- Link Modules (L.C.V.P. – Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme)
- Applied Maths
- Full details at a later stage.



Extra Subjects Outside School

- Even highly academic students can find it very difficult.
- Often all the student's results are decreased due to extra pressure.
- Under no circumstances may a student drop a school subject in place of an extra subject outside school.




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
- Mandarin Chinese is will be available for students who begin Fifth Year in 2020



Thank you!

- For your time and attention.