



Choosing Leaving Certificate Subjects

Points to Consider



Overview

- TYO students have classes on Senior Cycle choice and subject choice in January and February.
- Deadline for submitting subject choice is Thursday 25th February.
- PowerPoint presentations will be uploaded onto Teams for students and onto the school website for parents.

Everyone does the Core Subjects

- **Core Subjects for all students:**
- Irish (unless a student has a D.E.S. exemption)
- English
- Maths
- Religion
- PE
- Guidance



Students then Choose any 4 from the following:

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

How to find out about Subjects

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



Information about Subjects

- Teachers of the various Leaving Cert subjects give information about their subjects to Transitions Year students.
- Students can talk to older friends or siblings about the subjects they study.
- Look at the Leaving Cert textbooks - samples available online

Complete free choice of subjects so:

- These subjects are mixed ability and all students have the opportunity to study for the Higher Level.
- If a student decides to do Ordinary Level at a later stage she may do so having spoken to her teacher.

Timetabling

- Classes can only be offered if a reasonable number of students chose that subject.
- Students are not guaranteed to get their four choices.
- Students need to research five possible subject choices.



Subject Choices will be entered on VSWare

- This facility will open in the week of 25th February to allow students to research carefully before they make their choices.

Students: The Order You List Subjects is really important!

- If you need a subject for a course you must put it **first** or **second**.
- It is possible that you may not get your third or fourth choice.
- If due to timetable restrictions, you cannot get your e.g. fourth choice you may have to do your fifth choice.

Timetabling

- Classes have size limits. If students change their minds about subjects after the deadline, classes could be full.
- **It may not be possible** for students who **apply late or change their mind** after the deadline to join classes.



Choice of Two Extra Subjects

- You may choose to take Applied Maths **or** LCVP (also called the Link Modules) as extra subjects during the school day.



Applied Maths

- Useful subject if you are good at and enjoy Higher Level Maths.
- This subject would complement Physics and Maths and engineering as a career.
- The same points as other higher level subjects are available for Applied Maths.




LCVP (Link Modules)

- In school this is treated as an extra subject but the Department of Education regards it as a programme so students can only choose it under certain conditions.



Conditions for taking LCVP

- These are:
- Students must study Irish, English, Maths, either French or German and three other subjects.
- If students have an exemption from Irish they can still take LCVP and do a language in Resource Class.
- Students who decide (without an exemption) not to study either French or German in school cannot take LCVP.

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- Further conditions of taking LCVP: You must be studying two subjects on this list
 1. Art and any Business subject.
 2. Music and any Business subject.
 3. Home Economics and any Business subject.
 4. Technology and any Business subjects.
 5. Any two Business subjects.
 6. Any two Science subjects.
 7. Home Economics and Biology.
 8. Home Economics and Art.
 9. Physics and Technology.



What do you learn in LCVP?

- The two main areas are:
 - 1. Preparation for Working Life
 - 2. Enterprise Education



Preparation for Working Life

- **You will learn about:**
- CV preparation
- Interview Preparation
- Responsibilities in work
- Skills and Qualities needed in the workplace
- Health and Safety Legislation
- Time Management
- Organising and learning from work experience



Enterprise Education

- **You will learn about:**
- The role of entrepreneurs
- Females as entrepreneurs
- Enterprise in Ireland and the local area
- Funding and support for enterprise



Skills Developed by LCVP

- Organisational skills
- Computer skills
- Report writing skills
- Job seeking skills
- Time management skills
- Communication skills
- The ability to relate learning at Leaving Cert to enterprise.

How is LCVP Assessed?

- 60% of the assessment is in the form of a portfolio of coursework completed in school over the two years.
- The portfolio includes a CV, an Action Plan, a Summary Report, a Career Investigation and a Diary of Work Experience.
- 40% of the assessment is a written examination which usually takes place in May of Leaving Certificate year.

Leaving Cert Points for LCVP

- Rather than H1, H2 etc for LCVP the results could be:
- Distinction (80% and upwards) equals 66 points (Equals H4 (60 to 69%))
- Merit (65% to 79%) equals 46 points (Equals H6 40 to 49% or O2 80 to 89%)
- Pass (50% to 64%) equals 28 points (Equals O4 60 to 69%)
- Your LCVP points will be counted if they are in your six highest points. However, LCVP is not a subject for Minimum Entry Requirements.)



When Deciding Between Subjects

- What does the student find interesting and do well at?
- Look at class tests and Junior Cycle results to see areas where the student did well.
- Keep career options open.

Careers might you be interested in?

- Do a Career Interest Questionnaire/Profiler again
- 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.
- DATS scores give an indication of your aptitudes
- 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 (e.g. 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

Third Language requirement cont.

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



In Maynooth University (NUI)

- **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 for the **Third Language**.

Colleges which do not require a third language:

- Trinity College Dublin
- Dublin City University
- University of Limerick
- MTU and DTU
- Any of the Institutes of Technology
e.g. WIT, 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. T.C.D.
- TCD Physiotherapy 2 science or 1 plus Honours Maths. (UL, UCD and RCSI require only one science)

One Science required in:

- 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.



Extra Subjects Outside School

- Even highly academic students can find it very difficult. (Time involved in attending)
- Often **all** the student's results are decreased due to extra pressure.
- Students may not 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 prepares for the exam outside of school.



These subjects are:

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



EU languages:

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



Cont.

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



EU Languages cont.

- Croatian,
- Czech
- Danish,
- Dutch



Thank you!

- For your time and attention.