

Some questions to ask yourself!

1. What subjects do I like now?
2. What subjects do I get good results in?
3. What subjects do I need for any career plans?

**Some Useful Internet Sites**

Excellent website for information on subjects:

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

Click on school students then Leaving Certificate– leaving certificate subjects on left hand menu

Interest testing and careers information websites

[Www.qualifax.ie](http://Www.qualifax.ie) (go to students, subject choice)

Colleges and Courses

Irish 3rd level colleges [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

UK Colleges [wwwucas.ie](http://wwwucas.ie)

Info on UK Courses [www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)

Post leaving cert courses [www.fetac.ie](http://www.fetac.ie)

Specific career websites

Engineering [www.steps.ie](http://www.steps.ie)

Science [www.science.ie](http://www.science.ie)

Computing [www.choosit.ie](http://www.choosit.ie)

CBS  
HIGHSCHOOL CLONMEL  
SUBJECT CHOICE

# Seven Subjects for Leaving Certificate

There are 3 **core** subjects :

Irish, English and  
Mathematics.

You have no choice about these.

You will need a further **4 subjects** from the following to  
make up your seven leaving Certificate subjects.

French  
German  
Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Agricultural Science  
History  
Geography  
Classical Studies  
Music  
Art  
Economics  
Business  
Accounting  
Link Modules (LCVP)  
Politics and Society  
Design and Communication Graphics  
Construction studies  
Computer Science



## Computer Science

Computer Science is the study of computers and computer programming. The Leaving Certificate Computer Science course introduces students to problem-solving using programming and computational knowledge. The course develops an understanding of fundamental concepts of computer science and technology's role in society. Through applied exercises, students will develop practical skills while working in teams to create functioning computer applications.

Computing technology now influences every part of society; it is key to our lives. The knowledge and skills learned will be valuable to the student regardless of whether they pursue a career in technology.

### Why Study Computer Science

- The course will teach skills which are highly in demand in the economy and will equip students to navigate the practical and ethical challenges of an increasingly technology-driven society.
- If you want to pursue a career in tech fields such as software programming, data analytics or information technology, this course would likely be a useful step in that career path.
- Students who don't have a set career in mind should not dismiss the course, the skills and knowledge developed will be useful in all walks of life. Almost all career paths now involve working with technology in some way.

### What kind of Student Would Computer Science suit?

- The course will suit students who enjoy puzzling out and solving problems, logical thinking and creating functional objects or programs.
- Students who did well in mathematics and science should find themselves suited to Computer Science. The program will build on the problem solving, analytical thinking and numerate skills.
- Due to the broad nature of the curriculum it is still possible for students who haven't excelled in maths or science to engage positively with the Computer Science course. The curriculum encompasses a range of skills learned across junior cert subjects, such as

On your **subject preference form**. You **select 6 subjects**

## Politics and Society



Politics and Society is a new leaving cert subject which aims to develop the learner's capacity to engage in reflective and active citizenship, informed by the insights and skills of social and political sciences. It was first examined in June 2018.

### What you will study:

Strand 1: Power and Decision Making

- Local and National politics

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Strand 2: Active Citizenship

- Local Community work, Community Development

•

Strand 3: Human Rights and Responsibilities

- Human Rights Laws in Ireland and internationally

•

Strand 4: Globalisation and Localisation

- Globalisation, Identity & Sustainable Development

### Assessment:

Citizenship Project: 20% completed by March of 6th year

Exam: 80%

Section 1: Short Questions

Section 2: Documents to read and questions to answer

Section 3: Essays. 6 titles complete 2

### **Politics & Society is useful for careers in:**

Politics, Journalism, Local Government, National Government,

## Guidelines to Choosing Subjects

- What subjects are you good at?
- What subjects are you interested in ?  
You will usually do better at subjects you like.
- What career area is of interest to you & are there any subjects essential for that career ?

### Note:

A third language is necessary for study in any NUI College with some exceptions (see languages section)

A science subject is required for practically all medical, paramedical, science and some engineering courses.

Check on [qualifax.ie](http://qualifax.ie) for subject requirements: go to students, useful tools,

## What should you do if you are unsure what subjects you should choose

It may be a good idea to choose a **variety** of subjects from the different groups, if you do not have any clear preferences for particular subjects.

However do not fall into the trap of “keeping all your options open”  
If you know for certain for example that science or business is not the subject for you then don't pick them.

If you want to take up a new subject not previously studied at Junior Certificate level, talk to the subject teacher concerned .

If you are interested in a specific career check out the **admission requirements** of the relevant college.

### *Assessment*

LCVP students will be taking six regular Leaving Cert. subjects ,assessed in the normal way. The link modules will be assessed as follows:

- 60% Portfolio
- 40% Final Examination

### *Grades*

As well as the grades for the six traditional Leaving Cert. subjects (A1, A2 etc.) LCVP students will receive a single grade for the Link Modules as follows:

- Distinction (80-100%)
- Merit (65-79%)
- Pass (50-64%)

These grades are recognised by all Universities and Institutes of Technology. The following are the C.A.O. points awarded:

- Distinction: 66 points
- Merit: 46 points
- Pass: 28 points

LCVP would be suitable to any student intending to continue his education at third level or wishing to go directly into the work place

Note LCVP is not recognised as one of the six subjects for matriculation purposes in NUI Universities

## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an enhanced Leaving Cert. Programme which combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Cert. with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. The skills that will be developed by the students during the course of the two years will benefit them both in the world of work and indeed in further education.

Applicants for the course will select their subjects in the following way:

1. English
2. Irish
3. Mathematics
4. French or German
5. Option 1
6. Option 2
7. Link Modules

### ***Subject Options***

Construction Studies and Technical Drawing  
Physics and Construction Studies  
Construction Studies & Business or Accounting or Economics  
Agricultural Science & Construction Studies or Tech Drawing  
Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics  
Agricultural Science and Biology  
.Agricultural Science and Business or Accounting or Economics  
Accounting or Business or Economics (any two)  
.Physics and Chemistry  
Biology and Chemistry or Physics  
Art and Business or Accounting or Economics  
Music and Business or Accounting or Economics

## Accounting

Accounting involves the recording of financial information by an individual, (book-keeping) but goes beyond that at Leaving Cert level to analysing and interpreting this information.



### ***A STUDENT STUDYING ACCOUNTING CAN EXPECT TO LEARN***

- How and why financial information is recorded
- The information contained in bank statements
- How a business records its financial information
- The use and interpretation of the accounts

Students who enjoyed the bookkeeping part of Junior Cert should consider accounting.

Those with strong numeracy and reasoning skills will be best suited to the subject.

It is a great foundation for any business related career.

### ***ACCOUNTING IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN***

*Accountancy, Auctioneering, Auditing, Banking, Book-*

## German

### BUSINESS

Business is a subject that touches everyone's life. Every time we get a job, join a trade union, save with a financial institution, pay tax, we are involved in business.

#### *What can you expect to study in Business?*

- Consumer, Industrial relations, Unfair dismissal and Equality legislation
- Management skills and activities
- Tax and insurance
- Different types of finance
- Analysing Company accounts
- Market research
- Types of business organisations (Sole trader, Franchises, LTD's and PLC's)
- Business ethics
- International business and the EU

It is a very broad curriculum with a lot of learning and requires students to pay attention to the business sections of newspapers

Business provides an excellent foundation for anyone thinking of a business career, though it is not an essential subject for entry to any course.



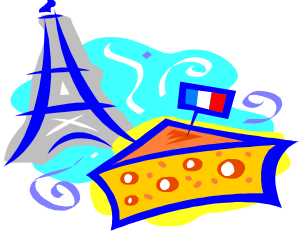
German as a Leaving Certificate subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. Germany plays a major role in the European context, and after English, German is the most spoken language in the European Union and the tenth most spoken language in the world. German offers significant career value for the years ahead.

#### **What kind of student might German suit?**

- Anyone with an interest in German culture, history, and language.
- Students who are considering working in Germany, Austria, or international relations in the future.

#### **Recommendations/Tips**

- It is highly advisable that students spend some time in a country where the target language is spoken.
- Students who have shown an aptitude in German at Junior Certificate Level are encouraged to continue with it in Leaving Cert.



## French

### **Why learn French?**

More than 300 million people speak French on the five continents. The OIF, an international organisation of French-speaking countries, comprises 88 member States and governments. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the fifth most widely spoken language in the world.

French is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world. France operates the biggest international network of cultural institutes, which run French-language courses for close on a million learners.

**Now that France is our closest EU neighbour there are huge business opportunities for Ireland and a knowledge of the French language is a huge benefit.**

### **French is**

- 1. A world language**
- 2. A language for the international job market**
- 3. The language of culture**
- 4. A language for travel**
- 5. A language for higher education**
- 6. The other language of international relations**
- 7. A language that opens up the world**
- 8. A language that is fun to learn**
- 9. A language for learning other languages**
- 10. The language of love and reason**

## Economics

Everyday our newspapers, radio and TV programmes keep us in touch with a wide range of economic issues- unemployment, inflation, taxation, interest rates, currency , the role of government and the EU in controlling the economy, and markets. Economics is part of our everyday lives. It also studies the inner workings of companies and how they measure their success

### **Why study economics?**

- To gain an understanding of current affairs, both nationally and internationally.
- The subject teaches you how to collect and analyse information, to think clearly and logically -invaluable skills from an employers point of view.
- Economics is a module contained in a wide range of courses at third level so to have studied it at second level is of great benefit though not essential.



The student who has an interest in current affairs, how the economy works and in business will enjoy this subject. Students also submitted a practical project worth 20%.

**Economics is useful for careers in:**

## CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

This subject relates to buildings and the built environment and introduces students to the knowledge and skills in construction technology, materials and practices.



### WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT TO STUDY?

- Every aspect of the design and construction of two storey buildings
- Drawing and documents
- Planning and planning control
- Site selection and preparation
- Foundations, floors, walls, roofs
- Fireplaces, chimneys, stairs
- Plumbing, electrical circuits, drainage
- Analysis of materials

Students will also submit a practical project worth 25% and a bench test worth 25% as part of their leaving certificate assessment.

Junior Cert Woodwork or Technical Graphics would be an advantage in taking this subject at Leaving Cert

### CONSTRUCTION STUDIES IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN:

*Architecture, Architectural Technology, Construction Management, Auctioneering, Quantity Surveyor, Town*

## Languages

There are two language options available, French or German.

Both require students to reach a high standard and students are examined through a written exam, reading and listening comprehension and oral examinations.

Studying a foreign language has benefits both for your personal development and your future options.



Industry and employers rate language skills highly especially if you can combine them with computers, electronics or business

If students have the option to choose whether or not to take a third language, they should consider it seriously, as it may determine the choices available to them

when it comes to applying for college.

For example, a third language is a requirement of certain departments in the NUI colleges -- University College Cork (UCC), University College Dublin (UCD), NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth.

Departments in NUI colleges that require students to have a language include Arts, Humanities, Law, Social Science, Commerce, Medicine and Health Sciences, and some other degrees. A third language is not required for engineering or agriculture in these colleges.

Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the University of Limerick require students to have one language - either Irish or a modern language, while Dublin City Univer-



## Classical Studies



Classical Studies is a multi-disciplinary subject that encompasses the History, Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Art and Architecture of the ancient world. By studying this course, students will be given an opportunity to acquire a knowledge and appreciation of classical civilization. This will generate an awareness of a common European heritage which derives from Ancient Greece and Rome. Students' creativity will be stimulated through an exposure to the artistic and architectural achievements of the Greeks and Romans. Classical Studies is ideal for students who enjoy story-telling, arguing, reading, being creative, myths and legends, politics, philosophy and history.

The following is a sample of the topics taught at Senior Cycle:

- Alexander the Great
- Ancient Epic: The Odyssey, The Aeneid and the Táin
- Art and Architecture in Greek and Roman Society
- Athens at War
- Greek drama
- Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic
- Roman Historians
- The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Plato and Socrates

Classical Studies would prove beneficial to careers in the following fields: Academia, Archaeology, Archiving, Education, Diplomacy, Heritage, Journalism, Law, Librarian, Politics, Publishing, Tourism.

There is a research project worth 20% as part of the new course and it is not necessary to have studied this subject to Junior Cert

## Design and Communication Graphics

This subject provides students with the opportunity to develop 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.

**There are 2 core areas of study -**

- plane and descriptive geometry
- communication of design and communication graphics.

Two optional aspects of **applied graphics** are also studied.

A student assignment is completed and counts as 40% of total marks

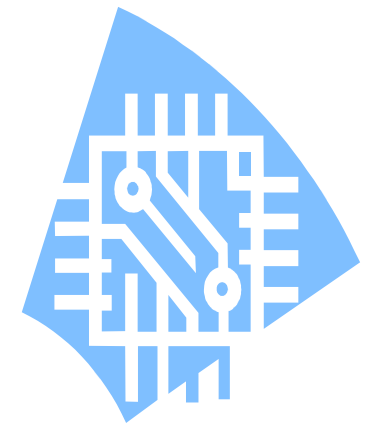
It is advisable to have studied this subject at junior cycle to continue with it at Leaving Certificate level.

A basic knowledge of ICT skills is also beneficial.

\* Students must also appreciate that work completed must conform to a high standard of neatness and draftsman-ship.

**Design and Communication Graphics is useful for careers in:**

*Engineering and engineering technician,  
Architecture and architectural technician,  
Construction apprenticeships,  
Graphic Design  
Printing,  
Draftsman  
Product design  
Animation*



## Chemistry

Chemistry deals with -  
the **composition of matter**,  
the **laws of chemical change**  
and the relation between the **properties and composition of substances**.

In other words it involves everything we use, wear, consume, including medicines, plastics, preservatives, etc.

To be successful in the subject, you need to , think **logically**, be, **creative**, and good with **numbers**.

These skills are much sought after and would enable you to pursue a career in the scientific field but also in computing or finance.



### **Chemistry is useful for careers in:**

*Pharmacy, Nursing, Chemical Engineering, Food Science, Veterinary Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Dietician, Industrial Chemist, Agriculture, Forestry, Teaching, Environmental science, Forensics, Biotechnology, Materials Science, Physiotherapy.*

### **Note:**

Chemistry is a specific requirement for the following 3rd level courses

CK702 Dentistry UCC H4

TU870 Human Nutrition and Dietetics H4

## Art

Leaving Cert Art is made up of four units linked together and based on the everyday visual experience of the student's own environment.

The four units are  
Life Sketching, Still Life, Imaginative Composition, Design and Craftwork.

Students also study the History and Appreciation of Art, which covers Irish and European Art, and Art Appreciation.

Examination will be by

1. Practical project work to be completed during the school year worth 70%
2. Theory paper on the History and Appreciation of Art in June 30%

It is not necessary to have studies Art in the JC, but a proven ability in Art is required

### **Art is useful for :**

*Graphics, Advertising, Architecture, Crafts, Industrial Design, Teacher, Art Therapist, Photography, Interior Design, Printing, Media Studies, Marketing, Animation, Architectural technology, Visual Communications.*



## Music

The Music syllabus caters for all levels of skill and musical interests: traditional, ethnic, classical, jazz, rock, pop etc.,.

It is a logical follow on from the Junior Certificate outline and is divided into three main areas, each of which is compulsory :

- *Performing*
- *Listening*
- *Composing*

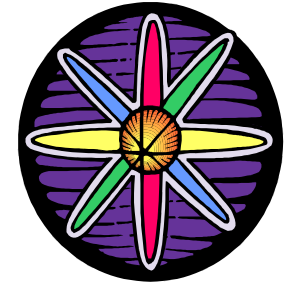


It is not absolutely essential to have studied music at Junior Certificate to choose it for Leaving Certificate. It is preferable to have a minimum of three years experience on a musical instrument.

**Music is useful for careers in :**  
*Entertainment- bands, Orchestra, Composer, Music Teacher, Speech Therapy, Film and Television Producer.*

## Physics

Physics covers the entire universe. If it's measurable it belongs to Physics.



**Physics may be divided into several Branches:**

**Optical:** How do telescopes work? Two camera lenses of exactly the same size and shape can have entirely different focusing powers. How?

**Mechanical:** What causes gravity? What factors effect the acceleration of a car?:

**Magnetic:** How do electric motors work?

**Thermal:** Good conductors of heat are also good conductors of electricity. What molecular likeness explains this?

**Astrophysics:** The big bang galaxies, solar systems, red giants and black holes. What are they and how did they come to be? What may happen to them and why?

**Particle Physics:** Matter and antimatter. The study of the structure of matter at its smallest scale.

**Physics is useful for careers in:**

*Engineer, especially electrical/electronic, Computing, Telecommunications, Meteorologist, Naval services, Pilot, Astronomy, Physicist, Doctor, Dentist, Teacher, Radiographer, Physiotherapy, Apprenticeships.*

**Note:** Most Engineering courses have a high Physics Content.

Physics H3 and Maths H3 is needed for Theoretical Physics TCD TR035

## Agricultural Science

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture.

### What do you study?

- Soils
- Plant and animal physiology
- Farm crops - cereal and roots
- Farm crops - grassland
- Ecology
- Structure and function of the animal body
- Dairy, beef, sheep and pig



Students complete a practical assessment worth 25% of the final marks. It is assessed at common level and access to a farm is essential.

Possible topics for project: identification of plant and animal types associated with agriculture; practical experience with crops, livestock, house and farmyard layouts; investigations carried out related to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics, microbiology and sustainability in agriculture.

Agricultural science is a recognised laboratory science for college entry requirements.

**Warning:** Trinity does not accept Ag science and Biology together as meeting the two subject science requirement for its courses.

## History



Are you interested in the social, cultural, political and economics events that have shaped our modern world? Then history is for you. History shapes critical thinking and analysis, the ability to form and develop arguments and greatly enhances verbal and written communication.

In the High school we focus on Later Modern History (1815-1993) Students study four topics, each worth 20% and conduct an individual research study submitted prior to the LC and worth 20%.

The 4 topics studied include

Two from Europe and the Modern World:

Dictatorship and democracy 1920 to 1945 and the United States and the World 1945 to 1989

Two from Modern Irish History covering political and social reform movements 1870 to 1914 and 1912 to 1949, The Rising, War of Independence, Civil War and Irish Free State and Republic.

Students choose their own research study and with support from the teacher submit it prior to the exam 20% of overall mark

A good knowledge of English, interest in reading , an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is important. Self discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general.

Note that Leaving Cert History is **completely different** from the Junior

## Geography

Are you interested in the physical and natural environment, weather forecasts, earthquakes, tourism, third world issues, globalisation of industry, rezoning issues, urban renewal?



These are some of the topics covered by a subject that has a very wide curriculum

### **What will you study:**

#### Three Core Units:

1. Patterns and processes in the physical environment
2. Regional geography
3. Geographical investigation\*

#### Two Elective Units (pick one):

4. Patterns and processes in economic activities
5. Patterns and processes in the human environment

#### Four Optional Units (pick one; higher level only):

6. Global interdependence
7. Geo ecology
8. Culture and identity
9. The Atmosphere-Ocean environment

\*Geographical Investigation report completed during 6th year accounts for 20% of overall marks.

### **GEOGRAPHY IS USEFUL FOR CAREERS IN :**

*Urban and rural planning, Tourism and Leisure*

## Biology

Biology is the science of life and living things. It forms the base for hundreds of careers ranging from ecology and oceanography to medicine and biotechnology.

### **What do you study in Leaving Cert Biology?**

- The Cell
- Plant and Animal Groups
- Body Systems and Processes
- Plant processes
- Microbiology
- Genetics
- Coordination
- Ecology



- Evolution
- Reproduction and Development

**Biology** is useful for careers in: