



Athlone Community College

# **Traditional Leaving Certificate Subject Choice**

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# Leaving Certificate Programme

- Leaving Certificate is a 2 year programme.
  - Full time commitment required over 2 years.
  - 5th year is very important especially for those hoping to gain entry to high points courses.
- Usually a maximum of 7 subjects are taken for the Leaving Certificate.
  - An extra (8<sup>th</sup>) subject? – need to think very carefully about this as each LC subject is extensive and requires a lot of work. Big jump in standard from J.C.
  - Other subjects could suffer if workload is too great.
  - For points purposes best **6** subjects are counted.
  - LCVP - eligibility based on subjects chosen.
- Almost all subjects are of equal importance.
  - Extra points will be awarded in all universities and ITs for honours Mathematics in LCert

# Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP-Link Modules)

- An extra subject with Leaving Cert, recognised for points/CAO
- Must have a certain combination of subjects to LC
- **Certification Recognition (Universities, DIT, Institutes of Technology)**
  
- **LCVP                      Points**
- Distinction      66
- Merit                      46
- Pass                              28

# Points System

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Higher Grades</b>	<b>Higher Points</b>	<b>Higher Maths Points</b>	<b>Ordinary Grades</b>	<b>Ordinary Points</b>
<b>90 -100</b>	<b>H1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>O1</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>80-89</b>	<b>H2</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>O2</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>70- 79</b>	<b>H3</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>O3</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>60-69</b>	<b>H4</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>O4</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>50-59</b>	<b>H5</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>O5</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>40-49</b>	<b>H6</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>O6</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>30-39</b>	<b>H7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>O7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>0-29</b>	<b>H8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>O8</b>	<b>0</b>

# Leaving Certificate Programme

- Highly Desirable Subjects
  - Unless there is a substantial reason otherwise, all students should consider choosing:  
A Science Subject.
- Subject Levels
  - Higher and Ordinary level → all subjects.
  - Foundation level → Mathematics & Irish.
  - Particular care needs to be taken with Mathematics. Failure in this subject can be detrimental to overall L.C.
- LC subject selection
  - **Core subjects:** English, Mathematics, Irish
  - **Optional subjects:** Usually 4 other subjects are chosen

# Optional Subjects (4)

## **BUSINESS**

- Business
- Accountancy
- Economics

## **SCIENCE**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Agricultural Science
- Physics
- Applied Maths

## **Language**

- French
- German

## **Practical**

- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- Design and Communication Graphics

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- History
- Geography
- Home Economics

## **Artistic**

- Music
- Art

# Entry Requirements

- When choosing Leaving Certificate subjects care must be taken as the choices of subjects made now may determine 3rd level and career options in 2 years time.
- Why? Regardless of how many points you get in your LC, you will be ineligible to even apply for a course if you have not met it's "Course Entry Requirements"
- Generally there are 2 sets of 'Entry Requirements' which must be met before 'points' can be considered.
- A) **Minimum Entry Requirements**
  - Particular subjects and minimum no. of honours / passes in the L.C. required to apply to an individual college.
- B) **Specific Course Requirements**
  - Particular subjects and/or levels required to gain entry to specific faculties or courses.

# Minimum Entry Requirements of major CAO Colleges (with exceptions)

Institution	Minimum grades	Required subjects
<b>NUI Colleges:</b> UCD, NUIM, NUIG, UCC. (RCSI, Shannon)	<b>2H5 + 4O6/H7</b>	OD3 in English, Irish & Modern Language*, Maths*
<b>Trinity College Dublin</b>	<b>3H5 + 3O6/H7</b>	OD3 in Maths, English & another Language
<b>Dublin City University</b>	<b>2H5 + 4O6/H7</b>	OD3 in Maths, English or Irish
<b>University of Limerick</b>	<b>2H5 + 4O6/H7</b>	OD3 in Maths, English & Irish or another Lang.
<b>Institutes of Technology</b>	<b>2H5 + 4O6/H7 5O6/H7</b>	OD3 in Maths, English or Irish



# Specific Course Requirements

- These requirements are in addition to Minimum Entry Requirements.
- They are specific L.C. subjects / grades required for entry to particular courses.
- They tend to be in the following subject areas:
  - **Science subjects**
  - **Languages**
  - **Mathematics**
- E.g. Veterinary Medicine in UCD  
Entry Requirements:
  - 2H5 & 4O6/H7 +, O6/H7 in English, Irish, Modern Language & Mathematics, H5 in Chemistry & 2 weeks work experience
  - 565 points

# Sample Requirements

## Irish

- Primary Teaching – H5
- Journalism & Irish (DCU) – O1/H4
- Comp. Sc., & Language (TCD) – HB3 in Fr/Ge/Ir
- Gno & Gaeilge (DCU) – O1/H4

## French

- Law with French Law – (UCD) H3
- Commerce International (UCD) H4
- Law and French (TCD) H3

## A Language

- Many courses require a language but may not specify a particular one
- Applied Language & Translation Studies (DCU) – HC3 in Fr, Ge, Ir or Sp.
- Clinical Speech and Language Studies (TCD) – H4 in En, Fr, Ge, Ir, It, Ru or Sp.
- Cadet School – O6 in a modern Language.

# Sample Requirements

## Mathematics

- Honours Engineering – H4
- Business Studies (DCU) – O4/H6
- Optometry (DIT) – O3/H7
- Economics & Finance (UCD) – H4
- Business (TCD) – O4/H6
- Science (UCD) – O3/H6
- Commerce (NUIG) – O6/H7
- Law and Accounting (UL) – O4/H7

## Science

- Particular care needs to be taken with science subjects.
- Many courses require any one science subject
- Some courses require 2 science subjects, particularly TCD and UCC.
- UCAS courses
- Nursing – O6/H7 in a Lab. Sc.
- Medical/Para medical courses

## Chemistry

- Pharmacy\*, Human Nutrition, Veterinary Medicine, Medicine & Dentistry (UCC)

# Specific Course Requirements

- Unlikely that TY students will know exactly, which courses/careers they wish to pursue at this stage. .
- Course Entry Requirements can be accessed:
  - a) In the colleges' prospectuses
  - b) On the colleges' websites
  - c) [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) – Subject Requirements
- **It is only when all course entry requirements are met that students are qualified to apply for a course.**

# General Advice

If a student is not really sure what he/she wants to do in the future:

***Pick a broad range of subjects in order to keep options open***

Many students will change their minds about their future a number of times in the next 2 years

- E.g.
  - one *science*
  - one *business*
  - one *humanities / practical*
- Language
- This combination would allow access into a broad range of courses/careers.

# Choosing a Subject

*A wise choice of subjects requires:*

Subject Teachers,  
Guidance Classes, TY  
Programme

Guidance Counsellors,  
Current Teachers

Consider all the  
information, views and  
opinions

**RESEARCH**



**DISCUSSION**



**REFLECTION**



**DECISION**

L.C. Books, Publications,  
Other Students

Family, Friends

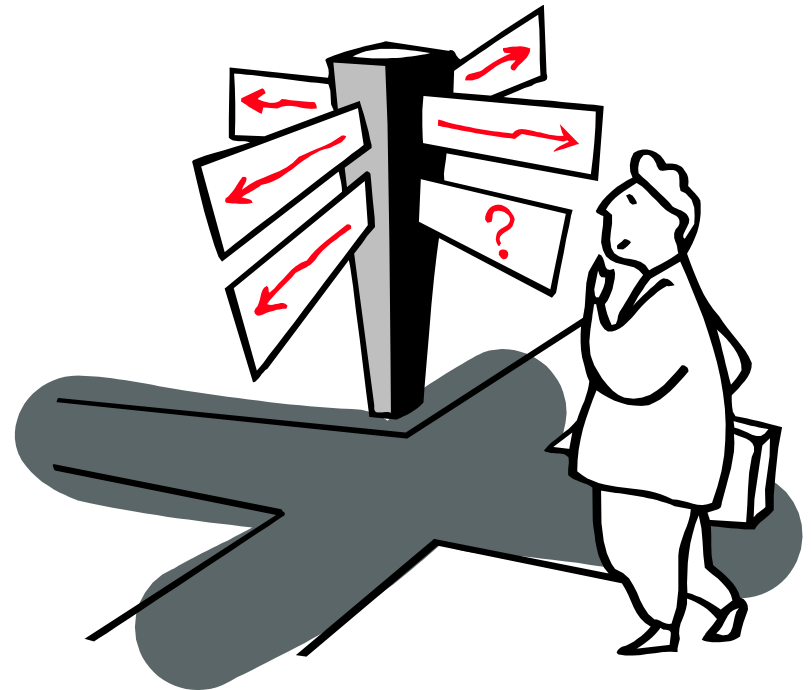
Then, ultimately each  
student must make up  
their own mind.

# [ Be Aware ]

- Choosing subjects does not necessarily mean that you will be able to study them for the Leaving Cert. It may happen that not enough students opt for a certain subject.
- Such a subject may then be dropped from the options. It is important to have a substitute choice.
- The school has also to put choices in various groupings so you may find that two of your chosen subjects are in the same group and you may only choose one of them.
- Be aware of any potential difficulties that may arise.

# Reviewing the Information

- Do I like this subject?
- Am I good at it?
- How have I performed up to now?
- Is there a chance I might need it for further study?
- LCVP – am I eligible?
- Have I substitutes chosen in case?





# Summary



- Maximise your options for college:
  - Maths, English, Irish, a modern European Language, 1 science subject.
- Remember to research
  - appropriate careers websites
  - college/employer websites/literature
- Important to check the grade/level required.
- Pick the subjects you are most interested in or have an aptitude for!
- Remember a lot of courses do not require any special subjects!