



**LORETO HIGH SCHOOL
BEAUFORT
RATHFARNHAM
DUBLIN 14**



**SUBJECT CHOICES
SENIOR CYCLE
2023-2024**



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NB Any information in this booklet is for guidance only.
 All details on entry requirements must be checked on the college's own website.
 Entry requirements constantly change.

Matriculation requirements
 NUI see nui.ie
 Trinity College see tcd.ie
 Technical Universities/TUD see individual college websites



What to Consider when Choosing your Subjects

- Students normally take seven subjects to Leaving Certificate.
 - Irish, English, Mathematics, and a modern language - French or Spanish or German, are compulsory subjects.
 - For the remaining three subjects, the following are available: Accounting, Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics (Scientific & Social), LCPE, Physics, Politics and Society, Music, Religious Education, Spanish.
- Only students who have taken German, French, Spanish and Art in Junior Certificate may study German, French, Spanish and Art for Leaving Certificate. A strong background in Music is required for L.C. Music.
- Home Economics (Social & Scientific) and Business may be taken in Senior Cycle without any prior JC experience of these subjects.
- It is recommended that a student should have taken J.C. Higher Level Maths to take either Chemistry or Physics at Senior Cycle.
- Applied Maths and Classical Studies are offered as additional subjects after school.
- For the purposes of University /College entry in the Republic of Ireland
 - College/university minimum entry requirements
 - Students must count the points of their best six subjects.
 - These must be taken in one Leaving Cert sitting.
- As students have had 4th year to sample subjects, change will not be encouraged in 5th Year.
- Useful reference books, Website, subject specifications etc.
- <https://www.qualifax.ie/subject-requirements>
- www.cao.ie
- www.careersportal.ie



- We will continue to use Careers Portal/Reach Plus Programme (textbook & web account) throughout 5th & 6th year.
 - Careers Portal has a section ‘A Guide to Leaving Certificate Subject Choices’ which is very useful.

We strongly recommend that students read the college literature to inform themselves before choosing Leaving Certificate subjects.

Students should be guided in their choice by the following considerations:

- (a) The subjects they are good at (both in school tests and Junior Cycle.)
- (b) The subjects they require for the careers/courses which they wish to pursue.
- (c) Their interests, aptitudes and values tests, and achievements in their school subjects to date when making their choices. It is extremely important to seek advice from school authorities, subject teachers, career guidance counsellors and parents before finally deciding on one’s Leaving Certificate subjects.
- (d) It is advisable to have a balanced selection of subjects. One science subject is usually recommended to help to maximise options for entry to third level institutions.



DO

Choose subjects you enjoy.

Choose a subject you are good at.

Choose subjects you need for your chosen career.

Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice now.

Talk to your Guidance Counsellor and your teachers.

Talk to your parents or guardians.

DON'T

Choose a subject because your friend is taking it.

Choose a subject just because you like or dislike the teacher.

Choose a subject because you think it will be easy.

Choose a new subject without finding out more about it.

Decide at the last minute without thinking about it.

Don't panic.





SENIOR-CYCLE SUBJECTS



ENGLISH

English is a core subject. It is essential to the development, maturity, and self-expression of each student. Language skills contribute to the student's progress in all subjects. Students are challenged and encouraged to study English at a level appropriate to their ability and literacy skills. This ensures that each student progresses from her level of competence. Students who read widely and engage actively with current affairs will find this subject particularly rewarding.

The Leaving Certificate course aims to foster in students the ability to analyse, assess and appreciate the various uses of language e.g. narrative, persuasive, descriptive, argument, information, and aesthetic. It also aims to develop students' thinking skills and their ability to express themselves clearly and accurately in the appropriate style for the task set.

Developing students' interest in literature remains central to the course. Building on the Junior Cycle syllabus, the course introduces the student to the comparative study of texts and the study of film.

The Leaving Certificate exam consists of two papers:

Paper 1 tests language skills:

1. Accuracy and appropriateness in language use.
2. Thinking skills: analysis, reasoning, synthesis, and evaluation.
3. Advanced reading and writing skills: composing and interpreting a range of genres.

Paper 2 tests knowledge and understanding of Literature:

1. The comparative study of literary texts and film.
2. In-depth study of a single text.
3. Poetry

Marks are awarded at Leaving Certificate level for the purpose, clarity, coherence, expression, and mechanics (i.e. grammar, punctuation & spelling) of writing.

A pass in English is required for most courses/ careers but some colleges and employers will accept Irish instead of it. Honours English is essential for Journalism, Multimedia and Communication Degrees at DCU, English TCD, Honours English or Irish is essential for Journalism and Film & Broadcasting in TUD. Honours English is desirable for all students who wish to study English at degree level and for all Journalism and Communication degree courses.

Contemporary Visual Cultural requires a H4 in English, Creative Cultural Industries TUD require H4 in English and Law TUD requires H4 in English. Most Media and Communication courses require a H4 in English. Check college website for full details.



IRISH

The Irish Leaving Certificate Examination at both Higher and Ordinary Level comprises two written papers, an Aural exam and an Oral exam.

The **Oral** exam is very important for both Ordinary and Higher-level students. 40% of the total marks are awarded for it and a lot of practice at Oral work is required. It is a common level exam.

At the **Aural** exam students listen to the same Audiofile but Higher-level students answer more detailed questions. 10% of the marks are awarded for the aural exam.

At Higher level considerable fluency is required and students must be prepared to deal with more challenging questions in the written comprehensions and write about current affairs. Overall, in each part of the Leaving Certificate Exam the Higher level is more challenging and has a heavy workload. Students achieving H6 or lower at house exams are advised to take the Ordinary Level course.

The Irish course is varied and enjoyable. The school encourages pupils where possible to attend a course in the Gaeltacht.

Paper 1 is the Aural exam followed by written composition.

Composition: At Ordinary Level students are asked to write two short pieces. At Higher level students are asked to write a piece of 600 words (2 - 3 A4 pages in length minimum.) At Higher level the essay requires a high degree of fluency, extensive vocabulary, and considerable accuracy.

Paper 2 examines the literature course and reading comprehension:

At Ordinary Level students study 5 poems and 5 prose extracts. There are 2 reading comprehension pieces where basic questions are asked.

At Higher Level students study the Common Level poetry and prose but also study one extra book from a choice of a novel, play, collection of short stories or biography. The Higher-level Paper 2 has two reading comprehensions. The standard of Irish in these pieces is challenging and the questions require a high level of understanding. Questions on grammar are also included here.

A grade H4 in Higher Irish is required for Primary teacher training. An Honour in Irish may be required for some degrees that have Irish as part of the degree (see Qualifax or College Entry Requirements). A minimum of grade O6 Ordinary level or H7 is required for all courses in the National University of Ireland (i.e. UCD, UCG, UCC and Maynooth College, RCSI) & Defence Forces. A H6 in Irish or English is required for many of the Institutes of Technology & DCU.



MATHEMATICS

Aims:

- Helping the students to acquire the Mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding needed for life and work.
- Developing their problem-solving skills

Higher Level

- Aimed at the more able students i.e. students who have attained at minimum a grade C on higher level Junior Certificate paper. Emphasis is placed on problem solving, abstracting, generalising, and proving.

Ordinary Level

- The course moves gradually from the relatively concrete and practical to the more abstract and general concepts. Attention is given to the important skills needed for algebra and problem solving.

See point system on page 44

Honours Maths:

There are currently 64 CAO courses which require Higher Level Maths. refer to www.qualifax.ie

Ordinary Maths

There are currently 1263 courses which require Ordinary Level Maths. refer to www.qualifax.ie

A minimum of a Pass on an Ordinary level Maths paper is necessary regardless of points achieved.



FRENCH

The Leaving Certificate French syllabus is set out in the context of a common syllabus framework for the teaching and examining of French, German, Spanish and Italian.

The senior syllabus develops the aims, objectives, and content of the Junior syllabus and to sit French at Higher Level the student should have gained at least a C at Junior Certificate level.

At Senior level classroom activities are conducted mainly in French. Students learn to deal with situations and tasks in the four skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

Candidates at the Leaving Certificate Examination in French will be assessed on their ability to

- Demonstrate an understanding of spoken French i.e. listening comprehension 20%.
- Demonstrate an understanding of written French i.e. written comprehension 30%.
- Demonstrate an ability to write accurately in French i.e. written expression 25%
- Express themselves with relative fluency and correctness in French i.e. Oral interview 25%

Many students of French in Beaufort reach such a high standard of proficiency that they consider the possibility of pursuing further study or career opportunities through French.

Throughout their senior years they have the opportunity to take part in table quizzes, debates, and other activities. The students have every opportunity to advance their knowledge and love of the French language which bring their own rewards.

U.C.D., U.C.C., N.U.I.G., N.U.I. Maynooth and The Royal College of Surgeons may require a pass in a modern foreign language for admission to many of their courses.



GERMAN

The Senior syllabus draws on the Junior Cycle syllabus and develops many aspects of its aims, objectives and content. Therefore, it is not possible to take up German at beginner's level in Transition Year. The Senior Cycle syllabus is communicative in the sense that it is based on the purposes to which learners are likely to put the knowledge and skills they acquire in class.

The three basic components of the course are: communicative proficiency, language awareness and cultural awareness.

Students are introduced to a wide range of materials including literary texts, newspaper and magazine articles, grammar, video, and audio tapes.

The Examination

	Higher	Ordinary
Oral	25%	20%
Written	55%	55%
Aural	20%	25%

The Oral (held March/ April, 15-20 minutes) consists of:

- (a) general conversation
- (b) discussion of a project or picture sequence prepared in advance
- (c) prepared role-play

The Written Paper (2 ½ hour paper) consists of:

- (a) reading comprehensions, both literary and journalistic style followed by related questions and grammar exercise.
- (b) Self expression in response to a letter, topical issue, cartoon, or picture stimulus

The Aural (40-minute cd after the written paper):

- (a) interview
- (b) message
- (c) short dialogue
- (d) news and weather

U.C.D., U.C.C., N.U.I.G., N.U.I., Maynooth and The Royal College of Surgeons may require a pass in a language for admission to many of their courses.



SPANISH

With some 400 million native speakers, Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language in the world. It is the second language of the United States, an official language on four continents and is of historical importance elsewhere. With the world becoming ever more global, having a good knowledge of Spanish may be extremely useful later in life. Internationally, people who speak Spanish often have opportunities to work in trade or business fields. Other options include diplomacy, teaching, translation, and interpretation, which all require a sensitivity and proficiency of another language.

The Leaving Certificate syllabus draws on the Junior Cycle Syllabus and develops many aspects of its aims, objectives, and content. More emphasis is placed on the acquisition of oral skills in the Leaving Cert and it is expected that students' oral and aural skills will be developed to a high level.

Learning a language goes hand in hand with learning about the culture of the countries where the language is spoken. Students will be introduced to a wide range of authentic materials including newspaper and magazine articles, films, websites, and cultural texts examining Hispanic art, music and literature.

The Leaving Certificate exam format is as follows:

- The Oral Higher and Ordinary Level (15minutes) consists of:
 - o General conversation
 - o One of five prepared role-plays

- (2.5 hour written exam) consists of:
 - o Reading comprehensions followed by related questions (Higher & Ordinary Level)
 - o Self expression in response to a topical issue (Higher Level)
 - o Translation (Higher Level)
 - o Diary and letter writing (Higher & Ordinary Level)
 - o Formal Letter writing (Higher Level)

- The Aural Higher and Ordinary Level (40 minutes exam)
 - o A Selection of interviews, dialogues, news, and weather reports with related questions.

U.C.D., U.C.C., N.U.I.G., N.U.I., Maynooth and The Royal College of Surgeons may require a pass in a language for admission to many of their courses.



BIOLOGY

The Biology course is an interesting and fascinating course which involves the study of human physiology and anatomy, genetics, the cell structure, the diversity of organism and ecology.

The course is divided up as follows:

- Unit 1. The study of life
Through the study of this unit, students employ the processes of Science in their investigations and explore the diversity of life and the interrelationship between organism and their environment.
- Unit2. The Cell
Students develop an understanding and knowledge of life- the cell- whose structures and processes are shared by all living organisms and, in doing so, gain an insight into the uniqueness, function and role of organisms, including themselves.
- Unit 3. The Organism
Students become aware of the diversity of organisms, the organisation of different systems in plants and animals, and contemporary biological issues including human health.

The course requires constant study and a good memory for detail. If you choose Biology to keep your Science option open be aware that it requires a lot of dedication and hard work.

Some careers leading from Biology include Forensic Science, Medicine, Nursing, Research, Genetic Engineering etc.

Exam Structure

The examination at higher and ordinary level is three hours duration. The exam paper is divided into three units.

- Section A – Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks
- Section B – Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks.
- Section C – Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks



What Type of Student Might Biology Suit?

Students who enjoyed science in the Junior Certificate might wish to consider studying biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in more detail. There is a lot of **learning** to do in biology and high grades are not achieved without hard work. A good memory is essential.

Associated Careers

The types of courses and careers where the study of biology at second level might be helpful would include the following.

Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Earth Science and Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Biologist, Microbiologist, Zoologist, Psychologist, Astronomer, Teacher, Researcher, Food Technologist.

Entry Requirements for 3rd Level.

Biology is counted as a science subject in any course which has a science subject as a requirement. Students taking biology as an elective for Home Economics Teacher Training in St Angela's must have Lab Science Subject at 06/H7 or higher. Biology is an essential requirement for entry to Human Health & Disease at TCD where you need a H4 and another science subject also H4 in Biology for Genetics at UCC.

Recommendations and Comments

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate biology has a good understanding of Junior Cert Science at higher level.
- A student must have an aptitude for and interest in laboratory work.
- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject.
- Biology is often perceived as an easier subject than physics or chemistry.



CHEMISTRY

The Leaving Certificate Chemistry course is a fascinating course which involves learning about atoms, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, environmental chemistry, organic chemistry and much more. The wider world of Chemistry involves much of what we use, wear and consume, including medicines, plastics, preservatives etc.

The major topics involved include the following:

- 1 Atomic Structure and Periodic Table
- 2 Chemical bonding
- 3 Radioactivity
- 4 Maths- the Mole and Stoichiometry
- 5 Acids and bases, pH and Indicators
- 6 Oxidation and Reduction
- 7 Rates of Reactions
- 8 Chemical Equilibrium
- 9 Organic Chemistry/Fuels/Thermochemistry
- 10 Environmental Chemistry- Water

Exam Structure and Assessment

The Leaving Cert exam at both Higher and Ordinary Level is one terminal exam in June, of three hours duration. Each candidate must answer 8 questions on the paper. There are 11 questions in total on the exam paper, each worth 50 marks.

What Type of Student Might Chemistry Suit?

Intending students of Chemistry should have:

- An inquisitive and enquiring mind
- A logical approach to problem solving
- Students need to be comfortable with maths as many topics on the course require some mathematical calculation.
- Students also need to be able to learn definitions, laws etc., off by heart.
- Attention to detail both in experiment and expression

Entry requirement for Third Level



Although many science courses at third level require a science subject, most colleges are flexible as to which science you present. There are however some important exceptions, for example:

H4 required for: Dentistry UCC, Human Nutrition & Dietetics TUD, Medicine – undergrad entry UCC.

H5 required for: Pharmacy TCD, Pharmacy UCC, Pharmacy Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Veterinary Medicine undergraduate Entry UCD. This is now a restricted course and requires 60 hours practical animal experience. See UCD Prospectus.

There may be additional subject requirements for some of these courses, check college prospectus.

Associated Careers

The following are just some of the careers where Chemistry would be useful: Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Industry, Veterinary Medicine, Engineering, Human Nutrition, and Dietician, Dentist, Agricultural Science, Science teacher, Biochemist and many more.

Recommendations and Comments

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the course has a good understanding of Junior Cycle Science and Maths. The majority of students will have achieved a high grade in both Science and Higher Level Maths.
- Mathematical skills are part of Leaving Certificate Chemistry, a proficiency with numbers will be necessary as there will be mathematical problem solving, e.g. calculations, formulas, and equations to be worked out.



PHYSICS

Physics describes the laws and forces governing natural phenomena, which include heat, light, electricity, and magnetism. It uses maths and equations to describe and predict events and phenomena. There is an emphasis on the applications of physical principles in everyday life and the enormous impact it has on modern society.

The Course is divided into the following topics:

Mechanics and Motions

Heat

Light and Optics

Electricity and Magnetism

Atomic Physics and Electronics

Waves and Sound

Nuclear and Particle Physics

Experiments form a major part of the course. Students must maintain a laboratory book because there are 27 mandatory experiments, four of which are offered on the Leaving Cert paper, with three to be presented. Experiments are 'good fun' and develop skills such as handling equipment, problem solving, recording results, team work etc.

The study of Physics will help you to understand the world around you – how and why things happen or work. For example:

- Why does a spoon immersed in water appear to bend?
- How are images formed in a mirror?
- What happens inside a nuclear reactor?
- Why is follow through so important in tennis and golf?

Exam Structure

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of one terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course. The Leaving Cert Physics exam is three hours in duration.

What Type of Student Might Physics suit?

- Students considering a career in any mathematical or scientific discipline, such as finance, statistics, engineering, physics, or computer science.
- Students who were successful in their Junior Cycle Science examination, particularly in the physics section of the course.



Third Level Entry Requirements

The subject is essential requirement Higher H3 for entry into a Theoretical Physics in Trinity. For other courses which may require Physics or alternative science subject, go to www.qualifax.ie, Minimum Subject Module.

Associated Careers

The following careers are some you might like to consider in this area. Architect, Dentist, Optometrist, Biophysicist, Biotechnology, Geophysicist, Meteorologist, Physicist, Physics Technician, Physics Teacher. Physics is of key importance in Technology and particularly relevant for those specialising in most branches of Engineering. In most engineering courses, you will find a high physics content, while some paramedical courses will involve the study of it, e.g. Radiography.

Recommendations and Comments

- If you are curious about things like the above, then you will enjoy physics.
- Physics is logical and you will learn to think logically.
- If you enjoy doing experiments and getting the correct results you will enjoy physics.
- If you work hard, it is possible to do very well in physics in the Leaving Cert.

COLLEGE SUBJECTS	Leaving Certificate Science Subjects in order of importance to college subject		
	1	2	3
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Biology Horticulture Agriculture Marine Biology	Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics
CHEMICAL SCIENCES Chemistry Biochemistry Chem. Engineering Medicinal Chem.	Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics
PHYSICAL SCIENCES Physics Astronomy Electronics Computing	Physics	Mathematics	Chemistry
ENGINEERING Civil Mechanical Aeronautical Electrical	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry
MEDICAL SCIENCES Pharmacy Nursing Ophthalmic Optics Nutrition	Chemistry	Biology	Physics
MEDICINE / DENTISTRY Medicine Dentistry Vet. Medicine	Chemistry	Physics	Biology

British Association for the Advancement of Science



GEOGRAPHY

Geography is a dynamic, interesting, and challenging subject to study for Leaving Certificate. More than most subjects you can see the relevance of what you study in your daily life. You sit in a traffic jam and understand the importance of government investment in infra-structure, you drive through the Irish countryside and identify drumlins and outwash plains. It is a subject that encourages you to apply common sense and observation in an academic structure, and helps you to make sense of the world you live in.

Reflecting the nature of the subject, the Leaving Certificate course has a very practical element to it, involving the study of aerial photographs, map reading and fieldwork. The terminal exam is manageable and offers a wide choice.

The syllabus includes

- **Physical Geography** e.g.: plate tectonics, Rocks and landscapes, rivers, sea, ice, weather charts etc.
- **Regional Geography** e.g.: Ireland, Europe, India, EU etc.
- **Human Geography** e.g.: population, migration, urbanisation, maps, and photos etc.
- **Geocology** e.g. soils, biomes etc.
- **Fieldstudy project** = 20% of Leaving Certificate

Though not an essential requirement for any course, it provides good background information for careers in town planning, cartography, surveying, and meteorology. It fulfils one of the two Science subject requirements for the Science and Pharmacy courses in TCD. For entry into Science in UCD Geography & Applied Maths may be substituted for a laboratory science subject.



HISTORY

History is unique in that it investigates how human life has changed over time. The study of History helps to develop both an understanding of the past and sensitivity to ways of handling conflict in the future.

History has a potential contribution to make to the development of citizens who are open-minded, aware of diversity, and willing to accept difference and respect other peoples' cultures, religions, and languages. Students will develop an understanding of change through the perspectives of political, social, cultural, economic, religious, and scientific history.

The skills of History-wide reading, clear expression, good essay-writing, balanced arguments supported by reliable research, are invaluable in many careers, law, the media, civil service, education, and politics for example.

The History syllabus has a choice of 12 modules, 4 of which are studied for the Leaving Certificate exam. The modules chosen will vary but could include the study of American History 1949 –1989, Dictatorship and Democracy 1920-1945, the study of Northern Ireland 1949-1993 or Ireland 1912-1949 so the History course is both modern and topical.

The Leaving Certificate Exam has 5 elements each worth 20% of the final result:

A research study report - an opportunity for students to carry out independent research on a topic of their choice (pre submitted in April of Leaving Cert year).

The Leaving Cert exam consists of 4 Questions.

a) A document-based question – based on one of the modules selected by the S.E.C. i.e. The United States and the World 1945-1989

b) 3 essays based on modules of Irish or European / World history.

The content of the Leaving Cert History course is divided between 50% of Irish History and 50% of European/World History, 1890-1990.

Leaving Certificate students are encouraged to research as widely as possible round the course, and to get information from as wide a range of sources as possible i.e. the internet, libraries, T.V., films, documentaries, newspapers, and primary sources where possible.

Lively discussions are common in the class and students are encouraged above all to enjoy History.

It is not essential for entry to any third level course, but its study can be useful for careers/ courses in Politics, Journalism, Law, Broadcasting and Teaching.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Why choose Religious Education?

Religious Education is ideal for students interested in working with and understanding the public (social worker/psychologist/anthropologist/barrister/garda/doctor, etc.) The LCRE course offers insights into the beliefs, customs and traditions that motivate people of all faiths and none. There are opportunities for students to engage in extended research and many skills are developed, including critical thinking; the ability to interpret, contrast and evaluate different opinions, worldviews; and the opportunity to develop and defend counterarguments.

Structure = Four Sections + One Research Project

Part One This section is **obligatory for all students**.

→ **Section A:** The search for meaning and values (Philosophy)

Part Two Students study **two sections** from the following:

→ **Section B:** Christianity: origins and contemporary expressions

→ **Section C:** World religions

→ **Section D:** Moral decision-making

Part Three Students study **one of the following** sections for the terminal examination.

The topic selected must be different from the designated coursework topics.

→ **Section E:** Religion and Gender

→ **Section F:** Issues of Justice and Peace

→ **Section G:** Worship, Prayer and Ritual

→ **Section H:** Bible: Literature and Sacred Text

→ **Section I:** Religion: the Irish Experience

→ **Section J:** Religion and Science

Coursework Each student chooses **one of four prescribed titles** for extended research. Coursework is submitted prior to the terminal examination and has two parts:

→ **Part A:** An essay summarising **your research** of the chosen title

→ **Part B:** Your **personal reflection** on the learning, skills, and experience of undertaking coursework



ROOTED RESPONSIVE RELEVANT

Marks 80% for performance in terminal examination (Leaving Cert)
 20% for coursework submitted

Please note:

‘Assessment of Religious Education in the Leaving Certificate examination will be based on the aims, objectives and outcomes of each section of the course. Students’ personal faith commitment and/or affiliation to a particular religious grouping will **not** be subject to assessment for national certification.’

-- *Leaving Certificate RE syllabus, p9*



CLASSICAL STUDIES

Course Content

Of the prescribed topics on the course students are obliged to study four.

At Loreto High School Beaufort, we study the following topics:

Alexander the Great.

Both Arrian's and Plutarch's works on Alexander's life and campaigns will be read in class. The

learning outcome is that all students should have a comprehensive understanding of the

achievements of the young Macedonian king.

Greek Drama. Medea, Oedipus

All three plays will be read in class. The aim is that our students will gain a good knowledge of each play, acquire an understanding of the main elements of Greek Drama and get some insights into Ancient Greek society.

Ancient Epic. Two Epics: The Odyssey and The Aeneid.

Both epics will be read in class. From their study of this topic students should reinforce their understanding

of these well-known stories. In addition, they should become familiar with the main features of epic poetry.

Through their analyses of the principal characters and main themes permeating both poems it is hoped our students will hone their analytical skills.

Greek and Roman Art and Architecture. (All notes supplied)

An exploration of ancient of Greek and Roman structures and pieces of Classical art affords us

students the opportunity to experience the great architectural and artistic achievements of these

ancient races and their associations with the gods they worshipped.

The above combination of topics offers our students a balance of Greek and Roman topics. In this

way students gain insights into the worlds of the Ancient Greeks and Romans.

Additional information:

No knowledge of Ancient Greek or Latin required.

All notes/texts supplied.

All prescribed texts read by the teacher in class.

An essay/homework assignment per week.

Regular class tests.

Term exams and a Mock exam set.

A special topic to be researched and written up. (20%)

Six questions to be completed in three hours in the Mock and LC exam. (80%).



Should I choose Classical Studies?

Students who have an interest in developing their knowledge of the ancient classical world are encouraged to study this subject at Leaving Certificate Level.

A prospective student of any optional subject should ask themselves the following questions: Do I like it? Am I good at it? Am I prepared to work at it?

If the answer to all three questions is 'Yes', then this subject is a good option and should be considered when making her choices.

Further Study/Career Options:

A degree in Classical Civilisation in the NUI universities.

Thereafter further studies, access to other post-graduate programmes.

Teaching the subject at Second or Third Level et al.



APPLIED MATHS

Applied Mathematics is the study of the practical applications of mathematics.

In the past, Applied Maths concentrated on applications in the physical world. However, a revised course commenced in September 2021. The new course has a much wider range of applications.

It develops key skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, and processing of data and information.

The skills learned are transferable to a wide range of careers but especially engineering, technology, computer science, science, business, economics, and project management.

It is ideal for any student who has a good ability and interest in maths and who enjoys problem solving.

Studying Applied Maths gives students a huge advantage when doing the Maths course. Many of the basic skills required on the Maths course are reinforced. The problem-solving techniques learned in Applied Maths are also extremely useful.

There is also some overlap with the mechanics section of the Physics course.

The new Maths course has removed important topics such as advanced calculus, matrices, and vectors from the syllabus. Applied Maths fills these gaps in skills which are often essential at third level.

Assessment of the subject will be a project worth 20% and a final written exam worth 80%.



ACCOUNTING

Accounting is a dynamic subject which is suitable for high achievers. It is sometimes perceived as a difficult subject in which it may be difficult to achieve a high grade. However, Accounting is a fantastic subject and the results show approximately 30% of Higher-Level students can achieve a H1/H2 grade. Accounting is very precise, and the answers required are clear. It would benefit the student to have taken Business studies to Junior Certificate to succeed at Leaving Certificate level, but they may get enough basics in 4th Year. It uses the basic concepts and skills already acquired and develops them. It involves ‘**doing**’ rather than large amounts of theory to learn but a good understanding of the theory is necessary for certain questions. Preparation and practice will guarantee a satisfactory return in terms of grades

The Examination.

The Leaving Certificate Accounting Examination lasts for three hours with total marks of 400. There are three sections to the paper.

Section 1: Financial Accounting (120 marks) comprises of 4 questions. Students must answer either Question 1 **or** two questions from Q2, Q3, and Q4. This section makes up 30% of the total examination.

E.g. Company accounts, Cash flow statements, Club accounts, Depreciation

Section 2: Financial Accounting (200 marks) comprises of three questions and students are required to answer two out of three questions. This section makes up 50% of the total examination.

E.g. Published accounts, Interpretation of accounts, Incomplete Accounts, Correction of Errors/Suspense

Section 3: Management Accounting (80 marks) comprises of two questions and students are required to answer one question. All questions carry equal marks. This section makes up 20% of the total examination.

E.g. Marginal & Product costing, Budgeting.



BUSINESS

This is an exciting and practical course and introduces students to the World of Business. The course aims to create an awareness of enterprise and to generate a positive and ethical attitude in business.

Some areas covered are:

- People in Business,
- Contract Law,
- Enterprise,
- Insurance,
- Taxation,
- Management,
- Marketing,
- International Business,
- Europe.

It is a good preparation for many 3rd levels courses e.g. Commerce, Marketing, BESS.

The exam is a one final 3-hour exam made up of short questions, long questions, and an applied business question.

Students need to have a genuine interest in Business and be ready to keep up to date with the Business World by reading newspapers and looking at news on the internet.

A student taking this subject needs a fairly good level of English but does not need a mathematical ability.



ECONOMICS

Leaving Certificate Economics aims to stimulate students' curiosity and interest in the economic environment and how they interact with it. It develops a set of skills, knowledge and values that enables students to understand the economics forces which affect their everyday lives, their society, and their economy at local, national, and global levels, making them more informed as decision-makers

Leaving Certificate Economics is made up of 5 individual strands:

Strand 1 introduces students to the fundamental economic principles of scarcity and choice.

Strand 2 focuses on microeconomics and the market economy. This strand examines how individuals, firms, and government policy makers interact and influence the market.

Strand 3 progresses the understanding of the basic operation of a market to exploring the importance of competition in product markets.

Strand 4 develops the students' understanding of the macroeconomy.

Strand 5 looks at Ireland as a small, open economy, which has implications for our economic activity and performance, and for government policies and decisions. In this strand students explore how an economy develops according to its endowment of resources and its values.

Assessment

Assessment for certification is based on the aim, objectives and learning outcomes of this specification. Differentiation at the point of assessment is achieved through examinations at two levels – Ordinary level and Higher level. Assessment components: There are two assessment components at each level:

- Written examination (80%)
- Research study (20%).

Job opportunities

Business, Banking, Stockbrokers, Insurance, Fund Accounting, Investment Banking, Education.

These subjects are not essential requirements for entry to any third level courses and may be taken from beginner level. However, they are particularly useful for courses in Commerce, Business, Marketing, Accounting and Finance. Many students find the study of Economics difficult at third level if they have not done it for Leaving Certificate.



HOME ECONOMICS (Social and Scientific)

Home Economics-Scientific and Social is an applied subject combining theory with practice to develop understanding and to solve problems. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and economic needs.

Home economics focuses on the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills and attitudes that will enable students to take control of their own lives at present and in the future, whether that be in the home, in future education, in the world of work, or other life situations. The wide range of learning experiences to which the students are exposed will allow them to be flexible and adaptable in the changing situations of modern life. It prepares students for life in a consumer-oriented society and provides a learning foundation for those seeking employment in a wide range of careers, such as the food industry, tourism, clothing and design, and the health and social services.

Students must complete a Food Studies journal in 5th / 6th year which will account for 20% of their overall Leaving Certificate result.

Social and Scientific

3 Core Areas

1. **Food Studies:** - including - Food Science, Diet & Health Food Processing, The Irish Diet, Irish Food Industry, Food Commodities, Meal Management & Planning, Food Additives, Food Processing & Packaging, Preservation, Food Safety & Hygiene, and Food Legislation.
2. **Resource Management + Consumer Studies** – including Components of Management
 - Household Finances
 - Housing
 - Household Technology
 - Consumer Studies / Responsibility /Protection
3. **Social Studies:** - The Family, Family Structure, Family Finance, Marriage, Family Law.

One further selected study area must be chosen from the following three electives.

Elective 1

- *Social Studies* - including an in-depth look at social issues, such as poverty, education, and unemployment etc.

Elective 2

- *Contemporary Fashion* which includes:
the production of a garment, the study of fashion and textile science.

Elective 3

- *Home Design & Management* - including interior design, housing issues, systems, and services in the home etc.



It is not a necessary requirement to have studied Home Economics to Junior Certificate Level to take Leaving Certificate Home Economics (Social & Scientific)

There are two assessment components:

Written examination (80%)

Food Studies Journal (20%)

This subject is helpful for further study in teacher training for Home Economics, Nursing, Food Science, Hotel and Catering courses, Food Business, Food Technology, Dietetics, Food Science, Human Nutrition, and Nutritional Sciences.

For entry into BSc Veterinary Nursing UCD, Home Economics may be substituted for a laboratory Science subject.



ART

The Leaving Cert Art course involves many of the practical skills acquired at Junior Cert. Level, but we focus on a few areas of study and cover them in greater depth.

There are two differences between Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Art:

1. The Leaving Certificate is only partially project based. The practical components are carried out in class over a block of about approx. 12 weeks. One finished piece is made during class time and the other is made in a 5 hour exam. The practical part of the exam is completed in early May. (70%)
2. Leaving Certificate Art involves the formal study of Art History and appreciation. We include contemporary art and gallery reviews into this area. 30% of the marks are allocated to this section and is completed in June.

It is a most rewarding and worthwhile subject which promotes visual awareness and appreciation in many areas of a student's life, art, craft, fashion, design, film, and architecture. The subject requires dedication and enthusiasm.

This subject is desirable for those students considering courses in Art & Design. Students who wish to apply to Art College need to complete a separate portfolio of work. This portfolio can include work from Leaving Cert Art. Art is also a useful subject for Primary and Montessori Teaching and for certain apprenticeships.



MUSIC

The Leaving Certificate music syllabus aims to:

- Be vocationally relevant
- Be dynamic and enjoyable
- Attract students from all ability levels
- Encourage the development of musical creativity and potential through active involvement in performing, composing, and listening to music.
- Develop an informed interest in music and the enjoyment of music-making

It is a practical course, meaning that every class is based around active work.

The Music course is divided into 3 sections:

Listening:

- We study four pieces of music, learning about the history of the composer, the composition and analysis of these pieces. The four pieces for Leaving Cert 2023, 2024 and 2025 are a Bach Cantata, Romeo and Juliet by Tchaikovsky, a piano quartet and Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen.
- We also look in detail at traditional Irish music and its influence on the music of the USA and Canada, along with how the tradition has changed in more recent times to fuse with indie/folk style music.
- Finally we cover a wide range of other genres as part of general aural skills, including pop, musical theatre, vocal music and many more.

Composition:

- We learn to compose a melody for flute and violin in a classical style.
- We learn to write a harmony and chordal accompaniment for guitar and piano.
- A lot of our composition is learned through group singing, even though being able to sing is not a necessity by any means.

Performance:

Students sit a practical (performance) at Easter time of 6th Year that is worth 50% of their overall grade. They can choose their own music for it and can play up to two instruments. Voice is included as an instrument, so anyone who sings is more than welcome in music class. You can also choose to do music technology, a computer programme that you input music into.

Why Choose Music?



Music is a hugely enjoyable subject. It is well documented that participating in music will also help improvements in other areas and abilities. There is a lot of practical work throughout all three strands, which keeps students engaged. There is something for everyone on the course, no matter your interests. This subject is open to anyone at any level - those who are just starting out are catered for, along with those who have been attending music classes since starting school. There are a large number of careers in music, alongside being a musician - music therapy, composing for film/TV/video games, sound engineer, broadcasting, advertising, and music law. However, it has much more benefits even if you don't wish to study it. It contributes to stress management, critical thinking skills, confidence, developing social skills, mathematical and language skills, improves memory function, and brings so much joy to a student's life. Finally, if a student is willing to work hard at music and has a love for music, they have the potential to do very well in this subject.

Students both old and new are welcome in music class.



LCVP Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

LCVP is a programme, taken alongside the regular Leaving Certificate subjects, with a strengthened vocational element. LCVP is well established since 1994 and has been successfully implemented in many schools around the country with significant benefit to those who have opted for it.

How can LCVP help students?

- It encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- The student develops important skills for the modern working world.
- Students become more innovative and enterprising.
- Students learn to communicate their thoughts and ideas more effectively.
- Students gain an opportunity to investigate their career options.
- Teamwork is developed and encouraged.
- Students learn to network with people in business and the wider community.
- Improved skills in I.T. and audio-visual equipment.

Why take LCVP?

LCVP is suited to any student interested in the working world and how business works.

The points gained can help a student access the third level course she would like. If a student has an exemption from a subject it can give her an added subject. It has a significant practical element and can suit a student who does not perform well in exam only assessment. This course is only suitable for students that are capable of putting a lot of work into their portfolio. The portfolio must be completed by March of Leaving Cert. year.

What is the structure of the programme?

LCVP is taken for two periods per week in both 5th and 6th Year. There are two link modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education. These are taken alongside the normal range of Leaving Certificate subjects. These two class periods will take place during one Module class and possibly using one Irish class if all students were taking Ordinary level Irish.

Preparation for the World of Work

Students must do a structured work experience placement during the Easter break of 5th Year.

This work experience placement is evaluated and there is a post work experience briefing. All students must keep a diary of their work experience.

Enterprise Education



Here the student learns about enterprise skills, investigates some businesses and/or community enterprises and sets up their own mini company.

How is this programme assessed?

The assessment is a combination of portfolio (60%) and written exam (40%) taken in May of 6th Year.

The portfolio is made up of: Preparation of a C.V., a career investigation, Enterprise action plan and a Summary report on action, plus two of the following elements: The work experience diary; an enterprise report; a recorded interview or presentation; and a report on “My own place”.

The portfolio is submitted in March of 6th Year.

The written exam is made up of: An audio visual presentation where students watch and then answer questions; a written case study with a given theme; and answering 4 out of 6 general questions on an organisation.

Typical LCVP activities

Many LCVP activities are organised by the students themselves and may include invited speakers, site visits, case studies, work experience, using computers and audio-visual equipment.

Results and points

It is graded differently to other Leaving Certificate subjects and is now fully recognised by all universities and institutes of technology.

Distinction 80%-100% gives 66 CAO points (Higher level H4)

Merit 65%-79% gives 46 CAO points (Higher level H6 or lower level O2)

Pass 50%-64% gives 28 CAO points (Ordinary level O4)

The points gained may be used towards admission to all colleges but may not be used for matriculation entry requirement purposes.

Who should choose LCVP?

Class size will be limited, and pupils should apply by ticking the box on the subject choices form. Pupils who have an Irish language exemption will be given priority to the class. Where there is over-subscription to the class, admission will be selected by school management.



LCPE (Leaving Certificate Physical Education)

The emphasis in LCPE is on providing learners with integrated learning experiences where there is a balance between developing personal performance in selected physical activities and deepening their understanding of the theoretical perspectives that impact on performance and participation in physical activity. These perspectives include learning in the humanities/social sciences and life sciences. Learners’ physically active participation is central to teaching and learning in Leaving Certificate Physical Education. To enable this to happen, students learn about the different theoretical perspectives through their participation in three different physical activities. These activities are selected from six distinct physical activity areas: **Athletics, Artistic and Aesthetic activities, Adventure Activities, Games, Aquatics and Personal Exercise and Fitness.**

Topics Include:

1. Learning and improving skill and technique
2. Physical and psychological demands of performance
3. Structures, strategies, roles, and conventions
4. Planning for optimum performance
5. Promoting physical activity
6. Ethics and fair play.

In addition, two of the following topics will be prescribed each year:

7. Physical activity and inclusion
8. Technology, media, and sport
9. Gender and physical activity
10. Business and enterprise in physical activity and sport

Assessment:

There are three assessment components in Leaving Certificate Physical Education: A physical activity project, performance assessment and written examination.

<u>Assessment component</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Level</u>
Physical activity project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Performance assessment	30%	Common level
Written examination	50%	Higher and Ordinary

The learner will be required to complete the physical activity project and performance assessment in two different activities. **The full specification for Leaving Certificate Physical Education can be viewed on www.curriculumonline.ie



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. Through applied exercises students will develop practical skills while working in teams to create functioning computer applications. Students will learn Python , a new language not covered at Junior Cert. Students are not required to have studied computer coding before joining computer science classes for Leaving Cert. Computing technologies now influence every part of society, and are 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.

There are three core strands:

- **Practices and Principles:** students will become knowledgeable in the principles and practices that underpin computer science.
- **Core Concepts:** students learn the major concepts of computer science, such as abstraction, data, computer systems and algorithms. Students apply these concepts in the practical exercises that make up the third strand.



- Computer Science in Practice: students engage in teamwork to carry out four practical tasks during the course's two-year duration. The tasks cover four broad topic areas that are core to computer science:
 1. Interactive information systems
 2. Analytics
 3. Modelling and simulation
 4. Embedded systems

The course suits students who enjoy puzzling out and solving problems, logical thinking and creating functional objects or programmes. Students who did well in mathematics and science should find themselves suited to computer science. The programme will build on the problem solving, analytical thinking and numeracy skills developed in Primary School and Junior Cert Mathematics.

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.



POLITICS & SOCIETY

WHAT IS POLITICS AND SOCIETY?

The Politics & Society Leaving Certificate programme is about the social systems within which people act locally, nationally, and more widely. Students who take this course will look at the concepts underpinning contemporary systems of government and the roles of groups such as multinational companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental bodies, in shaping the world we live in.

THIRD LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. Politics & Society is a useful subject to take if you want to study politics or sociology or other courses such as law, anthropology, philosophy, development studies, media studies, and many more.

LC EXAM STRUCTURE

The Politics & Society course consists of 4 main areas covered in topics as follows: Power and decision-making, Active citizenship, Human rights and responsibilities, Globalisation, and localisation.

Politics & Society can be taken at Ordinary or Higher level.

Assessment is based on the course aims, objectives and learning outcomes. There are two assessment components at each level:

- A citizenship project report which accounts for 20% of the total marks.
- A written examination which accounts for 80% of the final grade

WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT MIGHT SUIT POLITICS AND SOCIETY?

Politics & Society is a challenging and rewarding subject. It will suit any student who is interested in areas such as human rights, equality, diversity, sustainable development, power, and democratic decision-making. If you want to become a more informed and active global citizen, then this subject will be of interest to you. Studying Politics & Society gives students a real insight into people, power and how society



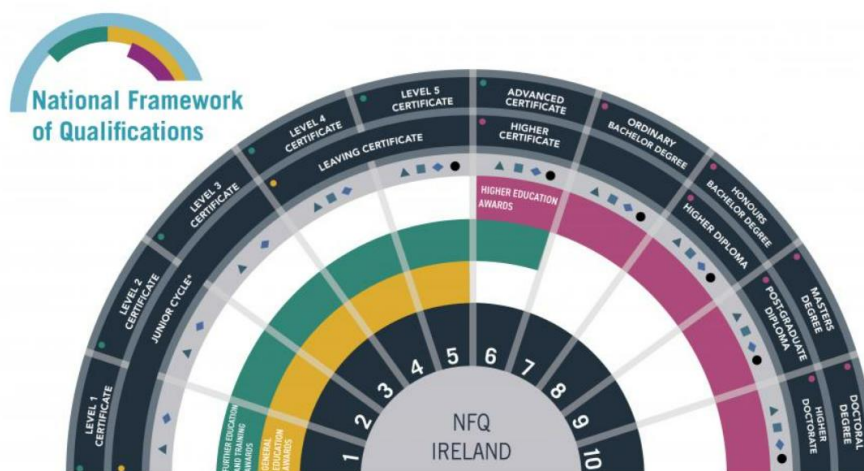
COURSES & REQUIREMENTS



Information on Post Leaving Certificate Options

When you leave school there are many different options open to you, ranging from apprenticeship training programmes to P.L.C. courses to Honours Degree programmes. Under the National Qualification Framework (NFQ) students can study for level 5, 6, 7 or 8 qualifications.

National Framework of Qualifications



Source: <https://www.qqi.ie/what-we-do/the-qualifications-system/national-framework-of-qualifications>

Level 5:

- One Year Post Leaving courses.
- Available in many colleges of Further Education.
- Can lead on to level 6 courses in a Technological Universities or Colleges of Further Education.

Level 6:

- Two-year Higher Certificate Courses available in TUD and other Technological Universities.
- Can lead on to level 7 and 8 courses in the same field.

Level 7:

- Three-year Ordinary Degrees available in the Technological Universities.
- Can lead on to Level 8 courses in the same field.

Level 8:

- Three or four-year (with some exceptions such as medicine) Honours Degrees available in all Universities. Having completed Level 8 students can continue to Level 9 (Postgraduate Masters) and Level 10 (Doctorate)



General Requirements for Third Level

It is virtually essential to pass English and /or Irish in the Leaving Certificate if you wish to go on to further study and a pass in Ordinary Maths is required for entry to the majority of third level courses. UCD, UCC, NUIG and Maynooth require a pass in Irish and English from all students.

It is important to note that each college/university has its own entry requirements. In addition, some courses may have their own specific requirements, and finally the CAO point count for entry. Below is a screenshot taken from the minimum entry requirements at Maynooth University. This is just a **sample** to give you an idea of how each of the colleges/universities and their courses may differ. Each college/university will have their own version of this.

****Always check specific college/university websites for their most up to date minimum entry/specific course requirements. ****

Ollscoil Mhá Nuad
Maynooth University



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY LEAVING CERTIFICATE MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This table is intended as a summary of 2024 entry and matriculation requirements for school-leavers. Points requirements can change each year.

CAO Code	Sub-option Code	Degree Name	Points 2023	Irish	English	Third Language	Maths	Science	Other Subjects
MH001		BEd Education - Froebel Primary Teaching	498	H4	O4/H7		O4/H7		3
MH002 ^a		BEd Education - Froebel Primary Teaching (Gaeltacht Applicants)	No offers	H3	O4/H7		O4/H7		3
MH003		BA Early Childhood - Teaching and Learning (full-time)	380	P	P				4
MH101		The Maynooth Bachelor of Arts Degree	310	P	P	P			3
		> Accounting		P	P	P	O4/H7 ^a		3
		> Anthropology		P	P	P			3
		> Business (International)		P	P	P	O4/H7 ^a		3
		> Business (Management)		P	P	P	O4/H7 ^a		3
		> Business (Marketing)		P	P	P	O4/H7 ^a		3
		> Chinese Studies		P	P	P			3
		> Computer Science		P	P	P	O3/H7 ^a		3
		> Criminology		P	P	P			3
		> Economics		P	P	P	O4/H7 ^a		3
		> English		P	P	P			3
		> French		P	P	P			3
		> Gaeilge Nua-Ghaeilge ^b		H4	P	P			3
		> Geography		P	P	P			3
		> German		P	P	P			3

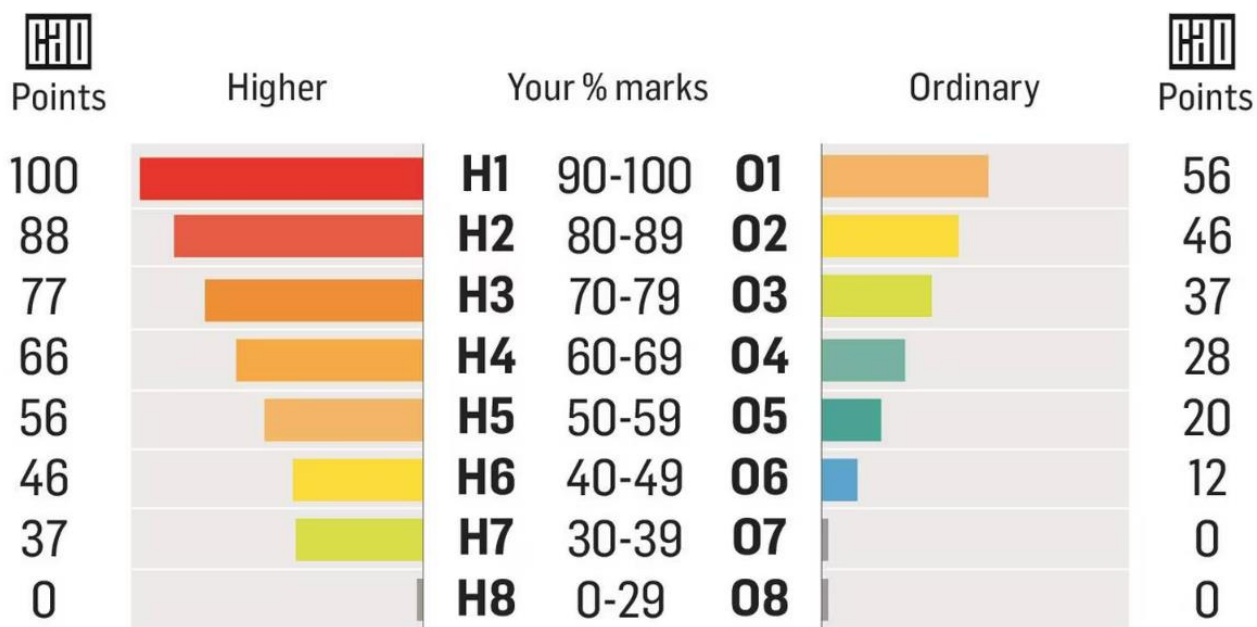
CAO Code	Sub-option Code	Degree Name	Points 2023	Irish	English	Third Language	Maths	Science	Other Subjects
MH201		The Maynooth Bachelor of Science Degree	350		P	P			2
		> Biology			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Chemistry			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Computer Science			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Data Science			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Engineering Science			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Experimental Physics			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Mathematical Physics			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Mathematics			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
		> Statistics			P	P		O4/H7	S M 2
MH202		BSc Biotechnology	431	P	P			O4/H7	S 2
MH203		BSc Biological and Geographical Sciences	441	P	P			O4/H7	S ⁹ 2
MH204		BSc Physics with Astrophysics	376	P	P			O4/H7	S M 2
MH206		BSc Theoretical Physics and Mathematics	494	P	P			H2	S M 2
MH207		BSc Data Science	442	P	P			O1/H5	S M 2
MH208		BSc Biological and Biomedical Sciences	496	P	P			O4/H7	S 2
MH209		BSc Psychological (through Science)	499	P	P			O4/H7	S 2
MH210		BSc Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Chemistry	477	P	P			O4/H7	S 2
MH212 ^a	SED	BSc Science (with Education)	420	P	P			O4/H7	S M 2
	MCS	BSc Mathematics and Computer Science (with Education)	420	P	P			H4	S M 2
	MED	BSc Mathematics (with Education)	420	P	P			H4	S M 2

Source: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/FINAL%20Minimum%20Requirements%202024%20A2%20Poster%2006.09.23.pdf>



THE POINTS SYSTEM

The point count is based on the total of a student's 6 best subjects. The six subjects must be taken in **one** sitting of the Leaving Cert.



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules



Distinction 66



Merit 46



Pass 28

The bonus points for Higher Level (HL) maths will only be relevant in cases where the subject (mathematics) is scored as one of the candidate's six best subjects for points purposes. Consequently, if HL mathematics (cumulative points score) is not among these six subjects, the bonus points will not be included in the total points score.

Medicine

The maximum possible adjusted points score for applicants to Medicine will be 565. (For all scores over 550, each 5-point band equals one extra point.) The baseline score of 480 points will still apply but can include the bonus points if HL mathematics (cumulative points) is among the best six.



Languages

Course requirements for languages vary from one institution to another, but students who wish to study **French** at third level are usually expected to have achieved an honour on the higher paper in the Leaving Certificate. It is sometimes possible to start **German** at third level, especially if a high grade has been achieved in another language. **Spanish and Italian** are generally offered to beginners but an honour in another language would be required as evidence of ability in languages. Where Russian, Japanese and Mandarin are offered, it is generally at beginner level. As mentioned previously, always check specific websites for the most up to date information. The summer of 5th Year is a good opportunity to work on oral language by either visiting the country or attending a residential summer camp.

Business: Business, Economics & Accounting

Business subjects are not normally required by universities and other third level colleges, but they do contribute to our understanding of the world of commerce. Exposure to one or more of these subjects may help in the choice of courses in Business studies or Economics after school.

Art

Art is essential for anyone considering a future in art or design. All the colleges offering courses in Art and Design, Photography, require a substantial portfolio of work which they assess before offering places. A Portfolio is also desirable when applying for Architecture in D.I.T and the U.K. It is very difficult to assemble a portfolio of a high standard and enough variety on your own and portfolio preparation should be well under way by the end of 5th year.

History, Geography and Home Economics

These subjects are rarely required but their broad educational value in enhancing our understanding of our past, our environment and our society should not be overlooked. Home Economics would be an appropriate choice for those interested in Nursing, Childcare or the Hotel and Catering Industry. History and Geography would suit many of those who have good verbal skills. It is especially important to consider your own interests when considering any of these subjects. **Geography is usually considered as one of the Humanities except in TCD where it is recognised as one of the science subjects for entry to Science and Pharmacy. Check their website for most up to date requirements.**

Science

Whereas great care has been taken to ensure that the following notes concerning science requirements are as accurate as possible they should be treated as a guide only. Science requirements usually refer to the laboratory science, e.g. physics, chemistry, or biology.



Course requirements:

One of the three sciences satisfy the subject requirement for entry to almost all the science, medical, paramedical, architecture and technological courses in this country. As always, there are some exceptions so always check the course website directly.



Direct links to some college/university entry requirements webpages can be found below.

Please note this list is not exhaustive.

Dublin College University



Maynooth University



National College of Ireland



Technological University
Dublin



Trinity College Dublin



University College Dublin

