

## Transition Year team

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## Subject Choice for the Leaving Certificate

At this stage in your school career, you, with your parents, will have to choose the subjects you are going to take in the Leaving Certificate. It is important to consider the implications these choices may have on your future third level and career choices. There are twenty subjects on offer in the Leaving Certificate cycle in the school and you will be required to choose four of these. No students will be prevented from entry into any third level course by the options structure. Some, however, may have a difficulty with their 4<sup>th</sup> subject choice. Any problems can be solved by discussions with the guidance department.

What you have to do is choose subjects which will give you a good balance, or mix, in order to keep as many options open as possible for your future career choice. It is not recommended that students over-specialise, e.g. take all three Laboratory Sciences, or all three Languages, unless you are sure that these really are the areas you want to specialise in when you leave school and that they are course entry requirements. Very few young people of 15 or 16 years of age are sure of what they want to do after school, and may change their minds about possible future careers a number of times over the next couple of years.

You can help yourself to make the wisest choice if you keep in mind that entry to many courses and careers from the Leaving Certificate depends, very often, on the standard of the results you achieve, rather than the subjects in which you achieve those standards. It would also help to ask yourself the following questions:

1. What subject am I most interested in?
2. Which subjects am I likely to be best at?
3. What subjects will I need?

The answers to numbers 1 and 2 will probably be quite closely linked. Generally, if you are interested in, and like something, it is easier to do well at it. To see what subject you will need, get a sheet of paper and list any career, third level course and career areas you are even slightly interested in, find out the entry requirements, and list them. This exercise has become increasingly important over the last few years.

When you have done all that, remember it is important to make a balanced choice of subjects. This **could** include:

Irish  
English  
Mathematics  
A Continental Language  
A Science subject (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agric. Science)  
And 2 other subjects

There are three hurdles to College entry.

1. Matriculation Requirements
2. Subject Requirements
3. Points

## 1. Matriculation Requirements

The Matriculation Requirement is the minimum academic qualification for entry that a College demands from an applicant. The following colleges require a minimum of a D3 at ordinary level in the following subjects:

<u>N.U.I.</u>		English, Irish and a third language
<u>TRINITY</u>	}	English, Maths and another language
<u>U.L.</u>	}	
<u>D.C.U.</u>		Maths and English or Irish
<u>I.T.s</u>		Maths and English or Irish
<u>COLLEGES OF EDUCATION</u>		Maths and English <u>and</u> Irish (C3 at Higher level)
<u>OTHERS</u>		Vary

## 2. Course Requirements/Subject Requirements

Beyond the matriculation requirements there are relatively few demands in terms of essential subjects for courses and jobs. However, particular courses may require grades, at certain levels, in particular subjects.

Some examples are:

- If you are considering going to any of the colleges of the National University of Ireland (UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth RCSI) a **third language** should be among your chosen subjects.

**Please note: A recent significant change has been the dropping of this requirement for Engineering and Science courses in NUI Maynooth, for Engineering, Science and Agricultural Science courses in UCD and for Engineering, Science and Food Science courses in UCC.**

- If you are considering Medical, Paramedical, Nursing, Science or Engineering courses you should select a **science subject** (or two for some courses).

**e.g.**

*Medicine/Dentistry Courses - TCD* : Higher Level Grade B3 and a Higher Level Grade C3 in two Laboratory sciences.

*Medicine - UCD* : Ordinary Level D3 any laboratory Science Subject (Higher Level C3 Chemistry for consideration for 5 years only).

*Veterinary Medicine - UCD* : Requires a Higher Level Grade C3 in Chemistry.

*Medicine - Royal College of Surgeons* : A Higher Level Grade B3 in a laboratory science (Physics/Chemistry/Biology) or Maths.

*Medicine/Dentistry Courses - UCC: Higher Level Grade C in Chemistry and a Higher Level Grade C in either Physics or Biology.*

*Human Nutrition/Medical Laboratory Science in D.I.T. : Requires a Higher Level Grade C in Chemistry in Leaving Certificate.*

This is not an exhaustive list - please consult college website/prospectus.

### 3. Points

- Points are allocated to the **six best grades** of an applicant.
- These grades must be achieved in **one sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examination**.
- Entry to a course which is competitive will be granted to those holding the highest number of points.
- The number of points required for any course in any year is not pre-set by any college.
- The points level reflects (a) the results of the applicants for that year and  
(b) the number of available places for that year on that course.

Entry requirements for Third Level courses vary from course to course, so you must refer now to the relevant literature or go to the university website. To make your choice of subjects easier, we have prepared the following notes on the subjects available. The information given is not exhaustive and, naturally, the circumstances for each individual are different. If in doubt, please discuss with your tutor or one of the Guidance Counsellors.

#### Some very important points before we go on to the individual subjects:

- Remember that the Leaving Certificate requires a great amount of hard work over two years. It is much easier to work hard if you have chosen, in so far as is possible, subjects which you like.
- The Leaving Certificate also requires a sense of purpose. It is easier to be motivated if you have a clear goal in your sight e.g. to be accepted for a particular course, to get a good job, etc.
- A good level of education can only improve your chances. To do well in the Leaving Certificate also requires some academic ability. Use what you have to its fullest.

These notes are given for your guidance and every effort has been made to see that they are up-to-date and correct at the time of writing. However, as changes may occur, **it is your responsibility** to check and satisfy yourself that these are the correct requirements for your course choices.

Please check relevant college website / prospectus.

The following optional subjects are available:

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
Art	Agric. Sci.	Accounting	App. Maths
Business	Biology	Biology	Business
Chemistry	Classical Studies	Constr. Studies	Constr. Studies
Design & Communication Graphics	Economics	French	French
Geography	History	German	Geography
History	H.E.	Spanish	German
H.E.	Physics	Technology	Music

Spanish

\* All classes are subject to there being sufficient demand for them.

## WHERE TO GO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- See the information below from the subject departments and any other information you are given in class.
- See the *Student Yearbook* and your career notes and handouts.
- There are career publications in the careers library.
- Talk to the individual Leaving Certificate subject teachers if you wish to know more about the way in which courses are tackled at Leaving Certificate level.
- Look at Leaving Certificate textbooks.
- Consult your tutors who will be giving you a small group interview within the next month.
- Consult your Year Head and the Guidance Counsellor if necessary.

## ACCOUNTING

Accounting is a subject that suits the organized, methodical person who likes definite answers.

Students of accounting will be able to see and understand published company accounts, make comparisons of performance between companies, be able to take care of the basic accounting needs of a small business, club, farm or service firm (cash flows, final accounts, budgeting etc.), study the production of information needed for management decision-making etc.

There are no prerequisites for the study of accounting - just an interest in working with figures. It is an advantage but not essential to have studied Business Studies at Junior Cert.

Students who are considering a career in accountancy are recommended to study accounting, as it is a good indicator of suitability. It also forms a good basis for the accounting element of many business courses at 3rd level.

## AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Agricultural Science is a biology based course. Topics covered include: Zoology, Animal Physiology, Genetics, Microbiology, Botany, Plant Physiology, Animal and Plant Husbandry and Ecology. It is hoped that the student would develop an understanding of the main areas of the course and then develop an understanding of how these areas apply to agriculture and the environment.

### **Assessment**

- 25% - School based - Class practicals, field study reports and a farm project / research project all contribute to the creation of this mark.
- 75% State exam at end of sixth year.

### **Usefulness at third level**

Agricultural Science is a life science and therefore a very useful base for many third level courses of biological orientation. e.g. Veterinary Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Agricultural Science, Food Science, Food Technology, and Geology.

Agricultural Science is acceptable as the science requirement for most courses that accept Biology.

## **APPLIED MATHEMATICS**

Applied Maths is not advanced Maths - it is basic Maths used in practical applications. However, there is a need for keen mathematical interest and the course is best undertaken by pupils who have taken Maths at higher level in the Junior Certificate. It would be extremely difficult for anyone to take this course at higher level if they had not achieved a good grade in the higher course papers at Junior Certificate level.

The course is a methodical one - that is, each type of problem can be solved by applying a standard method, which can be extended even to final year university level. The Leaving Certificate papers try to test your ability at using the method (i.e. the **applied** Maths) rather than your skill with numbers etc. (i.e. the pure Maths).

Typical problems considered include the motion of a car in a straight line, objects sliding down a hill, the path of a ball in flight, a system of beams in equilibrium, finding the shortest distance between two moving objects, collisions between bodies, etc.

There is some overlap between Applied Maths and Physics at this level. However, a large number of third level courses include a significant amount of Applied Maths, e.g. architecture, biology, chemistry, computers, economics, engineering, geology, mathematics, meteorology, physics, quantity surveying, applied sciences, statistics, systems analysis, and very many technical courses.

Thus, while Applied Maths is not a necessary requirement for entry to the above, it is extremely useful for anyone interested in any of the above careers.

An opportunity to sample the course will be provided in mathematics classes in 4<sup>th</sup> Year.

## **ART**

### **Contents of the course**

Appreciation & history of art, imaginative composition, still life, graphic design, life sketching, craft work (embroidery, pottery, screen and lino printing, ceramic sculpture, 3 dimensional modeling).

### **Benefits of the course**

Encourages students' creative development.  
Encourages problem solving through the design process.  
Develops team work through group projects.  
Develops students' time management skills.  
Develops students' visual and written research skills  
Develops students' ability to self and peer evaluate  
Develops an awareness in students of their environment

### **Future Prospects**

Art is a highly versatile subject which prepares students for a wide range of careers.

Students who go on to study art at third level may end up in careers linked to:

Interior design, fashion design, fashion styling, costume design, product design, graphic design, marketing, media, TV and film production, photography, book illustration and design, curator of museums and galleries, art restoration, not to mention full time, free lance artists and designers.

## **Can a pupil begin studying art in 5<sup>th</sup> Year?**

Yes. Art requires a certain aptitude. It is important to note that the course involves some study for Appreciation and history of Art. A 'C' grade in higher level English at Junior Certificate is recommended. The Leaving Certificate Art course consequently demands much commitment.

An art portfolio will be required for entry to all third level art and design courses. The portfolio club meets once a week.

## **BIOLOGY**

### **Benefits of the course**

This subject means 'The Study of Life' in all its variety of forms. The human race shares this planet with one and a half million species of animals and plants, many of which are essential for our survival as a species. Knowledge of the science of biology is essential for understanding human life and the living environment around us.

### **Content of the course**

The Leaving Cert. Biology course covers 10 major units, which include cell biology, human biology, genetics, microbiology and ecology as well as systematic investigations of other plant and animal groups. The human biology section includes health and medical topics related to human systems.

### **Usefulness at 3rd level**

Biology as a life science is a ground level subject which leads directly to many 'Bio' orientated 3rd level courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Natural Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Food Technology, Nursing and Beauty Therapy.

## **BUSINESS**

This is an exciting, practical and vocationally - oriented course that introduces students in simple logical steps to the world of business.

The course aims to create an awareness of the importance of enterprise and to generate a positive and ethical attitude in both business and personal life.

The syllabus is broken up into 3 broad areas:

- People in business (the entrepreneurs, the managers, the workers and the consumers)
- Enterprise (taking business ideas and developing them into effective business enterprises)
- Environment (how business relates to and connects with the environment, both domestic and international)

Business forms an intricate part of any third level business course and is also relevant to numerous career opportunities.

## **CHEMISTRY**

The study of chemistry in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year is desirable not only for those who wish to pursue a career in science, or in careers allied to science, but also for those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Chemistry is very much the central foundation science subject, which makes it ideal to pair with Physics and Applied Maths. or with Biology and Home Economics for example.

The Chemistry syllabus features assessment of practical work and industrial case studies with a particular emphasis on environmental control.

Not only is the place of chemistry central to most courses in Natural Sciences offered in third level education, but it is also an essential element in the study of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Agricultural Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Technology and numerous technician courses.

A 'C' grade in higher level Chemistry is required for the D.I.T. Human Nutrition degree, Dentistry U.C.C., Applied Chemistry degrees, Pharmacy and Veterinary and is advisable for Medicine in U.C.D..

## **CLASSICAL STUDIES**

The Classical World for the purpose of this course is Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. Students will study:

1. The Literature
2. The Art and Architecture
3. The History

of these Two Great Civilisations.

The topics to be studied are:

1. Ancient Epic
2. Roman Art and Architecture
3. Alexander the Great
4. Greek Drama

The prescribed texts are all taught in translation, so no previous knowledge of Latin or Greek is necessary. The examination itself is essay based. Owing to this, and the material to be studied, it is likely that pupils who are strong in English and History might find themselves best suited to this subject. However, pupils whose strengths lie elsewhere may well be interested.

## CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

Construction Studies is the study of the construction of buildings and why they are made the way they are. The main focus of the course is on the domestic house but it also ranges from the construction of sports arena to skyscrapers. It is a practical course in which the student is given the opportunity to achieve 50% of their Leaving Certificate exam result during their Leaving Certificate year in a project and a practical exam. The other 50% is assessed in a written exam during the normal Leaving Certificate exams.

What will you do in class?

You will study:

- How sound, light and heat affect the design of buildings
- How to install electricity and plumb your home
- How to build an extension
- Calculate a U-value
- How to buy your own house
- How to get planning permission
- How to survey a piece of land for construction
- How to convert your attic

### **Exams:**

There are three opportunities to achieve your Leaving Certificate result:

<b>Task</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Example</b>
Project	25%	May	A study of Earthquake Buildings
Practical	25%	May	Materials - cutting, shaping, making a product using wood
Written Exam	50%	June	Answer 5 out of 10 Questions

### **Careers:**

Construction studies may be valuable in a variety of careers, which might include :

All ENGINEERING  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
INTERIOR DESIGN  
ARCHITECTURE  
BUILDING SERVICES  
QUANTITY SURVEYOR  
TOWN PLANNING  
TEACHING  
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

### Other careers Construction Studies may lead to:

BRICKLAYER	DECORATOR	SHEET METAL WORKER
CARPENTER	PLASTERER	WELDER
ELECTRICIAN	PLUMBER	MACHINE OPERATOR
STONE CUTTER	SLATE/ROOF TILER	TOOL MAKER
BRICKWORK RESTORATION	GLAZIER	FLOOR TILER

### **Starting Construction Studies in 5<sup>th</sup> Year:**

It is not necessary to have studied Materials Technology at Junior Certificate or C.D.T. in Transition Year in order to undertake this subject at Leaving Certificate level.

## **DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS**

Design and Communication Graphics is a new course replacing Technical Drawing at Senior Cycle. The course includes the study of design, freehand drawing, elevation and plans, problem solving, 3D drawing, perspective drawing, computer 3D drawings, Computer Aided Design (CAD), model-making and engineering drawing. The main change from the old course is the use of computers to draw in 3D and the introduction of an assignment. The course is assessed in two main areas: an end-of-year drawing exam worth 60% and an assignment worth 40%. The assignment involves design, freehand drawing presentation and the use of CAD and ICT. For the first time the Department of Education will assess ICT at Leaving Certificate.

It is not necessary to have studied Technical Graphics/Technology/Materials Technology at Junior Certificate in order to take up this subject at Senior Certificate. This subject is offered at Ordinary and Higher Level.

### **Course Content**

The course in both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year will follow the format as outlined below:

#### ***Term 1***

3D drawing  
Orthographic drawing  
Model making  
CAD and computer drawings  
Printing and Plotting  
Design systems  
Freehand drawing  
Polygon drawing  
Drawing the Ellipse and Parabola

#### ***Term 2***

Drawing the Hyperbola  
Assignment management  
Intersection and Development Drawing  
Study of Function, Ergonomics and Aesthetics  
Assembly drawings  
Colouring and rendering

#### ***Term 3***

Animation CAD  
Presentation CAD  
Web research  
ICT and CAD software  
Internet, digital camera and presentation  
Assignment  
Selection of two options

### **Assessment**

Design and Communication Graphics is assessed in two areas as follows:

Drawing exam	60%
Assignment	40%

## ECONOMICS

To see economics as a purely business subject with no relevance to our everyday lives would be a mistake. It can be seen in the world all around us. It is relevant to politics, sociology, geography, history etc. It helps students to gain a fuller understanding of these subjects by showing how everything connects.

The course content includes important everyday topics such as:

- our place in Europe and life with a single currency
- the effects of unemployment on the economy
- the effects of government decision-making on the economy
- population trends and how they ultimately affect our lives
- credit creation by banks and its effects on the economy
- underdeveloped countries and the problems they face
- the factors that influence interest rates, our inflation rate, our exchange rate
- decision-making for the individual firm and consumer.

This course is an integral part of many subjects and 3rd level degree courses, such as law, politics, geography, history, sociology and business.

## FRENCH/GERMAN/SPANISH

The general educational aims of foreign language teaching are:

1. to make it possible for pupils to take up job and further education/training opportunities, which may involve some use of the target language (increasingly important in the context of the development of the E.U.)
2. to develop the pupils' capacity to engage in useful interactions in another language.
3. to give pupils an awareness of another culture.
4. to contribute to pupils' awareness of language as a system of communication
5. to develop an awareness of the grammatical structure of language.
6. to encourage and equip pupils to participate in social and cultural activities, involving use of the target language.
7. to give pupils the kind of language learning experience that will encourage and facilitate their learning other languages later in life

The **Leaving Certificate** examination at both higher and ordinary levels consists of:

1. an oral examination
2. a listening comprehension test
3. reading comprehension tests
4. various tests of written production, including letter writing.

Continental language students will benefit from an exchange visit. One of the ideal opportunities for this is during the summer holidays after 4<sup>th</sup> Year.

*Please note the change in NUI language requirements as outlined on page 2.*

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Geography is concerned with understanding the world around us and the relationships between the physical world and people. It develops an awareness of social and environmental responsibility through study of vital issues like climate change, water, energy and food security and poverty eradication. It helps us understand events and processes such as an earthquake in California, flooding in Bangladesh, economic growth in China and the increasing cultural diversity in Ireland. Geography shows how daily lives are shaped by local circumstances - not only the physical characteristics of the place, but the social, cultural, economic and political opportunities and constraints.

The syllabus is divided into units. All students study the Core Units 1-3 and Elective Unit 4

### **Core Unit 1 Patterns and processes in the physical environment**

This unit examines the relationship between the tectonic cycle, the rock cycle and the processes of landform development

### **Core Unit 2 Regional geography**

This unit examines how economic, human and physical processes interact in regional settings

### **Core Unit 3 Geographical investigation and skills**

This unit encourages the development of skills in handling spatial information leading to the completion of an individual geographical investigation

### **Elective Unit 4 Patterns and processes in the economic environment**

This unit examines patterns in economic development and the growth of a single interdependent global economy

Students taking the Higher Level also study **Optional Unit 6 Global Interdependence**

This unit examines the interdependent nature of global economic, social and political processes and challenges the differing views of development

### **Geographical skills**

Geography is a practical subject teaching skills needed across the school curriculum, at home and at work.

These are integrated into each of the units where appropriate

- Map and aerial photograph interpretation
- Satellite imagery
- Figure interpretation
- Census of population data
- Weather maps and data

The geographical investigation consists of fieldwork on a topic chosen from a list which is changed annually. Field studies on Shankill beach and in Ranelagh have been enjoyed by students. This involves working in a team and accounts for 20% of the Leaving Certificate mark.

### **Careers**

Geography can be studied at third level as a science or arts subject. It is useful in a wide variety of careers such as town planning, environmental science, engineering, tourism, cartography, meteorology and development work.

## HISTORY

The new Leaving Certificate History Syllabus gives teachers the choice of which 4 subjects which will be studied from a selection of 12 topics in modern Irish, European and American history. Two choices must be Irish and this year in 5<sup>th</sup> Year we have decided on the period from 1870 to 1914; in 6<sup>th</sup> Year this will be followed by the struggle for and creation of the new Irish state and the impact of partition in Ireland, 1912 to 1949. In European history we will be covering the period of dictatorships between 1920 and 1945, including World War 2 and this is followed by the history of the USA from 1945 to 1989. There will be more emphasis on the social, economic, cultural and religious areas than was the case in the old syllabus. Apart from text books and other source material, use of the internet will become increasingly important.

One of these subjects will be a documents based study which involves comprehension and the skills of working with evidence. This is a natural follow on from the format of Questions 2 and 5 on the Junior Certificate exam paper. The other 3 subjects will be assessed by essay in the terminal exam.

Another major change is a Research Study which will take the Year of a report to be submitted around Easter time before the Leaving Certificate exam in June. This Research Study can be about any aspect of history, in any period. The teacher will help and oversee this work but the choice of subject matter is that of the student. As this replaces the "special essay" which was examined in the old Leaving Certificate paper, less time is required for the exam, which has been reduced from a marathon of 3 hours 20 minutes to 2 hours 50 minutes. Ordinary level students follow an identical course, with a different emphasis in the way questions are asked on exam papers.

The study of history at Leaving Certificate fulfils many of the general aims and principles of the Leaving Certificate programmes.

- It emphasises the importance of individual thought.
- It fosters a spirit of inquiry and critical thinking.
- It helps to prepare students both for further education and for adult and working life.
- It helps to prepare students for their role as active and participative citizens.

An interest in, and knowledge of history are relevant to any career related to current affairs - journalism, local and national radio and tv. History is valuable as a background to studies in law, town planning, architecture, politics, economics, sociology, music, art, museum and library work. History is a good training for administration, management and the world of business in general. History is a good all round education.

## HOME ECONOMICS (SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL)

Home Economics is an applied subject, combining theory with practice. This is a new syllabus with a time allocation of five periods a week.

The course is divided into three core sections: -

i	Food studies	45%
ii	Resource management and consumer studies	25%
iii	Social studies	10%

There are three electives, from which one will be chosen: 20%

They are

- Elective 1 - Home Design and Management
- Elective 2 - Textiles Fashion and Design
- Elective 3 - Social Studies

**Practical work** is carried out as part of the food studies. This programme will be assessed at Leaving Certificate and counts for **20%** of the examination.

The practicals are written into a coursework journal and submitted to the Examinations Commission at the beginning of November in Form 6.

#### Further Studies

Taking Home Economics as a Leaving Certificate subject may be an advantage to students intending to pursue a career in the following areas:

Food and culinary arts	Fashion design
Food science and nutrition	Interior design
Hotel and catering management	Nursing
Social studies	Childcare Profession
Product Development	Enterprise
Teaching	Health Service

It is possible to take up this subject in Fifth Year.

## LATIN

The general aims of Leaving Certificate Latin are to enable students

- to read, understand and enjoy Latin
- to acquire a knowledge and appreciation of Roman history and civilization
- to become aware of a common European heritage in language and civilization which derives from Latin

Latin literature is one of the great literatures of the world. The authors on the course - Cicero, Caesar, Livy, Virgil, Ovid, Sallust, Catullus - span what is called the Golden Age of Latin Literature. Students study the period of Roman history from the death of Caesar to the death of Trajan. They also study Roman art and architecture within this period under such headings as patronage, portrait, sculpture, murals, mosaics, historical reliefs, the Roman house, roads, buildings, temples.

There is one written examination paper.

## MUSIC

Music is in its own right, a way of "knowing" and a form of knowledge and it also encourages the cognitive processes used in other subject areas. It is an immensely useful subject.

The syllabus continues to emphasise the integration of the three activity areas introduced at Junior Certificate level :

1. *Performance* (25%) - students may perform individually or as a group (Senior choir, band etc). The standard required is that of a student who has been performing in a school context for 5 years.

2. *Listening* (25%) - includes:

- four prescribed works of different historical context
- Irish music
- general aural skills, i.e. rhythm, melody, vocal & instrumental timbres

3. *Composition (25%)* - includes:

- melodic & harmonic composition
- melody writing
- adding chord symbols (e.g. guitar chords) to melody
- adding bass notes (base line) to melody
- exploring various styles of writing from popular to ' classical '

4. *Remaining 25%* - students may undertake any one of the above activities as a "higher elective" e.g.: performance could total 50 % of total.

The syllabus structure has been adopted to provide a fully balanced musical experience central to which is the development of musicality.

Career Areas: applicants with a well-rounded education are more likely to be successful in this competitive age. Music is useful for media work or studies, teaching, sound engineering, public relations, library work, communications, performance and music at third level.

Note : it is possible to begin this syllabus with little knowledge of music theory or history but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc. ) is desirable.

## **PHYSICS**

The study of Physics is an adventure! It can be challenging but it can also be rewarding. Understanding a little more about the often-surprising ways of the physical world, far from detracting from your appreciation of nature, can make the world seem a more fascinating and complex place.

How does the electric motor work? What evidence do we have that the Universe is expanding (the Big Bang)? Why is it that sound can go around corners but light cannot? How can we measure the power of an athlete? The answer to these questions and many more can be found in the study of Physics.

These are the main areas of study including some of the applications covered :

1. Mechanics (force and movement) : satellites, collisions, acceleration of a car.
2. Optics : optical fibres, correcting faulty eyesight, mirrors
3. Heat : different temperature scales, refrigerators
4. Waves : spectra of light, loudness of sounds (decibels)
5. Electricity and magnetism : generators, Earth's magnetism
6. Atomic and nuclear physics : television "tubes", radioactivity, transistors.

### **Career Areas :**

Some of the career areas in which Physics can be particularly useful are medical, technical, engineering and architectural, electronic, communications, information technology and scientific.

Note : Higher level mathematics is not a requirement for Leaving Cert. Physics topics - the mathematical techniques are quite basic on the recently updated Physics course.

## TECHNOLOGY

Technology is a new subject at Senior Cycle. It is a follow on subject for those pupils in particular who did Technology for their Junior Certificate, but it is possible for any pupil. Technology mainly involves designing, project making and electronics.

A Technological capability is an essential goal of any pupil in today's technological driven world. Technology at leaving certificate gives the pupil the opportunity to attain such a capability. The course is divided into two main areas; an end of year written paper worth 50% and a design and make electronic based project worth 50%. The written paper ranges from design, ICT, energy and electronics, structures and mechanisms to materials, graphics, Technology and Society and Health and Safety. It also involves manufacturing and control systems. The project involves the design and manufacture of a product such as a fire alarm system. It is not necessary to have studied Technical Graphics/Technology/Materials Technology at Junior Certificate in order to take up this subject at Senior Certificate. This subject is offered at ordinary and higher level.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year Curriculum

All pupils study the following core subjects: Irish, English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Physical Education, Choir/Study. In addition, pupils choose **one** subject from each of the following groups:

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
Art	Agric. Sci.	Accounting	App. Maths
Business	Biology	Biology	Business
Chemistry	Classical Studies	Constr. Studies	Constr. Studies
Design & Communication Graphics	Economics	French	French
Geography	History	German	Geography
History	H.E.	Spanish	German
H.E.	Physics	Technology	Music

Spanish

Please note the following :

- Classes in any subject will only go ahead should sufficient numbers choose it.
- Similarly, numbers for particular classes may be limited.
- Latin may be offered *outside the time-table* should sufficient numbers indicate a wish to take up this subject. This is dependant on student demand. There will be a charge for this.  
A pupil **may not** select both Classical Studies and Latin.

**If you wish to take Latin as an additional subject please indicate this on the subject preference form.**

## SUBJECT CHOICES IN 5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR - 2010/2011

This is a duplicate of the Subject Choice Form.

Please fill in this copy and keep it with this booklet for future reference.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Career choices in order of preference

\_\_\_\_\_

Subject choices:

Group 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Group 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Group 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Group 4 \_\_\_\_\_

If there are any additional comments, which may affect your choice of subjects, please include them here

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of student \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBJECT CHOICES IN 5<sup>th</sup> YEAR - 2010/2011

Please return this form to Mr. Petrie **not later than 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010**, but as soon as possible after the pupil has met with his/her tutor if the choices are clear.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Career choices in order of preference

\_\_\_\_\_

Subject choices:

Group 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Group 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Group 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Group 4 \_\_\_\_\_

If there are any additional comments, which may affect your choice of subjects, please include them here

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of student \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

## USEFUL WEBSITES :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## POINTS SYSTEM FOR THIRD LEVEL ENTRY

NOTE : BEST SIX SUBJECTS FROM ONE SITTING OF THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE

% BAND	LC GRADE	HIGHER	ORDINARY
90 -100	A1	100	60
85 -89	A2	90	50
80 -84	B1	85	45
75 -79	B2	80	40
70 -74	B3	75	35
65 -69	C1	70	30
60 -64	C2	65	25
55 - 59	C3	60	20
50 - 54	D1	55	15
45 - 49	D2	50	10
40 - 44	D3	45	5

