

Transition Year team

Co-Ordinator: Mr. D. Shaw

Year Head: Mr. D. Kirwan

Tutors: Mr. P. Lydon; Ms. K. McComish; Ms. B. McGuire; Mr. R. O'Connor; Mr. C. Ryan; Mr. K. Wall

Guidance Counsellors: Ms. F. O'Byrne; Mrs. M. Wilson

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 Wesley College options structure. Any problems can be discussed 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 fulfil 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. College Requirements
2. Course Requirements
3. Points

1. College 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 pass at ordinary level* in the following subjects:

<u>NUI</u> (UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, Maynooth, RCSI)	English, Irish and a third language
<u>TRINITY</u> } <u>U.L.</u> }	English, Maths and another language
<u>D.C.U.</u>	Maths and English or Irish
<u>I.T.s</u>	Maths and English or Irish
<u>COLLEGES OF</u> <u>EDUCATION</u>	Maths and English <u>and</u> Irish (Higher level*)
<u>OTHERS</u>	Vary

2. Course Requirements

Beyond the particular college 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 NUI (UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, RCSI) a **third language** should be among your chosen subjects.
Please note: This requirement has been dropped for Engineering and Science in NUI Maynooth and NUI Galway, for Engineering, Science, Social Science and Agricultural Science in UCD and for Engineering, Science and Food Science in UCC.
From 2018: For entry to BA Economics in UCD, Maths will be required but NOT a third language. For entry to Science at UCD, Geography may be substituted for a laboratory science subject.
- 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 : H3/H4 in two Laboratory sciences.
Medicine - UCD : O6/H7 in any laboratory Science
Medicine - Royal College of Surgeons: H4 in Chemistry + H4 in Physics or Biology
Medicine/Dentistry Courses - UCC : H4 in Chemistry + H4 in Physics or Biology
Veterinary Medicine - UCD : Requires H5 in Chemistry.

This is not an exhaustive list - PLEASE CONSULT COLLEGE WEBSITE/PROSPECTUS.

Students who are considering taking Agricultural Science and Biology or Art and Music should be very mindful of the following **Trinity College subject restrictions**:

- *Biology and Agricultural Science may not be presented as two of the six subjects required for minimum entry purposes, and they may not be presented together to satisfy course specific requirements. However, both may be used for scoring purposes.*
- *Art and Music may not be offered as two of the three higher Leaving Certificate grades for minimum entry requirements but both may be used for scoring purposes.*

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 points.
- *The number of points required for any course in any year is not pre-set by any college.
- *The points level reflects (a) results of the applicants for that year and
(b) 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, subject departments 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 deal of hard work over two years. It is much easier to work hard and do well if you have chosen, as far as 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. 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.**

Choose one subject from each group below:

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 & Communic. 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 information below from the subject departments and any other information you are given in class.
- Refer to your career notes and handouts.
- Talk to the individual Leaving Certificate subject teachers if you wish to know more about the way courses are tackled at Leaving Certificate level.
- Look at Leaving Certificate textbooks.
- Consult your tutor.
- Prepare questions for your individual meeting with the Guidance Counsellor.

ACCOUNTING

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Accounting is concerned with the preparation, recording, extraction, presentation and analysis of financial information for the purpose of making economic decisions. Accounting is a subject that suits the organised, methodical person who likes definite answers. There are no prerequisites for the study of accounting – just an interest in working with figures. While Junior Certificate Business Studies provides a foundation for the study of Accounting, it is not essential and it is possible to take this subject up at senior cycle.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

Students of accounting will be able to:

- Prepare and understand financial statements
- Make comparisons of performance of different companies
- Be able to take care of the basic accounting needs of a small business, club, farm or service firm (cash flow, final accounts, budgets etc.)
- Prepare and understand the relevance of information needed for management decision-making.

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

- One Paper
- 3 hours
- Sections 1 & 2 cover Financial Accounting
- Section 3 covers Management Accounting

CAREERS

Accounting is a dynamic and challenging career that can take you to the height of your abilities. Accountancy is a recognised qualification that can be used internationally.

Accountants can work in a wide variety of finance roles for many types of organisations, including manufacturing companies, the health service, banks, insurance companies, private accountancy firms and local and central government. Self-employment is also a possibility.

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 third level. Business related degrees will have at least one accounting module, giving a student who has studied LC Accounting a significant advantage.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The challenges of a rapidly growing population, climate change, and the limitations of land and fresh water all impact on the ability of agriculture to meet the demand for food. Agricultural Science focuses on the skills and knowledge needed for sustainable, profitable and ethical food production. There are many similarities between Agricultural Science and Biology and many students study both. There are interesting overlaps between Home Economics and Agricultural Science also. You don't need to be from a farming background to succeed at this subject.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

The course focuses mainly on Food Production and ultimately traces the origins of food. Topics covered include:

1. Animal Production (sheep, beef and dairy farming)
2. Crop Production
3. Animal Care and health and welfare (veterinary)
4. Animal Physiology/Biology (heart, nervous system)
5. Plant Physiology (photosynthesis)
6. Genetics (animal and plant breeding)
7. Equine study
8. Environmental Science (stewardship of the environment)

Practical work is at the core of Agricultural Science which incorporates laboratory experiments and field work. Students of Agricultural Science complete a number of farm visits and other trips which offer students the opportunity to see topics like genetics in action.

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

School based Practical/Project work accounts for 25% of the Leaving Cert grade. The Leaving Cert Exam accounts for the other 75%. The Practical/Project mark is awarded to pupils for their (i) Practical write-ups (ii) Field Study reports and (iii) Farm study reports

CAREERS

Agricultural Science provides a strong basis for students who may be interested in studying any Food course, Biotechnology, Genetics, Horticulture, Equine Studies, Veterinary Science and Agriculture.

APPLIED MATHEMATICS

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Applied Maths is not advanced Maths - it requires standard Maths skills 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.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

Throughout the course you encounter many types of problems. In order to solve the problems you need a logical approach and you must use knowledge that links Maths and Physics. 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 and collisions between bodies.

The 10 topics are as follows:

Uniform Acceleration; Projectiles; Relative Velocity; Newtons Laws and Connected Particles; Impacts and Collisions; Statics; Hydrostatics; Circular Motion and Simple Harmonic Motion; Differential Equations; Moments of Inertia.

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

The exam is 2.5 hours and you do 6 questions out of 10. Each question is worth 50 marks and so the exam is out of a total of 300 marks.

The 10 questions comprise of the 10 main topics in the syllabus and they retain the same order every year. There are sometimes small overlaps of topics between questions.

CAREERS

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 4th Year.

ART

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Benefits of the course

Through engagement with their immediate and surrounding environment students develop abilities to interpret, visualise and design creative projects. Time management, research and self-evaluation are some of the skills that are enhanced and explored in the process involved in the classroom. Students benefit from opportunities to engage in problem solving and lateral thinking within a relaxed classroom atmosphere.

Starting Art in Year 5:

It is not necessary to have studied Art at Junior Certificate level in order to undertake this subject at Leaving Certificate level.

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

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

Appreciation & history of art, imaginative composition, still life composition, abstract composition, graphic design, life sketching, a selection of craft work (which may include ceramic sculpture, 3 dimensional modelling, wire sculpture, embroidery, pottery, screen printing, soft sculpture/puppetry).

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

In the ten weeks immediately following the Christmas holidays (6th year) coursework in the form of a project will be carried out in class. This will comprise of two components, Imaginative Composition or Still Life and Design or craftwork. Each of these components will attract 100 marks each. There is an emphasis on the developing aspects of producing artwork so 40% of the marks awarded will be based on the evidence presented in the candidate's sketchbook, with the remaining 60% being based on the realised artefacts produced.

Life sketching will be examined in an invigilated setting in May. This will attract 50 marks.

History and Appreciation of Art examination will be part of the exam timetable in June. This will attract 150 marks.

CAREERS

Creative, lateral thinkers are highly sought after in many global companies. Art itself is now recognised for the importance it has within the corporate environment.

Art encompasses many aspects and elements of design and design processes which prepares students for a wide range of careers. A few are listed here: architecture, interior design, fashion design, marketing, advertising, photography, film and TV production, stage design, costume design, graphic design, museum curators, art therapy.

BIOLOGY

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

Content of the course

The Leaving Cert. Biology course covers 3 major units: *The Study of Life*, *The Cell*, and *The Organism*. The human biology section includes health and medical topics related to human systems. Other topics covered include genetics, microbiology and ecology as well as systematic investigations of other plant and animal groups.

EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

Leaving Certificate Biology is assessed by means of a terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course. These mandatory practicals are assessed in Section B of the exam paper.

CAREERS

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

BUSINESS

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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.

Business is a good general subject for those interested in either working for themselves or starting their own business. It will equip you with life skills that are useful in any workplace – pharmacists, engineers,

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

The syllabus is broken up into three 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 economic environment, both domestic and international)

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

- One Paper
- 3 hours
- 1st Section answer 8 out of 10 short questions
- 2nd Section answer compulsory Applied Business Question

CAREERS

Business forms an intricate part of any third level business course and is also relevant to numerous career opportunities. Careers in business include Management, Human Resources, Banking, Insurance, Journalist, Law, Politics and the Public Sector.

CHEMISTRY

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The study of Chemistry in 5th and 6th 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.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

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

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

Assessment is based on the final written exam. The exam itself is made up of two sections: Section A is comprised of 3 questions derived from the 28 Mandatory Experiments that students must complete and record throughout their two years. Section B is composed of questions derived from the whole course but experimental practices will not be examined here.

CAREERS

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 by a number of third-level colleges for some scientific degrees, including Human Nutrition, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary and others. It is advisable for Medicine in U.C.D.

CLASSICAL STUDIES

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

1. **Ancient Epic** (The Odyssey; Homer and The Aeneid; Virgil)
2. **Roman Art and Architecture** (Buildings, Sculpture and Paintings from Rome and the Empire)
3. **Alexander the Great** (based on the accounts of Arrian and Plutarch)
4. **Greek Drama** (Oedipus the King; Sophocles and Medea; Euripedes)

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

There is no coursework /project work in this subject. Final assessment consists of an essay-based three hour examination.

Students are required to answer 6 questions, doing at least one question from each of the four sections listed above.

All the textbooks are all taught in translation, so knowledge of Latin or Greek is not necessary and there is **no need** to have done Classical Studies at Junior Cert.

Owing to the nature of the exam, 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. The Greek Drama section would be very similar to how pupils might study Shakespeare in English. Although the Ancient Epics were originally long poems, they are taught in prose form and are similar to adventure novels. While the Alexander section is in the main part History, the Art and Architecture is really a mixture of so many of the different things which make Classical Culture so enduring.

While being strong in History and particularly English would be beneficial, all types of pupils prosper purely because they find the material so interesting and it is this, above all else, which seems to be most important for pupils making a success of choosing Classical Studies.

CAREERS

Students who take Classical Studies may or may not have a Classical Studies career path in mind but owing to the many employable skills the course develops it can open doors for students towards many career paths. Employers highly regard skills such as problem solving, critical thinking and communication and all these are fully developed in this subject. Careers such as teaching and library work identify with Classics but so do careers in management and in areas such as Law, Advertising, Banking, Politics, Architecture and even Stockbroking.

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

- 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 / ASSESSMENTS

There are three assessments in the Leaving Certificate exam:

Task	%	Time	Example
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

DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS (DCG)

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This 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.

Starting Design and Communication Graphics in Year 5:

It is not necessary to have studied Materials Technology (Wood), Technology or Technical Graphics at Junior Certificate in order to undertake this subject at Leaving Certificate level.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

This subject is offered at Ordinary and Higher Level.

What will you study in class?

- Model making
- Architectural Drawing
- CAD
- Computer Presentation Techniques
- Design
- Product Design
- Freehand Drawing
- Technical Drawing

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

Assessment:	Drawing exam	60%
	Assignment	40%

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.

DCG is the only Leaving Certificate subject to assess ICT at Leaving Certificate.

CAREERS

All Engineering
Interior Design
Architecture

ECONOMICS

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The study of economics will help students to develop an analytical approach to understanding a wide range of issues that affect us in everyday life. Economics is a social science which studies human behaviour in relation to people's aims and the scarce resources available to them to achieve these aims. What influences human behaviour and what are the implications when behaviour changes? Why do people choose to buy some products over others? Why do prices fluctuate? What causes exchange rates to change? How should the government tackle unemployment problems? Economics is relevant to everyone's life. It examines how economic decisions are sometimes political and how different decisions affect different sections of society. Each time we open a newspaper or watch a news bulletin, we are exposed to practical examples of the subject.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

The course content includes important everyday topics such as:

- Decision-making for the consumer, business, industry and government
- 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 that they face
- The factors that influence interest rates, our inflation rates, exchange rates
- How political decisions affect society

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

- One Paper
- 2 ½ hours
- Section A answer 6 out of 9 short questions
- Section B answer 4 out of 8 long questions

CAREERS

Economics forms an integral part of many subjects and third level courses. Students should check college prospectus or careers portal to see if economics forms a module of their chosen course. Careers include Finance & Banking, Economist, Journalist, Broadcasting, Communications, Law, and Politics.

GEOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

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

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

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

There is also a field trip to The Burren in County Clare for 5th year students of Geography and Biology.

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

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The study of History at Leaving Certificate fulfills 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.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

The Leaving Certificate History Syllabus gives teachers a choice of 4 topics which will be studied from a selection of 12 topics in modern Irish and European history. The two European topics will be:

Dictatorship and Democracy in Europe 1920-1945

The United States and the Wider World 1945-1989

In the Irish section students sitting the examination in 2018 and 2019 will have the topic **Government, Economy and Society in the Republic of Ireland, 1949 – 1989** for the compulsory documents section of the exam paper. This involves the skills of working with evidence and students will be assessed on their comprehension, criticism, comparison and contextualisation of a number of key documents from 3 case studies from this period.

The other Irish topic will be:

The Pursuit of Sovereignty and the Impact of Partition 1912-1949

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

The exam will last 2 hours 50 minutes and pupils will answer the Documents based study and three essays (one from each topic studied). Ordinary level students follow an identical course, with a different emphasis in the way questions are asked on exam papers.

Pupils also undertake a Research Study which accounts for 20% of the total mark. It is submitted around Easter time before the leaving Certificate exam in June and can be on any aspect of History, in any period. The teacher will provide help and oversee the work but the choice of material is that of the student.

CAREERS

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)

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Home Economics is an applied subject, combining theory with practice. It has a time allocation of five periods a week.
It is possible to take up this subject in Fifth Year.

TOPICS / WHAT WILL YOU STUDY IN CLASS?

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

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

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.

CAREERS

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 Health
Teaching	Service Medicine

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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

Continental language students would benefit from an exchange visit. One of the ideal opportunities for this is during the summer holidays after 4th Year or 5th Year.

TOPICS / WHAT WILL YOU STUDY IN CLASS?

Pupils will further develop the four key skills of learning a language: listening; reading; speaking and writing.

Aural tasks include listening to and answering questions on dialogues and news items.

In the case of **reading**, pupils study literary and journalistic texts.

There is considerable emphasis on **oral** work throughout 5th and 6th Year, and the final exam involves an oral examination in general conversation and, in the case of Spanish and German, a role play and describing and expanding upon a picture sequence.

Written production ranges from expressing opinions on topical issues to writing letters and responding to visual stimuli.

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

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

	GERMAN / SPANISH	FRENCH
1. an oral examination	(25% HL; 20% OL)	(25% HL; 20% OL)
2. a listening comprehension test	(20% OL; 25% HL)	(20% HL; 25% OL)
3. reading comprehension tests	(36%)	(30% HL; 40% OL)
4. various tests of written production	(19%)	(25% HL; 15% OL)

CAREERS

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

MUSIC

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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.

Note: Students are required to be able to read music to study this subject. Little knowledge of music theory or history is not a problem but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc. is essential.

TOPICS & EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

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.

CAREERS

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.

PHYSICS

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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 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)? What are the basic particles of nature and how are they studied in the Large Hadron Collider at CERN? 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.

There is also an emphasis on practical work with 24 mandatory experiments to be carried out.

TOPICS / WHAT WILL YOU STUDY IN CLASS?

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: lightening conductors, Earth's magnetism

6. Atomic and nuclear physics: nuclear energy, radioactivity, x-rays.

There are also two optional additional modules: Particle Physics and Applied Electricity.

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

Each student must complete 24 Mandatory Experiments and keep a record of these in a laboratory notebook. All assessment is based on the final written examination. The first section of that exam is based on the Mandatory Experiments and the second section examines the rest of the course.

CAREERS

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

TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

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.

Starting Technology in Year 5:

It is not necessary to have studied Materials Technology (Wood), Technology or Technical Graphics at Junior Certificate in order to undertake this subject at Leaving Certificate level.

TOPICS / WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN CLASS

- Electronics
- Project making – e.g. Heat sensors and toy cars
- Design
- Technology and Society
- Computer Controlled production

EXAMS / ASSESSMENTS

The course is divided into two main areas;

an end of year written paper worth 50%

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.

This subject is offered at ordinary and higher level.

CAREERS

All Engineering
Computer Studies
Business
Product Design and Development
Electronics

5th and 6th 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 & Commun. 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.

SUBJECT CHOICES IN 5TH YEAR - 2017/2018

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 _____

USEFUL WEBSITES:

www.cao.ie

www.qualifax.ie

www.scoilnet.ie

www.careersportal.ie

www.tcd.ie

www.ucd.ie

www.dit.ie

POINTS SYSTEM FOR THIRD LEVEL ENTRY

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

%	GRADE	HIGHER	ORDINARY
90 - 100	H1 /O1	100	56
80 < 90	H2 /O2	88	46
70 < 80	H3 /O3	77	37
60 < 70	H4 /O4	66	28
50 < 60	H5 /O5	56	20
40 < 50	H6 /O6	46	12
30 < 40	H7 /O7	37	0

Note: an additional 25 points may be earned by students who score a H6 grade or higher in Higher Level Maths. This will only be counted where Maths is presented as one of the six best subjects.

SUBJECT CHOICES IN 5th YEAR - 2017/2018

Please **return this form to Mr. Kirwan** not later than **10th March 2017**, but as soon as possible after the pupil has met with his/her Guidance Counsellor 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 _____

NOTES: