



## Presentation on Subject Choice for Leaving Certificate

St. Flannan's College

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# Purpose of Presentation



- Raise awareness of the importance of picking the correct subjects
- Subject requirements for further study after Leaving Cert
- How to decide which subjects to choose

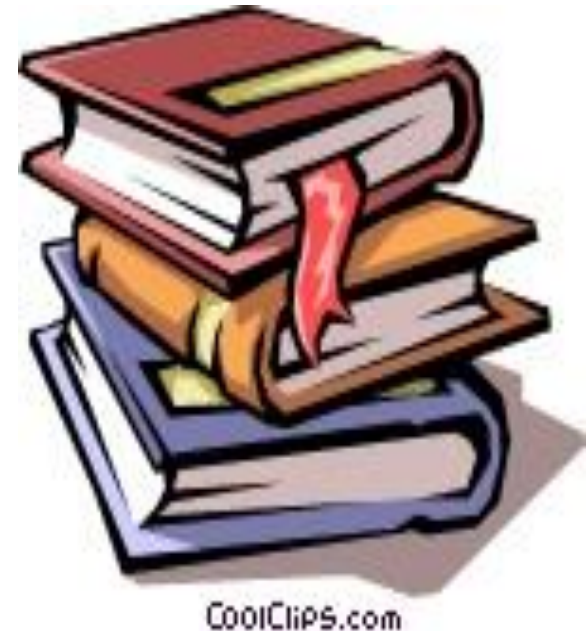
# Leaving Certificate Options



- **Established Leaving Cert** – as offered in St. Flannan's College. This two year programme covers a wide range of subjects. Students are assessed via a set of terminal exams. Some subjects have projects as part of their assessment methods in achieving the final grade.
- **Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)** - senior cycle programme designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the Established Leaving Certificate. This programme is offered in St. Flannan's College and is done in conjunction with the established Leaving Cert. More information on further slides.
- **Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)** - is a two year, self-contained programme aimed at recognising the talents of all students and providing opportunities to prepare for working and adult life. This is **not** available at St. Flannan's College, however, there are two secondary schools in Ennis that provide this programme.

# Factors influencing subject choice

- **WHAT SUBJECTS DO STUDENTS ENJOY?**  
(THEY WILL WORK BEST AT THESE SUBJECTS)
- **ABILITY AND APTITUDE IN THE SUBJECT**
- **IS THE SUBJECT NECESSARY FOR A COURSE ENTRY AT THIRD LEVEL?**
- **FRIENDS/ PARENTS/SIBLINGS ETC**
- **PERCEIVED AS 'EASY' OR 'HARD'**
- **LIKES/DISLIKES THE TEACHER (NOT A GOOD REASON)**



**THEIR CHOICE SHOULD BE BOTH MEANINGFUL AND  
MANAGEABLE**

# Subjects in Senior Cycle



We have introduced a new method for students when picking their subjects moving into senior cycle that is more student centred and allows for more flexibility.

Instead of presenting students with premade subject blocks we now ask students to rate their top 6 subjects, they will study 3.

All students will continue with the core subjects which are Maths, English and Irish (unless exempt), we also recommend keeping their language and then rate the subjects from 1 to 6 in order of preference (of which they will get 3 – all students will do 7 subjects and possibly an 8<sup>th</sup> if they opt for LCVP, information will be given later in the presentation on this)

## Subject Options 5<sup>th</sup> year

Use this form to help you prepare for making your selection online

Choose 6 subjects from **Pool 1** (Rank these 1-6)

Choose 1 subject from **Pool 2**

Choose 1 subject from **Pool 3**

Subject - <b>Pool 1</b> Optional subjects (Please choose 6 subjects & rank 1-6)	Preference Number
Accounting	
Agricultural Science	
Art, Craft and Design	
Biology	
Business	
Chemistry	
Classical Studies	
Design & Communication Graphics	
Economics	
Geography	
History	
Home Economics	
Music	
Physical Education (Exam Subject)	
Physics	
Construction Studies	

Subject - <b>Pool 2</b> Language Option (Choose 1)	Preference Number
Business	
French	
German	

Subject – <b>Pool 3</b> Extra Subject Option (Choose 1)	Preference Number
Computer Studies (Non Exam)	
Japanese	
Physical Education (Non Exam)	
Preparation for the World of Work (LCVP)	

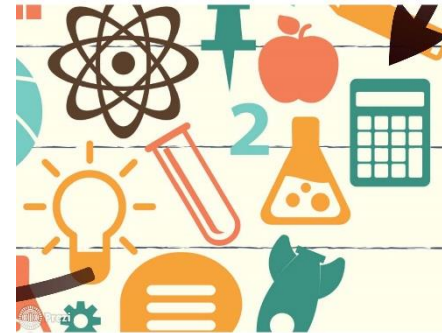


# A typical student will do the following in senior cycle

- 1) Maths
- 2) English
- 3) Irish (if exempt Geography)
- 4) French/German (if exempt Business)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8) LCVP (if desired)



# Subjects available



Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Agricultural Science

Home Economics

Business

Economics

Accounting

Physical Education

(as an exam subject)

Music

Art

Construction Studies

Design & Communication

Graphics

History

Geography

Classical Studies





# Compulsory Subjects



- Maths
  - English
  - Irish (Those with DES exemptions will do Geography)
- Exam worth 100%
- composed of Exam 50%
- Oral 40% (H&O)
- Aural 10%

## Recommended Subjects



- French  
Both Exam 55% (HL & OL)  
Oral 25% (HL) 20% (OL)
- German  
Aural 20% (HL) 25% (OL)

# Optional Subjects

## Science subjects

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Agricultural Science – Exam 75% & Project 25%



Exam worth  
100%

## Business Subjects

Business

Accounting

Economics – Exam 80% & Research Study 20%



Exam worth  
100%



# Optional Subjects

## Humanities

History

Geography

Classical Studies – Exam 100%

Exam worth 80%  
Project worth 20%



## Practical

Construction Studies – Exam 50%

Project 25% & Practical 25%



Design & Communication – Exam 60%

Graphics (DCG)

Project 40%



# Optional Subjects

## Artistic

Art – Exam 37.5%

Practical 62.5%

Music – Listening 25%

Composition 25%

Performance 25%

Students choose where to allocate extra 25%

- usually performance.



## Social

Home Economics – Exam 80% & Project 20%

# Optional Subjects

## Physical

# Physical Education - Exam Subject

## Physical Activity Project 20%

## Performance Assessment 30%

## Written Paper 50%



#85819147

For more information on PE as a Leaving Certificate subject

[https://ncca.ie/media/3607/lcpe\\_single.pdf](https://ncca.ie/media/3607/lcpe_single.pdf)

# Leaving Cert Vocational Programme

LCVP is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate (established).

The LCVP combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate (established) with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, innovation and enterprise.

## **What results can students achieve?**

Distinction 66 – equivalent to H4 in higher level

Merit 46 - equivalent to H6 in higher level

Pass 28 - equivalent to O4 in higher level



# Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

## Involves

- Work placement
- An enterprise visit
- Guest speakers
- Career investigation
- CV Preparation

## Develops

- Self-directed learning
- IT skills
- Report writing

**Assessment** – Portfolio of work 60% & Exam 40%  
Exam done in May before the Leaving Certificate

LCVP		
<i>Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme</i>		
LCVP Grade	% Score	LCVP Points
Distinction	85 - 100	66
Merit	65 - 79	46
Pass	50 - 64	28





# Advantages of LCVP



- For CAO purposes, the points achieved in **six** subjects can be used. If a student wishes, **they can use the points achieved in LCVP as one of these six subjects**. If a student performs poorly in one of their regular Leaving Certificate subjects on the day of the exam, they can swap this disappointing result for the result achieved in the LCVP exam.
- As mentioned earlier, **60%** of the LCVP course is made up of **portfolio work**, which is completed mainly in 5<sup>th</sup> year. The remaining **40%** is examined in a **written exam** held in May of 6<sup>th</sup> year, so all of the LCVP work is completed in advance of the June exam.
- Apart from its value in contributing to the overall points achieved by a student, the LCVP course develops skills involving **IT, report writing, case studies, interview techniques and teamwork**, all of which are very useful for third level and in employment. The LCVP qualification provides an opportunity for students to become more informed regarding career choices.

# Standard Entry Requirements

**Technological Universities** require a pass in  
English **OR** Irish + Maths

**National University of Ireland, Shannon College of Hotel Management and RCSI** require a pass in  
English + Irish + Maths  
**PLUS** a 3<sup>rd</sup> language (there are some exceptions, not a requirement for science, engineering or nursing degrees)

**University of Limerick and Trinity College Dublin**  
English + Maths + Irish **OR** 3<sup>rd</sup> language

**Dublin City University**  
English **OR** Irish + Maths



\*National University of Ireland – UG (University of Galway), UCD (University College Dublin),  
UCC (University College Cork), MU (Maynooth University)

\*RCSI Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

# Modern Language



- **O6** for most courses in NUI and for Cadets in Army/Air Corps (*there are some exceptions please check*)
- **HL** for Law with French, Commerce/Business with French/German, Commerce International
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Language **not** required for TCD, UL, DCU and all the TUs unless the course includes the study of a language.
  - **Not required for Nursing, Science or Engineering courses in NUIG, NUIM, UCD, UCC**

\*TU Technological University – formerly known as Institutes of Technology IT

# Specific Entry Requirements

There are certain courses that require students to have specific subjects – usually if the **subject is central to the degree** it will be required. Below are some examples:

## Irish

Primary Teaching – **H4**

Law & Irish UCC – **H3**

Education - Gaeilge UCC – **H3**

## English

Journalism and Digital Communications UL – **H4**

Deaf Studies TCD – **H4**

## Language

Commerce Int. – will require a language usually at higher level

Cadets in Army/Air Corps



THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST; PLEASE  
CONSULT COLLEGE WEBSITE OR QUALIFAX TO  
CHECK COURSES OF INTEREST

# Specific Entry Requirements

## Maths

All Level 8 Engineering Degrees usually require **H4**

Maths TCD – **H3**

Financial Maths UL – **H3**

Financial Mathematics & Economics UG – **H5/O1**

Computer Science TCD – **H4/O2**

Education - Computer Science & Mathematical Studies -  
Second Level Teaching UG – **H6/O2**



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25 Bonus  
points for  
Hons Maths  
awarded from  
H6 and  
upwards

# Specific Entry Requirements

## Science

Nursing - one science

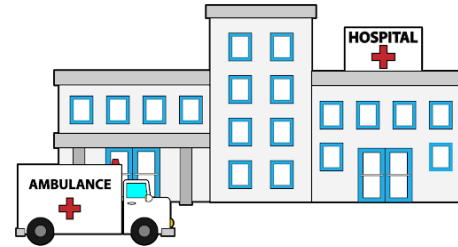
Science/Healthcare based degrees – usually one

Medical based degrees – usually two

Veterinary Science - **H5 Chem**

Pharmacy – **H4 Chem**

Dentistry – **H4 Chem**



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CONSULT COLLEGE WEBSITE OR QUALIFAX TO  
CHECK COURSES OF INTEREST

# Business Subjects

With the exception of one course in Ireland (*Commerce, Accounting in NUIG – H4 in Accounting required*) there are no courses that **specifically** require a business subject as an entry requirement.

BUT, in a world which is so business oriented, studying a business subject makes sense.





# Other subjects – Specific Subject requirements

**BUSINESS**

**ACCOUNTING**

**ECONOMICS**

**HOME ECONOMICS**

**HISTORY**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS (DCG)**

**CONSTRUCTION STUDIES**

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

**CLASSICAL STUDIES**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Generally NOT REQUIRED for basic ENTRY for most courses BUT DESIRABLE if intending to study at Third Level

**ART & MUSIC** Again generally NOT REQUIRED as basic entry requirements even if intending to study at Third Level BUT PORTFOLIO (ART) or COMPETENCE TEST (MUSIC) required for entry to Third Level Courses in these areas of study

New LC Grading Scheme	Marks	New Points Higher Level	New Points Ordinary Level
H1 / O1	90-100	100	56
H2 / O2	80 < 90	88	46
H3 / O3	70 < 80	77	37
H4 / O4	60 < 70	66	28
H5 / O5	50 < 60	56	20
H6 / O6	40 < 50	46	12
H7 / O7	30 < 40	37	0
H8 / O8	0 < 30	0	0

# Choosing a Subject

## Key Questions



1. What subjects are the school offering?
2. If I'm interested in a particular course/career area, what subjects are essential? ( Course Entry Requirements)
3. If not essential, what subjects would be useful/helpful for this course/career area? (useful vs. points)
4. What subjects do I like? (motivation) (not the teacher)
5. What subjects am I relatively good at?

# General Advice

If a student is undecided about their path after school I would always advise them to pick a **broad range of subjects** in order to keep options open

**one language**

**one science**

**one business**

**one other subject they feel comfortable with**

This combination would allow access into a broad range of courses/careers and allows for them to change their mind which often happens

# Points to consider



- What subjects are students interested in?

*Genuine interest is important in terms of motivation.*

- What subjects are students good at?

*Remember though that attitude is as important as ability.*

- Are there subjects that complement each other?

*This may cut down on work load.*

- What career areas are of interest to the student?
- What subjects are essential (needed)?
- Do students have a definite career direction?

*If so, choose a combination of appropriate subjects to enhance careers prospects but **beware of the cost of not doing a subject** as their direction may change within the next two years.*

# Ensuring Good Subject Choice

- Discuss subject choice with your son/daughter
- Do as much research as possible
- Do as much research yourself – excellent resources available
- Be realistic – if a student did not like or excel at a subject at JC highly unlikely to change at LC

# Study Clix

<https://www.studyclix.ie/subjects>



Search subjects, topics and more...



Pick a subject

Leaving Certificate

Junior Cycle

Ardteistiméireacht

Sraith Sóisearach



Accounting

→ Higher

→ Ordinary



Agricultural Science

→ Higher

→ Ordinary



Applied Maths

→ Higher

→ Ordinary



Art

→ Higher



Biology

→ Higher



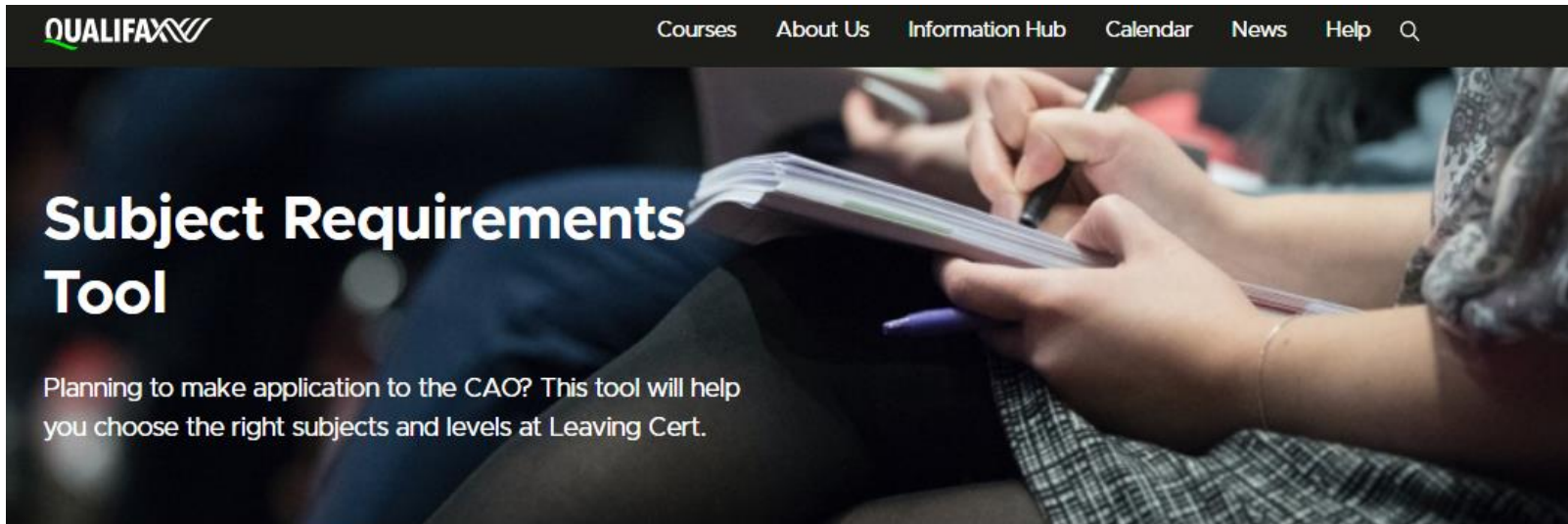
Business

→ Higher



# Qualifax

## <https://www.qualifax.ie/subject-requirements>



Subject

- Select -



Advanced filters




**Please select a subject from the subject dropdown on the left.**

**All courses referred to in this section are Third Level CAO entry. The Course Data in this section is for the CAO entry**

# Careers Portal

[https://careersportal.ie/school/subject\\_explorer.php?s\\_CAO\\_code=CK408](https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php?s_CAO_code=CK408)

[Home](#)[GA](#)[EN](#)[Accessibility Tools](#)[Join](#)

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## School

[All Leaving Cert Subjects](#)[Useful Subject Tips](#)[Guide to Choosing Subjects](#)[Subjects & Career Choice](#)

[Subjects by Grade Explored](#)[FAQs](#)

## Leaving Cert Subjects

[Leaving Cert](#) | [Leaving Cert Applied \(LCA\)](#)

### Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

[Construction Studies](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Technology](#)



**Tomas Flanagan, Occupational  
Therapist**

What subjects did you take in school and  
how have these influenced your career

A text will be sent to all students containing a link to make their choice. All students, in their class groups, will receive a class from Ms Mc Menamin with information on how to effectively pick subjects, they can use this opportunity to ask questions or alternatively engage with the Guidance Counsellor after via teams or in person if desired.

If a parent has a query please email Ms McMenamin – [brenda.mcmenamin@stflannanscollege.ie](mailto:brenda.mcmenamin@stflannanscollege.ie)

**THANK YOU**