



Presentation on Subject Choice for Leaving Certificate

De La Salle College

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2019



OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**
- **OVERVIEW OF SUBJECTS ON OFFER**
- **SUBJECT CHOICE AND FURTHER EDUCATION**
- **SOME ADVICE**



Purpose of Presentation

- Raise awareness of the importance of picking the correct subjects
- Give information on subject requirements for further study after Leaving Cert
- Give guidance on how to decide which subjects to choose
- Ultimately the school wants to ensure that each pupil fulfils their potential and good subject choice assists in this

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)**



Ensuring Good Subject Choice

- Discuss subject choice with your son
- Students have been told and shown how to do as much research as possible – not all do
- Do as much research yourself – excellent resources available
- Be realistic – if a student did not like or excel at a subject at JC why would that change at LC

ROUTES AFTER SCHOOL

- **APPLY TO POST LEAVING CERT COURSES (YOU APPLY DIRECTLY TO COLLEGE) eg. O’Fiaich College, D.I.F.E, Southern Regional College**
- **APPLY TO COURSES THROUGH THE CAO (CENTRAL APPLICATIONS OFFICE) UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY eg. UCD, DKIT, MAYNOOTH, TRINITY, ETC**

POST LEAVING CERT COURSES (PLCs)

- **APPLY DIRECTLY TO COLLEGE**
- **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – usually 5 Ordinary Level 06/H7 in the LC and an interview. LCA is accepted for most courses also**
- **SOME MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS MAY APPLY**
- **AWARDED BY QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) at LEVEL 5 or 6**
- **There are LINKS in place to progress to Level 6, 7 and 8 in Institutes of Technology and Universities**

CAO – COURSES

HETAC (Higher Education and Training Awards Council) LEVELS

- **LEVEL 8 - (HONOURS DEGREE COURSES) RUN BY THE UNIVERSITIES EG. UCD AND INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY EG. DKIT**
- **LEVEL 7 - (ORDINARY LEVEL DEGREES COURSES) RUN BY THE INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY**
- **LEVEL 6 - (HIGHER CERTIFICATE) RUN BY THE INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY**
(LEVEL 6, 7 AND 8- APPLY THROUGH THE CAO)

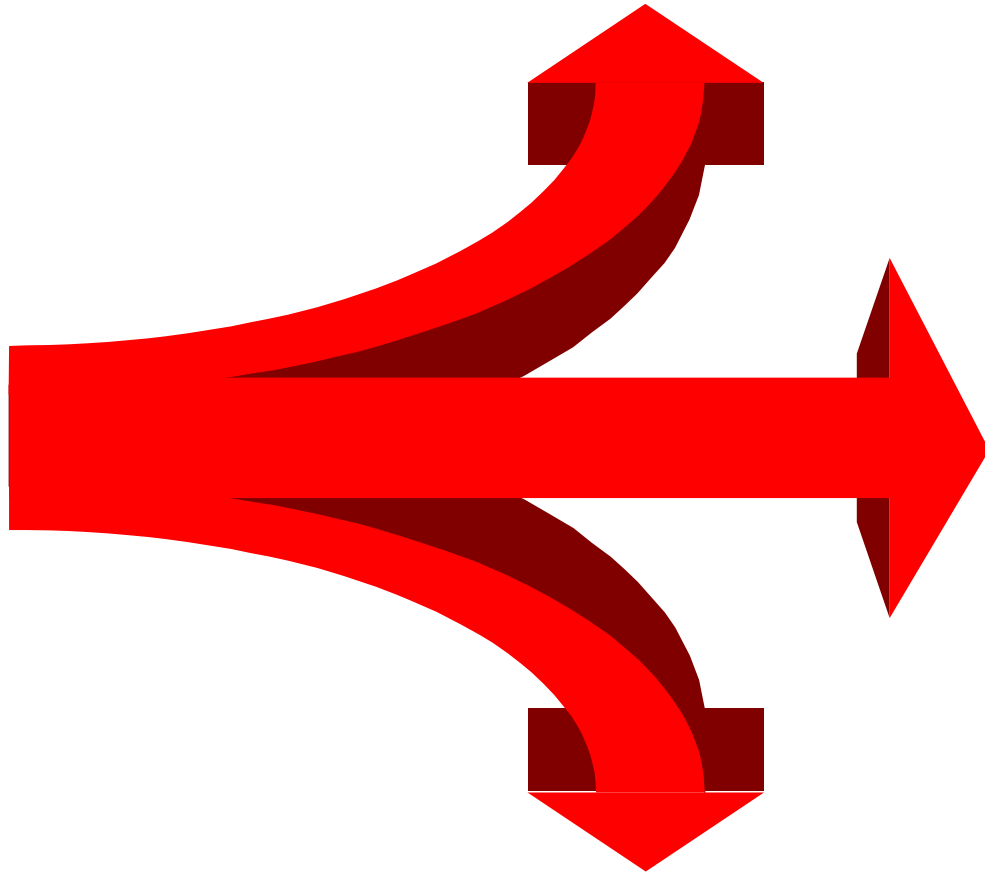
- **NUI (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND) Colleges**
 - **UCC, UCD, NUI GALWAY, NUI MAYNOOTH**
- **Trinity College, UL, DCU, ALL IoT's, Specialist Colleges,etc**

Entry Requirements

- When choosing Leaving Certificate subjects great care must be taken as the choices of subjects made now may determine 3rd level and career options in 2 years time.
- Students can make the mistake when choosing their subjects of not picking subjects they may specifically need later
- Good subject choice allows students to keep options open when other factors have been taken into account such as interest, ability, likelihood of wanting to pursue a course after school
- Regardless of how many points a student gets in the LC, they will be ineligible to even apply for a course if they have not met it's "Course Entry Requirements"

Entry to HEI

3 Factors



Minimum Entry Requirements

Specific Entry Requirements (may also involve interviews, portfolios etc)

Points


New CAO Points Scale

Current (pre-2017) Leaving Certificate Grade Scheme	New Leaving Certificate Grade Scheme	New Points Higher level	New Points Ordinary level
A1	H1 / O1	100	56
A2	H2 / O2	88	46
B1			
B2	H3 / O3	77	37
B3			
C1	H4 / O4	66	28
C2			
C3	H5 / O5	56	20
D1			
D2	H6 / O6	46	12
D3			
E		33	0



Minimum Entry Requirements

- There are Minimum Entry Requirements to be met for all HEIs.
- **Most of these revolve around the core subjects of Irish, English, Maths and a modern continental language**
- Even within HEIs these differ, so it is important to check them out on the college websites



The universities and Institutes of Technology have introduced a new **basic matriculation requirements to take account of the new grade scheme**

Where the requirements were 3 higher level C3 grades and 3 ordinary level D3 grades, have become 3 H5 and 3 O6/H7 grades.

Where the requirements were previously 2 higher level C3 grades and 4 ordinary level D3 grades, now these have become 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades.

Where the requirements were previously 5 ordinary level D3 grades, have become 5 O6/H7 grades.

Minimum Entry Requirements of major CAO Colleges

Institution	Minimum grades	Required subjects
NUI Colleges: UCD, NUIM, NUIG,(RCSI, Shannon, Miltown)	2H5 + 4O6/H7	O6 in English, Irish & Modern Language*.
UCC	2H5 +4O6/H7	O6 in English, Irish & Modern language*
Trinity College Dublin	3H5 + 3O6/H7	O6 in Maths, English & another Language
Dublin City University	2H5 + 4O6/H7	O6 in Maths, English or Irish
University of Limerick	2H5 + 4O6/H7	O6 in Maths, English & Irish or another Lang.
Dublin Institute of Technology	2H5 + 4O6/H7 (H.D.) 5O6/H7 GRADES (O.D. or H.C.)	O6 in Maths, English or Irish
Institutes of Technology (L 8) (L6/7)	2H5 + 4O6/H7 (H.D.) 5O6/H7 GRADES (O.D. or H.C.)	O6 in Maths, English or Irish

PARTICULAR SUBJECTS AND MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS cont.

➤ IRISH

- **HIGHER LEVEL FOR PRIMARY TEACHING(H5)**
- **NURSING (O6) IRISH NUI COLLEGES**
- **IRISH IS IMPORTANT FOR LAW AND SECONDARY TEACHING**
- **GARDAI WILL TAKE C IN FOUNDATION LEVEL**
- **Exceptions apply for those with exemptions and sometimes those born outside the country**

PARTICULAR SUBJECTS AND MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS cont.


➤ ***ENGLISH***

- **MEDIA STUDIES NUIM (H5))**
- **CLINICAL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE STUDIES TCD (H4) IN ENGLISH OR ANOTHER LANGUAGE**
- **HIGHER LEVEL ENGLISH IS REQUIRED FOR JOURNALISM DCU AND UL (H4))**

- **MOST OTHER COURSES REQUIRE PASS ENGLISH AT ORDINARY LEVEL**

PARTICULAR SUBJECTS AND MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ***MATHEMATICS***
- **HIGHER LEVEL REQUIRED FOR MOST LEVEL 8 ENGINEERING,**
- **SOME COMPUTER SCIENCE (TCD H4)**
- **ORDINARY LEVEL FOR MOST OTHER COURSES IN CAO**
- **FOUNDATION LEVEL- ACCEPTABLE FOR SOME CAO COURSES WITH NO MATHS REQUIREMENT (Art and Design etc)
GARDAI (GRADE B) and PLC COURSES**
- **NO MATHS REQUIREMENT FOR SOME ARTS AND LAW DEGREES (NUI COLLEGES)**
- **SOME ART COURSES DO NOT REQUIRE IT**
- ❖ ***STUDY MATHS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL if YOU CAN***



Samples of courses that require Honours Maths

- Actuarial & Financial Mathematics: DCU
- Actuarial & Financial Studies: UCD
- Computational Thinking: Maynooth
- Business Analytics: DCU
- Computer Science: TCD
- Engineering: All Universities
- Economics & Finance: UCD

CONTINENTAL LANGUAGE

- **Definitely requires: Any Third Language- Total of 174 courses**
 - **May require: Any Third Language - Total of 5 courses**
 - **Does not require Any Third Language - Total of 1248 courses**
-
- **SUBJECT REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO NUI COLLEGES (EXEMPTIONS)**
 - **NOT REQUIRED FOR NURSING IN ANY OF THE UNIVERSITIES.**
 - **NOT REQUIRED FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE DEGREES**
 - **NOT REQUIRED FOR LAW, BUSINESS AND FINANCE COURSES AT NUI MAYNOOTH**
 - **IoT's (LEVEL 6 and 7) DO NOT GENERALLY REQUIRE CONTINENTAL LANGUAGE**
 - **UL WILL ACCEPT IRISH AND OR CONTINENTAL LANGUAGE**



Specific Entry Requirements

- Some HEI courses demand that you not only meet Minimum Entry Requirements, but that you also meet Specific Entry Requirements
- They usually are central to the course content.
- Specific Entry Requirements generally apply to language courses, science courses, engineering courses, and medicine and health courses
- An example is “Commerce International with French” in UCC where you need to meet the UCC minimum requirements and the specific course requirement is at least a H3 in French

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

➤ ONE LABORATORY SCIENCE SUBJECT NEEDED FOR MOST SCIENCE/HEALTHCARE RELATED COURSES

■ ***MUST HAVE BIOLOGY FOR:***

- HUMAN HEALTH AND DISEASE (TCD)
- GENETICS (UCC)
- BEAUTY THERAPY (PLC COURSES)
- 207 CAO COURSES MAY REQUIRE BIOLOGY
- ❖ ADVISABLE FOR NURSING

■ ***MUST HAVE CHEMISTRY FOR:***

- DENTISTRY (UCC)
- HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS (DIT)
- MEDICINE (UCC)
- PHARMACY (UCC and TCD)
- VETERINARY MEDICINE (UCD)
- PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION (DIT)
- 209 CAO COURSES MAY REQUIRE CHEMISTRY
- ❖ ADVISABLE FOR ALL MEDICINE

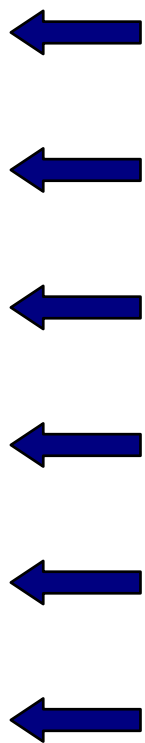
■ ***MUST HAVE PHYSICS FOR:***

- ❖ THEORETICAL PHYSICS (TCD)
- ❖ 206 CAO COURSES MAY REQUIRE PHYSICS

Appliance of Science

COLLEGE SUBJECTS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	
Biology	Horticulture
Agriculture	Marine Biology
CHEMICAL SCIENCES	
Chemistry	Biochemistry
Chem. Engineering	Medicinal Chem.
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	
Physics	Astronomy
Electronics	Computing
ENGINEERING	
Civil	Mechanical
Aeronautical	Electrical
MEDICAL SCIENCES	
Pharmacy	Nursing
Ophthalmic Optics	Nutrition
MEDICINE / DENTISTRY	
Medicine	Dentistry
Vet. Medicine	



Leaving Certificate Science Subjects in order of importance to college subject

1	2	3
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics
Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics
Physics	Mathematics	Chemistry
Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry
Chemistry	Biology	Physics
Chemistry	Physics	Biology

OTHER SUBJECTS

SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- **BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, HOME ECONOMICS, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, RELIGION, APPLIED MATHS, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE – Generally NOT REQUIRED for basic ENTRY for most courses BUT DESIRABLE if intending to study at Third Level**
- **CHECK THEM OUT on www.qualifax.ie (useful tools - minimum entry –subjects)**
- **ART AND MUSIC- Again generally NOT REQUIRED as basic entry requirement even if intending to study at Third Level BUT PORTFOLIO (ART) or COMPETENCE TEST (MUSIC) required for entry to Third Level Courses**



The Points System

- Only when the Minimum and Specific Entry Requirements have been met do points accumulated in the Leaving Cert come into play to decide who gets a place on a course
- The best six results in one sitting of the Leaving Cert Exam will be counted for points purposes
- Though Minimum Entry Requirements may state you need Irish or English etc., that does not mean you must count it as one of the 6 for points



Leaving Certificate Programme subject levels

- Higher and Ordinary level → all subjects.
- Foundation level → Mathematics & Irish.
- Particular care needs to be taken with Mathematics. Failure in this subject can be detrimental to overall L.C

Choosing a Subject

Key Questions

1. What subjects is 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?

Compulsory Subjects

All Three Subjects (3)

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- These subjects are vital for careers/ courses

Most should choose a language as it is very important for many courses (except if they have difficulties or an alternative language)

Optional Subjects – Choose 3

- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Art
- Music
- Business
- Economics
- Accounting
- Design and Communication Graphics (known as Tech Graph for JC)
- Technology
- Applied Maths
- Agricultural Science
- Exam Religion
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Politics and Society (new)

Optional Subjects

- It is highly desirable that if a student picks a subject for LC that they have taken it to JC, if they have not studied it previously they may be at a considerable disadvantage
- If a subject has not been taken to JC it may not be possible to do it for LC – it depends on the subject. For example taking up biology not having taken science for JC is far more difficult (and not recommended) than say taking up Home Economics

General Advice

If students are not really sure what they want to do in the future:

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

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

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

Resources to assist in Subject Choice

- www.qualifax.ie (click on students, then subject choice, then on minimum requirements and also choosing a career)
- www.careersportal.ie (very comprehensive)

Any of the college websites such as www.ucd.ie www.dkit.ie etc.
The above and such other sites will give specific information on Third Level courses

- Last years Points can be found in these websites also or also on www.cao.ie
- Information on the % of grades awarded in each subject is available on www.examinations.ie and gives access to past exam papers
- www.curriculumonline.ie (allows you to see what is involved in the LC subject)



Optional Subjects Information

- Students have been given a presentation by myself
- Handout available online outlining what each of the subjects entails – the types of skills and aptitudes necessary for the subject
- Handout can be supplemented by the sources of information highlighted in this presentation

Procedures around Subject Choice

- Students will be sent a form asking them to indicate what 4 subjects they wish to choose.(3+ back up)
- These subjects should be given in order of preference
- The purpose of the open choice is to try to ensure that as many students as possible get as many of their preferred subjects as possible
- The school tries to ensure that as many students as possible get their choices but students and parents need to be aware there is no guarantee of getting all their preferred subjects

Advice on Subject Choice

- Do the research – this is hugely important
- Remember that ultimately everyone wants the student to get the best possible results in their Leaving Cert so bear this in mind
- Be realistic about ability and possible future course and career choice
- Once 5th year begins, students should try and stick with a subject and give it their best as too much uncertainty and indecision may be detrimental in the long term
- There is no magic formula – not all students will like all the subjects they are doing. Sometimes they just have to work at it
- Whilst as parents and teachers we may offer advice or guidance ultimately the student will have to take responsibility for their choice and their education
- Ask questions as necessary. Contact Mrs Meehan at school.