

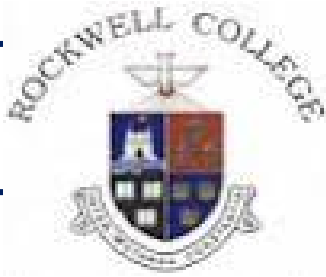
2027

Rockwell College

SUBJECT CHOICE INFORMATION BOOKLET
LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2027



Guidance Department
MARCH 2025



Mar-2025

Dear Student,

You are about to make a very important decision, namely, Subject Choice for the senior cycle. You will be asked to select a number of subjects, usually **7**, for your Leaving Certificate.

To make a good decision it is essential to have good information. At Rockwell College it is possible to arrange individual appointments with the Guidance Counsellor to help you make an informed subject choice; to schedule appointments please go to the Guidance Counsellor's office at break time or lunch time or send a message on MS Teams.

It is also recommended that you:

- * study this booklet.
- * undertake your own research (e.g. www.qualifax.ie, www.careersportal.ie)
- * consult textbooks and past papers of subjects you are interested in.
- * talk to students who have been, or are presently, studying the subjects which interest you.
- * discuss Subject Choice with your teachers, parents/guardians.

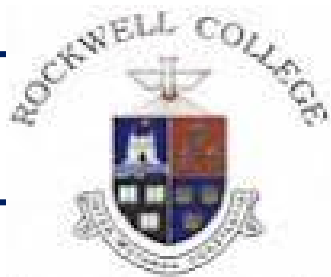
Choose your 'suite' of subjects to satisfy your interests and to keep as many career options open as possible. Keep the following guidelines in mind:

- * Ensure that you have the **essential subjects for your course** (check Careersportal, Qualifax and the college websites for minimum entry requirements and specific course requirements)
- * Select your remaining subjects to maximise your results. Look back over previous school reports to see what subjects you did well in. If you like a subject, you are more likely to do well in it.
- * Check college prospectuses, www.careersportal.ie and www.qualifax.ie
- * Choose subjects in which you have a genuine interest.

By getting as much accurate and up to date information as possible you will make a good Subject Choice decision.

The deadline for subject choice will be communicated to you.
Best of luck!

Edel O'Callaghan
Guidance Counsellor



SUBJECT CHOICE CONSIDERATIONS

1. Languages

NB: A European language is not compulsory, but it is required for entry to many college courses. If you are not studying a language or wish to consider not studying a language, please be advised that this may impact on Third Level choices later.

If a student is exempt from studying Irish in secondary school, they may apply for a university Irish and/or 3rd Language exemption; students usually apply for a college language exemption in 6th Year, depending on which colleges and courses they are applying to. The exemption criteria are different for different institutions, so please check with your Guidance Counsellor and university websites.

2. Third Level Course Subject Requirements

If a student knows what career direction they are interested in pursuing and if that career requires continuing to Third Level education, students should review the relevant college courses to determine what Leaving Certificate subjects are required for entry to those courses. Details on courses and entry requirements can be found on www.qualifax.ie and www.Careersportal.ie.

There are particular subject requirements on some individual courses. Examples of this are Engineering, Medical, Nursing, Paramedic and Science courses which require a Science subject (or 2 for some courses).

COURSE	COLLEGE	LEAVING CERT SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS
Genetics	UCC	H4 Biology
Human Health & Disease	TCD	H4 Biology & H4 Physics, Chemistry, Phys/Chem
Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy	UCC	H4 Chemistry & H4 in Physics or Biology

COURSE	COLLEGE	LEAVING CERT SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS
Human Nutrition & Dietetics	TU Dublin	H4 Chemistry
Veterinary Medicine	UCD	H5 Chemistry
Pharmacy	TCD	1H4 Chemistry & 1H4 in Biology, Physics, Maths, Applied Maths, Geography or Agricultural Science
Medicine Dentistry	TCD	1 x H3 & 1 x H4 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Phys/Chem or Agricultural Science
Medicine (6 yr), Occupational Therapy Speech & Language Therapy	NUIG	O6/ H7 Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Phys/Chem or Agricultural Science
Radiation Therapy	TCD	H4 Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Phys/Chem
Medicine (6 yrs)	RCSI	O6/ H7 Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Phys/Chem, or Agricultural Science
Physiotherapy, Pharmacy	RCSI	O6/ H7 Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Phys/Chem or Maths
Nursing Courses		O6/ H7 Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Phys/Chem or Agricultural Science
Engineering Courses		O6/ H7 Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Phys/Chem or Agricultural Science H4 Maths (some Engineering course)

NB: Please consult college website/prospectus regarding requirements as this is not an exhaustive list.

3. Interests and Aptitudes

Choose subjects that you are interested in and enjoy and subjects where you tend to perform well. With the exception of Higher Level Maths, the CAO points awarded for grades are the same across subjects – you will get the same CAO points for a H2 in Music or History as you will for a H2 in Physics or Biology.



SENIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS AT ROCKWELL COLLEGE

Students will normally study 7 exam subjects for the Leaving Cert. The following subjects are **compulsory**:

Irish – page 44 (Higher, Ordinary, Foundation Level) unless exempt under the Department of Education regulations.

Business will be offered at Rockwell College as an option for pupils exempt from Irish. If you are exempt from Irish you should not select Business as one of the Option Subjects.

English - page 41 (Higher, Ordinary)

Maths – page 46 (Higher, Ordinary, Foundation Level)

Students will also take non-exam classes in Physical Education and Religion

Optional subjects are listed in the table below:

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS – Students take 4 optional subjects			
LANGUAGE GROUP	Page	CREATIVE GROUP	Page
French	6	Art	9
German	7	Music	10
Spanish	8		
SCIENCE GROUP	Page	BUSINESS GROUP	Page
Agricultural Science	12	Accountancy	26
Applied Maths	14	Business	28
Biology	16	Economics	30
Chemistry	18	LCVP*	31
Design & Communications Graphics	19		
Physics	21		
Physical Education (LCPE)	23		
SOCIAL STUDIES GROUP	Page		
Geography	33		
History	35		
Home Economics	37		
Religious Education*	39		

* only offered subject to sufficient demand.



SUBJECT CHOICE – HOW WILL I CHOOSE MY SUBJECTS?

Students will be invited to choose six option subjects from the list of 20 above. They do this by listing their choice of subjects **in order of preference**. Subjects will be offered for this cycle (Leaving Certificate 2027) depending on students' interest. When considering the order of preference, students should prioritise the subjects that are compulsory for the Third Level course they wish to pursue.

With regard to subject availability, every effort is made to offer each student their top 4 preferred option subjects. However, due to timetabling restrictions, it may not be possible to offer all students their top preferences. In such cases the 5th or 6th choices may be offered.

In the event of a subject being under-subscribed the school authorities may, of necessity, withdraw it from the available options.

It is advised that students select subjects that they like and those that they are good at. Having a genuine interest in the subjects you are going to take for the Leaving Certificate is very important. It can be difficult enough at the best of times to motivate yourself to study, but it can be much more difficult if you are studying subjects which you don't particularly like.

When you have made your final selection, you should examine them very carefully to see that you have kept your career and college options open. You should check to see if you have the essential requirements for third-level courses in which you have an interest. It is too late to find out in your Leaving Certificate year that you do not have an essential subject when you come to fill out your college application forms.



FRENCH

French for Leaving Certificate builds on the knowledge of the language acquired for Junior Certificate. The aim is to improve students' skills in reading comprehension, aural Comprehension, written and oral work.

There is a greater emphasis on oral work, as one of the components of the Leaving Certificate is an oral test accounting for 25% of the total marks. Course content for Higher and Ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are of particular importance at higher level.

A Merit at Higher Level in the Junior Certificate is the absolute minimum requirement for Higher Level French at Leaving Certificate.

The learning of a language can be achieved by steady work and is much helped by a period spent in France, if that is possible. A motivated, hard-working student can acquire a high standard of spoken and written French in the 2/3 years of Senior Cycle.

Many of our past pupils have spent their college Erasmus year in France, irrespective of their subject area. A good knowledge of French allows one to avail of this option.

Specific careers in which French would be of benefit include teaching, translation, interpreting, journalism, and media. There is a particular need for French speaking graduates in the IT sector at present. Indeed, in all career areas employment prospects are much enhanced for graduates who have a good working knowledge of a European language.



GERMAN

Leaving Certificate German consists of three sections. The Oral is the section which takes place around the Easter of Leaving Certificate. It is worth 25% of the marks at Higher Level and 20% at Ordinary Level. The Oral is very structured and has picture stories and role plays. The written section has two reading comprehensions and a letter or description of a picture. Then, there is the aural, the listening comprehension.

Students wishing to do German at Higher Level should have achieved at least a Merit at Junior Certificate Higher Level,



SPANISH

Spanish at Senior Cycle further develops all four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, building on the foundations of acquisition at Junior Certificate level.

The Spanish language is spoken today by more than 400 million people around the globe, making Spanish the fourth most common language spoken in the world. Spanish has become the second language of the United States of America and is the national language of 27 countries.

Learning a foreign language does not only enrich our lives, teach us about other cultures and traditions, but opens up a gateway to new opportunities in business and global trade as well as enhancing one's ability to communicate when pursuing private travel or leisure activities.

In Senior Cycle there is much emphasis placed on the oral communicative strand and aural comprehension (listening) which accounts for the following:

Leaving Certificate	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Oral Exam	25%	20%
Aural Comprehension Exam	20%	25%

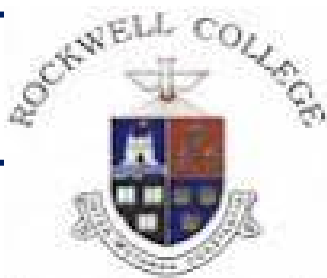
The themes covered on the syllabus are themes that young people can engage with, where they learn to be able to express their opinions on current affairs, bringing a sense of authenticity to students' learning.

There are many career opportunities available to students with Spanish relating to business, the IT industry, teaching, translation, tourism, organising exchanges, marketing to name but a few. Please note that a European language is a requirement for many third level courses and where there is no requirement, it is nevertheless an advantage to have a language.

One language sets you in a corridor for life.

Two languages open every door along the way.

FRANK SMITH



ART – PRACTICAL & VISUAL STUDIES

If you wish to take a course at Third Level in Art, some colleges/courses require that you have studied Art, others may not. However, a substantial portfolio of work is usually required, and this is difficult to complete if you are not doing Art. Please note that a portfolio may also be required for Architecture and Fashion design.

Art is beneficial for: animation, art historian, art teaching, art therapist, archaeology, architecture, computer design, industrial design, fashion/costume design, craftwork, curator, graphic design, interior design, illustration and photography. Portfolios take a lot of time to complete, so some students take night classes or summer courses to complete them.

The visual expression of all aspects of culture, created by past, recent modern and contemporary societies, is called Visual Studies. By researching, creating and responding, learners will learn to know and understand the work they make as well as works by other artists. The visual studies exam is the written component of the Leaving Cert. Art course and takes place during the other leaving cert written exams in June of 6th year.

The practical work element of the leaving cert. art course comprises of a project and a 5 hour invigilated exam. Students are issued with a choice of themes in December of their leaving cert year. They explore their chosen theme through photography, drawing, experimentation and artists' research. They then produce a finished artefact during the time allocated to their project (deadline during the 3rd week of April) and a second finished artefact during the 5 hour invigilated exam (which takes place during the 3rd week of April) The syllabus is assessed at Ordinary and Higher levels.

MARKING:

Practical Coursework	250 marks
Invigilated Exam	100 marks
Written Exam (Visual Studies)	150 marks
Total	500 marks

Teacher: Eleanor Kilroy

Email: eleanor.kilroy@rockwellcollege.ie



MUSIC

There are three parts to the Music course:

- **Listening: 25%**
 - o 4 set works to be studied, Irish music and students will also be tested on their ability to comment on music they have not studied re: arrangements and instruments.
- **Composing: 25%**
 - o Students will learn how to compose a 16 bar melody and will also use harmony
- **Performing: 25%**
 - o Students are expected to perform on their instrument or instruments of choice for a practical exam (the voice being an instrument).
- For the final **25%** students may choose between **Music Performance** or **Music Technology**

Requirements for admission

Ideally, students should have studied this subject at JC Level. However, if a student is extremely good in performance, it is worth their while learning to read music as they will be able to handle the Composing and Harmony section.

Levels

All students study the same course and the only difference between levels is the difficulty of the questions. Ordinary Level students perform fewer pieces for their practical exam.

Careers

Music is useful for Primary Teaching, Second Level Teaching, Sound Technician, and any area of the Music Business, performing or production.

Advice

If a student plays an instrument or instruments they would be advised to take this subject as the practical performance can be worth 50% of the leaving cert exam. This goes for classically trained musicians, members of rock bands, brass bands, pipe bands and singers of any sort. Learning to read music is not a long or painful process.

Guitarists find the harmony section very easy as they are simply choosing chords to put with a melody.

For most college music courses your Leaving Cert results are not the only factor considered for entry. Different colleges have their own requirements (please research if you are considering studying music at 3rd level) For example if you wish to study Music in UCD an entrance test is given to all candidates and in Maynooth University applicants must sit an entrance exam, an interview and an audition.

Many Music courses at Third Level are restricted meaning they must be on the CAO by the 1st of February.



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

The programme of study covers the following topics:

- The rearing of animals
- The growing of crops
- Soil types
- Genetics
- Ecology
- Animal and plant science.

Practical Work and Projects form an important part of the course and are assessed by the Department of Education and Skills and account for 25% of the final marks in the Leaving Certificate. This consists of a project based on a specific brief released by the department each year. The brief changes each year. The projects are individual and are **not** carried out in school. Students must be self-motivated to carry out the practical work and collect data in their own time.

The project is digital and access to their own laptop or tablet is needed.

Advice

This is a good subject to study with Biology and/or Geography due to the overlap in course content.

Some experience of Farming/Gardening is desirable.

Students who apply themselves and are willing to work hard can do extremely well at this subject at Higher Level.

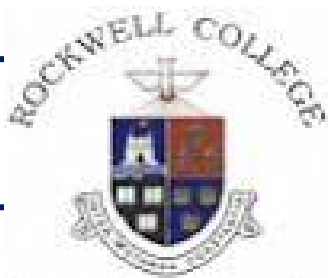
Agricultural Science is recognised as a laboratory science subject for almost all 3rd level courses including nursing.

Careers in this area include: Green keeping, Horticulture, Food Science, Agricultural Advisers, Sports Turf Management, Environmental Science, Forestry, Farming, Marine Science, Teaching, Careers in Renewable Energy, Agricultural Research, Agricultural Science Teacher, Agricultural Inspector, Botanist, Dairy Scientist, Farmer, Farm Manager, Agribusiness

Management, Agricultural Engineer, Vet Nursing, Creamery Manager, Stud Farm employee, Vet, and Zoologist.

Access to a farm is a requirement however you do not need to own a farm.

Note: Agricultural Science is not considered a Lab Science subject required for some courses in Ireland, e.g. RCSI-Physiotherapy. Check Qualifax and the college prospectus for more information.



APPLIED MATHS

Introduction:

Applied Mathematics is the use of the language of mathematics to study and solve real-world problems. It is multi-disciplinary in nature; applied mathematicians collaborate with colleagues in many disciplines using quantitative techniques and high-performance computing to shed light on complex problems in their field. It is typically associated with engineering and physics, but also finds use in economics, finance, business, environmental studies, and even chemistry and medicine.

Mathematical modelling is the process through which applied mathematicians use mathematics to represent, analyse, make predictions and provide insight into real-world phenomena. Used in a variety of scientific disciplines such as theoretical physics, bioinformatics, robotics, image processing, chemistry, economics, engineering, and finance, models are abstractions of reality that respect reality. These abstractions can lead to scientific advances, be the foundation for new discoveries, and help leaders make informed decisions.

Mathematical models are universal, providing a quantitative framework for understanding, predicting and making decisions in nearly every aspect of our lives. Whether it is weather forecasting, climate research, population dynamics, or exploring distant planets, without algorithms and tools from mathematical models, none would work as efficiently and accurately as they do.

Leaving Certificate Applied Mathematics introduces modelling through exploration of real problems in the physical, natural, and economic worlds. Modelling requires students to turn authentic situations into mathematical structures. They then operate on those mathematical structures and generate a solution or a strategy to address the situation. The cycle of defining the problem, translating it to mathematics, calculating and evaluating the solution provides some of the most challenging, exhilarating, democratic work students will ever do in mathematics, requiring the best from all of them, even the ones who dislike mathematics.

Aim:

Leaving Certificate Applied Mathematics aims to develop the student's capacity to use mathematics to model real-world problems. By focusing on all aspects of the problem-solving cycle it is envisaged that learners will move beyond calculating procedures and gain experience in asking appropriate questions, formulating mathematical representations of problems, and interpreting and verifying results. Through Applied Mathematics, students should learn to appreciate the extent to which mathematics is relevant in everyday life, generating engagement and interest in the process. It is anticipated that digital technology will be used as a learning tool in some aspects of this course.

Objectives:

The objectives of Leaving Certificate Applied Mathematics are to develop applied mathematical problem-solving skills so that students will be able to:

- Formulate a problem: Consider the scope and detail of a real-world problem, and to define manageable questions to address.
- Translate the problem into mathematics: Create or choose a suitable mathematical model, and then formulate the question as a mathematical problem within the model.
- Compute a solution: Use mathematical techniques to solve the mathematical problem.
- Evaluate the solution: Interpret the mathematical solution in the original context.

ASSESSMENT:

There are two assessment components:

- **A written examination - one examination paper, 2.5 hours in duration (80%)**
- **A modelling project (20%)**

Each component will be set and examined by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).

Note: CAO does not award Bonus Points for Applied Maths.



BIOLOGY

The course is divided into three main areas:

- The Study of Life
- The Cell
- The Organism

A new Leaving Certificate Biology specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2025 and will replace the current Leaving Certificate Biology syllabus.

The Study of Life includes topics such as plant and animal nutrition, ecology and the study of ecosystems. The cell includes cell structure, cell function, cell division and quite a large section on genetics and its recent applications. The organism includes Diversity of Living Organisms, cell types, cell organisation, plant systems and animal systems.

Within the course there are 22 Mandatory experiments/practicals that on average take two to three lessons to complete. Students must write up a report on these practicals and the Report Book must be available for inspection should a Department of Education Inspector visit the school.

Advice

- Students should be good attendees as there is only one opportunity to do these practicals.
- Students should have an interest in living things, the environment and its conservation, fieldwork, biological issues and these modern applications.
- There is extensive vocabulary for students to become familiar with and learn accurately.
- Recording information and drawing diagrams is important.
- Biology should not be seen as the easiest of the Sciences at senior level. There is quite an amount of knowledge to learn and process.

If I want to study Biology for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?

- Be able to learn and understand facts, terms, principles and ideas
- A good command of English is useful
- Be able to carry out practical work - Lab and fieldwork – safely
- Be able to record and interpret information
- Be able to understand experimental techniques

Leaving Certificate Biology vs. Biology in Junior Certificate Science:

- Much more detail
- A wider range of topics to cover

Assessment:

Written examination 60% (Higher and Ordinary level)

Biology in Practice Investigation 40% (Common brief)

Assignments during course:

- Experimentations followed by write –ups
- Field ecology

Career Note:

Biology can be useful or necessary for careers in the following areas: Agriculture, Agriculture Research, Ambulance Driver, Beautician, Biochemical, Biologist, Biology Teacher, Catering Superintendent, Chiropodist, Conservation Worker, Cosmetic Consultant, Dairy Scientist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Technician, Dentist, Dietician, Doctor, Food Science Technician, Forester, Hairdresser, Health Inspector, Horticulturist, Laboratory Assistant, Marine Biologist, Medical Laboratory Assistant, Microbiologist, Nail Technician, Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Oceanographer, Optician, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Radiographer, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Surgeon, Zoologist, etc.

****Biology is essential for Human Health and Disease in Trinity, Genetics in UCC and medical vet courses in the UK.**



CHEMISTRY

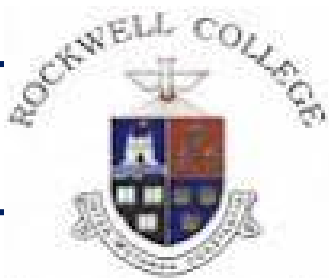
Course content includes (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Detailed study of the history of the atom and structure of the Periodic Table.
- Atomic Structure to include electron configurations of atoms and ions.
- Chemical bonding and intermolecular forces and shapes of molecules.
- Gases and their properties and the Gas Laws. Kinetic theory.
- Volumetric Analysis experiments – includes Acid/Base and redox titrations.
- Organic Chemistry-you will learn about families of carbon/hydrogen/oxygen compounds and their uses.
- Water and Sewage Treatment and Water contamination.
- pH and Indicators in Acid-Base titrations.

Ordinary Level covers the majority of the areas that are covered for Higher Level but is less detailed and contains far fewer complex calculations.

Careers: it is essential for careers in Pharmacy, Medicine, Veterinary, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Food and Nutritional Sciences and some Engineering courses. It is also most useful for Optometry, General Science and Biotechnology and those entering these faculties without it, may find themselves at a disadvantage.

- A minimum of a Higher Merit in Junior Science is recommended for admission.
- Junior Science does not prepare you in any way for senior Chemistry.
- You must enjoy problem solving as 50% of the exam involves Maths calculations. The maths equations for Chemistry are not found in log tables.
- **The new senior science syllabus is being introduced in Sept 2025. This includes a new AAC (additional assessment component) which is 40% of the total marks.** This will involve students researching, planning, conducting and reporting on their own investigation. The structure of the exam has not yet been announced. Good practical skills are essential.
- Higher and Ordinary level papers generally follow the same structure and choice but the calculations are more complex on the higher paper. No samples of the new curriculum are available until April 2025.



DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS (DCG)

Who should study DCG?

- Any student with an interest in construction or engineering
- Any student who has studied Graphics for the Junior Cycle
- Any student with a flair for mathematics and problem solving who would like to study a challenging and rewarding subject.
- Any student who likes freehand sketching and computers including Computer Graphics and CAD (Computer Aided Design)

Course Content

- The class takes place in a designated DCG room. All course work is drawn by the student using drawing instruments and freehand sketching.
- Over the 2 years the student will compile a portfolio of drawings covering a broad variety of topics from solids in contact to roof geometry. Content includes: Plane and Solid Geometry, Building Applications, Engineering Applications and a Compulsory Computer Aided Design Project
- Neatness and attention to detail are desirable attributes for any student wishing to succeed at this subject.
- Free software (CAD) is supplied for use at home for the duration of the Leaving Certificate Course.

What career options are there?

- DCG is a core element of many 3rd level options i.e. Engineering, Construction, Industrial Design and Architecture. Knowledge of DCG will greatly enhance a student's ability to succeed in any 3rd level engineering based programme.
- All apprenticeships include the study and completion of detailed technical drawings.
- Again the studying of DCG to leaving cert standard is a distinct advantage.

Is it difficult?

The subject requires good levels of concentration and commitment. Traditionally it has been viewed as difficult, but the Dept. Of Education statistics prove otherwise. Very few students fail the subject and most who choose to do higher level obtain a C or higher.

Assessment

Exam – 60%: 3 hours written exam

Research and Design Project in 6th Year – 40%



PHYSICS

Topics covered include:

- Light/Sound
- Mechanics
- Temperature/Heat
- Electricity
- Magnetism
- Radioactivity
- Particle Physics
- Mandatory Experiments to complete in most sections
- **From September 2025 a 40% AAC (Additional Assessment Component) task will need to be submitted in sixth year, this will be an ongoing process of submissions from 5th year onwards**

A student with good mathematical ability does well in Physics, as problem solving skills are needed. Students need to be able to read a question and decide which of the 80 formulae on the course they need to use to solve that problem.

The maths questions often involve really small or really large numbers, which can be daunting to some students.

The Leaving Cert Physics course is changing for next September's fifth years.

It is now a 60% final exam and a 40% 'project' that will be submitted in early 2027.

Although there is a lot of maths, problem solving and use of formulae, theory makes up at least 35% of every question. This requires some language skills and a lot of learning

Physics helps students with real life situations- for example:

Car crasher/car safety,

How speed traps work,

Does the space shuttle orbit the earth?

Why do diamonds sparkle?

How does a motor work?

- A minimum of a Higher Merit at Junior Cycle Science and Maths is generally required for admission.
- Students must have a good aptitude for maths. Students who do honours maths in Leaving Certificate perform well in Leaving Certificate Physics.
- There is some overlap with sections of the Chemistry and Applied Maths course.

Students who are interested in the following careers would be advised to study Physics: Electrician, Optician, Doctor, Dentist, Engineer, Computer Technician, Programmer.



LEAVING CERTIFICATE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (EXAMINABLE)

In Leaving Certificate Physical Education, students are given the opportunity to learn about the physical, through the physical. The subject is designed to appeal to learners who have an extensive interest in sport and physical activity as well as its link to mental health and well-being. Students are provided with learning experiences which seek to integrate theory and practice in three chosen physical activities (2023/24 –Tennis, Swimming and Sprinting, 2024/25 – Personal & Exercise Fitness, Swimming and Sprinting). The Leaving Certificate 2026 physical activities will be chosen in consultation with the 5th year student group. Students only have to do one of these activities so the idea is to ensure that every student is capable of being proficient at one.

The aim of LCPE is to develop the capacity of the student to become informed, skilled, self-directed and reflective in physical education, physical activity and in their future lives. Students will examine the factors which influence their own and others' participation in physical activity. They discuss the factors that influence performance and the different experiences of physical activity, from recreational participation through to the pursuit of excellence and the value of each experience for health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is essential that the student who chooses this subject has a genuine interest in physical activity and not just a limited/restricted idea of the subject as playing/studying 'sport'.

While performance in physical activity is a central part of students' learning in physical education, learners are encouraged to undertake roles other than that of performer. In particular, learners are encouraged to undertake leadership and coaching roles as part of their learning in physical education as well as roles as a referee or an official. These different experiences support the development of each of the key skills in senior cycle education but particularly those of being personally effective and working with others.

Students choosing to study LCPE

- ☐ should have **excellent IT skills**.
- ☐ should have the **ability to work to deadlines**.

- ☐ should be **able to work independently**.
- ☐ should have a love of sport **and** physical activity.
- ☐ should be **organised, disciplined and adaptable**.

How will the subject be assessed?

There are 3 assessment components in Leaving Certificate Physical Education:

- **A physical activity project (Higher/Ordinary Level):**
 - This involves the **design** and **implementation** and **evaluation** (working independently is essential here) of a physical activity programme in a physical activity **of their choice**.
 - There is extensive **video evidence** to be gathered, compiled and edited in this component.
 - This is done over a **6-8 week** period in **Oct – Dec** of 6th Year.
 - It requires **consistent discipline** and an ability to take on board teacher feedback but also research independently.
 - It can be undertaken as a **performer or a coach** (working with another student in the class).
 - It is all submitted **digitally**.
- **Performance assessment (Common):**
 - This involves the capturing of a **number of skills** (outlined on pgs. 34-45 in the LCPE specification: <https://www.pdst.ie/sites/default/files/Final%20Spec%20for%20LCPE.pdf>) in **one** of the chosen physical activities (2022/23 – Swimming, Sprinting and Basketball, 2023/24 – Swimming, Sprinting and Badminton)
 - It is designed to showcase the students' **best performance** of the skills (with a mixture of competitive and non-competitive contexts included, i.e. drills & context specific games)
 - This is completed in **Jan-March** of 6th Year.
 - The video footage is **8 minutes** in length and is captured **during school time only**.
 - It is submitted **digitally**.
 - For more information, see: <https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-EX-14359599.pdf>
- **Written examination. (Higher/Ordinary Level):**

2.5 hr. paper (10 short questions, 1 Case Study and 5 long questions, of which 3 must be answered).

Sample papers: <https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/EN-EX-41886652.pdf>

(Higher Level)

<https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/EN-EX-37737078.pdf> (Ordinary Level)

For further information, go to: <https://www.examinations.ie/?l=en&mc=ex&sc=pe>

In both the Written Paper and the Physical Activity Project (PAP) students can select Higher or Ordinary level while the performance assessment will be at a Common level. The learner will be required to complete the physical activity and performance assessment in **two different activities**.

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Physical Activity Project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Performance Assessment	30%	Common
Written paper	50%	Higher and Ordinary

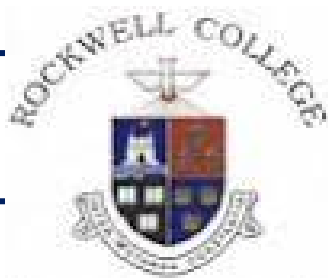
Further study:

Leaving Certificate Physical Education provides opportunities for learners to prepare for further study in a range of areas, for example, in the teaching, coaching and healthcare professions, for example;

- Sports Scientist
- Professional sportsperson
- Sport Psychologist
- Sports policy at local and national level
- Statistician
- Sports coach/consultant
- Physiotherapist
- Personal trainer
- PE teacher
- Lecturer in PE/Sport Science
- Dietician
- Promotion Officer (Sports Partnership)

What is the difference between the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework and Leaving Certificate Physical Education?

1. Leaving Certificate Physical Education is a subject that learners **study and are examined in, as part of the Leaving Certificate, with CAO points allocated accordingly.**
2. The non-exam PE also known as the SCPE Framework provides a planning tool for physical education for all pupils in senior cycle and will not be assessed as part of the Leaving Certificate examination.



ACCOUNTING

Leaving Certificate Accounting is a continuation of the Book-Keeping Section of the Junior Cycle Business Course. It would be recommended that anyone considering Accounting would have a good working knowledge of the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Position, Cash Book and Ledgers and Balancing an account. Leaving Certificate accounting provides students with the knowledge, understanding and skills in accounting and financial management necessary for managing personal and basic company accounts. The learning experiences in accounting develop students' organisational, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for their future life, work and study. It also develops their numeracy skills within the context of business and enterprise.

It does not require exceptional Mathematical skills. However, you must be conscientious and thorough since it requires careful and detailed analysis of figures and data. Leaving Certificate Accounting is a very rewarding subject at both Ordinary and Higher Level and a good grade is very achievable for students who are prepared to work hard. The course consists of approximately 90% practical accounts and 10% theory.

The following are some of the main sections covered in Leaving Certificate Accounting:

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

- Accounting Records
- Sole Traders
- Company Accounting
- Specialised Accounts
- Incomplete Records
- Cash Flow Statements
- Analysis and Interpretation of Financial Statements

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

- Marginal Costing
- Product Costing
- Budgeting
- Cash Budgeting
- Flexible Budgeting

Careers in Accountancy

Accountants do well in good times and bad, as their expertise is equally in demand when people

have money to invest or when the business environment is not so favourable and there is a focus on cost controls. Accountancy provides a valuable foundation for all business functions, and many of the top executives in Irish Business have an accountancy background. A good accountancy qualification that is recognised internationally, can be a passport to working abroad. Careers include: Chartered Accountancy, Management Accounting, Management Information Systems, Credit Analyst, Financial Advisor, Investment Analyst, Accountancy Technician, Business and Accounting Teacher, Actuary, Auctioneering, Auditing, all business and management careers, Banking, Insurance, marketing, Purchasing officer, Quantity Surveyor, Taxation Consultant, Insurance, Management Consultant, Stock Broker, Economist.

Requirement: To have studied Junior Cycle Business for LC Accounting

Assessment

The syllabus is assessed by means of an examination paper at two levels, Ordinary Level and Higher Level.

***Essential – H4 Accounting** is essential for Bachelor of Commerce-Accounting NUIG (GY207)

Accounting is a subject that students find difficult at Third Level, therefore it can be a huge advantage to have studied it for Leaving Certificate.



BUSINESS

This is an exciting, practical and vocationally oriented course that introduces students to the world of business in simple logical steps. The course aims to create an awareness of the importance of enterprise and to generate a positive and ethical attitude in business. Business is a good general subject for those interested in either working for themselves or starting their own business. It will equip them with the business theory required for third level as well as the life skills that are useful in any workplace. Entrepreneurship is fundamental to any economy.

There is a new Leaving Certificate Business curriculum starting in September 2025 for the incoming fifth year students.

One major change is the introduction of an **investigative study (project) worth 40% (20 hours of class time)**. The final exam is 60%.

There are no dates given yet for completion of the 20 hours investigative study. The new course is far longer with than the old course and 20 hours less to get the content covered.

Topics

The syllabus is broken up into 4 broad areas under the unifying strand of Investigating Business:

Strand 1: Exploring the Business Environment

Strand 2: Understanding enterprise

Strand 3: Leading in Business

Strand 4: Being Informed and Making Informed Decisions

Requirements

It is not absolutely necessary to have studied Business Studies at Junior Cycle level for admission into Leaving Certificate however it would be an advantage. Business requires students to stay alert and aware of the current related business media (newspapers, TV, radio). The course is theory based and therefore requires a lot of learning.

Careers

Business would be of great benefit to anyone considering a course in Business on completion of the Leaving Certificate. It is a useful subject for careers in areas such as Banking, Insurance, Administration, Marketing, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Business would be useful to anybody contemplating starting their own business in the future.

Advice

Students do need to be informed before taking Business for Leaving Certificate that the course is primarily theory based and therefore taking business for Leaving Certificate requires a great amount of learning. Having stated this, the material is very practical and interesting to someone of a business mind.

Assessment

Written examination 60% (Higher and ordinary level examination papers)

Business Alive Investigative Study 40% (Common brief)



ECONOMICS

Economics is a business subject whereby you deal with the Economy in which all business units operate or work. E.g.: how are mobile phones priced? What influences the cost of text messages? Who decides on the cost of match tickets, concert tickets, clothes, shoes etc. Who decides on the level of wages and salaries?

Not having studied Junior Cycle Business is NOT a disadvantage.

The course is divided into two sections:

1. Micro-Economics – dealing with individual business units and structures.
2. Macro-Economics – dealing with the economy regarding Inflation and Government Policy, Employment and Job prospects, Rate of Inflation and the European Central Bank, Population and the study of some famous Economists.

There is a big difference between Ordinary Level and Higher Level as outside reading is needed for the Higher Level course. The course is quite short in comparison to the Business Course for the Leaving Certificate.

All Business Courses require an Economic content so having taken Economics in school will be an advantage.

Careers that it would be useful for include Banking, Insurance, Finance, General Business, Marketing and everyday Life.

Assessment

Written Paper – 80%

Project – 20%

Economics is a subject that students find difficult at Third Level, therefore it can be a huge advantage to have studied it for Leaving Cert.



LINKS MODULES (LCVP)

Please note: LCVP will be only offered subject to sufficient demand

About the LCVP

This two-year programme's primary goal is to prepare young people for adult life by ensuring that they are educated in the broadest sense, with an ability to cope and thrive in an environment of rapid change. Participants in the programme are encouraged to develop skills and competencies fundamental to both academic and vocational (job) success. The skills and qualities learnt are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business. Typically, LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate Subjects plus the Link Modules.

LCVP Programme Requirements

- Minimum of 5 Leaving Cert Subjects
- Good standard of English
- An aptitude for Business
- An ability to work to tight deadlines
- An interest in working on projects

Course Content:

Link Module I – Preparation for the World of Work Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them.

Link Module II – Enterprise Education Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate. For the LCVP they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and

by Portfolio of Coursework (60%). The Portfolio of coursework must be submitted on the first Wednesday in March. The written examination takes place the first Wednesday in May of the Leaving Certificate Year. The examination is of two and a half hours duration and consists of three sections which are outline below.

The structure of the **Written Examination** is as follows:

- Section A Audio Visual Presentation
- Section B Case Study (received in advance by students)
- Section C General Questions (4 out of 6)

The Portfolio of Coursework accounts for 60% of total marks. Students assemble the portfolio over the two years of the programme and it is assessed at the end of the final year of the Leaving Certificate.

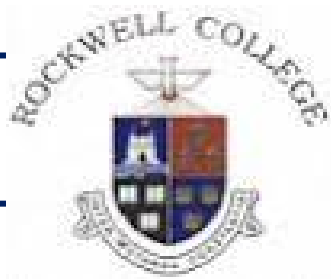
Portfolio Content:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Career Investigation
- Enterprise/Action Plan
- Summary Report Optional Items: (any two)
 - Diary of Work Experience
 - Enterprise Report
 - Recorded Interview/Presentation
 - Report on My Own Place Certification

LCVP students receive the same certificate as other Leaving Certificate students but their Certificate includes an additional statement of the results of the Link Modules. Grades for the Link Modules are as follows:

GRADE	PERCENTAGE	CAO POINTS
Distinction	80% – 100%	66
Merit	65% – 79%	46
Pass	50% – 64%	28

The Link Modules are recognised for points purposes by the Institutes of Technology and the Universities but may not be considered for matriculation i.e. it is not considered a higher level subject.



GEOGRAPHY

Geography involves the study of the Earth, its environment, its people and their relationship with the world in which they live. It is a subject which helps you to have a broader view of the world.

Geography is a useful subject for students considering further study or careers in Tourism, Transport, Travel, Environmental Science and Politics. Students who study Geography at third level can also go on to take up careers in Town Planning, Surveying, Weather Forecasting, Map-making and Environmental Assessment.

Subject Content:

The Geography Course at Leaving Certificate is divided into a number of different units.

Core Units:

There are 3 Core or Compulsory units which must be studied by all students both Higher and Ordinary level.

1. Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes, rivers.
2. Regional Geography. Students study different regions of the world, e.g. South of Italy and South-west USA.
3. Geographical Investigation

All students must complete a fieldwork project which must be submitted by the April of their Leaving Certificate exam. We usually conduct a coastal or river investigation. This project is worth 20% of the final examination.

Elective Units:

All students, both Higher and Ordinary level, study one of these units.

4. Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities.
5. Patterns and Processes in the Human Environment. e.g. population, migration.

Note: We usually study Patterns and Processes in the Human Environment.

Optional Units: **Higher level only.**

6. Global Interdependence
7. Geoecology e.g. soils, desert biome
8. Culture and Identity
9. The Atmosphere-ocean environment e.g. weather.

Students are encouraged to improve their ability to gather information (from map- reading, statistics, charts), present information (using diagrams, maps and writing), and evaluate information (separate fact from fiction, make informed judgements, propose sensible solutions to problems). These skills are particularly important in the Geographical Investigation.

Exam Structure:

Leaving Certificate Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher Level by:

- Written examination (80%)
- Geographical Investigation (20%)

Requirements:

Students considering Geography at Leaving Certificate must have studied Geography to Junior Cycle exam level. Students are advised that a good standard of English is necessary for Higher Level.



HISTORY

The Leaving Certificate History syllabus consists of 5 topics, each worth 20% of the overall mark. This framework is common to both Higher and Ordinary Level but the content matter differs for each level.

Two topics are taken from Irish history and two from international events. Popular courses include 'The United States and the World' in which students learn about key events in American history from 1945 to 1990. Divided into political, social/economic and cultural, the contents vary from President Johnson's escalation of the war in Vietnam, the Civil Rights movement under Martin Luther King to the developments in technology that led to the Moon Landing. Other core material includes an investigation into the growth of the 'movie mogul' system in Hollywood and the economic boom in the United States directly after World War II.

The second 'International Topic' can be chosen from: Dictatorship and Democracy; a study of European events between the two world wars; Division and Realignment, a delve into the highlights of the Cold War between 1945 and 1989 and Withdrawal from Empire, investigating key areas such as independence for India and race relations in France during the 1980s.

There is also an excellent and varied list of topics in Irish history from which to choose. The most popular area is the Pursuit of Sovereignty which analyses the movement for independence in Ireland or an investigation into the history of Northern Ireland during the Troubles. Another topic available is an in-depth study of events in the Republic of Ireland between 1950 and 1990; this includes a social element analysing the effect of TV in Ireland during the 1960s as well as movements for social change such as divorce and the women's movement during the 1980s.

The fifth topic for Leaving Cert History is called the Research Study Report.

Students do their own project, on a person, movement or historical phenomenon they are

interested in. Students' research project reports can deal with political history, military (such as a significant battle), social (a person's work for a particular organisation), economic, local.....There are opportunities here for students to choose a subject of personal interest.

For Higher Level students the Research Study Report should be between 1,200 and 1,500 words; for Ordinary Level students the Report needs to be between 600 and 800 words. This Report is submitted before the exam, thus having the chance to gain up to 20% of the overall mark before sitting the terminal exam.

Studying History will sharpen your communication skills. You will learn the importance of supporting your argument or point of view with relevant evidence. You will encounter a variety of types of sources when you study history, such as maps, political cartoons, memoirs, public records and photographs. History develops an ability to think independently without jumping to unsupported conclusions.

Employers tend to look for people who are independent thinkers, open-minded, disciplined, good at problem solving and able to pick out the essential from the trivial. 'Which?' magazine in the UK has written: 'History is an excellent preparation for many, many jobs' – the Arts, journalism, web-based research, museums, tourism, local and national government, broadcasting companies, banking, teaching, and many more.

Students at Higher Level study the topics in more detail than Ordinary Level. At Ordinary Level the exam is comprised of short questions from the core 'case studies' in each topic; the Higher Level exam demands longer, more analytical answers. However all students will learn about people, countries and cultures and how to separate fact from fiction. Students will come to a better understanding of the world we live in, and will sharpen their writing and research skills.

Studying History for Leaving Certificate, whether Higher or Ordinary Level, will give students an understanding and appreciation of the society in which they live. It will also foster an awareness of one's own historical inheritance and one will gain insights into your own identity and tradition. Furthermore, the internet is a valuable tool to the historian; ICT sources are numerous and help make History relevant to modern life and the workplace of the twenty-first century.



HOME ECONOMICS – Social & Scientific

Home Economics Social & Scientific is an applied subject combining theory with practical work, which enables students to take care of their lives at present and in the future, whether that be at home, in further education, in the world of work or other life situations.

Course Content

- Food Studies 45%
- Resource Management & Consumer Studies 25%
- Social Studies 10%
- Elective 20%
 - Elective choice:
 - Social Studies,
 - Textile, Fashion and Design,
 - Home Design and Management.

Practical work is an integral component of this subject. During 5th Year students carry out practical and written assignments, which account for 20% of their result at Leaving Certificate.

There is a significant amount of theory to be covered which requires commitment and concentration. Having stated this, the material is practical.

It is expected that students choosing to study Home Economics at Leaving Certificate level will have completed the Junior Certificate course.

Level Difference: The syllabus for this course has been designed as a common syllabus for both levels. Some material is designated Higher Level only. This material is an extension of ordinary level. Higher Level students will be expected to demonstrate a greater depth of understanding of concepts, processes and principles and a greater degree of proficiency in skills, both practical and procedural.

Assessment: A terminal written exam and assessment of assignments. There is **no** practical cookery examination for the Leaving Certificate.

Why choose Home Economics?

It is a subject for both genders which provides learning for life. It also provides a learning foundation for careers in the food industry, tourism, clothing & design, health & social services, interior design & education.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please note: Religious Education will only be offered subject to sufficient demand

Why study Religious Education as an exam subject?

Religious Education for the Leaving Certificate is a new subject, examined for the first time in 2005. It is fully recognised by CAO, UCAS and other entry bodies into third level education and merits the same points as other Leaving Certificate subjects. Content: Students will study the following:

Unit One

Section A - The search for meaning and values

Unit Two

Any **two** of:

Section B - Christianity : Origins and contemporary expressions

Section C - World religions

Section D - Moral decision-making

Unit Three

Any **one** of the following (excluding the two sections designated for coursework)

Section E - Religion and gender

Section F - Issues of justice and peace

Section G - Worship, prayer and ritual

Section H - The Bible: literature and sacred text

Section I - Religion: the Irish experience

Section J - Religion and science

Assessment

Coursework completed prior to final exam 20%

80% is awarded for performance in the terminal examination.

Coursework involves the student choosing one of four prescribed titles for extended research.

Coursework is submitted prior to the terminal examination. The terminal examination is 2½ hours for higher level, 2 hours for ordinary level.

Relevance to careers

Students who have studied R.E. at Leaving Certificate level have learned to be:

- Independent, critical thinkers
- Open-minded, balanced, informed and objective
- Focused yet aware of a variety of perspectives
- Excellent at research and analysis
- Skilled communicators
- Able to analyse issues, trends and problems
- Unbiased and grounded in inquiry skills

These qualities are valued in a vast number of jobs and professions. They have particular relevance for those interested in a career in the fields of education, teaching (primary and post primary), law, journalism, human resources, nursing, administration and many other occupations.

Is this subject for me?

If you have studied Religion for Junior Cycle, enjoy English and History and if you have an enquiring mind and are curious about your world and its cultures then this could be the subject for you. Choosing your subjects can be difficult and confusing, if you would like to discuss this subject choice with us please feel free to do so.



ENGLISH

Core Elements

Language

Students are required to study the following five designated areas of language in a wide variety of contexts, functions and styles.

1. The Language of Information.
2. The Language of Argument.
3. The Language of Persuasion.
4. The Language of Narration.
5. The Aesthetic use of Language.

Literature

- Students are required to study one literary text from a list of prescribed texts.
- Students are required to study three other texts in the Comparative manner, according to the comparative modes prescribed for that year.
- Students are required to study at least six poets from the eight poets prescribed at Higher Level. At Ordinary Level 36 poems are prescribed.

Compulsory elements: At Higher Level a Shakespearean Play must be one of the texts chosen for study on its own or as an element of the Comparative study.

Optional Elements: At Ordinary Level the study of a Shakespearean play is optional.

Exam Structure

Paper I Higher and Ordinary Level - 170 mins. - 200 marks.

- Section I
 - Three texts - one which is visual - are presented to students on a general Theme. Two sets of questions, an A and a B follow each text. Candidates must answer a question A on one text and a question B on a different text. (100 marks)

- Section II
 - (Composing) Candidates must write an extended composition in a specific genre of language from a list of seven choices. (100 marks)

Paper II Higher and Ordinary Level - 200 mins. - 200 marks.

- Section I
 - The single text (60 marks)
 - The Comparative study (70 marks)
- Section III
 - Poetry (70 marks)
 - Higher Level
 1. Unseen poem (20 marks)
 2. Prescribed poetry (50 marks)
 - Ordinary Level
 1. Unseen poem (20 marks)
 2. Four poems will be printed on the exam paper and students must answer questions on one of the four. (50 marks)

Comment

Parents and students should be aware of the following cautionary points when considering the study of English at Higher Level for the Leaving Certificate exam.

- The study of English at Higher Level places significant demands on the Leaving Certificate student.
- The new syllabus is very broad in its range of prescribed materials and can be quite time consuming.
- The Higher Level (course) exam rewards good writing skills and an independent learner.
- The extended composition features largely on both papers at Higher Level and students are expected to write between 750-1000 words in the time available, in these compositions.
- There is the assumption at Higher Level that students will read widely and independently over the two years.

- An interest in social, political and current affairs is vital and highly developed writing skills and critical analyses skills are prerequisite at Higher level.
- Conversely at Ordinary Level textual material is printed on the exam paper for students, for example in the poetry sections poems are printed for the students. Less extended pieces of writing are also expected.
- Texts at Ordinary Level are less challenging particularly bearing in mind that students at O.L. do not have to study a Shakespearean play.
- Texts prescribed at O.L. are very student friendly and aimed at encouraging the more reluctant reader.
- There is a vast difference in the study of English at Higher Level for Junior Certificate and the Study of English at Higher Level for the Leaving Certificate.

Recommendation

Bearing the above concerns in mind and notwithstanding exceptional circumstances, a student must have achieved at least a Merit at Junior Certificate Higher Level, to be considered for admittance into a Higher Level Leaving Certificate class.



IRISH

Leaving Certificate Irish builds upon the language skills developed during Junior Cycle.

The Higher Level & Ordinary Level course is taught in conjunction with the four main skills of learning a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Irish is assessed at three levels i.e. Foundation Level, Ordinary Level or Higher Level.

The learner's oral competency is assessed around Easter of the final year, in an oral examination worth 40%

The other three skills are assessed in June.

Aspects of literary works must be studied at Ordinary Level while at Higher Level these same works and additional material must be studied in greater detail.

***It is advisable for students who wish to do Higher Level to have obtained at least a Merit at Junior Cycle Higher Level.**

The first opportunity for students who choose **Higher Level** Irish in 5th Year to opt to take **Ordinary Level** will be after the Christmas exams in 5th Year.

Higher Level

- Béaltriall-Oral Exam
- Cluastuiscint-Listening Comprehension Exam
- There are two written papers

Paper One

- Composition Section with a choice from the following: Write either an essay, a story, an article for a newspaper or a debate/speech.

Paper Two

- Two reading comprehensions usually connected to cultural affairs, famous people, current affairs, etc.
- Prescribed prose and poetry. There are four short stories/extracts and one film/drama on the prose course. Students answer one question.
- Five poems-prescribed list. Students answer one question.
- The candidate is required to study further Prose/Poetry Texts at Higher Level.

Ordinary Level

- Béaltriail-The Oral exam
- Cluastuiscint-Listening Comprehension Exam.
- There are two written papers

Paper One

A Composition Section with a choice out of the following: a letter/email, conversation, story or a detailed paragraph.

Paper Two

There are two reading comprehensions, one usually about a famous person and the other about young people, current affairs etc.

This paper also consists of questions on compulsory prose and poetry.

There are four stories/extracts and one film/drama on the prose course.

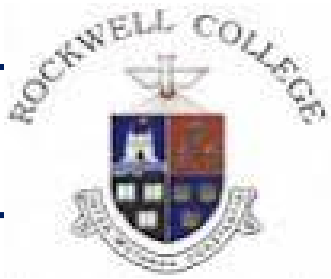
Students must answer two questions prose questions.

There are five poems prescribed.

Students must answer two poetry questions.

From September 2025- 5th Year pupils will engage with a new literature course to be examined in 2027.

A new range of poetry, prose, short stories, film and novels have been prescribed for this cohort of students.



MATHEMATICS

Higher Level Mathematics

The Higher Level Leaving Certificate Maths examination consists of two 2.5 hour papers, Paper 1 & Paper 2. There is no choice on the mathematics examination. Students must answer all questions. Higher Level students receive 25 extra CAO Points provided they attain a H6 grade or higher in the Leaving Certificate.

Paper 1 consists of two sections:

Section A: Concepts & Skills and Section B: Contexts & Applications.

The following topics are examined on Paper 1:

Algebra and Functions.

Complex Numbers.

Calculus.

Sequences and Series.

Financial Maths.

Area and Volume.

Paper 2 also consist of two sections:

Section A: Concepts & Skills and Section B Contexts & Applications.

The following topics are examined on Paper 2:

Statistics.

Probability.

Geometry.

Trigonometry.

Co-Ordinate Geometry.

Ordinary Level Mathematics

Paper 1 Ordinary Level

The Ordinary Level examination consists of 2 two-hour papers, Paper 1 & Paper 2. Except for 2021 & 2022 there is no choice on the mathematics examination. Students must answer all questions.

Paper 1 Ordinary Level Topics

- Algebra and Functions.
- Complex Numbers.
- Calculus.
- Sequences and Series.
- Financial Maths.
- Area and Volume.

Paper 2 Ordinary Level Topics

- Statistics.
- Probability.
- Geometry.
- Trigonometry.
- Co-Ordinate Geometry.

Parents and students should be aware of the following when considering the study of Mathematics at Higher Level for the Leaving Certificate exam.

- The study of Mathematics at Higher Level is aimed at the more able Leaving Certificate student.
- The Higher Level syllabus is very long and time consuming. It places significant demands on the Leaving Certificate student and requires a huge commitment in terms of time and effort.
- The material covered in Higher Level Mathematics is chosen for its intrinsic interest and general applicability, as well as its provision of concepts and techniques appropriate for future specialists in the field. However it may be assumed that some

aims regarding the use of Mathematics in everyday life and work have been achieved at the Higher Junior Cycle Level and so the focus in Leaving Certificate Higher level is on deepening the understanding of Mathematical ideas and an appreciation of powerful concepts and methods.

- **There is a vast difference in the study of Mathematics at Higher Level for Junior Cycle and the study of Mathematics at Higher Level for Leaving Certificate.**

The Ordinary Level Mathematics course was designed to provide students with knowledge and techniques that they may need in the future. As well as equipping students with these important tools it offers students opportunities to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Mathematics.

Bearing the above concerns in mind and notwithstanding exceptional circumstances, a student must have achieved at least a Merit at Junior Cycle Higher Level, to be considered for admittance into a Higher Level Leaving Certificate class.

Employers tend to expect applicants to have numeric skills and look for at least a pass in Maths. Likewise, the Institutes of Technology usually require a pass for entry to their courses (although in **some** cases they will accept foundation level). **Higher Level** Mathematics is required by relatively few courses. One particular group that require it are Engineering Honours Degree courses. For Engineering, Mathematical, Theoretical Physics courses and Actuarial Degrees the equivalent of a H2/H3 is required reflecting the crucial role it plays in these disciplines. Some Computer, Financial and Economics courses also require honours Maths.

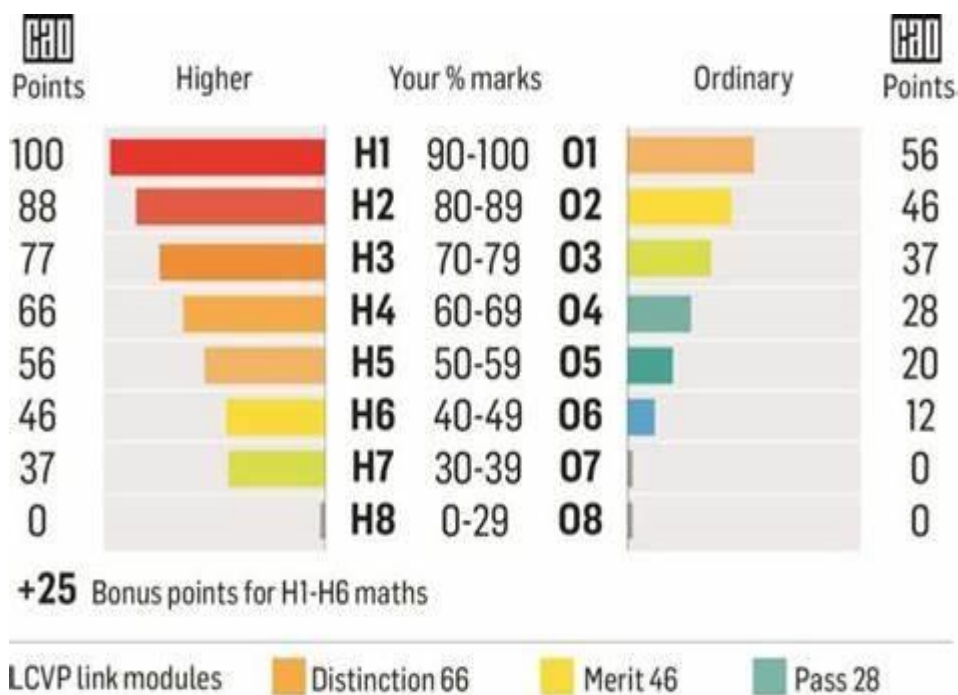
A bonus of 25 points will continue to be awarded to students who achieve a grade H6 or above in Higher Level Maths.

PLEASE NOTE A number of Technological Universities and Universities offer an in-house Maths exam in August of Leaving Cert year (after the results are published) should you not achieve the grade required for your course in that 3rd level institution.



COMMON POINTS SCALE FOR ENTRY INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

- Points are calculated from **ONE sitting** of the Leaving Certificate only.
- Points total is calculated from **SIX** best subjects.
- The number of points required for any course is not pre-set.
- Entry to a course will be granted to those with highest number of points.
- The points level reflects both the results of the applicants for the course and the number of available places.



PLEASE NOTE the 25 bonus points for Honours Maths will continue to be awarded to students who achieve a **H6** or above.



SUBJECT MATTERS – A GUIDE TO LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS

Please see the following two websites:

- www.careersportal.ie

Careersportal gives a comprehensive guide to all Leaving Certificate subjects, including information on what the subject involves, why study it, career possibilities, subject content, exam structure and marks distribution.

- www.qualifax.ie

Other useful websites include:

- www.cao.ie
- www.careersnews.ie
- www.examinations.ie (link to examination papers and marking schemes)
- www.curriculumonline.ie
- www.nursingboard.ie
- www.apprenticeship.ie
- www.military.ie (military career information)
- www.teagasc.ie (agricultural courses)
- www.publicjobs.ie
- www.learnabroad.ie (information on studying in the EU & further afield)
- www.accesscollege.ie (information on HEAR & DARE routes)
- www.smartfutures.ie (information on careers in the ICT sector)
- www.studentfinance.ie (information on grants)
- www.ucas.com (applying to college in the UK)

HEAR & DARE:

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Further information is available at <https://accesscollege.ie/hear/>

The **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)** is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities. DARE has been set up by a number of colleges and universities as evidence shows that disability can have a negative effect on how well a student does at school and whether they go on to college. Further information is available at www.accesscollege.ie/dare/



CHOOSING A CAREER

Some people know at an early stage what they would like to be, but many have no definite ideas about the kind of work they would like to do. In order to choose a career a young person needs information on: ***entrance requirements, opportunities available*** and awareness of their own ***qualities, skills and potential***. Good decisions are based on good information. The choice of school subjects for the Leaving Certificate is important because, once made, it **may** affect the course of their college and working lives.

It is essential to know the following **Entrance Requirements**:

- **Minimum entry requirements** for colleges (matriculation requirements)
- **Subject requirement** for your chosen course/career
- **Academic entrance requirements** e.g. Points in CAO system (although these may change each year)

Features about Choosing a Career

In choosing a Career you need to:

- **Ask yourself what you would like to do?** Then take some time to think about this, do the research and plan.
- **Assess your:**
 - **Skills and Aptitudes** – what are you good at?
 - **Interests** – what do you enjoy doing?
 - **Values** - what motivates you and would give meaning to your work?
 - **Personality type** – what are your characteristics?
 - **Educational qualifications** – what qualifications have you got and what further qualifications do you want to achieve?
- **Explore the Options** – access job descriptions, research job sectors and further and higher education course details.

How to set about Choosing a Career

A good way to approach career choice is to list on one side your **interests and skills**: Which school subjects are you best at? Do you write well? Are you artistic? Do you get on well with other people? Do you work best with a group, or do you like to work alone on an exercise or a problem? Are you a leader, the kind of person your classmates pick as a team captain etc.? Would you like outdoor or indoor, manual or deskwork?

Against this, list the **careers** that, at first glance, interest you and the **educational qualifications** and any particular **personal qualities** required for each of them. By comparing your two lists, you should be able to narrow down the choice of occupations that you consider would suit you.

A Careers Investigation should be completed before final choice of subjects is made.



APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES IN IRELAND

Application for most full-time undergraduate courses (Honours Degree - Level 8, Ordinary Degree - Level 7 and Higher Certificate - Level 6) in the Universities, Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology is made online through the Central Applications Office (CAO) website. The closing date for applications from Irish and other European Union nationals is normally 1st February each year. A student must have the particular academic entry requirements needed for the college they wish to attend and for the course they want to take.

In addition, there is a wide and varied choice of other courses for which you apply directly to the college. These are known as PLC (Post Leaving Certificate) or FE (Further Education) courses and usually take one or two years to complete. In general, the entrance requirement for these courses is 5 passes in Leaving Cert and a suitability interview. The qualification awarded can lead onto further education in some universities or into direct employment.

When choosing your Leaving Cert subjects, it is vitally important that you are aware of the fact that you do need certain subjects in order to apply for particular 3rd level college courses. Below is a brief description of these Subject Entry Requirements and a brief guide to the Leaving Cert. Points System.

There are **two** sets of Entry Requirements which must be met before a student can apply for places in 3rd level colleges (i.e. before points can be considered). These are:

1. Minimum Entry Requirements

These are particular subjects and numbers of honours/passes required to apply to an individual college or university.

Full details of the Minimum Entry Requirements and Specific Subject Requirements of any particular courses you are interested in should be

researched in www.qualifax.ie and the college's prospectus or website as requirements are subject to change.

These are the general entry requirements set by the colleges.

Entry Requirements:

- Basic entry requirements for a Level 8 course will usually be 2 H5 + 4 O6/H7; Trinity College requires 3 H5 + 3 O6/H7
- Basic entry requirements for a Level 7 or 6 will usually be 5 O6/H7

The following colleges require a minimum of Ordinary Level O6 in the following subjects:

(There are exceptions to this in Maths and third language on individual courses)

DCU	Maths and English or Irish
Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology	Maths and English or Irish
Colleges of Education	Maths and English and Irish (H5)
NUI: NUI colleges include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCD, including National College of Art and Design • Maynooth University (MU) • NUIG, including Shannon College of Hotel Management; Burren College of Art; St Angela's College, Sligo • The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) 	Maths and English and Irish and 3 rd language *exceptions e.g. science, engineering
Trinity and UL	Maths and English and another language
Others	Vary

2. Specific Subject Requirements

In addition to the minimum entry requirements mentioned previously, certain additional subjects may be required to gain entry to specific courses in a college.