

# **Leaving Certificate Subject Choice in Carrigallen V.S.**



**An Overview for Parents**

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Leaving Certificate 2013**



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Core Subjects

- Irish
- English
- Maths

3 levels:

**Foundation**  
**Ordinary**  
**Higher**



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Foundation Level

- Increasing Acceptability
- Accepted for PLC courses
- Not generally accepted for CAO courses
- If accepted, does not always count for Points



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

**Optional Subjects: Four Areas**

***Subjects to choose from***

- Business Area
- Sciences Area
- Technology Area
- Humanities and Applied Area



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Modern Language Option

- French
- 3 language rule for NUI (Eng, Irish, Mod. Lang.)



# French

- Necessary for Arts in NUI colleges, this includes Home Econ courses in St Angela's Sligo.
- Assessment is by means of a written examination at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level. There is also an aural and an oral examination at both levels.
- To qualify to do LCVP students must do French as a Leaving Cert subject or a basic course in French(1 Class per week)



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Business Area

- **Accounting**
- **Business**

*It is a major advantage to a student to have taken a business subject for L. Cert. for any Business or Commerce course at third level*



# Business/Accounting

**BUSINESS:** This is a practical and vocationally-oriented course that introduces students to the world of Business in a straightforward and logical way. It aims to create an awareness of the importance of Business activity and to develop a positive and ethical attitude towards it. The importance of people in Business is highlighted. The course sets out to illustrate the process of setting up a business and developing a new product or service.

**ACCOUNTING:** To enhance numeracy skills and promote awareness of the use of figures computations and statistics in the world of business and enterprise. To expose students to aspects of business and enterprise with a view to career and working life, additional studies in accounting or as a basis for further education.



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Sciences Area

- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Physics

Also

Home Economics *but does not qualify as  
a Science subject*



# Biology

Biology is the study of life. Through the study of biology students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment. They become aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment. They are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding to pursue further education, training and employment in biology-related fields, and to make judgements on contemporary issues in biology and science that impact on their daily lives and on society.

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



# Physics

Physics aims to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life. It offers a general education in physics for all students, enabling them to develop an understanding of the scientific method and their ability to observe, to think logically, and to communicate effectively. Science, technology and society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus so that students can be aware of the principles of the applications of physics in the everyday world.

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of a terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course.



# Agricultural Science

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning the factors that affect the long-term well-being of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources.

The examination in Agricultural Science consist of (a) a terminal examination paper and (b) an assessment of the work of the candidate during the course under the headings: identification of plant and animal types associated with agriculture; practical experience with crops, livestock, house and farmyard layouts; investigations carried out related to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics and microbiology.



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Technology Area

- Construction Studies
- DCG
- Engineering



# Construction Studies

Construction Studies introduces students to the knowledge and skills associated with construction technology and construction materials and practices. This is achieved through theoretical study and integrated practical projects which provide a basis for the thorough exploration of materials and processes.

Construction Studies is assessed at both Ordinary level and Higher level by means of a terminal examination paper, a practical test and a student project.



# DCG

Design and Communication Graphics provides students with the opportunity for visualizing and comprehending information presented verbally or graphically. Problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2- and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.



# Engineering

Engineering promotes an educational understanding of the materials and a knowledge of the processes associated with mechanical engineering. This is achieved through the development of skills and initiative in the planning, development and realization of technological projects in a safe manner.

Engineering is assessed at both Ordinary level and Higher level by means of a terminal examination paper, a student project and a practical examination.



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Humanities and Applied Area

- Art
- History
- Home Economics
- Geography
- Music



# History

History deals with the experience of human life in the past. The study of history involves an investigation of the surviving evidence relating to such experience. It brings students into contact with human experiences that are often very different from their own and fosters their developing understanding of the human condition and human motivation. Through its focus on the evaluation of evidence, it contributes significantly to the development of students' skills of critical thinking. Through its focus on research, it allows students the opportunity to develop their skills of independent learning.

Leaving Certificate History is assessed at two levels - Ordinary level and Higher level. There are two assessment components:

- A research study report (submitted prior to the examination) 20%
- An examination paper 80%



# Home Economics

The Home Economics syllabus provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work. The learning experiences in home economics develop flexibility and adaptability in students, prepare them for a consumer-oriented society and provide a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism. The subject is an applied subject combining theory with practice. It is concerned with the management of resources (material and human) to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs of individuals and families. The study of home economics emphasises the interdependent relationships that exist between individuals, families and their immediate and distant environments.

Leaving Certificate Home Economics-Scientific and Social is assessed, at Ordinary and Higher level, as follows:

- Examination paper 80%
- Assessment of practical coursework 20%



# Geography

Geography is concerned with the study of people and their environment. The subject will help students develop an understanding of the changing relationships between the physical and human worlds. Through their study of geography, students will develop geographical skills that will help them to make informed judgements about issues at local, national and international levels.

Leaving Certificate Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level in ascending order of difficulty.

There are two assessment components:

- Examination paper 80%
- Report on a Geographical Investigation 20%



# Art

The Leaving Certificate Art syllabus is a broadly based course, which is made up of four units. These units should be linked together and based on the everyday visual experience of the student's own environment.

All students, both Ordinary and Higher level, follow a common course.

It is assessed at two levels, Ordinary Level and Higher level

The standard and quality of work determine the difference in levels. The modes of assessment include:

- Three practical examinations carried out in May. These are;
  - Life Sketching
  - Still Life or Imaginative or Abstract Composition
  - Design or Craftwork
- The latter two examinations have papers, which are distributed one week before the examination to help with the preparation of ideas, research and designs.

A written examination, involving some sketches, of Art History and Appreciation in June. Three questions are answered, one each on Irish, European and Appreciation of Art in two and half hours.



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Faculty Requirements (Examples)

- Biology for Nursing
- Modern Language for Speech Therapy
- Hons. Maths for Engineering



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Useful Subject Groupings Examples

- Home Economics and Business
- Engineering with Physics
- Science with Technology
- Business with Modern Languages



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## CAO Points System

- Count Only Best Six Subjects
- Count Pass and Honours
- All Subjects Equal
- Maximum 600
- AQA = All Qualified Applicants  
= 5 D3's



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Examples of “Must Have” Subjects

- Science for Nursing
- English and Maths for Computing
- Hons. Maths for Computer Science (TCD)
- Hons. Maths for Engineering (UCD)
- Science or Technology for Architecture
- Chemistry for Dietetics and Vet Medicine



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## Guidelines

- Select 6 Best for Points
- Be Flexible About Options
- Keep Options Open
- Specific Career – Check Software
- [www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie) or [www.hetac.ie](http://www.hetac.ie)



# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

## LCVP

- Eligible For Points (70/50/30)
- Business-Enterprise
- Vocational Subject Combinations Needed
- Can Count as Sixth subject for points
- Portfolio and Exam



# Advice

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

This is a website maintained by the Guidance Counsellors of Ireland with information on all courses and entry requirements. Also [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) has information on applying to colleges.