



2018

SENIOR CYCLE OPTIONS

TY | LC | LCVP |

## Contents

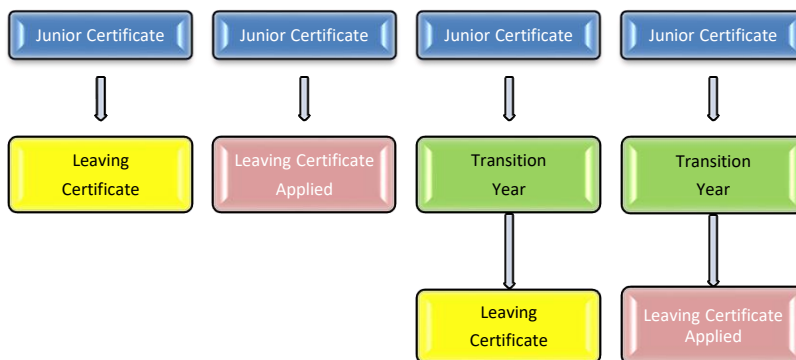
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## Introduction

As you approach the end of junior cycle, it is time to think about the options which are available to you for senior cycle here at Scoil na Tríonóide Naofa. The decisions you make will have far reaching consequences for you and should be given very careful consideration. You should use all available resources to help you and these include:

- ✓ talking to subject teachers
- ✓ talking to the career guidance teachers
- ✓ asking senior students about their experiences
- ✓ use the internet to research about subjects ([www.stn.ie](http://www.stn.ie)) and careers (see Established Leaving Certificate section for more)
- ✓ Speak to the programme coordinator(Transition Year - Mr O Ryan)

### Available Routes



As you can see, there are four routes available to you at this stage. Factors to consider when choosing the option for you include:

- Your experience in school up to and including 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Your ability, academic and to study and work independently
- Your career ambitions
- Your behaviour in school to date
- The length of time you wish to stay in school

The following sections outline each of the senior cycle programmes. Note: LCVP is discussed in the Established Leaving Certificate section, on page 22.

## Leaving Certificate (Established)

The information in this booklet is a guide only and is subject to change.

The Leaving Certificate (Established) is the traditional Leaving Certificate which is a direct follow on from the Junior Certificate.

### Available Subjects

Students must study the following subjects:

- Gaeilge
- English
- Mathematics
- Careers<sup>non exam</sup>
- Religion<sup>on exam</sup>
- PE<sup>non exam</sup>

+ 4 from the following list:

Accounting	Engineering
Ag Science	French
Art	Geography
Biology	German
Business	History
Chemistry	Home Economics
Construction Studies	Music
DCG	Physics
Economics	Technology

(Where eligible, students may also study LCVP - more about that on page 22).

This means that students sit a total of 7 subjects (8 if doing LCVP) for their Leaving Certificate exam.

# CAO Applications

In order to study at an Institute of Technology or University, students must apply through the Central Applications Office. Each course is assigned a number of points needed for entry. You may count your best 6 results for points calculations. Grades and their points equivalents are as follows (note the difference between HL and OL points at each grade):

## Matriculations requirements

<b>2018 Requirement</b>
5 O6s/5 H7s for LEVEL 6 & 7 courses
2H5 & 4 O6/H7s for LEVEL 8 courses
3 H5s & 4 O6/H7s for LEVEL 8 courses

## Grading and Point Awards System

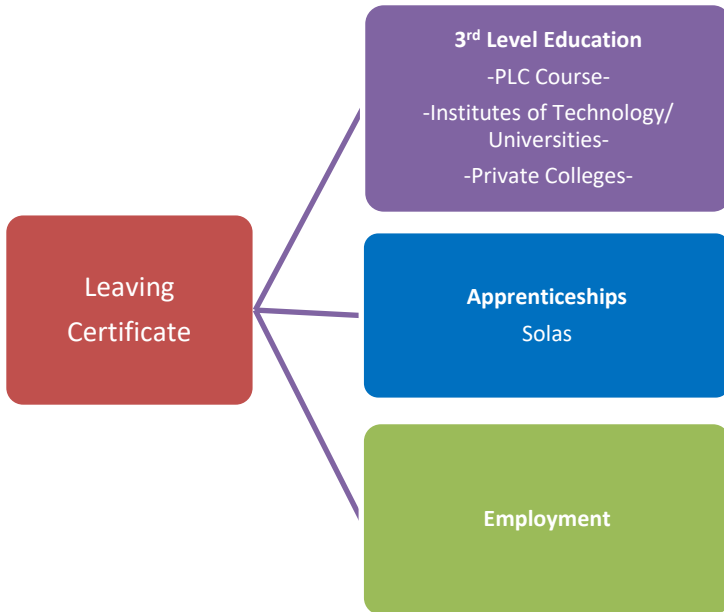
LC Grades	Marks	Higher Points	Ordinary points
H1/01	90 < 100	100	56
H2/02	80 < 90	88	46
H3/03	70 < 80	77	37
H4/04	60 < 70	66	28
H5/05	50 < 60	56	20
H6/06	40 < 50	46	12
H7/07	30 < 40	37	0
H8/08	0 < 30	0	0

LCVP Grade	LCVP Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

**The revised point scale is non-linear.** This means that the scale does not have equal divisions between each value on the points scale in order to recognise **achievement** while distinguishing between candidates and **minimising the employment of random selection.**

## After the Leaving Certificate

There are several options for students having completed the Leaving Certificate:



## General Considerations when Choosing Subjects

Choose subjects on the basis of:

- Interest
- Aptitude
- Possible career paths
- Achievements to date in the Junior Certificate
- Class tests
- Guidance from specific subject teachers
- Discussion with guidance counsellor
- Researching text books for the Leaving Certificate Examination

and very importantly, researching the websites given in this booklet.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*How do I go about choosing subjects if I have **no** idea of what I want to do after my Leaving Certificate Examination?*

- Take a good mixture of subjects – a third language, a science subject and a practical subject/subject of interest to you, keeping all career options open for your future
- Try to balance the amount of “reading” subjects with the amount of “practical content” in a subject so as not to be overloaded with a large volume of reading and learning material
- Do aptitude tests/interest tests on line to help you choose a career path that suits you. Think about different careers and research how to embark on such a career area [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie), [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- Look at results of your Junior Mock Exams/end of term exams and consider the subjects in which you performed best
- Choosing subjects that you are good at will help you to get the higher grades in the Leaving Certificate Examination
- Consider the subjects you enjoyed the most. Taking an interest in a subject will motivate you to study rather than having a keen liking for the teacher in the subject area
- Make sure you include **any subject you need for third level** either required by the course or which will benefit your studies in that course. Check out subjects requirements and subject grades for specific courses on [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- Unless you have a specific career or course interest that is guiding you, your remaining subject choices should spread across the entire spectrum of business, scientific, humanities and practical subjects.

*Are there any subjects easier than others in the Leaving Certificate Examination?*

- No Leaving Certificate subject is easy but studying something you are really interested in will make it easier and as a result you will probably get higher marks in it.
- There is no such thing as an easy honour. Some students excel in a subject because they have an **aptitude** for the subject and achieve a high grade. Sometimes where there is an overlap of content in subjects it may make it help in the learning process for the student e.g. Biology and Agricultural Science.

*Are all subjects equal in value?*

- All subjects are equal in points except for Maths which awards 25 bonus points for Maths to students on achieving a H6 or higher in the Leaving Certificate Examination. The bonus points are counted if Maths is being counted as one of your best 6 subjects. Please note that students need to have a H5 minimum in Maths to study Level 8 honours degree courses in Engineering, Computer Science and Maths courses. However, it is possible to study Level 7 courses (3 year) in Engineering and Computer Science in an IT and then progress depending on your college results onto a Level 8 course in your chosen field. Check individual college subject entry requirements for your chosen course.

*Which universities/colleges require a third language?*

- Irish, English and a 3<sup>rd</sup> language is required for entry into many Level 8 honours degree courses in NUI colleges unless you have a language exemption. UCC/UCD/NUIG/NUIM/RCSI/St. Angela's Sligo and Shannon College of Hotel Management requires a third language for entry into the following programmes: Arts, Architecture, Human Sciences, and Law, Social Science, Commerce, Business Studies with International Hotel Management, Medicine and Health Sciences
- A THIRD language is essential for entry into Cadets, Air Corps.

*Which universities/colleges do NOT require a third language?*

- Level 7 ordinary/pass degree courses in ITs do not require a third language for entry purposes
- NCAD – accept ART instead of a third language for entry purposes
- NO THIRD language required for entry into TCD, UL or DCU
- NO THIRD language is required for entry into Engineering and Science or Agricultural degrees in UCD, NUIM, NUIG or UCC
- NO THIRD language for entry into the Institutes of Technology or some of DITs courses
- NO THIRD language for the Gardaí
- Garda – English and another language required
- NO THIRD language required for Nursing in any college
- NO THIRD language required for Primary Teaching but H4 (60-70%) is required in Irish from 2019 onwards



*If I have not studied a Business subject for my Junior Certificate can I study Business Studies, Economics or Accounting for my Leaving Certificate?*

- Although it is not essential to have taken a Business subject at Junior Certificate Level in order to study Business Studies, Economics or Accounting for Leaving Certificate, it is advisable to have studied the subject to Junior Certificate level as students who have no previous experience of the subject going into Leaving Certificate are usually at a disadvantage. If a student wants to take up Business Studies, Accounting or Economics for the Leaving Certificate Examination they should firstly, **and most importantly**, speak to that specialist subject teacher; then take a look at the text books and speak to a student that is studying the subject for their Leaving Certificate. They must have done some study in that subject area over the course of the summer gaining the basics in the subject before entering 5<sup>th</sup> year taking up the subject for the first time. Please note that a Leaving Certificate subject in Business is not an entry requirement to study Business Studies at third level. The only university that requires the subject Accounting in the Leaving Certificate is for entry into commerce in NUI Galway.

*If I have not studied a Technical subject (Technology, Metalwork, Materials Technology Wood and Technical Graphics) for my Junior Certificate can I take up one of these subjects for my Leaving Certificate?*

- Although it is not essential to have taken technical subjects at Junior Certificate Level in order to study them for Leaving Certificate, it is advisable to have studied one of the subjects for the Junior Certificate Examination as students who have no previous experience of a subject going into Leaving Certificate or third level education are usually at a **disadvantage**. If a student wants to take up a Technical subject at Leaving Certificate level in this school i.e. Technology, Engineering, DCG or Construction Studies and have not studied the subject for Junior Certificate they should firstly, **and most importantly**, speak to that specialist subject teacher; then take a look at the text books and speak to students that are studying the subject for their Leaving Certificate. They must also do some study in that subject area over the course of the summer gaining knowledge in the basics of the particular subject before entering 5<sup>th</sup> year taking up the subject for the first time. Please note that a Leaving Certificate subject in Technology, Engineering, DCG or Construction Studies is not a specific subject requirement for any course in the CAO system. Therefore they are not essential for the study of Material Technology with teaching or Materials and Engineering teaching in UL .A good standard in Maths is essential (Grade O3).

A science subject can meet the entry requirements for Material Technology with teaching and for Materials and Engineering if you do not have a Technical subject in the LC.

*If I have not studied Art/Music/Home Economics for my Junior Certificate can I do take up any of these subjects for my Leaving Certificate Examination?*

- Although it is not essential to have studied Art/Music/Home Economics at Junior as Certificate level in order to study any of these subjects for Leaving Certificate. However, it is advisable to have had studied the subject for Junior Certificate as students who have no previous experience of the subject going into Leaving Certificate are usually at a **disadvantage**. If a student wants to take up one of these subjects at Leaving Certificate level in this school and have not studied the subject for Junior Certificate they should firstly, **and most importantly**, speak to that specialist subject teacher; then take a look at the text books and speak to students studying the subject for their Leaving Certificate. They must have done some study in that subject area over the course of the summer gaining knowledge in the basics of the particular subject before entering 5<sup>th</sup> year taking up the subject for the first time. Students taking music must have a musical ear and also have an ability to read note music. Please note that Music or Home Economics is not a specific requirement for any course at third level in the CAO system. However Art is required for the study of Study of Visual Arts in WIT and for the study of Visual Communications in WIT.

*Are there any subjects that I have to choose for my Leaving Certificate Examination in order to study a course at university or at an IT college?*

- Core subjects are required Irish, English and Maths unless exempt from one of those subjects. Other than those subjects you are required to check any specific subject requirements for your preferred course on [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie). Universities and colleges have basic or minimum entry requirements and also specific entry requirements and grades.
- Examples of general basic entry requirements:  
A minimum of 5 subjects – 5 O6/H7s (English or Irish or another language and Maths) to study a Level 7 (pass degree) courses in ITs.
- A minimum of 6 subjects – 2 H5s & 4 O6/H7s (to include English or Irish or another language and Maths for entry into Level 8 courses in ITs. Refer to individual colleges for further details on entry requirements - subject exemptions and Foundation Maths.

- A minimum of 6 subjects – 2 H5s & 4 O6/H7s (to include English, Irish and another language and Maths) to study a Level 8 course to in NUI universities. Refer to [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie) for further details on entry requirements - subject exemptions and Foundation Maths.
- A minimum of 6 subjects – 2 H5s & 4 O6/H7s (to include English, Irish or another language and Maths for entry into UL.

*How do I research information on entry requirements, course content, careers, and points for third level courses?*

- Using Qualifax
- **[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)**
- Click on Green Button 'Search all Courses'
- Red Menu 'Course Finder': Click on Higher Education CAO
- Award name: Level 8 or 7, then search
- Information on entry requirements, course content, careers, points.

*What are NUI colleges?*

The National University of Ireland (NUI) is a federal university comprising four Constituent Universities, four Recognised Colleges and three Colleges of a Constituent University. These are UCD, UCC, NUIG, NUI Maynooth, RCSI, Shannon College of Hotel Management, Milltown Institute, NCAD and St. Angela's Sligo. NUI colleges generally have common minimum entry requirements. Please read course and college requirements on website [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie). All universities and Institutes of Education conform to Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 which requires the University to establish quality assurance delivery of their education programmes.

*Should I study a science subject and which science subject should I choose for my Leaving Certificate?*

- At least ONE science subject is essential for the study of Science, Engineering and Technology related courses (if Technical subject is not one of your Leaving Certificate subjects), Nursing, Physiotherapy, Radiotherapy, Speech Therapy and Medicine.
- Some colleges require **two** science subjects e.g. Medicine.
- Chemistry (H5) + one other Science subject required for Veterinary Studies and Pharmacy
- Two laboratory science subjects are required for Physiotherapy in TCD, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Medicine in UCC and TCD. (Check on Qualifax)
- Biology and/or Chemistry are more useful for Medical, Nursing, Food Science and Agriculture fields.
- Physics and/or Chemistry are more useful for Engineering and Science Fields.

### Optional Subjects Guidelines & Considerations

#### Accounting

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

- You need to be comfortable with numbers but not necessary to study higher level Maths for this subject. However, a minimum of O5 would be desirable to study Accounting at Third Level
- Commonly seen as the mathematical side of Business, Accounting attracts the more numerical student
- Be able to think logically, analyse information skilfully and present information concisely is important

*Leaving Certificate Accounting V's Junior Certificate Accounting:*

- It follows on from the basic foundations set down in Junior Certificate Business Studies

*Assessment:*

- Written Exam

*Careers Note:*

Accountancy, taxation consultant, business law, all business and management careers and teaching.

## Agricultural Science

*If I want to study Agricultural Science for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?*

- Have an interest in animals
- Have access to a farm
- Biology - though not essential, would be very suitable as a second Leaving Certificate Science Subject but is not accepted as second science subject if combined with Biology for the study of medicine in TCD or UCC
- Be able to learn and understand terms

*Career Note:*

Agricultural Science can be useful for careers in the following areas: Agri-journalism, Brewing Technology, Dairy Scientist, Dietician, Environmental Inspector, Farmer, Farm Manager, Food Science Technology, Forestry Inspector, Horticultural Work, Laboratory Work, Renewable Energy, Science Teacher, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Surgeon, etc.

## Art, Craft & Design

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

- Be able to give a personal response to experiences, ideas and pieces of art
- Be able to write a discursive essay
- Be able to work from memory, imagination and direct observation
- Be able to use and understand the art and design elements
- Be able to use a variety of topics, materials, media and equipment

*Leaving Certificate Art V's Junior Certificate Art:*

- The main difference is the opportunity to study Art History and Appreciation
- Practical work expands and develops on from work undertaken in Junior Certificate
- Drawing skills are emphasised and developed to a more professional level

*Assessment:*

- Written examination in Art History and Appreciation
- Life drawing and sketching exam
- Choice between Art Design exam and an Art Craft Work exam

*Career Note:*

A portfolio will probably be needed for entry to a Third Level Art Course. Art is acceptable in place of the language requirement for students entering NCAD. Art is either necessary or useful for the following careers: Advertising, Art Teacher, Architecture, Beautician, Cosmetics Consultant, Crafts, Fashion, Florist, Furniture Design, Gallery and Museum Work, Graphic Design, Hairdresser, Interior Design, Marketing, Occupational Therapist, Painting and Decorating, Photography, Picture Restorer, Primary Teacher, Printing and Publishing, Sign Writer, Textile Design, Television work, Video Production, etc.

## **Business**

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

- Have an interest in Business and Enterprise
- Be able to analyse and interpret data
- Be able to write discursive essays

*Leaving Certificate Business V's Junior Certificate Business:*

- At Leaving Certificate you will look in more detail at issues like people involved in Business, Enterprise, Industrial Relations and Marketing

*Assessment:*

- Written Exam

*Career Note:*

Business is very useful, but not essential, in order to study Business at Third Level. Business can be useful for careers in the following areas: Accounting, Administration, Banking, Book-keeping, Business, Clerical work, Company Secretary, Economics, Hotel Management, Industry, Insurance, Law, Management, Marketing, Purchasing, Sales, Self-Employment, Taxation, etc.

## Biology

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

- Students should have a genuine interest in Science and enjoyed Junior Certificate Science
- Students must have an inquisitive mind and a desire to know why things work as they do
- Students undertake 24 mandatory experiments and go on an ecology field trip

### *Careers Note*

It is counted as a science subject in any course which has a science subject as a requirement. It is an essential subject entry requirement for the study of Genetics in UCC and also for the study of Human Health and Disease in TCD.

Careers: Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Nursing and associated careers, Agriculture, Applied Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Earth Science and Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Science and Aquaculture, Microbiology, Zoology, Psychologist, Astronomer, Teacher and Researcher.

## Chemistry

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

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the course has a good understanding of Junior Cert Science at the higher level
- Students would be expected to have a reasonable level of Junior Cert Maths, either at higher or ordinary level
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work

### *Careers Note*

Recent observations from journalists writing about careers have suggested that the Irish Economy is experiencing a shortage of people with Chemistry skills.

This subject is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses. A HC3 grade is required to study Dentistry UCC, Human Nutrition & Dietetics DIT, Medicine – UCC and TCD, Pharmacy UCC and TCD, Veterinary Medicine – UCD Chemistry is also recommended for all Science and Engineering courses

Careers: Pharmaceuticals, Forensics, Environmental Control, Material Scientist, Chemical and Biological Engineering, Cosmetics Industry, Oil Refining, Plastics, Water Monitoring, Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Occupational Health, Geology, Research and Development, Education, Genetic Engineering and Microbiology.

## Construction Studies/Engineering/Technology/DCG

*If I want to study technical subjects for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?*

- Experience of Technical Graphics, Materials Technology (Wood), Metalwork, Technology and/or Art at Junior Certificate level would be useful, but not essential
- Ability to work safely in a workshop
- Ability to take clear instructions
- A genuine interest in the Design and Construction Environment
- Spatial/visualisation, design capabilities
- Have an ability to problem solve

*Career Note:*

These subjects can be useful for careers in the following areas: Architecture, Auctioneering, Bricklaying, Construction Studies Teacher, Building Management, Carpenter, Civil and Structural Engineer, Electrician, Environmental Designer, Fire Fighter, Heating and Ventilation Technician, Insurance, Metal Work Teacher, Painter and Decorator, Plasterer, Quantity Surveyor, Site Clerk, Technical Sales, Town and County Planning.

## Economics

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

- Have an interest in the economy - Micro Economics and Macro Economics
- Have an interest in the current affairs, banking, International trade, finance, the EU
- Be able to analyse and interpret information

*Leaving Certificate Economics V's Junior Certificate Business:*

- It follows on from the basic foundations set down in Junior Certificate Business Studies

*Assessment:*

- Written Exam - 2½ hours

*Career Note:*

Economics is very useful, but not essential in order to study Economics at Third Level. Economics can be useful for careers in the following areas: Accounting, Administration, Banking, Business, Business Teaching, Commerce, Economics, Engineering, Financial Services, Government, IT, Journalism, Management, Marketing, Politics, Social Work, Stock broking, Trade Unions, etc.



## French/German

*If I want to study French/German for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?*

- Be able and willing to develop oral, aural, writing and reading skills in French/German so that you can develop confidence in a foreign language
- Have interest in the French/German culture
- Be able to learn independently

*Leaving Certificate V's Junior Certificate:*

- More focus on oral work
- Continuation of other skills development
- Need to do some work every day to become very familiar with language

*Assessment:*

- Oral Exam - 25% in Higher Level, 20% in Ordinary Level.
- Aural Exam - 20% in Higher Level, 25% in Ordinary Level.
- Written Exam on reading comprehension and writing ability - 55%

*Career Note:*

You must have a foreign language for entry to all colleges of the National University of Ireland i.e. UCC, UCD, NUI Galway and Maynooth. (However, recently these colleges have dropped the third language requirement for many of their engineering, science, agricultural and food science programmes. A third language is also not a requirement for nursing programmes. Art is acceptable in place of the language for students entering NCAD.) You also need a foreign language to become a Cadet in the Army or Air Corps. Certain industries and employers think very highly of candidates with foreign language skills.

French/German can be useful for careers in the following areas:

Air Steward/Stewardess, Air Traffic Controller, Au Pair, Bilingual Secretary, Business, Careers in Export, Chef, Courier, Hotel Management, Hotel Receptionist, Human Resources, International Marketing, Importer, Interpreter, Journalist, Librarian, Translator, International Driver, Ground Hostess, Pilot, Tourism, Travel Agent, Work in the Department of Foreign Affairs, etc.

## Geography

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

- Have an interest and an understanding of the changing relationships between the physical and human worlds
- Have an interest in global economic crisis
- Have an analytical approach to their work
- Be interested in field work study

*Leaving Certificate Geography V's Junior Certificate Geography:*

- It follows on from the basic foundations set down in Junior Certificate Geography Studies
- Field study which is worth 20% of the overall exam is completed by the student.

*Careers Note*

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. For both Science and Pharmacy at TCD, Geography is accepted as a science subject for entry requirements.

Town Planner, Cartographer, Transport Manager, Meteorologist, Tourism, Teacher, Demographer, Environmental Officer etc.

## History

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

- A willingness to commit a lot of time; History is a demanding subject
- Need to have strong English language skills, have an ability to write and have an interest in current affairs
- When considering history as Leaving Certificate subject students should have an interest in the subject. Some students choose it on the basis that they like nothing else on the Subject Line
- Self-discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general

*Leaving Certificate History V's Junior Certificate History:*

- It follows on from the basic foundations set down in Junior Certificate History Studies
- Research study which is worth 20% of the overall exam is completed by the student and is an in-depth piece of work on a historically significant episode which interests them.
- This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system

*Careers Note*

History as a subject is very useful as a basis for either degree in areas such as - Archaeology, Teaching, Law, Business, Journalism, Town Planning, Architecture, European Studies and Politics.

## Home Economics

*If I want to study Home Economics for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?*

- Be able to research, study, analyse and interpret material
- Be able and willing to learn Nutrition and Culinary skills
- Be able to communicate well
- Be organised
- Be able to discuss topics and work in teams

*Leaving Certificate Home Economics V's Junior Certificate Home Economics:*

- Practical cookery assessed through written exams only
- Textile Electives—fashion design, social studies, home design and management
- There is a lot more Sociology content at Leaving Certificate level e.g. Family/marriage/relationships/family problems e.g. alcoholism, gambling, the elderly, housing, problems facing teenagers/child care development
- In-depth Study of Nutrition, Resource Management and Consumer Studies

*Assessment:*

- Written exam
- Practical assessment in Textile Elective

*Career Note:*

Home Economics is useful for careers in the following areas: Baking, Beautician, Catering, Chef, Child Care, Consumer Adviser, Confectionery, Demonstrator of Food, Wines, etc., Dietician, Environmental Designer, Food Science, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Home Management, Home Economics Teacher, etc.

## Music

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

- Be able to perform individually
- Have good listening skills
- Be interested in learning how to compose, using notation and technology  
- you will compose your own pieces of music

*Leaving Certificate Music V's Junior Certificate Music:*

- The course follows on from the course at Junior Certificate level
- You may use Music Technology in your practical

*Assessment:*

- Practical Exam - can be up to 50%
- Listening and Written Exam - 50%

*Career Note:*

Music is useful for careers in the following areas: Actor, Aerobics Instructor, Arranger, Composer, Dancer, Disc Jockey, Entertainment, Film Studies, Folklore Studies, Instrument Maker, Library Work, Music Shop Sales, Sound Engineering, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy, Occupational Therapist, Physical Education, Primary/Secondary Teacher, etc.

## Physics

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

- Students must have an inquisitive mind and a desire to know why things work as they do. Physics is concerned not so much with “what is so” but rather “why it is so....”
- Interested in  
Optics/Waves/Mechanics/Heat/Electricity/Magnetism/Atomic  
Physics/Particle Physics or Applied Electricity
- Must have a Maths ability
- Students who were successful in their Junior Cert higher level science examination, particularly in the Physics section of the course

*Careers Note*

Physics is a requirement for entry into the study of Theoretical Physics in TCD.  
Careers: Astronomy, Geophysics, Electronics, Biomedical, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Military, Teaching, Radiation Protection, Environmental Monitoring, Construction, Telecommunications, Photography, Laser Technology, Graphics/Software Design, Programming and Computers.

## LCVP - The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The LCVP is the Established Leaving Certificate with an added vocational dimension. This is delivered through two 'modules': Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education and is timetabled for 2 periods per week. Generally, we encourage students to think of it as an extra subject (for points only, not as one of their subjects satisfying entry requirements to third level).

### *Eligibility*

To be eligible, a student must be able to satisfy any 1 of the following 16 groups:

1. Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology - **Any Two**
2. Physics **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics
3. Agricultural Science **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics
4. Agricultural Science **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry
5. Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - **Any Two**
6. Home Economics **and** Art - Design Option **or** Craft Option
7. Accounting; Business; Economics - **Any Two**
8. Physics **and** Chemistry
9. Biology **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry
10. Biology **and** Agricultural Science
11. Art - Design Option or Craft Option **and** Design & Communication Graphics
12. Engineering **or** Technology **or** Construction Studies **or** Design & Communication Graphics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
13. Home Economics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
14. Agricultural Science **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
15. Art Design or Craftwork Option **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
16. Music **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

*Assessment:*

The assessment has 2 parts:

- Portfolio: 60%
  - CV, reports, work experience diaries, recorded interview etc.
- Written Exam: 40%
  - Questions on entrepreneurs, case studies, voluntary organisations, portfolio documents

*Recognition and Results*

LCVP is recognised as a Leaving Certificate subject for points purposes by Universities and I.T's and results are on 4 levels:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| • Distinction  | 66 CAO points |
| • Merit        | 46 CAO points |
| • Pass         | 28 CAO points |
| • Unsuccessful | 0             |

# Transition Year

## Introduction

Transition Year is a one year school-based programme between junior and senior Cycle. The curriculum is designed by the teaching staff in each school and therefore each TY programme is different. It is designed to act as a bridge between junior and senior cycle by facilitating the smooth transition from the more dependant learning of the junior cycle to the more independent and self-directed learning required for the senior cycle.

## Aims of Transition Year

1. To provide a good academic basis for senior cycle
2. To develop aspects of the curriculum which tend not to be catered for elsewhere in the school curriculum
3. To develop teamwork through task orientated projects
4. To develop links between the school and the wider community
5. To encourage the student to become a self-motivated learner
6. To introduce students to a wide range of cultural and sporting activities
7. To provide an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of how learning occurs with particular reference to their own learning styles
8. To prepare students to become responsible members of society and prepare them for the world
9. To develop students' academic and technical skills
10. To enable students to make better decisions, be more innovative & responsible
11. To inform students about the world of work

## Is Transition Year Suitable for Everyone?

No, TY is not suitable for everyone. It is suitable for students who have:

- ✓ a positive behaviour record in school and on all school-related activities
- ✓ displayed an ability to behave in situations with varying levels of supervision
- ✓ an excellent attendance record
- ✓ a positive record of cooperation with and respect for their teachers and fellow students
- ✓ shown that they want to achieve their maximum potential
- ✓ an ability to work independently



It is not suitable for:

- those who believe it is a 'doss year'
- students who have not demonstrated an ability to behave themselves either in or out of class
- students who would be better served by proceeding directly into the Leaving Certificate programmes (Leaving Certificate Applied or Established)

The TY coordinator and teachers are very familiar with TY and are well placed to advise and decide on the suitability of applicants.

### **Subjects Studied**

The exact list of subjects changes from year to year but includes most of the following:

✓ English	✓ Business	✓ HSA Food Safety Course
✓ Gaeilge	✓ Sciences	✓ Judo Swimming
✓ Maths	✓ History	✓ Peer Mentoring
✓ Religion	✓ Geography	✓ Public Speaking
✓ PE	✓ Home Ec.	✓ Debating
✓ French/German	✓ Art	✓ Drama
✓ IT	✓ Road Safety	
✓ Careers	✓ Log on Learn	

### **Assessment**

Takes many forms, both formal and informal:

- ✓ Written assessments
- ✓ Peer assessments
- ✓ Portfolio of Work
- ✓ Credit for out of school learning
- ✓ Attendance & punctuality
- ✓ Attitude & cooperation
- ✓ Work Experience reports
- ✓ Project/presentations

### **Application Process**

1. Application Form
2. Interview by coordinator and external interviewer
3. Attendance appraisal
4. Teacher appraisals
5. Offer of Place
6. Acceptance/Refusal
7. Signing of TY Contract in September

### **More Information**

More information can be found at

- ✓ [www.stn.ie](http://www.stn.ie) follow the links for Curricular Information

## Further Research

It is the student's responsibility to research college courses and careers and the following websites and links are useful in doing this:

- ✓ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- ✓ [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)
- ✓ [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie)
- ✓ [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- ✓ [www.steps.ie](http://www.steps.ie)
- ✓ [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie)
- ✓ [www.navy.ie](http://www.navy.ie)
- ✓ [www.stem.ie](http://www.stem.ie)
- ✓ [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)

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