



STN GUIDELINES TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR DECISION MAKING ON SUBJECT CHOICE

Technical Subjects

Engineering, Graphics, Wood Technology, Applied Technology

Are Technical Subjects for you?

- Do you have creative thinking skills, visual spatial awareness?
- Have you a curiosity in how things work?
- Are you a logical thinker?
- Have you a reasonable mathematical ability?
- Are you good at practical tasks/using tools and machinery?

Wood Technology

Course Content The course is assessed in two parts: a Written Examination(30%) and a Practical Project and Portfolio(70%). The Written Examination(30%) will be based on the written course content. The practical(70%) aspect of woodwork requires the candidate to design and make a small wooden Project. A project must be presented for assessment. The project work is carried out in class between November and April of 3rd year. A folder of work must also be produced showing how the student developed their ideas for the project and how they planned to make it.

Who would this subject suit? Wood Technology would suit students who might like a subject with a large practical element. Students who like working with wood and using their hands would enjoy this subject.

Career Note Wood Technology would be of benefit to those hoping to study courses in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Site Management. It would be particularly useful for work in the Building Trades, or for training as a Carpenter or a Woodwork Teacher.

Progression after the Junior Certificate To do Construction Studies at Leaving Certificate level, a student should have done Wood Technology for the Junior Certificate.

Engineering

Engineering is a practical, hands-on subject, which gives students a good foundation in design and technology. Students learn traditional metalworking skills but also learn how to use modern engineering machinery such as computer controlled machinery (C.N.C.).

Course Content There are three sections in the course: Practical Content, Project and Theory Content. Project (70%) - This is the practical section of the course, the topics covered in this section include: Bench Work; Machine Work such as Lathe Work, Milling Machine Work; Plastics Processing, Health and Safety. A project must be presented for assessment. The project work is carried out in class between November and April of 3rd year. Theory Content(30%) - This is the theory section of the course, topics covered include: the Characteristics of Materials – Metals and Plastics; Health and Safety, etc.

Who would this subject suit? Engineering would suit students who might like a subject with a large practical element. Being good with your hands helps, however remember that 30% of the course is based on theory, which must be studied like any other subject.

Career Note Engineering would be a useful subject if a student is considering studying Technology, engineering, plastics, industrial design, engineering technology, or metalwork teaching (University of Limerick). It is also useful for many apprenticeships.

Progression after the Junior Certificate Many Engineering students proceed to Engineering at Leaving Certificate level; however, while this is obviously of benefit, it is not absolutely necessary to have done Engineering at Junior Cert to proceed to Engineering at Leaving Certificate

Applied Technology

What will I learn in Technology? Some of the things you will learn include: an understanding and appreciation of design and the design process, how to use the tools and equipment necessary to complete projects in a safe manner, an understanding of different materials, their properties and how best to work with these materials, i.e. wood, metals and plastics, how to use electronic components to build simple circuits for use in tasks and projects e.g. running mechanical toys

How will I learn Technology in school? Some of the things you may do with your teacher and your classmates are: investigate the role of technology in the world we live in, use tools and equipment in a safe manner, learn how to identify a range of different materials and their properties, use the design process to find a technological solution to a problem, communicate your ideas using sketches and design drawings, learn about mechanisms such as gears and how they work.

What is the Technology Junior Certificate exam like? There are two parts to the exam: coursework - you will design and make a project based on a given design brief (instructions). This is worth 70%. Written exam - you will also complete a written exam which is worth the remaining percentage(30%).

Will Technology have anything to do with other subjects I will be studying?

Yes. Technology is closely related to the other three technology subjects; Wood Technology, Engineering and Graphics. All the technology subjects involve practical skills, drawing skills and theory. Junior Cert. Science also has links with Technology

Career Note

Overlap between the four subjects and strongly advise students to take one of these subjects if they want to study Engineering, Construction Studies, Technology or Design & Communication Graphics at Leaving Certificate level. Technical subjects are useful for careers in engineering, computing, CAD construction, design, teaching, trades and architecture.

Graphics

Graphics is a problem-solving subject that challenges the student to use his or her imagination to solve problems graphically. The understanding of the different topics in the course is achieved by practising drawing different examples. Every problem needs the drawing rules applied in different ways so practice is the best means of learning. Students are encouraged to attempt questions before viewing answers.

Course Content The course consists entirely of practical drawing skills, where students are taught how to use their skills to solve visual problems graphically on paper. Project Work(30%), Final Examination(70%).

Who would this subject suit? This subject would suit students who have a love of drawing and problem solving. Being able to draw neatly and clearly is essential. It would suit students who are practically and academically-minded.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments. There is no theory in this subject, all the classes are practical and students will be drawing and drafting all of the time.

Career Note. Graphics is not essential for architecture, engineering, or quantity surveying but any student thinking of a career in these areas would benefit much from the skills learned. It is also desirable for courses in technology and town planning, and it would be very useful for any students interested in trades such as mechanic, electrician or plumber.

Progression after the Junior Certificate To do Design and Communication Graphics at Leaving Certificate Level, the student must do Graphics for the Junior Certificate. It is a recommended subject for entry to the Woodwork and Engineering teacher-training courses at the University of Limerick.

Business Studies

Is Business Studies for you?

- Do you like to read the business section of the newspaper?
- Are you interested in setting up your own business?
- Are you interested in current affairs?
- Are you good at selling/marketing a product?
- Do you like statistics – studying numbers?

This subject looks at how businesses are set up, managed and financed. This subject has a very practical and modern approach to business - including setting up your own business.

Course Content Budgeting (household / businesses), consumer rights, banking, cheques, accounts (final accounts, club accounts), running your own business, industrial relations, etc.

Who would this subject suit? This subject would suit students who are interested in business and who show an interest in setting up their own business eventually and inventiveness. It is a basic requirement for anyone who wishes to work in a business environment.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments Essays, multiple choice, projects, etc.

Other Points Students must remember that to achieve high grades in the Junior Certificate, they will have to work hard.

Career Note It is particularly useful though not essential for courses in accounting, advertising, banking, business, commerce, finance, management (incl. hotel

management), marketing, and taxation. It would be a very useful subject for students who intend to set up their own business.

Progression after the Junior Certificate To do Economics, Business or Accounting at Leaving Certificate Level, it would be beneficial for the student to choose Business for the Junior Certificate as it provides a basis for the three Leaving Cert subjects, however this is not essential.

Music

Is Music for you?

- Do you like listening, performing and composing music?
- Do you sing, play an instrument?
- Do you like classical, pop and traditional music?
- Tested in JC practical exam?
- Are you interested in learning how to compose, using notation and technology – you will compose your own pieces of music?

The music course is not entirely about classical music, but covers all types of music, including traditional music, film music, musicals, etc.

Course Content The course has three main sections:

Composing Skills – music notes, and scales, time & key, signatures, rhythm and melody writing, backing chords, etc. are studied.

Performing Skills – this makes up 30% of the Junior Cycle Music exam. Students can play an instrument for this practical exam or they can sing solo or in a group.

Listening Skills – All styles of music are covered, including orchestral works, film music, musicals, songs, and traditional music. Students study a selection of set and choice works and songs. Various aspects of these are examined including style, type of work, instruments played, mood, etc. The final written exam consists of a written and listening exam lasting 1.5 hours. (This is worth 70%)

Who would this subject suit? It is not necessary for a student to be able to play an instrument to successfully complete the course, but it does require the student to have an aptitude for and interest in music. Being able to sing can be substituted for a musical instrument.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments Harmony exercises and other written exercises can be given.

Career Note Music at Leaving Certificate Higher Level is essential for some, but not all music degrees. Music would be a useful (but not essential) subject for students thinking of careers in primary/secondary teacher, media, multimedia, film, radio and television, dance, and generally in the entertainment, sports and leisure industries.

Progression after the Junior Certificate To do Music at Leaving Certificate Level, the student must do Music for the Junior Certificate.

Home Economics

Is Home Economics for you?

- Have you ever cooked/baked at home?
- Do you watch cookery programmes?
- Have you an interest in health issues, food nutrition and household management?

- Do you like practical tasks?
- Can you follow directions and work to time?
- Are you organised?
- Are you able to work in teams?

This subject is a combination of theory and practical elements – the practical elements are Food Studies and Textiles.

Course Content The theory involves food and nutrition, consumer studies, health studies, social studies, home management, textiles and food and cookery skills. The Practical Textiles section involves needlework, sewing, and embroidery, with both the hand and with the sewing machine. The Practical Food Studies section looks at cooking and baking simple-to-prepare dishes.

Who would this subject suit? This is a subject that can be very interesting and relevant for all students. Practical work is an essential element of this subject, however the course is mainly assessed on the basis of a written examination.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments There are written homework assignments and class tests on a regular basis.

Other Points Business and Science are two subjects that complement the subject.

Career Note It is desirable though not a required subject, for further study in teacher training for Home Economics. It will also be useful in the following career areas: beautician, catering, chef, child care, consumer adviser, confectionery, dietician, environmental designer, food science, hairdressing, childcare, nursing, fashion, social care and tourism courses. Progression after the Junior Certificate To do Home Economics (Social and Scientific) at Leaving Certificate Level, the student should have done Home Economics for the Junior Certificate.

Visual Art

Is Visual Art for you?

- Have you ever entered any art competitions in national school?
- Do you love drawing, designing and have you an eye for colour?
- Do you know any famous painters?
- Are you creative?

This subject welcomes nurtures and enables students to learn and explore the creative world of Art, Craft & Design and reach their full potential.

Course Content

Drawing - i.e. drawing people, objects, analytical drawing projects

Painting and Mixed Media Still Life - drawing inanimate (not living) objects

Graphic Design – posters, advertising, stamps, book covers

Craftwork – batik, block printing, calligraphy, embroidery, fabric printing, weaving, puppetry, pottery

3D work - sculpture, wood carving, construction, modelling

Who would this subject suit? This subject suits all levels and abilities, especially those with a creative outlook and imagination.

Type of Homework / Projects / Assignments Drawing, painting, design, and craft and research. Assessment is made up of 2 Classroom based assessments(Project Work. **There is no final examination at the end of 3rd Yr.**

Other points: - Students must be enthusiastic, interested and be able to apply themselves to projects when necessary. Natural ability alone is not enough. At Junior

Certificate level, students develop their skills, explore their creative side and maximise their possibilities.

Career Note Not all colleges require art as an essential subject for entry to art courses; however any student considering a career in art & design, graphics, industrial design, craftwork, etc., would be strongly advised to consider it for Junior Cert and also for Leaving Cert. It is also very useful for primary school teaching and apprenticeships. Please note that it is a strong advantage to have Leaving Cert. Art when trying to get into architecture. (More so than Technical Graphics.)

Progression after the Junior Certificate To do Art, Craft & Design at Leaving Certificate Level, it is preferable that the student has studied Art for the Junior Certificate.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Read the information on the Junior Cycle Subjects outlining what you will learn and the usefulness of the subject on www.stn.ie, www.ncca.ie, www.qualifax.ie (Click on Students then click on Subject Choice), www.careersportal.ie, www.curriculumonline.ie and www.examinations.ie

Make informed choice – talk to specialist subject teachers, look at the subject content in the optional subject choice.

Choose a balance in choice of subjects leading to a balanced education and openness to all career possibilities

**Choose subjects you enjoy and therefore will find the learning tasks easy
Any further queries consult the Deputy Principal, Year Head or Guidance Counsellor**