Castleknock Community College

colάiste pobail caisleάn cnucha

CHOOSING THE RIGHT OPTIONS AT

SENIOR CYCLE

HOW POINTS ARE CALCULATED

Marks	Grade	Points for Higher Level	Points for Ordinary Level	Points for Foundation Maths
90 - 100	A1	100	60	20
85 - 89	A2	90	50	15
80 - 84	B1	85	45	10
75 - 79	B2	80	40	5
70 - 74	B3	75	35	
65 - 69	C1	70	30	
60 - 64	C2	65	25	
55 - 59	C3	60	20	
50 - 54	D1	55	15	
45 - 49	D2	50	10	
40 - 44	D3	45	5	
Link Modules	Distinction	70		
Link Modules	Merit	50		
Link Modules	Pass	30		

Note: Best scores from 6 subjects used to calculate points.

ABBREVIATIONS

CAD Computer Aided Design
CAO Central Applications Office
DCG Design & Communication Graphics
DCU Dublin City University
DIT Dublin Institute of Technology
HB1 Higher Level B1 Grade
HL Higher Level
IT Institute of Technology
LCA Leaving Certificate Applied
LCVP Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
NUI National University of Ireland
OC2 Ordinary Level C2 Grade
OL Ordinary Level
PLC Post Leaving Certificate Course
TCD Trinity College Dublin
TY Transition Year Programme
UCD University College Dublin
VSGs Vocational Subject Groupings

RESOURCE MATERIAL

- Student Yearbook & Career Directory – J. Duddy & R. Keane
- The Less Stress More Success Series
- Each Third Level College has its own website which is full of useful information
- Websites
  - www.skool.ie
  - www.careersportal.ie
  - www.curriuculumonline.ie
  - www.scoilnet.ie www.qualifax.ie

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LEAVING CERTIFICATE ESTABLISHED

The Leaving Certificate (Established) allows students to sit seven subjects for examination.

- Three Core Subjects: Gaeilge, Maths & English
- One Modern Language
- Option Subjects: Students choose Two of the following:

History	Business	Music
Geography	Accounting	Home Economics
Biology	Economics	Design & Communication Graphics
Chemistry	Art	Construction Studies
Physics	Engineering	Applied Maths
Agricultural Science	Classical Studies	Religion Education

All subjects are taken at either Higher or Ordinary Level.

In Third Year the following process allows students and parents to make informed choices about Senior Cycle:

Information Evening	September-October on Study skills and Course Choices available at Senior Cycle. An overview of the senior cycle programmes and interviews (January – February).
DATs (Aptitude Testing)	December – January.
Information Evening	Transition Year and other Senior Cycle Options and Subjects
Interviews	Transition Year Programme – February/ March
Career Inventory Testing	
Options/Programme	Students are informed of their Options/Programme in May

Subject to sufficient demand and resources, Management reserves the right to determine on an annual basis the range and level of subjects.

At third level, courses are offered at Level 6 (Higher Certificate), Level 7 (Ordinary Degree) and Level 8 (Honours Degree)

LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME - LCVP

About the LCVP*:

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate (established). The programme was introduced in 1994 in response to the challenge placed on Ireland's education system by a changing work and business environment. The LCVP combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate (established) with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, innovation and enterprise. This two-year programme is part of an expanded provision that aims to cater for the diversity of participants' needs at senior cycle.

The primary goal of the LCVP 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 success.

Throughout the programme students are encouraged to:

- Be innovative and enterprising
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Adapt to changing circumstances
- Evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
- Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
- Work with others as part of a team
- Investigate and plan career options
- Use information and communications technologies
- Investigate local businesses and community enterprises
- Learn from their experiences

These skills and qualities are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

The strong vocational focus of the LCVP is achieved by arranging Leaving Certificate subjects into Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) and through the provision of additional courses of study in work preparation and enterprise known as the Link Modules.

Programme Requirements:

- At least five Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish
- Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings
- Two Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education
- A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)

Two subjects are selected from one of the Vocational Subject Groupings. These subjects provide students with a focus for developing vocational skills and exploring their career options.

The Specialist Groupings consist of subjects which complement one another naturally. The Services Groupings comprise subjects which complement one another in a commercial context.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme:

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)

Specialist Groupings

- Construction Studies; Engineering; Technical Drawing – year two; Design and Communication Graphics/year one; Technology (new subject) – Any two
- Physics and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology

- Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology
- Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
- Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology – Any two
- Home Economics and Art
- Accounting; Business; Economics – Any two
- Physics and Chemistry
- Biology and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry

Services Groupings
- Engineering or Technology and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Construction Studies and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Home Economics and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Agricultural Science and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Art and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Music and Accounting or Business or Economics

The Link Modules:

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.

Typical LCVP Students

Typically, LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate Subjects plus the Link Modules

Information & Communications Technology

Students taking the LCVP will have an opportunity to develop and apply their IT skills. Students should also have an opportunity to use audio-visual equipment and computer presentation packages for recording and presentation purposes. During the course of the programme students will develop skills to:
- Enter, edit, store, retrieve and print information
- Word process CVs, letters, reports and create illustrated documents
- Send and receive e-mail messages
- Access and use relevant information from CD Roms and the Internet

Teaching and Learning

The use of active teaching and learning methodologies is encouraged across the LCVP curriculum. Experiences such as work placement, career investigation, mini-enterprise, business and community visits are an integral part of the programme. The Link Modules encourage students to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired through their Vocational Subjects and in other areas of their Leaving Certificate. Vocational relevance is enhanced by putting in place opportunities for students to plan, organise and engage in active learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

Typical LCVP activities include:
- Conducting Investigations – businesses, community enterprises, agencies
- Arranging Visits out of school to sites of interest in the context of conducting investigations
- Inviting Visitors to the classroom – adults other than teachers as resource visitors
- Working in Teams – on projects and investigations
- Organising Enterprise Activities – setting up projects as vehicles of learning
- Actively preparing for work – career investigation, job search, practice at interviews
- Experiencing the world of work, work experience, work simulation, work shadowing
- Making presentations to adults and peers
- Using Information and Communications Technology – to access, store, communicate and present information

Assessment of the Link Modules
LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate. For the Link Modules they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

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.

Link Modules – Portfolio of Coursework

CORE ITEMS	**OPTIONAL ITEMS (any two)**
Curriculum Vitae	Diary of Work Experience
Career Investigation	Enterprise Report
Enterprise/Action Plan	Recorded Interview/Presentation
Summary Report	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	per cent
Distinction	80% – 100%
Merit	65% – 79%
Pass	50% – 64%

The Link Modules are recognised for points purposes by the Institutes of Technology and the Universities. The points are allocated as follows:

Grade	Universities and Institutes of Technology award
Distinction	70 points
Merit	50 points
Pass	30 points

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate Programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The Leaving Certificate Applied is best suited for the students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes and who have not found traditional forms of assessment to be suited to their styles of learning. The programme emphasises forms of achievement and excellence, which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.

The programme is structured around three elements:

- Vocational Preparation
- Vocational Education
- General Education

The programme here in Castleknock Community College offers our students specific opportunities to prepare for the world of work and to progress to further education and training.

The rationale behind Leaving Certificate Applied is that the talents of all students are recognised - the programme is responsive to the aptitudes, abilities, needs and interests of the students. The programme also promotes communication and decision making skills and affords the students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills to the solution of real problems.

Consequently, the students as a result of their involvement in the Leaving Certificate Applied are given the opportunity to develop in terms of responsibility and self-esteem.

Key underlying Principles:

- Subject integration across the curriculum
- Teamwork
- Basic Skills
- Active teaching & Learning Methodologies
- Reflection
- Links with the Community

Course Content

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Certificate Programme consisting of a range of courses, structured on a modular basis for which credits are awarded. A module is of thirty hours duration. To facilitate the structure of the modules the programme is broken down into four sessions. One module is usually completed within a session in each course area.

Examination & Assessment

A range of Key Assignments and Student Tasks are completed within the two years of Senior Cycle. The Terminal Examination requires students to take seven Leaving Certificate Examinations in the following areas:

- English & Communications
- Mathematical Applications
- Social Education
- Languages (2)
- Vocational Specialisms (2)

SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

AIM

We offer a full range of interventions and activities, which assist pupils to make choices about their lives. For second level pupils these choices are focused in a developmental way on three key areas:

- Personal
- Educational
- Career

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the school year students will have experienced:

- Guidance in educational and personal learning management
- Vocational exploration and information
- Individual and/or Group Counselling will have been
- available for all students on request and/or on referral
- Students will have access to information which is appropriate
- for their personal, educational and vocational development

Parents will have met with the School Guidance Counsellors at Information Evenings, at organised Guidance Meetings.

Students' needs – with regards to the Guidance Counselling Service - will be evaluated, and in partnership with staff and the Principal/ School Management, planning for the future will be ongoing.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

As a student you will make significant decisions while still at school. These choices are related to personal and social issues, educational issues and career issues. Guidance Counsellors are trained professionals with the expertise and knowledge to help you make choices in the three important areas outlined above. We do this through individual consultation, guidance classes and other activities.

We do not make decisions for you. During your years in Castleknock Community College we will undertake, with you, some or all of the following:

- Help you to explore your feelings about your present life situation
- Explore with you choices open to you and explore the consequences of each choice
- Help you to come up with solutions to any problems you may be experiencing
- Offer confidential counselling and/or advice on issues of a personal nature
- Give you information on various educational and training courses and/or employment opportunities
- Organise classroom activities where you prepare a CV and letter of application
- Give you advice and help on study and examination techniques
- Carry out Assessment and Aptitude Testing and Career Interest Inventories
- Explain to you, and your parents the CAO system and assist with application
- Give you information on studying abroad

THE CORE SUBJECTS

These Subjects are Compulsory
* Students can obtain an exemption from Gaeilge, subject to Department of Education and Skills Guidelines.

GAEILGE

Irish is offered at higher, ordinary and foundation levels.

Third level entry requirements

Irish is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses. One should check this requirement against the course you are interested in pursuing.

Course outline:

Higher Level:

The course is taught through the four main skills in language acquisition: written, spoken, listening, reading. There are two written papers, a listening exam as well as the oral exam.

Paper 1: consists of a choice to write a composition of 500- 600 words from the following choices: an essay/ debate/ oration/ short story.

Paper 2: consists of the literature course. Students study four prose stories, a film or drama, five poems, and a prescribed drama, or a section of a prescribed novel. Reading comprenshions also form part of this paper.

Aural/ Listening: consists of 6 pieces of various conversation/ announcements. You hear each one two times

Oral/ Spoken: consists of a mixture of reading, describing a sequence of pictures, and a conversation. This exam lasts for 15 minutes, and the conversation is based on the topics on the curriculum and every day themes.

Paper 1	Written: Essay/ Debate/ oration/ short story	100 marks	16.66%
Paper 2	Reading Comprenshions; Prose; poetry; drama (An Triail)/ section of a novel (Gafa).	200 marks	33.33%
Listening	Listening to 6 pieces of conversation/announcements. You hear each one two times.	60 marks	10%
Oral	Welcome; reading a poem; describing a sequence of pictures; conversation about general topics of personal interest.	240 marks	40%
Total		600 marks	

Ordinary Level:

The course is taught through the four main skills in language acquisition: written, spoken, listening, reading. There are two written papers, a listening exam as well as the oral exam.

Paper 1: consists of a choice to write two compositions from a wide range of essays/ blogs/ stories/ emails/ letters/ conversations.

Paper 2: consists of the literature course. Students read and answer two reading comprenshion. Students study four prescribed prose stories, a film or drama, and five poems. Reading comprenshions form part of the paper.

Aural/ Listening: consists of 6 pieces of various conversation/ announcements. You hear each one two times.

Oral/ Spoken: consists of a mixture of reading, describing a sequence of pictures, and a conversation. This exam lasts for 15 minutes, and the conversation is based on the topics on the curriculum and every day themes.

Paper 1	Composition: write on any two from a choice of essay/ blog/ story/ letter/ email/ conversation	100 marks	16.66%
Paper 2	Reading Comprenshions; Literature: prose stories; a film or drama; poetry.	200 marks	33.33%
Aural	Listening to 6 pieces of conversation/ announcements. You hear each one two times.	60 marks	10%
Oral	Welcome; reading a poem; describing a sequence of pictures; conversation about general topics of personal interest.	240 marks	40%
Total		600	

GAEILGE

Foundation Level:
This level is also offered in the College. Students access the subject through the skills of speaking, reading, listening, and writing.
The final exam contains one written paper containing reading comprenshions and written sections; a listening examination; and an oral examination.

Gaeilge is useful for:
Broadcasting/Media, RTE, TG4, Raidió na Gaeltachta, Raidió na Life, Print Media, Journalism, Web Design, Publishing, Printing, Proof Reading, Editing, Acting, The Public Service, Irish Language Organisations: Conradh na Gaeilge, Gael Linn, Fóras na Gaeilge, Údáras na Gaeltachta, Airline Industry, Archivist, Army, Local Government, Politics, Teaching, Teacher Training.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is offered at higher, ordinary and foundation levels.

Higher Level Mathematics is essential for most Level 8 Engineering degrees, some level 8 Computer degrees and some level 8 Science degrees.

If higher level maths is counted as one of the six subjects a student uses for Leaving Certificate points, she/he will be awarded a bonus 25 points on passing the subject.

Some colleges, including DIT and NUIM offer a special Mathematics Examination for those who do not achieve at least a HC3 in Maths and have applied for engineering courses. This exam is based on Leaving Certificate Higher level maths material. Students should check with the college or guidance Councellor for further information.

Careers

Any course or career with a mathematical basis including:
Accountancy, Actuary, Air Traffic Controller, Architecture, Banking, Biologist, Chemist, Computer operator, Economist, Engineer, Geologist, Insurance, Laboratory technician, Marketing, Medical laboratory technician, Meteorologist, Physicist, Psychologist, Quantity surveyor, Scientist, Statistician, Systems analyst.

Acceptability of Foundation Level Maths at Leaving Certificate

1. Colleges in the CAO system:
Maths is not an entry requirement for some courses in these colleges, therefore Foundation Level maths will not disqualify an applicant. However, it does not qualify for points.

ENGLISH

The English syllabus builds on the aims of the Junior Certificate English syllabus, which emphasise the development of a range of literacy and oral skills in a variety of domains, personal, social and cultural. In the Leaving Certificate Course, students will be encouraged to develop a more sophisticated range of skills and concepts. These will enable them to interpret, compose, discriminate and evaluate a range of material so that they become independent learners who can operate in the world beyond the school in a range of contexts.

English is a requirement for entry into many Third level Courses

Higher Level English is required for several Third-level courses e.g. Journalism & some English studies Courses.

Third level institutions complain that students have an impoverished vocabulary and a poor grasp of the English language. This may be as a result of the technological revolution especially the influence of television & computers.

Students are strongly advised to read widely outside the prescribed Course.

Careers

Advertising, Actor, Barrister, Book publisher, Broadcasting, Copywriter, Journalist, Law clerk, Librarian, Marketing, Personnel officer, Politics, Public Relations, Printer, Solicitor, Speech therapist, Teacher, Translator, Writer, Researcher.

THE LANGUAGE GROUP

Although studying a Modern Language is not compulsory, the vast majority of students take at least one foreign language in Leaving Certificate.

Why?
A third language (OD3) is required for entry to NUI colleges with some course exceptions e.g. Engineering, Nursing and General science. Students should check requirements carefully or speak with a Guidance Counsellor. Courses that contain a significant language component may require HC3 grade of higher in the language e.g. Business and language course.

Good Language students:

- Can express themselves well
- Are able to pick up sounds and phrases
- Show an eye for detail in grammar
- Are interested in the culture that the language emerges from
- Work to build up vocabulary, expressions and phrases
- Try to visit or stay where the language is spoken

MODERN LANGUAGES
FRENCH • GERMAN • SPANISH

Higher & Ordinary Levels
Knowledge of a Modern Language is highly desirable and many third level institutions offer opportunities to students to study in Europe during their course. They may spend their third year in a European college and proficiency in the language in which the course is taught is necessary, e.g. Commerce & Modern Language.

Careers
Administrator, Archivist, All International Careers e.g. Business, Marketing, Computers, Linguist, Civil Service, Travel & Tourism, Catering, Translator, Journalism, Librarian, Trade, European Union Posts, Teaching, Interpreter and Translator.

FRENCH • GERMAN • SPANISH

JAPANESE

Japanese is offered as a modern Asian language and fulfills the modern language requirements for entry into NUI colleges. It is offered as a two year course for the Leaving Certificate and is an opportunity for students to begin a new language and also gain access to an Asian language and culture. It is offered as an extracurricular subject with three hours tuition per week before school in the mornings and on Wednesday afternoon. Our students have enjoyed the experience of studying Japanese and have received a high level of success in the Leaving Certificate. A student from the Leaving Certificate class of 2012 is now studying Japanese and Business at DCU.

Students who wish to continue their Japanese study may do so at DCU & UL. There is also the opportunity to live and work in Japan as an English teacher on the Japanese Exchange Program.

The Japanese course is provided by the Post Primary languages Initiative,please follow this link to their website to view "reasons to study Japanese"http://languagesinitiative.ie/languages-japanese

Careers

Administrator, Archivist, All International Careers e.g. Business, Marketing, Computers, Linguist, Civil Service, Travel & Tourism, Catering, Translator, Journalism, Librarian, Trade, European Union Posts, Teaching, Interpreter and Translator.

JAPANESE

THE LABORATORY SCIENCE GROUP

- PHYSICS
- CHEMISTRY
- BIOLOGY
- AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

For certain careers and courses you need to have a science subject. Most courses in the Engineering, Medical, Paramedical, (Radiography, Physiotheraphy, Nursing, Dietician, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory, Science etc.) or Science areas at level 8 require a laboratory science subject. Beware: Some courses require a particular science subject or two subjects.

Good Science Students have:
- A curiosity about the world around them
- An appreciation of the scientific method (hypothesis, experiment, analysis and conclusions)
- An understanding of Maths as a way of describing the world scientifically
- An ability to write clearly and concisely
- An eye for detail
- A desire to explore the world and explain it in a rational way

PHYSICS

Higher & Ordinary Levels

This is an experimental subject and practical laboratory work is an integral part of the course:

Topics

Mechanics, forces, energy, heat, wave motion, sound, light, optical instruments, wave nature of light, electricity, electric field, capacitance, electric current, electromagnetism, atomic physics and the nucleus.

Higher level students do a more in depth study of each topic than ordinary level candidates.

Additional Information

Physics is a very useful subject for technical/engineering/scientific course/careers. Physics is essential for a degree in Theoretical Physics (TCD). This is a most suitable subject for many science, medical, engineering electronics and technician related careers.

I found studying Physics and Applied Maths to be helpful both in the Leaving Cert and beyond. In Leaving Cert they were not simply learned from books, there was a significant practical aspect and the material covered could be applied to everyday situations. Studying both subjects allowed me to benefit from the overlap between the two areas. For example, studying physics also counted as revision for Applied Maths. The skills I acquired through studying these science subjects have helped me greatly in my third level studies. In any kind of problem solving the ability to think logically and analytically is invaluable, and will be hugely beneficial in third level and beyond.

Aoife Ni Mhaoileoin,
Graduating Student of the Year 2005 and Student of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin.

Careers

Architecture, Biophysicist, Computer careers, Dentist, Doctor, Engineer (Electrical & Electronic), Geophysicist, Medical laboratory technician, Metallurgist, Meteorologist, Optician, Pharmacist, Physicist, Photographic technician, Pilot, Radiographer.

CHEMISTRY

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Topics

An introduction to atomic structure and the particle nature of matter, the periodic table and the history behind it. The course also covers concepts such as thermochemistry, rates of reaction, redox reactions and a indepth look at carbon and organic chemistry. All students cover these topics, while higher level students encounter a more in-depth study. A number of experimental techniques are covered including titrations., distillation and chromatography.

Higher-level students do a more in-depth study of each topic than ordinary level candidates.

Additional Information

The world of chemistry involves everything we use, wear, consume, including medicines, plastics and foodstuffs' preservation. Chemistry is all around us, from items we use every day to the invention and manufacture of drugs to combat disease. Studying chemistry could provide the first steps into a career in forensic medicine, brewing technology, food technology, chemical engineering and the research and development of eco-friendly products such as bio-fuels.

As a subject it offers a wide range of options in the scientific field ranging from brewing technology to patent work and from science technician to food processing.

Chemistry is essential for Human Nutrition and Dietetics (DIT), Public Health Nutrition (DIT), Dentistry (UCC) Medicine (UCC), Pharmacy (UCC & TCD) and Veterinary Medicine (UCD).

A "B" Grade in Junior Cycle Higher Level Science as well as a competency in Maths is recommended for any student considering Chemistry at Leaving Certificate Level.

Careers

Agriculture, Architect, Brewing technologist, Chemist, Dental surgery, Dietician, Doctor, Chemical engineering, Food science technologist, Fuel technologist, Health inspector, Industrial chemist, Nurse, Optician, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Polymer scientist, Radiographer, Forensic scientist, Photographic processing, Cosmetic science.

CHEMISTRY

BIOLOGY

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Introduction

Biology, along with the physical sciences (Physics & Chemistry), is a vital and integral element in the education process. In recent years huge opportunities have become available in science related fields, particularly in biological sciences. In recognition of this the senior biology syllabus has been revised and a new syllabus was introduced in September 2002.

> Fundamental to the new course is the following philosophy:
> 'Biology is the study of life, and through its study biology students employ the processes of science in their investigations and explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationship between organisms and their environment'
>
> ***(Dept. of Education & Science, 2001)***

The new syllabus comprises three broad units:

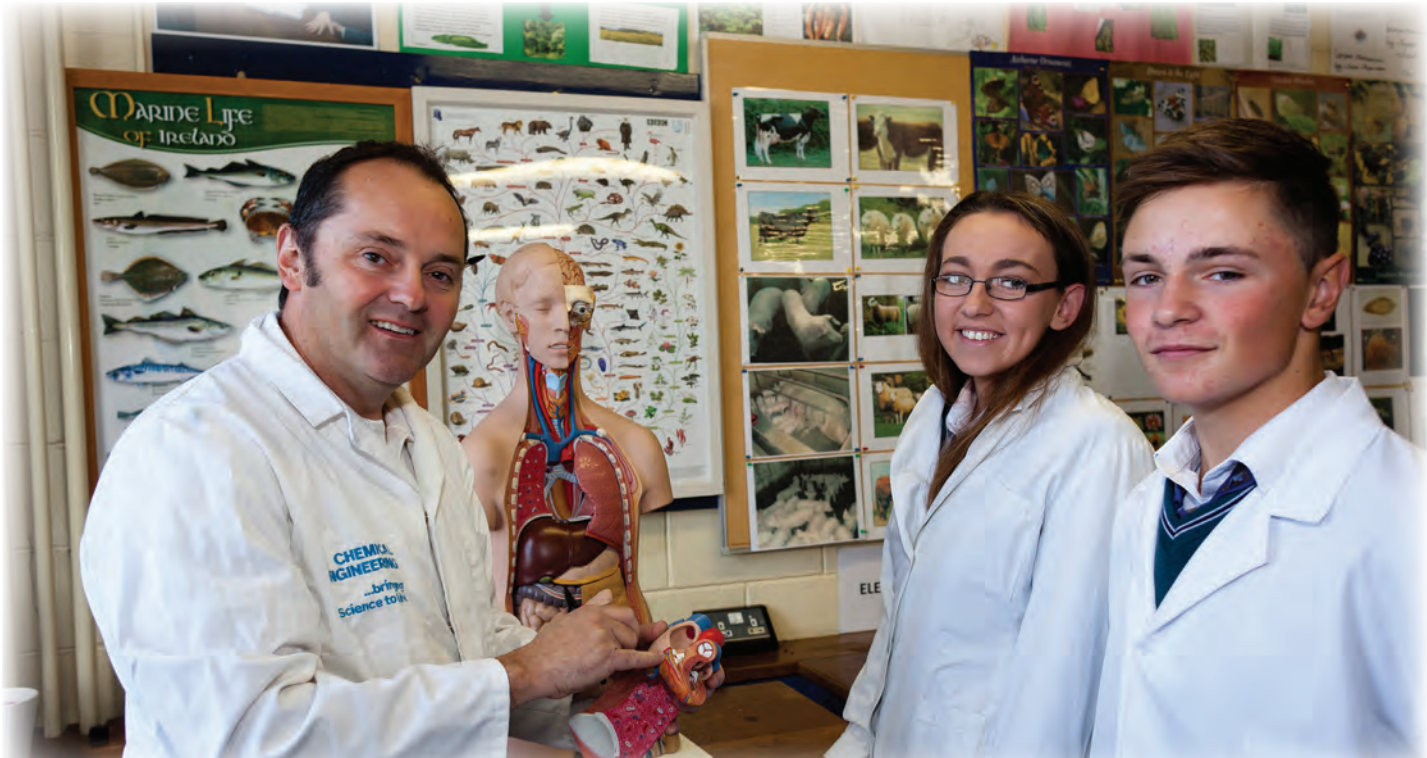
- Unit One: Biology- The Study of Life.
- Unit Two: The Cell.
- Unit Three: The Organism.

In total 70% of the above syllabus is composed of science for the enquiring mind and the remaining 30% relates to technological, political, social and economic aspects. In addition to a terminal written exam, assessment based on performance and practical activities will play a major part in the syllabus. Integration of the new syllabus will further enhance an awareness of the professional job opportunities in the biological science area. In addition to biology's relevance to medical sciences such as dentistry, medicine and physiotherapy many other areas are becoming increasingly important. In particular, Marine aqua science, food processing/ technology and biotechnology are now forerunners in the biological technology fields providing huge job opportunities.

Careers

Agriculture, Paramedic, Audiologist, Biochemist, Biologist, Chiropodist, Dentist, Food science technician, Geneticist, Horticulturist, Medical/Laboratory technician, Medicine, Microbiologist, Nurse, Occupational therapist, Optician, Pharmacist, Pharmacy technician, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Radiographer, Speech therapist, Veterinary surgeon, Zoologist.

Biology is a required subject for genetics (UCC) and Human Health and Diseases(TCD)



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Agricultural science was introduced to the college in 2010 in response to the increasing importance of agriculture as a job provider and increasing demand for third level places with inherent links to it.

The Agricultural Science course is itself comprised of two elements:

- Agricultural theory (300marks)
- Practical assessment (100marks)

The theory part of the course deals with a wide range of topics including: Plant Science, Animal Science, Microbiology, Social Science, genetics, Grassland Tillage Crops and livestock Management.

The practical assessment element involves written practical experiments, external examination and a detailed farm project.

The course overall is extensive yet enjoyable and rewarding as it is an excellent preparation for third level science based careers.

Careers

Farmer, Horticulture, Veterinary Surgeon, Food scientist, Researcher, Teacher, Business.

Agricultural Science is not required subject for any course at Third level. It is accepted as a laboratory Science subject for most third level courses.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

THE BUSINESS GROUP

- **ACCOUNTING**
- **BUSINESS**
- **ECONOMICS**

A good Business Student is:
- Interested in the world of business
- A follower of business news in the newspaper, television and Internet
- Able to give an opinion and assessment and back it up with references
- Interested in consumer trends, market fluctuations and business practices
- Accurate in dealing with balance sheets and accounts

I Studied Business Studies for Junior Certificate. This set me up to take on the courses of Business and Accounting for Leaving Certificate. The topics I learned in both junior and senior cycle have stood to me in my college studies. I am currently studying Business in DCU and am hoping to secure a paid internship for my third year of college. I believe that studying Business in secondary school gives you a broad base for many degrees in all walks of life.

Stephen Treadwell, past pupil, 2nd Year Business Student DCU 2014.

ACCOUNTING

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Topics

- The conceptual framework of accounting
- The regulatory framework of accounting
- Accounting Records, i.e. Double Entry Book-keeping, Bank Reconciliation Statement, Control Accounts, Suspense Accounts
- Sole Traders
- Company Accounting
- Share Capital, Reserves & Loan Capital, Financial Statement of Limited Companies, Appreciation of Annual Reports of Public Limited Companies
- Special Accounts, Manufacturing Accounts, Stock, Club Accounts & Accounts of Service Firms, Departmental Accounts, Farm Accounts
- Incomplete Records
- Cash Flow Statements
- Analysis & Interpretation of Financial Statements
- Management Accounting – Costing & Budgeting
- Information Technology & Computer Applications in Accounting

Additional Information

Financial Accounting	Presentation and analysis of financial information.
Management Accounting	Analyzing business costs and how to prepare budgets

Follow on from Junior Cert Book-keeping. Not essential to have studied JC Business Studies. Suits organized students who are comfortable with numbers. Offers the hard-working student the possibility of high grades.
The current Accounting Leaving Certificate syllabus overlaps in content with Stage I of the professional Accountancy examination. As a subject it provides students with specific business and knowledge which should be very useful on leaving school.

Careers

Accountancy, Auctioneering, Auditing, Banking, Clerical work, Hospital administration, Hotel management, Receptionist, Insurance, Market research, Quantity surveyor, Taxation consultant, Management, Marketing, Computers, Advertising, Business law.

Accounting is a required subject for Commerce Accounting (NUIG)

BUSINESS

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Topics

Section A: People in Business.

(Unit 1) Introduction to people in business; people and their relationships in business; conflicting interests and how they are resolved.

Section B: Enterprise

(Unit 2) Introduction and definition of enterprise, entrepreneurs, and enterprise skill.

(Unit 3) Managing 1: Introduction and definition of management, managers and management skills, and management activities.

(Unit 4) Managing 2: Household and business manager, human resource management, changing role of management, and monitoring the business.

(Unit 5) Business in action: Identifying opportunities, marketing, getting started, and expansion.

Section C: Environment

(Unit 6) Domestic environment: categories of industry, types of business organisation, community development. Business and the economy, government and business, and social responsibilities of business.

(Unit 7) International environment: introduction to the international trading environment, European union, and international business.

Additional Information

This subject has a very practical and modern approach to Business including entrepreneurial activity and is particularly useful though not essential for courses in Commerce, Business, Marketing, Accounting and Finance.

Careers

Industry, Business, Accounting, Banking, Hospital administrator, Hotel management, Insurance, Store Management, Stock-broking, Sales, Marketing, Merchandising, Customs & Excise, Taxation, Law.

See also careers suggestions under Business & Accounting. Business is not a required subject for any course at Third level.

ECONOMICS

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Economics comes from the word 'Oikonomikos', which is Greek for 'skilled in household management'. In modern terms, economics is defined as the science which studies human behaviour as a relationship between aims and scarce resources which have alternative uses (Lionel Robbins).

Broadly speaking, it is broken into two categories - Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.

Sitemap of Subtopics:

1. Macroeconomics
Demand: the consumer
Supply: the producer
Market equilibrium
Demand and Utility
Elasticity
Theory of the Firm
Market Structures
Factor Incomes

2. Microeconomics
Economic Systems
Government and the economy
Banking and Monetary Policy
National Income
International Trade
Inflation
History of Economic Thought
Population and Employment

Hardly a day goes by without news being in the media, regarding economic growth, inflation and the Euro. Economic subjects are never far from public scrutiny and students undertaking this course should have an interest in economic matters. Many Third Level courses in Business include Economics as a significant part of their coursework.

Careers

Include Banking, Economist, Insurance, Journalist, Management, Self –Employment. See also careers suggestions under Business & Accounting. Economics is not a required subject for any course at Third Level.

THE APPLIED SCIENCE GROUP

- APPLIED MATHEMATICS
- ENGINEERING
- CONSTRUCTION STUDIES
- TECHNOLOGY
- DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS
- HOME ECONOMICS

These Subjects require a student who can:

- Be accurate and careful in drawings and tasks
- Think logical and in sequence when approaching a task
- Be creative when designing a solution to a problem
- Learn the limitations of their chosen materials
- Be co-ordinated and skillful in carrying out their assignments.

Having completed my Leaving Certificate in 2007 I chose to pursue a BSc in Architecture in University College Cork. The course is only in its second year and is proving to be very popular with students. The degree is a four year programme with a further two years of work placement. All the facilities are brand new including a state of the art Architecture Facility in the middle of Cork. There is no doubt that my time in CCC has given an excellent basis to pursue a career in Architecture. Another thing worth mentioning is the huge independence I have gained from studying and living away from home.

Conn O Farrell, Academic Excellence Award Winner for his achievement in the 2007 Leaving Certificate. Also recognized nationally by the Association of Practical Teachers for his outstanding achievement in Leaving Certificate Building Construction

APPLIED MATHEMATICS

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Topics

Applied Maths is the application of Maths to real life problems. The course addresses the following areas: Motion of particle, Newton's laws, Motion in a straight line under uniform acceleration, equilibrium of a particle under concurrent forces centre of gravity of simple bodies, liquid pressure, projectiles, angular velocity, conservation of momentum, simple harmonic motion of a particle in a straight line, motion of a rigid body and a fixed axis and ordinary differential equations.

Additional Information

Students who are taking Higher Level Mathematics and Higher Level Physics with Applied Maths find all three subjects feed into each other making a higher grade in each much more attainable.

Careers

(Mathematics & Applied Mathematics) Any course or career with a mathematical basis including: Accountancy, Actuary, Air Traffic Controller, Architecture, Banking, Biologist, Chemist, Computer operator, Economist, Engineer, Geologist, Insurance, Laboratory technician, Marketing, Medical laboratory technician, Meteorologist, Physicist, Psychologist, Quantity surveyor, Scientist, Statistician, Systems analyst.

ENGINEERING

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Students should be aware that studying Junior cycle metalwork, though not a requirement, is a great advantage to the study of engineering. However, there is no substitute for hard work and enthusiasm.

The study of Engineering contributes to the development of the student's entrepreneurial expertise, autonomous learning and a variety of transferable cognitive and practical skills. A strong emphasis is placed on problem solving, on research and on the design and manufacture of useful artefacts.Within this framework, skill in decision-making is also developed.

At the end of two years of this course pupils will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the underlying theoretical principles of engineering processes and procedures.
- Understand how engineering technology contributes to the social, technological, historical, environmental and economic life of society.
- Describe how the design process can be used in problem solving.
- Research, generate and present ideas/solutions in a logical form using appropriate materials/techniques.
- Design and manufacture artefacts to specified criteria.
- Produce from supplied drawings, artefacts/mechanisms to required accuracy and quality of finish in a specified time.
- Operate workshop machinery and equipment competently and safely.

The syllabus consists of a core comprising practical and theoretical areas of study. All students are required to study the core. In addition, five optional areas of study are included from which students are required to select two.

Core areas of study

- Health and safety
- Manufacturing Techniques and Technology
- Material Science
- Drawing & Design
- Computer Aided Processes (CAD/CAM)
- Power and Energy
- Electronics
- Mechanisms
- Pneumatics

Optional areas of study

- Computer Aided Processes (CAD/CAM)
- Decorative Metal Craft
- Power, Energy and Control
- Manufacturing Techniques and Technology
- Material Science.

Assessment

There are two assessment components:

- Practical
  Main project – 25%
  Practical Day Test – 25%
- A Terminal Examination paper – 50%

Practical

Project

The candidates's ability to intregate the knowledge and understanding, skills and competencies of the syllabus is assessed through his/her solution to a practical problem/project.

The following guideline apply to the project.

- Project design and manufacture requires a total of forty hours class time at both ordinary and higher levels.
- Higher level students are required to undertake a design and manufacture project from a given brief. They must also submit an accompanying folder.
- Ordinary level candidates are required to undertake a dimensioned project from a drawing with an element of design. They must also submit an accompanying folder.
- All projects must be manufactured in the school workshop.

Practical Day Test
The practical day test is a stern test of the pupil's technical ability and skills. The students will be given working drawings of a handheld mechanism that they will then have 6 hours to produce from scratch. This assessment will be carried out in the school workshop.

Terminal Examination Paper
The examination assesses the candidate's theoretical knowledge of syllabus content.
The following guidelines apply to the terminal examination paper:

- The paper at Ordinary level is of two hours duration while that at higher level is of two and half hours duration.
- Both ordinary and higher level papers include a Section A devoted to examing the core area's of study and a Section B examining the optional areas of study.
- Section A - 50 %
  Section B – 50%

Additional Information

The fact that 50% of the assessment is completed before June of LC2 is an attraction for Engineering. However, Engineering is a complex subject with many cross-cirrular links (Design & Communication Graphics, Technology, construction, physics, chemistry & Mathematics).

Careers

Mechanical, Biomedical, Aircraft technician, Electronics, Fitter, Mechatronics, Structural and Electronic Engineer, Service and Maintenance personnel, Technical sales, Toolmaker, Industrial design.

Engineering is not a required subject for any course at third level.

ENGINEERING

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Students are to be aware that having studied Materials Technology Wood, Technical Graphics, Materials Technology Metal or Technology at Junior Certificate level is a great advantage to the study of Construction Studies, but a keen interest in the subject and a willingness to work hard are absolutely essential.

Over the two years of this course pupils will cover all the topics listed below both practical and theoretical to the best of their capability. At Castleknock Community College we aim to have the theory of the course covered by November of LC2 so as to concentrate on the practical project which must be completed by April. The design process, sketching and rendering, detailed drawing, an appreciative interest in the built environment and good practical skills are key to achieving good grades in this subject. Students who do not already possess the basics in these skills are not at a disadvantage if they have the initiative and work hard attitude so characterised by the CCC student.

Topics

- External Envelope and Superstructure
- Architectural and Craft Heritage
- Processing of Materials
- Services and Environmental Technologies
- Architectural Awareness
- Structure and Fabric of Buildings
- Design Process
- Architectural Heritage and Design
- Services and Control Technology
- Sustainable Architecture and the Built Environment
- Materials Technology and Design

Assessment

Assessment is carried out in three components:

- The Leaving Cert Project and Portfolio
- The Day Practical Exam
- The Terminal Theory Exam

The Leaving Certificate Project and Portfolio

This is a practical project relative to the course work studied over the 2 years. It will be based on a theme selected from a number of themes provided by the Dept of Education and Science. The project should reflect a structured design approach to the chosen theme and will require a model or artifact to be produced. The project will have to be accompanied by a design portfolio/report and include appropriate visual media. This is worth 25% of the overall mark.

The Day Practical Exam

This is a four hour exam that takes place in the first week of May each year. The students are given a number of pieces of wood and a plan of an artifact to manufacture in the allotted time. This is worth 25% of the overall mark.

The Terminal Theory Exam

This is a 3 hour theory exam for higher level and a 2.5 hour exam for ordinary level based on the course work covered over the two years. It is worth 50% of the overall mark.

Additional Information

Construction Studies is examined at Higher and Ordinary Level. It is awarded points in the CAO system the same as any other subject and is a requirement for some 3rd level courses. While the student is working hard all year at this subject, the 3 methods of examination, project, day practical and paper, suits a lot of pupils and takes some of the pressure off come June of LC2.

The nature of the project work and deadlines throughout the two years gives pupils a good experience for 3rd level and later careers.

Careers

Architecture, Architect Technician, Building Construction, Building Management, Carpenter, Civil & Structural Engineer, Electrician, Estimator, Auctioneer, Heating and Ventilation Technician, Quantity Surveyor, Cabinet Making, Furniture Design and Teaching.

Construction Studies is not a required subject for any course at Third level.

TECHNOLOGY

What is Leaving Certificate Technology?

Leaving Cert Technology is an exciting and progressive subject. It encapsulates a wide variety of interesting areas from design and technology to electronics, 3D computer modelling and practical manufacturing skills. Technology encourages students be innovative in their approach to design and promotes independent learning and logical thinking skills. The course follows a structured process, integrating design and technology theory with practical design projects.

What kind of work will be covered?

Design Projects

A typical technology project will provide students with a design brief or problem to solve. Students are then required to research the target market and existing products available. Following this students produce a range of sketch design solutions, taking a selection of these ideas through to prototype and 3D computer modelling. The final design is then manufactured in the technology workshop. Through the design process students will draw on their knowledge of structures, mechanisms, electronics and programming circuits (Pic/Control).

Theory

Solid Works Computer 3D Modelling, Technology and Society, Project Management, Materials and Production, Communications and Graphic Design, Mechanisms, Electronics, Structures, ICT.

Assessment

Examination Paper 50%

Within this Paper students are assessed on core design and technology theory. They must also answer two option questions from specialised sections studied.

Project 50%

- A design brief is issued in October of LC2 and comprises of a design folder 25% which records your design & manufacturing decisions and a practical element 25% which is a functioning artifact.

Previous Leaving Certificate Briefs

- Design and make a device which will aid a person with a disability to live independently. The device or system must include electromechanical movement.
- Design a water conservation device for use in the home or work environment. The device must include electronic and mechanical movement and must educate the user as to the sustainable use of water.
- Design and make a donation system for a charity of your choice. The design must visually represent the ethos of the charity and must provide electomechanical feedback when a coin is inserted.

Careers

Technology is an excellent foundation subject for students interested in engineering design or business orientated courses. Product Design, Engineering, Marketing, Architecture, Industrial Design, Furniture Design, Graphic Design, Apprenticeships, 3D Computer Modelling, Mechatronics.

Technology is not a required subject for any course at Third level.

'The nature of the connection between technology and people is determined by the designer'
Jonathan Ive, Apple Computers

DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

Higher & Ordinary Levels

This subject involves developing creativity and the appreciation of the work of others. This involves learning the methods and techniques of the subject and producing your own work using these skills.

Design and Communication Graphics has taken the place of technical drawing for the Leaving Certificate and is the natural progression from Technical Graphics at Junior Certificate, it 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 (SolidWorks).

There is a great emphasis in the Leaving Certificate course on comprehension, analysis and problem solving. In simple terms you must be able to understand what has to be done, analyse how you are going to approach it and then proceed to solve the problem. Although it is not an essential subject for either architure or engineering it is refarded as a useful asset if you are thinking of a technical course. This course now has a project aspect.

Exam Structure:
One Terminal Exam paper 60%
Student Assignment 40%

Students Assignment
Emphasis on:

- Elements of design
- Communication graphics
- Use of ICT'S in design

Different theme for higher and ordinary level may take the form of:

- A design investigation and modification
- A concept design

Core Areas of Study

Plane and Descriptive Geometry

- Projection Systems
- Plane Geometry
- Conic Sections
- Descriptive Geometry of Lines and Planes
- Intersection and Development of Surfaces

Communication of Design and Computer Graphics

- Graphics in Design and Communication
- Communication of Design
- Freehand Drawing
- Information and Communication Technologies

Optional Areas of Study

Applied Graphics – Two options to be studied

- Dynamic Mechanisms
- Structural Forms
- Geologic Geometry
- Surface Geometry
- Assemblies

DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

Comment

- It is an advantage to have studied Technical graphics at junior cert level but not essential
- Free hand sketching is a main component of the core therefore Junior Cert art, materials technology wood and/or technology would serve as an advantage in this area.
- A basic knowledge of ICT skills is also beneficial
- Students must also appreciate that work completed must conform to a high standard of neatness and draftman-ship.

Additional Information

This subject gives the student a good foundation in technology and is desirable for Engineering, Technological, Construction and Apprenticeship Courses. It is also helpful for teaching courses in U.L. eg Engineering & Construction Studies.

Careers

Graphic design, Animation, Industrial design, Building services, Architecture, Geomatics, Product design, Civil and Structural Engineering, Booklet & Advertising, Planning and Enviromental, Landscape, Education, Design Displays, Web Design, Chemical Engineering, Mechanics, Aircraft technician, Army/Air corps, Electronics, Fitter, Mechanical Production, Metallurgy, Service & Maintenance personnel, Technical sales, Toolmaker.

Words such as: Accurate, Precise, Visualisation, Creative, Skilful, Sketching, Rendering, Detailed-Drawings, Logical Thinking, Observant, Problemsolving, Interested etc.

Third level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system

HOME ECONOMICS (SOCIAL & SCIENTIFIC)

Higher & Ordinary Levels

This is a very broad subject and covers a wide spectrum of topics. The subject comprises of both theory and practical assignments. Students will be required to investigate and carry out research on nominated topics in relation to the practical area of the course. The current Leaving Certificate syllabus for Home Economics is well established and allows students to spread their workload over two years. Home Economics Social & Scientific complements other Leaving Certificate subject areas including Biology, Agricultural Science & Business. It is considered to be a well-balanced, interesting and informative course which students can easily relate to.

On completion of two years of study Leaving Certificate students will have acquired an expansive knowledge of

- Nutrition, Diets & Food Science
- Microbiology & Food Preservation/Processing
- Consumer Studies and Finance
- Social Studies

It is not a requirement to have studied Junior Certificate Home Economics. Home Economics Social & Scientific can be studied at higher and ordinary level for Leaving Certificate. Classes are mixed ability, levels are usually chosen by December LC2 year.
Details of the areas of study are outlined in more detail below and are divided into Core and Elective sections.

Core Areas (80%) to be studied
Food Studies (45%)

- Food Science & Nutrition
- Diet & Health
- Preparation & Processing of Food including Food Hygiene & Safety
- Food Industry

Resource Management & Consumer Studies (25%)

- Family Resource & Household Management
- Financial Management & Budgeting
- Technology
- Consumer Studies, Consumer Legislation & Responsibilities

Social Studies (10%)

- Family in Society
- Family Structures & Functions
- Family Law

There are three Elective Areas from which One will be chosen by the Home Economics Department and examined at the terminal exam.

Electives (20%)

- Home Design & Management
  - Housing styles & Construction
  - Systems & Services
  - Interior Design

- Textiles, Fashion & Design
  - Fashion Styles & History
  - Garment Design & Construction

HOME ECONOMICS

- Social Studies
  - Social Issues & Awareness
  - Employment & Education
  - Poverty
  - Social Support Structures

Assessment for the Leaving Certificate is in the form of:
Terminal Written Examination worth 80%
Practical Coursework Journal worth 20%

Practical Coursework Journal

The journal is a means of assessing practical culinary work and research. It is based on the write up of 5 of 6 key assignments which are carried out primarily in Leaving Cert 1 Year. The journal is submitted for assessment to the State Examinations Commission and marked in October of LC2 Year.

Careers

Dietician, Nutritionist, Food Technology & Development, Food Science, Food Adviser (Commercial), Marketing (Food Related), Chef, Food Stylist, Sports Nutritionist, Nursing, Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, Child Care, Nursery & Pre-School Management, Consumer Adviser, Finance, Environmental Designer, Fashion Designer, Textile Designer, Hotel/Catering Management, Tourism, Institutional Management, Interior Design, Teaching, Special Education, Physical/Sports Therapist.

Home Economics is not a required subject for any course at Third level.

THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL STUDIES GROUP

History, Geography, Religious Education and Classical Studies go into great detail at Leaving Certificate. These subjects involve a lot more than the learning of places and dates. Instead they go much more into analysis and interpretation.

A good shows:

- An interest in the world as it is now and how it came to be so.
- A thirst for knowledge to explain and explore the current situation
- An ability to express themselves accurately and to support their arguments with relevant information
- An interest in reading and watching relevant programmes on television and video.

HISTORY

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Contemporary Civilisation
The new Leaving Certificate History Programme commenced in September 2004. It replaced the former Leaving Certificate syllabus. Course 2, which are the "Later Modern Field of Study", cover the period 1815-1993, in Ireland and Europe and the Wider World. In the Leaving Certificate cycle two topics from each are studied. Students study FOUR topics from this period: TWO Irish and TWO from Europe and the Wider World. The examining authority will prescribe ONE of the four topics for a two year cycle for documents based study. If that topic is from Irish history, teachers choose ONE other Irish topic and TWO Europe and Wider World. If the topic prescribed is Europe and the Wider World the opposite applies.

Topics

The prescribed topic will be a Documents-based study. The availability of appropriate documents will be a key consideration in the prescription of topics. MULTITEXT in Cork is producing a documents package per topic. Both Higher and Ordinary level students must do the Documents-based study. Each level must also do a RESEARCH topic PRE-SUBMITTED before the Terminal Exam. It will be worth 20% of the total marks, divided up as follows:

- Outline Plan 3% Evaluation of Sources 5%
- Extended Essay 12%
- Authentication procedures will ensure that the RESEARCH Topic is the candidates own work.
- Some of our previous Leaving Certificate students have written Research projects on such topics as:
- Operation Bagration 1944
- The political influence of John Lennon
- Marilyn Monroe and the Kennedy's
- The life of Edward Joyce, Lord Haw Haw
- Thomas More and Henry the Eight
- John Maynard Keyne
- The Battle of Iwo Jima
- The Munich Olympics, 1972
- OutTerminal Examination 80% of marks

Candidates will answer FOUR questions, ONE of each of the topics studied. The question on the prescribed topic will be documents based. This format applies to both levels, although Ordinary Level will be set an appropriate standard and will include more choices.

HISTORY

History may not be taken with Economic History for Leaving Certificate. The study of history makes for creative and logical thinking as well as providing knowledge of mankind, the past and the lessons for the present and the future.

It complements other subjects e.g. Economics, Politics & English Careers

Careers

Politics, Journalism, Local Government, Sociology, Archaeology, Barrister, Civil service, Teacher, Law clerk, Researcher, Solicitor, Garda, Tourism, Broadcaster, Librarianship, Genealogy, Travel & Tourism.

History is not a required subject for any course at Third Level.

I studied history because I was really interested in it. The course introduces you to a great range of modern history. A feature of the course is the Research Topic, handed in before the final exam, which allows you to choose a topic of your own to research, and then write a report on it. This is a fantastic chance to explore something that really interests you, and is a skill worth having for third level, when you have to do your own research! It is true that history is very much a 'writing' subject, but this will help for your other subjects, and be useful no matter what you study after the Leaving Cert and beyond, for the ability to write clearly and analytically is a huge asset to anyone.

Joan Redmond, Academic Excellence Award Winner for her achievement in the 2006 Leaving Certificate. Second Year student of History in Trinity College Dublin

GEOGRAPHY

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Rationale:

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

Units of Study:

Higher and Ordinary students are required to study the following three core units.

Core Unit 1: Patter

- The Tectonic Cycle
- The Rock Cycle
- Landform Development
- Human Interaction with physical processes

Core Unit 2: Regional Geography

- The concept of regions
- The dynamics of regions
- The complexity of regions

Core Unit 3: Geographical Investigation & Skills

- Field work report to be presented for assessment worth 20% of the overall grade.
- Skills include: Map and aerial photograph interpretation, satellite
- imagery, figure interpretation, census of population data, weather maps, textual sourced geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Higher and Ordinary level students are required to study ONE of the following two electives.

Elective Unit 4: Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities

- Economic development
- The global economy
- Ireland and the EU.

Elective Unit 5: Patterns and Processes in Human Environment

- The dynamics of population
- Population and human development
- Population movement
- Dynamics of settlement
- Urban land use patterns
- Urban Problems

Higher-level Students only, are required to study ONE of the following Four.

Optional Unit 6: Global Interdependence

- Views of development and underdevelopment
- The Global Economy
- Economic growth and human development.
- Sustainable development

Optional Unit 7: Geo Ecology

- Soils
- World climates and biomes
- Biomes and human activity

Optional Unit 8: Culture & Identity
- Physical and cultural indicators
- Nationality
- Race, nationality and identity

Optional Unit 9: The Atmosphere – Ocean Environment
- The atmosphere – ocean systems
- Solar energy
- Hydrological cycle
- Circulation
- Climatic regions
- Climate and economic activities.

Assessment
The revised syllabus will be examined by a written examination (80%) and an assessment of the report on the geographical investigation (20%).

Additional Information
Geography fulfils one of the two science subject requirements for Science and Pharmacy courses in TCD.

> "The Leaving Cert Geography course continues on from what we learned at Junior cycle, which therefore makes it more manageable. Many elements of the course are relevant to the real world such as natural disasters like earthquakes and volcanoes, or migration in and out of Ireland. Having studied Geography at senior cycle, I feel I can view the world around me in a more informed light".
>
> ***LC2 Student 2014***

GEOGRAPHY

Careers
Civil engineering, Construction, Town planning, Architecture, Meteorology, Surveying, Mineralogy, Horticulture, Auctioneering, Estate agency, Forestry, Market research, Statistics, Archaeology, Cartographer.

Geography is not a required subject for any course at third level.
It is accepted as a science subject for some courses in TCD e.g. Earth Studies.
You will find links with Science, SPHE, Physical Education, Art, Craft, Design and Business Studies.

CLASSICAL STUDIES

Higher & Ordinary Levels

What is Classical Studies? Subject Overview

Classical Studies is concerned with the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome in all their manifestations and with their continuing influence on the modern world. It includes history, literature, art and architecture, drama and philosophy.

Students who have studied Classical Studies at Junior Certificate level will have received a good introduction to the Graeco-Roman world. However, it is by no means essential for the study of Leaving Certificate Classical Studies.

Content

Leaving Certificate Classical Studies may be studied at Ordinary or at Higher level. The fundamental unit of both levels is the topic. There are ten topics prescribed for examination. These topics are arranged in three groups as follows:

Group I
Topic 1. Athens at War
Topic 2. Alexander the Great
Topic 3. Life and Thought in the Late Roman Republic
Topic 4. Roman Historians

Group II
Topic 5. Greek Drama.
Topic 6. Ancient Epic
Topic 7. Writers of the Augustan Age

Group III
Topic 8. Art and Architecture in Greek Society
Topic 9. The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato
Topic 10. Roman Art and Architecture

Assessment

Leaving Certificate Classical Studies is assessed at two levels. There are separate Ordinary and Higher level papers. Candidates are required to answer questions on four topics in the examination, taking at least one topic from each group.

What type of student might Classical Studies suit?

Classical Studies will appeal to those interested in reading and writing about the ancient world. No previous knowledge of the Greek or Latin languages is required. It can be taken by itself as a Leaving Cert. subject, which will broaden the student's outlook and knowledge, as well as gaining points for University entrance. The subject is nowadays one of the popular choices in the Arts faculties of our Universities. It is particularly suited to students who have scored highly in the Linguistic and Social areas in their Interest Profile.

Topics

- Athens at War
- Alexander the Great
- Greek Drama
- The Philosopher in Society: A Study of Socrates and Plato
- Ancient Epic
- Roman Historians

CLASSICAL STUDIES

All the textbooks are in English/Irish, so knowledge of Latin or Greek is not necessary and there is no need to have done Classical Studies at Junior Cert.

There is no coursework / project work in this subject and final assessment consists of one essay-based three hour examination. From June 2011, the examination has been changed, with students now required to answer 6 questions, doing at least one question from each of the three sections listed above.
Owing to the nature of the exam, and the material to be studied, it is likely that pupils who are strong in English and History might find themselves best suited to this subject.

The Greek Drama section would be very similar to how pupils might study Shakespeare in English while although the Ancient Epics were originally long poems, they are taught in prose form and are similar to adventure novels.

While the Alexander section is in the main part History, the Art and Architecture is really a mixture of so many of the different things which make Classical Culture so enduring.

Being strong in History and particularly English would be indicative that Classical Studies might be a good choice at Leaving Cert. However, all pupils can prosper in this subject purely because they find the material so interesting and it is this, above all else, which seems to be most important for pupils making a success of choosing Classical Studies.

Why study it?

The ancient world is one of the foundations on which much of our European civilization is based. This course enables the student to go back to the originals (in translation), and learn the stories and legends which inspired so much in art and literature for the next 2,000 years.

Careers

Politics, Journalism, Teacher, Researcher, Archaeologist, Historian, Librarian.

Classical Studies is not a required subject for any course at Third Level.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Religion at senior level offers a wide ranging and comprehensive introduction to the development of religion through the perspectives of history, philosophy, mortality, sociology and the political world. This course offers reflections on the comtemporary world.i.e it's issues of justice and peace, Religion and gender. Students will explore meaning and values through the prisms of art, philosophy,music and literature. There is a strong emphasis on self directed learning through research (20% of overall marks for Journal work). Students will be expected to engage in analysis, reflection, problem-solving and independent learning. This course will prepare students to develop intellectually, creatively,morally and socially to meet the demands of an ever-changing complex world.

Assessment

Religious education will be assessed at Higher & Ordinary level in the Leaving Certificate Examination.

The assessment will have two elements:

- Coursework
- Terminal Written Paper

Marks for coursework and written examination will be combined to constitute the final grade awarded. 20% of the total mark will be awarded on the basis of coursework.

Course Content

Section A

The Search for Meaning and Values:

- The quest for meaning
- The response to the quest
- Concepts of God
- Religion and the emergence of God

Section B

Christianity: Origins and Contemporary Expressions

- The return to origins
- The vision of Jesus in context
- The message of conflict
- The formation of Christian community
- The Christian message today

Section C

World Religions

- The phenomenon of religion
- A closer look at the major living traditions
- New religious movements
- Other living religions

Section D

Moral Decision-making

- Thinking about morality
- Morality and religion
- Moral principles and theories
- Moral Development

Section E

Religion and Gender

- Gender, Society and Religion
- Gender and Christianity
- Women's stories

Section F

Issues of Justice and Peace

- Reflecting on context
- The concept of justice and peace
- The religious imperative to act for justice and peace

Section G

Worship, Prayer and Renewal

- Symbol, ritual and sacrament
- Prayer
- Meditation and contemplation

Section H

The Bible, Literature and Sacred Text

- The Bible as living and sacred text
- Text and Community
- The literature of the Bible
- Biblical texts

Section I
Religion, The Irish Experience

- Patterns of Change
- Pre-Christian Ireland
- Christianity In Ireland

Section J
Religion & Science

- The scientific and theological enterprises
- The relationship between religion and science
- Current issues for religion and science: origins
- Current issues for religion and science: life and death

The Leaving Certificate Religion course offers a broad view of numerous religious found across the world and throughout history. From the roots of prehistoric religious to their refinement, the development and revival of philosophy and the growth of organised religion, the course provided greater understanding and insight into the beliefs of various faiths and reasons behind these beliefs. I found the development of philosophy and examinations of lesser-known religions particularly interesting. The course gave me a better understanding of these faiths and their history and I have found this understanding particularly useful in the study of both history and politics in College.

Michael Murray, Past Pupil 2006, Second Year Arts student (History & Politics) NUI Maynooth

Careers

Researcher, Historian, Sociologist, Anthropplogist, Social Worker, Youth Worker, Clergy, Teacher, Journalist.

Religion is not a required subject for any Third Level Course.

THE ARTISTIC GROUP

- **MUSIC**
- **ART, CRAFT & DESIGN WITH CRAFTWORK**

While Leaving Certificate Art may not always be an essential subject for entry into Art College it is highly recommended that intending students take it for their Leaving Certificate. A portfolio is an essential requirement for all art courses and the preparation of a portfolio without the guidance of an art teacher would be most difficult. Likewise for doing Music in College you don't have to do it for your Leaving Certificate but you will have to do an audition or music test if you want to study it there.

A good art or music student has:

- A desire for self-expression and a commitment to work at perfecting this.
- An appreciation of the artistic and creative side of life.
- A willingness to work on exercises and technique to increase ability and perfect style.
- An ability to interpret the creative work of others.
- A willingness to work solo or as part of a group.
- A dedication to their craft.

MUSIC

Higher & Ordinary Levels

It is essential to have a good knowledge of the basics in theory before choosing Music as an option at Senior Cycle.

Having studied music from a very young age, it was a natural progression to study it at Leaving Certificate level. Music is a very accessible subject for students and the syllabus allows students to specialise in the area in which they feel most comfortable, listening, composing or performing. It caters for all needs and interests. Students are encouraged to work to their strengths.
Music opened up many opportunities for me and there are a vast range of careers in the area of music. I went on to study Music as part of my degree in NUI Maynooth and continued my teacher training in the University of Limerick. I am currently teaching Music in Luttrellstown Community College, Dublin 15.
I find music to be an enjoyable and rewarding subject and would recommend it highly.

Niamh Foley, Past Pupil 2003

This syllabus provides an opportunity for students who wish to continue their music education in the classroom context.

The Music syllabus is offered at two levels: Higher and Ordinary level.

The higher level includes the ordinary level requirements but a greater depth of knowledge, understanding and skill will be necessary for the higher level candidate.

The structure of the Music syllabus at Leaving Certificate level follows the Junior Certificate outline with three essential activities in performing, composing and listening.

Supporting skills and studies are included under one or more of these headings:

- Rudiments / Theory of music
- Music Reading
- Analysis of four prescribed works
- Irish Music
- Aural Skills
- Dictation
- Melody Writing and Harmony
- Historical Eras
- Contextual and stylistic knowledge

Each student is required to study all three essential activities, each with a 25% weighting. The remaining 25% is allocated to an elective study in one of the three areas, depending on where the student's talents lie. A very popular option in recent years is Music Technology. It involves inputting music into a software package and performing edits on the pieces, for example, inputting dynamics, tempo markings or transposing the music. This elective forms part of the performing activity.

Careers

Entertainment, Orchestra, Librarianship, Speech therapy, Dance, Film & Theatre, Instrument maker, Teacher, Occupational therapist, Television & Radio production, Sound engineering, Programme director, Music software programmer, Music management, Newspaper critic, Recording engineering.

Music is a required subject for Education, Religion, and Music in Mater Dei Institute.

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN WITH CRAFTWORK

Higher & Ordinary Levels

Stepping into the Art Rooms 47/48 was like, for me, stepping out of the mundane classroom and bustling corridors and into its own unique environment- an environment which inspires creativity and thrives on originality and expression. Art in CCC gave me the chance to escape the pressures around me, and to explore a side of learning which many people do not get the opportunity to experience.

It was during the 3 years of Junior Cert Art where I discovered my love and passion for it- one which I did not know I had. I was given the opportunity to develop a whole range of skills from life sketching to craft design.

During the latter years of my time in CCC, a true appreciation of Art was firmly seeded and came to full blossom. Art History gave me huge insights into the developments of artistic techniques throughout the various ages, which unquestionably heighted my overall admiration for Art – an appreciation that I will now have forever. Everywhere you go, there is Art.

I am currently studying to become a Biomedical Engineer in Trinity College, Dublin. While I am not studying art & design directly, I will constantly face design problems in my career which will require creative solutions. As a biomedical engineer, my role will serve to come up with new designs to tackle and overcome medical problems, whether that is in drug design or medical devices. Having 5 years of Art in CCC under my belt has undoubtedly helped me to acquire a creative approach to my work, an approach that will play a vital role in many careers people choose to pursue after school.

I would recommend Art to everyone – regardless of talent or of the career you may wish to pursue after school. You may discover a passion, an appreciation, a frame of mind or a way of thinking which you never thought you had!

Brian Hughes,Castleknock Community College graduate 2011

Castleknock Community College offers Art, Craft & Design with Craftwork Option. This allows students to pursue their artistic development under the following topics:

Topics

Imaginative Composition or Still Life (100 marks)
Students explore and develop their creative imagination and are given the necessary skills to realise their creations. Students become competent in their observational drawing and obtain an understanding of the art elements such as line, tone, shape, colour, texture,composition, scale, layout and pattern.

Life Sketching (50 marks)
Students explore and develop their drawing skills at representing the human figure on two-dimensional surface.

Craft Work (100 Marks)
Students develop their skills in both the design and production of their chosen craft. Students can explore their artistic qualities through crafts such as modelling, bookcraft, embroidery, pottery, poster design and calligraphy.

History & Appreciation of Art (150 Marks)
Students study a large cross section of the huge area of art history. Students develop their analytical, critical and appraisal skills.

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN WITH CRAFTWORK

The curriculum is broken down into the following sections

Section 1: Art in Ireland (from Prehistoric times to the present)
Section 2: European Art (from 100A.D. to the present)
Section 3: Appreciation – Exploration of everyday issues, ranging from film studies, visual communications, environment, construction design, museum and exhibition culture, etc.

Additional Information

Students who wish to pursue a career in the field of art, craft and design must have art as a Leaving Certificate Subject, as art is an essential requirement for many of these courses. Students who wish to pursue an art course at third level (PLC or University) are required to produce a portfolio. This is in addition to their course work. Although not essential, it is an advantage to have studied art at Junior Cycle. If the student has not studied art at Junior Cycle, it is vital that the student has an interest in drawing/sketching.

Careers

Advertising, Animation, Antiques, Art Historian, Art Teacher, Architecture, Crafts, Design Consultant, Environmental designer, Fashion, Furniture Design & Manufacture, Gallery & Museum work, Graphic design, Industrial design, Industrial Design: Landscaping, Painter, Photographer, Potter, Marketing, Occupational therapist, Primary teacher, Printing & publishing, Sculptor, Video production, Textile design, Town planning, Website Design.

Art is a requirement for some art courses e.g. Visual Arts (WIT) and Design – Visual Communications (WIT).

Castleknock Community College

Carpenterstown Road
Castleknock, Dublin 15

Tel: (01) 822 1626/4/8
Fax: (01) 822 1630

email: admin@castleknockcc.ie
Web: www.castleknockcc.ie

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