



LEAVING CERTIFICATE OPTIONS 2020

Nenagh College Senior Cycle Choices



3 Programmes on Offer

- Leaving Cert Applied- LCA
- Leaving Cert Established
- Leaving Cert Vocational Programme- LCVP

Subject Choice

What's right for me?



- Leaving Cert candidate numbers have surged to their highest level in 15 years. Last year saw 59000 students sit the Leaving Cert
- Students are in for the next two years of study, deadlines, CAOs and exams
- Parents get ready to embrace tantrums, demands, tears and stress
- For those who have just completed their Junior Cert or TY, **right now marks the beginning of the most serious two years of your education so far.**



Reality

- The Leaving Cert most important exam you will have to do so far in your life, probably the most stressful exam you will ever do.
- It is a huge step from the Junior Cert and requires **CONSTANT** attention for two full years
- The **six best results** in the Leaving Cert will calculate points.
- **Points & MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** dictate your future in third level education

Vital to choose the right subjects

- Students must pick subjects that will maximise their **points**, meet the **Minimum Entry Requirements** and keep open career paths that they may want to follow
- Pick subjects based on INTERESTS, APTITUDES AND ABILITY





Steps in Choosing subjects

- Planning is important- if you do not know what you want to do at this stage- it is important that your subject choices keep open as many career paths as possible for you.
- Do your research- go online and check college websites or else <https://www.qualifax.ie/> and https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php?parent=2006&ed_sub_cat_id=355&menu_parent_id=2110

What do you need for a career in?

www.irishtimes.com/polopoly_fs/1.1656206.1389801436%21/menu/standard/file/Exam%20Times%20Subject%20Choice%20Supplement.pdf

Pharmacy

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Language
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Favourite subject



Medicine

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Language
- Chemistry
- Biology/Agricultural Science/Physics
- A favourite subject



Nursing

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry/Agricultural Science
- Home Economics - Scientific and Social
- Favourite Subject



Hotel Management

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Language
- Business
- Home Economics- Scientific and Social
- Favourite subject



Business (strong Maths student)

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Language
- Accounting
- Economics
- Favourite subject



Common **pitfalls** when picking subjects



- Pick the subject not the teacher
- Don't chose a subject just because your older brother or sister did well in it.
- Don't follow friends
- Look at the entry requirements for the course that you wish to study
- Pick subjects that you are good at, subjects you enjoy most and will work well in.
- DON'T MAKE RASH DECISIONS!!!!
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BD0F8HLQQAQ&t=25s>



Don'ts and Do's



- Choose a subject because your friend is taking it
- Choose a subject just because you like or dislike the teacher
- Choose a subject because you think it will be easy
- Choose a new subject without finding out more about it
- Make a decision at the last minute without thinking about it
- But don't panic
- Choose subjects you enjoy
- Choose subjects you are good at
- Choose subjects you need for your chosen career
- Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice now
- Talk to your Guidance Counsellor and your teachers
- Talk to your parents or guardians

5 Post Leaving Certificate Options

- University
- Institute of Technology (IT)
- College of Further Education (FET Colleges)
- Apprenticeship
- Work

Work

- No specific subject or entry requirements
- On the job training

Apprenticeship

- Minimum entry requirements 5 x D's at Junior Certificate
- Apprenticeships (ESB, Eir (Early Talent), Careersservices.ie notifications)
- 80% of Apprentices have Leaving Certificate
- Useful Subjects: Maths & Science
- <http://www.apprenticeship.ie>
- <https://careersportal.ie/apprenticeships/#.WqZ5xYXXKM>



Traineeships

- Traineeship is a programme of structured training which combines learning in an education and training setting and in the workplace aiming to improve employment outcomes for participants and increase retention and productivity within industry.
- Traineeship programmes are available in a range of industries and sectors such as Business, Care, Construction, Engineering, Fashion and Beauty Finance, Hospitality, ICT, Manufacturing, Media, Logistics, Retail, Sports and Leisure.
- Traineeship programmes are developed and delivered by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) working in partnership with industry representatives and employers.
- **www.traineeship.ie**

Colleges of Further Education (PLC- Post Leaving Certificate)

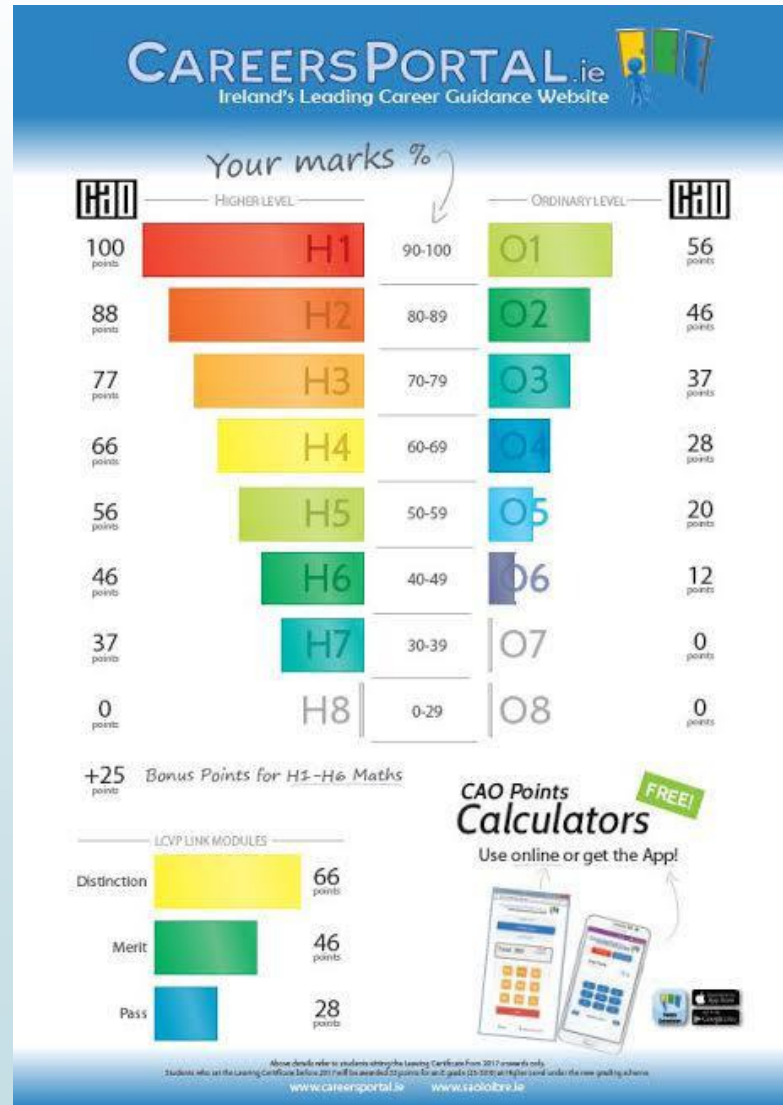
www.fetchcourses.ie

- Leaving Certificate- **(5 Passes) No Points Required**
- Interview
- Emphasis on Vocational & Work Experience
- Practical

CAO Explained

- One central application form
- University and Institutes of Technology **ONLY**
- 20 choices (out of 1500+)
- €30 Early Closing Date- 20th January thereafter €45
- Apply Online-www.cao.ie
- Apply by February 1st

Points



IT & University

- Both applicable through the CAO
- **Both require points**
- Both have **specific entry requirements**- 2 Higher level and 4 Ordinary Level
- Both have specific **subject** requirements- 3rd Language or Maths & Science

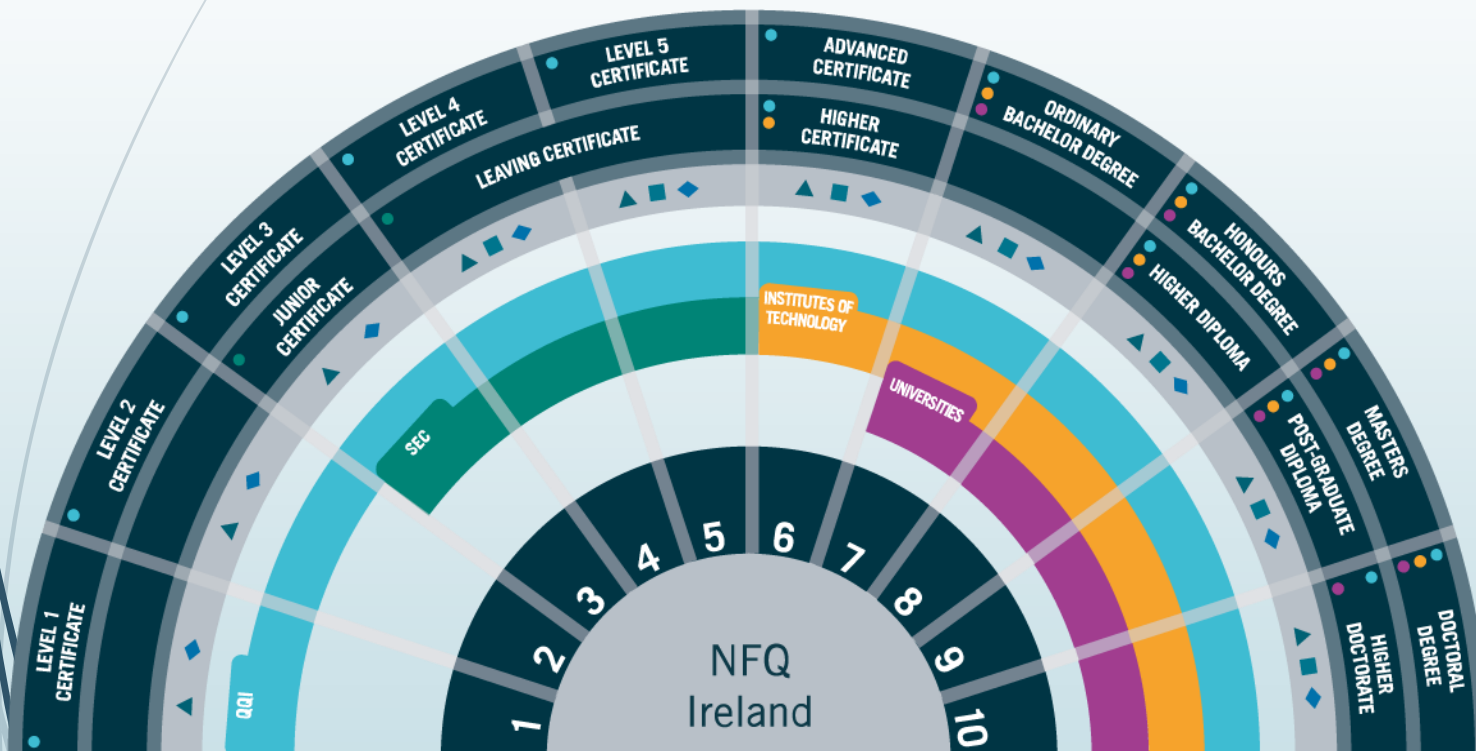
Entry Requirements (IT's)

- English OR Irish
- Maths
- Points

Specific Entry Requirements for University

- English
- Maths
- Irish
- **AND**
- 1 European Language- **for some courses only**
- Points

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS



Subject Options- Nenagh College



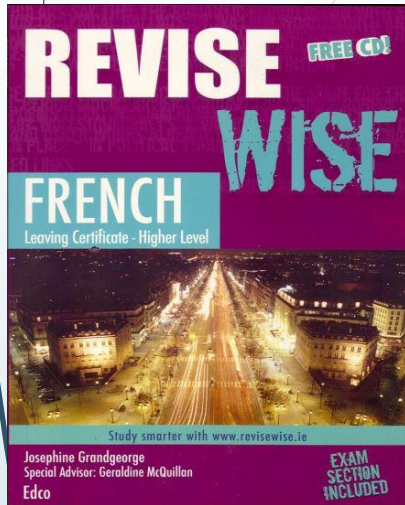
- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Required for most courses at Universities and at least two are required for IT's and jobs
- + 4 other subjects
- + option of taking LCVP



Subject Groupings- Subjects offered at leaving Cert in Nenagh College

- **Language Group**
Irish, English, French
- **Science Group**
Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science.
- **Business Studies Group**
Accounting, Business, Link Modules (LCVP)
- **Social Studies Group**
History, Geography, Art, Music, Home Economics
- **Practical Group**
Construction, Engineering, Design and Communications Graphics

Language Group



- ➡ English
- ➡ Irish
- ➡ French



English

- **A pass in Ordinary Level English required**
- Some colleges including the Institutes of Technology, DIT and DCU **will accept Irish instead**
- Grade O4 (Ordinary) or Grade H5 (Higher) in English or Irish at Junior Certificate level is required for entry to an apprenticeship in the Defence Forces
- It is only required at higher level for certain courses in Communications, Journalism and Clinical Speech Studies (Speech Therapy)



Irish

- **From 2012- Oral Irish made up 40 percent of the total available marks**
- Is a requirement for entry to the National University of Ireland: UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, Maynooth (Unless exempt)
- Also a requirement for the Army Cadets
- The **Gardai require two languages**, English and Irish or another Language
- H4 (60%-69%) Higher Level required for **primary teaching** or study Irish at Trinity College



French

- At present a third or a foreign language is required for the N.U.I Colleges for the **majority of programmes-** N.U.I. Galway, **Maynooth**, UCC, UCD, the Royal College of Surgeons as well as some Colleges linked to them such as St. Angela's, Sligo; Shannon School of Management; N.C.D.A and Army Cadetships and the Air Corps.



Third Language Exceptions



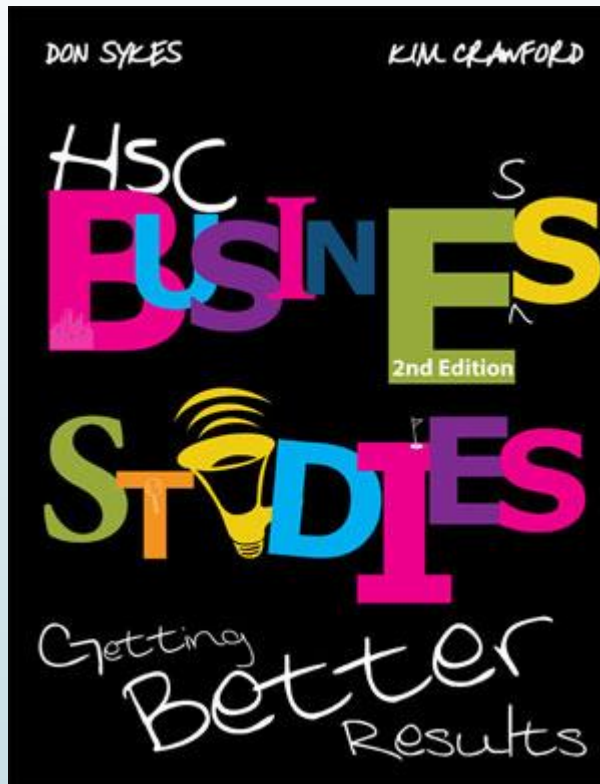
- **Nursing courses in any of the Colleges mentioned above, Agricultural Science, General Science and Engineering courses** at N.U.I Galway ,Maynooth, UCD and UCC.
- It is important to remember that **there are many colleges** such as U.L and DCU and the Institutes of Technology that **DO NOT require** a third language/foreign language for entry.



No third language/foreign language requirement

- Trinity College / University Limerick – Irish
- Dublin City University – English or Irish
- I.T.'s - English or Irish
- P.L.C's – unless a modern language is area of study
- Gardai – English and another language
- Apprenticeships & Army Recruits

Business Studies Group



- Accounting
- Business
- Link Modules (LCVP)

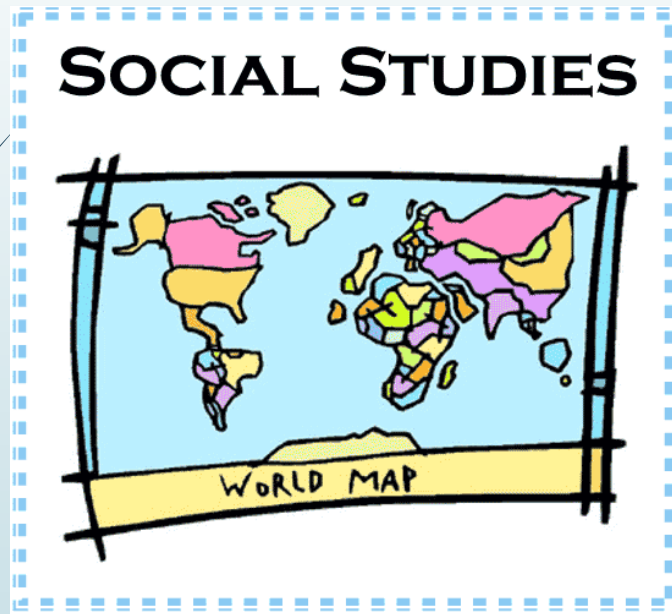


Accountancy and Business



- Involves the keeping of records (book-keeping), their analysis and interpretation
- **Not essential for entry to any business course** , but will be great help to students wishing to pursue any third level business related course
- NUIG GY207 Accounting requires this subject
- This subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates, the business environment both the public and private sectors.
- **It is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.**

Social Studies Group



- Art
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Music

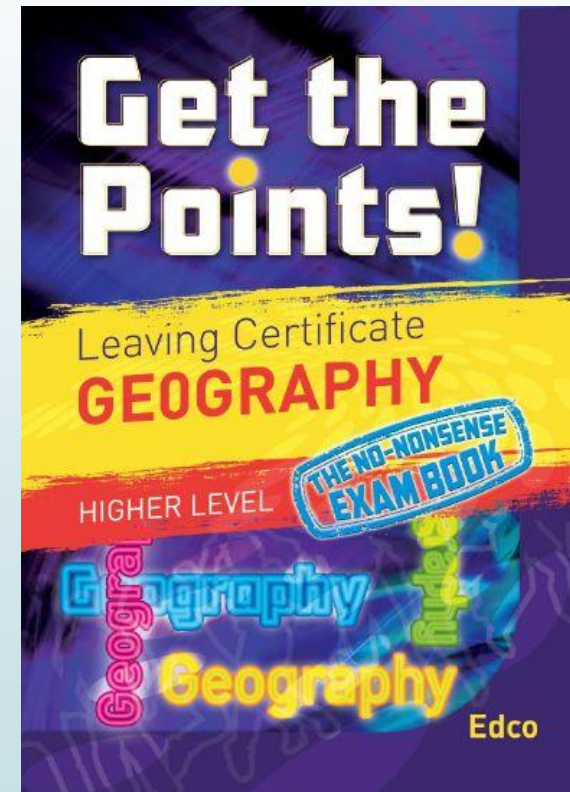
Art



- **Unlike the JC, History and Appreciation** of Art, counts for **37.5%** of the marks, in addition to a **Practical Examination** which takes place in 6th Year, during which students are to complete a project (such as a sketch or drawing) and submit it for evaluation.
- Though some Institutes of Technology Art Departments require Art , it is not always an essential subject for entry into Art Colleges.
- However, **a portfolio** (a collection of approx. 15 finished works with sketches and preparatory work) is normally an **essential requirement** for all art courses and should not be left to your final year to prepare.

Geography

- Geography is concerned with the interrelationships between human activities and the physical environment.
- **20 percent** of final grade is achieved prior to final exam
- Accepted as a Science in TCD in Science and Pharmacy Dept's.



History

- History improves critical thinking covering topics from both Irish, European and global history
- **20 percent** of final grade is achieved prior to final exam- research project
- Course is quite large and requires constant attention





Home Economics



- Covers a wide range of topics from food studies, resource management, consumer studies and social studies to electives in home design and management to fashion design
- **20 percent** of final grade is achieved prior to final exam by completing practical coursework.
- This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system although is recommended for Home Economics Teaching in St. Angela's (NUI Galway).



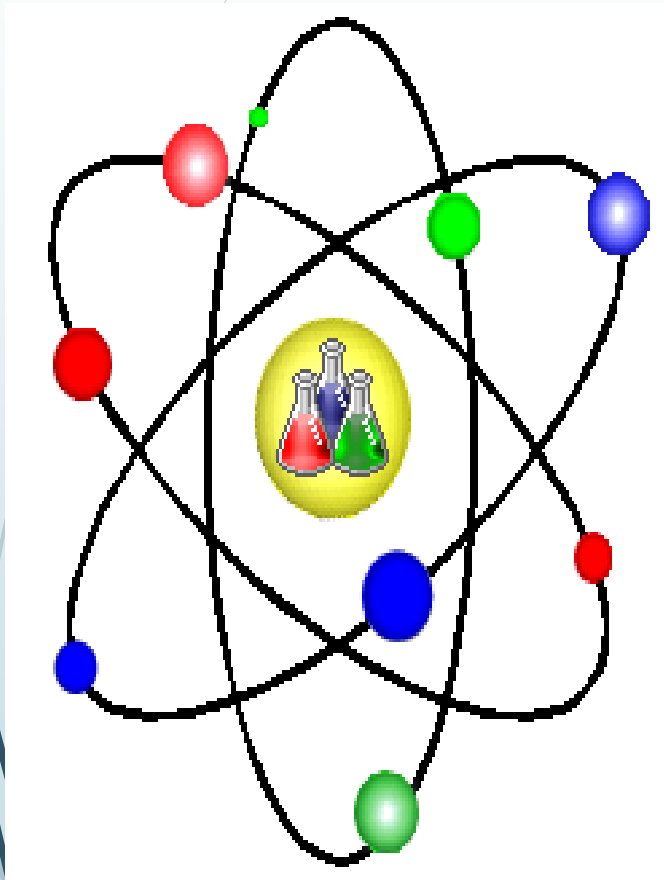
Music

➤ Exam Structure

Listening Paper 25%
Composition Paper 25%
Performance 25%
Elective 25%

- Leaving Certificate music or other relevant exams (E.g. Grade 7 at an instrument) would normally be expected of those applying to study Music at third level.
- For most music courses your Leaving Cert results are not the only factors considered upon entering.
- Different colleges have different requirements- auditions, interviews and admission tests or a combination of all three in some cases.

Science Group



- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Agricultural Science
- Computer Science



Science

- If you are applying for anything in the Engineering, Medical, Nursing, Paramedical (Radiography, Physiotherapy, Dietician, Pharmacy, Medical ,Laboratory Science ,etc.) or Science areas at University you need to have a pass in **at least one laboratory Science Subject** – [Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry (joint) or Agricultural Science]
- If any of these are being considered by you, then you should include one or more science subjects as part of your choices.



Science subjects and Careers

- Some Science Subjects although not stated as essential are more useful than others for particular careers
- Engineering: Physics & Chemistry
- Food Science – Chemistry & Biology
- Agricultural Science- Ag. Science
- Sports Science – Physics & Biology
- Nursing – Biology
- Physiotherapy – Physics & Biology
- Dental Nursing -Biology



Courses that require CHEMISTRY

- Pharmacy – UCC, TCD
- Veterinary Medicine- UCD
- Medicine- UCC
- Dentistry- UCC
- Human Nutrition and Dietetics- DIT



Agricultural Science



- Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture.
- **Project makes up 25%** of your overall mark + **Terminal Examination counts 75%** .



Computer Science

- Computer Science is the study of computers and computer programming.
- The Leaving Certificate Computer Science course introduces students to problem-solving using programming and computational knowledge.
- Through applied exercises, students will develop practical skills while working in teams to create functioning computer applications.
- **Assessment** (A) An end of course computer-based **examination**, comprising a varied format assessing all aspects of the Computer Science course. **70% of the mark**
- (B) **Coursework** - this will assess the ability of students in the elements of the course that cannot be assessed properly in an examination. It will involve the creation of an original computer application, combined with a report detailing the work involved in creating the application and how it functions. **30% of the mark**



Bonus Maths Points



- 2012 onwards **Bonus points** for Higher Level Maths (25 extra points)- Awarded by all seven Universities, DIT, Institutes of Technologies and the RCSI.
- H5 (50-60%) is required
- Actuarial Science: DCU,UCD
- Engineering: NUI Galway,TCD,UCD,DCU, UL,UCC,DIT,CIT.
- Computer Science: TCD
- Economics and Finance: UCD
- Maths and Financial Maths: TCD, Maynooth, UL, NUI Galway



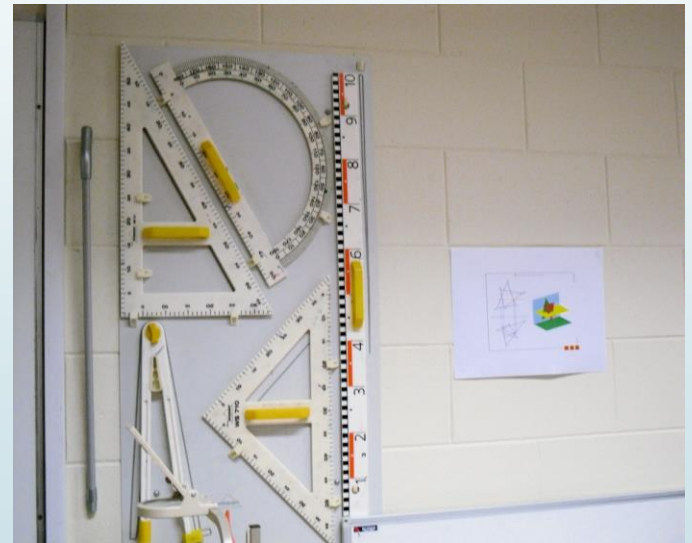
Ordinary Level Maths



- All the Institutes of Technology including DIT insist on at least Ordinary Level Math's as a basic entry requirement.
- Some will accept **Foundation level** if there is little or no Math's involved in the course e.g. Arts/ Humanities in some colleges (UL/IT's)/ **Art and Design or Social Care**, but generally no points will be awarded).

Practical Group

- Construction
- Engineering
- Design and Communications Graphics





Construction

- Made up of **practical exam 25%**, **student project 25%** and **theory exam 50%**.
- Construction theory and drawing are studied. Investigating heat and thermal effects, illumination, sound, substructure and superstructure.
- Very popular subject throughout Ireland



Engineering

- Made up **of practical exam 25%, student project 25% and theory exam 50%.**
- Largely practical. Workshops and bench work make this subject labour intensive.
- Health and safety, an in depth study of metals and plastics, technology and manufacturing are studied.



Design Communication Graphics

- Develops intellectual qualities of comprehension, analysis and problem solving as well as the skills of drawing and an awareness of design. 2D and 3D CAD is studied.
- Is not an essential requirement for those wishing to enter architecture or engineering courses, however it would be useful.
- **Final Exam Paper 60%**
Student Assignment 40%



Remember

- 5th Year requires hard work and study – min. 3 hours per night – approx 5 days per week
- Homework re-enforces learning
- Part-time work / Part-time student
- Attendance at school / Class Essential
- **Supervised Study** is offered in school
- Leaving Certificate is a Two Year Programme

Last words....

- Have an interest in the subject
- Be able to do the work/homework
- Career aspirations should be based on:

Personality

Interests

Skills and abilities

- Suggested references:

[www. qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie), www.careersportal.ie;

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/process-of-elimination-when-i-grow-up-i-don-t-want-to-be-1.3327625>



Please note

- ▶ While **every effort** will be made to facilitate your son/daughter with their 4 highest preference subjects, this may not always be possible due to subject combinations and curriculum and staff restraints

