



Dominican College
MUCKROSS PARK

**A GUIDE TO CHOOSING YOUR
LEAVING CERTIFICATE
SUBJECTS.**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Selecting the right subjects for the Leaving Certificate and the level at which to take them is a critical task faced by students every year. The wrong choice can have unintended consequences in two years' time when students find paths into college are blocked by unfortunate subject gaps.

The subject choice process can be a confusing time for you and your daughter. This guide to subject choice aims to reduce if not eradicate this confusion. The details given in this booklet are not intended to be exhaustive. They merely highlight the complexity of subject requirements. It is recommended that all intending applicants for courses check with the relevant universities or colleges for current regulations.

Minimum Entry requirements and *Specific Subject requirements* need to be carefully checked each year. Course and college requirements are subject to change. When requirements change, they are implemented straight away if they are a lessening of requirements, or signalled two years in advance if they are an increase in requirements to facilitate students choosing Leaving Certificate options.

I recommend using the website www.qualifax.ie to confirm Minimum Entry and Specific Course Requirements.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the guidance office at 014914066 or alternatively please email me at;

guidance@muckcrossparkcollege.com

With every kind wish,

Bill Core
Guidance Counsellor

Note:-

The onus is on the applicant to check the course and college requirements at the time of application.

SUBJECT CHOICE: TIPS FOR PICKING SUBJECTS FOR THE LEAVING CERT

The subjects you select for the Leaving Certificate will open up a variety of academic and career options. It is important to get advice and to choose wisely. Keep these points in mind:

- Points for entry to third-level courses are calculated on your best 6 grades – achieved in one sitting of the Leaving Cert. In terms of entry to third-level colleges all subjects count equally for points. In other words a H1 in Art is as valuable as a H1 in Physics for entry into Engineering. In order to maximise your CAO score, try to take as many higher level courses as you are capable of. The best option may be to take six higher-level and one ordinary paper, but this is a decision that should be taken in consultation with your guidance counsellor and parents/guardians.
- Be careful before considering the option of taking an extra subject as there is no such thing as an “easy” higher level paper. Every Leaving Certificate subject requires considerable time and effort and if the additional subject is being studied outside school, you will have to factor in the time spent travelling to classes. Remember also that you can accumulate points from six subjects only.
- Make sure you have the **subjects** you might need for college entry or particular courses if you are interested in them. When selecting your subjects, bear in mind that opting out of certain subjects will close off a range of college courses. The various third-level colleges all give the subject requirements necessary for entry into their courses and colleges in their prospectus and websites.
- If you want to be a primary school teacher you must secure a minimum of a grade C in higher level **Irish**. There are 25 honours bachelor degree programmes which have Irish as a core entry requirement.
- If you are capable of taking higher level **Maths**, you are encouraged to do so, as it will pay huge dividends throughout your working life. If you do not secure a minimum of a H5 in higher-level maths, you could be ineligible for many third- level courses in engineering, computers, science, information and computer technology and most degrees that include maths as a core subject. A full list of these courses is available on qualifax.ie. **A pass in ordinary level maths is essential for entry to the majority of third-level courses. So don't neglect you studies in this key subject.**

- In these days of fast international transport and modern communication, knowledge of a foreign language will always be useful. You do not need a foreign language for all third-level studies but the NUI colleges – Maynooth, Dublin, Galway and Cork, and a range of associated constituent colleges (all of which are listed on the NUI website) require a pass in a third (i.e. other than English and Irish) language for entry into some of their courses (see nui.ie) unless you are exempt due to a hearing problem or dyslexia. The courses for which a third language is no longer required are Nursing, Engineering and Science at all four NUI universities. UCD and UCC have also dropped this requirement for their agricultural/food science programmes. Trinity College Dublin accepts Irish as a second language. Students applying to NCAD may present Art instead of a third language. UL and DCU, plus all the institutes of technology, do not require a third language for entry purposes to most of their courses, unless it's a specific course that includes the study of a language, in which case you will be required to have studied a particular language to Leaving Cert level in order to study it at third level, e.g. European Studies, Languages or Marketing.
- Select a **balanced range** of subjects which will maximise your third-level and career options. Irish (unless exempted) English and maths are compulsory. In selecting the other four subjects, spread your final three choices across the entire spectrum of business, scientific, arts and practical subjects, bearing in mind the essential subjects for entry to every third level course, available online at www.qualifax.ie. Pick subjects that you have **enjoyed** to date and that you have **got good results** in to date. For example, if you dislike science and are not doing well at it, and do not need it for the course you have in mind, then keeping up a science subject may not be in your best interest. The chances of you pursuing a science course if you do not like science are slim. Courses that require a science subject do so because you study so much of it in college.
- Be true to your **interests** in choosing your subject options and do not hesitate to ask your guidance counsellor for information and advice.
- Seek the **advice** of your teachers.
- Seek the **advice** of older pupils or brother/sister who have made similar choices
- Look at some subject textbooks.
- Keep **calm** – these are not life threatening decisions.
- Check out some relevant internet sites: www.careersportal.ie, www.qualifax.ie, www.education.ie, www.examinations.ie

DO

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

DON'T

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

ENGLISH, IRISH AND MATHEMATICS: THE CORE GROUP

English, Irish and mathematics are the core group of subjects. They are also called the compulsory group as in general students will not have an option on these ones.

They may be compulsory for the Leaving Certificate but they are also required for most universities.

ENGLISH

This is a good higher-level subject for the average student, provided they are prepared to read extensively. But don't underestimate the amount of work involved. Strong written expression is required in achieving a good result.

Almost all universities, colleges and employers specify a pass in ordinary level English. Some will accept a pass in Irish instead. It indicates a standard of basic literacy that is required for most courses and work. A pass in English should not be a problem, but consider the situation of someone who decides to do higher English against the advice of their teachers. If they fail it they can be eliminated from almost all university courses along with careers such as the Gardai or Nursing. It is only required at higher level for certain courses in Communications, Journalism and Clinical Speech Studies (Speech Therapy)

IRISH

Irish is a requirement for entry to the National University of Ireland (NUI) with its colleges of UCD, UCC, Galway and Maynooth. For any courses in these colleges you must have Irish in your Leaving Certificate unless you are exempt by being born outside Ireland, or educated outside Ireland up to the age of twelve, or otherwise exempt from studying Irish by the Department of Education e.g. with dyslexia. Irish is required to study Nursing in NUI colleges.

You can use Irish to satisfy the requirement for a second language as entry to Trinity College Dublin (TCD) or as the language other than English required for entry to the University of Limerick or to Dublin City University.

You will require a H4 or better in higher level Irish if you want to become a primary teacher or to study Irish at TCD. There are approximately 25 honours bachelor degree programmes which have Irish as a core entry requirement.

MATHS

Maths is a relatively straight forward subject for those who are good at maths, but tends to be perceived as time consuming at higher level. Less than 20% of Leaving Cert students take this subject at higher level, but the introduction of 25 bonus points for students securing a H6 or higher on higher level maths may increase the take-up of the subject. The implementation of bonus points means that the maximum cumulative Leaving Cert points will increase from 600 to 625.

Leaving Cert Maths is a requirement for a great number of jobs and courses. Most employers look for numeracy skills and maths is also a requirement for many of the apprenticeships, Nursing and the Gardai.

Institutes of Technology including DIT insist on at least ordinary maths as a basic entry requirement. They may allow foundation maths in certain cases, usually where there is no maths content on the course (areas like Art and Design or Social Care.)

A minimum grade in ordinary level maths is required for many Science and Commerce courses in the University. This reflects the level of maths that have to be studied as part of that course. So if you are going to study Science, Commerce or even Psychology, remember there is quite an amount of maths and statistics involved.

Higher level Maths is required for certain courses, such as Engineering (level 8) - a higher level H4 at least and Actuarial and Financial Studies in UCD which requires minimum grade H2. Although not a specific requirement for other courses, higher level maths is a great advantage in any course with a maths content.

Finally please bear in mind that the study of maths at higher level is aimed at the more able leaving Cert student and that a pass at ordinary or foundation level is better than a fail at higher level.

The Science Group

BIOLOGY – SENIOR CYCLE

Biology is the study of life or living organisms. If your chosen subject is biology you will gain an understanding of yourself and the natural world in which you live. The course uses practical activity and investigation to develop your skills and knowledge. The scope of biology is wide and varied and covers not only the traditional study of plants and animals but also areas such as molecular biology and biotechnology which have clear relevance to modern society.

Through the study of biology students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment. They become aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment.

Students are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding to pursue further education, training and employment in biology-related fields, and to make judgements on contemporary issues in biology and science that impact on their daily lives and on society. The syllabus consists of approximately 70% biological knowledge, understanding and skills; the remaining 30% deals with the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology.

The syllabus introduced in 2002 has been developed in response to current knowledge and application of biology. Account has been taken of the need to include contemporary biological technologies such as DNA profiling and genetic screening. It aims to create in students an awareness of the application of biological knowledge to modern society and to develop an ability to make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues. There is a strong emphasis on social and applied aspects e.g. when studying the breathing system a breathing disorder is studied.

The course covers a wide range of topics, including cell structure and diversity, metabolism, genetics and human and flowering plant anatomy and physiology. The general principles of ecology are studied, and one particular ecosystem is examined in detail. A field trip will be organised to a chosen habitat. An ecology portfolio must also be completed.

Particular emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of biology, and there are 22 mandatory experiments. Approximately two out of every five classes per week are spent doing practicals. Three of these are examined in the Leaving Cert each year, two of which have to be answered. A laboratory record of these activities has to be kept and available for inspection by The Department of Education and Science. As of yet no marks are awarded for the laboratory notebook or the ecology portfolio.

Subject Content

The course is divided into three units

Unit 1 The Study of Life (ecology and food science)

Unit 2 The Cell (Genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes)

Unit 3 The Organism (a study of body systems, plant biology and microbiology)

Exam Structure

The examination at higher and ordinary level is three hours duration. The exam paper is divided into three units.

- Section A - Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks.
- Section B - Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks.
- Section C - Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks.

What Type of Student Might Biology Suit?

Students who enjoyed science in the Junior Certificate might wish to consider studying biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in more detail. There is a lot of **learning** to do in biology and high grades are not achieved without hard work.

Associated Careers

The types of courses and careers where the study of biology at second level might be helpful would include the following;

Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Nursing and associated careers.
Agriculture, Applied Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Earth Science and Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Biologist, Microbiologist, Zoologist
Psychologist, Astronomer, Teacher, Researcher, Food Technologist.

Entry Requirement for 3rd Level

Biology is needed as a matriculation subject for studying Medicine at TCD. It is counted as a science subject in any course which has a science subject as a requirement. It is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses, e.g. Dental Hygiene in UCC and to take biology as an Arts subject in NUI Maynooth. Students taking biology as an elective for Home economics Teacher Training in St. Angela's must have biology at OD or higher. It is an essential requirement for entry to Human Health and Disease at TCD where you need a HC3 and a HC3 and another science subject.

Recommendations and Comments

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate biology has a good understanding of Junior Science at higher level.
- A student must have an aptitude for and interest in laboratory work.

- A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject.
- Biology is often perceived as an easier subject than physics or chemistry – but has a high failure rate at ordinary level. It is a good higher level subject for most students.

CHEMISTRY

Chemistry looks at the world around us and investigates the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationship between the properties and composition of substances. In other words it involves everything we use, wear and consume, including medicines plastics, preservatives, etc. The course is a blend of the theoretical and the practical. It is divided into 3 broad areas:

- Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry

Physical Chemistry

- looks at chemical processes
- how fast they go and how to make them faster

Organic Chemistry

- is the story of carbon and its millions of compounds
- it has given us painkillers, such as, aspirin, coloured dyes and the entire plastics industry

Inorganic Chemistry

- looks at compounds that do not involve carbon, such as, the role of iron in transporting oxygen, and the nature of acids and bases.

The major topics involved include the following:

1. Atomic Structure
2. Volumetric Analysis
3. Organic Chemistry
4. Water Chemistry
5. Reaction Mechanisms

The Leaving Cert course has an examinable practical element involving 28 mandatory experiments. Environmental chemistry is also studied.

Exam Structure

The Leaving Cert exam is three hours in duration. Each candidate must answer at least two questions from Section A (experimental section) and a maximum of 6 questions from section B. There are 11 questions in total on the exam paper, each carrying fifty marks.

What Type of Student Might Chemistry Suit?

Intending students of Chemistry should have:

- An inquisitive and enquiring mind
- A logical approach to problem solving
- An interest in understanding how things work
- A keen interest in experimental work
- Clear, concise communication skills
- Attention to detail both in experiment and expression

Entry Requirement for Third Level

Although many science courses at third level require a science subject, most colleges are fairly flexible as to which science you present. There are however some important exceptions, for example both the Human Nutrition and Biomedical Science course in DIT require a HC chemistry. TCD Pharmacy requires HC3 in chemistry. Dentistry and Medicine in UCC requires HC in chemistry plus HC in either physics or biology. Veterinary Science in UCD also requires HC3 in chemistry.

Associated Careers

If you should wish to proceed to degree course in chemistry, the following careers are some you might like to consider within this area: Biochemist, Chemical Analyst, Chemical Researcher, Forensic Chemist/Biochemist, Industrial Chemist, and Pharmacologist.

Recommendations and Comments

- It is recommended that a student undertaking the course has a good understanding of Junior Cert science.
- Mathematical skills are not a major part of Leaving Certificate chemistry, however a proficiency with numbers will be necessary as there will be mathematical problem solving, e.g. calculations, formulas and equations to be worked out.
- Recent observations from journalists writing about careers have suggested that the Irish economy is experiencing a shortage of people with chemistry skills. Yet points requirements to get into Applied Chemistry courses in Institutes of Technology are among the lowest. This is the case because the demand for these courses among school leavers is low

PHYSICS

Physics describes the laws and forces governing natural phenomena, which include heat, light, electricity and magnetism. It uses maths and equations to describe and predict events and phenomena. There is an emphasis on the applications of physical principles in everyday life and the enormous impact it has had on modern society.

The Course is divided into the following topics:

Mechanics and Motion

Heat

Light and Optics

Electricity and Magnetism

Atomic Physics and Electronics

Waves and Sound

Nuclear and Particle Physics

Experiments form a major part of the course. Students must maintain a laboratory book because there are 27 mandatory experiments, four of which are offered on the Leaving Cert paper, with three to be presented. Each week two out of every five classes are spent doing a practical. Experiments are ‘good fun’ and develop skills such as handling equipment, problem solving, recording, team work etc.

The study of Physics will help you to understand the world around you – how and why things happen or work. For example:

- Why does a spoon immersed in water appear to bend?
- How are images formed in a mirror?
- What happens inside a nuclear reactor?
- How does glass transmit telephone conversations?
- How are X-Rays produced and what are they used for?
- How are images produced on a TV screen?
- How do the Garda speed guns work?
- What causes ‘weightlessness’ on the moon?
- How does a photocopier work?
- What determines the notes that a musical instrument produces?
- Why is follow through so important in tennis and golf.

Exam Structure

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of one terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course. The Leaving Cert physics exam is three hours in duration.

Section A:

- Answer 3 out of 4 questions
- 120 marks: 40 marks per question
- Questions are based on experimental procedures and use of results

Section B:

- Answer 5 out of 8 questions
- 280 marks: 56 marks per question
- Questions are more broad and theory based.

What Type of Student Might Physics suit?

- Students considering a career in any mathematical or scientific discipline, such as finance, statistics, engineering, physics, or computer science.
- Students who were successful in their Junior Cert science examination, particularly in the Physics section of the course.

Third Level Entry Requirement

This subject is an essential requirement for entry into a Theoretical Physics in Trinity and UCD and for Electrical Engineering in UCC. For other courses which may require Physics or alternative science subject, go to www.qualifax.ie, Minimum Subject Module

Associated Careers

The following careers are some you might like to consider in this area: Biophysicist, Biotechnology, Geophysicist, Meteorologist, Physicist, Physics Technician, Physics Teacher. Physics is of key importance in Technology and particularly relevant for those specialising in most branches of Engineering. In the majority of Engineering courses, you will find a high physics content, while some paramedical courses will involve the study of it, e.g. Radiography.

Recommendations and Comments

- If you are curious about things like the above, then you will enjoy physics.
- Physics is logical and you will learn to think logically.
- If you enjoy doing experiments and getting the correct results you will enjoy physics.

- Do you need to study honours maths to do physics? ...definitely not!...but it does help in some sections if you are good at maths.
- If you work hard it is possible to do very well in physics in the Leaving Cert.

COLLEGE SUBJECTS	Leaving Certificate Science Subjects in order of importance to college subject		
	1	2	3
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics
Biology Horticulture Agriculture Marine Biology			
CHEMICAL SCIENCES	Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics
Chemistry Biochemistry Chem. Engineering Medicinal Chem.			
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	Physics	Mathematics	Chemistry
Physics Astronomy Electronics Computing			
ENGINEERING	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry
Civil Mechanical Aeronautical Electrical			
MEDICAL SCIENCES	Chemistry	Biology	Physics
Pharmacy Nursing Ophthalmic Optics Nutrition			
MEDICINE / DENTISTRY	Chemistry	Physics	Biology
Medicine Dentistry Vet. Medicine			

British Association for the Advancement of Science

The Artistic Group

Art, Craft and Design

The Leaving Cert Art course involves completing a 10 week practical project with this including developmental work leading to the production of two resolved artworks. One of these resolved artworks is completed during the 10 week block while the second is completed during a five hour practical exam. Students practice skills and techniques throughout 5th Year and the beginning of 6th Year in preparation for the practical project and exam. The process for the student is therefore, much more self-motivated than at Junior cycle and requires the student to work independently and take responsibility for developing their own skills and creative response. The themes for all Leaving Cert practical work is released on the first Monday back in January after the Christmas break with students given three options and required to select one. It is up to the individual student to focus and come up with a creative response to their chosen theme, while facilitated by the Art teacher.

Exam Structure

- Practical Project: 10 weeks from January – March in 6th Year (50%)
- Practical Exam: 5 hour exam - March in 6th Year (just after practical project) (20%)
- Art History written paper – June in 6th Year (completed with other written exams) (30%)
- The practical project involves students selecting an area to work on based on their strengths and interests, options include imaginative composition, still life drawing/painting, lino printing, clay, batik, poster, etching, puppetry and various others
- Art History involves completing essays on 2 sections: Pre 1960 art and post 1960 art. This section involves students interpreting and analysing artworks based on knowledge gained over the two years of senior cycle art
- The questions will focus on a broad understanding of Visual Studies and will require students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, and an ability to apply, analyse, evaluate and respond as appropriate.

What Kind of Student Might Art Suit?

- Students who have shown an aptitude for art, demonstrated by achieving high grades in Junior Cert Art.
- Anyone considering in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, Advertising or Art Education.

Entry Requirement for Third Level

- Though some I.T.'s (Institutes of Technology) Art departments require it, it is not always an essential subject for entry to Art Colleges. Yet it is highly recommended that intending students take it at Leaving Cert. level. Moreover, the preparation of a portfolio without the guidance of an Art teacher would be difficult. Some schools of Architecture and Landscape Architecture recommend its study even in preference to Technical Drawing. The NCAD require a pass in Art or a language for entry. The NCAD also ask for a specified themed portfolio, while other colleges leave it up to you.

Associated Careers

- Graphic Designer, Illustrator Cartoonist, Interior Designer, Crafts, Industrial Design, Web Design, Art Teacher, Fashion Designer, Make-up artist Animation, Arts Administrator, Photography, Artist.

Recommendations and Comments:

- Art involves quite a bit of work for Leaving Certificate. It is a continuation and development of skills acquired at Junior Certificate, however it is not essential for a student to have taken this subject at Junior Certificate but discussion with the art teacher would be advisable in this circumstance.
- The arts covers lateral, divergent thinking, thinking outside the box in what are traits valued by companies and employers outside the arts

MUSIC

Studying music for Leaving Certificate will give the student a knowledge and appreciation of music which will be enriching for life. It develops sensitivity to sound of all types and so enhances language learning. It provides the student with an opportunity for personal expression, relaxation and great enjoyment.

The course consists of three main components:

- (1) Composing – 25%
- (2) Listening – 25%
- (3) Performance – 25%

Each component is examined as 25% of the course with Higher Level candidates nominating in which component they wish to take an elective (extra 25%).

Exam Structure

Listening Paper

Examined in June of 6th year

90 minutes duration

Four set works, Irish music and general listening skills

Composition Paper

Examined in June of 6th year

90 minutes duration

Melody writing and harmony

Performance

Examined in April of 6th year

Candidates may perform as a soloist or as part of a group or both.

Higher Level: 3 pieces on one instrument (or 4 pieces if performing elective is chosen) and one unprepared test OR 2 pieces on each of two instruments and one unprepared test

Ordinary Level: 2 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test.

Electives for extra 25%

(Higher level only) Each candidate must choose one of the above components to study for this extra credit. The majority tend to opt for a Performance elective.

Listening Elective: The candidate must work on a music project over the course of 5th and 6th year. They must submit some work to the State Examinations Commission and sit an extra written paper in June.

Composition Elective: The candidate must undertake a large scale composition to be submitted to the Examinations Commission in their final year.

Performance Elective: This involves a more substantial performance during the examination period in April of 6th year. Music Technology is offered as an additional option by the school.

What Type of Student might Music Suit?

Intending students of music should have:

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

Entry Requirement for Third Level

Music is required at Leaving Certificate for the course entitled Education, Religion and Music in Mater Dei Institute. Particular standards at the Leaving Certificate or other relevant exams would normally be expected of those applying to read music at Third Level. A standard equivalent to Grade 7 at an instrument is expected. At NUI Maynooth, HC or equivalent is required for taking music through Arts (MH001) while the denominated course in Music (MH005) expects HC or equivalent. DIT, WIT, CIT, IT Dundalk, Mater Dei, DCU (RIAM), TCD, UCD/UCC (except music through Arts in UCD/UCD) require all intending students of music to take a special entrance test.

Associated Careers

Music would be a useful subject if you are considering a career in Arts Management, Teaching, Childcare, Entertainment Industry, Music Journalism, Theatre, Music Production, Instrument Maker.

Recommendations and Comments

Students need not have studied music at Junior Level. However it is highly recommended that students should have attained a competency in both music theory and their performance ability. Students will be expected to perform their instrument for each other as part of their

performance development. Because of the practical nature of this subject, students and/or parents should discuss this with the music teacher before choosing it as a Leaving Certificate subject.

The Business Group

BUSINESS

Business looks at how organisations are formed, financed and run, investigating the services involved such as banking, transport, taxation and semi-state organisations.

This is a practical and vocationally-oriented course that introduces students to the world of business in a straightforward and logical way. It aims to create an awareness of the importance of business activity and to develop a positive and ethical attitude towards it. The importance of people in business is highlighted. The course sets out to illustrate the process of setting up a business and developing a new product or service. It emphasizes the importance of good management and deals with skills and activities necessary for good management practice. It also deals with the impact of technology, foreign trade, global firms and competition and with business structures and the national economy.

Course Content

The Leaving Cert. business is a very intensive programme and there are 7 core units covering the following topics:

Unit 1

- People in Business
- Conflicting Interests.

Unit 2

- Enterprise

Unit 3

- Management
- Communications

Unit 4

- Household and Business Finance, Insurance, Taxation.
- Human Resource Management
- The Changing Role of Management
- Monitoring a Business including Ratio Analysis.

Unit 5

- Identifying Opportunities
- Marketing
- Starting up

- Expansion

Unit 6

- Business Sectors
- Structure of Business
- Community Development
- Business, Government and Workers
- Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Business

Unit 7

- The International Trading Environment
- The European Union
- International Business

Assessment is by examination paper at two levels, ordinary level and higher level.

Exam Structure

Higher Level – 3 hour paper (400 marks); 3 sections.

Section 1 – Short questions (8/10) 80 marks.

Section 2 - Applied Business Question – 80 marks (compulsory)

Section 3 – Long Questions (60 marks per question (4/7))

Ordinary Level -2.5 hour paper (400 marks); 2 sections.

Section 1 – Short Questions (10/15 marks)

Section 2 – Long Questions (75 marks per question (4/8))

What Type of Student Might Business Suit?

A good Business student is a follower of business news in the newspaper, television and internet, is interested in consumer trends, market fluctuations and business practise, is accurate in dealing with balance sheets and accounts and is able to give an opinion and assessment and back it up with references.

Entry Requirement for Third level

Business like accounting, it is not an essential subject for any course at college.

Associated Careers

Business provides an excellent foundation for any one contemplating a business

career. Other careers where the study of business at second level would be helpful is Accountant, Account Technician, Bank Official, Actuary, Insurance, Human Resources, Advertising, Marketing, Public Relations, Store manager.

Recommendations and Comments:

- If a student has done business for Junior Certificate it would be helpful but not strictly necessary. If a student had not done business before, it would be advisable to consult a business teacher who can outline the skills required to cope with the course.
- Business is suited to students who are willing to work hard and who have an organised and consistent attitude to homework
- It is a very interesting subject but requires constant attention to the business pages of quality newspapers.
- The course involves a large volume of material which must be understood and retained

ACCOUNTING

Accounting contributes to a balanced and appropriate general education, leading to the personal and social development of each student together with a fostering of the concept of accountability. Accounting creates awareness of the business environment and provides the student with the knowledge, understanding and skills which lead to a personal competence and responsible participation in this changing and challenging environment.

It encourages the development of self-reliance, mental organisation and agility, clear and logical thinking, planning habits, methods of investigation and processes whereby accuracy can be ensured. It enhances numeracy skills and promotes awareness of the use of figure computations and statistics in the world of business and enterprise. Accounting exposes students to aspects of business and enterprise with a view to career and working life, additional studies in accounting or as a basis for further education.

What accounting involves?

- The recording, presentation and interpretation of financial information

What you study?

- Course divided into two key areas
 - Financial Accounting (80%) and Management Accounting (20%)

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

- Involves the day to day planning and planning for the future of the business
- The information is primarily used by the management of the business
- Leaving Cert course covers Costing and Budgeting

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

- You learn how to:
 - prepare Final Accounts reporting on the profit / loss for a business
 - prepare Cash Flow Statements
 - prepare Published Accounts
 - prepare Final Accounts for a business who have not kept proper records on an ongoing basis
 - prepare accounts for non-profit making organisations
 - deals with correction of errors in accounts.
- You look at the guidelines and requirements for preparing these accounts as set out by
 - Accounting bodies
 - Legislation
 - EU
- You learn how to analyse and comment on financial accounts
- You appreciate the importance of financial information for good decision making both within the business and for others involved such as creditors, lending institutions, customers, employees etc

Exam Structure:

- Accounting is examined at higher or ordinary level
- A terminal three hour exam
- Exam paper divided into three sections (Sections 1 and 2 – Financial and Section 3 – Management)

What Type of Student would Accountancy Suit?

Accounting would suit a student who enjoys working with figures, who thinks logically and clearly, and is neat and organised.

Entry Requirement for Third Level

Accounting is not essential for any college course **apart from** Commerce – Accounting in NUI Galway.

Careers associated with Accounting

Accountant, Auditor, Bank Examiner, Controller, Revenue Agent, Securities Trader, Professor, Tax Specialist.

Recommendations and Comments:

Students of Accounting must be willing to give a big time commitment – constant practise of questions on topics is essential from day one.

While it is an advantage to have studied Business Studies at Junior Certificate, it is not essential. However, consultation with the business teachers is advisable prior to making any decisions.

ECONOMICS

Economics is regarded as the most practical business subject and is the study of how people manage limited resources such as money to meet their goals. By understanding the reasons why people spend their money in certain ways, economists can try to introduce incentives to change their behaviours. It covers a wide range of topics including inflation, banking, international trade, the E.U., the role of the Government in the control of the economy, competition and markets.

Students who have studied Junior Certificate Business Studies will have received a basic introduction to economics but this is not essential for study of Leaving Certificate economics.

Content

Brand New Syllabus introduced in September 2019, offering students a broad introduction to economics. It introduces students to the nature of economics and to basic economic concepts. Economics involves looking at the flow of money and the measuring of success and progress in companies, businesses, states and groups of states such as the EU. It also looks at international trade and the role of the EU and Government in the control of the economy, competition and markets.

The course is divided into two broad categories:

- 1. Microeconomics** – considers how individual people decide what goods they are willing to buy or not buy based on maximising their personal 'utility' (getting as much benefit as possible from their money), and how firms and businesses will try to take advantage of consumers' habits to maximise profit. It also examines how multiple businesses in a market will price their goods based on their competitors and their various costs.
- 2. Macroeconomics** – considers how governments handle the economy as a whole, and how they select policies which meet their goals, such as stable economic growth (avoiding recessions), minimising the national debt, and encouraging employment. How the government handles issues such as fiscal policy (how much money flows in the economy), international trade, and banking all have implications for economic stability and growth.

These two parts are divided into 8 broad areas as follows:

- Demand, supply, equilibrium, utility and elasticity
- Costs and market structures
- Factors of production (including economists)
- National income and the multiplier
- Inflation, money, banking and monetary policy
- International trade, balance of payments and the euro
- Fiscal policy and taxation
- The Government in the economy (including economic development and growth, population and emigration)

Assessment and Exam Structure

A **key change** with the new syllabus is the **introduction of a Research Project worth 20%** to be completed before Christmas in 6th Year. Exact details of this are still being finalised, as is the exact format of the final examination.

Higher Level and Ordinary Level:

- One Exam Paper – 2.5 hours (tbc)
 - Section A – short questions, choice tbc (worth 20% of overall grade)
 - Section B – long questions, choice tbc (worth 60% of overall grade)
- Research Project - 4 weeks during 6th Year tbc (worth 20% of overall grade)

What kind of Student Might Economics Suit?

- Anyone considering a future career in any area of business or finance.
- Students who have an enquiring mind.
- Students who take an interest in politics, current affairs, or psychology.
- A good subject for the analytical student
- Anyone intending to study a business related third level course.

Entry Requirement for Third Level

A good preparation for entry to many third level Business or Journalism courses but not essential for any courses in the CAO system.

Associated Careers

Economist, banking, accountancy, tax advice, actuarial, insurance, management, marketing, sales and advertising, human resources, IT and education.

Recommendations and Comments

- This subject is suited to students who are willing to work hard.
- You need to be a keen follower of business news and developments to do well in this subject
- It is not necessary for students to have studied Junior Cert Business Studies, but it would be a help.
- Students should have an interest in how the economy works.

The Humanities Group

HISTORY

The Leaving Certificate History syllabus was revised in 2007 by the State Examinations Commission and since then the number of students opting to study history at senior level has increased by almost 25%. The History Department in this school can also boast that our results are consistently way above the national average. The course encourages students to improve skills that develops critical thinking and provides them with the training to record and analyse events which have happened in the past. Research skills are central to the subject as students are assessed by their ability to write clear, coherent essays based on a sound knowledge of facts which have been grounded in a variety of sources. As a result, students of History improve their writing skills which not only compliments English, but enhances their ability to write essays and reports in all other subject areas for the Leaving Certificate examination and beyond.

Course Content

The Leaving Cert history course is divided into two distinct *fields of study*; Early Modern (1492-1915) and Late Modern (1815-1993). In this school we study the Modern course. Students focus on two Irish and two European topics. One of the four chosen topics will be prescribed as a documents course which will involve testing the student's ability to analyse a primary source such as a letter, newspaper article or a political cartoon and to display their skills in drawing conclusions about the reliability of these sources in an objective and informative way. They will also be expected to write three essays on the other three set topics.

Assessment and Exam Structure

Leaving Cert History is assessed at two levels – ordinary level and higher level. There are two assessment components:

1. A written examination paper (80%), 2hrs, 50 minutes.
2. A research study report (20%), submitted prior to the examination.

The Research Study Report (RSR) has been an excellent and rewarding addition to the study of history at Leaving Certificate level. For 20% of their overall mark, students are now allowed to choose any topic or person of interest from any historical period and produce an

essay between 1200 and 1500 words (roughly four A4 pages). They are asked to list and evaluate their sources and pre-submit the RSR in a special booklet that is presented usually six weeks before the written examination in June. The RSR is a great opportunity for the student to research a topic or key personality of their own choosing which develops their skill in selecting material that is relevant, in analysing sources while also looking out for factors such as bias or propaganda.

There has never been a better time to study history because of the wide range of resources available thanks to technology and especially the internet. Students can access websites online for free such as The National Archives, The National Library, RTE or their local library or History Society. T.V. documentaries, newspapers, magazines, journals...all of these are available in our school library and our school librarian (a History graduate!) is willing to help and advise the students at all times. The RSR inspires a huge sense of confidence and achievement in pupils and enhances their performance in essay writing when it comes to the set exam in June.

Entry Requirement for Third Level

History is not essential for entry to any course in the CAO system even if you decide to read history itself at college. However history is a useful foundation for a wide range of unrelated degree courses.

Associated Careers: e.g. Media Studies, Journalism, Law. The Arts

Any student who wishes to pursue a career in the Media can benefit from the training provided by Leaving Certificate History course.

The world of Journalism is full of men and women who studied History because it provided them with an education that teaches you not only about your own past, but also informs you about the culture and politics of other countries. Studying history equips you with the writing skills to analyse and present information in an intelligent and informed way.

History would also be useful for a career as a Solicitor, Barrister, and Politician. Three Judges of the current Supreme Court all studied history before moving on to the Law! Students who wish to study the Arts, be it Theatre Studies, or creative writing will be able to use their writing skills and draw inspiration for novels or plays from key events and individuals from the past. Studying history would also suit a career in Teaching.

What kind of Student Might History Suit?

- Students who enjoy and appreciate history, and would like to improve their knowledge.
- Students who wish to improve their English language skills, and be able to write well.
- Students aiming to improve their self-discipline and research skills.

Recommendations

When considering history as a Leaving Certificate subject students should note the following:

- An interest in the subject.
- A good knowledge of English, an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is helpful.
- The study of history enables the student to develop a good memory, cultivate imagination, objectivity, the ability to perceive trends, and also encourages the development of analytical and communication skills. All of these are essential skills for most courses and professions.
- Historical awareness is an important civic skill.
- Students have a right to their past! History creates a sense of cultural identity and offers a gateway to the experiences and richness of the past and of other cultures.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography studies the relationship between human activity and the physical environment. It includes the study of population, economic activities and landscapes to name but a few. Students have the opportunity to undertake a geographic investigation worth 20% of the overall marks in the final examination. This is a compulsory component of the Leaving Cert exam and is pre-submitted in April of 6th year. Geography is an extremely wide curriculum.

Subject Content:

Three Core Units:

1. Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment
2. Regional Geography
3. Geographical Investigation

Two Elective Units (pick one):

1. Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities
2. Patterns and Processes in the Human Environment

Four Optional Units (pick one; higher level only):

1. Global Interdependence
2. Geology
3. Culture and Identity
4. The Atmosphere-Ocean environment

The teaching of *geographical skills* is an important element of the course; students are encouraged to improve their ability to gather information (from map-reading, statistics, charts), and to present information (using diagrams, maps, and writing). These skills are assessed in the Geographical Investigation and in the written exam.

Exam Structure:

Leaving Cert Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level

.There are two assessment components:

1. Written Examination (80%): 2.5 hours
2. Geographical Investigation Report (20%)

Students complete two questions on the core units comprising of one question on physical geography and one on regional geography, followed by the elective question and one option question which is done in essay format. There are also 12 short questions to be completed which cover skills, physical and regional geography. Each topic is worth 16%.

What kind of Student Might Geography Suit?

- A student considering further study in areas such as Geography, Economics, Teaching, Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, or Politics.
- A student who has an interest in the world and how it came to be.
- A student who has an interest in reading and watching relevant programmes on television and video.

Entry Requirement to Third Level

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. Geography HC3 is accepted as a science subject for both Science and Pharmacy (TCD).

Associated Careers

Geologist, Geography Teacher, Quantity Surveyor, Marine officer, Naval Officer, Town Planner, Civil Engineer, Architect, Meteorologist, Agriculture, Auctioneering, Horticulture, Forestry, Conservation Work, Researcher (e.g. with Teagasc, the Marine Institute, and Government departments.), Tourism and Mineralogy.

Recommendations and Comments

- Good Geography students must have an ability to express themselves accurately and to support their arguments with relevant information.
- Students who achieved solid results for Junior Cert geography can expect much of the same for the Leaving Cert course.

The Social Group

HOME ECONOMICS – SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC

Home Economics – Scientific and Social is an applied subject combining theory with practice in order to develop, understand and solve problems. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs. It focuses on the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills that can be applied in the home, in further education, in the world of work, or other life situations. It will prepare students for a life in a consumer-orientated society.

Course Content

The syllabus is based on a core of three areas of study that must be completed by all students:

Food Studies

- Food Science and Nutrition
- Diet and Health
- Preparation and Processing of Food
- Food Legislation
- Food Safety and Hygiene
- Microbiology

Resource Management & Consumer Studies

- Family Resource Management
- Consumer Studies
- Household Technology

Social Studies

- The Family in Society (structures, functions, marriage & law.)

Elective Units:

There are three elective areas from which one will be chosen:

Elective 1: **Home Design and Management**

Elective 2: **Textiles, Fashion and Design**

Elective 3: **Social Studies**

The elective allows students the opportunity to undertake a more detailed study of one area of the core.

The Leaving Certificate examination for both higher and ordinary levels will consist of Written Examination (80%) and Food studies Coursework (20%).

Food Studies Coursework for both higher and ordinary level candidates will involve the completion and presentation of a written record of five assignments from the following options:

- Application of Nutritional Principles
- Food Preparation and Processes
- Food Technology
- Properties of Food
- Comparative Analysis including Sensory Analysis

Exam Structure and Assessment

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

- A terminal examination paper: 2.5 hours.
- An assessment of the practical components of the programme, that is the food studies from the core area and the textiles, fashion and design elective (where applicable).

Examination paper 80% - of which:

Core: 60%

Electives: 20%

Assessment of practical coursework 20%

What Type of Student Might Home Economics Suit?

- A student who is willing to study and to undertake quite a substantial theoretical subject.
- A student who has an interest in cooking and nutrition and in clothes, design and materials.
- A student who has a flair for design of houses, kitchens and other areas.

Subject requirement for Third Level

Home Economics is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. However there are six courses which *may* require it, e.g. St Angela's in Sligo require either Home Economics or a laboratory science for entry into Home Economics with

Economics/Irish/Religious Education. Home Economics is accepted instead of a science subject for Veterinary Nursing in UCD.

Associated Careers

Home economics would be useful for those seeking employment in a wide range of careers such as Teaching, the Food Industry, Clothing and Design, Health and Social Services, Tourism, or if planning to take a BSc in Food Sciences or Human Nutrition and Dietetics.

Comments and Recommendations

- Home economics is an interesting subject, but not the easy honour that some imagine.
- Much of the course is theory based, even the Practical Section has to be written up and presented.
- It is not necessary but would be advisable for students selecting this subject to have completed the Junior Certificate home economics course.
- It is a broad course incorporating everything from food science to sociology.
- There is some overlap with other subjects, namely biology and business studies.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Leaving Certificate religious education is a demanding but very worthwhile subject. This subject suits anyone who has an interest in the deeper questions of life, and who enjoys discussing and writing about ideas. It helps you to understand yourself, others, and the world in which you live, and the values which motivate people. It is relevant to all professions, but especially psychology, sociology, the arts, journalism and media, the law, teaching, medicine and science.

Philosophy is an important part of the first section of the course, and the ideas of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle are studied, along with Christian, Enlightenment and Existentialist philosophers. How people search for and find meaning today is also a key element. There is a coursework essay worth 20%, which gives valuable preparation for essays at third level. It is important that a student has an interest in religion, but not necessarily a faith commitment. This course has been successfully studied by students who are atheists and agnostics, as well as many who are committed to their Christian faith.

Leaving Certificate Religious Education Syllabus Structure

UNIT 1: Section A: The Search for Meaning and Values (*Compulsory*)

UNIT 2 (*any 2 sections from UNIT 2*)

Section B: Christianity: origins and contemporary expressions

Section C: World Religions

Section D: Moral Decision-Making

UNIT 3 (*Any one of the following, excluding the two sections designated for the coursework essay, which is worth 20% and is submitted in April of Sixth Year.*)

Section E: Religion and Gender

Section F: Issues of Justice and Peace

Section G: Worship, Prayer and Ritual

Section H: The Bible: Literature and Sacred Text

Section I: Religion: The Irish Experience

Section J: Religion and Science.

Exam Structure and Assessment

The examination is at higher level: 2.5 hours and ordinary level: 2 hours.

What Type of Student Might Religious Education Suit?

- A student who is interested in learning about Religion around the world.
- A student who wants to explore Theology.
- A student who enjoys lots of reading and interesting debate.

Entry requirement for Third Level

Leaving Certificate religion is not required as a subject for any college course, but would be considered an advantage for anyone considering primary teaching (as part of primary teaching involves teaching religion), or intending to do a course at Mater Dei or planning to study Theology at third-level.

Associated Careers

Religious Education, Social Work, Religious life and Priesthood, Work with Voluntary Agencies abroad, Youth Leadership, Politics, Charity Fund-raising, Psychiatric Nursing, Religious Journalism and Publishing, Broadcasting, Church related Ministries, Philosopher, Theologian.

Comments and Recommendations

- All colleges award points for this subject.
- This subject will help students to develop critical skills for examining values, morality and religion.
- A searching exam at the end.

The Languages Group

MODERN LANGUAGES – FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH

The French, German and Spanish syllabus is a two year course which develops the student's proficiency in aural, oral, reading comprehension and written work. Leaving certificate students are expected to reach a very high standard in their chosen language, and are given a written exam, reading comprehension, listening comprehension (to a CD) and a fifteen minute oral exam. So, be prepared to work! The emphasis is on the ability to comprehend and converse in the language studied: this is reflected in the fact that 45% of the final marks awarded are for aural and oral work. Studying a continental language today requires you to culturally immerse yourself in the spoken, written world of its users. Students in Muckross who study German/ French/ Spanish attend events organised by The Goethe Institute, The Alliance Française, The Cervantes Institute and the IFI German/French / Spanish Film Festival. Students also take part in debating competitions. Students of these languages are encouraged to read German/French/ Spanish newspapers and magazines and if possible to spend time in a country where the target language is spoken.

Assessment of French at Higher/Ordinary level:

Written Exam (2½ hours)

The reading comprehension is worth 30% of the total exam at higher level and 40% at ordinary level. There are two passages, one literary and the other journalistic. The student is required to read, interpret and manipulate texts and answer in French. The written section at higher level also covers formal/informal letters, diary entries, messages/fax/email, expressing an opinion and formalised writing. This section is worth 25% at higher level and 15% at ordinary level.

Aural/Listening Exam (40 minutes)

This exam takes place immediately after the written exam in June. The exam candidate will listen to a variety of dialogues in the target language but answers the questions in English. It is worth 20% of the marks at higher level and 25% at ordinary level.

The Oral Exam (13 minutes approx.)

The oral exam takes place in March/April of 6th year. It is based on general conversation and role play. Students may prepare a document for discussion. The oral is worth 25% of the marks at higher level and 20% at ordinary level.

Assessment of German at Higher/Ordinary Level

Aural/Listening Exam

Pupils will be expected to extract specific information, identify points of view and emotions and draw conclusions from a range of recorded material. Responses will be required in English and sometimes in German. It is worth 20% of the marks at higher level and 25% at ordinary level.

Written Exam (2½ hours)

In the **Reading Comprehension** section of the paper which is worth 30% at higher level and 40% at ordinary level, pupils will be asked to identify and extract specific information from written material, recognise points of view, draw conclusions and interpret attitudes. They will be required to demonstrate understanding with answers written in German and in English. In the Writing section which is worth 25% at higher level and 15% at ordinary level, pupils will be asked to complete written tasks of varying length and function. They will be required to demonstrate the use of an appropriate range of vocabulary, grammatical structures and tenses.

The Oral Exam

Pupils will be required to take part in Role Play situations, deliver a Presentation (on either a project which they have prepared or from a selection of picture-stories) and sustain a conversation on general topics. It is worth 25% of the marks at higher level and 20% at ordinary level.

Assessment of Spanish at Higher/ Ordinary Level

Assessment is by means of a written examination at both levels, 2.5 hours. There is also an aural and oral examination at both levels. The oral interview and listening test comprise 45% of the total marks and the reading comprehension pieces and written pieces are worth 55% of the marks.

The three broad components of the syllabus are:

- Basic communicative proficiency
- Language awareness
- Cultural Awareness

What Type of Student might French/German/Spanish Suit?

Good language students...

- express themselves well
- pick up sounds and phrases
- Show an eye for detail in grammar (tenses, agreement, cases).
- Are interested in the culture from which the language emerges

Third Level Entry Requirements

Many of the colleges have a language as a requirement for specific courses, for example, B at higher level in the appropriate language is required for:

- Applied languages, Modern Languages and Teacher education (UL)
- Law and French Law, Civil Law and Maîtrise UCD
- Commerce with French (fr) (NUIG)

C at higher level in the appropriate language is required for:

- Business and Fr/Ger (HC1 in Fr/Ger) and Russian/Spanish/Polish (any), Computers, Linguistics and a language, European Studies (2HC in languages or 1 HB if only one language), French (Fr HC1), German/Germanic Languages (Gr HC1), Greek/Italian/Latin/Russian/Spanish, Portuguese (HC any language), Law and French/ German (HC1), Clinical Speech (or English/Irish) TCD
- European Business and French/German/Spanish, Business International, Applied languages and Intercultural studies (DCU)

D at higher level in the appropriate language for:

- Business Studies with French or German (or OB) (WIT)

C at ordinary level in the appropriate language is required for:

- Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, Tourism Marketing, (DIT)

D at ordinary level in a language required for entry to NUI colleges (UCD, UCC, RCSI,, NUI Galway and Maynooth, St Angela's Sligo. NCAD will accept Art instead of a language for entry.

No foreign language required for:

- Entry to TCD, UL, or DCU apart from the above courses, you can use a pass in Irish instead.
- Entry to Engineering and Science degrees in UCD, NUI Maynooth, NUI Galway or UCC.
- Entry to all Agriculture degrees in UCD.
- Entry to the Institutes of Technology or the DIT unless it is a requirement for a specific course as listed above.
- Gardai (who require English and another language, so you can use Irish).
- Nursing in any college.
- Apprenticeships or most PLC colleges.

Associated Careers

Teacher/ Lecturer, Foreign Affairs, International marketing, Interpreter, Translator, Flight Attendant, Travel Agent, Journalist, Hotel Reception, Hotel and Catering Management, Pilot, Waiter/Waitress.

Comments and Recommendations

- There is a considerable gap in the standard required between Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate French/ German/Spanish.
- Industry and Employers rate language skills highly, especially if you can combine them with computers, electronics or business.

- Not everyone is gifted with languages and if you are struggling to get a pass in the language at ordinary level in the Junior Certificate you will find Leaving Certificate level very difficult.