



Presentation Secondary School – Subject Options 2026



Senior Cycle



Tranche 1 (Current 5th Years – LC 2027)

Tranche 1

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2025

Tranche 2

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2026

Tranche 3

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2027

Tranche 4

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2028

Tranche 5

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2029

Subjects:

Ancient Greek

Arabic

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Climate Action and
Sustainable Development

Drama, Film and Theatre
Studies

Latin

Physics



Tranche 2 (Current 3rd and TYS – LC 2028)

Tranche 1

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2025

Tranche 2

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2026

Tranche 3

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2027

Tranche 4

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2028

Tranche 5

Starts 5th year in
Autumn 2029

Subjects:

Accounting
Construction Studies
Engineering

English

Geography 

LCVP Link Modules 

Physical Education



Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Tranche 1	Starts 5 th year in Autumn 2025	Leaving Certificate in 2027
Tranche 2	Starts 5 th year in Autumn 2026	Leaving Certificate in 2028
Tranche 3	Starts 5 th year in Autumn 2027	Leaving Certificate in 2029
Tranche 4	Starts 5 th year in Autumn 2028	Leaving Certificate in 2030
Tranche 5	Starts 5 th year in Autumn 2029	Leaving Certificate in 2031



Additional Assessment Components (AACs)

- At least 40% of the available marks
- Assess a broader range of learning than can be captured through a traditional written examination.
- Enhance the assessment experience: learning through and by doing
- SEC working on developing AACs and balancing issues of validity and reliability with manageability for students, teachers, school authorities, and the State Examinations.



Attendance and AAC's

These components will be worth at least 40% of the available marks and will be externally assessed by the State Examinations Commission (SEC)

Enhance the assessment experience: learning through and by doing

These AACs are designed to assess students' skills and key competencies , developed through the study of their chosen subject, in a way that a terminal written examination can not



Leaving Certificate Points System

HONOURS POINTS	HONOURS GRADE	% BANDS	ORDINARY GRADE	ORDINARY POINTS
100	H1	90 - 100	O1	56
88	H2	80 - 89	O2	46
77	H3	70 - 79	O3	37
66	H4	60 - 69	O4	28
56	H5	50 - 59	O5	20
46	H6	40 - 49	O6	12
37	H7	30 - 39	O7	0
0	H8	0 - 29	O8	0



Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

Students take **7 subjects** for the Leaving Certificate

Core Subjects X3

English

Maths

Irish (unless exempt)

Option Subjects X4



Options Subjects Offered for L.C

Physics	German	Music
Chemistry	French	Art
Biology	History	Business
Computer Science	Geography	Accounting
Ag. Science (new)	Home Economics	Life, Community and Work (LCW)



Life, Community and Work (LCW)

- 60% is awarded through a Portfolio in Action
- 40% is awarded through a written exam held in 6th Year

- Enterprise Education
- Visits Out and Visits In
- Report Writing
- Work Experience
- Career Investigations
- Interview Skills



LCW Award

Distinction (80-100%)

66 points (H4/O1)

Merit (65-79%)

46 points (H6/O2)

Pass (50-64%)

28 points (O4)

Universities and Institutes of Technology

Subjects Dropped in 1st Year	May be taken up at Senior level	May Not be taken up at Senior Level
Art	Art if exceptional ability is shown	
Business Studies	Business Accounting (if suitability shown)	
French		French
German		German
Home Economics	Social & Scientific (need to have done Science at Junior Cert)	
Computer Studies	Computer science	
Music	Music (If the student has contd. To study an instrument or singing to a sufficient standard)	
Science		Biology, Chemistry Physics Ag. Science

Considerations before Making Your Choice

- What subjects do you enjoy and are interested in? You will be more likely to work harder at these, thus do better.
- What subjects are you good at? Are you usually pleased with your results in this subject?
- What career AREA are you interested in? does this career require certain subjects



Considerations before Making Your Choice

- Do not pick a subject because all your friends are doing that subject
- Do not pick a subject because of a teacher
- Do not pick a subject because you think it will be a doss! All Leaving Cert subjects require hard work if you want to do well in them



Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

- What subjects might be helpful for your course or area of work?
- Do your choices keep your options open for the future?
- If your choices close off future options, have you discussed this with parents, teachers.



Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

- Entry Requirements
- Most courses just require the core subjects of English, Irish, Maths and for some a third language.
- Only a small number of courses require specific subjects and this requirement is usually a science subject.
- Practically all science, medical, paramedical and some engineering courses require at least 1 **Laboratory Science**.
- If you wish to study Primary Teaching in England/Wales at least 1 Science subject is needed.
- The following requirements need to be noted



2 Science Subjects are Required for:

- Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy at UCC 2H4
- Pharmacy at Trinity 2H4
- Dentistry, Medicine at Trinity H3+H4
- Physiotherapy, Genetics at Trinity 2H4
- Science at Trinity 2H4
- Medicinal Chemistry at Trinity 2H4
- UK Paramedical courses



Other Science Requirements for Consideration

Chemistry is required for

- Veterinary at UCD
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics at TUD
- Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy at UCC
- Medical & health sciences UCC
- Pharmacy at Trinity & RSCI

H4
H4
H4
H4
H4



Chemistry is recommended for

- Medicine at UCD



Biology is required for

- Genetics at UCC
- One Lab science for Nursing



Keep Your Options Open

- If you don't know what you want to do after school, it is a good idea to take a variety of subjects to keep all options open to you.
- If it recommended you take a science subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics etc.)
- A third or modern language (French or German)



Do You Need a MFL?

Specific Colleges require a third or modern language (French/German) but not every course.

- UCC
- UCD
- University of Galway
- Maynooth University

A modern language (French/German) is not required in any college for:

- Nursing
- Engineering
- Science



Colleges/Universities that do not require MFL

Trinity College Dublin

D.C.U.

U.L.

All Technological Universities



Subject Choice: The Process

- Subject **teachers will speak to their classes** about the option subjects
- Students need to consider
 - Their likes and dislikes
 - Their aptitudes and abilities
 - Careers they would be interested in
 - Subjects that would be useful for these careers
 - Requirements for these career areas
- Students identify their **top 5 preferences-in order of their preference** in the hope of getting their first 4 preferences.
- Students must submit the application form on time
- Choices are entered into the computer
- Based on the overall demand for subjects the computer generates an options timetable.
- This is unique to each year group.



Subject Choice Continued

- Unfortunately not all students will get their top 4 choices
- There are 3 reasons for this
 - Too few students may opt for a subject to make it viable to run as a class
 - Two subjects that your daughter wants to do might be on at the same time
 - A class may be oversubscribed. Then we consider the following - was their application in on time
 - the preference rating of the subject
 - significance of the subject to the student
 - student attitude / record in the subject
 - random selection



SUMMARY



- What subjects
 - are you interested in
 - are you good at
 - might be helpful or needed for your future
 - keep your options open
- Make sure your application is in on time
- Make sure your subjects chosen are in genuine order of preference
- Make sure you pick subjects they will enjoy and do well in.



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