



# Presentation Secondary School – Subject Options 2026





# Senior Cycle



# Tranche 1 (Current 5<sup>th</sup> Years – LC 2027)

Tranche 1	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2025	<b>Subjects:</b> Ancient Greek Arabic Biology ✓ Business ✓ Chemistry ✓ Climate Action and Sustainable Development Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Latin Physics ✓
Tranche 2	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2026	
Tranche 3	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2027	
Tranche 4	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2028	
Tranche 5	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2029	



# Tranche 2 (Current 3<sup>rd</sup> and TYS – LC 2028)

Tranche 1	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2025	<b>Subjects:</b> Accounting Construction Studies Engineering English Geography ✓ LCVP Link Modules ✓ Physical Education
Tranche 2	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2026	
Tranche 3	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2027	
Tranche 4	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2028	
Tranche 5	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2029	



# Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Tranche 1	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2025	Leaving Certificate in 2027
Tranche 2	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2026	Leaving Certificate in 2028
Tranche 3	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2027	Leaving Certificate in 2029
Tranche 4	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> year in Autumn 2028	Leaving Certificate in 2030
Tranche 5	Starts 5 <sup>th</sup> 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

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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)

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- 60% is awarded through a Portfolio in Action
  - 40% is awarded through a written exam held in 6<sup>th</sup> Year
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- Enterprise Education
  - Visits Out and Visits In
  - Report Writing
  - Work Experience
  - Career Investigations
  - Interview Skills



## LCW Award

Distinction (80-100%)

Merit (65-79%)

Pass (50-64%)

## Universities and Institutes of Technology

66 points (H4/O1)

46 points (H6/O2)

28 points (O4)

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



# Considerations before Making Your Choice

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- 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 are REQUIRE certain subjects



# Considerations before Making Your Choice

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- 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:

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- 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

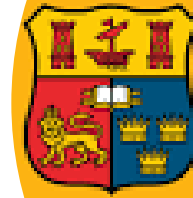
- Veterinary at UCD
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics at TUD
- Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy at UCC
- Medical & health sciences UCC
- Pharmacy at Trinity & RSCI

**Chemistry** is recommended for

- Medicine at UCD

**Biology** is required for

- Genetics at UCC
- One Lab science for **Nursing**



**UCC**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh  
University College Cork, Ireland

H4

H4

H4

H4

H4



**RCSI**



# 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

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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.





[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)