



Senior Cycle Options



THE INSTITUTE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Leaving Certificate Subject Choice



The Institute
Of Guidance
Counsellors

LCVP



Leaving Cert LCA



TY



PROGRAMME

1. Traditional Leaving Cert

SUBJECTS FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Irish, English, Maths.....Core Subjects

Optional Subjects

- **Humanities group- French, Spanish and History**
- **Science group- Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Agricultural Science**
- **Artistic and Creative group- Art and Music**
- **Practical group - Construction, Engineering and DCG**
- **Business group - Business Studies**
- **Social group - Geography and Home Economics**

Irish

- Irish is assessed at 3 levels: Foundation, Ordinary and Higher.
- Oral exam is now worth 40% of the overall mark at each level.
- Listening exam is now worth 10% of the overall Mark for OL and HL.
- You need a minimum H4 grade in Irish to get into Primary teaching.



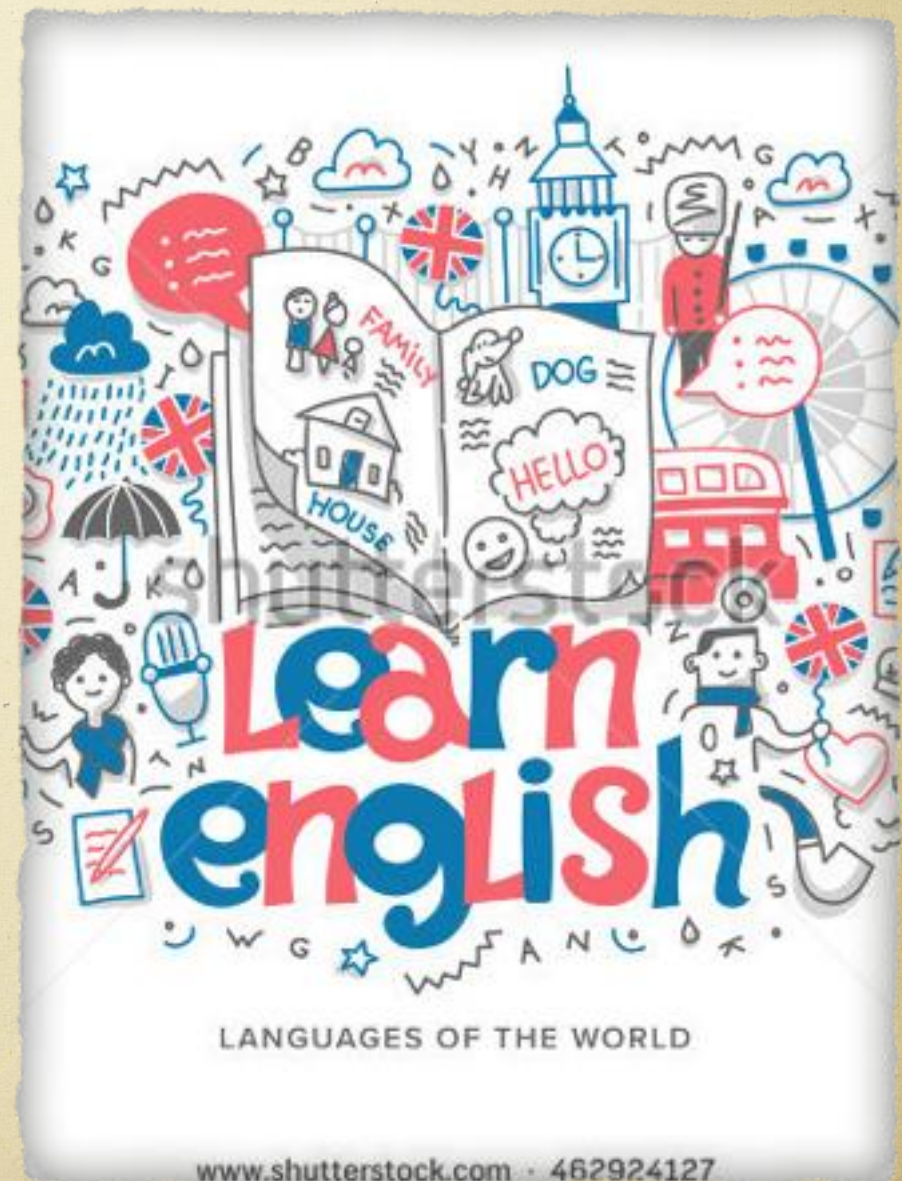
Irish

- You need a O6/H7 for National University Of Ireland (NUI Colleges).
- There is no Irish requirement for Institute of Technology Colleges.



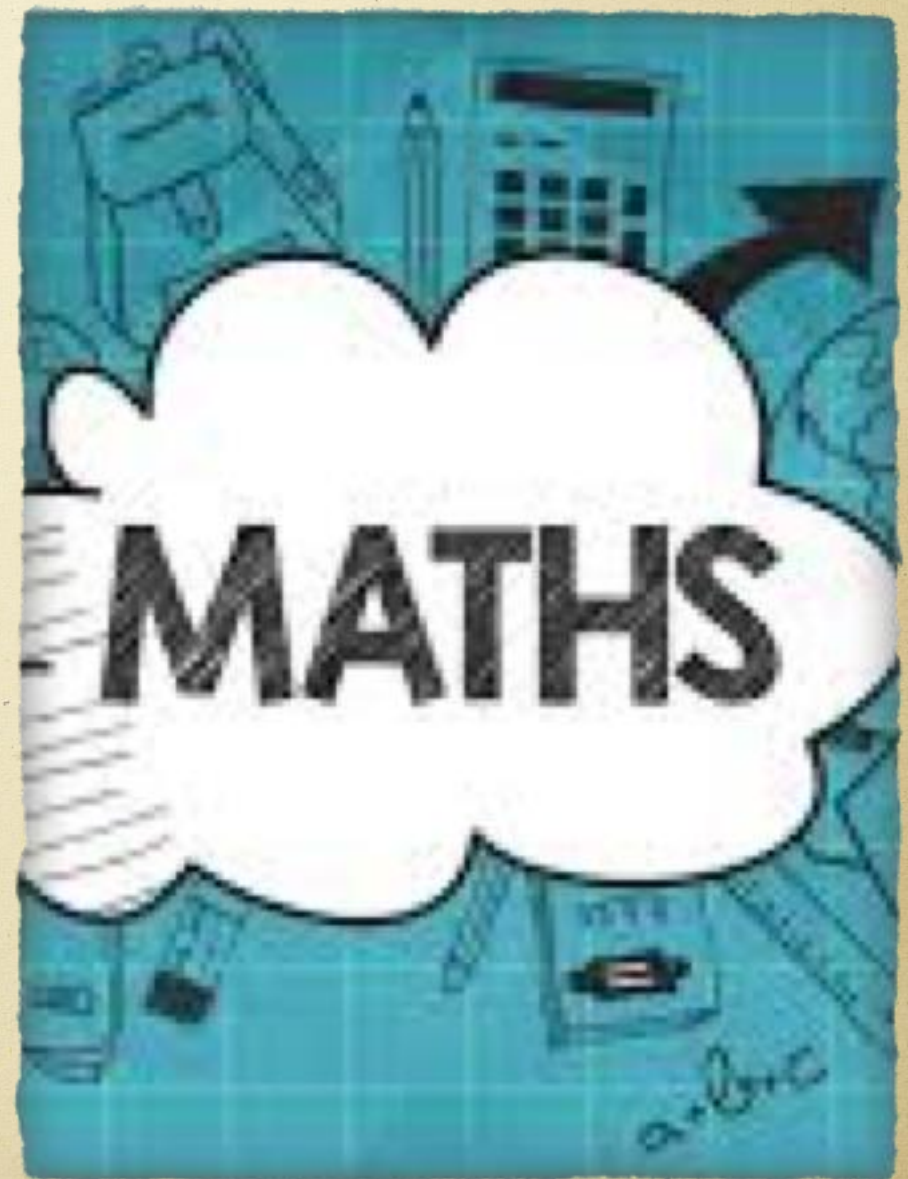
English

- English is a core subject and is compulsory in all schools.
- The exams at both higher and ordinary level require students to sit two papers.
- Higher Level English is required for some courses I.e. Journalism (H4) in DCU, media studies in Maynooth (H5) etc.



Maths

- Maths is available for study at three levels: Foundation Level, HL and OL
- Examples of courses that require Higher Level Maths for entry include: Computer Science TCD and Actuarial Studies DCU and UCD



Maths

- ✧ If you obtain a H6 grade or better, you have the benefit of gaining 25 additional bonus points.
- ✧ Securing a minimum of a pass mark on an ordinary level paper is necessary for entry into the majority of third level college courses.



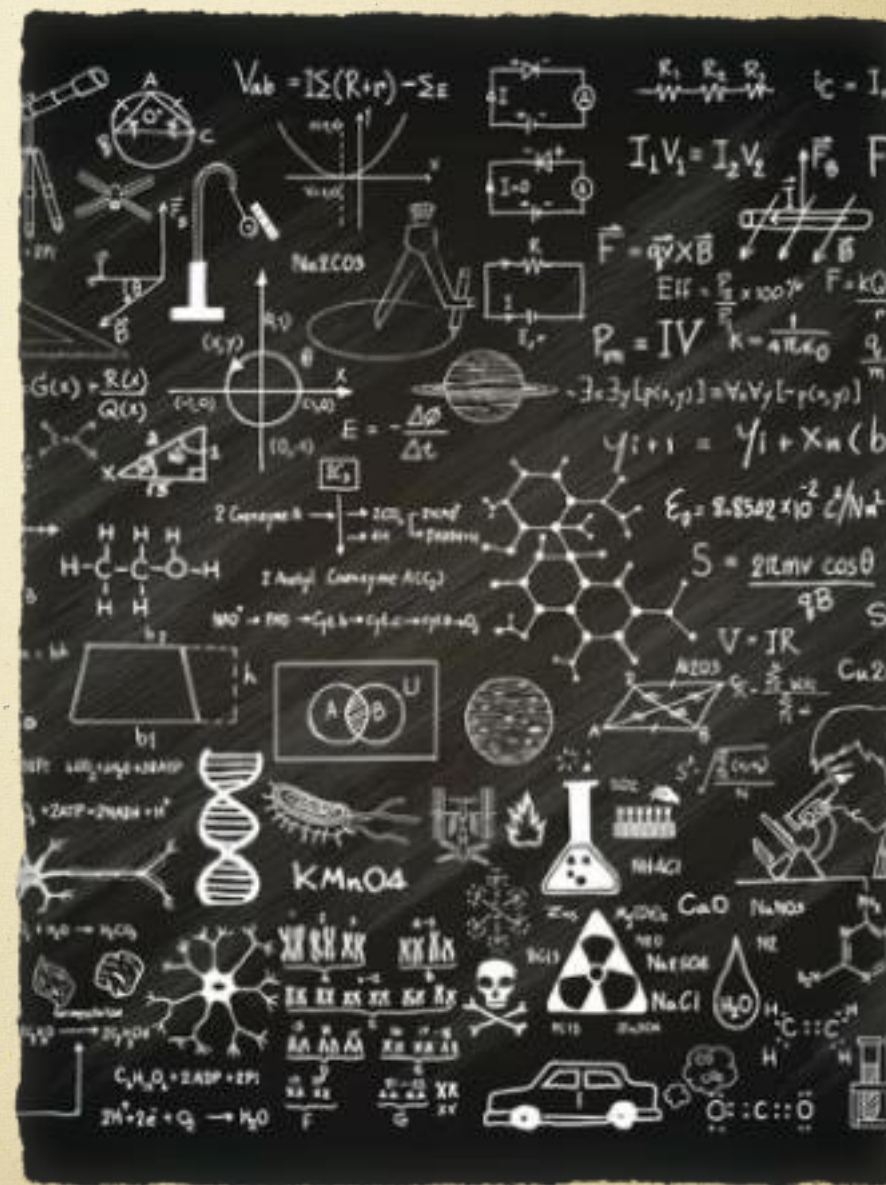
French and Spanish (Third Language)

- 2 A third Language is an entry requirement for a number of third level colleges and may be a specific requirement for certain courses.
- 2 Assessment is by means of a written exam, an aural and oral exam at two levels, Ordinary and Higher Level.



Physics -(You need physics to get into theoretical physics in TCD)

- The physics course is heavily based around experiments (required to complete and write reports of 24 experiments).
- These experiments are examined in detail on a section of the written paper.
- Students are required to use various formulae with respect to SI units and significant figures and have a good understanding of physics in modern society.



Chemistry

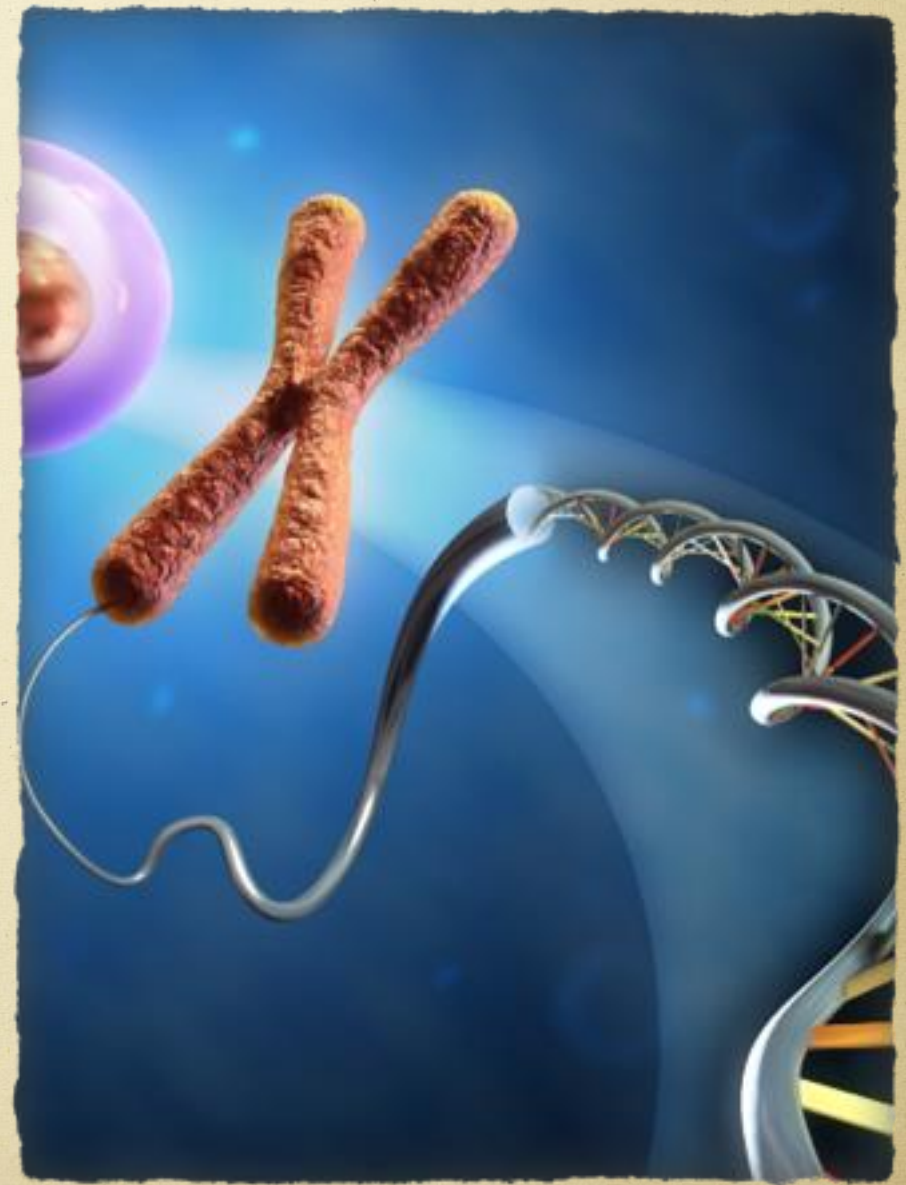
The chemistry course includes 28 mandatory practical experiments which must be completed in the lab, as well as a written paper including questions on the experiments and examining the theory and applications of chemistry.

You need Chemistry to get into 7 courses in Third Level i.e Pharmacy in RCSI etc.



Biology

- The biology course is divided into 3 units - 1. The study of life(ecology etc) 2. The cell(genetics etc.) 3. The organism(A study of body systems etc.)
- 22 mandatory practical activities (3 of these are examined each year, two of which have to be answered)
- You need Biology to get into 5 courses in Third Level, for example, Human Health and Disease.



Agricultural Science

- Students study plant and animal types associated with agriculture.
- Investigations are also undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farming practices, farm crops, genetics and microbiology.



Agricultural Science

- It is recognized as a laboratory science subject for almost all 3rd level courses including nursing.
- It can be a good subject with Biology and/or Geography due to the overlap in course content.



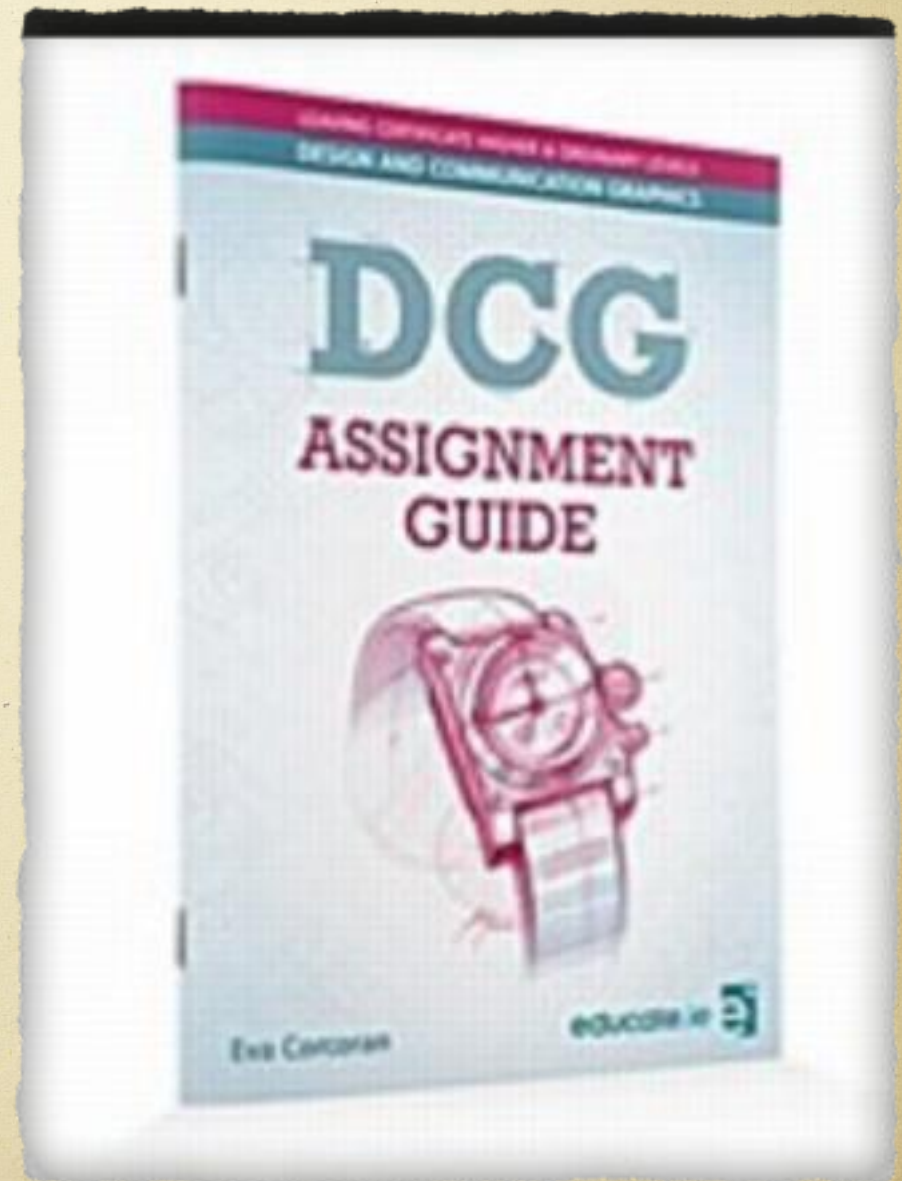
Construction

- 2 The course is essentially about the study of buildings and the built environment.
- 2 There is a written exam(300 marks) and a practical exam(150 marks) where the student makes a small item of timber and finally a building project(150 marks) where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece.



Design and Communications Graphics

- DCG takes the place of technical drawing for the Leaving Cert. This subject develops students' comprehension ability, and problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2 and 3 dimensional graphics.
- Written exam paper (60%)
- Student Assignment (40% emphasis on elements of design, communications graphics, use of ICT's in design etc)



Engineering

- LC engineering is the study of mechanical engineering.
- Engineering gives hands on experience of working with tools and machinery.
- This subject follows on from JC metalwork.
- Engineering is assessed by means of a written paper (200 marks. OL 300 HL, a student project (150 marks for assessment of workshop/ lab work and projects) and a practical exam (150 marks)



History

- ❧ The history course is demanding and requires a lot of work.
- ❧ Assessment consists of two components:
 - ❧ 1. A written exam (80%) - Students have to answer a documents based study and 3 essays.
 - ❧ 2. A research study report(20%) - this report is submitted before the exam and can be about any aspect of history.



Geography

- **Geography is a very popular subject choice.**
- **Up to 20% of the final grade is achieved before sitting the exam by completing a report on a geographical investigation.**
- **The written exam is worth 80% of the marks (students complete two questions on the core units, one question on an elective unit and one question on an optional unit of the course)**



Art

- Students have to complete a still life/imaginative composition piece as well as a craft/design piece in their art classes over 2/3 months in sixth year which is examined.
- Students have to do a one hour life sketching exam.
- Students have to also complete a 2.5 hr written Art history and appreciation exam.
- For most level art and design courses, an art portfolio is required.



Music

- The music course consists of 3 main components:
- 1. Performance - student's can get up to 50% by performing as a soloist or as part of a group before even sitting the written paper.
- 2. Listening (90 minutes exam duration) Four set works, Irish music and general listening skills.
- 3. Composition (90 minutes exam duration) Melody writing and harmony.



Business

- ✧ This subject teaches the skills and knowledge needed to understand how business works.
- ✧ The course is theory based and requires a lot of learning.
- ✧ There are 7 core units to study covering different topics.
- ✧ In the exam, there are 3 sections (HL) 2 sections(OL) to complete with some long and short questions to answer.
- ✧ You do not need to study business at LC level to do it in college.



Home Economics

- 2 The syllabus consists of 3 core areas: 1. Food studies 2. Resource management and consumer studies 3. Social studies
- 2 The practical coursework which is worth 20% of the final mark is submitted in journal form.
- 2 The written exam is worth 80% and consists of three sections



Consider the following factors when choosing your subjects:



Important Considerations

- Interest in the subject
- Ability in the subject
- Career aspirations





Guidelines for choosing subjects

- 1. Interest in the subject - Genuine interest is important in terms of motivation. If you pick a subject you are interested in you are going to get better grades.





Does it come easy to you ?

Guidelines for choosing subjects

- 2. Ability in the subject- Reflect on what subjects you are good at?. Chatting to teachers may also help to gauge your ability in a subject area.



- 
- The image shows a grey signpost with a spherical top. It has two blue directional signs. The top sign is an arrow pointing left and contains two bullet points. The bottom sign is a rectangular plate and contains three bullet points, with the last one being indented.
- Degree
 - Future Career

- Post Leaving Cert
 - Course options
 - Subject Choices

Guidelines for choosing subjects

- 3. Career needs- Reflect on what subjects you need to get into particular courses/colleges.



2 Key Questions

- Do I study a language?
- Do I study a science subject?



Do I study a language

- You need to take 3 considerations into account when deciding whether to pick Spanish or French.



Do I study a language?

- 1. What is my level of ability in French/Spanish to date?
- 2. Do I have an interest in studying French or Spanish.?
- 3. Do I need French or Spanish to get into a particular college/course?



What happens if I do not take a language other than Irish and English

- **The colleges of the National University of Ireland require a pass in a third language for entry into a large number of their courses.**
- **These colleges are Maynooth University, University College Dublin, NUI Galway and UCC and a range of constituent colleges, all of which are listed on the NUI website.**
- **Trinity accepts Irish as a second language requirement. UL and DCU and the Institutes of Technology/Technological Universities do not require a third language for entry purposes to most of their courses.**

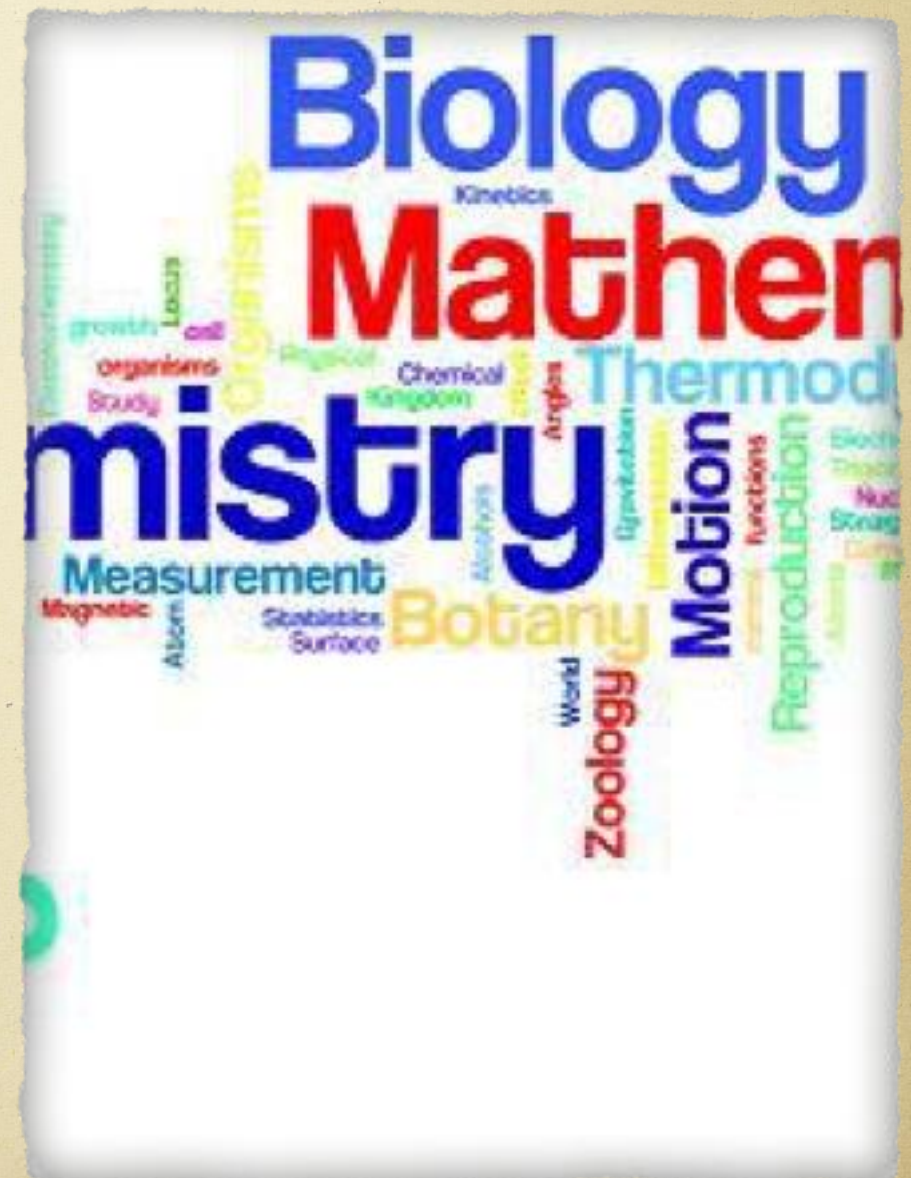
Do I study a science subject

- You need to take three considerations into account when deciding whether to select a science subject/s for Leaving Cert.



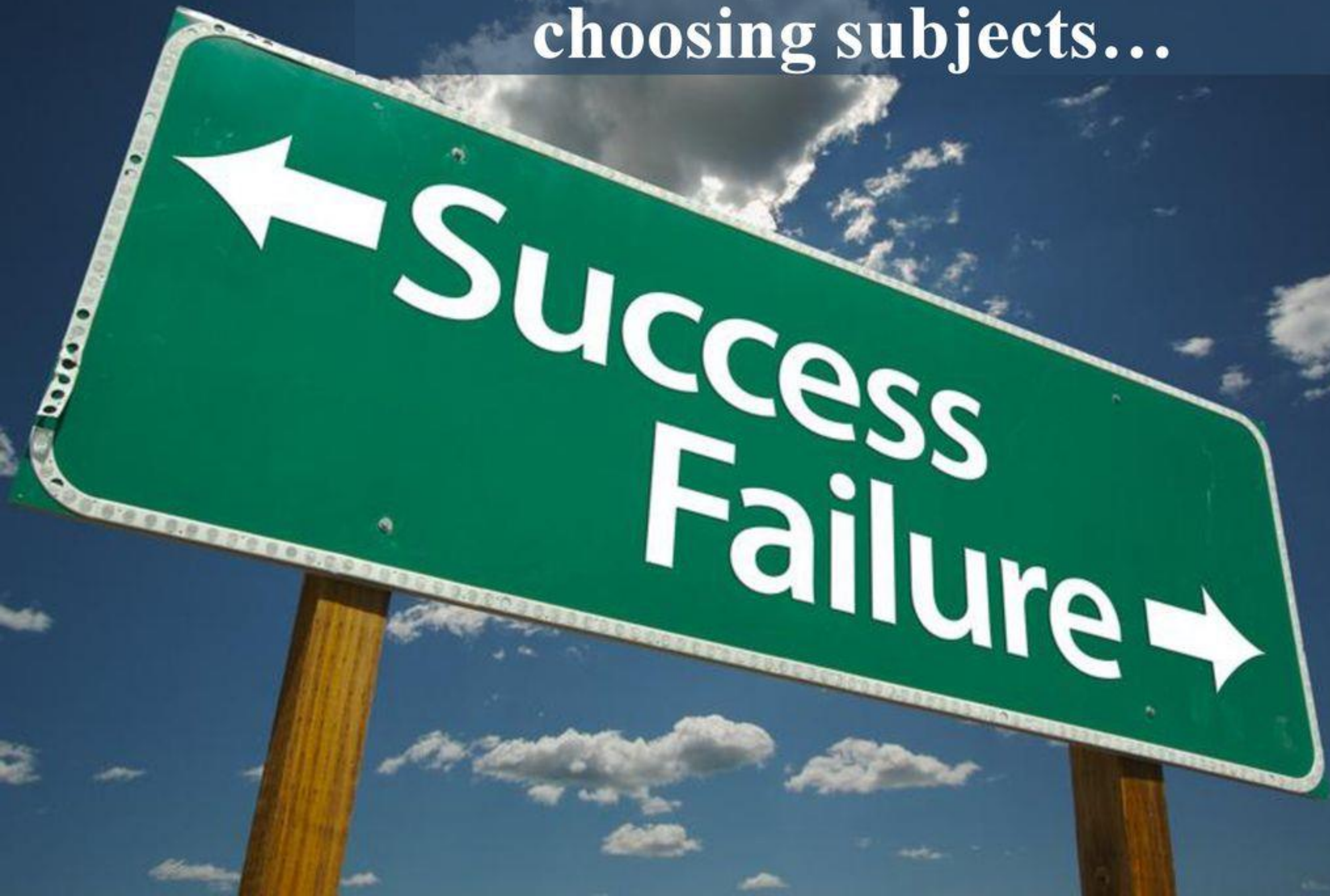
Do I study a science subject?

1. What is my level of ability in science to date?
2. What is my level of interest in science to date?
3. Do I need a science subject/s or specific science subjects to get into a particular course



➤ **A science subject(or 2 for some courses) is essential for most medical and scientific areas i.e. physiotherapy, radiography, nursing, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy etc.**

Things not to do when
choosing subjects...





You like the teacher - Make sure you like the subject also. Teachers can be switched or leave !!

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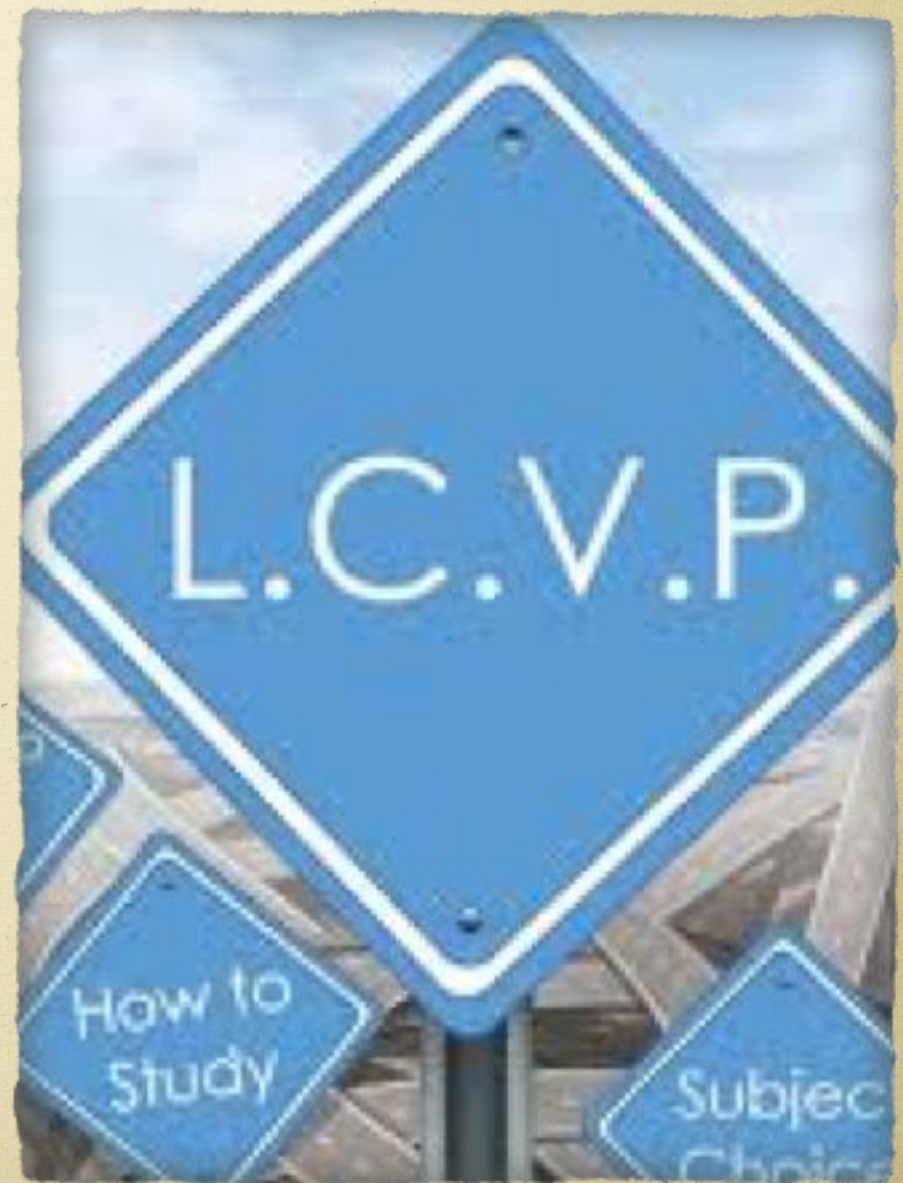


All my friends are choosing that subject . Think for yourself. Friendship patterns can change.

2. LCVP

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

- LCVP is a programme that prepares students for the world of work.
- LCVP is a programme that students take along with taking other Leaving Cert subjects.
- Students must study a combination of certain subjects in order to be eligible for LCVP



Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) 2017/2018

Specialist Groupings

1 Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology - - - - -

Any Two

2 Physics **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics

3 Agricultural Science **and** Construction

Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics

4 Agricultural Science **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry

5 Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - **Any Two**

6 Home Economics **and** Art - Design Option **or** Craft Option

7 Accounting; Business; Economics - **Any two**

8 Physics **and** Chemistry

9 Biology **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry

- 10 Biology **and** Agricultural Science

- 11 Art - Design Option or Craft Option **and** Design & Communication Graphics

- **Services Groupings**

- 12 Engineering **or** Technology **or** Construction Studies **or** Design & Communication Graphics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

13 Home Economics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

14 Agricultural Science **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

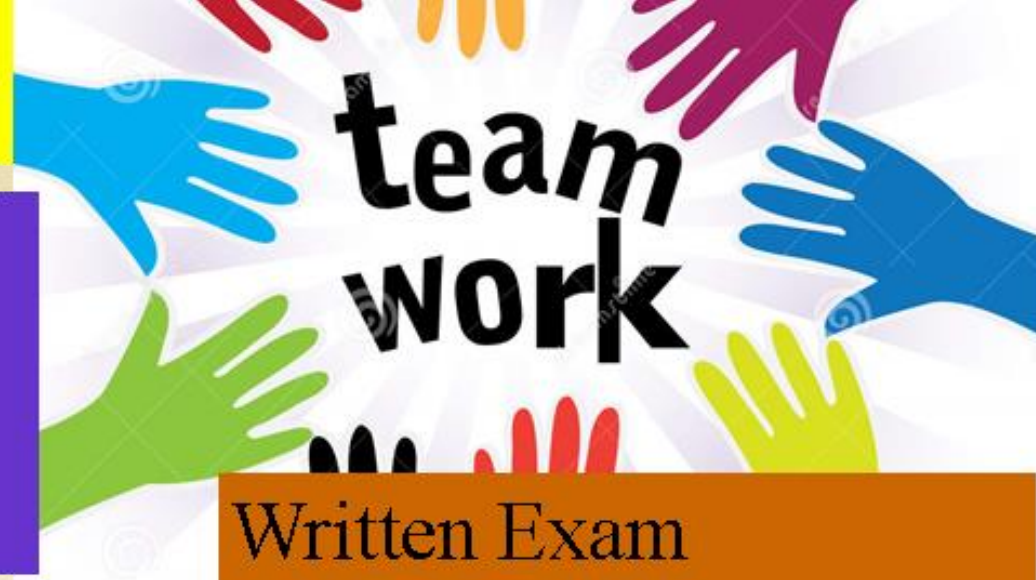
15 Art Design or Craftwork Option **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

16 Music **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

Preparation for the World of Work



Exam	
Portfolio	60%
Written Exam	40%



Portfolio

Core Items:

Curriculum Vitae
Summary Report
Career Investigation Report
Plan

Optional (Any 2)

Diary
Formal Report
My Own Place
Recorded Interview

Written Exam

Section A:

Audio Visual

Section B:

Case Study

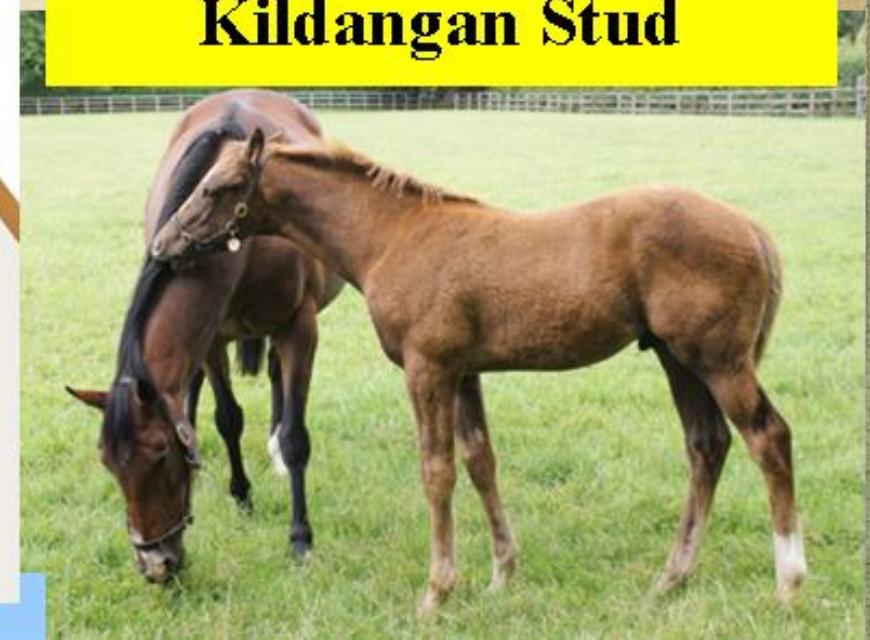
Section C:

General Questions

Kildangan Stud Induction Day



LCVP Link With Kildangan Stud



LCVP



Link Modules Assessment Portfolio of Coursework

(from Sept 2002)

■ **Core Items**

- CV
- Career Investigation
- Enterprise/Action Plan
- Summary Report

■ **Options - any two from:-**

- Diary of Work Experience
- Enterprise Report
- Recorded Interview/Presentation
- Report on “My Own Place”

The LCVP is funded by the Department of Education and Science
under the National Development Plan

Link Module 1 - Preparation for the world of work

1. Introduction to Working Life
2. Job-Seeking Skills
3. Career Investigation
4. Work Placement

Link Module 2 - Enterprise Education

5. Enterprise Skills
6. Local Business Enterprises
7. Local Voluntary Organisations/Community Enterprises
8. An Enterprise Activity



Link Modules Assessment Written Examination

- **Section A - Audio Visual**
 - Video sequence of an enterprise
 - 30 marks
- **Section B - Case Study**
 - Received 4 weeks in advance
 - 30 marks
- **Section C - General Questions**
 - Choice of 4 questions from 6
 - 100 marks

The LCVP is funded by the Department of Education and Science
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LCVP Grade

Revised LCVP
Points

Distinction

66

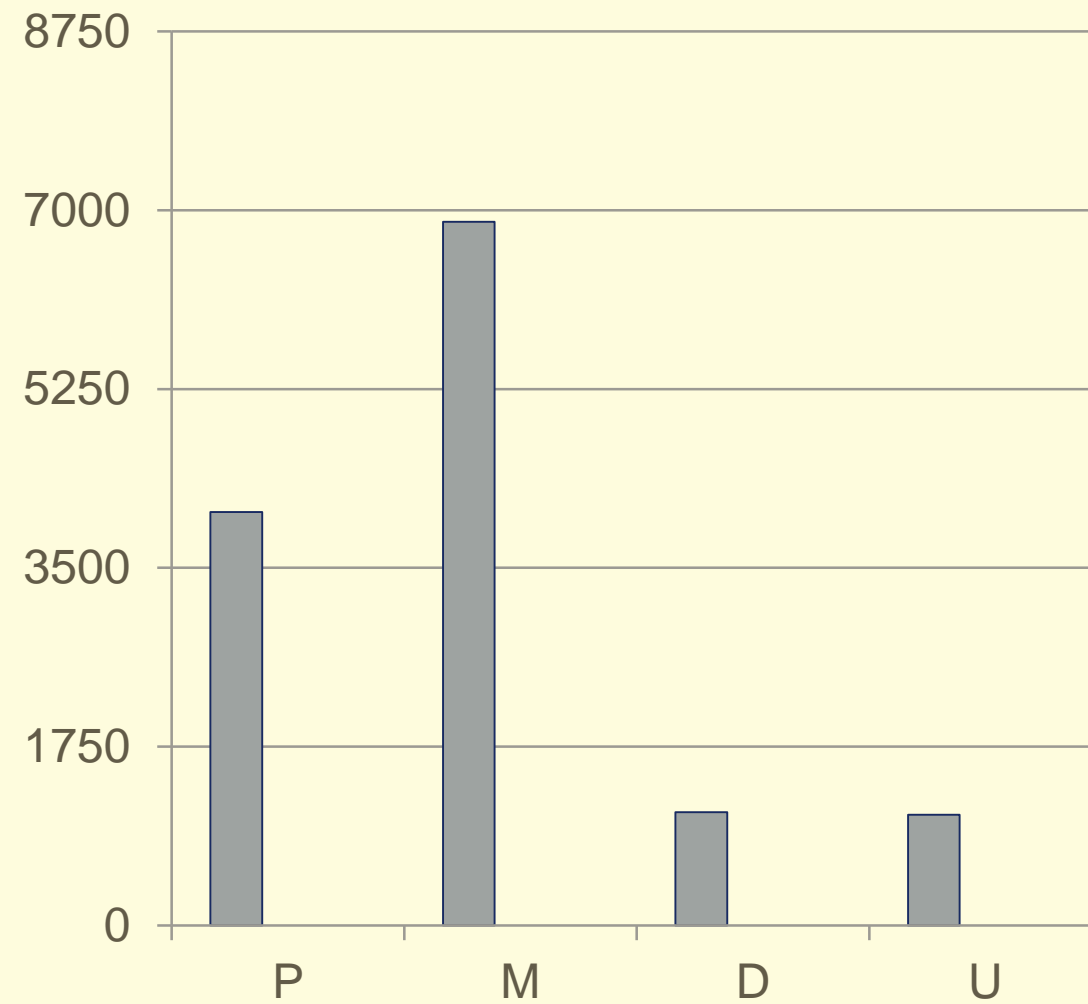
Merit

46

Pass

28

LCVP Results 2019



Leaving Certificate Applied

.....A Different Way

3.Leaving Cert Applied

Leaving Cert LCA

What is LCA ?

LCA

- **LCA is a two year Leaving Cert available to students who wish to follow a practical programme with a strong practical and vocational emphasis.**



Who would benefit most?

- 1. Students who are not adequately catered for by other LC programmes.
- 2. Learners who choose not to opt for those programmes.



Rationale

- Prepares students for adult and working life
- Recognises talents of all pupils
- Promotes communication and decision making skills
- Applies knowledge and skills to the solution of real problems

Curriculum

- **Vocational Preparation and Guidance**
- **English and Communications**
- **Mathematical Applications and IT**
- **Vocational Specialisms**
- **Arts Education**
- **Languages**
- **Leisure and Recreation**
- **Elective Modules**



Assessment

3 Modes

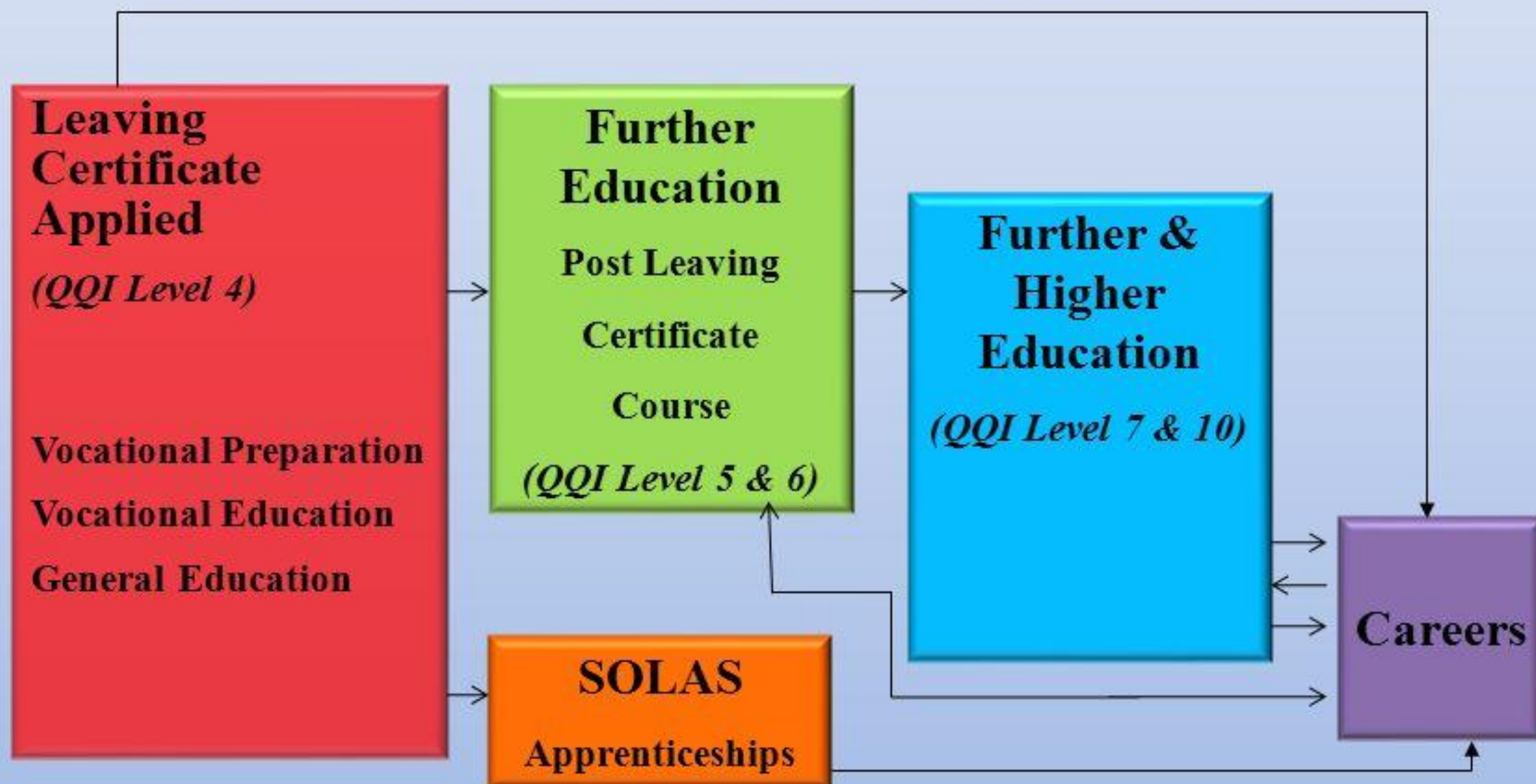
Satisfactory completion of Modules	62 credits (31%)
7 Student tasks	70 credits (35%)
Final examinations	68 credits (34%)
Total	200 credits (100%)

Certificate awarded at three levels:

Pass	60-69 %	(120 - 139 credits)
Merit	(70-84 %)	(140 - 169 credits)
Distinction	(85-100 %)	(170 - 200 credits)

Opening up New Options

The Leaving Certificate Applied Route Map



TY



PROGRAMME



Description of Transition Year

Transition Year is an optional year which can be taken following the JC, before a student begins their LC.

It is not like a normal school year because students follow a completely different curriculum and have a more varied course with new modules, trips and projects.





Why opt for Transition Year?

- ❧ Challenges facing our Young People.
- ❧ Changing attitudes to Education
- ❧ Need for skills based learning
- ❧ Age profile of Irish students leaving school
- ❧ Time to mature





Students' reasons for choosing TY

- ❧ Year to mature
- ❧ Assess Junior Cert results/prepare for Senior Cycle
- ❧ Explore new subjects/experiences/skills
- ❧ Gain a more positive attitude towards school
- ❧ To gain confidence
- ❧ Age





Applying for Transition Year

- Students fill in an application form.
- The co ordination team interview the students.
- The school use the information gathered to assess if we feel TY would benefit the student.



Subjects studied in Transition Year

English	Future Leaders
Irish	Mini-Company
Maths	Home Economics
Music	Photography
Science	Art
Heritage Studies	DCG
European Studies	Metalwork
IT	Woodwork
PE	Work Experience

Assessment of Subjects studied in Transition Year

- **System of credits**
- **Build credits towards their final award
– Pass, Merit or Distinction**
- **Credits also for attendance,
application, their TY folder, uniform
etc.**
- **Additional credits can be awarded**

Additional Courses/Programmes

- ❧ **First Aid**
- ❧ **Manual Handling**
- ❧ **Work Experience Etiquette**
- ❧ **Team Bonding**
- ❧ **European Parliament Ambassador
Schools Programme**
- ❧ **Work**
- ❧ **First Aid**



Additional Courses/Programmes

- ❧ Film Making
- ❧ GAA/FAI course
- ❧ Road Safety Awareness
- ❧ Substance Abuse Awareness
- ❧ Glasnevin Cemetery Tour Guiding
- ❧ Maths Challenges – Castlecomer
- ❧ Discovery Park
- ❧ Christmas Baking
- ❧ Forensics Workshop



Subject-related Outings

- ↳ Baysports, Athlone
- ↳ National Ploughing Championships
- ↳ Microsoft Dreamspace
- ↳ National Museum, Dail
- ↳ Mount Lucas
- ↳ European Commission Offices
- ↳ National Gallery
- ↳ Dublin Castle
- ↳ Glasnevin Tour Guiding
- ↳ Riverbank Theatre
- ↳ Bord Gais Theatre – Christmas Trip
- ↳ End of Year overnight trip...



In school opportunities

- **Gaisce – Breakfast Club, Primary School Literacy Programme**
- **Seachtain na Gaeilge**
- **European Day of Languages**
- **Maths Week**
- **Science Week**
- **Talent Show**
- **Community Clean up**



In school opportunities

- **Guest speakers**
- **Charity Fundraisers – Special Olympics**
- **TY Page of School Website**
- **Mini Companies**
- **School Branch of Croi Laighean Credit Union**
- **EU Model Debate in Dublin Castle**

Work Experience

- **Students have work experience one day a week - Wednesday.**
- **Students are given the opportunity to explore various career choices which interest them.**
- **Employers give written feedback to students and to the school.**
- **TY coordinator maintains regular contact with placement providers.**
- **Students keep a weekly diary which includes reflection on their work experience**

Community Work Experience Week

- **Students have one week of work experience in May in a community setting**
- **Theme of the week is “Giving Back”**
- **Students are encouraged to try to find a placement of particular interest to them**
- **We hope it will be a very positive end to their year before they graduate**

Application to 3rd level

- There are 3 conditions that must be met for a student to be offered a place on a 3rd level course in a Higher Education Institute (HEI):
 - 1) Minimum Entry Requirements
 - 2) Specific Course Entry Requirements
 - 3) Points

CAO

- **The CAO is an organisation that deals with applications from students who want to study in an Institute of Technology or University**

New Common CAO Points Scale

Higher Grade	Points	Ordinary Grade	Points
H1 90-100%	100	O1 90-100%	56
H2 80<90%	88	O2 80<90%	46
H3 70<80%	77	O3 70<80%	37
H4 60<70%	66	O4 60<70%	28
H5 50<60%	56	O5 50<60%	20
H6 40<50%	46	O6 40<50%	12
H7 30<40%	37	O7 30<40%	0
H8 0<30%	0	O8	0

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS



These must be satisfied before “points” are considered.

Minimum Entry Requirements

E.g. UCD

- Pass 6 subjects
- At least 2 H5/O6
- Pass in:
 - ✓ Irish
 - ✓ English
 - ✓ Another Language
 - ✓ Mathematics*
 - ✓ Science Subject*

Specific Subject Requirements

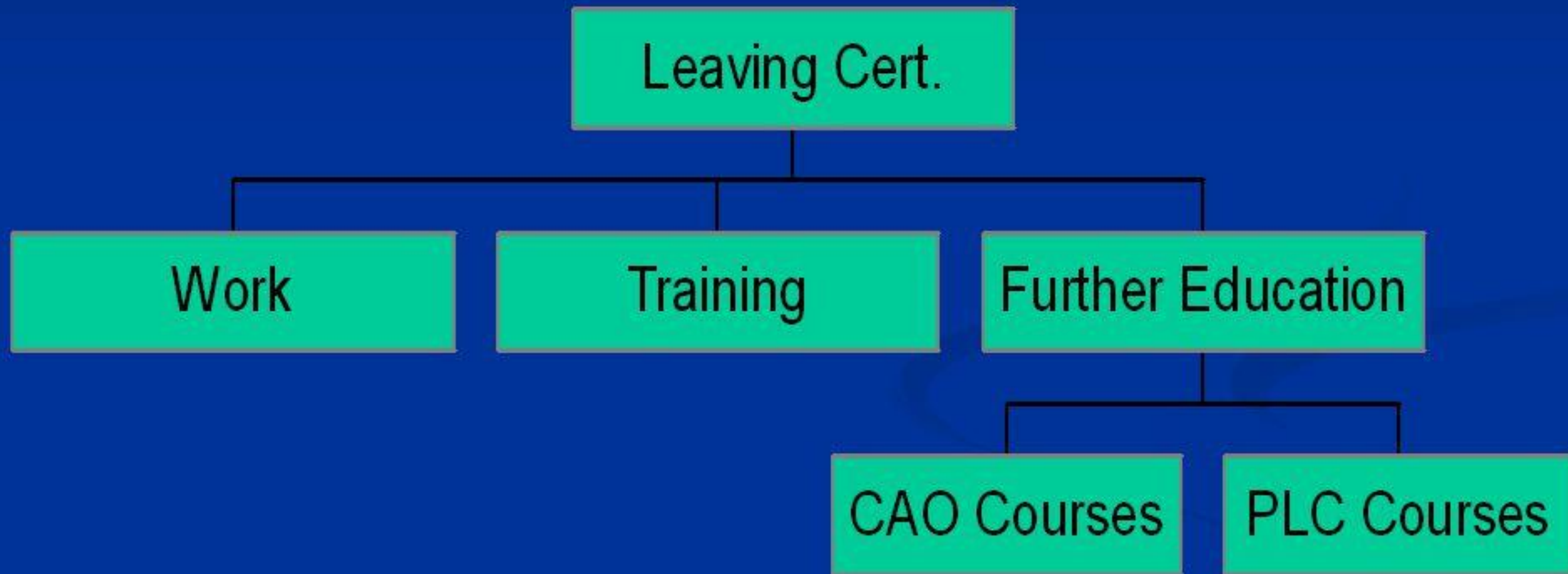
E.g.s

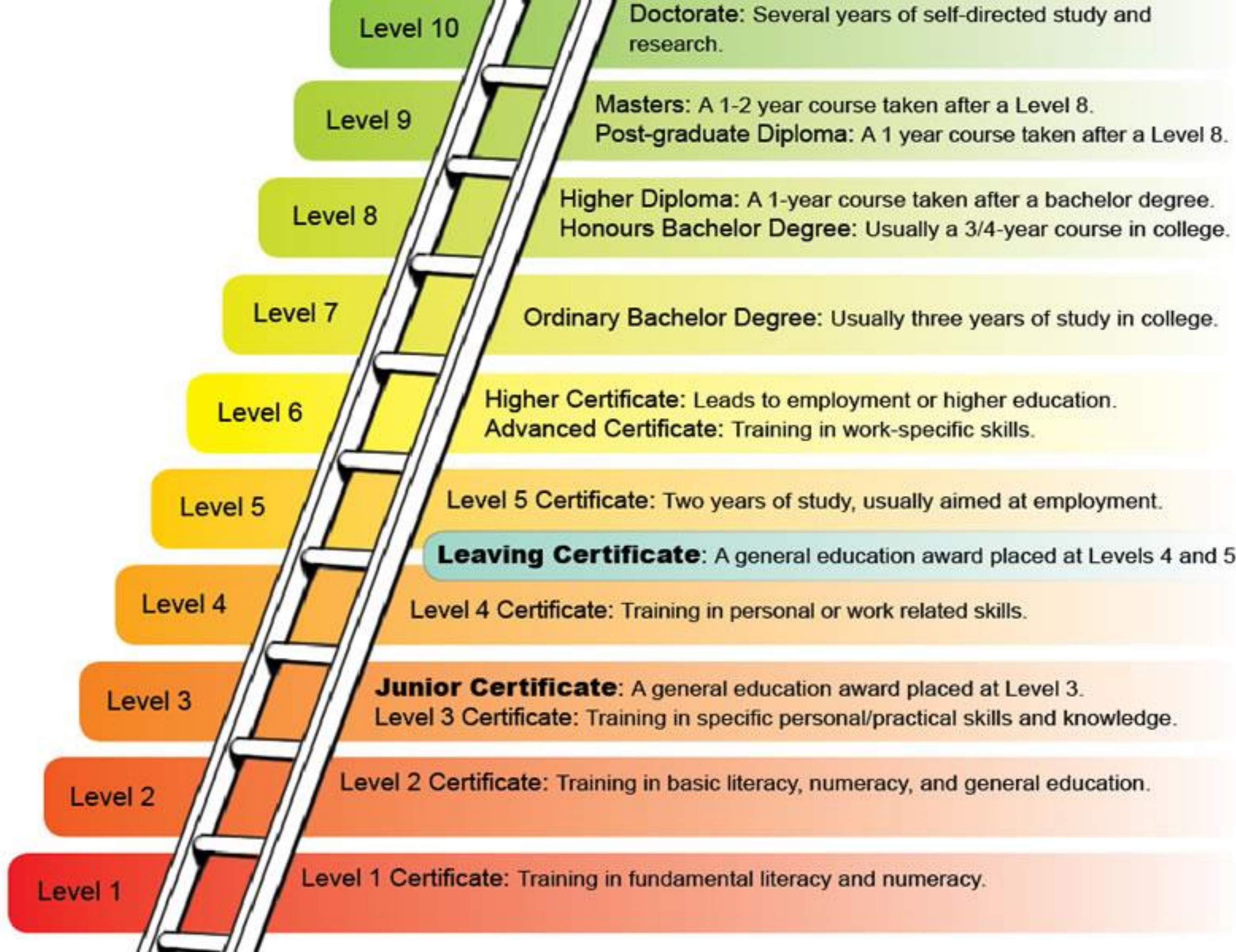
Engineering(UCD)

- H4 Maths
- Veterinary Medicine(UCD)
- H4 Chemistry
- French Law(TCD)
- H 3 French

If all Entry Requirements are met → applicant is deemed 'Qualified' to apply.

OPTIONS after the Leaving Certificate





Filling up your course choices on the CAO Form

► LEVEL 8

(Honours Degree Courses)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

► LEVEL 6 & 7

(Higher Certificate & Ordinary Degree Course)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

ORDER OF *PREFERENCE* IS THE RULE!!!!

Research

- ❧ **Research your options by talking to your family, friends, students in fifth and sixth year, by talking to the Guidance Counsellor and other teachers.**
- ❧ **Research entry requirements of courses/colleges.**
- ❧ **You need to take the responsibility yourself to start the research process to enable you to make good decisions regarding subject choice.**

Choosing a Subject

Successful subject choice
requires:

RESEARCH



DISCUSSION



REFLECTION



DECISION

Subject Teachers,
Guidance Classes, TY
Programme

Guidance Counsellors,
Current Teachers

Consider all the
information, views and
opinions

L.C. Books, Publications,
Other Students

Family, Friends

Then, ultimately each
student must make up
their own mind.

Websites to assist with subject choice

1. www.qualifax.ie - (click on students, then go to Useful Tools and then onto Minimum Subject Requirements and then click on Leaving Cert Subjects to research what 3rd level courses may or may not require certain subjects).
2. www.careersportal.ie (Click on TOOLS and then click on Leaving Cert Subjects to find out a lot of information about the individual LC Subjects) Click on TOOLS and then Career Sectors to find out more about different Career Sectors and courses that relate to the different Career Sectors.