

# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

# Points to Remember

- Most students will study 7 subjects
- 3 Subjects are compulsory
- Many will pick a language and a science subject
- For College purposes -only your top 6 subjects count. All subjects equal except-
- Additional points for Higher Level Maths-25 bonus points for HL Maths for H6 and above

# Do

- Choose subjects you enjoy
- Choose subjects you are good at
- Choose subjects you need for your chosen career
- Keep your options open by making a balanced choice now
- Talk to your Guidance Counsellor & teachers
- Talk to your parents or guardians

# Don't

- Choose a subject because a friend is taking it
- Choose a subject because you like\dislike the teacher
- Choose a subject because you think it will be easy
- Choose a new subject without finding out about it
- Make a last minute decision without thinking about it

# Decision Making

- Research your career/college courses
- Check college prospectuses
- Find a balance between choosing subjects you have to study and subjects you enjoy
- If unsure – talk to a Guidance Counsellor
- Keep options open

# Transition Year –Guidance

- Guidance Classes – Interest Tests
  - Researching HE/FE
- Subject Talks
- Work experience
- DATS Tests

# Third Level Entry Requirements

- Age & Residency
- Minimum Academic Requirements -
- Higher Degree Courses – 6 Subjects-including 2 or 3 at Higher Level (Min H5)
- Ordinary Degree & Higher Certificates -  
Usually 5 passes at Ordinary Level  
(Min O6/H7)

# Third Level (ctd)

- Specific Requirements –e.g. Higher Maths needed for Higher Level Engineering
- Sometimes Portfolio / Aptitude test/ Interview
- Points – your best grades in six subjects



# Leaving Cert Points

• Grade	Marks	Higher Level Points	Ordinary Level
• H1/O1	90-100	100	56
• H2/O2	80-89	88	46
• H3/O3	70-79	77	37
• H4 /O4	60-69	66	28
• H5/O5	50-59	56	20
• H6/O6	40-49	46	12
• H7/O7	30-39	37	0
• H8/O8	0-30	0	0

  

- 25 Bonus Points for HL Maths for H6 & above

# NUI Colleges

- University College Dublin
- University College Cork
- NUI Galway
- NUI Maynooth

# NUI recognised Colleges

- Royal College of Surgeons
- National College of Art & Design
- St. Angela's College of Education, Sligo
- Shannon College of Hotel management
- Institute of Public Administration

# The Core Subjects

- English- Almost all universities , colleges and employers specify a pass in Ordinary Level English
- Required at Higher Level in certain courses e.g . Communications , Journalism, Speech Therapy

# Irish

- Irish – a requirement for NUI Colleges- students must obtain a pass at Ordinary level unless exempt
- Higher Level Irish (min Grade H4) for Primary School teaching

# Maths

- Required for many jobs, including apprenticeships
- All Institutes of Technology require minimum Ordinary Level Maths
- Required in many colleges for all courses e.g. University of Limerick

# Maths (ctd)

- Grade O4 or better in Ordinary Level Maths for many Science or Commerce Courses
- Higher Level Maths required in some specific courses- Higher Level Engineering, Actuarial Courses
- Maths not a requirement in UCD for Arts, Celtic Studies, law and Social Science

# The Third Language

- In addition to Irish and English many students will study French or German
- Many courses in the NUI Colleges have this third language requirement i.e. students must have Irish, English, plus French/German etc



# Third Language not required

- UCD – Engineering & Agriculture
- UCD- Most Science Courses & Social Science
- UCD- Actuarial & Financial
- NUI Maynooth-Engineering
- 2017 MH400 & MH500 (Business & Law)
- NCAD-Art in place of 3rd language
- Nursing-any other subject from matriculation list

# Third Language (ctd)

- TCD – a Pass in English and one other language- Will accept Irish as second language
- DCU – English or Irish
- IT's – English or Irish

# Language requirement

- If studying a language at college you usually require a Higher Level Grade H3/H4 in that language
- A third language is also required for cadetships in the Army, Navy & Air Corps

# Science Subjects

- Physics
  - Chemistry
  - Biology
  - Certain careers and courses require a laboratory Science Subject
- refer to [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- Computer Science- approx 66 courses will accept computer science as a science subject – refer to [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

# Careers/Courses needing Science

- Astronomy/Physics Athletic Therapy Training
- Beauty Therapy (some plcs)
- Dentistry Dietician
- Engineering (Particularly Level 8 Courses)
- Environmental Science Forensics
- Horticulture Human Nutrition
- Information Technology Industrial Design

# Careers needing Science

- Medical Laboratory Science
- Medicine Nursing Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy Pharmacology Physiotherapy
- Speech Therapy Sports Science
- Science ( General )
- Veterinary ( & 2 week practical experience from 2017)

# Two Science Subjects

- Two Science subjects needed for
- Medicine –TCD
- Medicine –UCC (Chemistry must be one)
- Dentistry – TCD
- Dentistry –UCC (Chemistry must be one)
- Medicine – RCSI (5 YR-Chemistry must be one)
- Human Health & Disease - TCD (Biology must be one)

# Medicine

- One Science subject is sufficient to study Medicine in –
- NUI Galway
- RCSI (6YR)
- UCD
- Check Qualifax for details on any course



# Chemistry

- Chemistry specifically needed for
- Medicine -RCSI (5YR)
- Veterinary Medicine – UCD
- Pharmacy – TCD
- Pharmacy – RCSI
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics DIT/TCD
- Medicine – UCC
- Dentistry - UCC

# Physics

- - Theoretical Physics – TCD

- **Biology**

- Genetics – UCC
- Human Health & Disease – TCD
- Recommended for Veterinary UCD

# Technical Subjects

- Engineering
- Construction Studies
- Design & Communication Graphics
- It is not necessary to have studied these subjects in the Leaving Certificate to study them at College

# Business Courses

- Accounting \*
  - Business
  - Economics
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- These subjects are not essential requirements for Accounting (Except -Accounting NUIG ), Business, Economics or Commerce Courses
- See [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) Minimum Subject Module

# Leaving Cert.Vocational Programme

- LCVP students take a minimum of 5 subjects
- 2 of these are from designated vocational subject groupings
- In addition they study 2 Link Modules-World of Work & Enterprise Education
- Required to follow a recognised course in a modern European Language
- Implications for Third level- not accepted by all colleges for entry requirement purposes
- Maximum points – 66 points for distinction in Link Modules

# Art

- Art is not an essential requirement for Art College\* –e.g NCAD & IADT
- (except WIT Design & WIT Visual Art
- but a portfolio of work is usually requested
- NCAD will accept Art in Lieu of a Third Language

# Remaining Subjects

- Applied Maths
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Religious Education
- Music- Some courses have specific requirements
- Politics & Society
- Physical Education

# Sources of information

- [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)
- [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)
- [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)
- [www.careersnews.ie](http://www.careersnews.ie)
- [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)