

SUBJECT CHOICE

MARY HARRIS –
GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR



College

Apprenticeship

After
School

Specialised
Training eg.
Defence forces

World of Work

A wise choice of subjects requires:



Class test results, DATS results, TY Programme

RESEARCH

L.C. Books, websites, Other Students

Guidance Counsellors, Current Teachers

DISCUSSION

Family, Friends

Consider all the information, views and opinions

REFLECTION

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

DECISION

WHAT FACTORS SHOULD INFLUENCE SUBJECT CHOICE?

ERA

Questions to be Asked

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graph TD; A[Questions to be Asked] --- B[Is it ESSENTIAL?]; A --- C[Is it RELEVANT?]; A --- D[Is it ATTRACTIVE?]
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Is it **ESSENTIAL**?

Is it **RELEVANT**?

Is it **ATTRACTIVE**?

Leaving Cert - THE BASICS

STUDENTS TAKE 7 SUBJECTS FOR
THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE

ENGLISH

IRISH *

MATHS

STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE 4 SUBJECTS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST

- History
- Geography
- French
- German
- Art
- Engineering
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Construction Studies/Architectural Technology
- Accounting
- Business
- Economics
- Music
- Home Economics
- Physical Education
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Agricultural Science

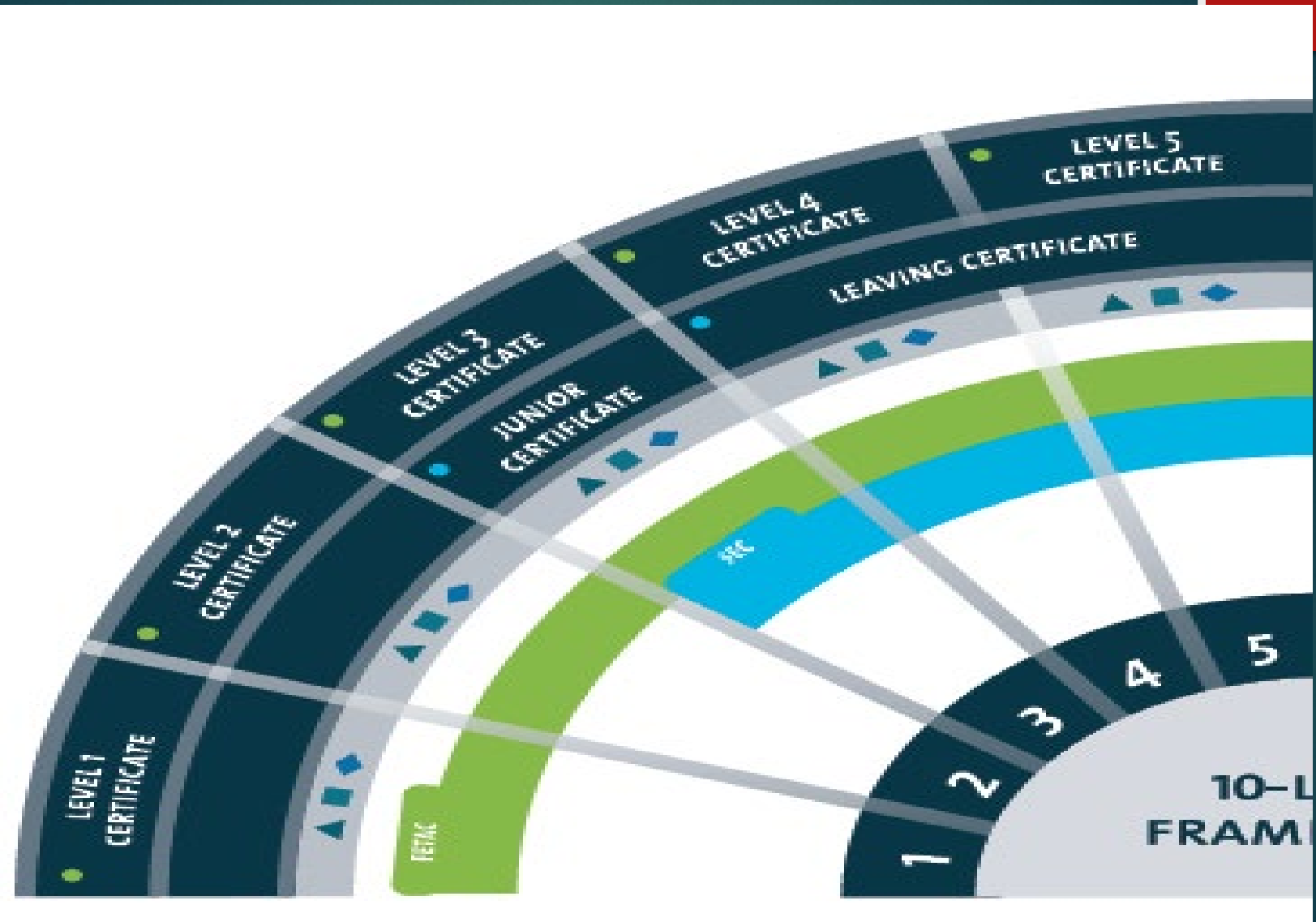
Making the choice

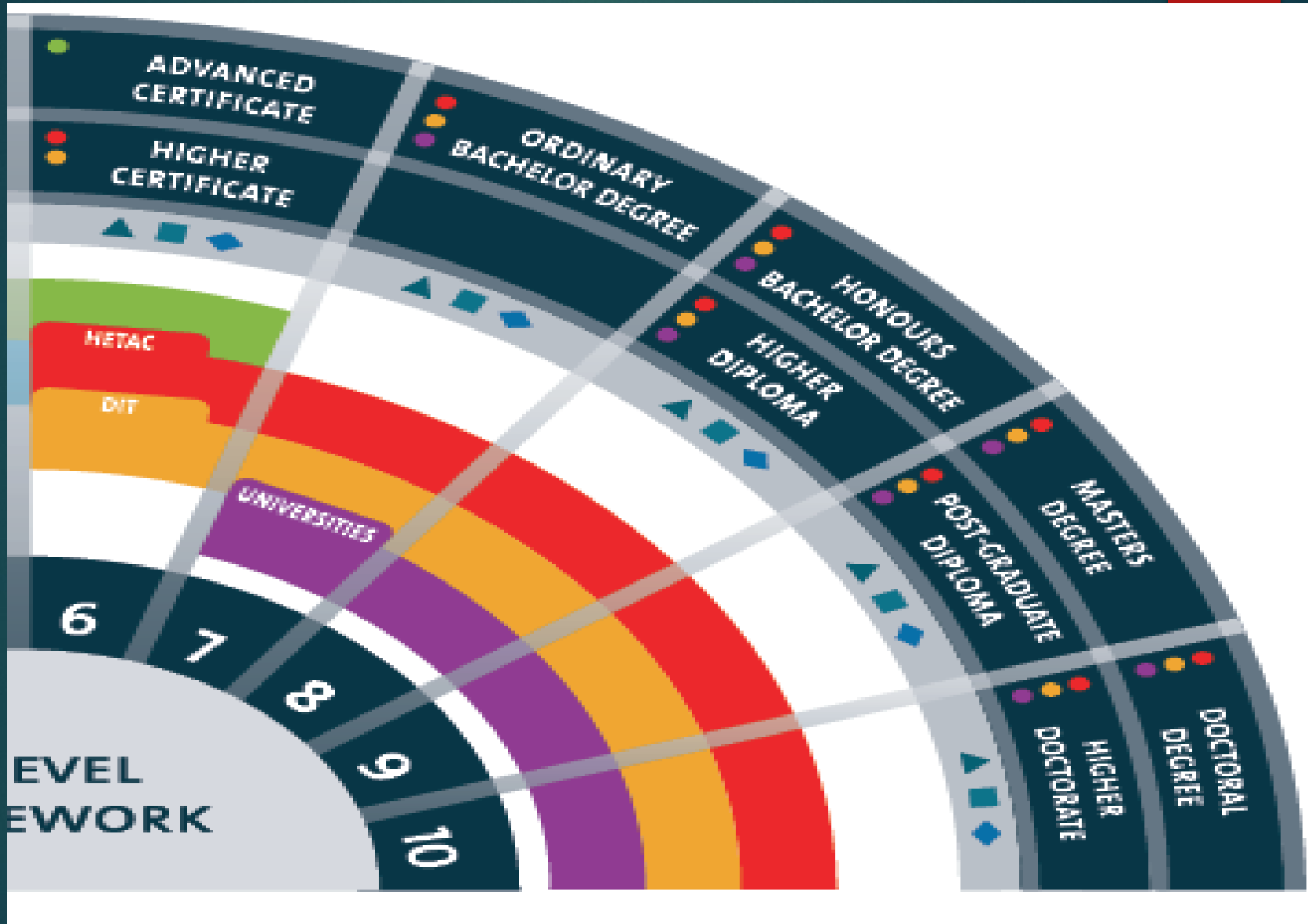
Become aware of similarities and differences in the content, style and approach of the different subjects.

- ▶ Do YOU like learning things off by heart?
(Biology/Geography/Ag Science/Business/French)
- ▶ Do YOU prefer problem solving?
(Chemistry/Physics/Accounting/Design)
- ▶ Do YOU like doing research?
(History/Home Economics/politics & society)
- ▶ Do YOU prefer more practical tasks?
(Metalwork/Woodwork/Design/Art/Music/French)

Onto College.....







REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE

Basic / Minimum entry requirements (Matriculation)

A light purple downward-pointing arrow with a white outline, indicating a flow from the first step to the second.

Specific / Course entry requirements

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Final selection (Portfolio, test, points)

Minimum / Basic Entry Requirements (Matriculation)


- Each college course has its own matriculation/basic entry requirements.
- The requirements for a level 8 degree are 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades.
- The requirements for a level 6 or 7 course are 6 O6/H7 grades.
- In some cases, a college will require 3 H5 and 3 O6/H7 grades, e.g. Trinity and primary school teaching.

Specific Entry Requirements

- ▶ These requirements are in addition to Minimum Entry Requirements.
- ▶ They are specific L.C. subjects / grades required for entry to particular courses.
- ▶ They tend to be in the following subject areas:
 - ▶ **Science subjects**
 - ▶ **Languages**
 - ▶ **Mathematics**
- ▶ E.g. Veterinary Medicine in UCD
Entry Requirements:
 - ▶ H4 in Chemistry.

Languages

- Entry to National University of Ireland Colleges – Grade O6
 - ✓ These are NUI Galway, UCD, UCC, Maynooth University and affiliated colleges
 - ✓ (exceptions are Science, Agriculture, Engineering and Nursing along with Business and Law in Maynooth)
- Students with a severe dyslexic condition can apply for exemption from 3rd Language requirement for NUI
- A 3rd Language for Army Cadet
- DCU, UL, TRINITY will accept Irish as a language other than English. (Careful, if Irish is not studied)



▶ **NUI (Maynooth University, UCC, UCD, NUI Galway and affiliated colleges)**

- Irish
- English
- Third language (Exceptions: Science, Engineering, Nursing (all NUI colleges) and Business and Law in Maynooth)
- Maths is a requirement for some courses

▶ **University of Limerick and affiliated colleges**

- Mathematics
- Irish or another language
- English



▶ **Trinity and affiliated colleges**


- English
- Maths
- Another language
- Careful of subject combinations, eg Ag science and Biology

▶ **DCU and affiliated colleges**

- English or Irish
- Maths

▶ **Institutes of Technology**

- English or Irish
- Maths (some exceptions apply)
- Level 6 and 7 courses require 6 O6/H7s for entry

- 
- ▶ These requirements are the minimum/basic entry requirements and do NOT include course or faculty requirements so please check websites of individual colleges for specific requirements.
 - ▶ *For NUI colleges, if you were not born in Ireland, Irish may be used as your third language.*
 - ▶ *If you don't have Irish at all, as a result of where you were born and when you started school in Ireland, you will need a third language (Exceptions DCU and ITs.)*
 - ▶ *Trinity require a second language (Irish or any other regardless of exemptions.*
 - ▶ ***PLEASE CHECK ENTRY REQUIREMENTS REGULARLY AS THEY MAY CHANGE. Courses that may be medically related may require a language, please check.***

A Science / Technical subject

- SCIENCE
- ENGINEERING*
- MEDICINE
- DENTISTRY
- VETERINARY
- PHARMACY
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- RADIOGRAPHY
- NURSING
- NAVAL CADETS
- ARCHITECTURE
- OCCUP. THERAPY
- SPEECH THERAPY
- SPORTS SCIENCE
- MED LAB SCIENCE
- DIETETICS
- OPTOMETRY
- PRODUCTION MGT
- IND. DESIGN
- INFO. TECH

The Appliance of science

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


CHEMISTRY**BIOLOGY****Dentistry, Pharmacy UCC****Genetics UCC****Veterinary Med UCD****Human Health & Disease TCD****Pharmacy TCD
Pharmacy RCSI*****Recommended for Nursing****Human Nutrition & Dietetics
DIT**


FINAL SELECTION SYSTEM



- Individual interviews and/or portfolio or aptitude tests
- Points System - points are allocated to the six best grades of an applicant.

- 
- Points are calculated from the student's six best results in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate, maximum 600/625 points

- 
- All subjects (except higher level maths) count equally for entry to college or university

- 
- Entry given to those with the highest points for competitive courses

Points Scale

25 Bonus Points will be awarded for H1 – H6 in Maths.

Higher	%	Points	Ordinary	%	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

LCVP	
Dist	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

Remember

- ▶ No subjects are gender specific.
- ▶ Every student is unique (interests, abilities and aptitudes), hence they should choose subjects based on these and not current friendships or the opinions of others.
- ▶ Students should choose subjects based on their strengths and aptitudes
- ▶ Students should be aware of balancing subjects which help maximise points vs. subjects which may be of benefit to them in the future.
- ▶ If the subject is not an automatic choice for you is the career a good choice?



Useful websites



- www.cao.ie – College entry system in Ireland
- www.ucas.com – UK/NI College entry system
- www.eunicas.ie - European college system
- www.qualifax.ie – Course/Career/Subject research
- www.careersportal.ie – Course/Career/Subject
- www.careersnews.ie – Daily updates
- www.accesscollege.ie – HEAR/DARE
- www.apprenticeships.ie – How to register for apprenticeships

All 3rd level institutions have a website



Important

- **THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO EVERY RULE.**
- **IF YOU HAVE SOME SPECIFIC AREA IN MIND CHECK IF IT HAS ANY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**
- **This information is general and broad in nature. There are always exceptions to every rule. If you have a particular area of interest or any question, ASK?????**
- **Don't assume and regret staying quiet later.**

PARENTAL ADVICE



When choosing leaving cert. subjects, choose subjects that you think you will do best in - subjects in which you have the most interest and which you find easiest! If you know what you want to do, check the college prospectus.

