

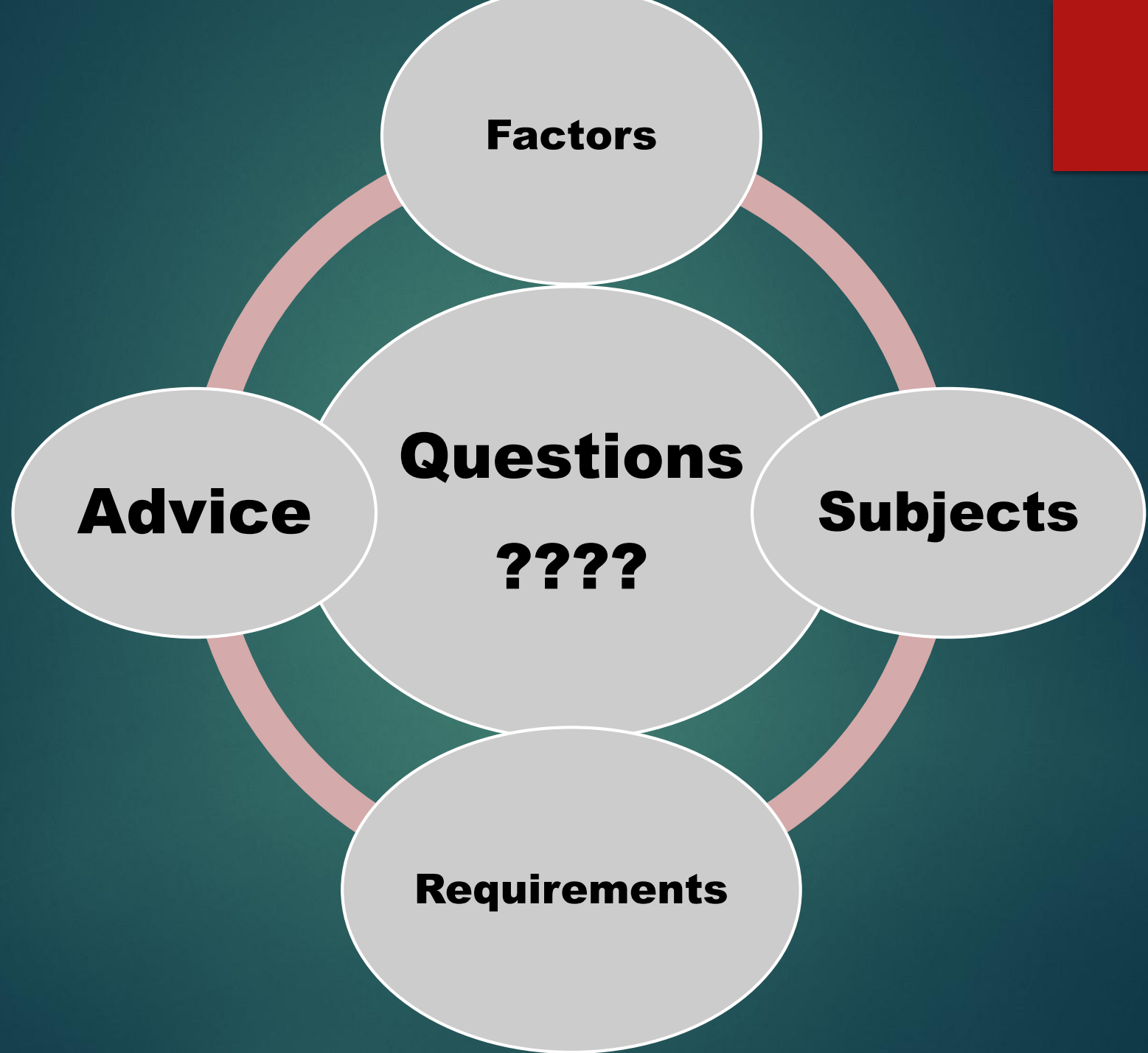
SUBJECT CHOICE

MARY HARRIS

HAYLEY MILLER –

GUIDANCE

COUNSELLORS



College

Apprenticeship

After
School

Specialised
Training eg.
Defence forces

World of Work

A wise choice of subjects requires:



Class test results, Mock exams, 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 (www.ncca.ie)

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

Accounting

The exam is 3 hours for both Ordinary and Higher levels and is divided into 3 sections – two sections cover Financial Accounting and one covers Management Accounting.

Business

The Leaving Certificate examination is 3 hours for Higher Level and 2½ hours for Ordinary Level. The Higher Level paper has three sections and the ordinary level has two sections.

Economics

Economics can be taken at Higher Level or Ordinary Level. There are two assessment components at each level:

- I. Written examination (80%):
 - o Section A (Choice of Short Answer Questions)
 - o Section B (Choice of extended response questions)
- II. Research study (20%)

Through the research study, students are afforded an opportunity to engage in research, analysis and reflection. The research study will assess the students' ability to use the knowledge, concepts and skills developed in their study of economics to evaluate information and data and make informed conclusions

DCG

Drawing
Exam (June)
60%

Project
(Completed
by February
of final year)
40%

Construction

Written exam
50%

Practical
exam
(Completed
by May in
final year)
25%

Project work
(Completed
by March in
final year)
25%

Engineering

Project – 150
marks

[HL and OL]

May Practical, 6
hour exam – 150
marks [HL and
OL]

June Written
paper – 3 hours

– 300 marks [HL]
200 marks

[OL]

French

Level	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Written	55%	55%
Oral	25%	20%
Aural	20%	25%

Biology

Written Examination
(100%)

Biology is assessed fully by examination. There is a large amount of choice on the paper.

There is an examination at both Higher Level and Ordinary Level, and they are both three hours duration. The exam paper is divided into three units.

- o Section A – Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks.
- o Section B – Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks.
- o Section C – Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks.

Chemistry

Leaving Certificate Chemistry is assessed by means of terminal examination papers at higher and ordinary level. Students are required to complete and keep a record of 28 mandatory practical experiments over the two years of the course.

Physics

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course.

Geography

- ▶ Geographical Investigation (20%) which is a report based on a field study or other structured inquiry depending on the topics issued by the State Examinations Commission each December.
- ▶ Written Exam 80%

History

- ▶ The Higher Level exam will consist of four questions, each worth 20% of the overall grade.
- ▶ There is a fifth element, also worth 20% of the overall grade. This is the Research Study Report and will involve the study of a subject of historical significance chosen by the student, under the direction of the teacher. Each student compiles a report on the results of his/her study which is submitted to the examining authority for marking. The recommended length for such a report at Higher Level is 1,200 – 1,500 words.

Physical Education

- ▶ There are three assessment components in Leaving Certificate Physical Education:
- ▶ Physical Activity Project 20% for Higher and Ordinary
- ▶ Performance Assessment 30%, Common Level
- ▶ Written Examination 50% for Higher and Ordinary

Computer Science

- ▶ There are two assessment components at each level, an end-of-course examination (70%) and
- ▶ coursework (30%).

Agricultural science

- ▶ The examination in Agricultural Science consists of terminal examination paper (75%) and a practical assessment of the candidate's work over the two year course under the headings (25%):
- ▶ identification of plant and animal types associated with agricultures;
- ▶ practical experience with crops, livestock, house and farmyard layout;
- ▶ investigations carried out related to ecology, soil science, animal physiology, plant physiology, genetics and microbiology.

Home Economics

- ▶ A written exam accounts for 80% of the marks.
- ▶ There is a practical assessment which accounts for the remaining 20%.
- ▶ This involves keeping a record of four assignments (two assignments carried out in practical Food Studies class.
- ▶ The practical assessments are written into a coursework journal and submitted to the Examinations Commission at the beginning of November in 6th year.

Music

- ▶ Composing Paper - 25%
- ▶ Listening Paper – 25%
- ▶ Performance Examination – 25% This is held in the two weeks prior to or after the Easter Break
- ▶ Higher Elective – extension of any of the above activities for further study to account for 25%

Art

- ▶ The modes of assessment include:
 - ▶ 1. A Leaving Certificate project which will commence after Christmas in sixth year (which will comprise of a choice of one of the following: an Imaginative Composition, a still life drawing or painting, or a design/Craftwork piece) will be executed as coursework over ten weeks in class.
 - ▶ 2. A written examination of Appreciation & History of Art will take place in June. Three questions are to be answered, one from two sections and a third from any section. The three sections are: Irish Art and Architecture, European art and architecture and Appreciation of Art.

Applied maths

- ▶ Modelling Project (20%)
- ▶ Written Examination (80%)

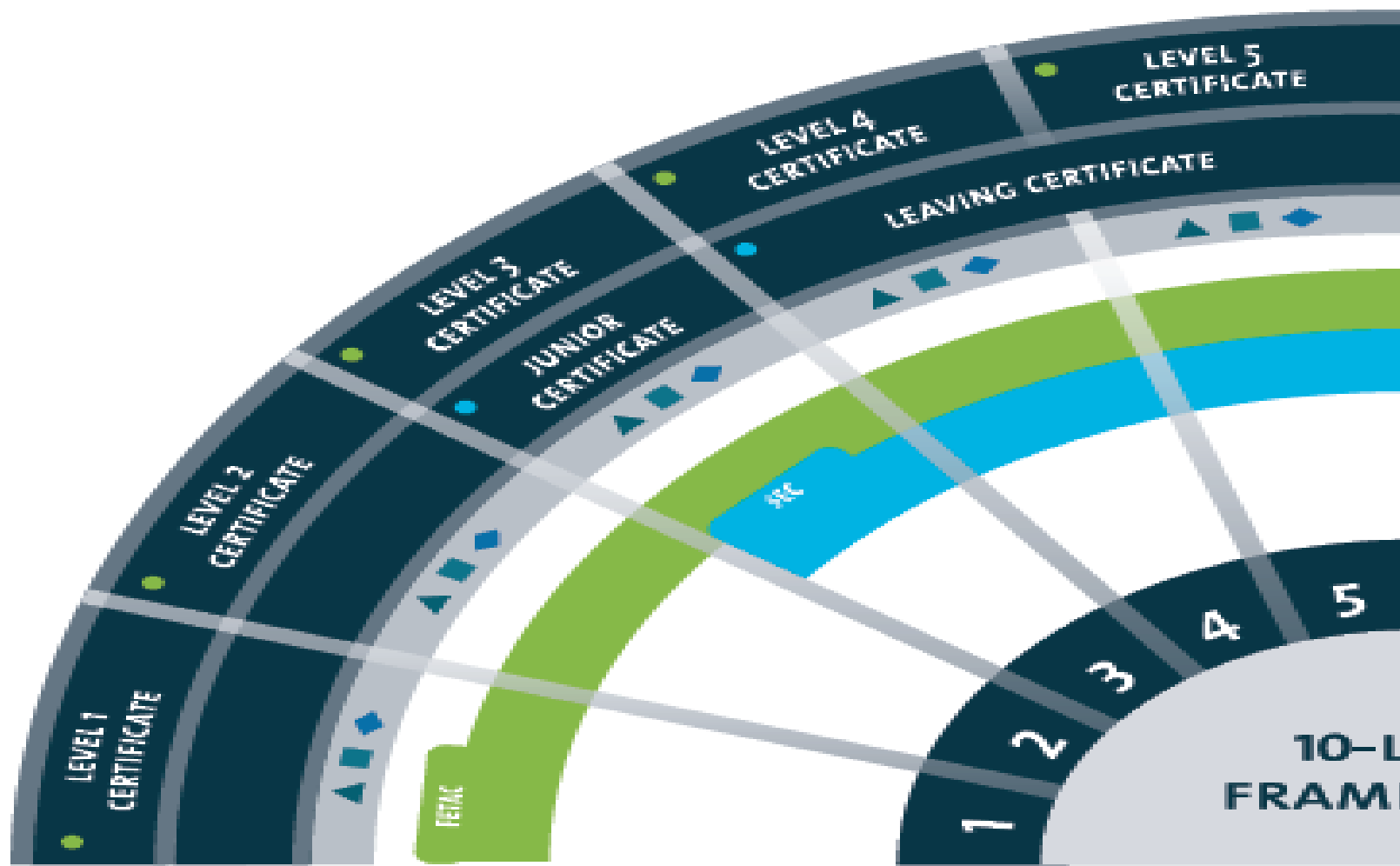
Making the choice

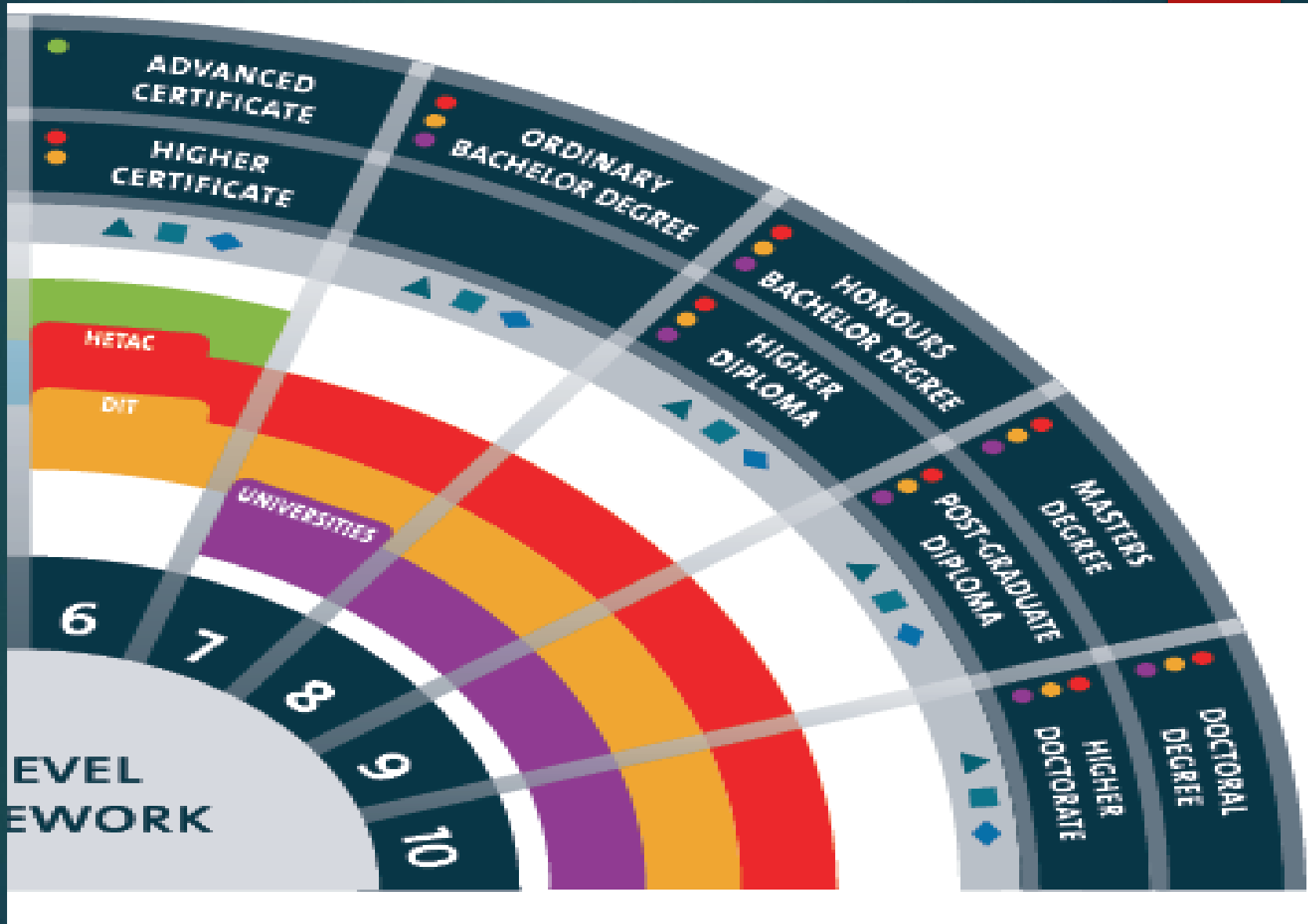
Become aware of similarities and differences in the content, style and approach of the different subjects.

- ▶ 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.....









UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland



Maynooth University

National University
of Ireland Maynooth



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



TRINITY
COLLEGE
DUBLIN



DUBLIN CITY
UNIVERSITY

Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath



RCSI

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND
COLÁISTE RÍOGA NA MÁINLEÁ IN ÉIRINN



COLÁISTE MHUIRE GAN SMÁL
COLLEGE IMMACULAE
MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

MDI Mater Dei Institute of Education
A College of Dublin City University



NCAAD DUBLIN
National College of Art and Design



Marino College
OF FURTHER EDUCATION



Shannon College of
Hotel Management



St. Angela's College, Sligo
Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach
A College of NUI Galway



I



ITI

Institutes of Technology Ireland



LIT
ACTIVE LEADERSHIP IN
EDUCATION, ENTERPRISE
AND ENGAGEMENT



GMIT
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE-MAIGH EO
GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



AIT
Institiúid Teicneolaíochta
Bhaile Átha Luain
Athlone Institute
of Technology



institiúid teicneolaíochta dhún dealgan
DUNDALK
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



CIT
CORK
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA CHORCAÍ



lyit
Institiúid Teicneolaíochta
Leitir Ceanaínn
Letterkenny Institute
of Technology




IT Sligo
An Institiúid Teicneolaíochta, Sligo



iadt
DUN LAOGHAIRE



Waterford Institute of Technology



Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Cheatharlach
INSTITUTE of
TECHNOLOGY
CARLOW
At the Heart of South Leinster



INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TRALEE
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA TRÁ LI



TUS
**Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir



MTU

T
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta
Bhaile Átha Cliath
DUBLIN
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN



**SE
TU**

Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Oirdheiscirt
South East
Technological
University



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh
Atlantic
Technological
University

REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE

Basic / Minimum entry requirements (Matriculation)



Specific / Course entry requirements



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 / Technical 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 and UL
- A 3rd Language is needed for an Army Cadet
- DCU, UL, TRINITY will accept Irish as a language other than English. (Careful, if Irish is not studied)

Third Language:

NO third language is required for:

3.



Garda, Nursing, Apprenticeships & most PLC Courses



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

Technological Universities

- 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.***

Colleges that do NOT require a third language

- ▶ University of Limerick (UL):
 - ▶ Will accept English & another language.
- ▶ Trinity College Dublin (TCD):
 - ▶ Will accept a “language other than English” e.g. Irish
- ▶ Technological Universities (e.g. AIT, WIT, LIT etc):
 - ▶ Will accept English or Irish for entry purposes
- ▶ Dublin City University (DCU)
 - ▶ Will accept English or Irish for entry purposes

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

*THE POINTS LEVEL
PUBLISHED FOR ANY
COURSE IN ANY YEAR
WILL BE THE POINTS
LEVEL ACHIEVED BY THE
LAST ENTRANT ONTO
THAT COURSE FOR THAT
YEAR*

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.

