



Choosing Leaving Certificate Subjects

Points to Consider



Overview

- TYO students have been having classes on Senior Cycle choice and subject choice since December and will continue to have these classes until the end of January

What needs to be decided?

- **Core Subjects for all students (no decision needed):**
- Irish (unless a student has a D.E.S. exemption)
- English
- Maths



Choose any 4 from the following:

- Applied Maths, French, German, History, Geography, Accounting, Economics, Business, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Home Economics, Music, Art and Technology



Complete free choice of four subjects so:

- These subjects are mixed ability and all students have the opportunity to study for the Higher Level.





Form for Subject Choice

- Deadline Thursday 9th February 2017
January 2016 – return to Ms. Holland's office
- The actual form will be given to students at the end of this week.
- Students are asked to list five subjects on form.



Timetabling

- The vast majority of students get the four subjects they choose.
- Sometimes there is a problem. If this is the case it is very useful to know the fifth subject option. (Maybe 3 students each year)



Timetabling

- Have a fifth subject possibility in mind just in case the four subjects you pick are not all possible together.
- Students will be asked to write this subject on their form to help with timetabling but every effort is made to give them their first four choices.



Timetabling

- Every effort is made to give students who apply in time the subjects they want.
- It **may not be possible** for students who apply late or change their mind after 9th February to join a class.



A very useful website

- www.careersportal.ie
- Click on “Schools” and “Leaving Certificate”
- Detailed Information on subjects
- Content for each subject

When Deciding Between Subjects

- What does the student like and do well at?
- Keeping career options open.



What Careers might you be interested in?

- Career Interest Questionnaires on www.careersportal.ie and www.qualifax.ie
- All TYO students have a personal file from REACH+ programme online on which they should have completed a career interest questionnaire.



Deciding Between Subjects cont.

- Teachers have been talking to TYOs about their subjects at Leaving Cert.
- If unsure talk to teachers individually.
- Talk to older students who study the subject and ask to see books.
- Note specific subjects are required for some courses.



Specific Subjects Necessary for Some Courses

- Use the website www.qualifax.ie to find entry requirements for every course.
- Also check the college websites



A Third Language (French or German)

- Necessary for all courses except Nursing, Science and Engineering at the following colleges:
 - UCC
 - UCD
 - NUI Galway
 - Maynooth University



Cont.

- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- National College of Art and Design
- St. Angela's College Sligo
- Royal College of Surgeons



Colleges which don't require a third language

- Trinity College Dublin
- Dublin City University
- University of Limerick
- All the Institutes of Technology e.g. CIT, WIT, DIT, LIT etc.
- Colleges of Primary Teacher Training



Advantages of a third language

- The ability to communicate in another language is an advantage in the workplace.
- With Brexit we cannot rely as much on English speaking employment opportunities.
- Having a language with for example a business or a law degree is very valuable.



Science



- Science is needed for health care and scientific courses but certainly not for all courses.

Necessary Subjects for College Courses

- Biology is necessary for most Beauty Therapy courses.
- Chemistry is necessary for courses in Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Dietetics, Pharmacy and for some courses in Medicine. (Students without Chemistry can study the 6 year Medicine course in some colleges but not UCC.)



Examples where one science subject is necessary

- Nursing
- Dental Hygiene and Dental Nursing (Exception direct entry UCC)
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Environmental Health
- Physiotherapy (T.C.D. requires 2 or 1 + Hons. Maths)
- Radiography
- Optometry
- Engineering
- Science Degrees (Some colleges but not all)
- Paramedic Studies in UL



U.C.C. Requirements



- U.C.C. requires Chemistry and one of Physics or Biology for:
- Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy

Other Colleges' Requirements

- T.C.D. - Chemistry and another science for Pharmacy.
- T.C.D. – Two science subjects for Medicine and Dentistry. The subjects are not specified but there are restrictions.
- T.C.D. – Physiotherapy 2 science or 1 plus Honours Maths. (UL, UCD and RCSI ask for one science)





One Science is enough in some colleges

- R.C.S.I. – for Pharmacy one science subject is required. (N.B. It must be Chemistry)
- NUI Galway, R.C.S.I. and U.C.D. Require one science subject for the 6 year Medicine course but two science subjects for the 5 year course.

Always check the fine print

- e.g. Some colleges accept Agricultural Science as a Science subject and others do not.



Students have a choice of an extra subjects in school

- Link Modules (L.C.V.P. – Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme)
- Full details in next presentation.



Extra Subjects Outside School

- New commercial phenomenon. Even highly academic students can find it very difficult.
- Under no circumstances may a student drop a school subject because of this extra pressure.



Common effect of extra subject

- It can take time from the study of the main subjects and reduce the grades achieved.
- Flattening out of grades.
- Students believe that they will achieve top marks in these extra subjects but this is certainly not the case.



Results of extra subjects outside school

- Of 18 students who took an extra subject last year only two achieved HA1s and one HA2 and these three students achieved between 3 and 5 As in their school subjects.



Language spoken at home

It is possible to sit the Leaving Certificate in certain languages if students speak them at home and prepare for the exam at home.



These subjects are:

- Arabic
- Bulgarian
- Croatian, Czech
- Danish, Dutch
- Estonian
- Finnish



Cont.



- Hebrew Studies
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latvian, Lithuanian
- Modern Greek

Cont.

- Polish, Portuguese
- Romanian, Russian
- Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish



Revision Courses and Organised Study in the Holidays

- If students listen in class and keep up with their homework these should not be necessary.
- I do not believe they are desirable. I believe students need a rest and a break and that is what the holidays are for.



Thank you!

- For your time and attention.

