

St Mary's High School

***SUBJECT CHOICE FOR
LEAVING CERTIFICATE
2019-2021***



A guide to help you to choose your Leaving Certificate subjects

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	2
Choosing a career and subject choice.....	3
Subjects.....	4
Humanities – French/German.....	5
Business.....	6
Sciences.....	7
Humanities –History/Geog/HE.....	9
Artistic/Creative.....	10
Leaving Cert Vocational Programme.....	11
Subject choice – Consequences for 3 rd Level.....	12
3 rd Language Requirements for 3 rd Level.....	13
Science Requirements for 3 rd Level.....	14
Specific Requirements/Other Requirements.....	15
Requirements for PLC.....	16
Useful websites.....	17

CHOOSING A CAREER & SUBJECT CHOICE

Some people know at an early stage what they would like to be – a nurse, an engineer, a salesperson, a teacher, however many have no definite ideas about the kind of work they would like to do. One of the principle needs of young people in choosing a career is information on: **college entrance requirements, opportunities available** and awareness of their own **qualities, skills and potential**. **Good decisions are based on good information and good research**. Towards the end of Third Year/TY most young people face the first big decision relating to their future; the choice of school subjects. The choice is important because, once made, it **may** affect the course of their working lives.

It is essential to know the following **College Entrance Requirements**:

- Matriculation requirements (institution/college entrance requirements)
- Subject requirement for your chosen career (if you have one at this stage)
- Academic entrance requirements e.g. Points in CAO system

Points about Choosing a Career

In choosing a Career you must take into consideration a number of factors including:

- What **you** would really like to do
- Your talents and attainments in school exams and in activities outside of school etc.
- Employment opportunities available (see www.careersportal.ie)

How to set about Choosing a Career

A good way to approach career choice is to list on one side your **interests and talents**: Which school subjects are you best at? Do you write well? Are you artistic? Do you get on well with other people? Do you work best with a group or do you like to work alone on an exercise or a problem? Are you a leader, the kind of person your classmates pick as a team captain etc.? Would you like outdoor or indoor, manual or deskwork?

Against this, list the **careers** that, at first glance, interest you and the **educational qualifications** and any particular **personal qualities** required for each of them. By comparing your two lists, you should be able to narrow down the choice of occupations that you consider would suit you.

A Career Interest Inventory has been completed in class, if not it can be completed at home (CPIP on Reach+ account) before final choice of subjects is made. Students can access these quickly and easily on:

www.careersportal.ie On your account or general website.
www.qualifax.ie, college websites

SEE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

SUBJECTS

All information in this booklet is from a Career/College Course perspective, to find information on LC Subject Content (Course/Examination structure), please consult your Reach + Account, Subject Choice or from Careers Portal website – Courses – School Subject Choice.

3 examination subjects which are compulsory: Irish, English and Maths.
Students are also required to study non examinable subjects - Religious Education (RE)/Relationships and Sexuality (RSE), Career Guidance, Physical Education (PE).

Students must then choose a further four subjects from the following list:

Humanities/Languages

French
German

Laboratory Science

Physics
Chemistry
Biology

Humanities/Social Studies

Geography
History
Home Economics

Business

Accounting
Business

Artistic/Creative Group

Music
Art

Agricultural Science and Applied Maths also available outside of school as an 8th subject, if sufficient interest.

Again consider the following factors when choosing your subjects:

- **INTEREST & ABILITY**
Consider your abilities and interests in the different subjects and choose subjects in which you are likely to enjoy and get good grades.
- **CAREER**
In addition to the core subjects (Irish, English, Maths) there are other subjects that are essential for some courses and careers. It is important to check out these subject requirements with a Guidance Counsellor or the course provider and it is ***your responsibility*** to do this.

Do not choose subjects based on what your friends are choosing, there is no guarantee you will be in the same classes. Similarly it is unwise to choose a subject solely because of who teaches it- again there is no guarantee you will have that teacher. You are the best person to decide, listen to advice and then decide what will suit YOU best.

TIPS FOR SUBJECT CHOICE

- Look at Subject Textbooks
- Look at your Reach + Account on subject choice
- Talk to your Guidance Counsellor
- Talk to the Subject Teachers
- Consult with your Parents/Guardians

THE HUMANITIES

FRENCH/GERMAN



In these days of fast international transport and modern communications, knowledge of a foreign language will always be useful. You do not need a 3rd language for all third level studies but it is a necessity for entry to most courses at the National University of Ireland (UCC, UCD, NUIG, and NUIM) unless you are exempt due to a learning need (e.g. a hearing problem or dyslexia). There are a few exceptions where a 3rd language is not required, such as all Nursing, Science and Engineering courses in UCC. However, many colleges have a 3rd language as a requirement for specific courses such as European Studies, Languages and Marketing, World Languages. There are opportunities in the areas of telesales and customer support with many companies locating in Ireland. In all career areas, employment prospects are much enhanced for graduates who have a good working knowledge of a European language combined with Business.

A modern European Language (e.g. French or German) is required for:

- ❖ Tourism (some courses)
- ❖ Hotel & Catering Management (some courses)
- ❖ Marketing (some courses)
- ❖ Airlines (useful)
- ❖ Army, Air Corps, Navy Cadet
- ❖ Speech Therapy
- ❖ Courses in UCC, UCD, UCG, NUI Maynooth (some exceptions outlined in requirements section)

Useful for: Flight Attendant, Air Traffic Controller, Archivist, Au Pair, Secretary, Chef, Courier, Hotel Reception, International Marketing, Export Careers, Interpreter, Translator, Pilot, Travel Agency, Journalist, Waiter/Waitress, Importer, Librarian, Dept of Foreign Affairs, Teaching.

BUSINESS

BUSINESS



Business is concerned with how Organisations are formed, financed and run, looking at the services involved such as banking, transport, taxation and Semi-State Organisations. It's an excellent foundation for anyone contemplating a business career. Business is not an essential subject for any course, however, it would still be very useful.

Useful for: Industry, Business, Accounting, Banking, Bookkeeping, Clerical work, Business Teacher, Administration, Hotel Management, Insurance, Receptionist, Store Management, Stock broking, Sales, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Merchandising, Purchasing Officer, Customs & Excise, Taxation, Law.



ACCOUNTING

Extending beyond the actual making of records, i.e. Bookkeeping, Accounting is concerned with the analysis and interpretation of these records. It is an excellent preparation for any business related occupation. Though not *generally* essential for entry to any business college, accounting would obviously still be a great help to students wishing to pursue any third level business related course. Accountants do well in good times and bad, as their expertise is equally in demand when people have money to invest or when the business environment is not so favourable and there is a focus on cost controls. Accountancy provides a valuable foundation for all business functions, and many of the top executives in Irish Business have an accountancy background. A good accountancy qualification that is recognised internationally can be a passport to working abroad.

Accountancy is required for: Commerce (Accounting) in NUI Galway (H4).

Useful for: Advertising, Accountancy, Auctioneering, Auditing, Banking, Bookkeeping, Clerical Work, Company Secretary, Computer Systems, Business Teacher, Administration, Management, Receptionist, Insurance, Market Research, Purchasing Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Sales, Taxation Consultant, Marketing, Business Law

The Sciences/(Laboratory Sciences)



CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is a practical subject, by studying it students develop skills in laboratory procedures and techniques as well as observation, analysis, evaluation, communication and problem solving skills. Topics covered by chemistry students include radioactivity, atmospheric pollution, water analysis, volumetric analysis and much more. Studying Chemistry will enable you to answer questions like the following: How do drug tests on Athletes work? What is the name of the solvent in nail varnish remover? Why do some substances dissolve in water and others don't? Are our beauty products safe to use.

Chemistry is required for:

- Dentistry UCC and Medicine UCC (plus either Physics or Biology)
- Veterinary Science UCD
- Pharmacy TCD,UCC
- Medicine
- Dietetics

Useful for: All engineering courses, all general science courses.

BIOLOGY

Biology is the science of life and living things from micro-organisms to humans. Through the study of Biology students employ the processes of science in their investigations and explore the diversity of life and the interrelationship between organisms and their environment. Biology forms a knowledge base for hundreds of careers ranging from oceanography and ecology to medicine and biotechnology

Biology is required for:

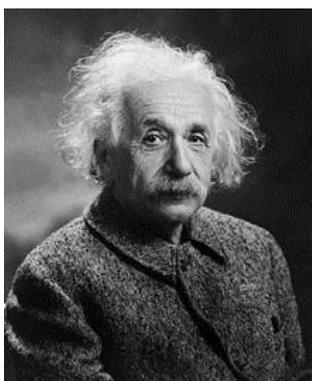
- Elective Biology in the Degree Home Economics, St Angela's College.
- Required for Dental Hygiene UCC
- Very *useful* for P.E. teaching with Biology in D.C.U.
- Required or useful for Beauty Therapy (depending on course), Make-Up Artistry, Nail Technician at PLC
- Although not a specific requirement, Biology very *useful* for Nursing and covers the science subject requirement

Useful for: Nursing, Agriculture, Animal Breeder, Animal Nursing, Ambulance Driver, Beautician, Biochemist, Biologist, Catering, Chiropody, Conservation Work, Dentist, Dietician, Farmer, Food Science, Doctor, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Horticulturist, Laboratory Technician, Marine Biologist, Microbiologist, Nursing, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Science Teacher, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Surgeon, Zoologist.

PHYSICS

Physics deals with the laws and forces governing natural phenomena and includes heat, light, electricity and magnetism. It is of key importance in technology and particularly relevant for those interested in specialising in most branches of engineering. Also combines well with chemistry in the testing of products, instrumentation. In most engineering courses, one will find a high physics content, while some paramedical careers will involve the study of it, e.g. Radiography, Physiotherapy, etc. Anyone considering a career in Electronics should be encouraged to do Physics.

Useful for: Architecture, Astronomy, Biophysicist, Computer Careers, Dentist, Doctor, Engineer especially electrical and electronic, Geophysicist, Health Inspector, Laboratory Technician, Marine Radio Operator, Meteorologist, Naval Services, Nurse, Oceanographer, Optician, Pharmacist, Physicist, Physics Teacher, Pilot, Radiographer, Scientific Research, Telecommunications, various trade Apprenticeships, Ventilation and Heating technicians. Anyone considering courses in Engineering/Electronics would be encouraged to study Physics. Would suit anyone interested in figuring out how things work, someone with a logical mind.



THE HUMANITIES



HISTORY

History embraces the world of politics, economics, religion and philosophy focusing on the past to interpret the present. It can be a most enjoyable challenge, developing skills such as identifying main issues, critical analysis and the ability to select relevant information.

Useful for: Archaeology, Barrister, Broadcasting, Civil Service, Gardai, History Teacher, Journalism, Librarianship, Local Government, Politics, Researcher, Social Work, Solicitor, Tourism, Writer.



GEOGRAPHY

Geography is concerned with the interrelationships between human activities and the physical environment. Geography includes the study of population, farming, industry, pollution, statistics, resources, landscapes, and communications. For both Pharmacy and Science in TCD, it is accepted as a science subject.

Useful for: Civil Engineering, Construction, Town Planning, Architecture, Meteorology, Surveying, Agriculture, Auctioneering, Archaeology, Horticulture, Forestry, Conservation Work, Statistics, Marine Officer, Geologist, Geography Teacher, Naval Officer, Quantity Surveyor, Tourism and Travel.

HOME ECONOMICS (SOCIAL & SCIENTIFIC)



Home Economics covers topics such as food constituents, microbiology, food preservation, consumerism and social issues, the family and the home. It combines theory with practice in order to develop understanding and solve problems. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs. It provides a learning foundation for those seeking employment in a wide range of careers, such as the food industry, tourism, clothing and design, and the health and social services.

Useful for: Baking & Confectionery, Beautician, Catering, Chef, Child Care, Consumer Adviser, Demonstrator – Food, Wines, etc., Dietician, Fashion Designer, Food Science, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Home Ec. Teacher, Hotel Management, Nursing, Occupational Therapist, Parenthood, Pre-school Management, Social Worker.

ARTISTIC/CREATIVE



Art

Art is a requirement for some Institute of Technology Art courses; it is not always an essential subject for entry into Art College. Yet it is highly recommended that intending students take it at leaving cert level especially as most Art Courses require a portfolio and it would be extremely difficult for any student to complete an Art portfolio without the guidance of an Art Teacher. Art is usually required for industrial design courses and courses in print media.

Useful for: Architecture, Design Courses, Graphic Design, Photography, Fashion Design, Animation, Printing and Publishing, Marketing, Primary Teaching, Merchandising, Theatre Studies, Sculpture, Floristry, Occupational Therapy, Furniture Restoration, Interior Design



Music:

Studying music can lead to an array of career options from performance to music teaching and on the production side i.e. music production and editing. There are also opportunities in the Arts and cultural heritage management as well as film, TV and radio. Students don't necessarily have to have studied Music, but students do have to sit an entrance exam at 3rd level.

Useful for: Music College Courses, Music Sales, Speech Therapy, Disc Jockey, Composer, Dancer, Film and Theatre Studies, Instrument Maker, Music Teacher, Primary School Teacher, Occupational Therapist, Music Therapist, Music Technician

LEAVING CERT VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)



LCVP is a Senior Cycle Programme of the Department of Education and Science, designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate (established). The programme combines the virtues of academic study with a new and dynamic focus on self- directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. Young people taking the LCVP have a unique opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills. These skills are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

The primary goal of the LCVP is to prepare young people for adult life by ensuring that they are educated in the broadest sense, with an ability to cope and thrive in an environment of rapid change. Participants in the programme are encouraged to develop skills and competencies fundamental to both academic and vocational success. Typically, LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate Subjects plus the Link Modules as an 8th subject. May suit those interested in the area of business as linked with business through the enterprise module.

Useful for: Business, Marketing, Sales, Entrepreneurship, IT, Computers, team-working careers, social/community work.

SUBJECT CHOICE CONSEQUENCES FOR ENTRY TO 3RD LEVEL

GENERAL APPLICATION

Application to college is through the CAO (Central Application Office). CAO provides an applications pack (which will be distributed to all students) with a handbook that lists all the courses on offer and gives information on how to apply. The closing date is normally 1st February each year.

As well as achieving the points required for the course, student must also have the particular academic entry requirements needed for the course she wants to take (i.e. the correct subjects & subject levels).

When choosing your Leaving Cert. subjects it is vitally important that you are aware of the fact that **you need certain subjects in order to apply for particular 3rd level college courses**. Below is a brief description of these **Subject Entry Requirements** and a brief guide to the **Leaving Cert. Points System**.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR 3RD LEVEL COLLEGES - VERY IMPORTANT

There are two sets of Entry Requirements which must be met before a student is eligible for places in 3rd Level Colleges (i.e. before points can be considered): **Minimum Entry Requirements** and **Specific Course Requirements**. These are particular subjects and numbers of honours/passes required to apply to an individual college or university.

University Minimum Entry Requirements (e.g. UCC)

Level 8 Honours Degrees (3 or 4 or 5 year)

H5 in two subjects and O6/H7 in in four other subjects from: Irish, English, another language in most cases, Maths in most cases and two other recognised L.C. subjects

Important: A 3rd Language is essential to gain entry to many **but not all** courses in the NUI universities; some variations do occur however, all universities do not have identical entry requirements, see college prospectuses for exceptions.

Institutes Of Technology (IT) Minimum Entry Requirements (e.g. CIT)

I.T.'s generally offer the following courses:

Level 8 Honours Degrees (3 or 4 or 5 year) - H5 in two subjects and O6/H7 in in four other subjects from: Maths, English or Irish

Level 6 - 2 year Higher Certificate O6/H7 in 5 subjects Mathematics English or Irish.
Level 7 - 3 year Ordinary Degree (same as Level 6)

Note: Students entering at Level 6 can continue to Level 8 in most courses.

THIRD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS



3rd Language required:

- UCC, NUI Galway, UCD, NUI Maynooth and affiliated colleges (e.g. St. Angela's, Sligo) require a pass in a third language for **most** courses.
- Other colleges have it as a requirement for certain courses that have a large language component. Eg: European Studies, Languages & Marketing, Hotel Management, Languages & International Tourism, Arts, Humanities
- Entry to the Cadetships in the Defense Forces/Navy requires a third Language.
- NCAD require a third language **or** Art

No 3rd Language is required for:

- Trinity College, University of Limerick, D.C.U., and the Institutes of Technology unless it is a specific course requirement (a pass in Irish will suffice).
- *No 3rd language for Engineering & Science, Business NUI Maynooth
- *No 3rd language for Engineering, Science & Ag Science in UCD (except for DN440- Biomedical, Health & Life Sciences)
- *No 3rd language for Engineering, Science Courses at UCC
- *No 3rd language for Engineering & Science NUI Galway (except for GY304- Biotechnology, 02/H6)
- Gardai (if have Irish), Nursing, Apprenticeships and most PLC Courses

No Language for PLC Courses – can use PLC courses as route to courses at 3rd Level which would otherwise have a language requirement.

Not everyone is gifted with languages and if you are struggling to get a pass in the language at Ordinary Level in the Junior Certificate you may find Leaving Certificate a challenge. If you find a 3rd language too difficult, there are back door routes into almost all courses which may take a little longer.

SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

Not all Science courses available at third level require a Science subject, but you would be well advised to do one if you were at all interested in anything in the Science, Medical, Paramedical, Nursing, Engineering or Technology areas. A science subject (biology) is also necessary for some beauty therapy courses at PLC.

A Science Subject is essential for certain courses:

The NUI Universities; UCC, UCD, NUIG and NUIM require a Science subject - Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics with Chemistry, or Agricultural Science for entry into the faculties/departments/schools of:

- Science/Engineering Courses
- Nursing
- Veterinary
- Medicine/ Dentistry/ Pharmacy (Chemistry and Biology or Physics)
- Radiography
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Human Nutrition/Dietetics
- Agriculture
- Industrial Design (UL and NCAD)
- Environmental Health, Food Technology, Health Care Technology, Environmental Resource Management
- Home Economics Teaching

TWO science subjects are essential for the following courses:

- **Medicine** (Chemistry and Biology or Physics)
- **Dentistry** (Chemistry and Biology or Physics)
- **Pharmacy** (Chemistry and Biology or Physics)

If you have a strong interest in the area of Science and think you would like to pursue a Science course in college it is highly recommended that you consider studying two science subjects as most 3rd level Science courses have modules of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in 1st year.

Also if you are considering going to college in the EU for competitive science related courses i.e. Medicine, you may need all 3 science subjects (please check with Guidance Counsellor)

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY, IoT's

In addition to the minimum entry requirements mentioned above, certain additional subjects may be required to gain entry to specific courses in a college.

Examples of such Specific Course Requirements include:

- Primary Teaching Courses: H4 in Irish
- Professional Engineering Hons Degree Courses: H4 in Maths
- Veterinary Medicine: H4 in Chemistry
- Cadetships in the Defense Forces/Navy: O6 in a 3rd Language

OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: UNIVERSITY, IoT's

Minimum entry requirements may differ for certain courses e.g. Music, Art/Design, Drama & Theatre etc. often require presentation of a portfolio or attendance at an audition/interview **as well as** basic entry requirements. Examples of such courses are as follows:

- Music (Hons L8) CR121 *, CK104*
- Art & Design CR 220 *
- BA (Hons) in Visual Communications CR 600 *
- BA in Drama & Theatre Studies CK112 *

***Early Assessment Procedures: (Audition/Portfolio & interview)**

POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE COURSES (PLC) (QQI) – Colleges of Further Education

- **Cork College of Commerce**
- **St. John's Central College**
- **Coláiste Stiofain Naofa**

There is no central applications body for Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses. Students must apply directly to the individual colleges. Places on PLC courses are not allocated on the basis of points, but applicants must be of Leaving Certificate standard. Most colleges interview candidates to determine their suitability.

Generally 5 passes in the Leaving Certificate at Ordinary or Higher level is acceptable for entry to most PLC courses unless otherwise specified in the college prospectus, always check the entry requirements for the particular course you wish to study as there are some courses with special requirements.

Many students use PLC courses as a stepping stone to 3rd Level. Therefore if there is a course at 3rd level which may have a language/science requirement which the student may not meet, there may be a chance to go indirectly to the college using the PLC route. Places are reserved at most colleges for PLC students or alternatively they compete for places through the CAO using their PLC points. See careersportal.ie, qualifax.ie, CAO websites for details.

NOTE: ALL THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE REGARDING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR 3RD LEVEL AND PLC IS CORRECT AS OF JANUARY 2019 BUT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE- CHECK WITH THE COURSE PROVIDER OR YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR.

CHECK THE 3RD LEVEL COLLEGES WEBSITES FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

Useful Websites:

www.careersportal.ie (general careers/education website)

www.cao.ie (links to Irish college websites)

www.qualifax.ie (general careers website)

www.ucas.co.uk (British college websites)

www.nursingboard.ie (nursing courses)

www.solas.ie (apprenticeship information)

www.military.ie (military career information)

www.scoilnet.ie (educational website)

www.skool.ie (educational website)

www.teagasc.ie (agricultural courses)

www.examinations.ie. (Exam papers/marking schemes)

www.publicjobs.ie

www.studentfinance.ie

