

# Leaving Certificate Subject Choice

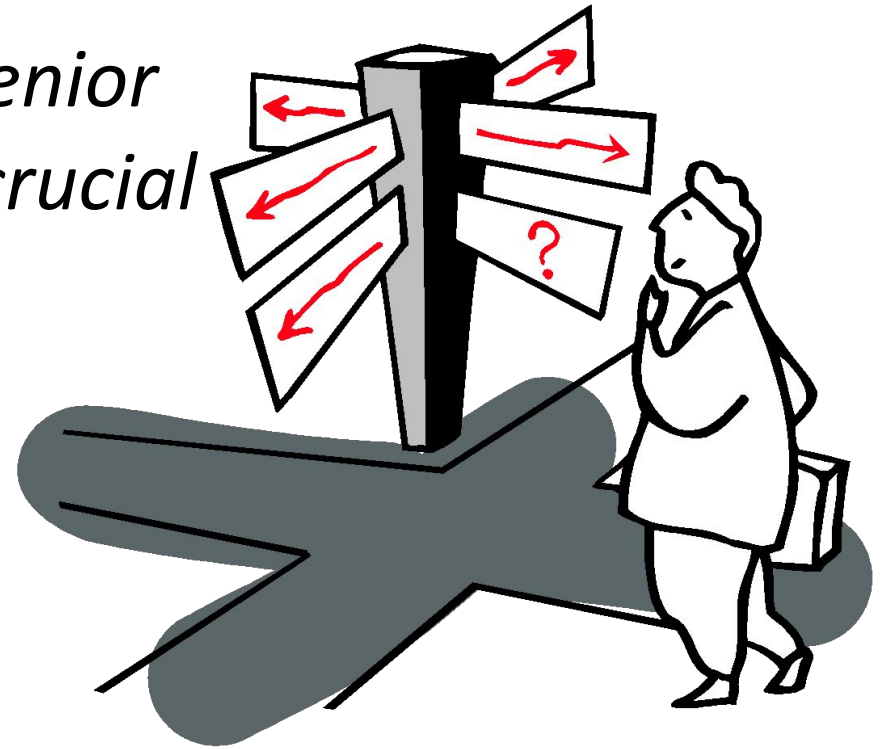


***Loreto College***  
**2021**

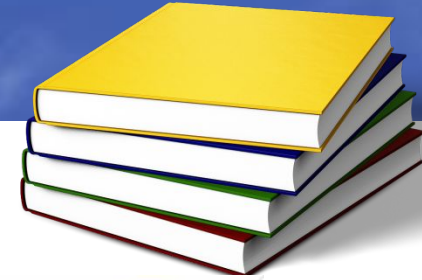
# Subject Choice



*Subject choice for the Senior Cycle is one of the most crucial decisions this year*



# Important Considerations



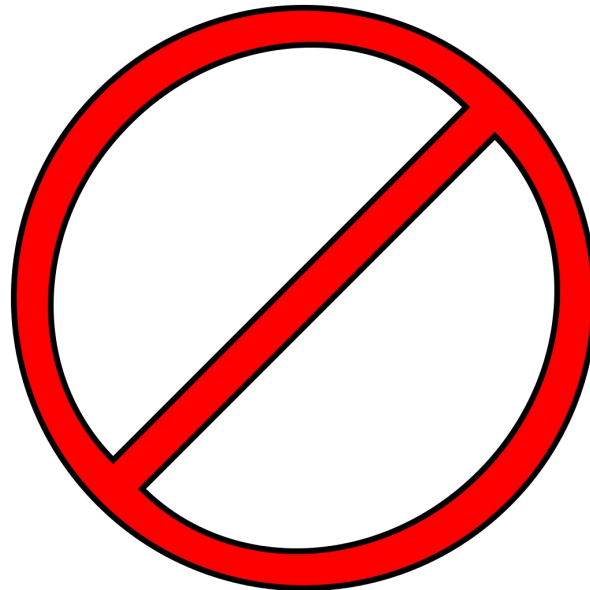
- Interest in the subject
- Ability in the subject
- Course Requirements



# What Not to Consider



- Doing what the student perceives as “easy”
- What her friends are doing
- What teacher she may or may not have





# Important Questions???



**Favourite  
Subjects  
for Junior Cert  
& TY**



**Extra- Curricular  
Interests**

**Interest in  
Subject Content**

**Future Career  
Possibilities**

# Leaving Certificate Subjects



- Loreto College students complete 7 subjects
  - English
  - Irish (unless exempt)
  - Mathematics
  - 4 other subjects
    - (A third Language?)

# Leaving Certificate Subjects



- Some students choose to study 8 subjects.
- The 6 Subjects with the highest points are used for CAO Course Entry.
- Points are calculated from ***one sitting*** of the Leaving Cert.

# New Points System 2017



Percentage Score	H. Level Grade	H. Level CAO Points	H. Level Maths CAO Points	O. Level Grade	O. Level CAO Points
90% - 100%	<i>H1</i>	<b>100</b>	<b>125</b>	<i>O1</i>	<b>56</b>
80% < 90%	<i>H2</i>	<b>88</b>	<b>113</b>	<i>O2</i>	<b>46</b>
70% < 80%	<i>H3</i>	<b>77</b>	<b>102</b>	<i>O3</i>	<b>37</b>
60% < 70%	<i>H4</i>	<b>66</b>	<b>91</b>	<i>O4</i>	<b>28</b>
50% < 60%	<i>H5</i>	<b>56</b>	<b>81</b>	<i>O5</i>	<b>20</b>
40% < 50%	<i>H6</i>	<b>46</b>	<b>71</b>	<i>O6</i>	<b>12</b>
30% < 40%	<i>H7</i>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<i>O7</i>	<b>0</b>
0% < 30%	<i>H8</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<i>O8</i>	<b>0</b>

# 25 Bonus Points for Maths



- All students presenting **H6** or above in Higher Level Mathematics will have 25 points added to their score for mathematics. The bonus points will **only** be relevant where mathematics is scored as one of a student's 6 **best** subjects for points purposes.

# Preparation of Students in School for Subject Choice



- CAT4 Aptitude Test
- Career guidance classes
  - How process works and choices on offer
  - College / career requirements
  - How to decide
- One to one meeting with Guidance Counsellor
- Talking with the teachers of the subjects they are interested in.



# Course Requirements



- Three Types of Requirements:

- 1) Minimum Entry or Matriculation Requirements

- 2) Course requirements

- 3) Points (based on supply and demand each year)

# CAO Main Considerations



- Minimum Entry Requirements

*e.g. 2 H5 and 4 O6/ H7*

*3 H5 and 3 O6/H7*

- Specific Course Requirements

*e.g. Primary Teaching - Irish **H4**, English & Maths H7/O4  
(**effective 2019**)*

*Dietetics - Chemistry H4*

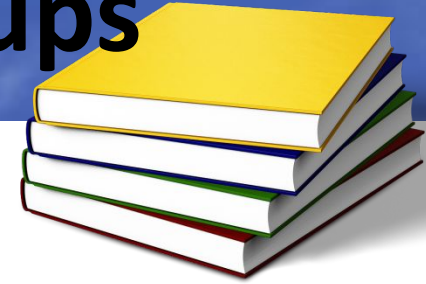
- **Entry requirements** can be fulfilled from ***more than one*** Leaving Cert. - exception Medicine

# Course Requirements



- Particular LC subjects may be required for certain college courses
- Mostly concerns Maths, Languages and Sciences
- There may also be a requirement to achieve a certain level in certain subjects

# Loreto College Subject Groups



- The Core Group
- Business
- Languages
- Humanities/Social Science
- Sciences
- PE



# The Core Group



- English
- Irish (Unless exempt)
- Mathematics



# Options... 18 to choose from...



- **Languages:**  
Latin, Spanish, German, French
- **Business:**  
Business, Accounting, Economics
- **Humanities/Social Science:**  
History, Geography, Art, Music, Home Economics,  
Politics & Society
- **Sciences:**  
Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
- **Applied Sciences:**  
Applied Maths
  - **Physical Education:**  
PE

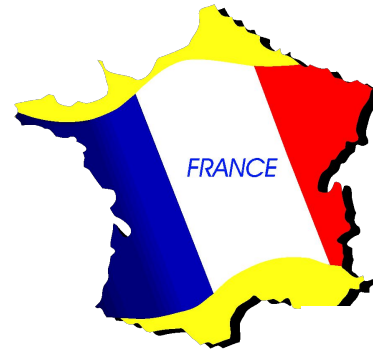




# Languages



- French



- German



- Spanish



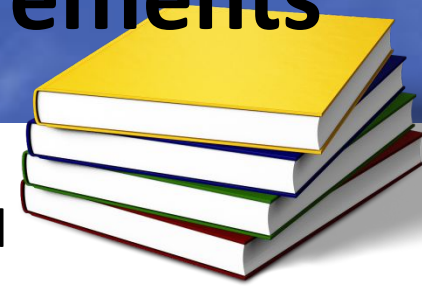
- Latin

# Languages - Minimum Entry Requirements



- NUI colleges (UCD, UCC, NUIG, Maynooth) & affiliated colleges (RCSI, NCAD, St. Angela's) **require a 3<sup>rd</sup> Language for some courses.**
- Arts, Architecture, Law, Commerce, Medicine and Health Sciences and some other degrees

# Languages - Minimum Entry Requirements



- Trinity College Dublin & UL require a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language:
  - Will accept Irish or another Language
- DCU and I.T's require English or Irish
  - Check ***Specific Course Requirement***
- NCAD offers a choice of Art or Third Language
- Nursing does not require a 3<sup>rd</sup> Language in any college

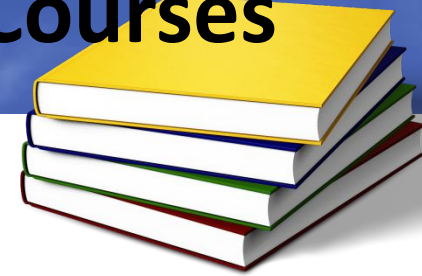
# Business Studies



- Business
- Accounting
- Economics



# Subjects of Advantage for 3rd Level Courses



- Business

Banking, Human Resource Management, Business Management, Marketing, Sales

- Accounting

Business/Accounting courses, Banking, Finance, Management

- Economics

Stockbroking, Banking, Finance

# However...



- 'Business' is not a required subject for entrance to any Business courses





# Social Studies/Humanities

- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Home Economics
- Politics & Society



# Summary



- History

20% Research Essay

***Careers*** - *Politics, Journalism, Local Government, Social Work, Archaeology, Law, Barrister, Civil Service*

- Geography

20% Field Study Project

***Careers*** - *Civil Engineering, Town Planning, Tourism, Market Research, Architecture, Auctioneering, Agriculture, Forestry, Horticulture*

# Summary



- Art

Art History = 37.5%

**Careers** - Advertising, Marketing, Printing, Architecture, Fashion Designer, Primary Teacher. A portfolio is often a requirement for Art courses.

- Music

50% Practical: Most students in Loreto College choose 4 Pieces on 1 instrument and Music Technology piece.

**Careers** - Musician, Entertainment Groups, Radio and Television Production, Occupational Therapy, Childcare, Primary Teacher, Montessori Teacher

- Home Economics

4 Practicals; 20% Course Work Journal (**Academic written research submission. No practical cookery exam.**)

**Careers** - Dietetics, Chef, Food Science, Nursing, Childcare, etc.

# Politics & Society

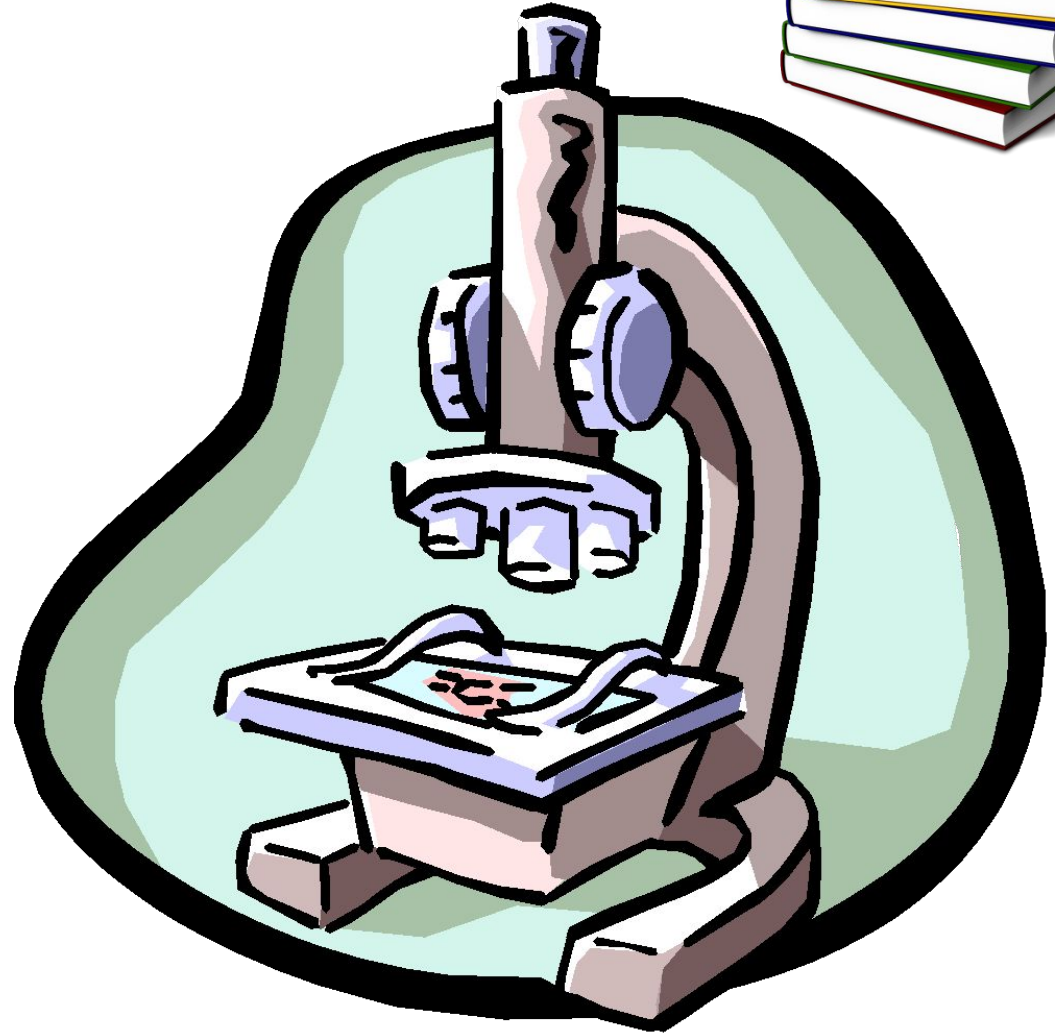


- 80% Written Exam (2.5 hours)
- 20% Report (100 marks)
- 3 Sections in the Exam Paper:
  - Section A: Short Answer Question 50 marks
  - Section B: Data-based questions 150 marks  
(given stimulus like infographic to read and answer questions on)
  - Section C: Two Discursive Essays 200 marks

# Sciences



- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology

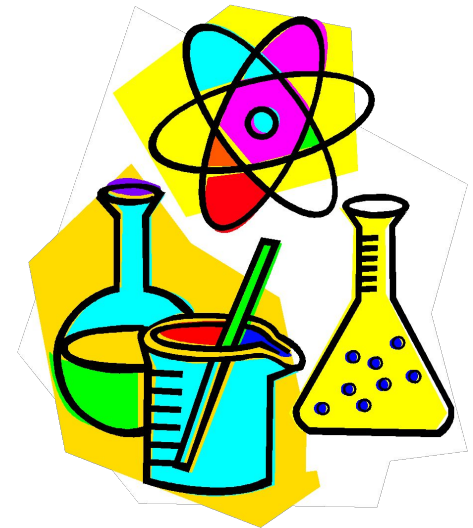


# Sciences

## Further Comment...



- **Physics** is the most relevant science for:
  - Engineering
  - Architecture
  - Electronics
  - Computing
  - Radiography
- **Chemistry** is the most relevant science for:
  - Pharmacy
  - Medicine
  - Dentistry
  - Biomedical Science
  - Food Science and Nutrition
  - Dietetics





# Sciences -Minimum Entry Requirements



- Certain courses require a Science subject
- Students need to have at least one Science subject if applying for courses in:

- Engineering
- Science
- Medicine
- Veterinary
- Nursing
- Health Sciences e.g. Physiotherapy, Radiography, Occupational Therapy, etc.



# Sciences



- A second Science subject is advisable to keep all Science options open in all colleges – Geography/ Maths/ Applied Maths accepted in many.
- A student with two of Biology, Physics and/or Chemistry will have the advantage of having the requirements for all the courses requiring a Science subject or two.

# Medicine



- 2 Sciences Required in TCD (H3 + H4), UCC (H4) & RCSI (H4)
  - *Only 1 science required, but 2 recommended for Medicine in other universities*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> language required in RCSI & UCD
- 2 H5 + 4 O6/H7



# 2 Sciences Also Required For:

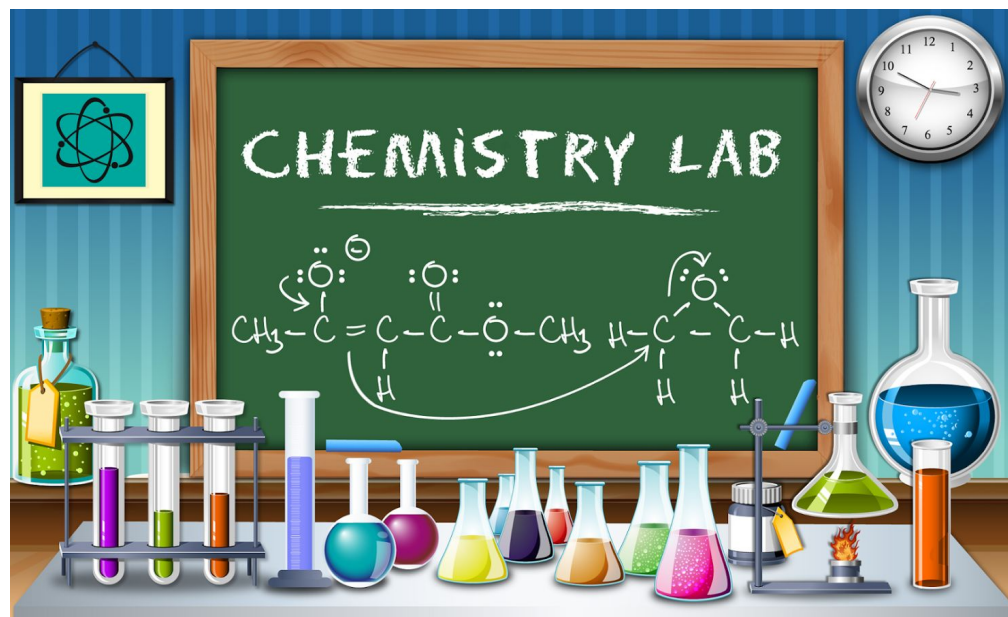


- Human Health & Disease (TCD)
- Dentistry (TCD & UCC)
- Pharmacy (UCC)
  
- And highly recommended for Science courses (required for most at TCD)
  
- Note: 1 science with HL Maths will do for Pharmacy and Physiotherapy (TCD)

# Courses That Require Chemistry



- Pharmacy (RCSI, TCD, UCC - H5)
- Veterinary Medicine (UCD - H5)
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics (DIT - H4)
- Dentistry (UCC - H4)







# Physical Education Exam



- Being run for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2020/21.
- Physical Activity Project=20%
- Performance Assessment=30%
- Written Paper=50%
- Not considered as a Lab Science subject for entry requirements.

# Applied Sciences



- Applied Mathematics  
CUS
- Run by CUS
- Tuesday and Thursday  
for 1 hour.





# Interest & Aptitude Test



- CAT4 Aptitude Test
- Gives an indication of Aptitude in:  
*Verbal, Numerical, Non Verbal/Abstract, Spatial*
- Not an exact indicator of the subjects students should choose.

# Aptitude & Leaving Certificate Subjects



## Verbal Reasoning

English  
History  
Languages  
Business  
Geography  
Home Economics  
Music  
Biology

## Quantitative

Maths  
Physics  
Chemistry  
Applied Maths  
Accounting  
Economics

## Aptitude

## Spatial Reasoning

Physics  
Applied Maths  
Chemistry  
Art  
Geography

## Non Verbal

Chemistry  
Biology  
Physics  
Music  
Art  
Applied Maths

Test	Description of Test	Careers / Courses	L. Cert Subjects
Verbal Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This test measures the ability to reason with words and to think logically.</li> <li>- Important for work involving communicating ideas or understanding written material.</li> </ul>	Solicitor, Doctor, Teacher, Computer Programmer, Management, Sales, Marketing and Advertising, Training, Administration.	English History Languages Business Geography Home Economics Music Biology
Quantitative	-Measures the ability to reason with numbers and to deal intelligently with quantitative measures.	Finance, Science, Sales, Banking, Architecture, Engineering, Statistician, Surveying, Navigation, Laboratory work.	Maths Physics Chemistry Applied Maths Accounting Economics
Non Verbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-Verbal/Non-Numerical measure of reasoning power.</li> <li>- It assesses how well one can reason with geometric figures or designs.</li> </ul>	Engineer, Doctor, Scientist, Musician, Software Designer, Teacher, Computer Programmer, Mechanical & Electrical work, Management.	Chemistry Biology Physics Music Art Applied Maths
Spatial Reasoning	Measures the ability to visualise a three-dimensional object from a two-dimensional pattern and to visualise how this object would look if rotated in space.	Art, Design, Architecture, Engineering, Carpentry, Dentistry, Photography, Fashion Design.	Physics Applied Maths Chemistry Art Geography

# Students Should...



- (a) Focus on what they enjoy
- (b) Consider the subjects they are good at and subjects which they may not have studied before but may take up at senior cycle
- (c) Take note of future courses requirements
- (d) Take a balance of subjects- a varied combination of subjects such as a practical subject like Art with a more theoretical subject such as History.

# Students Should...



- (e) Talk to friends/people who are studying it or have a career in the area interested in.
- (f) Talk to teachers regarding the subjects they hope to do and examine the text books
- (g) Keep all options open if unsure of career/course
- (h) Examine college prospectuses and websites

# Unsure?



- If your daughter is unsure of what courses she might be interested in, I advise keeping options open by taking a science and a third language.
- While students will be offered help to make their decision, it is ultimately their decision so it is their responsibility to do their research.

# Research... Research... Research



- [Eunicas.ie](http://Eunicas.ie)
- [Ucas.ie](http://Ucas.ie)
- [Qualifax.ie](http://Qualifax.ie)
- [CareersPortal.ie](http://CareersPortal.ie)

# Subject Option Choice



- **Deadline 5th March 2021  
(for guarantee of options)**
- Students indicate Level for English, Irish and Maths
- Students indicate choice of four Optional Subjects



# Best of Luck with the Decision



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