



Subject Choice

Presentation Secondary School

Lístowel

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Guidance Counsellor

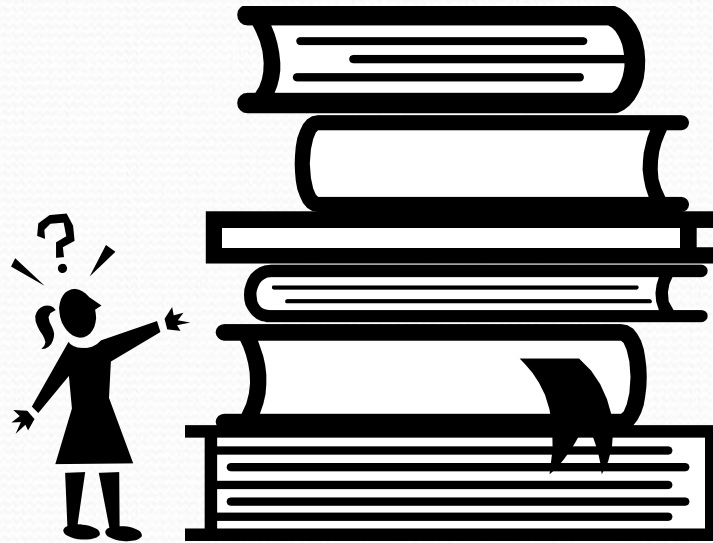
Choosing Subjects



- Choosing 5th year subjects requires **R**esearch, **R**eflection and **D**ecision.
 - Students need to consider the following:
 - **Ability/Interests**
 - **Careers**
 - **Relevance**
 - **Keeping options open**
 - **Seek advice**

- 
- Choose subjects you have **enjoyed** to date and that you do well in
 - Never pick subjects that your friends are doing – be **true to yourself** and your interests
 - Subject choice should not depend on what **teacher** is teaching a certain subject at Leaving Cert Level.

WHAT ARE MY TALENTS?:





Creative Skills: If you enjoy reading, writing, story telling etc. – *English, History*.

Mathematical Skills – Good at logical thinking, puzzles and numbers – *HL Maths, Physics, Accounting*

Scientific Skills – Enjoy analysing information and are good at memorising information – *Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Agricultural Science, Geography*

Practical Skills – Enjoy making things, doing things, knowing how things work – *Home Economics, Design & Communication Graphics*.



Language Skills – Easily grasp languages and enjoy learning about different cultures – *Irish, French, German.*

Social Skills – Enjoy learning about society past and present and the world around you – *History, Religious Education, Home Economics*

Business Studies – Enjoy learning about business, money and the economy – *Business, Accounting, Economics*

Artistic Skills – Talented in the arts, enjoy performing and/or using your creativity – *Art, Music, Design & Communication Graphics*



Obligatory subjects

The core subjects are

1. Irish
2. English
3. Mathematics



For the fourth
subject it is
recommended that
students choose a
third language



What 3 to
choose from
the available
thirteen
subjects?

Subjects

French

German

Chemistry

Physics

Biology

Accounting

Business

Home Economics

D&CG

*Agricultural Science**

History

Geography

Art

Music



CHOSEN 4

1.

2.

3.

4.

Subject	Essential For
French / German	169 Courses require a 3 rd Language (see www.qualifax.ie for details)
Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A Science subject is necessary for over 140 courses •2 Science courses are essential for some courses Essential for 8 courses
Physics	Essential for 1 course
Biology	Essential for 2 courses
Agricultural Science	Not Essential
Accounting	Essential for 1 course
Business	Not Essential
Home Economics	Not Essential
DCG	Not Essential
History	Not Essential
Geography	Not Essential
Art	Essential for 3 courses
Music	Essential for 1 course

Essential Subjects

There are some **myths** about the necessity of having certain subjects for certain careers. Contrary to popular belief:-



Engineer / Architect : You do NOT need Technical Drawing

Accountant : You do NOT need Business or Accounting

Desirable Subjects

So what about the next three?



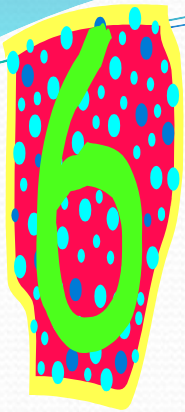
A **science subject** (often two science subjects) is essential for careers in medical, paramedical careers (physiotherapy, radiography, human nutrition, pharmacy medical laboratory science) and nursing. A science subject is required for a career in engineering and most faculties of science require one to have a laboratory science subject.

HOWEVER

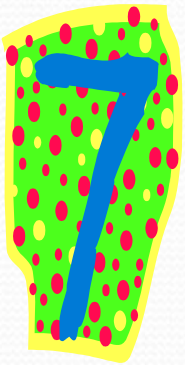
Many of the courses available in science, engineering and electronics in the **Institutes of Technology** do not require a science subject.

It really comes down to one's interest in science to date. **If one is struggling with science now it is highly unlikely that it will suddenly become one's best subject at Leaving Certificate.**





For your **sixth** and **seventh** subjects it is your chance to choose subjects that you will enjoy studying.



You will be required to acquire points to gain entry and to make this possible and achievable choose subjects that you enjoy and that you find interesting.



After final selection one should **examine options** very carefully to see that one has kept career options open. One should check to see if one has the **essential requirements** for third-level courses in which one has an interest. Trinity College, for instance, requires two science subjects for medicine . It is too late finding out in your final Leaving Certificate year that one does not have an **essential subject** when you come to fill out your CAO form.



Leaving Certificate Grade	Higher Paper	Leaving Certificate Grade	Lower Paper
H1(90<100)	100		
H2 (80<90)	88		
H3 (70<80)	77		
H4 (60<70)	66		
H5 (50<60)	56	O1 (90<100)	56
H6 (40<50)	46	O2 (80<90)	46
H7 (30<40)	37	O3 (70<80)	37
H8	0	O4 (60<70)	28
		O5 (50<60)	20
		O6 (40<50)	12
		O7 (30<40)	0
		O8	0

THE POINTS SYSTEM

This is calculated by giving a set number of points for each grade and then adding the **six best** values to get the total number of points.

7 subjects – Points added from your best 6

Irish	O	O5	20
English	H	H4	66
Maths	O	O4	28
French	H	H2	88
Geography	H	H3	77
Home Economics	H	H2	88
Biology	H	H2	88
Total Points			<hr/> 435



Student A

Irish	H4	66
English	H2	88
Maths	H6	71
French	H5	56
Chemistry	H6	46
Home Econ.	H6	46
Accounting	H5	56
Total		383

Student B

Irish	O2	46
English	O3	37
Maths	H5	81
Art	H1	100
Music	H1	100
Home Econ.	H3	77
DCG	H2	88
Total		492

Don't make rash decisions

Subject choice should not depend on what **teacher** will be teaching a certain subject at Leaving Certificate. Neither should it depend on **rumours** as to what is an 'easy' subject. Keep in mind that if you are seeking high **points** you will need to choose the subjects you feel you can do best in.



Subject Level

After choosing the subjects you now need to start thinking about the Level:

Choose **Higher Level** if you can – Try it for a while you can always go back to Ordinary Level.



NEW BONUS POINTS FOR HONOURS MATHS FROM 2012

- If you achieve an H₁ → D₃ in Honours Maths you will be awarded 25 CAO Bonus Points. Insert here the Higher Maths Points Scale from Internet





Subject	Good at	Enjoy it	Needed for my career
French			
German			
Chemistry			
Physics			
Biology			
Agricultural Science			
Business			
Home Economics			
Accounting			
DCG			
History			
Geography			
Art			
Music			
Religious Education			

DECIDING BETWEEN TWO SUBJECTS?

*It often comes down to a decision between 2 subjects.
Use this sheet to help you decide which subject is best for you.*



<p>SUBJECT 1 :</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••••	<p>SUBJECT 2 :</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••••
<p>SUBJECT 1 :</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••••	<p>SUBJECT 2 :</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••••••

- Write out the advantages and disadvantages of each subject for you.
- Sometimes when it's written on paper it can become clearer.



SUBJECT 1 : Home Economics

Advantages:

- Enjoy it
- Really like the cookery section
- Do well in exams
-
-
-
-

SUBJECT 2 : Science

Advantages:

- Needed for many careers
- Like biology section
-
-
-
-
-

SUBJECT 1 : Home Economics

Disadvantages:

- Don't like the sewing
-

SUBJECT 2 : Science

Disadvantages:

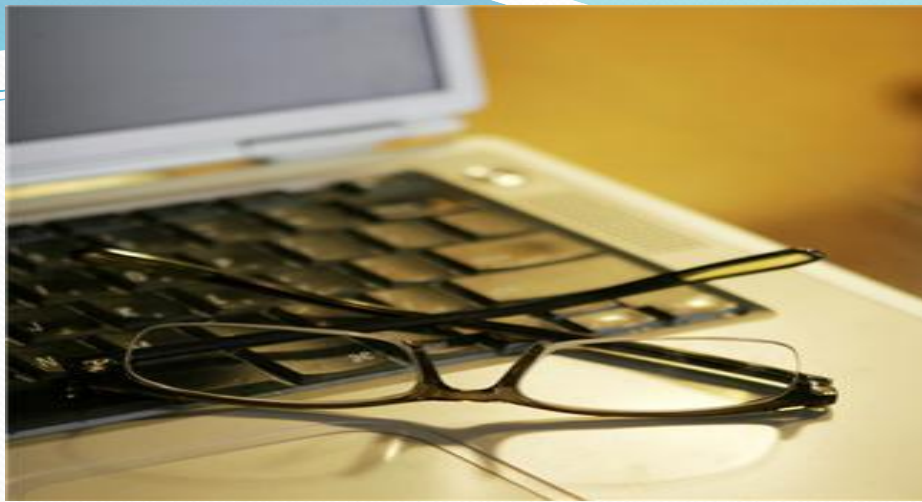
- Find it very difficult
- Don't do well in exams

QUESTIONS TO ASK MYSELF:

If you can answer yes to all of these questions then you have chosen your subjects wisely and you can be confident that you have made an informed decision.

•Have I chosen subjects that I am interested in and that I enjoy?	YES / NO
•Have I checked to make sure that I am choosing the right subjects for the right career e.g. I must have a science subject e.g. Biology if I want to become a nurse.	YES / NO
•If my career choice is to change have I left my options open...i.e. science / language?	YES / NO
•Have I chosen a European Language?	YES / NO
•Have I spoken to the Guidance Counsellor / subject teacher about any questions I had?	YES / NO
•Have I checked www.qualifax.ie : subject choice section?	YES / NO
•Have I made this decision for myself and not been influenced / persuaded by friends? (Remember what is right for someone else may not be right for you).	YES / NO





How to get more information online yourself?

www.qualifax.ie

www.careersportal.ie

www.ncca.ie

Useful links:

https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php?ed_sub_cat_id=238#Leaving Cert Subjects

https://careersportal.ie/school/lc_subject_choice.php?ed_sub_cat_id=237#Quick Guide



Thank you for your attention.

Any Questions?