

St. Brendan's College

Killarney

Options for Senior Cycle

2017

St. Brendan's College Subject Options

Dear students and parent(s)/guardian(s),

At the end of the Junior Certificate year students must decide what subjects they will study for the Leaving Certificate programme. i.e The Established Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA) or Transition Year.

Students must also look at the subjects they will study for the Senior Cycle. Apart from the core subjects, English, Irish and Mathematics, there are many optional subjects which they can choose from. This booklet should provide some information which may be helpful to students in making these choices.

The information in this booklet only applies to subject choice in St. Brendans College, Killarney and refers only to the subjects on offer in this school. While every effort will be made to accommodate students choice of subjects we cannot guarantee any particular combination of subjects. The final choice offered are a reflection of student preferences they are not predetermined.

The subject detail given in the following pages are not intended to be exhaustive and while every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information, no responsibility can be taken for any errors or omissions. Students with specific enquires should always check with their Guidance Counsellor. All students will have an individual meeting with Ms, Rice regarding their choices/options.

Karen Rice

Guidance Counsellor

In choosing to study for an academic Leaving Certificate you are accepting responsibility for the severe demands the programme requires for success.

Success depends on:

(1) Attendance, (2) Homework, (3) Revision, (4) Reflective Subject Choice

Daily recommended time for Homework:

5th year: 3-4 hours weekday 6-8 hours weekend

6th year: 4-5 hours weekday 8-10 hours weekend

Homework/Study (The Road To Future Success)

St. Brendan's College provides a highly effective and professional system of after school study that aims to ensure students receive the maximum support and encouragement to complete both their homework and study. Students may use the study facilities in any combination of sessions.

Supervised Study (Monday-Friday) Session 1: 4.00-5.50 pm Session 2: 6.00 -9.00pm

Supervised Study Saturday Session 10.00-1.00

Wednesday Afternoon Free Supervised study 2.20-3.20

We endeavour that each student has clear goals and targets in relations to their school work, in-house exams, state exams and future educational goals. There is an emphasis on making students aware of how to focus on short term and long term study plans through consistent revision.

The result of our study system sees very focused and satisfied students who feel in control of their own homework/study.

CONSIDERATIONS IN CHOOSING SUBJECTS

Choosing subjects requires **research, discussion, reflection and decision.**

When choosing subjects, consider the following:

ABILITY/INTEREST:

Ability and interest are very important considerations as you will work harder and achieve more in subjects which you enjoy and are good at.

CAREERS:

Some courses/careers have very specific subject entry requirements while others have very general entry requirements (discussed in more detail later).

RELEVANCE:

Remember, not every subject has to have a specific relevance or use other than your enjoyment of the subject.

KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN:

Keep your range of subjects as broad as possible – business, science, humanities etc. Remember that current career preference may not reflect future career preference. However, if you have a particular interest in a specific are then it might be wise to choose a second subject from this group.

SUBJECT CONTENT

Some detail is given in this document but the best person to advise you is your subject teacher. They can provide you with information on the course content over the next two years and guide you on your ability in and potential to do well in the subject.

SUBJECT GROUPINGS

SCIENCE:

Mathematics (Core), Applied Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Agricultural Science

LANGUAGES:

Irish (Core), English (Core), French, German

BUSINESS:

Business, Accounting, Economics

APPLIED SCIENCES:

Design & Communication Graphics, Construction Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES:

History, Geography, Art, Music, Religious Education, Home Economics

Gaeilge (Irish)

Irish is compulsory for all students unless they have had an exemption from Irish at Junior Level (see below). To study Irish at higher level it is recommended that students should have studied, sat and passed Higher Junior Certificate Irish.

Aim: that students...

Understand the spoken language

Understand the written language

Communicate in the spoken language

Communicate in the written language

Have an awareness of Irish culture and civilisation

Course Content:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| - 5 poems common to Higher & Ordinary Level | - 4 Prose Pieces |
| - 8 poems for Higher Level only | - 1 Short film |
| - Short notes on the history of the Irish Language & Irish Literature | - 1 Autobiography |
| - Essay & Comprehension Work | |
| - Aural (listening) and Oral (speaking) Work. | |

The oral is worth 40% (H & O) and the aural is worth 10% (H), 10% (O).

Students may also take Foundation Level but this will affect college entry so it is very important that all students check college and course requirements carefully.

Useful for: Translator, Law, Journalism, Teaching, Broadcasting, Civil Service, Guards, Army, Acting, Politics. A Higher C3 is needed for Primary Teaching.

ENGLISH

English is compulsory for all students. To study English at Higher Level it is recommended that students have obtained a D or higher in Junior Certificate Higher English.

Course Content:

- Composition
- Comprehension
- Functional Writing/Writing to task-letters, speeches, diary entries, radio talks
- Single Text (Shakespearean)Text
- Comparative Text including film
- Prescribed Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

Useful for: Journalism, Communications, Translator, Acting, Teaching, Broadcasting, Law, Marketing, Speech Therapy, Receptionist, Public Relations, Secretary, Librarian, Solicitor, Barrister, Medicine, Nursing etc.

Check College and Course requirements carefully.

MATHEMATICS

Maths is compulsory for all students. It is offered at higher, ordinary and foundation level. As it is so important to pass Maths in the Leaving Certificate we strongly recommend that all students follow the recommendation of their teachers. If during the course of senior cycle a student, after consultation with their teacher, wishes to change from higher to ordinary level he must complete a "Change of Level" form which must be signed by the Guidance Counsellor, Parents/Guardians, Teachers concerned, Principal/Vice Principal.

Course Content:

Leaving Certificate Maths is made up of five strands

1. Statistics and Probability
2. Geometry and Trigonometry
3. Number
4. Algebra
5. Functions

The syllabus is provided at three levels—Higher, Ordinary and Foundation Level

Higher Level is needed for most Engineering, Mathematical, Physics and Actuarial courses in University. Check with individual colleges, search engines and guidance counsellor for confirmation.

Foundation Maths:

The Gardaí will accept a B. However, foundation level Maths is **not** accepted by all colleges for entry. Therefore it is essential that students check that doing Foundation Level Maths will not have an adverse effect on their choice of 3rd level programme or career. Speak to the Guidance Counsellor before making any decision.

Science Group:



Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths

BIOLOGY means ‘The Study of Life’ in all its variety of forms. The human race shares this planet with one and half million species of animals and plants, many of which are essential for our survival as a species. It follows, therefore, that knowledge of the science of biology is essential for an understanding of human life and the living environment around us.

The Leaving Certificate Biology course covers 10 major units, which include human biology, genetics, microbiology and ecology as well as systematic investigations of many other plant and animal groups.

Students undertake a range of practical work, laboratory work and fieldwork. Yet Biology is very much a theoretical subject whereby 100% of the subject is examined in the terminal written exam in June.

Useful for: Biology as a life science is a ground level subject which leads directly to many ‘Bio’ orientated 3rd level courses: Medicine, Nursing, Paramedics, Veterinary Science, Food Science, Dentistry, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Food Technology, Nursing, PE teaching, Physiotherapy.

PHYSICS, as a subject, is an adventure! It can be challenging but it can also be rewarding. Understanding a little more about the often-surprising ways of the physical world, far from detracting from your appreciation of nature, can make the world seem a more fascinating and complex place.

How does the electric motor work? What evidence do we have that the Universe is expanding (the Big Bang)? Why is it that sound can go around corners but light cannot? How can we measure the power of an athlete? The answer to these questions and many more can be found in the study of Physics.

These are the main areas of study including some of the applications covered:

- Mechanics (force and movement): satellites, collisions, acceleration of a car.
- Optics : optical fibres, correcting faulty eyesight, mirrors
- Heat : different temperature scales, refrigerators
- Waves : spectra of light, loudness of sounds (decibels)
- Electricity and magnetism : generators, Earth’s magnetism
- Atomic and nuclear physics : television “tubes”, radioactivity, transistors.

Career Areas: Some of the career areas in which Physics can be particularly useful are medical; optician; technical; engineering and architectural; electronic; communications; information technology and scientific; aviation.

Physics is essential for: Dentistry UCC (Physics or Biology); Theoretical Physics (HB3); some Applied Physics courses or courses that are physics related.

Note: Higher level Mathematics is not a requirement for Leaving Certificate Physics topics – however it is better suited to students with mathematical inclination.

The study of **CHEMISTRY** is desirable not only for those who wish to pursue a career in science or in careers allied to science, but also for those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Chemistry is very much the central foundation science subject, which makes it ideal to pair with Physics and Applied Maths. Students of third level Medical courses are advised to choose both Physics and Biology to partner their Chemistry choice.

The Chemistry syllabus features assessment of practical work and industrial case studies with a particular emphasis on environmental control. Topics include: the Periodic Table; Atomic Structure; Stoichiometry; Formulae and Equation; Chemical Equilibrium; Electrochemistry; Volumetric analysis etc.

Usefulness: Not only is the place of chemistry central to most courses in Natural Sciences offered in third level education, but it is also an essential element in the study of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Agricultural Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Technology and numerous technician courses.

Assessment: 100% terminal exam.

Useful skills: commitment to hard work; mathematical ability; interest in environmental and pharmaceutical issues.

Note: A 'C' grade in higher level Chemistry is required for Human Nutrition & Dietetics degree in DIT; Medicine and Dentistry in UCC; Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine UCD; Pharmacy in TCD; Applied Chemistry degrees.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE is a biology based course. Topics covered include: Zoology, Animal Physiology, Genetics, Microbiology, Botany, Plant Physiology, Animal and Plant Husbandry and Ecology. It is hoped that the student would develop an understanding of the main areas of the course and then develop an understanding of how these areas apply to agriculture and the environment.

Useful Skills: organisational and time management skills for project work and experience on a farm is a great help!

Assessment: 75% written work, 25% project work.

Courses/careers for which agricultural science is useful: Farming, Environmental Science, Veterinary Science, Medicine, Nursing, Agricultural Science, Food Science, Food Technology, Geology, Botany, Horticulture, Forestry, Zoology.

Note: Agricultural Science is accepted as a science requirement for most courses that accept Biology.

Applied Maths

Subject Overview

The general aims of mathematics education apply.

Content

The entire course content is given below. Those parts given in italics are for Higher level only. The Higher level course includes the Ordinary level course treated in greater depth.

- Motion: displacement, velocity, relative velocity
- Newton's laws of motion; acceleration
- Straight line motion; inclined plane; connected particles
- Equilibrium under concurrent forces
- Centre of gravity
- Pressure in liquids; Archimedes' principle
- Projectiles; projectiles on inclined plane
- Angular velocity; uniform circular motion
- Conservation of momentum; direct collisions; oblique collisions
- Simple harmonic motion
- Rigid body motion; moments of inertia; angular momentum
- Differential equations: (a) first order, variable separable; (b) second order reducing to type (a).

Assessment

There is a separate examination paper for Ordinary level and Higher level.

COURSES REQUIRING TWO HIGHER LEVEL SCIENCE SUBJECTS

as a minimum entry requirement:

Essential for:	Level/Grade:
Medicine (TCD)	HB3+HC3 in 2 of P/C/B/AS
Dentistry (TCD)	HB3+HC3 in 2 of P/C/B/AS
Physiotherapy (TCD)	2HC3 from M/P/C/B/AS
Pharmacy (TCD)	HC3 (Chem)+HC3 M/P/B/G/AS
Science (TCD)	2HC3 from M/P/C/B/G/AS
Human Genetics (TCD)	2HC3 from P/C/B/M
Human Health & Disease (TCD)	HC3 Biology + HC3 P/C/AS
Dentistry (UCC)	HC3 (Chem) + HC3 (P/B)
Medicine (UCC)	HC3 (Chem) + HC3 (P/B)
Pharmacy (UCC)	HC3 (Chem) + HC3 (P/B)

* **This list is not exhaustive.**

In addition most science based courses in the UK require 2HC3 from P/C/B + Higher Maths

Abbreviations:

M=Maths, P=Physics, C=Chemistry, B=Biology, G=Geography, AS=Agricultural Science

Note: that while only a small number of courses require two Science subjects, it is advisable to choose two Science subjects if one is seriously interested in a Science based course.

THE SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS ARE VERY DETAILED SO PLEASE CHECK COLLEGE AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS. REQUIREMENTS CAN CHANGE AT ANY TIME.

Language Group



French , German

The general educational aims of a foreign language teaching are:

1. to make it possible for pupils to take up job and further education/training opportunities, which may involve some use of the target language (increasingly important in the context of the development of the E.U.)
2. to develop the pupils' capacity to engage in useful interactions in another language.
3. to give pupils an awareness of another culture.
4. to contribute to pupils' awareness of language as a system of communication.
5. to develop an awareness of the grammatical structure of language.
6. to encourage and equip pupils to participate in social and cultural activities, involving use of the target language.

to give pupils the kind of language learning experience that will encourage and facilitate their learning other languages later in life.

The Leaving Certificate examination at both higher and ordinary levels consists of:

1. an oral examination
2. a listening comprehension test
3. reading comprehension tests
4. various tests of written production, including letter writing.

A foreign language is useful for: Air Traffic Controller; Piloting; International Marketing; Translator; Travel Agent; Journalist; Hotel Manager; Dept. of Foreign Affairs; Librarian; Interpreter; Au Pair; Chef Courier; Tourism.

THE THIRD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

- A Third Language is required for entry to the National University of Ireland (NUI) colleges – University College Cork (UCC), NUI Maynooth, NUI Galway, University College Dublin (UCD) and other associated colleges such as the Royal College of Surgeons, Shannon College of Hotel Management, St. Angela's College of Education, National College of Art & Design, Institute of Public Administration, Miltown Institute of Theology & Philosophy. The Cadets in the Defense Force also require a modern European language.
- Courses that do not require the Third Language: Engineering & Agricultural courses at UCD; Engineering and Science courses at NUI Maynooth; Engineering and Science Courses in NUI Galway (except GY304); Science, Engineering and Food Science in UCC.
- University of Limerick (UL): English & another language; Dublin City University (DCU): English or Irish; Trinity College Dublin (TCD) accepts a "language other than English" e.g. Irish.
- Students entering the National College of Art and Design may present the subject Art in place of the Third Language.
- Institutes of Technology accept English or Irish for entry purposes.

Many colleges have a language requirement for specific courses such as European Studies, Law with a language, Commerce with a language etc.

N.B. Students may be exempt from the Third Language on the grounds of a Specific Learning Difficulty such as dyslexia. However, in order to be granted this exemption for college a student would need to present (i) a School Record Form completed by the Head of the School and (ii) a Certification Form completed by a qualified professional accompanied by a psychological assessment no more than 3 years old. Forms are available from the National University of Ireland, 49 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, or may be downloaded from www.nui.ie/college.

The learning difficulty should be brought to the attention of the Guidance Counsellor and Learning Support Teacher immediately.

Business Group



Accounting, Business, Economics

ACCOUNTING is a subject that suits the organised methodical person who likes definite answers.

Students of accounting will be able to see and understand published company accounts, make comparison of performance between companies, be able to take care of the basic accounting needs of a small business, club, farm or service firm (cash flows, final accounts, budgeting etc.), study the production of information needed for management decision-making etc.

There are no prerequisites for the study of accounting – just an interest in working with figures. However, it is useful that all students in St. Brendan's College will have studied Business Studies for the Junior Certificate.

Useful Skills: Being comfortable with numbers; being able to record, organise and present financial information; an ability to think logically and clearly.

Assessment: is based entirely on the terminal written examination.

Courses/Careers for which Accountancy is useful: Accountancy, Finance, Management, Business, Banking, Teaching, Computer Systems, Marketing, Taxation, Insurance.

BUSINESS is an exciting, practical and vocationally-oriented course that introduces students in simple and logical steps to the world of business.

The course aims to create an awareness of the importance of enterprise and to generate a positive and ethical attitude in both business and personal life.

The syllabus is broken up into 3 broad areas:

- People in business (the entrepreneurs, the managers, the workers and the consumers).
- Enterprise (taking the business ideas and developing them into effective business enterprises).

Environment (how business relates to and connects with the environment, both domestic and international).

Business Studies, though not essential, forms an intricate part of any 3rd level business course and is also relevant to numerous career opportunities such as: Clerical work, Customs and Excise, Law, Teaching, Sales, Management, Insurance, Taxation, Marketing.

Assessment: is based entirely on the terminal written exam in June.

Useful Skills: Ability to understand and summarise information; ability to express oneself in written format; ability to organise and present information.

Economics

Subject Overview

Economics focuses on "the ordinary business of life". It explains how we get our incomes, how we use them, the supply of resources and the production and exchange of goods and services. Decisions relating to these have social consequences, intended and unintended, which are also analysed in Economics.

Content

The syllabus for Leaving Certificate Economics offers students a broad introduction to economics. It introduces students to the nature of economics and to basic economic concepts. Following this introduction, the units of study undertaken are

- Production and consumption
- Economic systems and economic thought
- Demand and supply
- Price and output
- Factor incomes
- Determination of national income and its fluctuations
- Money and banking
- The Government in the economy
- Inflation
- International trade and payments
- Terms of trade
- Economics of population
- Economic growth and development
- Economic policies, problems and conflicts

Assessment

The syllabus is assessed by means of a terminal examination paper at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level.

Applied Sciences



Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES is the study of the construction of buildings and why they are made the way they are. The main focus of the course is on the domestic house but it also ranges from the construction of sports arena to skyscrapers. It is a practical course in which the student is given the opportunity to achieve 50% of their Leaving Certificate exam result during their Leaving Certificate year in a project and a practical exam. The other 50% is assessed in a written exam during the normal Leaving Certificate exams.

In class a student studies:

- How sound, light and heat affect the design of buildings.
- How to install electricity and plumb your home.
- How to build an extension.
- Calculate a U-value.
- How to buy your own house.
- How to get planning permission.
- How to survey a piece of land for construction.
- How to convert your attic.

Construction Studies is useful for: Architecture, Auctioneering, Building Construction, Teaching, Carpentry, Bricklaying, Civil and Structural Engineering, Environmental Design, Electrician, Town Planning, Quantity Surveyor, Firefighter, Plasterer, Painter/Decorator, Housing.

DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS (DCG) is the graphic language of Technology.

When Architects, Engineers and Interior Designers, for example, want to communicate their ideas or designs, they use Graphics. It has its own set of rules and regulations that govern how it is to be used, which are common throughout the world. DCG is an educational experience in the broadest sense as it provides students with a body of knowledge and develops their intellect and creative abilities in topics that are appropriate and meaningful in a technological world.

Assessment:

60% Examination

- Plane & Solid Geometry
- Engineering Applications
- Building Applications

40% Project on Computer Design Autocad

Subject Content:

Orthographic Projection, Solids in Contact, Developments/Envelopments – Label Design, Auxiliary Projection, Loci – Spirals, Interpenetration, Engineering Structures, Fabrication e.g. Roof Trusses etc., Mechanisms i.e. Cams, Gears etc., Autocad – Computer Drawing.

OR

Surveying & Mining i.e. Road Building, Site Layout etc., Building Structures i.e. Arches, Building Geometry, Roof Development, Presentation Drawings i.e. Perspective.

Careers: D&CG may be contributory towards a variety of careers, which might include: all engineering; interior design; architecture; building services; construction industry; teaching; town planning; army and air corps; apprenticeships; printing.

Social Studies



Art, History, Geography, Music, Home Economics, Religious Education

ART: The art course is comprised of Art Appreciation and History of Art, incorporating topics such as history, imaginative composition, still life, design, life sketching, 2 dimensional work, craft (pottery, screen and lino printing) and ceramic sculpture.

Art, craft and design education develops a number of important personal qualities, particularly those of initiative, perseverance, sensibility and self-reliance. It also develops a visual awareness and an appreciation of art, architecture and the environment. It is a broad-ranging course, giving students an appreciation of the aesthetic values of life.

Art is a highly versatile subject, which prepares pupils for a wide range of careers such as marketing and design in the industrial, commercial and advertising areas; media work in T.V. and video design production; fashion design and industry; craft businesses; product design.

Assessment: All the practical work (2/3rds) of the paper is completed in May; the remaining 1/3rd (History of Art) is completed in June.

Note: An art portfolio is required for entry to all third level art and design courses.

HISTORY: A revised syllabus was introduced in 2004. History is now examined by means of a terminal written examination (80%) and a report on a research study (20%). The terminal examination will include compulsory documents-based elements. The report on a research study will be submitted in advance of the terminal written exam. This Research Study can be about any aspect of history, in any period. The teacher will help and oversee this work but the choice of subject matter is that of the student. As this replaces the “special essay” which was examined in the old Leaving Certificate paper, less time is required for the exam, which has been reduced from a marathon of 3 hours 20 minutes to 2 hours 50 minutes. Ordinary level students follow an identical course, with a different emphasis in the way questions are asked on exam papers.

The study of history at Leaving Certificate fulfils many of the general aims and principles of the Leaving Certificate programmes.

- It emphasises the importance of individual thought.
- It fosters a spirit of inquiry and critical thinking.
- It helps to prepare students both for further education and for adult and working life.

It helps to prepare students for their role as active and participative citizens.

Career Opportunities: An interest in, and knowledge of history are relevant to any career related to current affairs – journalism, local and national radio and TV. History is valuable as a background to studies in law, town planning, architecture, politics, economics, sociology, music, art, museum and library work. History is a good training for administration, management and the world of business in general. History is a good all round education.

In the simplest terms **GEOGRAPHY** is the study of where places are, what they are like, what life is like in them, and how and why they are changing. It can help you to: read and use maps, atlases and diagrams; gain knowledge of the world and understand current events; appreciate different cultures in this country and abroad; become aware of the physical and human environments. In addition, knowledge, skills and attitudes learned in Geography can help you to understand topics in other subjects.

Geography provides an effective method for asking questions about: places, the natural environment and the capacity of the earth to support human life. It involves a pattern of enquiry that begins with two essential questions: **why** are such things located in those particular places and **how** do those particular places affect our lives?

Content of Course: The geography course consists of a range of core (Physical, Regional, Geographical Investigation), Elective (Economic, Social) and Optional (Global Interdependence, Geoecology, Culture and Identity, The Atmosphere-Ocean Environment) units. The Geographical Investigation (Fieldwork) is mandatory and is worth 20% (H) or 25% (O). The report on the Geographical Investigation will be submitted in advance of the terminal exam. Therefore the terminal exam is worth 80% (H) or 75% (O).

Geography as a preparation for a career: You are not alone if you do not yet know what you want to do in life. Geography gives you a wide foundation from which you may choose many options. It provides excellent preparation for fields such as environmental science, engineering, surveying, mapping, remote sensing, geology, hydrology, meteorology, land use planning, managing economic development at home and abroad. It is closely allied to business in the areas of industrial locations, transport networks, markets at home and throughout the world. Geographers are important to banks and other investment firms.

MUSIC is, in its own right, a way of “knowing” and a form of knowledge and it also encourages the cognitive processes used in other subject areas. It is an immensely useful subject.

The new syllabus - first examined in 1999 - continues to emphasise the integration of the three activity areas introduced at Junior Certificate level:

1. *Performance* (25%): Students may perform individually or as a group (Senior choir, band etc). The standard required is that of a student who has been performing in a school context for 5 years.
2. *Listening* (25%) - includes: (a) Four prescribed works of different historical context; (b) Irish music; (c) General aural skills, i.e. rhythm, melody, vocal & instrumental timbres
3. *Composition* (25%) - includes: melodic & harmonic composition, melody writing, adding chord symbols (e.g. guitar chords) to melody, adding bass notes (base line) to melody, exploring various styles of writing from popular to ‘classical’.
4. *Remaining 25%*: Students may undertake any one of the above activities as a “higher elective” e.g. performance could total 50 % of total.

The syllabus structure has been adopted to provide a fully balanced musical experience central to which is the development of musicality.

Career Areas: applicants with a well-rounded education are more likely to be successful in this competitive age. Music is useful for media work or studies, teaching, music therapy, music technology, sound engineering, public relations, library work, communications, performance and music at third level.

Note: it is possible to begin this syllabus with little knowledge of music theory or history but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc.) is desirable.

Home Economics

Subject Overview

The Home Economics syllabus prepares students for a consumer-oriented society and provides a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism. The subject is an applied subject combining theory with practice.

Content

The syllabus is based on a core of three areas of study that is studied by all students and one elective area, from a choice of three.

Core

- Food studies
- Resource management and consumer studies

Social studies

Electives

The elective allows students the opportunity to undertake a more detailed study of one area of the core.

There are three electives, from which one may be chosen:

- Home design and management
- Textiles, fashion and design
- Social studies

Assessment

Leaving Certificate Home Economics-Scientific and Social is assessed, at Ordinary and Higher level, as follows:

- A terminal examination paper

An assessment of the practical components of the programme, that is the food studies from the core area and the textiles, fashion and design elective (where applicable).

Examination paper 80%

Core: 60%

Electives: 20%

Assessment of practical coursework 20%

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION is one of the most important forces shaping history, culture, and personal experience. To understand religion is to understand--and develop a stance towards--the most pressing concerns in life. The approach to this study stresses critical reading and writing skills, a broad base of global understanding, and reflection on ethical issues.

Given the importance of moral, social, aesthetic, and other value questions in our lives, religion will expand your educational horizons. It will give you insight into the human condition as well as an international understanding of this and other cultures.

Course Content: The course consists of three units:

Unit One: The search for meaning and values

Unit Two:

Any two of: Christianity: origins and contemporary expressions ; World religions; Moral decision-making

Unit Three:

Any **one** of the following (excluding the two sections designated for coursework):

Religion and gender; Issues of justice and peace; Worship, prayer, and ritual; The Bible: literature and sacred text; Religion: the Irish experience; Religion and science.

Assessment: For the Leaving Certificate examination, the assessment procedure shall have two elements: 1. Coursework (20%), 2. Terminal written paper (80%).

Career Opportunities: The study of religion educates you in skills of analysis, interpretation, and comparison, and gives you a solid grounding in global cultures and social issues. This makes it relevant to any of the fields in which religion plays a role, as well as those that require similar skills of analysis and understanding. These include: Law, Journalism, International Business, Psychology, Social Work, Counselling, Politics, Medicine, Philosopher, Allied Health Professions, Religious Professions, Education.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)



St. Brendan's College offers LCVP to all students who are pursuing the Leaving Certificate Established. As such it is another subject so the typical Leaving Cert. student takes seven Leaving Cert. subjects plus the Link Modules in LCVP. However, a certain combination of subjects must be taken in order to do LCVP (see VSGs below).

About LCVP: LCVP is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate (established). The programme was introduced in 1994 in response to the challenge placed on Ireland's education system by a changing work and business environment. The LCVP combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate (established) with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, innovation and enterprise. This two-year programme is part of an expanded provision that aims to cater for the diversity of participants' needs at senior cycle.

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.

Throughout the programme students are encouraged to:

- Be innovative and enterprising
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Adapt to changing circumstances
- Evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
- Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
- Work with others as part of a team
- Investigate and plan career options
- Use information and communications technologies
- Investigate local businesses and community enterprises
- Learn from their experiences

These skills and qualities are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

The strong vocational focus of the LCVP is achieved by arranging Leaving Certificate subjects into Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) and through the provision of additional courses of study in work preparation and enterprise known as the **Link Modules**.

Programme Requirements

- At least five Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish
- Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings
- Two Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education
- A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English: students who are not taking a language to Leaving Cert. must take a language class for a minimum of one class period per week for two years or two classes per week for one year. However, they will not have to take an exam in this subject. If you do not have a language and want to do LCVP talk to Mr. Ed O'Neill and Mr. Jeremy Kenny for advice.

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)

Two subjects are selected from **one** of the Vocational Subject Groupings. These subjects provide students with a focus for developing vocational skills and exploring their career options.

The **Specialist Groupings** consist of subjects which complement one another naturally. The **Services Groupings** comprise subjects which complement one another in a commercial context.

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) 2016/2017
Specialist Groupings
1 Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology - Any Two
2 Physics and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
3 Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
4 Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
5 Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - Any Two
6 Home Economics and Art - Design Option or Craft Option
7 Accounting; Business; Economics - Any two
8 Physics and Chemistry
9 Biology and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
10 Biology and Agricultural Science
11 Art - Design Option or Craft Option and Design & Communication Graphics
Services Groupings
12 Engineering or Technology or Construction Studies or Design & Communication Graphics and Accounting or Business or Economics
13. Construction and Business or Account or Economics
14 Home Economics and Accounting or Business or Economics
15 Agricultural Science and Accounting or Business or Economics
16 Art Design or Craftwork Option and Accounting or Business or Economics
17 Music and Accounting or Business or Economics

The Link Modules

Link Module I – Preparation for the World of Work

Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them.

Link Module II – Enterprise Education

Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity and initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

Information and Communications Technology

Students taking the LCVP will have an opportunity to develop and apply their IT skills. Students should also have an opportunity to use audio-visual equipment and computer presentation packages for recording and presentation purposes. During the course of the programme students will develop skills to:

- Enter, edit, store, retrieve and print information
- Word process CVs, letters, reports and create illustrated documents
- Send and receive e-mail messages
- Access and use relevant information from CD Roms and the Internet

Assessment of the Link Modules

Assessment of the Link Modules

LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate. For the Link Modules they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

The structure of the Written Examination is as follows:

Section A Audio Visual Presentation

Section B Case Study (received in advance by students)

Section C General Questions (4 out of 6)

The Portfolio of Coursework accounts for 60% of total marks. Students assemble the portfolio over the two years of the programme and it is assessed at the end of the final year of the Leaving Certificate.

LINK MODULES - PORTFOLIO OF COURSEWORK
CORE ITEMS
Curriculum Vitae Career Investigation Enterprise/Action Plan Summary Report
OPTIONAL ITEMS (any two)
Diary of Work Experience Enterprise Report Recorded Interview/Presentation Report on My Own Place

Certification

LCVP students receive the same certificate as other Leaving Certificate students but their Certificate includes an additional statement of the results of the Link Modules.

Grades for the Link Modules are as follows:

Grade	Per cent
Distinction	80% – 100%
Merit	65% – 79%
Pass	50% – 64%

The Link Modules are recognised for points purposes by the Institutes of Technology and the Universities. The points are allocated as follows:

Grade	Universities and Institutes of Technology Award —2017 points
Distinction	66 points
Merit	46 points
Pass	28 points

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED



AN ALTERNATIVE LEAVING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence, which the Established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.

Why was the Leaving Certificate Applied introduced?

The Leaving Certificate Applied was introduced to recognise the talents of all students and provide opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed.

Who would benefit most from the Leaving Certificate Applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is intended to meet the needs of those students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes.

What is the advantage of the Leaving Certificate Applied?

The advantage of Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called *Sessions* and achievements are credited in each of these Sessions.

What courses/modules are offered?

[Leaving Certificate Applied Programme Statement](#)

[Vocational Preparation & Guidance](#)

[Mathematical Applications](#)

[English and Communications](#)

[Agriculture & Horticulture](#)

[Childcare/Community Care](#)

[Graphics and Construction Studies](#)

[Craft and Design](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Technology](#)

[Hotel, Catering & Tourism](#)

[Hair and Beauty](#)

[Office Administration & Customer Care](#)

[Active Leisure Studies](#)

[Information & Communication Technology \(Vocational Specialism\)](#)

[Introduction to Information & Communication Technology\(Mandatory Course\)](#)

[Dance](#)

[Drama](#)

[Music](#)

[Visual Art](#)

[An Ghaeilge](#)

[Modern Languages](#)

[Social Education](#)

[Leisure & Recreation](#)

[Sign Language](#)

[Science](#)

[Religious Education](#)

Do students have a choice within the Leaving Certificate Applied?

Each course consists of a number of modules. A module generally represents a half-year's work and there is provision for some choice of modules. Choice also exists in relation to *Vocational Specialisms*. Two courses are selected from the following:

- Agriculture/Horticulture
- Hotel Catering and Tourism
- Engineering
- Technology
- Office Administration and Customer Care
- Childcare/Community Care
- Graphics and Construction Studies
- Craft and Design
- Hair and Beauty
- Information and Communications Technology
- Active Leisure Studies

Four elective modules must also be chosen

What are elective modules?

Four elective modules must be chosen from course areas where extra modules are available. Two courses, Religious Education and Science also offer modules that can be taken as electives. It is not allowable to choose elective modules from Vocational Specialisms already being taken.

Do Leaving Certificate Applied students receive a Leaving Certificate?

Yes. Students who successfully complete the programme will receive a Leaving Certificate from the State Examinations Commission. All credits awarded will be recorded on the Leaving Certificate Applied parchment.

This certificate will be awarded at three levels:

Certificate Levels		
Award	Result	Credits
Pass	60-69 %	(120 – 139 credits)
Merit	70-84 %	(140 – 169 credits)
Distinction	85-100 %	(170 – 200 credits)

Candidates who acquire less than 120 credits will receive a Record of Experience. This will also apply to those who leave before the end of the programme.

The Leaving Certificate Applied assessment takes place over the two years under three headings:

- Satisfactory Completion of Modules
- Performance of Student Tasks

Performance in the Terminal Examinations.

At the end of each Session a student is credited on satisfactory completion of the appropriate modules.

Student Tasks are assessed by external examiners appointed by the Department of Education and Science. These Tasks may be in a variety of formats – written, audio, video, artefact etc. Each student is also required to produce a report on the process of completing the Task. This report may be incorporated in the evidence of task performance.

Terminal Examinations are provided in the following areas:

- English and Communication
- Two Vocational Specialisms
- Mathematical Applications
- Language (Gaeilge Chumarsáideach & Modern European Languages)
- Social Education

The written examinations will generally be held in the same period as the other Leaving Certificate examinations.

Oral examinations, as well as written/aural examinations, will be held in the case of all the languages including English and Communications.

Past examination papers, practical examination assignment briefs, marking schemes and Chief Examiner Reports are available to download from the website of the State Examinations Commission at www.examinations.ie

What opportunities are available to students who have successfully completed the Leaving Certificate Applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied has a strong vocational dimension which equips students with skills for the world of work and life-long learning.

Students wishing to further their education can do so by progressing into Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses. These are one-year courses (two in some cases) in a very wide range of specialist areas. PLC courses are at level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications www.nfq.ie

Graduates of the Leaving Certificate Applied who progress to an approved further education award (e.g. PLC) can become eligible for admission to some third level courses in the Institutes of Technology and following that to some degree courses in the Institutes of Technology and in the Universities. Check out progression route at <http://www.fetac.ie/hels>

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CAREERS INFORMATION?

More information on PLC courses can be accessed on www.qualifax.ie ;

Career Directions offers an A-Z of career Descriptions and entry routes www.careerdirections.ie . Check out www.careersportal.ie , an exciting new careers website providing information on a range of careers. You can also complete a self-assessment test and watch video clips where people talk about their jobs.

Other progression routes include:

www.fas.ie

www.garda.ie

www.publicjobs.ie

www.teagasc.ie

www.bim.ie

www.dublinbus.ie

www.military.ie

For more information on LCA go to www.lca.ie

OPTIONS AFTER THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE



College/University, PLC, Apprenticeship, Gardaí, Defense Forces

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:

Following the Leaving Certificate Established (Level 5) students may wish to progress on the National Qualifications Framework (see below). Entry is based on Leaving Certificate points (see below). Students may enter at Level 6, Level 7 or Level 8. The following is an outline of the differences between them:

Level 8:

Offered in both Universities and Institutes of Technologies (ITs).

Length: 3-4 years in Universities; 4 years in ITs.

Points are generally higher than Level 6/7 courses.

Graduate with an Honours Degree: Pass, 2.2 Hons, 2.1 Hons, 1.1 Hons.

Do not need to achieve a certain merit from year to year in order to progress.

Must complete the full term of years before being rewarded.

On its completion one can progress to Level 9 – Masters or Postgraduate.

Level 7:

Offered in Institutes of Technologies only.

Length: 3 years

Points are generally lower than Level 8 courses.

Graduate with an Ordinary Degree.

Some ITs offer a progression into a Level 8.

A certain grade needs to be achieved to make this progression.

A minority of colleges offer a reward of a Higher Certificate after 2 years.

MEDICINE - NEW APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To compete for entry to undergraduate medicine students must now both (1) achieve a minimum of 480 points (2) meet the minimum entry requirements and (3) sit the HPAT Ireland test.

The points and the minimum entry requirements must be got in ONE sitting of the Leaving Certificate.

The HPAT test result is valid for 2 years.

HPAT-IRELAND

2.5 hour paper-based test.

Multiple Choice

Consists of 3 modules:

Logical Reasoning and Problem-Solving

Interpersonal Understanding

Non-Verbal Reasoning.

For further detail: www.hpattireland.acer.edu.au or speak to your Guidance Counsellor.

POST-LEAVING CERTIFICATE (PLC):

If you have finished your secondary education in Ireland and would like to develop vocational and technological skills in order to get a job or to go into further education and training, the Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) course may be the one you are looking for. ***Both students of the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme and the Established Leaving Certificate can apply.***

PLC courses take place in schools, colleges and community education centres around the country. The courses are full-time and last for one to two years. They offer a mixture of "hands-on" practical work, academic work and work experience. They are designed as a step towards skilled employment and, as such, they are closely linked to industry and its needs. Post Leaving Certificate courses adopt an integrated approach, focusing on technical knowledge, core skills and work experience. Almost 50% of the time spent on these courses is devoted to knowledge and skill training related to employment, with a further 25% on relevant work-based experience.

Over 90% of PLC courses are delivered by VECs (vocational education committees). At present, over 1,000 courses are on offer in some 229 centres. A wide range of disciplines are covered including business, electronics engineering, computing, catering, sport and leisure, theatre and stage, performance art, art craft and design, equestrian studies, multi-media studies, journalism, tourism, marketing, childcare and community care, hairdressing and beauty care, applied science, horticulture etc. The qualification you receive at the end of your training will depend on the type of course you have chosen. ***Many of the one-year PLC courses offer Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) accreditation at level II, while other more advanced courses may offer FETAC level III, which can lead to further studies at third level.*** Other qualifications such as City and Guilds are also available. It is important to check out the qualification attached to a particular course before you decide to enrol.

In general, you should have finished your secondary education and taken your Leaving Certificate examination in order to be eligible for a PLC course. However, if you have work experience relevant to the course on offer or think you can demonstrate a particular ability in that area, you should write to the college where the course will take place. Explain your circumstances in the letter and ask to meet the co-ordinator of the course.

PLC maintenance grants are available for students who are registered on PLC courses. These are set by the Minister for Education and Science each year. The maintenance grant does not cover the charge for registration or examinations. Contact your local VEC for application details or check out www.studentfinance.ie for further details.

Apply: Find the course in which you are most interested and apply directly to the school or college offering that course. Because the courses are work-related, you will probably be called for an interview before a final selection is made. These interviews are often quite informal and offer you the opportunity to discuss your particular interest in the course.

Useful Research Sites:

www.qualifax.ie →Search Courses→Post Leaving Cert.→Type in an area of interest e.g. Engineering, Sport etc.

www.fetac.ie

www.education.ie (Department of Education & Science provides a list of colleges).

www.cao.ie

www.nfq.ie

REMEMBER – If you did not get the Leaving Cert. points required for a particular course at an IT or University you can do a PLC course and that will gain you entry instead of your Leaving Cert. However, you must check with the IT or University to see what PLC course (FETAC award) they will accept for entry. In addition, you must still meet the minimum entry requirements for the IT or University or 8 distinctions in your PLC course will also be accepted for most colleges.

Subject Choice Form for the Senior Cycle

The list of subjects to choose from are as follows:

- Accounting
- Agricultural Science
- Applied Maths
- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Construction Studies
- Design and Communications Graphics
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Home Economics
- Music
- Physics
- Religion