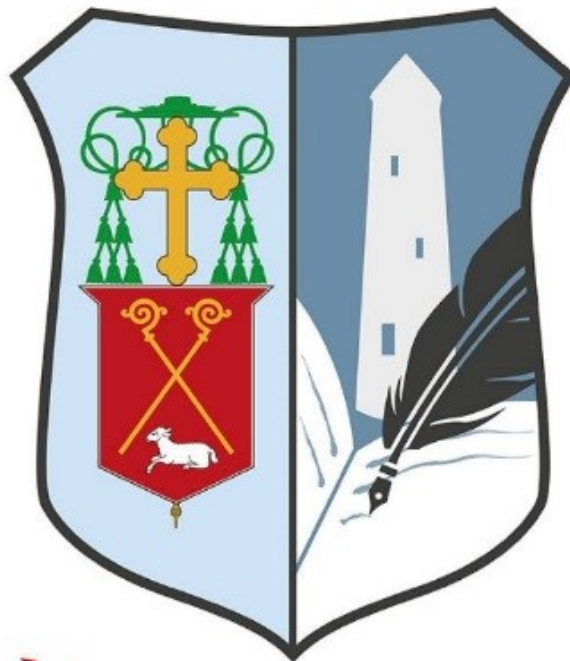


# Coláiste Chiaráin

## SENIOR CYLCE OPTIONS 2019

*Coláiste Chiaráin*



*Neart le chéile*

[www.colaistechiarainathlone.ie](http://www.colaistechiarainathlone.ie)

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## Welcome to Coláiste Chairáin's

### Senior Cycle Options

Senior Cycle may be of two or of three year's duration depending on whether students opt to take Transition Year in the first year of senior cycle, before they follow the two-year Leaving Certificate Programme. The Department of Education and Skills and individual teachers generally advise students to take Transition Year (TY) as its benefits are obvious in the performance of students in their final Leaving Certificate Examination (approximately 30 points or more) and in the maturity exhibited by students who follow the programme.

#### How The Points System Works

Points are allocated on the basis of Leaving Certificate Results. They are awarded on the basis of the student's six best results. ***These results must come from one sitting of the Leaving Certificate.*** While it is possible to combine results obtained over several sittings for requirements ***it is not possible to combine for points.***

The Department of Education and Skills introduced a new Leaving Certificate grading scale scheme which will apply to students sitting the Leaving Certificate examination from 2017 onwards. Details are outlined below.

The new scheme no longer uses grade bands (A1, A2 and so on).

The new scale has 8 grades at both Higher and Ordinary levels- the highest grade is a Grade 1, the lowest grade a Grade 8.

Grades 1-7 run (in 10% grade bands) from 100% to 30% and Grade 8 is for percentage marks for 0 to 29.9%.

The table below shows the revised points system introduced for 2017:

<b>Higher</b>		<b>Ordinary</b>	
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>H1</b>	100		
<b>H2</b>	88		
<b>H3</b>	77		
<b>H4</b>	66		
<b>H5</b>	56	<b>O1</b>	56
<b>H6</b>	46	<b>O2</b>	46
<b>H7</b>	37	<b>O3</b>	37
<b>H8</b>	0	<b>O4</b>	28
		<b>O5</b>	20
		<b>O6</b>	12
		<b>O7</b>	0
		<b>O8</b>	0

**The main features of the new scale are that:**

- It will encourage the take-up of Higher Level subjects through the introduction of points for the new H7 grade.
- It continues to award Bonus Points for Higher Level Maths.
- You can [read more on www.transition.ie](http://www.transition.ie).

**LCVP LINK MODULES Revised points introduced in 2017**

GRADE	Previous Points	Revised Points
Distinction	70	66
Merit	50	46
Pass	30	28

**Selecting Subjects for Leaving Certificate:**

There are three core subjects that all students take: Irish (unless exempt), English and Maths. Then students choose four others from the list below (LCVP also if applicable).

Most students will choose a language which leaves three others to select and, possibly, LCVP. When choosing subjects it is very important that students study the requirements they will need for the third level course / training of their choice.

**There are three types of requirements:****1. College Requirements:**

All Higher Educational Institutes (HEI) have general entry requirements common to all their courses, for example, the minimum entry requirement for the universities that are part of the National University of Ireland (NUI) is **6 subjects**, including English, Irish and a third language. In two of these subjects, students must have achieved **two H5 and four O6/H7** grades. (formerly two Grade C at Higher Level and four Ordinary D3 grades).

For TCD, it is three H5 and 3 O6/H7 in 2017 (formerly 3 Higher Level C and 3 Ordinary D3 grades).

Where the requirement is currently 5 Ordinary D3 grades, these will become **5 O6/H7 grades**.

## 2. Course Requirements:

Certain courses will require additional Leaving Certificate achievements, for example:

- Level 8 Engineering Courses require honours Maths
- Primary Teaching requires honours Irish
- Journalism & Communications requires honours English
- Veterinary Medicine/Dentistry/Dietetics: all require Chemistry
- Commerce - Accountancy in NUI Galway requires honours Accountancy
- Theoretical Physics, TCD requires Physics H3
- Biotechnology in NUI Galway requires a third language.

## 3. Points Requirements:

Every course has cut-off points which are determined each year by that year's Leaving Certificate Applicants. Places in courses are awarded on the basis of Applicant's results in descending order from the top result until all places are filled. The points of the last Applicant to gain a place are released by the CAO office. Where there are several Applicants on the last set of points, but not enough places, selection is made on the basis of Random Selection (basically, a lottery indicated by an asterix\* after the points). *The new system will eliminate much of this random selection.*

## ADVICE ON SUBJECT SELECTION

Try to decide which career areas you might be interested in. There are many self-awareness exercises you can do which might help with this. The following all have Interest Inventories that can help you narrow down your interests:

- ✓ [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) (register before you take the Interest Profiler or you won't get an individualised list of occupations)
- ✓ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) (go to interest assessment)
- ✓ [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) – “what jobs suit me”.
- ✓ You can also google other Interest Inventories.

When you know your areas of interest check out what the requirements are. To do this, go to [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) and go into “course search”, then click on “Higher Options CAO”. This will give you all the requirements for every course in the country. You can check other specific course categories: UCAS courses, PLC courses (Post Leaving Cert Courses), Teagasc, Failte Ireland, Apprenticeships etc.

***If you're not sure of your eventual career choice make sure to keep your options open.*** If unsure, it is advisable to do one science subject in order to meet any science requirement for general Health / Science / Engineering courses. If you think you might like to do Business in third level it is advisable to take one of the business subjects, particularly Accountancy or Economics, as you will have to study both of these in Third Level Business/Commerce courses.

***It's very difficult to do well in a subject you don't like.*** Interest is vital for success. Another important consideration is your aptitude for the subject. Ask yourself, “am I good at it?” Talk to your Junior Certificate Teachers; ask their advice on your aptitude for a subject or branch of a subject (Science and Business split in Senior Level into three distinct subject areas).

Talk to Ms. Egan / Ms. Kennedy re. DATS results (Differential Aptitude Test). They would like to see all of you individually. Talk to adults or students familiar with an area of study. Talk to your parents/guardians and ask for their opinion.

Try to choose your 7<sup>th</sup> subject option with points in mind. Which subject will I find easiest? All subjects score exactly the same in terms of points (except Maths) so try to maintain a balance between interest, course requirements and points.

## **LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS ON OFFER**

### **Accounting:**

If you enjoy working with numbers, are well organised, have a logical mind, and are interested in money you should consider Accounting. The course is mainly very practical, numerically based and has a small amount of theory.

Useful Traits/Skills: You need to have good computational skills, strong reasoning skills, accuracy and attention to detail. The tasks involved in the career are diverse and also include teamwork, communication, detective skills and problem solving skills.

Useful for careers in: Financial and Management Accountancy, Auditing, Banking, Financial Services, Insurance, Law, Taxation, Local and Central Government, Health Service, Self-Employment etc. A challenging, secure career that can take you to the heights of your capabilities, which is in high demand worldwide.

Requirement: NUI Galway: H4 in Accounting for B. Commerce (Accounting). CAO Code GY207

The course includes the following sections: Final Accounts, Club / Farm / Service Accounts, Interpretation of Financial Statements, Costing, Budgeting, Break-Even Analysis.

### **Agricultural Science:**

The number of students taking Ag Science in the past number of years has increased dramatically. Having a farm is not a requirement as a student can adopt one and therefore any student interested in studying the subject may do so.

Useful Traits: Interested in the animal world and the natural world around us. Interest in environmental issues. Practical, analytical, good at applied work.

Useful for Careers in Farming, Forestry, Ecology, Biotechnology, Zoology, Marine Biology, Animal welfare, Microbiology, Food Industry, Horse Industry etc.



Agricultural Science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning the factors that affect the long-term well-being of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources.

The course consists of the study of a variety of aspects of agriculture under the following headings: Soils, the general structure and function of plants' farm crops - cereal and roots, Farm crops – grassland, trees and shelter, structure and function of the animal body, the cow, the sheep, horse, and pig, farm buildings (for school assessment only), farm-house environment (for school assessment only)

### **Art:**

Most students taking Art will be following on from Junior Cert. At Leaving Cert, Art involves work on the history and appreciation of Art design or craftwork.

Useful Traits/Skills Creative flair, imagination, thinking “outside the box,” good Spatial Reasoning Aptitude.

Essential for: Some courses in Art / Design and Architecture (+ portfolio).

Useful for Careers in Animation, Architecture, Art Therapy, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Fashion, Printing, Interior Design, Sculpture, Teaching,

The Leaving Certificate Art syllabus is a broadly based course, which is made up of four units. These units should be linked together and based on the everyday visual experience of the student's own environment. All students, both Ordinary and Higher levels, follow a common course.

The practical work can include Life Sketching, Still Life, Imaginative Composition and Craftwork. The History of Art and Appreciation is a broad course covering Irish and European Art, and also Art Appreciation. It requires looking at artworks through the use of reproductions, slides and art galleries, reading books and writing essays on different subjects

The standard and quality of work determine the difference in levels. The modes of assessment include (a) Three practical examinations carried out in May. These are

- Life Sketching
- Still Life/Imaginative Composition or Abstract Composition

- Design or Craftwork 63% and  
(b) History of Art & Appreciation (written) in June: 37%

### **Biology:**

This is often perceived as an easier subject than Physics or Chemistry but this is not so. There are high failure rates at Ordinary Level Biology.

Useful Traits: Interested in Physiology and the composition of the world around us. Practical, analytical, good at applied work.

Essential for Genetics in UCC, Human Health & Disease TCD, Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing.

Useful for Careers in: Medicine, Healthcare, Oceanography, Ecology, Biotechnology, Zoologist, Marine Biology, Nursing, Microbiology, Emergency Medical Technician, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Healthcare, Science, Dental Hygiene, Biotechnology, Sport's Science.

Biology is the study of life. Through the study of biology, students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment. They become aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment.

The syllabus consists of approximately 70% biological knowledge, understanding and skills; the remaining 30% deals with the technological, political, social and economic aspects of biology. In addition there are 22 mandatory practical tasks involved also in the course, which requires good practical and analytical skills.

### **Business:**

This subject deals with current realities of a fast-changing business environment. It encourages regular attention to the business pages of the quality newspapers. It looks at how organisations are formed, financed and run. It also explores the services that support businesses such as insurance, banking, transport, as well as public service.

**Useful Traits:** Need to be interested in what's happening in the business world on a National and International level, how they operate.

**Useful for Careers in:** Administration, Business, Banking, Marketing, HR, PR, Insurance, Teaching, Enterprise.

This is a practical and vocationally oriented course that introduces students to the world of Business in a straightforward and logical way. It aims to create an awareness of the importance of Business activity and to develop a positive and ethical attitude towards it. The importance of people in Business is highlighted. The course sets out to illustrate the process of setting up a business and developing a new product or service. It emphasises the importance of good management and deals with skills and activities necessary for good management practice. It also deals with the impact of technology, foreign trade, global firms and competition and with business structures and the national economy

### **Chemistry:**

Students taking chemistry have to study a series of prescribed experiments. They will be required to presents the elements of three such experiments in their examination in Section A.

**Useful Traits:** Need to be curious about the composition of substances and the changes they undergo under certain conditions and when combined with other substances. Need to be good at Maths (B in honours Junior Certificate Science advisable). Good at understanding and learning formulae. Need to really like Science. Analytical.

**Essential for:** Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Dietetics / Nutrition, Medicine & Dentistry in UCC, 5 year Medicine Course UCD, Medicine in R.C.S.I.

**Useful for Careers in:** Agriculture, Dentistry, Dietetics, Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, Research, Science, Biotechnology, Food Science, and Teaching.

The subject aims to provide a relevant course for students who will complete their study of chemistry at this level while, at the same time, providing a foundation course for those who will continue to study chemistry or related subjects following completion of their Leaving Certificate. The syllabus consists

of approximately 70% pure chemistry; the remaining 30% deals with the social and applied aspects of chemistry. Experiments are mandatory.

The course includes: Periodic Table and Atomic Structure, Chemical Bonding, Stoichiometry, Formulas and Equations, Volumetric Analysis, Fuels and Heats of Reaction, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Equilibrium, Environmental Chemistry:

### **Construction:**

Construction Studies introduces students to the knowledge and skills associated with construction technology and construction materials and practices. This is achieved through theoretical study and integrated practical projects (hands-on experience) working with tools and machinery. Students also undertake theoretical and background work for their final examination.

Useful Traits: Need to have a flair for space relations – and an understanding of 3D designs and drawing. It is a practical subject and involves project work (model of a building and a report). Students need to think logically, be creative, co-ordinated and skilful in carrying out assignments. An understanding of maths is advisable, and students should be analytical.

Leaving Certificate Exam: Approx. 50% of Exam for Project (model of building and written report 25% x 2) and a written exam in June.

Useful for: Courses in Furniture/design and careers in construction industry in general, design and engineering, Teaching.

These practical subjects give students hands-on experience working with tools, machinery and physical items such as wood. Students who enjoy working with their hands get to design and make products. Students also have to undertake quite an amount of theoretical and background work for their final examination.

### **Design & Communication Graphics (DCG, formerly Technical Drawing):**

Design and Communication Graphics provides students with the opportunity for visualizing and comprehending information presented verbally or graphically. Problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2- and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and

design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.

*Useful Traits:* Good Spatial Reasoning, Good manipulation & dexterity Skills and design sensitivity.

*Useful for:* Architecture, Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Auctioneering, Mechanical Engineering, Construction Studies and Product Design.

DCG provides students with the skills to visualize and prepare drawings of information presented verbally or graphically. It uses drawings to analyse and solve two-and three-dimensional problems using geometric principles in a manner consistent with the development of creativity and overall design sensitivity. The use Solid Works as a design and problem solving tool 3D parametric CAD software) is an essential component of the course.

Assessment:

- A Terminal Written Exam (worth 60% of total assessment) examined in one paper of 3-hour duration (instead of the current system of two papers of 6 hour duration).
- Project Work (worth 40% of total assessment) submitted on disk and as hardcopy to the Department of Education before the State Examinations commences. The project will focus on modes of design communication with emphasis on and use of ICT, CAD, freehand sketching and presentation skills.

## **Economics:**

Economics is a way of thinking about how people make decisions and interact with each other. 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. These national considerations are macroeconomics. Microeconomics deals with how individual firms compete in the market place.

*Useful Traits:* A general interest in how economies operate at national Level and how we manage our finances at individual household level also.

Need a good understanding of how markets operate and how we are affected  
By inflation, interest rates, natural disasters etc.

*Useful for Careers in:* Accounting, Administration, Banking, Financial Services, Hospitality, Journalism, Civil Service, Marketing, PR, Teaching etc.

The course includes: 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

### **Geography:**

Geography is concerned with the study of people and their environment. The subject will help students develop an understanding of the changing relationships between the physical and human worlds.

*Useful Traits:* Interest in the physical environment and, how it impacts on us and we impact on it socially, economically and environmentally. Ability to analyse photographs, diagrams, charts. Sketching skills also.

*Meets 2nd Science Requirement for TCD Courses: Pharmacy, Medicinal Chemistry, Science. Also meets requirement for UCD Science courses.*

*Useful for Careers in:* Agriculture, Engineering, Cartography, Construction, Environmental Studies, Town Planning, Mineralogy, Mining, Surveying, and Teaching.

The course is divided into core, elective and optional units of study. Ordinary level students study all core units and one of the elective units. Higher level students study all core units, one of the elective units and one of the optional units.

**Core Units:** Patterns and processes in the physical environment, Regional geography, The Geographical Investigation and skills unit.

**Elective Units:** Patterns and processes in economic activities, Patterns and processes in the human environment

**Optional Units:** Global interdependence, Geoecology, Culture and identity, the atmosphere-ocean environment.

Assessment is divided between written exam 80% and a Report on a Geographical Investigation 20%

### **History:**

History deals with the experience of human life in the past. Students would need to be good readers and skilled at investigating and analysing material. The study of history involves an investigation of the surviving evidence relating life in the past.

Traits / Aptitudes: Need to be good at reading and understanding information, curious about people in the past, inquiring, good at research, logical, good at essay writing. Interest in current affairs.

Useful for: Politics, Law, Foreign Service, Journalism, Communications and Teaching.

The course structure comprises two interlinking parts as follows:

- **Working with Evidence:** Dictatorships, Modern Irish History, The United States and The Wider World & an Investigative Field Study (which comprises 20% of overall marks).
- **Topics for Study:** A document-based question, the topic for which changes every second year. Past examples are: Ireland 1870-1914 and The Stalin Show Trials.

### **Home Economics:**

Home Economics is concerned with the management of resources (material and human) to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs of individuals and families. The study of home economics emphasises the interdependent relationships that exist between individuals, families and their immediate and distant environments.

Useful Traits: Interest in the relationship between food and health/nutrition. Food preparation and applications of skills. Raising an awareness of the social issues that occur within our society. Management of household financial resources.

**Essential for:** B.Ed. in Home Economics in St Angela's College if you don't have a Science subject. Complements the study of Biology and Ag. Science.

**Useful for Careers in:** Confectionary, Chef, Consumer Affairs, Dietetics, Food Science, Health Inspection, Hospitality Industry, and Teaching.

The Home Economics syllabus provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work.

All students study the three core subjects:

- Food studies
- Resource management and consumer studies
- Social studies

In addition they study one elective from the following:

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

The examination is divided into a terminal exam for 80% and a practical assignment for 20%

### **Languages:**

The four main elements are reading comprehension, oral, aural and written presentation. The emphasis is on the ability to comprehend and converse in the language studied. This is reflected in the fact that 45% of the final marks awarded are for aural and oral work.

**Useful Traits:** Interested in foreign cultures and societies, Good ear for languages.

**Essential for:** Entry to NUI Colleges - Dublin, Galway, Cork and Maynooth; RCSI; Pontifical University Maynooth, Shannon College, Cadets; St. Angela's College for Home Economics, European Studies, any course with a Language Component, (e.g. International Marketing, Commerce & a Language, Law & a Language etc.).



Useful for: All Careers (employers love it and constantly complain at how few Graduates have a working language). Essential for Translation Work, Interpreting, E.U. work in all areas.

There is a common syllabus framework for the teaching and examining of modern languages in the Leaving Certificate. There are three aims in teaching languages: to develop good basic communication competency in the language, to develop good language awareness (structure and vocabulary etc), and to instil a cultural awareness of the country and its people.

Topics studied include: Learning in the chosen language about its culture, Reading modern literature in the language, describing everyday life in the language, examining and discussing in the language aspects of its relationship with Ireland, General global issues discussed in the language.

### **Music:**

Leaving Certificate Music involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening. In performing, students choose from a variety of individual and/or group performing activities. In composing, students develop an understanding of musical structure and form, while the listening component provides for rich aural experiences through exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres.

Useful Traits: Creative, a Flair for, and interest in, Music.

Essential for: Entry to designated Music Courses e.g. BA Music in Third Level

Useful for Careers in: Music Industry, Orchestras, Primary Teaching, Secondary Teaching, Dance, Media, and Drama etc.

The content of this syllabus involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening. Each area is worth 25% with an extra 25% going to whichever of the areas the student wants to specialise in, thus allowing her to

undertake 50% of her work in the musical activity that best suits her interests and talents.

The modes of assessment include

- a practical examination in individual and/or group performing
- a combined aural and written examination in composing and listening to music.

Higher level students whose specialist option is composing will also present samples of their work for assessment.

### **Physics:**

This subject aims to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life. Science, technology and society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus so that students can be aware of the principles of the applications of physics in the everyday world.

Useful Traits: Good at Maths, Investigative, good Logical Reasoning.

Essential for: Theoretical Physics in UCD.

Useful for: Engineering, Electronics, Physiotherapy, Radiography, and Optometry.

Useful for Careers in: Technology, Engineering & Electronics, Astronomy, Meteorology, Geophysicist.

The course includes: Mechanics, Temperature, Heat, Waves, Science/Technology/Society (STS), Vibrations & Sound, Light, Electricity, Modern Physics (either Particle Electricity or Applied Electricity)

Students follow a course of practical work, with prescribed experiments in each of the main sections of the syllabus. Students are required to keep a record of this work.

### **Technology:**

Technology gives students a basic understanding of the principles of engineering, design and project management. If you enjoyed the technology

programme at Junior cert level, and like hands-on activity, this subject may develop an interest in a career in engineering or technology.

**Traits:** This subject integrates problem solving and practical skills in the production of useful artefact and systems. Skills of design and realisation and an understanding and aptitude of space relations and abstract reasoning are helpful. Computer skills are beneficial. A good understanding of maths is also useful.

50% Project and 50% Terminal Exam

**Useful for careers in:** Technology, engineering – in the many areas of engineering, Health and safety skills. Also for green technology and high end technology careers.

Technology gives the student a basic understanding of the principles of engineering, design and project management. It looks at technology in society and relationships of products and everyday designs as well as problem solving techniques.

Since 2011 Technology may be substituted as a laboratory science subject, for entry to Engineering in UCC, NUI Galway and Maynooth University.

### **Useful Websites:**

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) / [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

[www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

## LCVP (Leaving Cert Vocational Programme)

### What is the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme?

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is comprised of a full Leaving Certificate plus 2 Link Modules:

- **ENTERPRISE EDUCATION**
- **PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD OF WORK**

### What is its purpose and why was it introduced?

The LCVP was introduced in response to the changing needs of Ireland's education system and the changing work and business environment. The Programme aims to prepare students for the real world where the ability to cope with rapid change is of increasing importance in preparation for social and economic life.

The programme balances the virtues of the traditionally academic Leaving Certificate with the development of skills and qualities which will prove relevant to the lives of students on leaving school for further education, the world of work or the business of making a living.

The content of the LCVP has common ground with the needs of the business community where changing work environments need new employees to be well educated in the broadest sense, adaptable self-starters, multi-skilled problem-solvers and potential lifelong learners, familiar with a range of technologies.

### What value is the LCVP to a student going to third level?

Points gained in the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme may be used for entry into all 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions. Each college awards points as indicated below:

**Distinction:** 66 Points = H4

**Merit:** 46 Points = H6/O2

**Pass:** 38 Points = H7/O3

In addition, skills learned through LCVP such as planning, researching, writing reports, teamwork, making presentations and ICT skills are keys to your success at third level.

### **What do students study on the LCVP?**

Most LCVP students will take SEVEN Leaving Certificate subjects plus the Link Modules.

The core of the LCVP includes the following elements which students **MUST TAKE**:

- Irish (unless student holds an exemption)
- Two Leaving Certificate subjects from ONE of the Subject Groupings
- A Leaving Certificate Continental Language (or Module)
- Two Link Modules – Enterprise Education and Preparation for the World of Work

### **How does the LCVP enhance your Leaving Certificate?**

The LCVP strengthens the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate by linking subjects into vocational groupings which students take and by adding two Link Modules (Enterprise Education and Preparation for the World of Work) for study which sharpen the vocational focus of other subjects taken by students. The vocational dimension raises students' awareness of and prepares them for the world of work and further study.

### **In what ways will students benefit from taking LCVP?**

Students who take the LCVP will benefit in several ways. Through the Programme's focus on personal development, they will be able to:

- Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively.
- Take responsibility for their own learning.
- Work as a member of a team or group.
- Adapt and cope with changing circumstances.

Through the Programme's focus on the world of work they will have:

- Knowledge of the world of work.
- Skills for job seeking.

- Undertaken work experience or participated in work simulation.
- Have increased focus on their individual career goals

Through the Programmes' focus on enterprise, business and technology they will:

- Be more innovative and enterprising.
- Be used to working in teams.
- Be familiar with setting up and running enterprising initiatives.
- Have much improved ICT skills.

Through these benefits, LCVP students will be more employable. They will be in a better position to set up their own business. In addition, they will have skills and aptitudes which will enable them to be more effective learners in the further education they receive at third level.

### **What do employers think of the LCVP?**

Employers are very enthusiastic about the LCVP and LCVP students. For many years, employers have felt that the education system did not prepare students well for the world of work and for the business of making a living. In a rapidly changing, increasingly technological world, employers feel more than ever the need for new employees to be well educated in the broadest sense, adaptable, multi-skilled, good communicators, capable of making decisions and potential lifelong learners. The LCVP contributes to meeting these needs directly so it is no surprise that employers, familiar with the LCVP, see its students as being generally more employable.

### **What is a Link Module?**

Students take two Link Modules or short courses as part of the LCVP. These are:

<b>Enterprise Education</b>	<b>Preparation for Work/Work Experience</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate business enterprises.</li> <li>• Meet and interview enterprising people in business and in your community.</li> <li>• Plan and undertake activities with the class to develop self-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop job-seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview preparation.</li> <li>• Research and investigate local employment opportunities.</li> <li>• Gain valuable practical experience of the world of work.</li> <li>• Investigate and work shadow a person in a career of interest, complete a career</li> </ul>

confidence, creativity and initiative.	investigation.
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**How are Link Modules Assessed?**

The two Link Modules are treated as a unit for assessment purposes. Assessment is at a common level. On completion of the programme, students must present evidence in relation to the specific learning outcomes. The evidence will be provided in the form of an **Exam** and a **Portfolio**.

**TERMINAL EXAMINATION PAPER – 40% OF TOTAL MARKS**

**Date:** End of final year of the LCVP (normally in early May)

**Duration:** Two and a half hours

**Content:** **Section A:** Audio-visual presentation  
**Section B:** Case Study  
**Section C:** General Questions (four out of six)

**Portfolio of Coursework – 60% of total marks**

**Date:** Assessed at the end of the final year of the LCVP

**Duration:** Assembled over two years of the Programme

**Content:**

**Section 1:** Core Items:  
Curriculum Vitae  
Career Investigation  
Summary Report  
Action Plan

**Section 2:** Optional Items: (two out of four)  
Diary of Work Experience  
Enterprise Report  
Recorded Interview/Presentation  
Report on “My Own Place”

Grades: Grades awarded are:

<b>Distinction:</b>	<b>(80 – 100%)</b>	<b>66 Points</b>
<b>Merit:</b>	<b>(65 – 79%)</b>	<b>46 Points</b>
<b>Pass</b>	<b>(50 – 64%)</b>	<b>38 Points</b>

**How much extra study is involved in the Link Modules?**

The activities involved in the Link Modules, such as the organisation and the running of mini enterprises, visits to businesses and industry and investigations of the local community, do take time but the enthusiasm of LCVP students for these activities means that they seldom associate them with the idea of “extra study”. Preparation of the portfolio is demanding but very rewarding in terms of developing the skills of report writing and ICT. The terminal exam does demand extra study, but many questions are based around student experiences over the course of the programme rather than rote learning.

**What are the subject groupings?**

The subject groupings aim to link regular Leaving Certificate subjects into groupings which, when taken by the student, will give them special insights into a particular vocational area. For example, students taking the subject grouping of Home Economics and Business combined with their study of the Link Modules should gain insights into tourism and catering business and general study of the services sector of industry.

**There are two types of subject groupings:**

1. Specialist Groupings – subject groupings which naturally complement one another, for example, Accounting and Business.
2. Services Groupings – subject groupings which complement one another in a commercial context, for example, Construction Studies and Business.



<b><i>Vocational Subject Groupings Table 2017/2018 (updated each year)</i></b>
<b><i>Specialist Groupings</i></b>
1 Construction Studies; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology - Any Two
2 Physics and Construction Studies or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
3 Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
4 Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics
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
10 Biology and Agricultural Science
11 Art - Design Option or Craft Option and Design & Communication Graphics
<b><i>Services Groupings</i></b>
12 Technology or Construction Studies or Design & Communication Graphics and Accounting or Business or Economics
13 Home Economics and Accounting or Business or Economics
14 Agricultural Science and Accounting or Business or Economics
15 Art Design or Craftwork Option and Accounting or Business or Economics
16 Music and Accounting or Business or Economics

### **School Policy on the LCVP**

All students who qualify for the programme (by having Two Leaving Certificate subjects from ONE of the Subject Groupings) are actively encouraged to participate in the Link Modules. Past students of the Programme attest to the invaluable development of employability skills and qualities which hugely enhanced their work and study lives later. In addition, the vast majority of those who participate will increase their CAO points.

**The LCVP Programme is currently under review by the NCCA**

**You may find the below article useful:**

**The Essential Guide: Choosing Your Leaving Cert Subjects  
Brian Mooney, Irish Independent**

*SELECTING THE right subjects for the Leaving, and the level at which to take them, is a critical task faced by 60,000 second-level students every year. The wrong choice here can have unintended consequences in two years' time, when students find paths into college are blocked by unfortunate subject gaps. **There are good reasons why students tend to have a science subject and a third language in their arsenal** and, as you will find if you read on, there are no "soft" options on the Leaving Cert exam.*

**1 GETTING IT RIGHT**

*Your schools will probably offer you the option of studying seven subjects. Your best six grades, achieved in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate or its equivalent, will be used to calculate your point score for entry purposes to college courses.*

*If you are taking more than one ordinary level paper from the beginning of your two-year Leaving Cert programme, you may want the option of having six higher-level papers for points' purposes.*

*You can only achieve this by taking an extra subject either inside or outside school. You need to be very careful before considering this option. **There is no such thing as an easy higher level paper and every subject requires considerable time commitment and effort on your part.** Eight subjects are a major undertaking. If the additional subject is being studied outside school, you will have to factor in the time travelling to and from such a grind. All this time and effort eats into the time available to you to work on the seven subjects you are studying in school.*

**2. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT TAKE HIGHER LEVEL IRISH?**

*Apart from ruling out a number of honours degree programmes (Level 8) which have Irish as a core entry requirement, the main consequence of dropping higher level Irish is that you are precluded from studying to be a primary school teacher in any of the Irish training colleges.*

**3. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT TAKE HIGHER LEVEL MATHS?**

*There are many Level 8 degree programmes you can't take if you don't get a minimum of H4 (now 60%) (C3) in higher-level maths; engineering, computer science, science, information and computer technology courses and most degrees that include maths as a core subject.*

*If you are interested in any of these courses you could start your third level journey with a two-year higher certificate programme, which will require a minimum of a 06 (D3) in ordinary level maths. Provided you secure a minimum of 60 per cent in your various examinations, you can then progress on to ordinary degree level and from there to an honours bachelor's degree. This entire process may add only one or two extra years to your studies, over and above those who secure a place on an honours bachelor's degree programme, immediately after their Leaving Cert.*

**4. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT TAKE A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN IRISH AND ENGLISH?**

*The colleges of the National University of Ireland require a pass in a third language for entry into a large number of their courses. These colleges are NUI Maynooth, Dublin, Galway and Cork, and a range of associated constituent colleges, all of which are listed on the NUI website at [nui.ie](http://nui.ie) In recent years NUI colleges have dropped their third language requirement for engineering and science programmes. UCD has also dropped it for their agricultural programmes. Nursing at NUI colleges never required a third language. A third language must be included for arts, human sciences, law, social science (except in UCD), commerce, medicine and health sciences and some other degrees. This year Maynooth University has dropped the Third Language requirement for all its financial/business courses. A third language is also a requirement for entry into the cadetship in the army or air corps.*

*Trinity accepts Irish as a second language requirement. UL and DCU and the Institutes of Technology do not require a continental language for entry purposes to most of their courses, apart from those which involve the study of such a language.*

**5. WHAT'S THE EASIEST SUBJECT IN THE LEAVING CERT AND WHAT'S THE HARDEST?**

*No Leaving Cert subject is easy.... but some can be easier than others. It may be of use to note the subjects that have projects/practical assignments – and not have 100% pressure on the day in June.*

**6. WHAT COMBINATIONS OF SUBJECTS WORK?**

*You should attempt to select a balanced range of subjects that will leave your further and higher education options open for as long as possible. Most students study Irish (unless exempted), English and maths. A large majority of students also study a continental language, or for those students coming originally from outside the EU, a native language approved by the State Examination Commission.*

*In selecting your remaining three subjects, you should study carefully the essential subjects for entry to every third level course, available online at [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) so you are aware of the minimum subject entry requirements for all courses offered through the CAO. Unless you have a specific career or course interest that is guiding your remaining subject choices, my advice is to spread your final three choices across the entire spectrum of business, scientific, liberal arts and practical subjects. You should also be mindful of the results of previous examinations and aptitudes test results when making these choices.*

***The Most Important Piece of Advice***

*A pass in ordinary level maths is essential for entry to the majority of courses. The 5,000 students who fail to secure a grade D in ordinary level are in a particularly difficult situation. A further 5,000 students each year now choose foundation level maths, and there is a growing number of colleges and courses that offer places to students who secure a minimum of a grade A or B in maths at this level. Whatever you do over the next two years, don't neglect your studies in this subject. (B Mooney)*

**Two excellent links:**

[https://careersportal.ie/school/subject\\_explorer.php?parent=6&ed\\_sub\\_cat\\_id=48&menu\\_parent\\_id=2110#Leaving Cert Subjects](https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php?parent=6&ed_sub_cat_id=48&menu_parent_id=2110#Leaving Cert Subjects)

<http://www.curriculumonline.ie/Senior-cycle/Subjects>

**Parents are welcome to make an appointment with  
The Career Guidance Office**