

# Business

Leaving Certificate Business is a popular subject and is very factual so requires you to do a lot of learning. If you've done Business Studies at Junior Cert, things should be a bit easier.

You should try and keep an eye on business and current affairs in the news. The Business exam gives you a lot of choice but is marked quite strictly.

## Business Course Content

### People in Business

- Conflicting interests
- Enterprise
- Management
- Communications
- Household and Business Finance, Insurance, Taxation.
- Human Resource Management
- The Changing Role of Management
- Monitoring a Business including ratio analysis.
- Identifying Opportunities
- Marketing
- Starting up
- Expansion
- Business Sectors
- Structure of Business
- Community Development
- Business, Government and Workers
- Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Business
- The International Trading Environment
- The European Union
- International Business

### The Exam

Business is assessed by means of a written exam. Final exam 100%.

Higher Level – 3 hour paper (400 marks); 3 sections.

Ordinary Level – 2.5 hour paper (400 marks); 2 sections.

### Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Business

Leaving cert Business is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. Possible careers include Management, Entrepreneur, Accountancy, Finance.

# Accounting

The Accounting Course builds on much of the accounting in Junior Cert Business, so a background in this subject helps.

## **Accounting Course Content**

- The Conceptual framework of Accounting
- The Regulatory Framework of Accounting (Higher Level only)
- Accounting Records
- Double-entry bookkeeping
- Bank reconciliation statement
- Control Accounts
- Suspense Accounts
- Sole Traders
- Company Accounting
- Share Capital, Reserves and Loan Capital
- Financial Statements of Limited Companies
- Appreciation of Annual Reports of Public Limited Companies (Higher Level only)
- Specialised Accounts
- Manufacturing Accounts
- Stock
- Club Accounts and the Accounts of Service firms
- Departmental Accounts
- Farm Accounts
- Incomplete Records
- Cash Flow Statements
- Analysis and Interpretation of Financial Statements
- Management Accounting
- Information Technology and Computer Applications in Accounting

## **The Exam**

An exam where you are required to draw up a range of accounts as well as to interpret given accounts. Final exam 100%.

## **Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Accounting**

Accountant, Business, Commerce and is applicable to a wide variety of careers.

## Economics

Students who take Economics usually enjoyed Junior Cert Business Studies and are interested in current affairs. It's often described as the most practical Business subject.

Read less

Leaving cert Economics is concerned with understanding the workings of a modern economy from both Macro and Micro level. The course looks at how we get our incomes, how we use them, the supply of resources and the production and exchange of goods and services.

### Economics Course Content

- Demand, Supply
- Consumer
- Cost of Production
- Elasticity
- Market Structures
- Perfect Competition
- Monopoly
- Price Discrimination
- Imperfect Competition and Oligopoly
- Factors of Production – Land, Labour, Capital and Enterprise
- Money & Banking
- National Income
- Government & Economy
- International Trade
- Economic Growth & Development
- History of Economic Thought

### The Exam

Higher Level & Ordinary Level do one 2.5 hour paper

**Section A** has 9 questions and you must do 6 (100 marks)

**Section B** has 8 questions of which you do 4 (75 each 300 in total). You have lots of choice in this section.

### Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Economics

Banking, Finance, Economist, Business, Accountant

# Geography

Leaving Cert Geography is a big course and covers a diverse range of topics from volcanoes to the European Union. The exam is essay-based, so you will find Geography easier if you are comfortable writing essay-style answers. The Geographical Investigation is usually submitted in April of 6th year and is worth 20% of the final grade.

## **Geography Course Content**

### Physical Geography

- Rivers, The Sea, Glaciation, Plate Tectonics, Weather & Climate, Karst Regions

### Regional geography

- Irish Regions
- European Region
- Continental/ Subcontinental Regions

## **Geographical investigation**

Two Elective Units (pick one):

Patterns and processes in economic activities (elective)

- Energy
- Developing Economies
- Multinationals and Globalisation
- European Union

Patterns and processes in the human environment (elective)

- Population
- Urban Geography

Four Optional Units (pick one; higher level only):

- Global interdependence/Geoecology/Culture and identity/The Atmosphere-Ocean environment

## **The Exam**

1. Geographical Investigation Report (20%)
2. Written Examination (80%)

## **Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Geography**

Some Universities accept Geography as a Science subject. Future careers include; Earth Scientist, Planner, Environmental Science, Fishing Industry.



# History

Late Modern History (1815-1993) for the Leaving Cert is divided into six Irish topics and six European topics.

Leaving cert History is a challenging course and requires essay style answers. Good English skills, the ability to do research and an interest in History are all important if you do this subject. Up to 20% of your final result will be based on your research project done before the exam.

## **History (Late Modern) Course Content**

Irish History (1815-1993)

- Ireland the Union,
- Movements for political and social reform
- The pursuit of sovereignty
- The Irish Diaspora
- Politics and society in Northern Ireland
- Government society and the economy in Ireland (1949-1989)

History of Europe and the Wider World 1815-1993

- Nationalism and State Formation
- Nation states and international tensions
- Dictatorship and democracy
- Division and realignment in Europe
- European retreat from Empire and the aftermath
- The US and the World.

## **The Exam**

A written examination paper (80%) and a research study report (20%)

At both levels, the examination paper features a documents-based question (linked to the documents-based study) and three general questions. All four questions carry equal marks.

## **Future Careers with Leaving Certificate History**

Leaving cert History is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. History can be used in a wide variety of careers including Archaeology, Writing, Research, Education and Tourism.

# Home Economics

Many students think this subject "is all cooking" and then are surprised by the huge amount of theory to be covered. The course is long and diverse so you should try and break it down, topic by topic. Students who do Biology and Business will find some overlapping topics which makes things easier.

## **Home Economics Course Content**

### Core Areas

- Food Studies
- Resource Management and Consumer Studies
- Social Studies

### Electives

- Home Design and Management  
or
- Textiles, Fashion and Design  
or
- Social Studies

## **The Exam**

Practical Coursework - 20%

This is worth 20% of the final mark this is submitted in journal form in sixth year.

Written Exam paper – 80%

## **Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Home Economics**

Home Economics is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system but teaches useful cooking skills that will be used by all. Future careers include Fashion, Cookery, Chef, Tourism, Business, Social Work.

# Religious Education

Leaving Cert Religion is a relatively new subject and the number of students taking it is growing. Assessment involves a written coursework project and an end exam.

One of the nice things about Leaving cert Religion is the amount of choice given in the course and exam.

## Religion Course Content

- The Search for Meaning and Values
- Christianity
- World Religions
- Moral Decision making
- Religion & Gender
- Issues of Justice and Peace
- Worship, Prayer & Ritual
- The Bible
- Religion: the Irish Experience
- Religion & Science

## The Exam

Coursework (20%) is an extended essay on a given topic

Exam (80%)

## Future Careers with Leaving Certificate *Religion*

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. Future careers include Arts, Law, Journalism, Education and Social Work.

## Art

Unlike most other subjects, most of the marks for Leaving Certificate Art have been awarded by the time the June exams come around. Only 37.5% of the final grade is based on a written exam, which is on Art History.

The Art History course is huge and covers many topics but there is lots of choice on the paper, so hone in on the sections that you enjoy or are good at. The remaining marks are given based on a practical coursework exam in May, which includes life sketching, still life or abstract composition and Design or Craftwork.

### **Art History Course Content**

Appreciation - Architecture and Renovation

Appreciation - Film Studies

Appreciation - Gallery Visit

Appreciation - Graphic Design

Appreciation - Product Design

Early Christian Ireland - Manuscripts

Early Christian Ireland - Metalwork

Europe - Gothic Architecture

Europe - Impressionist, Medieval, Renaissance

Generic Qs - Categories, Movements

Ireland - Georgian Architecture and Arts

Ireland - Modern Artists and Designers

Ireland - Romantic Period

Pre Christian - Bronze Age, Iron Age, Burial and monastic sites

### **The Exam**

37.5% of the marks are for a written exam on Art History. The remaining 62.5% is awarded for an exam in May based on practical coursework to include life sketching, still life or abstract composition and Design or Craftwork.

### **Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Art**

Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Web Design, Animation, Graphic Design, Photography



# Music

50% of the marks are awarded by April, which means Music is a little less to worry about when it comes to exam time.

## Music Course Content

- Composing
- Listening
- Performance

## The Exam

### Listening Paper (25%)

In June of 6th year, a 90 minute long test where you are tested on four set works, Irish music and general listening skills.

### Composition Paper (25%)

In June of 6th year, a 90 minute long test where you are tested on Melody writing and harmony

### Performance (25%)

In June of 6th year, a test where you perform as a soloist or as part of a group or both.

Higher Level: 3 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test OR 2 pieces on each of two instruments and one unprepared test

Ordinary Level: 2 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test.

Electives 25% - Higher level only

You must choose one of the above parts to study for this extra credit. Most people (97%) go for the Performance elective.

Listening Elective: You must work on a music project over the course of 5th and 6th year and submit some work to the State Examinations Commission and sit an extra written paper in June.

Composition Elective: You must undertake a large scale composition to be submitted to the Examinations Commission in your final year.

Performance Elective: This involves a more substantial performance during the examination period in April of 6th year.

## Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Music

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system. Future careers can include Artist, Musician, Actor, performer.

## **Design & Communication Graphics**

Design and Communication Graphics provides you with the opportunity for visualising and understanding information presented either verbally or graphically. You will work on your problem solving and creative thinking skills as you have to use 2D and 3D graphics.

Most students who take this course will have done Technical Graphics at Junior cert, but MTW and Technology are also useful Junior cert subjects for DCG. You will get lots of practice doing freehand sketching, traditional draughting (technical drawing) and using Computer-Aided Design (CAD) programs such as SolidWorks.

### **Design & Communication Graphics (DCG) Course Content**

- Projection Systems
- Plane Geometry
- Conic Sections
- Geometry of Lines and Planes
- Intersection and Development of Surfaces
- Graphics
- Communication of Design
- Freehand Drawing
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Dynamic Mechanisms
- Structural Forms
- Geological Geometry
- Surface Geometry
- Assemblies

### **The Exam**

One Exam Paper worth 60%

A Student Project worth 40%

The exam is 3 hours long

### **Project**

You will have to submit a project toward the end of 6th year which will be on a given theme which is outlined in a brief normally released in September. You will have the choice of a design investigation and modification or a design investigation and concept design.

### **Future Careers with Leaving Certificate DCG**

Design, Architecture, Engineering, Product Design

## Construction Studies

This course is about buildings and "the build environment". In other words, everything from houses, to bridges, to windmills. You learn everything from planning through to the finished product.

People who do well in Construction Studies are normally into working with their hands and maybe did something like Tech Graphics or Woodwork for the Junior Cert.

### Construction Studies Course Content

Planning and Design

Drawings and Documents

Site Preliminaries and Foundations

Walls, Partitions

Floors, Roofs

Fireplaces

Windows and Doors

Stairs

Plastering and Painting

Plumbing and Heating

Services

Drainage

Exam Structure

### The Exam

#### Section A

Section A is worth 300 marks. You need to try question 1 and any other 4 of the 10 questions. Question 1 is always on drawing building detail.

#### Section B

A 4 hour practical where you get to show off your woodworking skills. It's just like an exam (no notes, no mobile phones) and it is worth 150 marks. Normally this is about a month before the rest of the Leaving Cert exams start.

#### Section C

A Building Project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project that they make. Ideally this project must be completed by Christmas. This accounts for 150 marks.

### Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Construction

Construction is not a requirement of any third level course. Possible careers include; Builder, Plumber, Architect, Engineer, Roofer, Planner.

# French

French is by far the most popular foreign language taken at Leaving Cert. The exam tests your aural, oral, written and comprehension skills.

## French Course Content

- Oral (speaking)
- Written
- Aural (listening)
- Reading

## The Exam

Section	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Speaking	25%	20%
Listening Comprehension	20%	25%
Reading Comprehension	30%	40%
Writing	25%	15%

## Future Careers with Leaving Certificate French

Having one foreign language is a **requirement for hundreds of CAO courses** so it is unwise to drop your language unless you are certain it will not make you ineligible for a course you may choose in the future. French is useful for travel and a wide variety of careers.



## German

German is the second most popular European language for LC. Like all the languages, the exam is geared to let you show off your knowledge rather than to show what you don't know.

### German Course Content

- Oral (speaking)
- Written
- Aural (listening)
- Reading

### The Exam

Section	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Speaking	25%	20%
Listening Comprehension	20%	25%
Reading Comprehension	30%	40%
Writing	25%	15%

At Higher Level the Reading Comprehension has a journalistic reading text, followed by questions testing comprehension, language awareness, applied grammar and your ability to give an opinion on the topic. The written section has a formal or informal letter or an essay-type response to a picture.

At Ordinary Level you do one literary and two journalistic comprehensions with similar exercises to Higher Level. Written exercises include letters, telling a story from a given series of pictures or writing a dialogue.

### Future Careers with Leaving Certificate German

Germany is one of the strongest economies in Europe and one of Ireland's main trading partners. Many Irish companies need professionals with a good knowledge of German. **German is also a requirement for some CAO courses.**

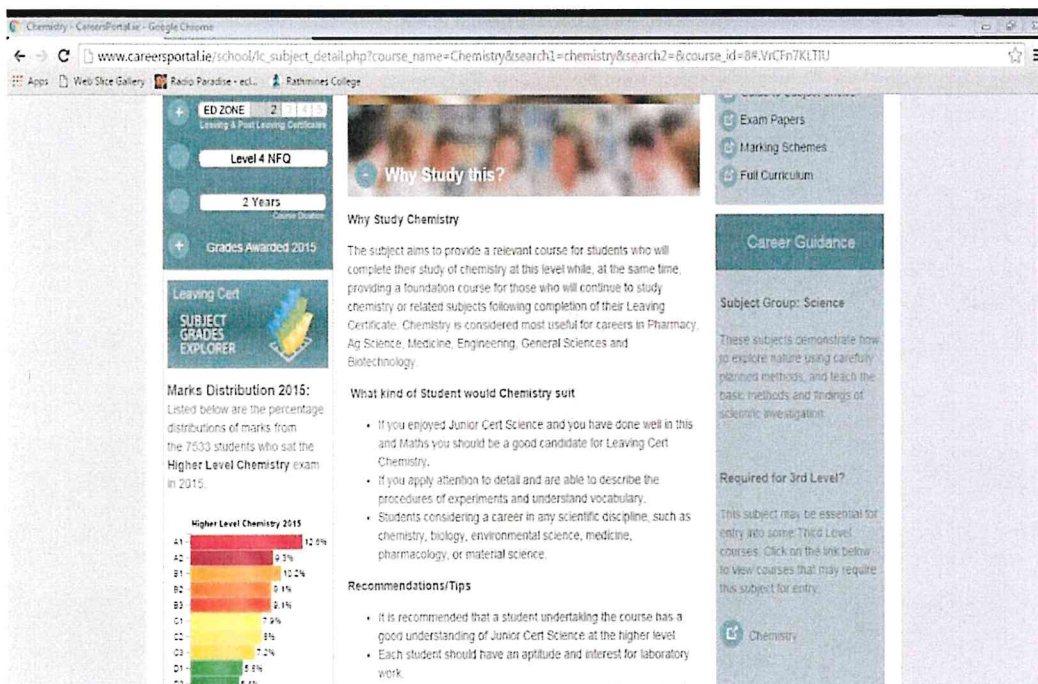
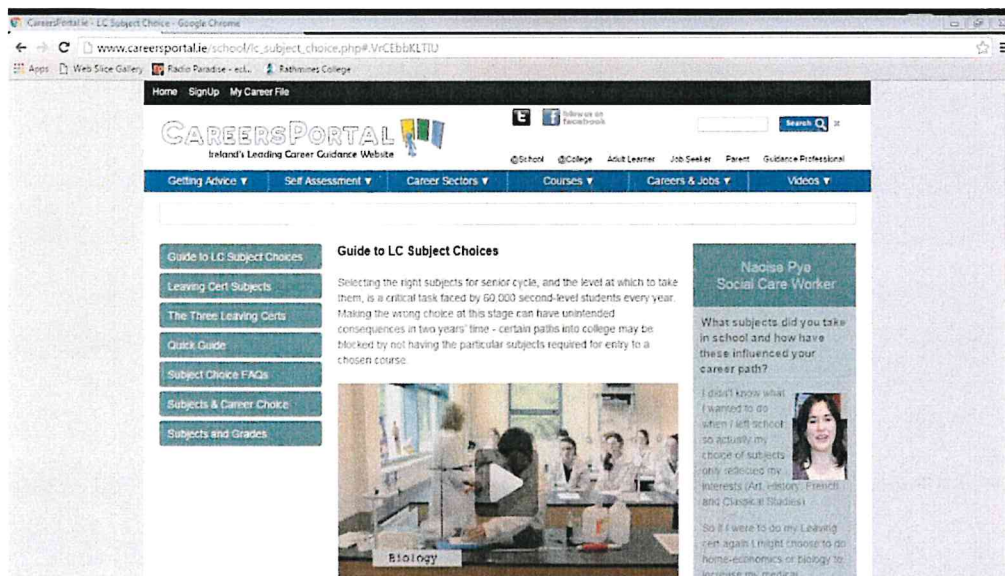


# Subject Matters – A Guide to Leaving Certificate Subjects

Please see the following two websites:

[http://www.careersportal.ie/school/lc\\_subject\\_choice](http://www.careersportal.ie/school/lc_subject_choice)

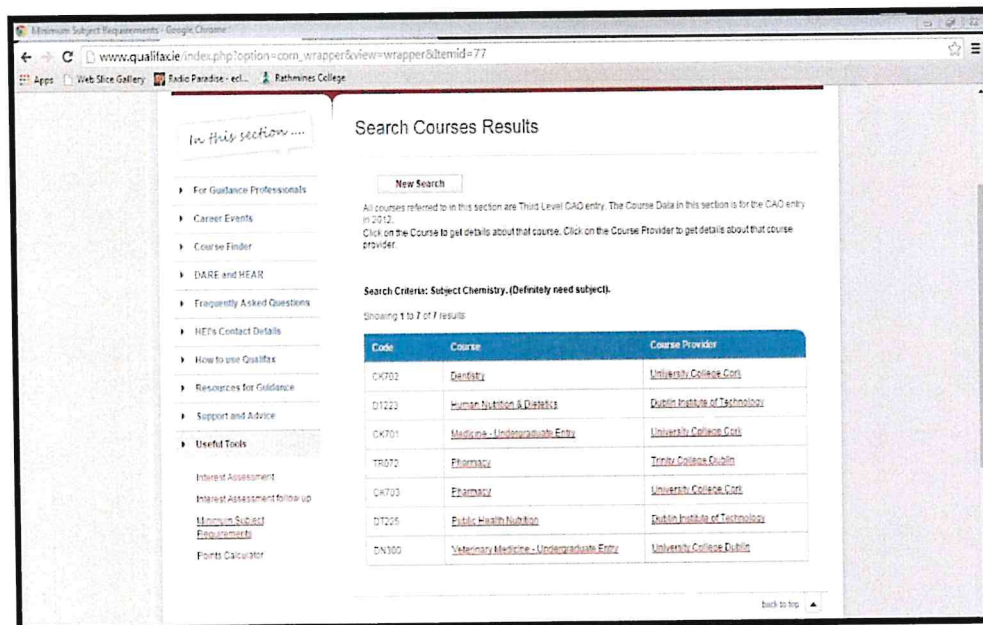
This site gives a comprehensive guide to all Leaving Certificate subjects including information on what the subject involves, why study it, career possibilities, subject content, and exam structure and marks distribution.



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

Click on Students → Useful Tools → Minimum Subject Requirements → Leaving Certificate Subjects

Research any **third level course requirements**



### Useful Websites:

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) Information on college courses

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) Information on educational and career development

[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) College application site

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) UK college application site