



# **Senior Cycle** **Options**

***Ms Joan Martin  
& Ms Sinéad Murphy  
Guidance Counsellors***



# Senior Cycle Options - Resources



- Transition Year Presentation - Ms Cantwell
- LCA Presentation - Ms Cantwell
- 5th yr Subject Choice Presentation  
Ms Martin & Ms Murphy
- Researching Subjects - Demo
- Researching Entry Requirements - Demo

Transition  
Year (1yr)

Leaving Certificate  
Applied (2yrs)



Leaving  
Certificate  
(2yrs,  
Established)

Leaving Certificate  
Applied (2yrs)

Transition  
Year (1yr)

*Specific  
presentations on  
LCA & TY  
programmes*





# **Senior Cycle Options**

## **5th yr Subject**

### **Choice**

- 5th yr Subject Choice Presentation  
Ms Martin & Ms Murphy
- Researching Subjects - Demo
- Researching Entry Requirements - Demo

# Senior Cycle Options - Agenda



Aim: Understanding Subject Choice Requirements

- Subject Choice Procedure
- Subject Choice - Decision Making
- Key resources - [Careersportal.ie](https://careersportal.ie) & [Qualifax.ie](https://qualifax.ie)
- General College entry requirements
- Specific Course entry requirements

# Leaving Certificate

## **3 Core Subjects**

**(English, Irish, Maths)**

*- unless you have an Irish exemption*

+

## **4 Non-exam Subjects**

**(Religion, RSE, Careers, PE)**

+

## **4 Choice Subjects**



Students:

- Study 4 Subjects
- Rank 5 Subjects in Order of Preference on VSware
- Students offered 4 of these subjects -

*sufficient numbers required.*



# Leaving Certificate Subjects

- Sufficient numbers required for subjects.

## Languages\*:

French  
German  
Spanish

Practical - Design - Creative  
Construction Studies\*  
Design & Communication Graphics\*  
Art  
Music

## Commerce:

Accounting  
Economics  
Business  
LCVP\*\*

## Humanities & Social:

Home Economics  
Physical Education  
Geography  
History  
Politics & Society

## Science:

Agricultural Science  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Applied Maths\*\*\*  
Computer Science

\*You should have studied - French / German / Woodwork (Construction) / Technical Graphics(DCG) @Junior Cycle in order to study these subjects in 5th yr.

\*\*Students with an Irish exemption may be offered LCVP as an additional subject also.

\*\*\*Applied Maths: it is recommend students are strong Higher level JC Maths students



# Leaving Certificate Subjects

- Sufficient numbers required for subjects.

## Languages\*:

French  
German  
Spanish

## Commerce:

Accounting  
Economics  
Business  
LCVP\*\*

Practical - Design - Creative  
Construction Studies\*  
Design & Communication Graphics\*  
Art  
Music

## Humanities & Social:

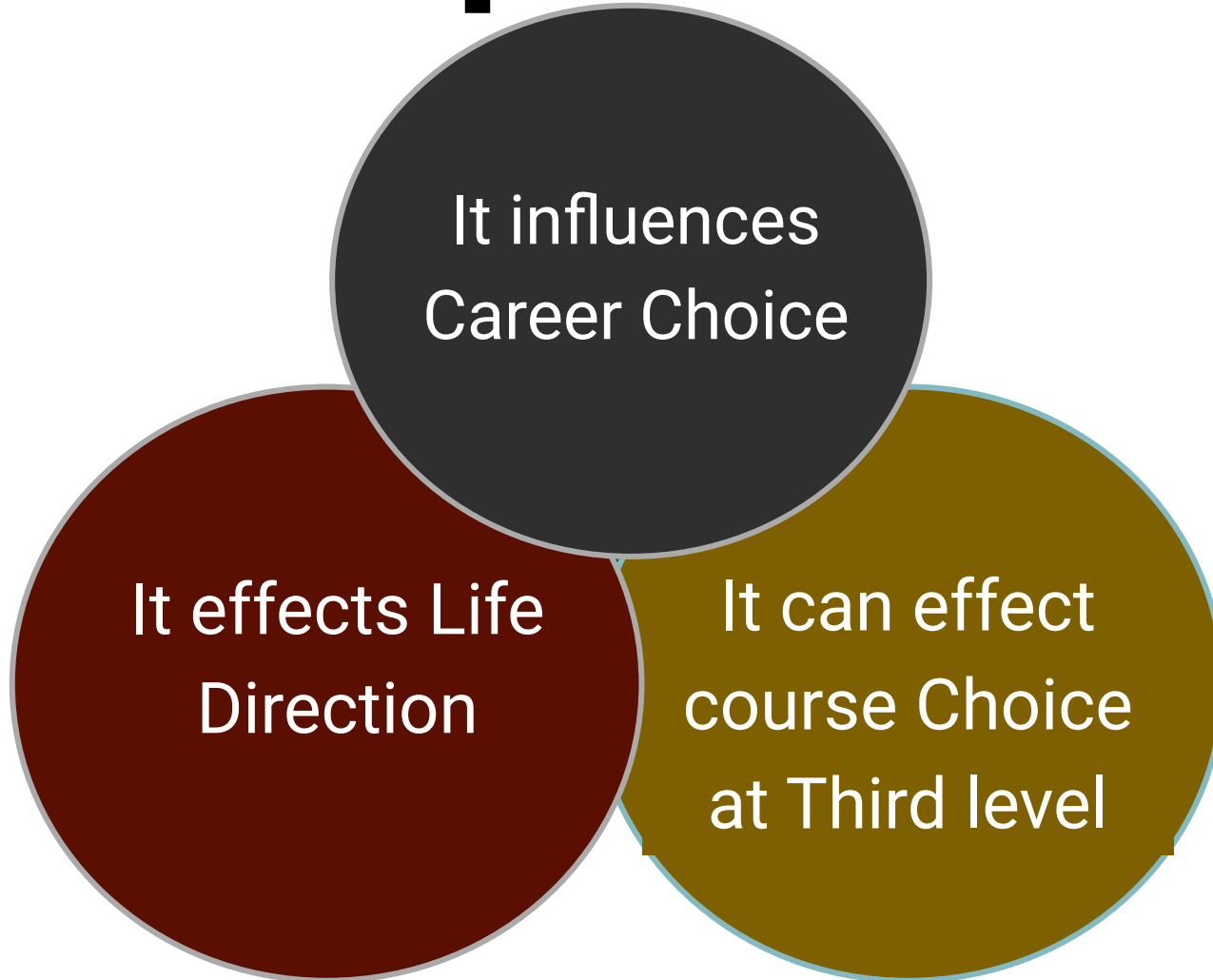
Home Economics  
Physical Education  
Geography  
History

## Science:

Agricultural Science  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Applied Maths\*\*\*  
Computer Science

- Students are asked to Rank their preferred 5 Choice Subjects on their VShare Account in order of preference! Ranking Order is important!
- Students will STUDY 4 Subjects from a choice of 20 subjects

# Why is Subject Choice Important?



# THREE FACTORS TO CONSIDER



## 1. INTEREST

You should choose subjects that you are genuinely interested in as you are most likely going to enjoy studying those subjects and do well in them.



## 2. WHAT I AM GOOD AT

Which are the subjects you do best in?



## 3. FUTURE OPTIONS

In addition to the core subjects (English, Irish and Maths) there are other subjects that are essential for some college courses and the world of work.

# What to Consider when choosing your Subjects?

## Manageable



Choose subjects you have an Aptitude for

Think about your ability & track record

## Meaningful



Choose subjects that you enjoy & are interested in.

Research Senior Cycle Subject content thoroughly!

## Matriculation



Subject Choice can affect the choices available to you in 3rd level

Different Colleges & Courses have different Entry Requirements! It is your responsibility to Research the Entry Requirements of Courses you are interested in.

**DON'T just Pick the same subjects as your friends are!**  
Your friends are picking the subjects that are right for their interests, skills & future goals.

**DON'T Think 1 subject is easier ...than another!**  
It all depends on your own ability, interest & skills - . there is no 'easy A' subject!

**DON'T Ignore your past results!** Your JC Exam results, homework, CBA's, should give you a good idea of how well (or not!) you could do in this subject at Senior Cycle!

# **The DON'Ts of Subject Choice!**

**DON'T** forget to research what's involved in subjects in 5th & 6th yr!  
*What will you learn about? Similar to Junior Cycle?? What assessments are there?*

**DON'T** forget about Entry Requirements! The Decisions you make now may close or open doors for you in the future!

# **GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING SUBJECTS:**



**It is Your  
Responsibility to  
Research Subjects  
& Entry  
Requirements!**

Familiarise yourself with the subjects (content, etc.) using [Careersportal.ie](https://careersportal.ie)

Identify the subjects you like and are interested in learning more about

Identify the subjects you have an aptitude for / do well in

Think about possible career areas of interest & the relevance of different subjects to different career opportunities

Identify the Essential subjects for College / Course entry using [Qualifax.ie](https://qualifax.ie) / [Careersportal.ie](https://careersportal.ie)

# DO I need this subject?!

- Some Colleges & courses REQUIRE that you **must** have particular subjects in order to gain entry into the course / college!
- These are called 'Entry Requirements'
- E.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> Language (French/ German)
- E.g. a Science subject
- E.g. Higher level Maths



Level 8 Degree courses require 2xH5s & 4xH7/O6  
in 6 subjects (cannot incl LCVP)

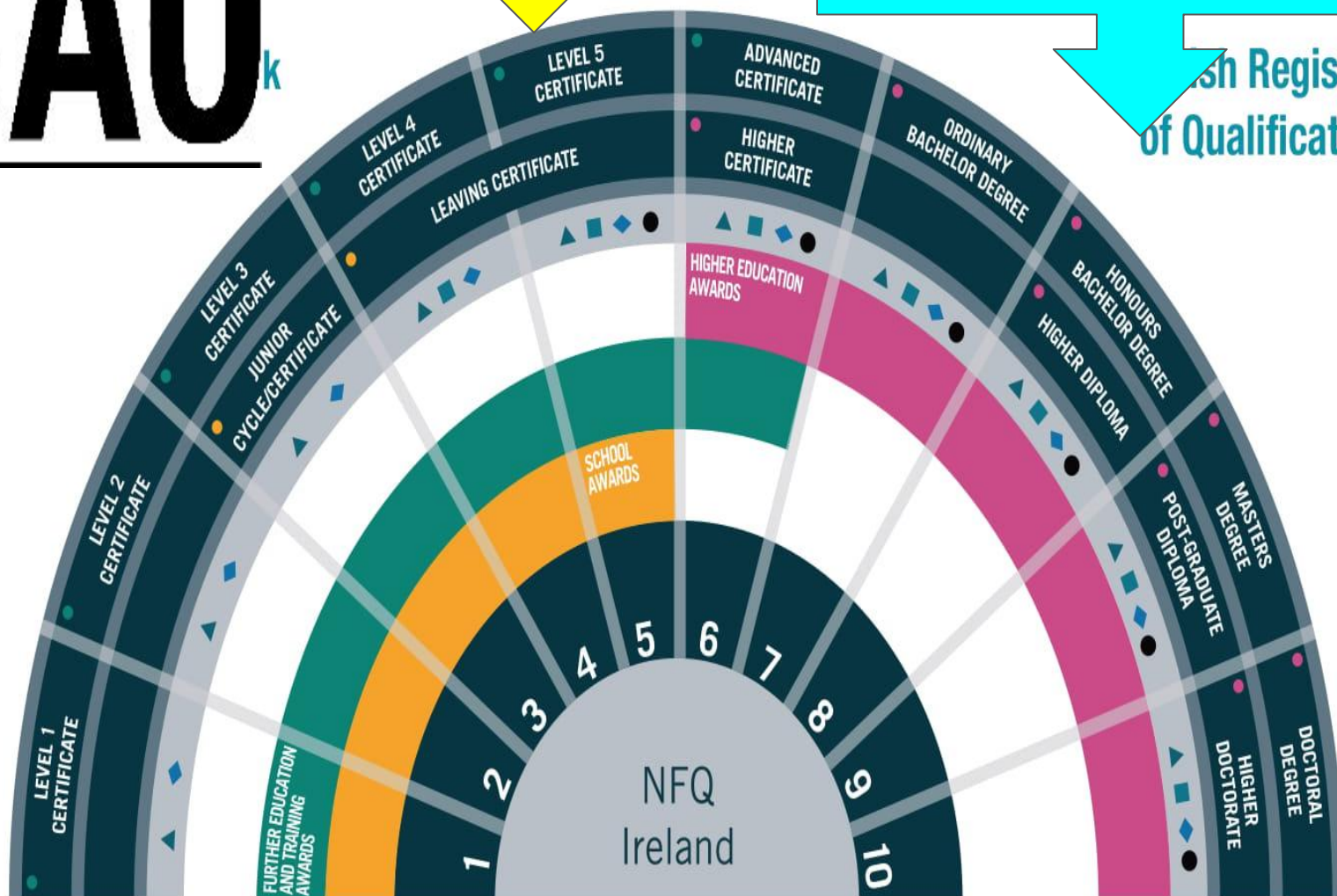


# CAO

Leaving Certificate

**CAO:**  
Apply for Level 6, 7 & 8  
Qualifications

Irish Register  
of Qualifications



In order to be awarded a place on a college course,  
You must SATISFY **ALL** of the following requirements:



**1. College Matriculation**

E.g. 2 x H5 & 4 x 06/H7 for most Level 8 University- usually pass English  
Irish TU's - usually English or Irish  
E.g. 3rd lang. UCC Arts/Law/Bus.,

**2. College & Course Specific Entry Requirements**

H4 Irish: Primary Teaching,  
H4 Maths - many Engineering

**3. Minimum CAO Points Requirement**

Points for Extra assessments usually incl. here. Minimum = points of the last person who gains entry! Not the Average!

## **1. Matriculation**

These are Minimum requirements!  
Uni. usually 2 H5s & 4 passes incl Eng & Irish  
TU's usually must pass Eng/Irish & Maths

### **General Guidelines:**

#### **Level 8 Courses:**

2/3 Higher level H5 grades & 4 O6 or H7 grades

#### **Level 6 & 7 Courses:**

5 passes (O6) & minimum points (Back ups!)

- Check careersportal / qualifax.ie & College websites!

**NB: If you have an Irish/Language Exemption!! ...**

## 2. College & Course Specific Entry Requirements

### **3rd Language**

Required for many NUI courses in **Arts, Law, Law & Business** (not NUIM), **Social Science, some Health Sciences** (incl Medicine) (NUI: UCC, NUIM, UCD, NUIG, RCSI), Cadets.

### **Lab Science**

- At least 1 Science (sometimes 2!) required for Many University courses in **Science, Health Sciences: Medicine, Veterinary Sc., Pharmacy, Physio, Nursing, Agriculture, Food Sci. , Engineering**

### ***Maths***

- Required for Many Colleges have a Maths requirement (Higher level for some courses) for **Science, Engineering, Business / Commerce** etc.

## 2. College & Course Specific Entry Requirements



- **3rd Language:** e.g. UCC Arts, Law, Commerce, courses with a Lang, some Medicine, Vet. Many NUI courses
- **H4 Irish** Primary Teaching (+O4/H7 Eng & Maths)
- **H4 Maths** - Most Uni. Engineering courses
- Engineering (**Maths & Techn / Science**)

It is the Student's responsibility to thoroughly research the Entry requirements for Courses & Careers of interest. Use [Qualifax.ie](http://Qualifax.ie) & [Careersportal.ie](http://Careersportal.ie) (See Demo videos)

**If ALL College Matriculation Requirements**



**Specific College Course Entry  
Requirements (if applicable) are met**



**Then**

**Applicant is deemed 'Eligible' for the course**

**Then**

**'Points' are considered!!**





# CAO Points System

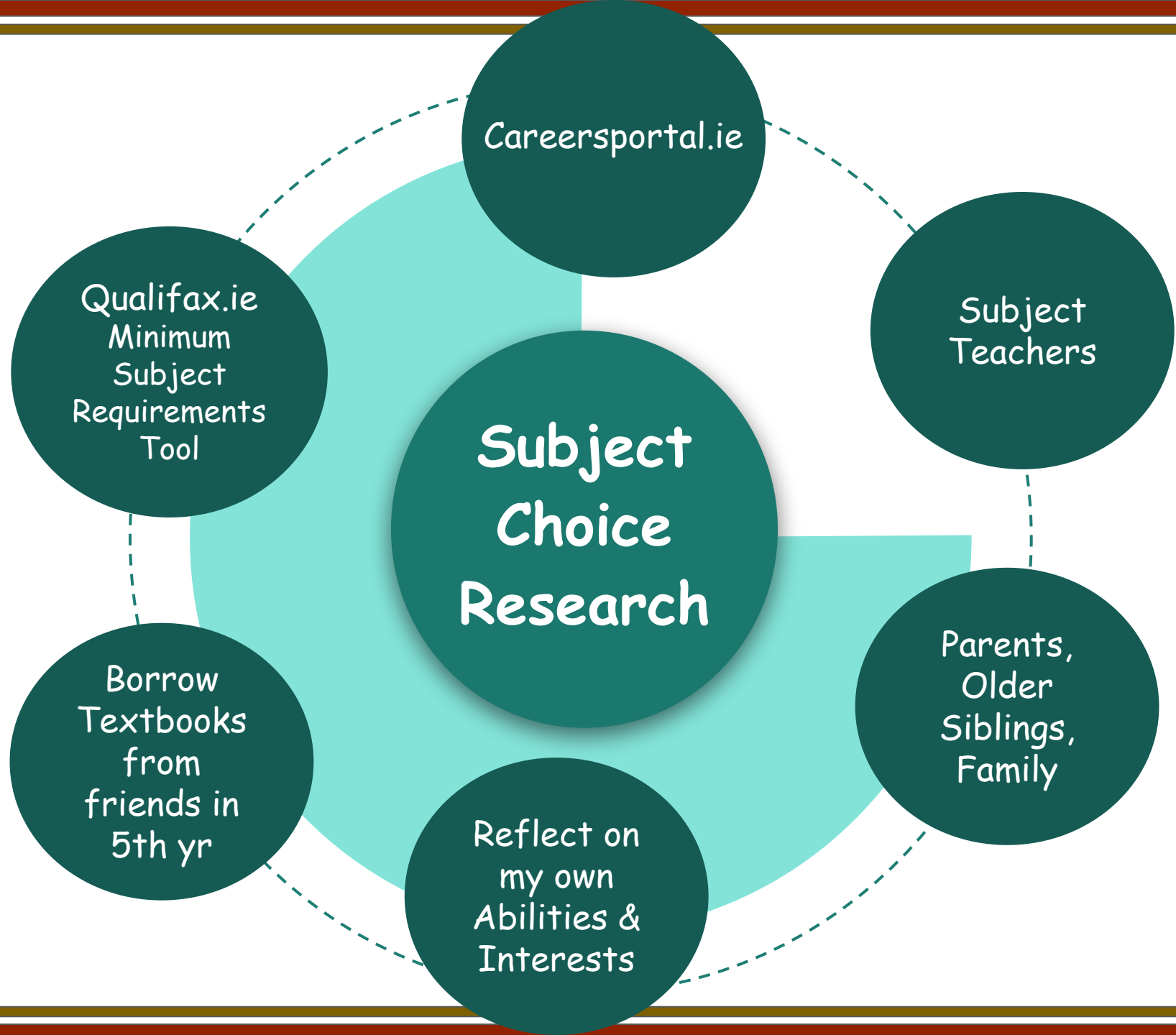
<u>Higher Level</u>		%	<u>Ordinary Level</u>	
Grade	Points		Grade	Points
H1	100	90-100	O1	56
H2	88	80-89	O2	46
H3	77	70-79	O3	<b>37</b>
H4	66	60-69	O4	28
H5	56	50-59	O5	20
H6	46	40-49	O6	12
H7	<b>37</b>	30-39	O7	0
H8	0	0-29	O8	0

Points are calculated from your **BEST 6 Subjects** in the Leaving Certificate

25 Bonus points for H6 or higher in Higher Maths

Try to pick subjects you can achieve well in. There is a big difference between the points awarded for Higher level & Ordinary level





# ***Research future career / course choices***

## **Ask the following questions:**

What subjects do I **have to have** in order to apply to particular colleges?  
*E.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> language*

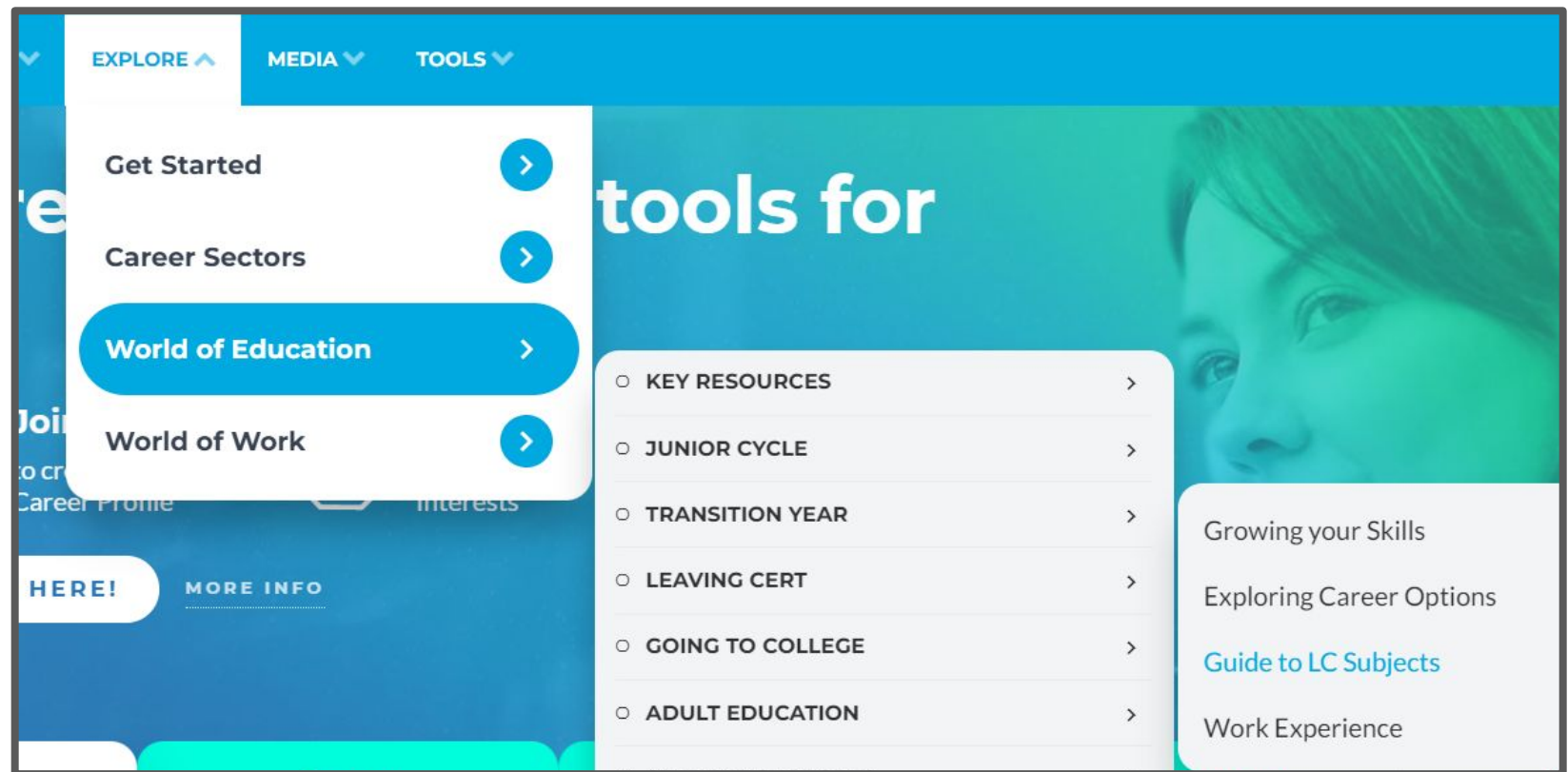
Are there any subjects which I **might need** in order to do a particular course? *E.g. Must have two science subjects to study Medicine in most colleges*

Are there any subjects which **might be useful** to my future studies? *E.g. A business subject*

# SUBJECT CHOICE RESEARCH

## Careersportal.ie

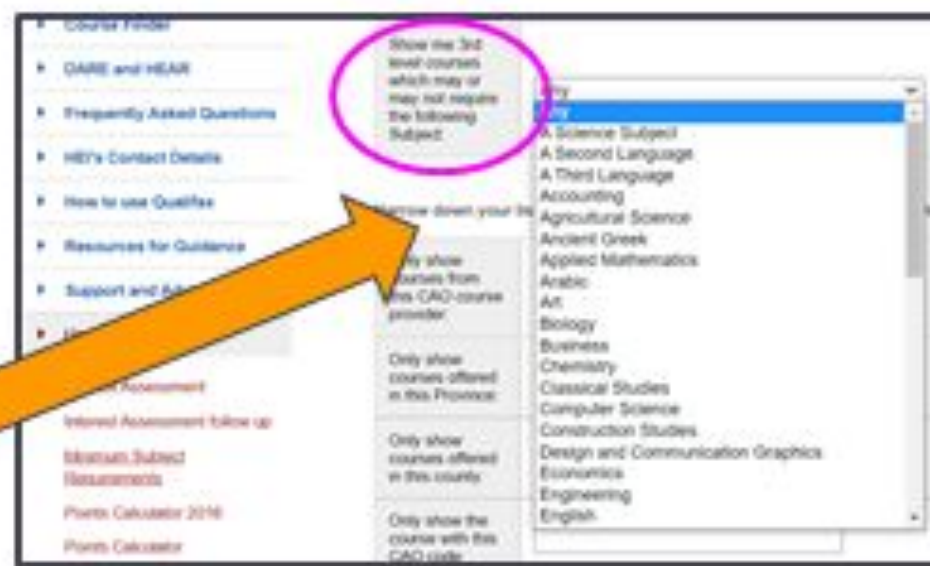
- Researching Subjects, content, exam structure



# SUBJECT CHOICE RESEARCH

## Qualifax.ie Minimum Subject Requirements Tool

What subjects are needed to get into particular college courses?!



# **RECAP**

## **Leaving Certificate Applied**

**Transition  
Year**

**Remember!!**

**All Options & Choices Must Be  
Researched!**

**All have an Application process & a  
specific Deadlines!**

**Application form (TY/LCA) & Online  
VShare form (5th yr subject choice)**

**Leaving Certificate  
(established)**



# Leaving Certificate (Established)

For those progressing from TY or 3rd yr directly to 5th yr :

1. Reflect on your strengths & interests in your current subjects
2. Research 5th yr Subject options
3. Explore career or course areas of interest (**Careersportal.ie**)
4. Research Entry Requirements (**Qualifax.ie**)
5. Discuss with at home & with your GC.
6. Log into VShare & record your five 5th yr Choice subjects, in order of preference, you will study 4.



# Choice Subjects



# 3<sup>RD</sup> / FOREIGN LANGUAGE: FRENCH / GERMAN / Spanish

Assessment: Oral , Listening

Composition, Reading Comprehension

- **Not taking a foreign language is a big decision**
- **Required for specific courses in certain colleges:-** UCC, UCD, NUI Galway, Maynooth, RCSI, NCAD, Shannon College of Hotel Management
  - Arts, Social Science, Law, Business (not all), Languages & Health Sciences in these colleges
    - **Air corps/Army cadet!**

# FRENCH / GERMAN

- **3<sup>rd</sup> language not required for entry to:**  
Nursing, Primary Teacher Training, DCU, Trinity, University of Limerick, or The Institutes of Technology e.g. WIT
- **Most Engineering, Agriculture & Science in NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, UCC and UCD**  
*(exceptions include UCD Veterinary Science, Architecture)*  
**do not require a 3<sup>rd</sup> Language ....**  
A Science subject is usually required instead.
- **A pass in Polish, Lithuanian etc., at Leaving Cert can be substituted for French / German & fulfils the 3<sup>rd</sup> language requirement**

# 3<sup>RD</sup> / FOREIGN LANGUAGE: FRENCH / GERMAN

**Why might a foreign language be important / useful for you to have?**

**Important for areas such as: Business, Translation, Banking, Travel & work abroad (e.g. Engineering).**

- **Work & Travel** – be more marketable!

## **French:**

Some of the biggest companies in Ireland are French: Renault, Sanofi. Important for working in EU, Middle East, Canada, Africa.

**Germany :** 300 German companies in Ireland employing 20,000 people. Third largest provider of Foreign Investment. Working in Eastern Europe.

# Choice subjects: Science Group



- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Agricultural Science
- Applied Maths
- Computer Science (not all considered Lab science)

- Specific Course Requirements

2 LAB science subjects - medicine, pharmacy,  
dentistry & some physio courses

A Science subject is usually required for Science,  
Engineering, Applied Health & some IT / Maths  
courses

*Important to take 2 Science subjects if you are  
considering it for a career*

# • Agricultural Science

**Topics:** the rearing of animals, soil types, genetics, crops, ecology, animal & plant science

Acceptable as a science subject for most courses - must check for courses of interest!

**Assessment:** 25% Project; 75% Leaving Cert Exam

Very Important for: Agriculture, Food Science, Crop Production/Technology, Environmental Science, Ecology, Animal Science, Veterinary Science/Nursing



# • Biology

**Topics:** The study of life (ecology and food science)  
The Cell (Genetics, photosynthesis, respiration, enzymes)  
The organism (body systems, plant biology, microbiology)

22 Mandatory Practical Experiments

**Assessment:** L.C. Exam with short questions, long questions & questions on the practical experiments

**Required for:** Genetics (UCC), Human Health & Disease(Trinity)

Very important for: medicine, physiotherapy, veterinary, sports, nutrition, nursing, dentistry, genetic engineering, food science, agriculture, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy



- **Chemistry**

Central foundation science subject

Ideal to pair with Physics & Applied Maths or Biology & HomeEc

**Topics:** Atomic structure , Volumetric analysis , Organic chemistry ,  
Water chemistry, Reaction mechanisms

28 mandatory experiments

**Assessment:** L.C. Exam including questions on experiments

**Required for:** Medicine (UCC), Dentistry (UCC),  
Nutrition/Dietetics, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy (UCC/TCD)

**Very important for: Medicine, Veterinary, Sports Science,  
Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Nursing, medical research, dental  
nursing, food science, Genetics, Environmental science,  
Forensics**



- # Physics

Physics is a precise science of fact, which deals with the laws and forces governing natural phenomena.

**Topics:** Optics / Waves, Mechanics, Heat, Electricity, Magnetism, Atomic Physics

24 Experiments

**Assessment:** L.C. Examination

**Required for:** Theoretical Physics (TCD)



**Very important for:** Engineering, Electronics, Radiography, Optometry, Mechanics, Electricity, IT, Physio, Astro-physics, Aero-space engineering, military, Biomedical engineering, Civil engineering, Computer Science.

- **Applied Maths (not a Lab Science)**

The practical applications of maths to real world problems  
- the maths behind the behaviour of objects when placed in various situations, e.g. projectiles bounced off walls.

Taken as a science subject for many courses eg UCD Science  
Need to have taken Higher level Maths for Junior Certificate  
(recommended to be a 'good B' student)

**Assessment**: 10 questions on the exam paper (10 Topics)

Student must answer six questions

20% Project - from 2022 onwards

Very Important for: Engineering, Science, Information  
Technology, Physics, Construction, Architecture &  
Finance.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## (not a Lab Science)

- Analyse problems in computational terms
- Understand concepts such as abstraction, systems, algorithms, data representation & evaluation
- Designing computational artefacts e.g. web pages, animations, simulations, games, apps & robotics
- Understanding how computers work and how they can be used to address problems and design solutions. *Problem solving!*
- Programming languages & How to read, write, test and modify computer programs. *Problem solving!*
- How computers work and how their component parts interrelate.
- The ethical, social and environmental role of information technology, in today's world as well as the past and the future



**NEW**

**EXAM STRUCTURE: 70% Computer Based Assessment 30% Coursework**

# Do I need a Science Subject?

- Not picking a Science subject can close some doors – Science, Engineering, Applied Health & some IT / Maths courses.

- Research Qualifax.ie ‘minimum subject requirements’ to see if a science subject is required for your courses of interest & what type of science subject, e.g. Any science .  
or a Lab Science subject



UK Primary Teacher courses usually requires a L.Cert Science subject.

# OPTION SUBJECTS: COMMERCE SUBJECTS

- **Accounting**
- **Economics**
- **Business**
- **LCVP**

*Not required for entry in  
courses but exceptionally useful subjects.*

**Important to take 2 Business subjects if  
you are considering it for a career**



# Accounting

**Topics:** Financial Statements Preparation, Farm Accounts, Club Accounts, Company Accounts, Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation, Budgeting, etc.

**Suits the organized, methodical person who likes definite answers and has an interest in working with figures**

**Assessment:** Leaving Cert exam



**Very important for:** Accountancy, Finance, Economics, Investment, Business, Banking, Clerical, Admin, Teaching, Retail, Purchasing, Taxation.



# Business

**Topics:** 7 core units covering: Introduction to people in business; Enterprise; Managing 1 & 2; Business in action; Domestic Environment and International Environment.

**An intricate part of any Third Level Business course and is relevant to numerous career opportunities**

**Assessment:** Leaving Cert exam

**Very important for:**

Finance, Economics, Investment, Marketing, Management, HR, Banking.





# Economics

**Topics:** Demand, Supply, Consumer, Cost of Production, Market Structures, Competition, Monopoly, Price Discrimination, Factors of Production – Land, Labour, Capital and Enterprise, etc.

Macro-Economics: Money & Banking, National Income, International Trade, Economic Growth & Development, etc.

**Assessment:** Leaving Cert exam & Project - 20%!

**Very important for:** Finance,  
Investment, Banking, Insurance,  
Marketing, Journalism, Current  
Affairs, Politics



# LCVP

**A Work Experience placement is part of the LCVP course**

## **PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD OF WORK**

- research and investigate local employment opportunities;
- job seeking skills, letter writing, CV, interview skills;
- interview and work shadow a person / work experience

## **ENTERPRISE EDUCATION**

- visits to local business and community enterprises;
- meeting and interviewing enterprising people
- build your understanding of business - write a Business Plan

**EXAM 40%** A: Audio-visual; B: Case Study C: General Questions

**Portfolio of Coursework – 60%** (CV, Career Investigation, Summary Report, Action Plan, Interview, Work Experience Diary)

**Grades:** Distinction (80 – 100%) Points: 66

Merit (65 – 79%) Points :46

Pass (50 – 64%) Points :28

**NB: LCVP can Count for POINTS but usually not for Matriculation! So, if you are applying for any Level 8 Hons Degree courses, you must have 6 exam subjects (not including LCVP).**

# Geography

**Understanding the world around us and the relationship between the physical world and the people in it.**

**Topics:** 1. Patterns & processes in the physical environment  
2. Regional geography  
3. Geographical investigation



**Assessment:** **80%** L.C. Written examination  
**20%** Geographical Investigation  
Fieldwork on a topic chosen from a list changed annually

- Recognised as a science subject for some courses

**Very useful for:** Arts, Teaching, Town Planning, Development, Journalism, Geologist, Environmental Science / Assessment, Tourism, Meteorology, Surveying.

# History

**Topics:** Early Modern (1492-1915) & Late Modern (1815-1993).  
Each field is divided into 6 Irish topics & 6 European

**Assessment:** 80% L.C. Exam  
20% Research Study Report



**A strong interest in the subject topics, good writing & research skills are important.**

**Very useful for:** Law, Journalism,  
Government, Town Planning, Archaeology,  
Economics, Administration, Sociology, Museum  
and Library Work, Current Affairs.

# Home Economics: S & S

**Topics:** 45% Food Studies

25% Resource Management and Consumer Studies -

30% (10% + 20%) Social Studies



**Assessment:** 80% L.C. Examination

20% Practical Coursework (no practical exam)

***-Recognised as a science subject*** for some courses – check Qualifax for a list of courses

**Very useful for:** Nutrition, Health, Education, Design, Childcare, Social Studies, Food Science/Business, Culinary Arts.

***You can take up Home Economics in 5<sup>th</sup> year.***

# Physical Education - Leaving Cert PE

1. Learning and improving skill and technique
2. Physical and psychological demands of performance
3. Structures, strategies, roles and conventions
4. Planning for optimum performance
5. Promoting physical activity
6. Ethics and fair play

**NEW**



## **EXAM:**

	Higher & Ordinary	
Written Paper	1 Paper - 50%	
Project	1 Paper - 20%	
Performance	1 Paper - 30% s	

# • Art

*You can take up  
Art in 5<sup>th</sup> year.*

**Topics:** *Practical* development: observational studies, imaginative composition & still life, life sketching, design & craftwork & *History of Art* (Irish Art, European Art, Artistic Appreciation)

**Assessment:** 37.5% L.C. Exam– History of Art  
62.5% Practical Skills in Art

**Highly versatile subject that prepares students for a wide range of careers.**

**Required for:** Visual Art, Design: Visual Communications(WIT)



**Very useful for:** Interior Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Media, TV and Film Production, Photography, Fashion Design, Architecture, Illustrator,



# Music

**Topics:** Performing, Composing & Listening



- Develop an understanding of musical structure and form
- Exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres

**Assessment:** 50% Performance (incl 25% IT Sibelius)  
50% L.C. Examination (25% Listening & 25% Composition)

**You can take up Music in 5<sup>th</sup> year.**

**All that is required is the ability to sing or the knowledge of a musical instrument e.g. guitar.**

**Very useful for:** Media Studies, Sound Engineering,  
Performance, Production, Film Studies, Primary  
Teaching.



# Construction

**Known as Wood Work at Junior Cert level**

**The study of buildings and the built environment**



**Topics:** Planning, Design, Drawings, Site Preliminaries and Foundations, Walls, Partitions, Floors, Roofs, Fireplaces, Windows and Doors, Stairs, Plastering, Painting, Plumbing, Heating Services, Drainage

**Must have taken Junior Cert Woodwork**

**Assessment:** 50% L.C. Examination

**25%** Building Project – scale model or craft piece

**25%** 4hr Practical woodwork exam

**Very important for:** Construction Technology / Management, Engineering, Architecture, Product Design, Quantity Surveying, Apprenticeships



# Design & Communication Graphics

Known as Technical Graphics at Junior Cycle

- Problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed.
  - Analysis and solution of 2D & 3D graphics.
- Freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting & CAD

**Must have taken Junior Cert Tech Graphics**

**Topics:** (a) plane and solid geometry  
communication computer graphics.

**Assessment:** 60% L.C. Examination  
40% Student Assignment

**Very important for:** Engineering, Construction,  
Architecture, Product & Interior Design, Apprenticeships,  
Technology.




# Remember :



1. Keep your options open!

1. **Not** taking a **3<sup>rd</sup>** Language and / or a Science subject can close some doors later on!



- 
- A black stick figure is standing on the left side of the slide, holding a yellow lightbulb in its right hand. The lightbulb has three lines radiating from it, indicating it is lit.
1. Pick subjects that you:
- **Like**
  - are **good at**
  - & **interested** in....as you should work hard & score well in these subjects.

# 4. Research Is essential!!!

-Careers Portal.ie

-Qualifax.ie

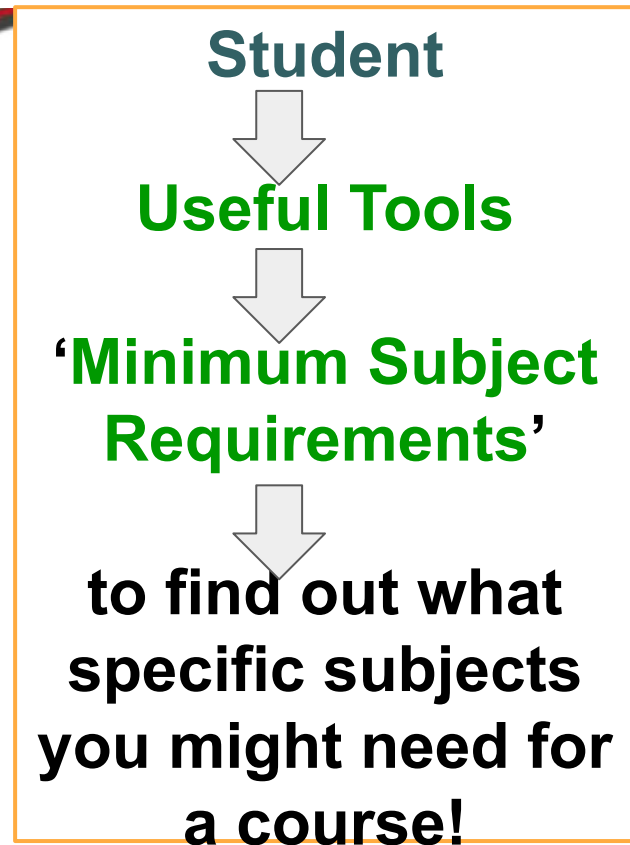
**IMPORTANT**

Qualifax<sup>TM</sup>

- Talk to your parents, subject teachers, older siblings, friends about what the subject is like at Senior Cycle

## ASK:

- What **topics** are studied?  
Do I like these topics?
- What **assessment** is involved?  
Does this suit me?
- **Borrow textbooks** and read some topics to assess your level of interest in the subject!



# Research future Career / course choices

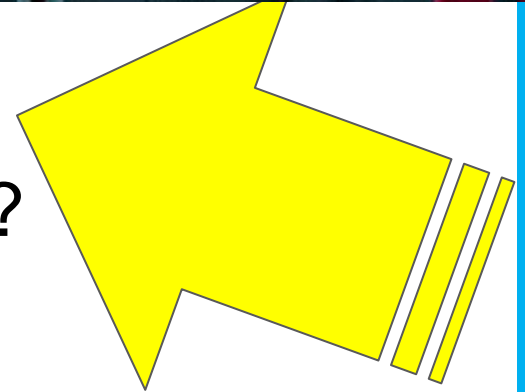


Ask the following questions:

1. What subjects do I have to have in order to apply to particular colleges?  
*E.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> language*

2. Are there any subjects which I might need in order to do a particular course? *E.g. Must have two science subjects to study Medicine in most colleges*

3. Are there any subjects which might be useful to my future studies? *E.g. A business subject*





## **NEXT STEPS:**

*Don't  
Forget!*

- Record in **Order of Preference!**
- Students will **study 4** of these 5 subjects.

**LCA & TY Application Forms-**

Submit to the College Office - Date TBC

**5<sup>th</sup> Year Subject Choice Forms - through  
VSware – Date TBC**