

St. Francis College
ROCHESTOWN



Subject Choice 2023

Guidance Department
St. Francis College Rochestown

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Things to take into consideration

- Your son
- Hobbies and interests
- Future plans – career ideas
- Essential subjects for their chosen career
- Helpful subjects for their chosen career
- Previous results – which subjects tend to bring good results
- Favourite subjects
- What do you know about the subject at Leaving Cert level
- Where do you get the information check with the Subject Choice
www.qualifax.ie www.careersportal.ie

Where to get information on the subjects

- Talk to students who are doing the subject
- Talk to the teachers of the subject
- Look at the books on the subject
- Look at the past exam papers on the subject
- People working in the career field that your son is interested in.
- Check Educational Websites: www.careersportal.ie
- <https://classroomguidance.ie/subject-choice-free/>
- www.qualifax.ie

Irish Leaving Certificate 2021 Examination Points Calculation

Higher Grade	Points	Ordinary Grade	Points
H1 90-100%	100	O1 90-100%	56
H2 80<90%	88	O2 80<90%	46
H3 70<80%	77	O3 70<80%	37
H4 60<70%	66	O4 60<70%	28
H5 50<60%	56	O5 50<60%	20
H6 40<50%	46	O6 40<50%	12
H7 30<40%	37	O7 30<40%	0
H8 0<30%	0	O8	0

Third level course requirements

Three conditions to fulfil

1. Course Requirements – What conditions are required for a course?

e.g. UCC – Engineering – H4 in Mathematics

2. Minimum entry requirements.

- Minimum entry requirements to Universities and Institutes of Technology.
- Universities and IT's (level 8 courses) - 2H5 in two subjects and 4H7 or 4O6 in 4 subjects.
- ITs- 5O6 or 5H7 (level 7 courses)

3. Points

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- UCC- MEDICINE - H4 CHEMISTRY plus Physics or Biology
- UCC- DENTISTRY - H4 CHEMISTRY Plus Physics or Biology
- UCC –PHARMACY - H4 CHEMISTRY plus H4 in Physics or Biology
- UCD –VETERINARY - H5 CHEMISTRY

ONE SCIENCE IS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- NURSING – H5 IN ONE SCIENCE SUBJECT
- UCC -SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY - H4 in one Science subject.
- UCC - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - H4 in one Science subject.
- All level 8 Engineering courses requires honours maths
- Primary school teaching – H4 in Irish

SPECIFIC COURSE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Since 2009 the following courses do not need a third language (e.g. French, German, Spanish etc)

- **All science, Nursing, computer science & Engineering courses in UCC, CIT and all NUI Colleges**

All other courses NUI's require a third Language

Arts, Social Science, BIS, Law, PE teaching, Commerce, Finance, OT, Speech and Language Therapy, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Psychology

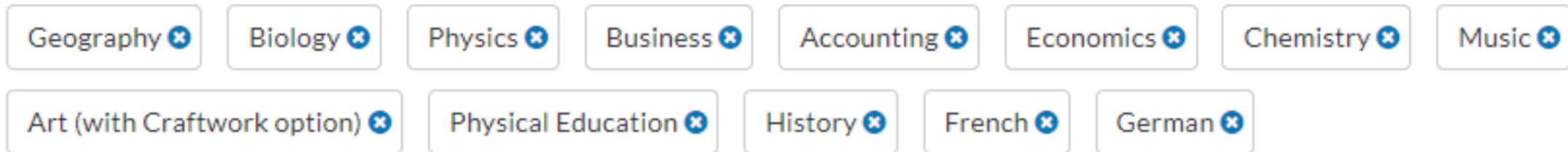
Language as part of a degree: Commerce with French = H3 in the Language

SPECIFIC COURSE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- A third Language is **NOT** needed for all courses in the IT'S (CIT) unless a language is part of a degree.
- UL: requires Irish **or** one other Language.
- Mary Immaculate (Primary teaching): H4 Irish
- Trinity College: Irish **or** one other Language
- NCAD: require third language
- Entry to the Cadetships in the defence forces require a third Language
- Gardai: English **or** Irish

Leaving Cert Subject Choice

- Every student needs to take: **Seven** Subjects for Leaving Cert
- English, Irish & Maths
- Students will choose **Four** other subjects from:



Core subjects - Gaeilge

- Higher Level Irish H4 is essential for entry to primary school teacher-training.
- Ordinary level is required for the majority of NUI courses.
- Irish OR English is accepted for entry to the Institutes of Technology (IT)
- Irish Exemptions carry

Core subjects - English

- A good higher-level subject for the average student – provided they are prepared to read extensively. Good written expression is required.
- English is a basic requirement for entry into the majority of colleges

Core subjects - Maths

- If you are capable of studying this subject at higher level, there are tremendous career opportunities
- Higher Level Maths (H4) is a requirement for Level 8 Engineering Degree Courses and Mathematical Science in CIT and NUI's
- Since 2012: BONUS points (25 pts for achieving H6 in HL maths) where students have an honour in higher level maths – now awarded in all the NUI's, UL, DIT plus WIT

Subject choice – St. Francis College

Science Subjects

- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry

Humanities

- Geography
- History
- Music
- Design and Communication Graphics (Art)

Business Subjects

- Business
- Economics
- Accounting

- **French or German**
- PE

Science

Science becomes more specific in senior cycle:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Sample areas where science is needed

- Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Human Nutrition, Pharmacy, Nursing , Engineering

Most faculties of science require one to have a laboratory science or a science subject.

1. Physics

- Physics has a strong Math's element
- Requires good knowledge of the various formulas.
- Develops students' understanding of many of the ordinary things that surround us such as heat, light, electricity and magnetism
- Laboratory work is fundamental

2. Chemistry

- Chemistry deals with the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationships between properties and the composition of substances
- **Higher level chemistry is a requirement for :**
 - Medicine
 - Veterinary medicine
 - Dentistry
 - Pharmacy
 - Human nutrition and dietetics

3. Biology

- Biology is often perceived as an easier subject than physics and chemistry, but this is not so, as shown by the high failure rates at ordinary level.
- **Higher level biology is a requirement for:**
 - Genetics at UCC
 - Human health and disease in Trinity
 - Nursing
 - Other science based courses

Business subjects

- Not needed for entry to any Third Level course in the Republic of Ireland
- Highly recommended that your son choose a business subject if he has any interest in studying a business course at 3rd level
- By studying one or more of these subjects the student will be able to make an informed decision in 6th Year about whether or not a Business Course is for them

1. Business

- Requires constant attention to the business pages of the quality newspapers, current affairs, global environment
- Subject looks at how organisations are formed:
Entrepreneurs, sole traders, Ltd, Co-ops, PLC's, Franchise.....
- Explores the services that support businesses such as insurance, banking, transport, marketing and public service bodies, EU, Enterprise, Management.....

2. Economics

- **Micro-economics** is the study of the economic behaviour of the individual firm and consumer
- Mathematical tools are used in this part of the course, such as graphs and formulae
- **Macro-economics** is the study of the main economic indicators of the economy, employment, inflation, taxation, banking, trade, growth and development
- Students are encouraged to take an interest in current economic trends
- **New Leaving Cert Course started Sept 2019 (20% completed as coursework)**

3. Accounting

- Students who enjoy the book-keeping part of Junior Certificate business should consider taking accounting.
- At Leaving Certificate level, analysis and interpretation of accounts is the core activity.
- For those with strong numeracy and reasoning skills this can be a very enjoyable and successful subject.

French or German

- There is no language requirement for the ITs unless the course there includes the study of a language
- Many other colleges (NUI's) have it as a requirement for specific courses such as Arts, Commerce, Law, Social Science, European Studies, Languages or Marketing, Sports studies and physical Ed, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, OT, Speech and Language Therapy (HC3), BIS
- No longer required for Engineering, Computer and Science courses in the NUI's
- <https://classroomguidance.ie/subject-choice-free/>

Humanities - History

- What was a political emphasis now includes both social and cultural history in this relatively new curriculum.
- Offers opportunity for wide reading, information gathering, sustained argument, clear essay writing, and research
- Students can now secure up to 20% of the overall marks by pre-submitting a research paper on a selected topic from a range set out by the State Examinations Commission.

History

- Students have to present three essays in their higher Leaving Certificate paper, plus a documents question
- A good subject for those also taking higher-level English
- Useful for the study of Journalism, Public service, Politics, Government, Law...

Geography

- Popular with students and regarded as one of the “easier” honour
- Students have the opportunity to do a geographic investigation, which is allocated 20% of their overall marks and is submitted by the end of April in 6th Year
- Both science and pharmacy at TCD accept Geography as a science subject for entry requirements.
- Useful for careers in Civil Engineering, Town Planning, Architecture, Geology, Pilot, Anthropology, Quantity Surveying

Art

- Involves many of the areas studied at the Junior Certificate but in greater depth- for example drawing, painting, design and craftwork.
- Complete Art exam in May (62.5% of total marks) = life sketching, design or craftwork, imaginative composition or still life.
- History and Appreciation of Art– Irish and European appreciation (37.5% of total marks, theory exam in June)
- Portfolio – students interested in pursuing Art as a career
- Useful for architecture, graphic design, multi-media, arts-visual, web design, film studies, game development

Music

CAREERS: Professional Musician, Performance Promotion, Music Production / Technology, Music Media, Music Publishing, Law, Teaching, Arts Administration, Music Therapy and Instrument Manufacture & Repair



IN 2019, 90.5%
OF STUDENTS
ACHIEVED A
H1-H4 IN
HIGHER
LEVEL MUSIC



THE COMPONENTS FOR
LC MUSIC ARE
COMPOSING, LISTENING,
PERFORMANCE AND
ELECTIVE; EACH
COMPONENT IS WORTH
25%. AT HIGHER LEVEL,
EVERY STUDENT MUST
DO COMPOSING,
LISTENING AND
PERFORMANCE AND
CHOOSE ONE OF THESE
COMPONENTS FOR
THEIR ELECTIVE.



ALL STUDENTS
MUST HAVE SOME
ELEMENT OF
PERFORMANCE –
VOCAL / MUSIC
TECHNOLOGY /
INSTRUMENTAL



GOOD SUBJECT
TO DO AS A
FAVOURITE
SUBJECT TO
GAIN POINTS.

LEAVING CERT PHYSICAL EDUCATION

St. Francis College
Information Evening



“If you pick LCPE, it means you get 5 lessons of PE a week. Deadly!! I’m definitely picking that!”

“It will be easy points!”

“I play football for Douglas. I’m picking LCPE and I’m gonna get a H1”



Some Reasons **NOT** to Choose the new LCPE Course

Assessment Component	Weighting	Level
✓ Physical activity project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
✓ Performance assessment	30%	Common level
Written examination	50%	Higher and Ordinary

- For the PAP and performance assessment, there is a strong emphasis on the use of digital technology, using apps such as Adobe Spark, HUDL Technique, etc.
- A willingness to work hard is essential. It's not the sporty student who will excel, but rather the technologically minded, conscientious student.

WRITTEN PAPER

- ❑ 2h 30minute exam
- ❑ Higher and Ordinary Level
- ❑ Two Strands of Theory
 - ❑ 1. Towards optimum performance
 - ❑ 2. Contemporary issues in Physical Activity
- ❑ Exam paper consists of short questions, case studies and long questions

Subject Choice 2023

IRISH, ENGLISH, MATHS + Pick their preferred 4 subjects from a choice of 13

Geography ✕

Biology ✕

Physics ✕

Business ✕

Accounting ✕

Economics ✕

Chemistry ✕

Music ✕

Art (with Craftwork option) ✕

Physical Education ✕

History ✕

French ✕

German ✕

Students will be asked to nominate a 5th subject that they would be happy to do.

We will do our best to guarantee as many students as possible their preferred 4 subjects

Things to keep in mind

- CHOOSE SUBJECTS THAT THEY LIKE! Your son will be more motivated to study
- FOCUS ON YOUR STRENGTHS. WHAT JOB/CAREER? I DON'T KNOW!
- Choose a broad range of subjects so that they keep their options open. **BEST ADVICE IS TO CHOOSE ONE SCIENCE SUBJECT, HUMANITY, BUSINESS SUBJECT AND A FOREIGN LANGUAGE.** It is very normal for their age level to not know what **CAREER** they want or to **CHANGE THEIR MINDS VERY REGULARLY!!**
- Discuss subject choice with subject teachers, parents and Guidance Counsellor

Students to choose subjects by

Wed 15th March 2023

Supplementary subjects

In St. Francis College we regularly offer the following two subjects as extra subjects which are **paid** classes:

- **1. Agricultural Science**
- **2. Applied Maths** (Students who do higher level maths and enjoy problem solving find this subject very doable. Physics is not a requirement for it but is an advantage)
- *We are currently exploring the possibility of doing these subjects within the timetable in TY but 5th and 6th Year would be outside school hours*



VS Ware

- **IMPORTANT:**

- 1. This is the one and only time you will be choosing subjects for 4th Year.
- 2. French/German - If you are unsure of what career you would like to pursue, it is wise to keep your options open by choosing a language. When choosing a language, you **must choose it as your 1st option** as this will guarantee that subject for all those who choose a language.
- 3. Limitations- Some subjects may be limited depending on teacher availability and space in the class. If oversubscribed, VS Ware will dictate who does what based on their overall subject choice.
- 4. The running of all classes is dependent on sufficient numbers in each subject.

The option portal closes on Wednesday March 15th at 12 midday.



VS Ware

- 1. Log onto the VS Ware app or go to www.stfranciscollege.vsware.ie
- 2. Go to your son's profile
- 3. Go to **Student Options**
- 4. Pick your 5 subjects keeping in mind:
 - Modern Foreign Languages as option 1 if picking a MFL
- 5. Click confirm when 5 subjects have been entered

Subject choice can be changed up to Wed March 15th at 12 midday. No changes will be possible after this date.

