

Greenhills Community College



SUBJECT CHOICE INFORMATION BOOKLET

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Options for Senior Cycle- INFORMATION BOOKLET
(Leaving Certificate)

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Dear Student,

You are about to make a very important decision about your future education. You will be asked to apply for one of the following; Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) or Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA). If you choose LCVP, you then must select a number of exam subjects, usually 7 or 8 for your Leaving Certificate.

To make a good decision it is essential to have good information. To help you with this we recommend that you:

- Study this booklet and do research (e.g. www.qualifax.ie, careers library)
- Consult textbooks and past papers of subjects you are interested in
- Discuss Subject Choice with your teachers, parents & guardians

Choose your 'package' of subjects to satisfy your interests and to keep as many careers options open as possible. Keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. Ensure that you have the essential subjects for your job/course
2. Select your remaining subjects to maximise your results.
3. Choose subjects you have a genuine interest in.

By getting as much accurate and up to date information as possible you will make a good Subject Choice decision.

Best of luck

Noirin Lannon
Principal

Geraldine Leahy
Deputy Principal

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme or Leaving Certificate Applied

LCVP	LCA
Traditional Leaving Certificate. Assessed on Final Exams and some coursework	Alternative type of Leaving Certificate
Study 8 exam subjects	Assessed on attendance, key assignments, tasks and final exam.
Can sit Higher or Ordinary Level	Common level
Can use results to apply directly to college to study, through CAO	Must study a QQI level 5 (PLC) before college
Can apply for Apprenticeships	Can apply for some Apprenticeships
Subject Options	Subjects are compulsory
1 week work experience as part of LCVP	3 blocks (6 weeks) of work experience or one day a week depending on school

When deciding which Leaving Certificate is for you, consider the following;

- What type of student are you?
- What do you want to do after school?
- Do you enjoy studying?
- Are you practical minded, enjoy working with your hands?

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

LCVP is essentially an extra subject that you will study.

It is two lessons a week and has a practical world of work focus.

It is aimed at students who want to go on to University and College as it is recognised by as a subject and awarded points.

The aim of the LCVP also known as Link Modules, is to provide a link to the world of work. Students prepare a CV, complete one week of work experience in fifth year and prepare a portfolio for assessment.

LCVP is 60% portfolio work which is done throughout fifth and sixth year and 40% final exam which take places in May of sixth year.

It is a very popular subject as it can help students gain points through the CAO system.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme LCVP	
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

Senior Cycle Subjects at Greenhills Community College

Leaving Certificate Established or Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The following subjects are compulsory:

Exam Subjects

Irish

English

Maths

Non-Exam Subjects

Physical Education

Career Guidance

Religion.

Students **may choose four subjects** from the following list:

Biology, History, Geography, German, Business, Art, Engineering or Computer Science

- Students are invited to choose four subjects from the list above. They do this by listing their choice of subjects in order of preference. **Subjects will be offered depending on students' interest.**
- In the event of a subject being under-subscribed the school authorities may, of necessity, withdraw it from the available options. With regard to subject availability, every effort is made to offer each student their preferences.
- However, due to timetabling restrictions, **it may not be possible to offer all students their preferences.**

When you have made your final selection you should examine them very carefully to see that you have kept your career options open. **You should check to see if you have the essential requirements for third-level courses in which you have an interest.** It is too late to find out in your Leaving Certificate year that you do not have an essential subject when you come to fill out your CAO.

Choosing a Career

Some people know at an early stage what they would like to be, but many have no definite ideas about the kind of work they would like to do. Therefore it is important to keep your options open. In order to choose a career you need information on: entrance requirements, opportunities available and awareness of their own qualities, skills and potential.

It is essential to know the following Entrance Requirements for College

1. Minimum entry requirements for colleges (matriculation requirements) Some Colleges and courses require an European Language or a Science Subject.
2. Subject requirement for your chosen course/career
3. Academic entrance requirements e.g. Points in CAO system (although these may change each year)

Points about Choosing a Career

In choosing a Career you need to:

- Ask yourself what you would like to do? Then take some time to think about this, do the research and plan.
- Assess your:
 - Skills and Aptitudes – what are you good at?
 - Interests – what you enjoy doing?
 - Values - what motivates you and would give meaning to your work?
 - Personality type – what are your characteristics?
- Educational qualifications – what qualifications have you got and what further qualifications do you want to achieve?
- Explore the Options – access job descriptions, research job sectors and further and higher education course details.

Subject Matters – A Guide to Leaving Certificate Subjects

ENGLISH

Almost all universities, colleges and employers require a pass in Ordinary level English though some will accept Irish instead (e.g. the Institutes of Technology and DCU). H4/H5 in English is essential for a small number of courses like Journalism, Communications, Creative Digital Media and Speech Therapy. Useful for: Acting, Advertising, Accountant, Broadcasting, Civil Servant, Librarian, Marketing, Personnel Officer, Politician, Public Relations Officer, Solicitor, Barrister, Speech Therapist, Teacher, Computer Programmer, Printer, Copy Writer, Proof Reader, Sales Representative, Translator, Interpreter, Secretary.

IRISH

Irish is required for all faculties in the National University of Ireland (UCC, UCD, UCG, NUI Maynooth, NCAD) but you can be exempt from it under certain conditions e.g. having a specific learning difficulty (dyslexia). Primary Teaching requires a H4 in Irish. Useful for: Administration, Personnel in Irish Voluntary Bodies (e.g. Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann), Archivist, Army, Civil Service, Broadcasting, Journalist, Local Government, Politics, Teaching, Translators (EU).

MATHEMATICS

Employers tend to expect applicants to have numeric skills and look for at least an OD in Maths. Likewise, the Institutes of Technology usually require an O6 for entry to their courses. The universities require an H5 for many of their Science and Engineering courses reflecting its importance as part of these courses. An O6 is required for entry to Nursing. Higher level Mathematics is required by relatively few courses. One particular group that require it are Engineering Honours Degree Courses. For Engineering, Mathematical, Theoretical Physics courses and Actuarial Degrees a H4 or H3 is required, again reflecting the crucial role it plays in these disciplines.

Foundation Level Mathematics is accepted by some employers (e.g. Grade B accepted for entry to Garda Siochana) and in a few colleges and it earns points in a limited number of colleges. 25 bonus points will be awarded to students who achieve a H6 or above in higher level maths. Maths is Useful for: Accountancy, Actuary, Air Traffic Controller, Architecture, Astronomy, Banking, Chemist, Computer Operator,

Economist, Engineer, Engineering Technician, Geologist, Insurance, Laboratory Technician, Maths Teacher, Scientist, Tax Officer, Trades.

GERMAN

Acquiring another language is a worthwhile skill for life and provides an insight into another culture. In these days of fast international transport and modern communications, knowledge of a foreign language will always be useful.

- You do not need a foreign language for all third level studies **but it is a necessity for entry to many courses in the National University of Ireland** (UCC, UCD, UCG, and NUI Maynooth) unless you are exempt.
- **Technological University Dublin and other Institutes of Technology do not require a language.**
- To enter **the army at Cadet Level** you will need an European Language. Exam is Aural, Oral & Written.

Useful for: Tourism, Hotel & Catering Management, Receptionist, Marketing, Army, Air Corps, Navy Cadet, Speech Therapy, International Business and Law, Courses in UCC, UCD, UCG, NUIM. Secretary, Chef, Courier, Hotel Reception, Interpreter, Translator, Pilot, Travel Agency, Journalist, Teaching.

BUSINESS

Business is a very comprehensive subject examining the formation, financing and operation of business in the context of the domestic and international environment. Topics covered range from entrepreneurship and company structure to marketing, business ethics and the role of the EU in Irish business. The subject provides an excellent foundation for anybody considering studying business at third level. It is also invaluable for anyone with an interest in starting their own business Business is Useful for: Accounting, Banking, Business Teacher, Administration, Hotel Management, Insurance, Receptionist, Store Management, Sales, Marketing, Merchandising, Purchasing Officer, Customs & Excise, Taxation, Law.

BIOLOGY

Biology has many subdivisions including plants, animals, genetics, microbiology and ecology. Studying Biology teaches us to ask questions, make observations, evaluate evidence and solve problems. Biologists learn how things work, how they interact with one another and how they evolve. Biology increases our understanding of the natural world and helps us to address problems such as environmental issues, threats to human health and many others. Useful for: Agriculture, Animal Breeder, Vet Nursing, Ambulance Driver, Dentist, Dietician, Farmer, Food Science, Doctor, Health Inspector, Horticulturist, Laboratory Technician, Marine Biologist, Nursing, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Science Teacher, Veterinary Surgeon, Zoologist.

Some courses in NUI's require a science subject for admission.

HISTORY

History embraces the world of politics and society, economics, religion and philosophy. It can be a most enjoyable challenge, developing skills such as identifying main issues, critical analysis, the ability to select relevant information and essay writing (which is very useful discipline in college). Useful for: Archaeology, Barrister, Broadcasting, Civil Service, Garda, History Teacher, Journalism, Librarianship, Local Government, Politics, Researcher, Social Work, Solicitor, Tourism, Writer.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is concerned with the interrelationships between human activities and the physical environment. Geography includes the study of population, farming, industry, pollution, statistics, resources, landscapes, and communications. Useful for: Civil Engineering, Archaeology, Horticulture, Forestry, Conservation Work, Marine Officer, Geologist, Geography Teacher, Naval Officer, Tourism and Travel.

ART

This course is designed to encourage a lively imaginative response to the visual world and to develop an extensive knowledge and appreciation of artistic traditions and modern developments. The course has two components, practical skills such as drawing, painting, design, craft and 3D work and art history, covering Irish, European Art and general appreciation Useful for: Industrial design; Advertising; Interior design; Film & Video production; Make-up for TV and film; Architecture; Photography; Animation and Teaching.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is the study of computing and algorithmic processes. Leaving Certificate Computer Science includes how programming and computational thinking can be applied to the solution of problems, and how computing technology impacts the world around us. The specification is constructed into 3 strands, whose learning outcomes are interwoven. The 3 strands are:

- Practices and principles
- Core concepts
- Computer science in practice

ENGINEERING

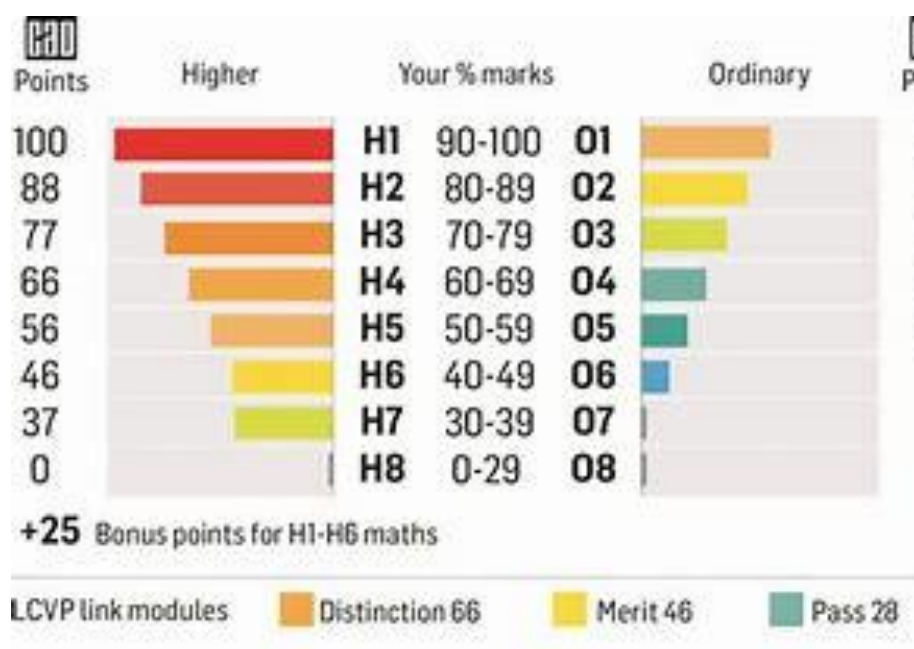
Leaving Certificate engineering is the study of a wide range of mechanical engineering materials, processes and technological applications integrated with the acquisition of the manipulative skills and techniques necessary for practical resourcefulness, creativity and design realisation in the execution of work for students in the senior cycle of post-primary education. Students develop the skills and initiative in the planning, development and realisation of technological projects in a safe manner. There are two main areas of study: workshop processes, and materials and technology.

Summary of Points system:

CAO point system changed in June 2017.

- A student's points total is calculated from his/her six best subjects.
- Points are calculated from one sitting of the Leaving Cert. only, in other words you cannot combine Leaving Certs for the calculation of points.
- **Higher Level Mathematics has 25 bonus points for all Passing Grades.**

Points Table



Useful Websites:

- www.cao.ie College application site
- www.ucas.com UK college application site
- www.qualifax.ie Information on college courses
- www.careersportal.ie Information on educational and career development
- www.solas.ie Information on Apprenticeships