

FIFTH YEAR SUBJECT CHOICE

Loreto Secondary School, Vevay Rd.

Leaving Certificate 2023

Wednesday 4th February 2021
D Sweeney, Guidance Counsellor

Meeting Outline

- **Issues to be considered when making Leaving Certificate subject choices**
- **Procedures on LC subject preference**
- **LC points system & implication for college and career choices**
- **Decision making tools & resources**

Fifth Year Subject Choice

Procedures

for Choosing
Leaving Certificate Subjects

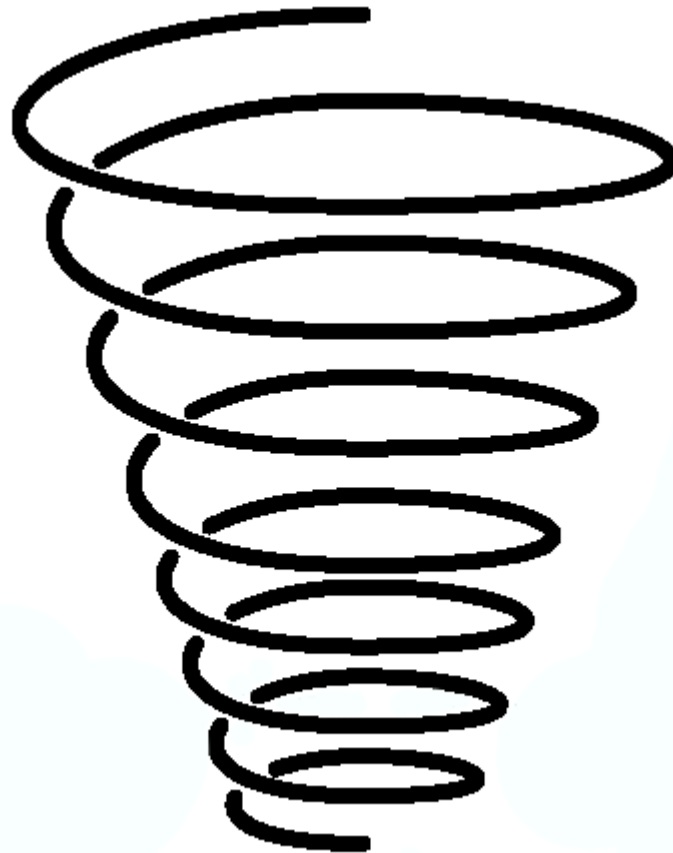
Procedure for Subject Choice

- 1. **Information** on the LC subjects available to the students
- 2. Students will later be given the **Subject Choice Form and the LCVP application form**. They will be asked to complete and return these to the office by a certain date
- 3. Students are asked to **rank** their preferred **four** subjects on the subject choice form. They are also asked to choose **a fifth subject as a back up**
- 4. Computer programme will sort the subject choices for all the students
- 5. This programme will create **four bands** of subjects giving as many students as possible their four subjects choices
- 6. *It is not always* possible to have 100% satisfaction

Aids to the Choice Process

- Online RESOURCES
- careersportal.ie, qualifax.ie
- Career Guidance Counsellor explains to students (this process has already commenced)
- Students encouraged to speak with Teachers - how subject will develop in Leaving Certificate.....

Progression as an upward spiral



Increase in material/knowledge

As students progress from JCert - > LCert there will be a STEP UP in the amount of material covered.



Remember you are now focussing on 7 subjects - building on everything you have previously learned

5 th year and Leaving Certificate



X 7 subjects

[7 subjects (3 +4 as follows)]

3 core subjects

English, Maths, Irish

+ A 3rd language (French, German or Spanish
which is continued from Junior Cert)

+ 3 more Subjects

***(You will also need to choose a 5th subject
just in case you do not get your top 4
choices!)***

Junior Cert / Leaving Cert LINK-UPS

JUNIOR CERT

- Business Studies..... ■
- **Science**..... ■
- Art..... ■
- **French/German/Spanish**..... ■
- Music..... ■
- **Home Economics**..... ■

LEAVING CERT

- Accounting/Economics/
Business
- **Chemistry/Physics/Biology**
- Art
- **French/German/Spanish**
- Music (high practical
content)
- **Home Economics**

New to Loreto Politics and Society

- “..develop the learner’s capacity to engage in reflective and active citizenship, informed by the insights and skills of social and political sciences”
- Examined for certification for the first time in June 2018

Possible Additional Subjects

- ***Applied Mathematics***
- ***Religion (as an exam subject)***
- **Also, taking an additional exam subject *does not* justify dropping another subject later on.**

Criteria for Choosing Subjects

- Students should be **interested** in the chosen subjects
- Students should choose subjects that they will do best in to maximise their points
- Students should *be aware of university and career requirements*
- Students should *be aware of specific course requirements*

Interest in Subjects

- Be genuinely interested in these subjects
- Read the **content** of the Leaving Cert syllabus for the subjects
- www.careersportal.ie – subject information
- Talk to the subject teachers about the subjects
- Choices should **not** be based on what friends are doing

Their best subjects

- Necessary in order to maximise points
- Students *know this themselves*
- Check grades in these subjects
- Students can ask teachers opinions if necessary

Taking Up a New Subject in Fifth Year

- Students *usually* choose subjects that they studied for the Junior Cert
- *Occasionally* exceptions are made to this
- **It may be difficult to reach a higher level standard if taking up a new subject**

Taking Up a Subject in Fifth Year

POSSIBLE SUBJECTS *(see the 5th year subject form for full list of available subjects)*

- Business
- Economics
- Politics & Society
- Home Economics (Social & Scientific)
- Art
- Music (standard required)
- Biology

3 University Requirements

- University minimum entry requirements (“Matriculation”) vary
- It is very important to check out University requirements in relation to subject choice. For example www.ucd.ie
- It is also important to check out any career **subject requirements**

3rd level Requirements

3 TYPES OF REQUIREMENTS

- **1 University Requirements**
- **2 Faculty or Course Requirements**
- **3 Points Requirements**

Changes to the Leaving Certificate grading system for 2017 onwards

Higher

Level	Grade %
H1	(90 -100)
H2	(80 < 90)
H3	(70 < 80)
H4	(60 < 70)
H5	(50 < 60)
H6	(40 < 50)
<u>H7</u>	(30 < 40)
H8	(0 < 30)

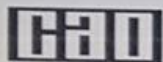
Ordinary

Level	Grade %
O1	(90-100)
O2	(80 < 90)
O3	(70 < 80)
O4	(60 < 70)
O5	(50 < 60)
<u>O6</u>	(40 < 50)
O7	(30 < 40)
O8	(0 < 30)

Reducing the number of grade bands from 14 to 8



Your marks %



HIGHER LEVEL

ORDINARY LEVEL

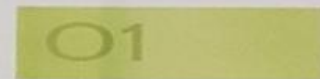


100
points



H1

90-100



O1

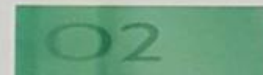
56
points

88
points



H2

80-89



O2

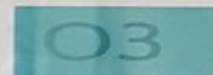
46
points

77
points



H3

70-79



O3

37
points

66
points



H4

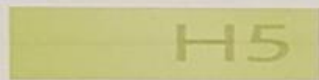
60-69



O4

28
points

56
points



H5

50-59



O5

20
points

46
points



H6

40-49



O6

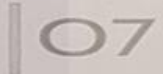
12
points

37
points



H7

30-39



O7

0
points

0
points

H8

0-29

O8

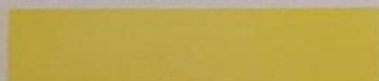
0
points

+25
points

Bonus Points for H1-H6 Maths

LCVP LINK MODULES

Distinction



66
points

Merit



46
points

Pass

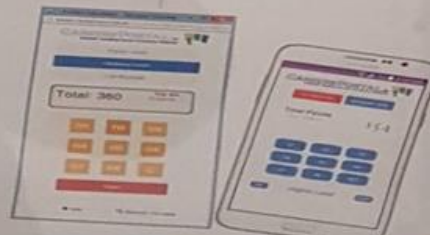


28
points

CAO Points Calculators

FREE!

Use online or get the App!



Changes to the Leaving Certificate grading system for 2017 onwards

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Reducing the number of grade bands from 14 to 8

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Higher

Level **Grade %**

H1 (90 -100)

H2 (80 < 90)

H3 (70 < 80)

H4 (60 < 70)

H5 (50 < 60) **56 points**

H6 (40 < 50)

H7 (30 < 40)

H8 (0 < 30)

Ordinary

Level **Grade %**

O1 (90-100) **56 points**

O2 (80 < 90)

O3 (70 < 80)

O4 (60 < 70)

O5 (50 < 60)

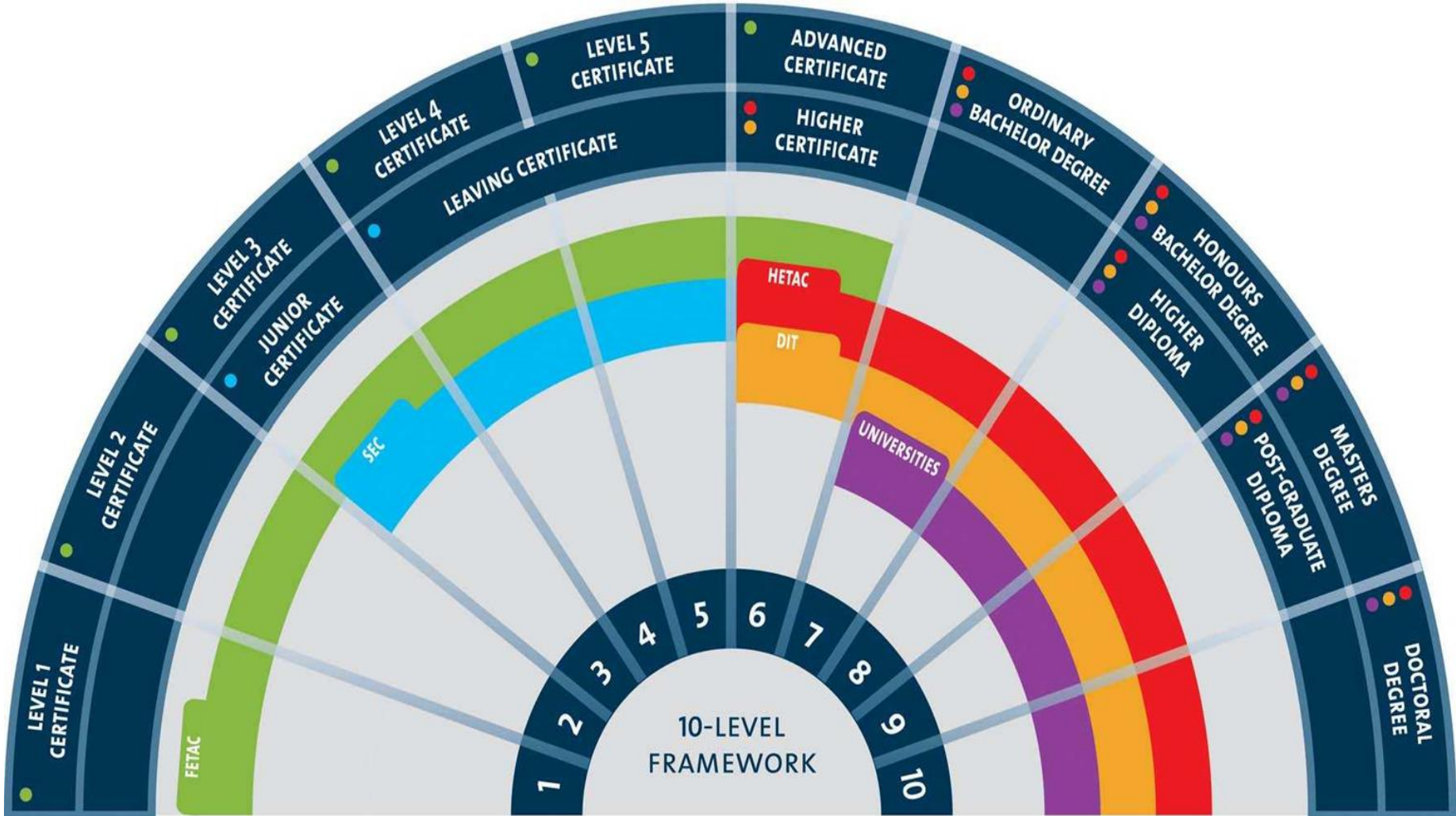
O6 (40 < 50)

O7 (30 < 40)

O8 (0 < 30)

Reducing the number of grade bands from 14 to 8

National Framework Qualifications





Univeristy Requirements

For Honours Degree Courses (Level 8)

Varying requirements e.g.

UCD - 6 Subjects with 2 H5 & 4 O6/H7
including English, Irish and a 3rd
Language

TCD - 6 Subjects with 3 H5 & 3 O6/H7
including English, Maths and a 2nd
Language

'Matriculation'

University Requirements

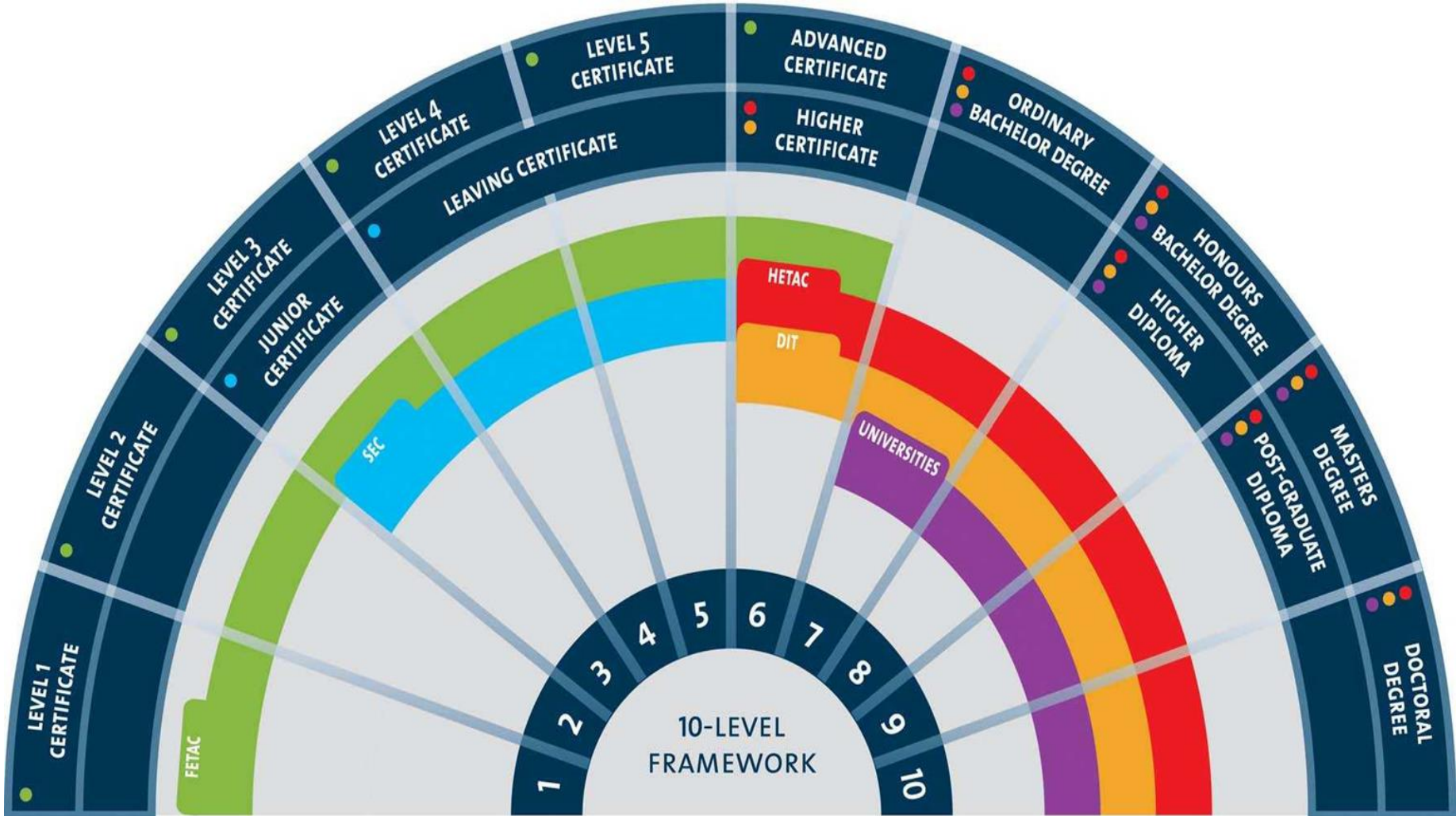
For Ordinary Degree Courses (Level 7) & Certificate Courses (Level 6)

varying requirements e.g.

IADT – 5 Subjects at **O6/H7** including
English

TU Dublin - 5 Subjects at **O6/H7** including
Maths and English or Irish

National Framework Qualifications



[*Course Requirement*]

- There may be a particular subject course requirement for many courses at college. The subjects mainly concerned are the Languages and the Sciences
- There may also be a requirement to achieve a certain level in certain subjects for many courses at college

Science / Language “requirements”

- Students ask ‘why’?
- This can change from year to year -
Irish language ; H4
- H4 60 – 69% (66 points)
- Thus, ...importance of career research

Languages

A Language is **essential** for:

- Entry into N.U.I. Universities
 - Exceptions include:
 - Nursing, Engineering, City Planning, Landscape Arch, Hum Nutrition, Science, Comp / Ag / Food / Social Science, Sustainability, Vet Nursing, Actuarial & Fin, Health Perf Sci, Sport Ex Mgmt , Economics, Psych in UCD
- TU Dublin - Various Courses in
 - Tourism & Lang, Business with Languages, Law with a Lang

Languages

A Language is **essential** for:

- Cadetships with the Defence Forces
(3 H5 + 3 O6/H7)
- Gardaí - O6/H7 in two languages; one of which must be Irish or English

Laboratory Science

(Chemistry, Biology, Physics)

- **A Laboratory Science is essential for:**
 - Most **Level 8** courses in Science, Home Economics, Engineering, Medical, Para-Medical and some Technical Courses in Universities and the T U Dublin
 - Product Design (NCAD)

- **A Laboratory science is useful for:**
 - **Level 7/ Level 6** Courses in Science and Engineering
 - Beauty Therapy Training
 - Some Apprenticeships

Science **IS** Required For

- All Science degrees.....
- B Sc in Agric Science (UCD)
- Human Nutrition (UCD)
- Nursing and Dental Nursing (All institutions)
- Occupational Therapy (TCD, NUIG, UCC)
- Speech Therapy (or Hons Maths/Applied Maths + O2 language)
- Optometry (TU Dublin)
- Human Nutrition and Dietetics (TU Dublin)
- Equine Science (UL)
- PE Teacher Training (DCU)
- Earth Sciences (TCD)
- Clinical Measurement (TU Dublin)
- As well as Vet, Med, Pharmacy (& a few others) BUT must **include CHEMISTRY** -> -> ->

Chemistry

Chemistry is **MANDATORY** for:

- Veterinary Medicine (UCD)
- Pharmacy (RCSI, TCD, UCC)
- Medicine (5 Year Courses in RCSI and UCC)
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics (TU Dublin)
- Dentistry (UCC)
- Medical & Health Sciences (UCC)

Chemistry

Chemistry is **essential** for:

- Veterinary Medicine (UCD #589)
- Pharmacy (RCSI 579, TCD 590, UCC 589*)
- Medicine (5 Year Courses in RCSI #733 and UCC #731)
- Human Nutrition & Dietetics (TU Dublin 578)
- Dentistry (UCC 613*)
- Medical & Health Sciences (UCC 541)

[**TWO** *Science Subjects*]

- (UCC) Dentistry, Medicine
- (TCD) Dentistry, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Human Genetics, Human health and Disease, Pharmacy & **Note their 4 Science degrees (Biol, Chem, Physic, GeoScience - will accept Geog as 1 'Science'!)**

However

- Maths **H6** / **O4** + 2 x Science **H4** for Science degrees and Physiotherapy (TCD)
- Hons Maths or Hons Geog = 1 Science for
 - Science Degrees, Pharmacy (TCD)

*Science is **NOT** required for*

- Social Science
- Arts – up to thirty subjects in this area
- Law
- Business
- Primary Teaching
- Many Computer Science Degree Courses

Foundation Maths

Foundation Maths WILL fulfil the Maths requirement for ENTRY to Universities and Institutes of Technology.

But WILL NOT satisfy SPECIFIC course requirements

Honours Maths

Honours Maths **is** required for:

- Honours Engineering Degree Courses
- Actuarial Studies (UCD & DCU)
- Mathematical Sciences
- Computer Science (TCD & UCD)
- Management Science (TCD)
- Economics and Finance (UCD)

[Honours Maths – Bonus Points]

- Bonus points for Honours Maths was introduced for 2012 entry to college
- Students will be awarded an extra 25 points for all awards from H1 to H6
- The extra 25 points will be awarded before total points are calculated from the best six results for the student
- For example, a student who achieves H6 in Honours Maths will be awarded 46 + 25 points for this result i.e. 71 points

Points Scale

HIGHER LEVEL

- H1 = 100
- H2 = 88
- H3 = 77
- H4 = 66
- H5 = 56
- H6 = 46
- H7 = 37
- H8 = 0

ORDINARY LEVEL

- O1 = 56
- O2 = 46
- O3 = 37
- O4 = 28
- O5 = 20
- O6 = 12
- O7 = 0
- O8 = 0

LCVP Grades

Distinction

66

Merit

Points Implications

- Study 7 (rarely 8 SUBJECTS) for Leaving Certificate
- Points are based on BEST 6 RESULTS obtained in ONE SITTING
- ALL SUBJECTS carry equal points (except Honours Maths)
- The points for every course are based on **supply and demand** each year.
= > The value of Career Research as a separate subject -> Back up / Safety nets / Insurance / Alternative routes in place !!!

Other Requirements

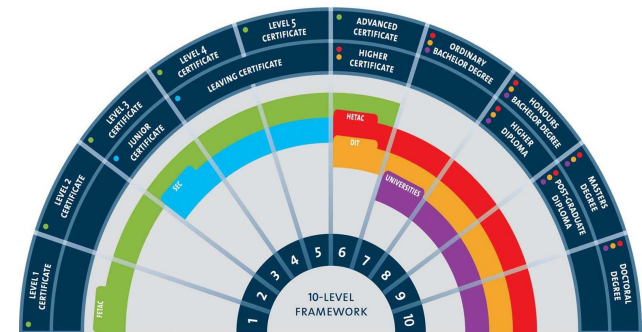
- Entrance to certain courses may depend on other requirements such as:
 - *PORTFOLIO*
 - *APTITUDE TEST*
 - *AUDITION*
 - *INTERVIEW*
- In these cases points may be allotted for these assessments.

That your daughter *does her best* & applies herself regularly

Alternative routes in place !!!

Other routes - Apprenticeships - Earn while you learn (EURO :))

PLC - now called Level 5



[QQI-FET entry routes | UCD Registry](#)

[Show up for all classes always]

where possible.....

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE

**Please ensure that they attend
regularly**



KISS

Keep It Simple Strategy



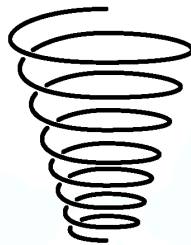
Attend class regularly -> 'pass' a subject ie
attain 40% +

Do Homework

-> 50% +

Study / Revise
chance
marks

-> Increases
HIGHER



Helpful Resources

Curriculum Information

www.careersportal.ie has information on the Leaving Certificate subjects

For MINIMUM entry requirements - Please check

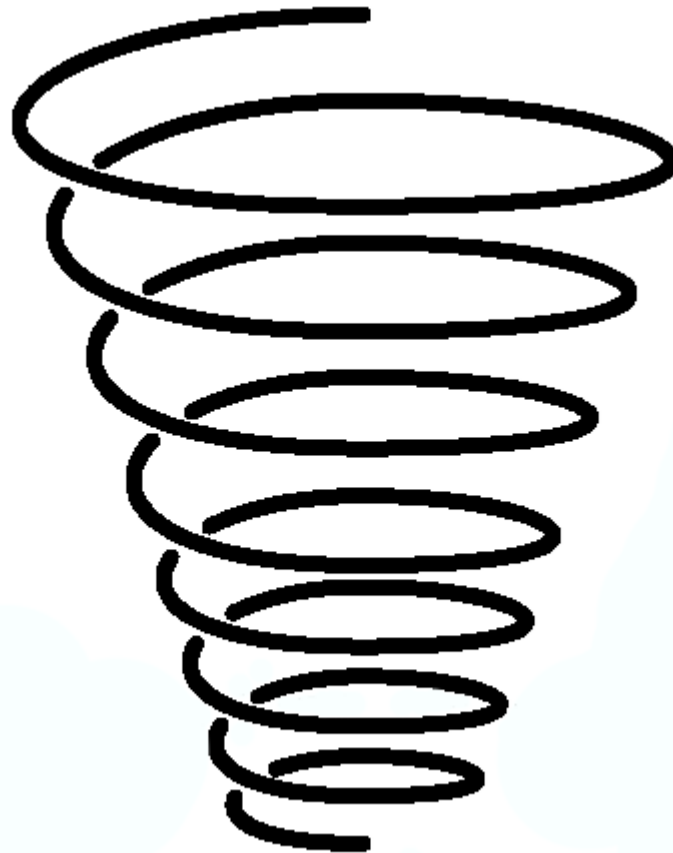
https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php

https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=131&Itemid=213

Further Resources

[Central Applications Office](#)

Progression as an upward spiral



Further Information

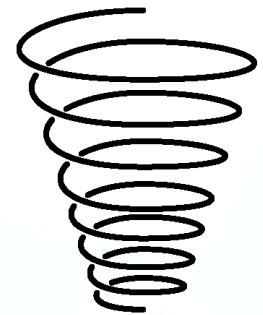
There is information on the new points system on the CAO website


www.cao.ie

Click on Downloads on the left hand side of the home page. There is a PDF and a slide show available about the new points system. There are other items relating to the CAO which may be of interest also.

Conclusion

- Choose subjects most interested in studying.
- Choose subjects likely to succeed at.
- Be aware of university / course requirements (Languages and Sciences / Maths)
- The majority of courses in university do not have specific subject requirements.



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***Thank you
and best of luck in
your decision
making***