

Parents' Night Subject Choice 2023

Apprentice-
ships

Study
Skills

Exam
Technique

Job
Application

Study
Abroad


Choice
Organiser

OPEN

Leaving Cert Subject Choice

Things to consider!!

F. Farrell/B. Coggins
Guidance Counsellors
Portmarnock Community School



**Consider the
following factors
when choosing
your subjects:**

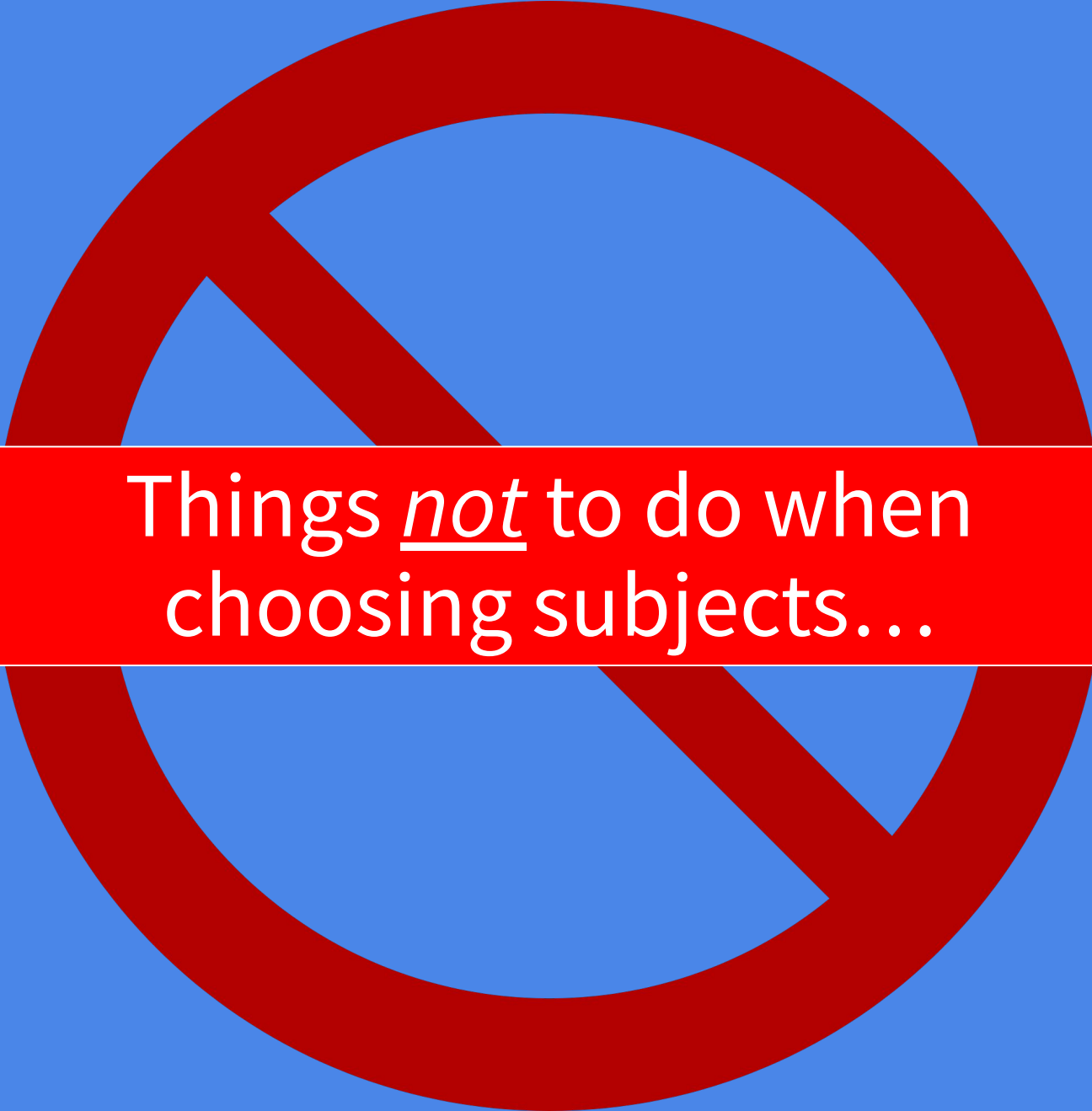
Do you enjoy the subject?





Are you interested?





Things not to do when
choosing subjects...



You will learn very
little. You will regret
it!!



All my friends
are choosing
that
subject...

Think for
yourself !!!!



You like the teacher...

Make sure you like the subject also.
(Teachers can be switched or leave!!)



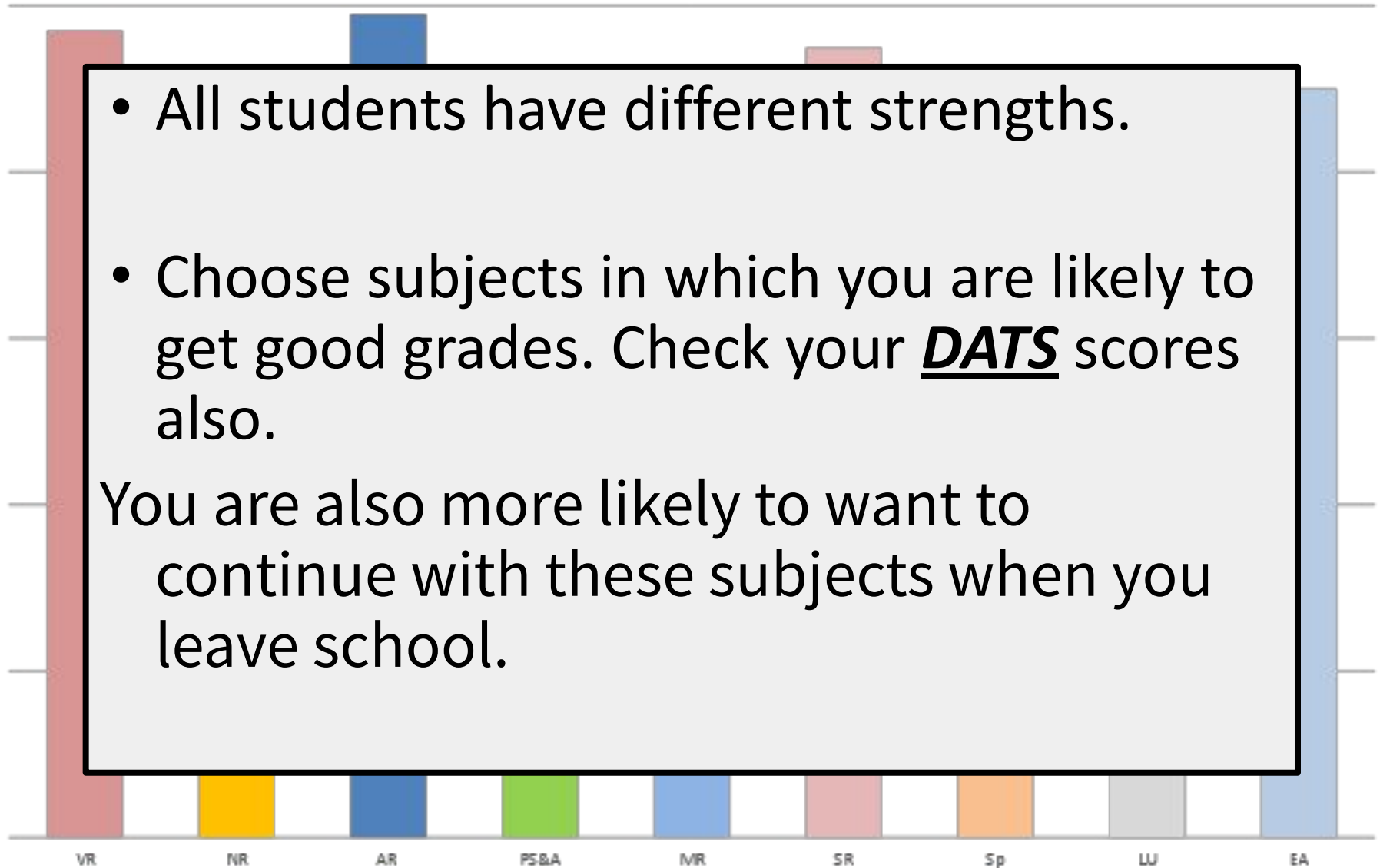
When choosing subjects, *do what comes naturally.*

1. It is easier and more comfortable for you.
2. Why make your life more difficult?

Aptitudes

- All students have different strengths.
- Choose subjects in which you are likely to get good grades. Check your **DATS** scores also.

You are also more likely to want to continue with these subjects when you leave school.



The background of the slide features a dark grey gradient. Scattered across the upper and middle sections are several circular icons. Each icon contains a white silhouette of a person wearing a suit and a black tie. Some of these icons are slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth. At the bottom of the slide, a close-up photograph of a person's hand is visible, with the fingers spread out. The hand appears to be holding or gesturing towards the text boxes.

Your Favourite Subjects

favourite subjects from your Junior Cert

Not including Maths, Irish or English.

Career & Further Education

Apart from Irish, English and Maths, other subjects can be required for some courses & careers.



Check out these subject requirements with a Guidance Counsellor or the course provider.

IT IS *YOUR CHILD's RESPONSIBILITY* TO DO THIS.

Options area

Four areas to choose from

- Business area (accountancy, business, economics).
- Sciences (physics, Biology, chemistry, Applied Maths*, Geography, LCPE, (new subject)).
- Technology area: (Engineering, construction, DCG). **Technology itself** is not available as an option for the LC.

- Humanities: Art, Languages (French, Spanish, German), Music, Home Economics, History, Politics and Society).
- YOU ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO CHOOSE A SUBJECT OR SUBJECTS FROM EACH GROUP HOWEVER.

* Applied Maths may be offered subject to teacher availability.

Choosing your options

Number of Subjects

- Each student will study 4 optional subjects taken from any OR all of the four main areas.
- It is possible to study a number of subjects in a similar subject area i.e. **accountancy, business and economics**.
- Students wishing to study Applied Maths, Physics or Chemistry should have reasonably strong mathematical aptitudes.
- It is advisable but not mandatory that students choose a modern language. Students may choose to study **TWO** modern foreign languages if they so wish.

THE SCIENCES

A pass in *at least* one Laboratory Science subject is needed if you are applying for anything in:

Engineering	Pharmacy
Human Nutrition/ Dietician	Medical Laboratory
Paramedical	Podiatry
Radiography	Veterinary
Physiotherapy	Nursing
Medical	Science areas at Universities

Physical Ed. + Maths (DCU)

Design & Manufacture (UL)

Both require a science subject.

i.e: Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Agricultural Science.

!!! Course requirements should be checked on an individual basis !!!

CHEMISTRY

Is required for:

Human Nutrition & Biomed Science - *TUD*

Dentistry - *UCC*

Medicine - *UCC* (plus either Physics or Biology)

Veterinary Science - *UCD*

Pharmacy - *TCD, UCC & RCSI*

Medicine - *UCC*

BIOLOGY

Is required for:

Veterinary Medicine - UCD

Elective Biology in Home Ecc. - St Angela's

Genetics - UCC

Human Health & Disease - TCD

Is very useful for:

P.E. teaching with Biology - DCU



PHYSICS

Is required for:

Theoretical Physics - TCD

Is very useful for:

*Anyone considering courses in
Engineering or Electronics.*

Physical Education – New subject

Physical Education

- Topics covered:
- Learning and improving skill and techniques.
- Physical and psychological demands of performance.
- Structures, strategies, roles and conventions.
- Promoting physical activity.

Continued

- Ethics and fair play.
- Physical activity and inclusion.
- Technology, media and sport.

Assessment components:

1. Physical activity project – 20%
2. Performance assessment – 30%
3. Written examination – 50%

Students who enjoy physical sports and Biology in particular should excel in this subject.

Compulsory Subjects

Are there any subjects you need to do to gain entry to your dream college course or career.

Do you like this subject?



Third Language

UCC
NUI Galway
UCD
Maynooth University Royal
College of Surgeons

All require a **pass** in a third language for **most** of their courses eg O6

Other colleges require it for certain courses with a large language component.

For example:

- European Studies
- Languages & Marketing
- Hotel Management
- Languages & International Tourism



Third Language

Entry to the Cadetships in the Defence Forces requires a third Language.

NCAD require a third language or Art.

Many science & engineering courses include for example, Technical French or German, from scratch .

Third Language

NO third language is required for:

1.

Trinity College
University of Limerick
D.C.U.
Institutes of Technology

Unless it is a specific
course requirement. A
pass in Irish will suffice.

2.

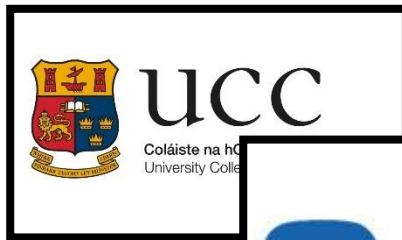
UCC	(19 courses not needing a third language)
NUIG	(21 courses not needing a third language)
UCD	(18 courses not needing a third language)
Maynooth Uni	(17 courses not needing a third language)

Third Language:

**Does future college
require a third
language for entry.**



Click any of the logos to link to the **Qualifax**
Subjects Requirement Page here you can find
all course subject requirements





Modern Languages Group

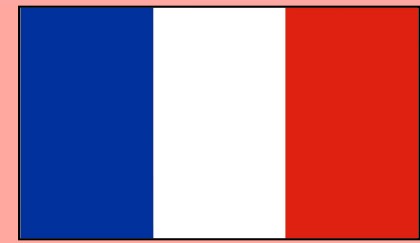
French, German, Spanish

- Having a modern language gives you greater scope when seeking employment after studying in a Third level College.
- NUI Colleges (eg UCD, Maynooth Univ. UCG, UCC require a pass in a foreign language for many of their courses.

Continued

- *Students may choose more than one modern language to study..ie. They may pick up a new one in 5th year but in order to do so the student should have a flair for languages and work exceptionally hard in this subject area.*

FRENCH



PRECONDITIONS	Junior Cert French Minimum Grade C in Higher Junior Cert to take Higher Level Leaving Cert
MARKING NOTES	Oral: 25% of total mark (H). Aural: 20 % (H)
NOTES ON COURSE	Higher & Ordinary levels have similar course content. Oral and written skills are of particular importance at higher level.
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Teaching, translation, interpreting, journalism, media the I.T. sector .
USEFUL INFORMATION	275 million people speak French across the world. It is the second most taught language in the world after English. French is spoken on all five continents of the world

GERMAN



PRECONDITIONS	Junior Cert German Minimum Grade C in Higher Junior Cert to take Higher Level Leaving Cert.
MARKING NOTES	Oral: 25% at Higher Level. Aural 25% Oral: 20% at Ordinary Level. Aural 25%
NOTES ON COURSE	Course contains 3 very structured sections.
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Business, engineering, the IT industry, teaching, translation, interpreting.
USEFUL INFORMATION	Germany is currently the best performing economy in Europe.

SPANISH



PRECONDITIONS	Junior Cert Spanish
MARKING NOTES	Oral: 25% at Higher Level. Aural 20%
	Oral: 20% at Ordinary Level. Aural 25%
NOTES ON COURSE	The standard of Spanish expected at Higher Level is high.
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	The IT industry, teaching business, translation, the hospitality industry, tourism.
USEFUL INFORMATION	Spanish is the second most used language on the Internet. It is the official language in 27 countries.

The Sciences

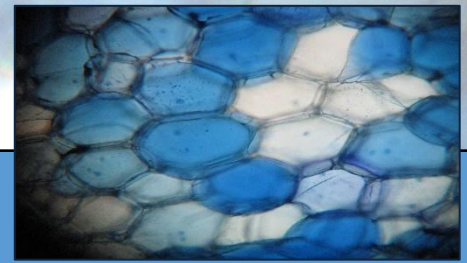
Overview

- Biology is by far the most popular of the all the science subjects followed by Chemistry and Physics.
- Although not mandatory for all courses at Third Level, it is nonetheless recommended that students choose a Science subject PROVIDED they have a general interest in this area.

Continued

- If not, there is no need to choose a Science subject.
- Many areas of study do not require a science subject at all eg, Primary school teaching, Accountancy, Business, Law, Computer Science, some Engineering courses etc.

BIOLOGY:



REQUIREMENTS	An interest in living things, the environment & fieldwork.
COURSE CONTENT	<p>22 mandatory practicals</p> <p><u>The Study of Life</u></p> <p><u>The Cell</u></p> <p><u>The organism</u></p> <p>Extensive vocabulary to familiarise.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	<p>Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Nursing, Agriculture, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Science, Microbiology, Zoology, Psychologist, Astronomer, Teacher, Researcher.</p>
USEFUL INFORMATION	<p>Recording information & drawing diagrams is important.</p> <p>Biology isn't the '<i>easiest</i>' of the Sciences. There is a lot of knowledge to learn and process.</p>



CHEMISTRY

Good aptitude for maths.
 Reasonable problem-solving skills.

COURSE CONTENT

History of famous scientists & discoveries.
 High detail on Periodic Table & Atom.
 Interesting & accurate chemical analysis.
 Organic Chemistry – chemicals in everyday life.
 Water Analysis .

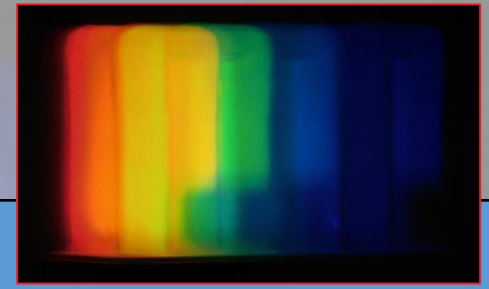
CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Pharmacy, Ag Science, Medicine, Engineering,
 General Science, Biotechnology.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The leaving cert exam is **three hours in duration**.
 Each candidate must answer at least two
 questions from Section A (experimental section)
 and a maximum of six questions from Section B.
 There are eleven questions in total on the exam.

PHYSICS:



REQUIREMENTS	Good aptitude for maths. Problem-solving skills.
COURSE CONTENT	24 mandatory experiments. Light/Sound, Mechanics, Temperature/ Heat, Electricity, Magnetism, Radioactivity, Particle Physics or Applied Electricity for Honours candidates.
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Electrician, Optician, Doctor, Dentist, Engineer, Computer Technician, Programmer.
USEFUL INFORMATION	Junior Cert honours maths students do well in Leaving Cert physics.

HOME ECONOMICS (SOCIAL & SCIENTIFIC):



REQUIREMENTS	Completion of the Junior Cert an advantage.
COURSE CONTENT	<p>A. Food Studies 45% B. Resource Management & Consumer Studies 25% C. Social Studies 10% D. Elective 20%.</p> <p>Elective choice: 1. Social Studies, 2. Textile, Fashion & Design, 3. Home Design & Management.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Food industry, tourism, clothing & design, health & social services, interior design & education.
USEFUL INFORMATION	<p>Some material is designated Higher Level only.</p> <p>There is no practical cookery exam for the Leaving Cert.</p> <p>There is a significant amount of theory to be covered requiring commitment & concentration.</p>

APPLIED MATHS:



REQUIREMENTS	Enjoyment of mathematics.
COURSE CONTENT	<p>Constant Acceleration, Relative Velocity, Projectiles, Work Energy & Power, Conservation of Momentum, Circular Motion, Simple Harmonic Motion, Rotation around a Rigid Axis, Differential Equations, Newton's Law & Connected Particles.</p> <p>Written examination - 80% Modelling project 20%</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Engineering, Physics, Construction, Architecture.
USEFUL INFORMATION	If you are considering Physics and higher level Maths then consider taking Applied Maths. Chemistry also works well.

Applied Maths continued

- The Applied Mathematics course at Leaving Certificate would be called 'Theoretical Mechanics' or 'Mathematical Physics' in third level education and it is one of many branches of the more general field of Applied Mathematics.
- The course essentially covers the mathematics behind the behaviour of objects when placed in various situations, such as being thrown as projectiles, bounced off walls or other objects, immersed in fluids, or swung around on a rope.
- There are 10 questions on the exam paper, each covering one of these topics in detail.

Bonus Points for Higher Level Mathematics...

Any student who achieves a grade a H6 or higher will earn an extra **25 points** in their Leaving Certificate.

Foundation Level Maths is recognised by many colleges for matriculation purposes but **not** for points. A small number of courses allow points for Foundation Level Maths.

BUSINESS:



REQUIREMENTS	<p>Junior Cert Business Studies an advantage.</p> <p>Keep up to date with current affairs and the news.</p>
COURSE CONTENT	<p>People in Business, Business Conflicts & Resolution.</p> <p>Enterprise, Management of Business.</p> <p>The Irish Business System, E.U. & International Business.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	<p>Banking, Insurance, Administration, Marketing, Business Management, Human Resource Management.</p>
USEFUL INFORMATION	<p>Useful to anybody contemplating starting his or her own business in the future.</p> <p>Very practical and interesting to someone of a business mind.</p>

ACCOUNTING:



REQUIREMENTS	Junior Cert Business an advantage.
COURSE CONTENT	<p><u>FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING:</u> Accounting Records, Sole Traders, Company Accounting, Specialised Accounts, Incomplete Records Cash Flow Statements.</p> <p><u>MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING:</u> Marginal Costing, Product Costing, Budgeting.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Many top executives in Business have an accountancy background. Can be a passport to working abroad.
USEFUL INFORMATION	Does not require exceptional Mathematical skills but need to be conscientious & thorough.

ECONOMICS



REQUIREMENTS	Being interested in the economy.
COURSE CONTENT	<p><u>Micro-Economics</u> – dealing with individual business units and structures.</p> <p><u>Macro-Economics</u> – dealing with the economy regarding Inflation & Government Policy, Employment & Job prospects, Rate of Inflation & the European Central Bank, Population & the study of some famous Economists.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Banking, Insurance, Finance, General Business, Marketing.
USEFUL INFORMATION	Not having done Junior Cert Business is <u>NOT</u> a disadvantage. Course is short compared to Leaving Cert Business. Outside reading required for Higher Level.

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN:



REQUIREMENTS	An interest in Art & Art History
COURSE CONTENT	<p>Practical lessons, developing skills in observational drawing, painting & craftwork. At least one visit to galleries/museums.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imaginative Composition or Still Life – 25% • Design or Craftwork – 25% • Figure/Life Drawing – 13% • Art History and Appreciation – <i>exam & written assignments</i> – 37%
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	<p>Animation, art historian, art teaching, art therapist, archaeology, architecture, computer design, industrial design, fashion/costume design, craftwork, curator, graphic design (Visual Communications), interior design, illustration, photography.....</p>
USEFUL INFORMATION	<p>Examinations may be taken in Higher or Ordinary Level in each of the above areas. A portfolio of artwork may be required for entry into some college/university courses. Students should aim to have some of their portfolio completed in fifth year.</p>

MUSIC:




REQUIREMENTS	Being good at performance, desirable.
COURSE CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening (25%)• Composing (25%)• Performing (25%) (the voice is also an instrument!)• Performance <i>or</i> Music Technology 25%
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Primary Teaching, Second Level Teaching, Sound Technician, any area of the Music Business, performing or production.


CONSTRUCTION STUDIES:



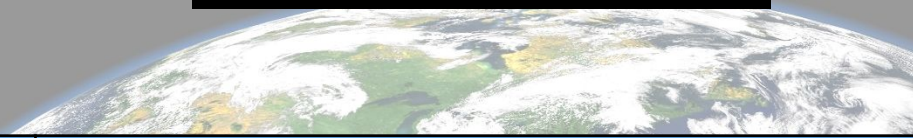
REQUIREMENTS	Interest in buildings & the built environment. Aptitude for design & practical work.
COURSE CONTENT	<p><u>Woodwork practical exam 25%</u>, (4hours).</p> <p><u>Project 25%</u>: Items of furniture. Using at least 2: joinery, woodturning, veneering/ marquetry, laminating or wood carving.</p> <p><u>Theory paper 50%</u>. Topics: Irelands historic buildings, Rural & urban planning; Passive house design; Insulation; Air tightness; Zoned heating systems; Geothermal heating; Carbon neutral buildings; Water conservation; Renewable energies.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Carpentry, electrician, electrical engineer, engineer, plumbing.
USEFUL INFORMATION	Not having done Junior Cert Woodwork is <u>NOT</u> a disadvantage.

<p>REQUIREMENTS</p>	<p>Junior Cert Technical Graphics Interest in construction or engineering. Good at maths & problem solving. Interest in freehand sketching, Computer Graphics & CAD. Neat and has good attention to detail.</p> 
<p>COURSE CONTENT</p>	<p>3 hour written exam. Research & Design Project in 6th Year. 40% of marks. Drawings Portfolio to include: Plane & Solid Geometry, Building Applications, Engineering Applications and a Compulsory Computer Aided Design Project.</p>
<p>CAREER POSSIBILITIES</p>	<p>Engineering, construction, industrial design, interior design & Architecture.</p>
<p>USEFUL INFORMATION</p>	<p>Studying of DCG is a distinct advantage for all apprenticeships.</p>

ENGINEERING:

REQUIREMENTS	Technical Junior Certificate subject essential – Carries on from Junior Cert Metal Work
COURSE CONTENT 	Expected to design for themselves. Twelve week design & make project for 25%. A six hour practical exam for 25%. A three hour theory exam for 50%. <u>Practical:</u> Drilling; Milling, Lathes, Band Saws, Various Welding procedures and computer aided machinery. <u>Theory:</u> Metals, plastics, materials testing, welding machining techniques, alloy technology, mechanisms & electronics.
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Mechanic, panel beater, sheet metal worker/fabricator, welder, fitter, turner, plumber,, steel fixer, engineering teacher all types of engineering, computer aided manufacture, architecture, designer

GEOGRAPHY:



COURSE CONTENT	<p><u>3 Core Units:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Patterns & Processes in the Physical Environment2. Regional Geography. Different regions of the world.3. Geographical Investigation - fieldwork project 20% <p><u>Elective Units:</u></p> <p>Patterns & Processes in Economic Activities or Human Environment.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Tourism, Transport, Travel, Environmental Science, Politics, Town Planning, Surveying, Weather Forecasting, Map-making and Environmental Assessment.
USEFUL INFORMATION	Higher level elective options only Global Interdependence, Geo-ecology, Culture and Identity or Atmosphere-ocean environment.

Humanities Group

Politics and Society

Subject was examined for the first time in June 2018.

Politics and society will suit any student who is interested in areas such as human rights, equality, diversity, sustainable development power and democratic decision-making.

Continued

- *Politics and Society* is a useful subject for those wishing to study politics or sociology or other courses such as law, anthropology, philosophy, development and cultural innovation studies.
- The subject will be assessed through a written exam (80%) of marks and will also involve a citizenship project undertaken by individual students which will attract 20% of the final marks.

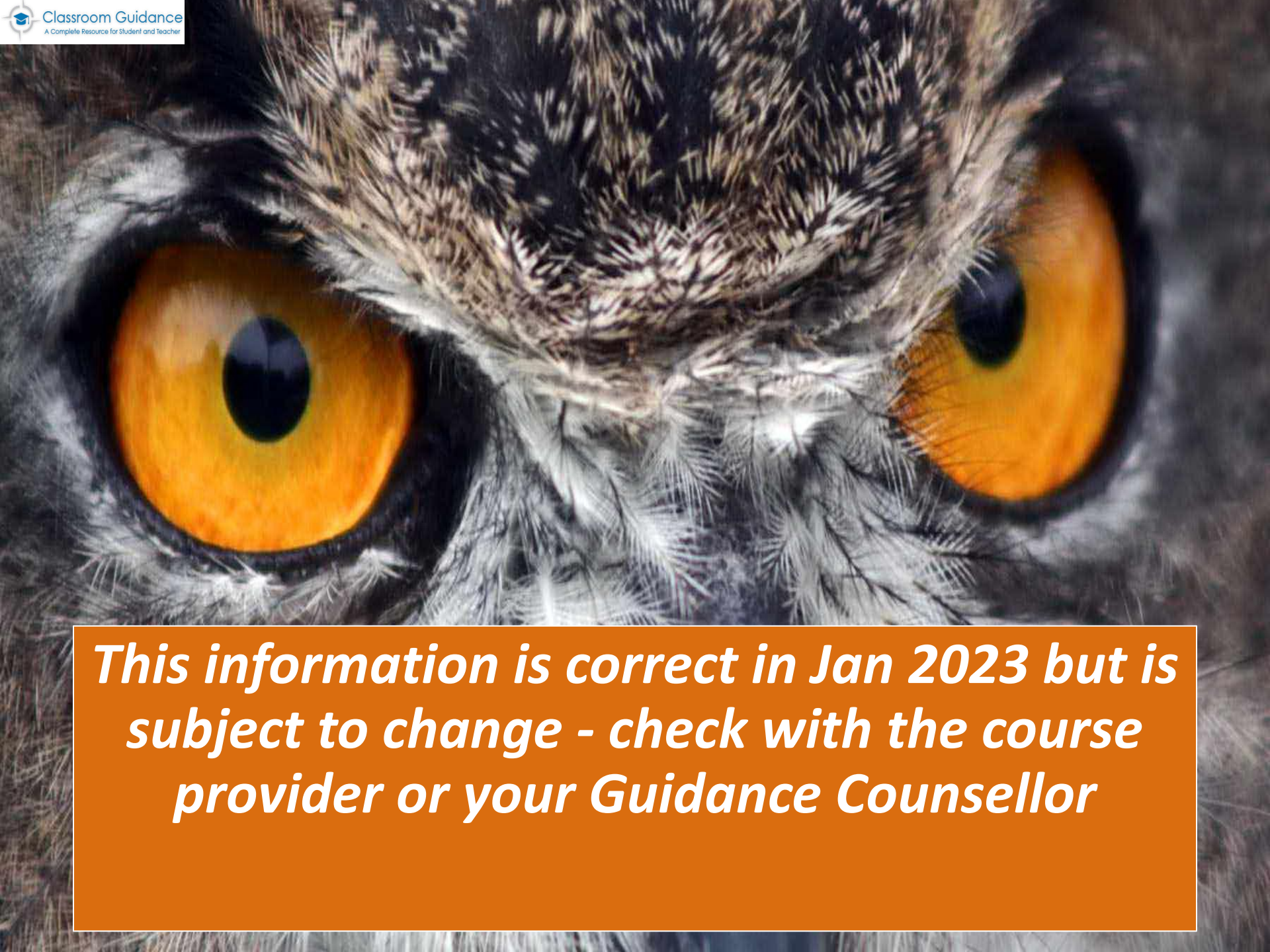
HISTORY:



COURSE CONTENT	<p>5 topics, each worth 20%.</p> <p>2 Irish history topics & 2 world events topics plus 1 Research Study Report.</p> <p>Learn to support arguments with relevant evidence.</p> <p>Learn about people, countries and cultures.</p> <p>Learn how to separate fact from fiction.</p> <p>Insight into your own identity and tradition.</p>
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	<p>Arts, journalism, web-based research, museums, tourism, local and national government, broadcasting companies, banking, teaching.</p>
USEFUL INFORMATION	<p>Studying History sharpens communication, writing & research skills.</p> <p>History develops an ability to think independently.</p> <p>History gives you a better understanding of the world we live in.</p>

Subject Choice

- List, in order of preference, your desired Leaving Cert subjects for next year (*excluding Maths, English, Irish*).



This information is correct in Jan 2023 but is subject to change - check with the course provider or your Guidance Counsellor

Questions????

Please address any queries you may have to:

ffarrell@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie

and/or

bcoggins@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie

Or call the Office on 01-8038056.