

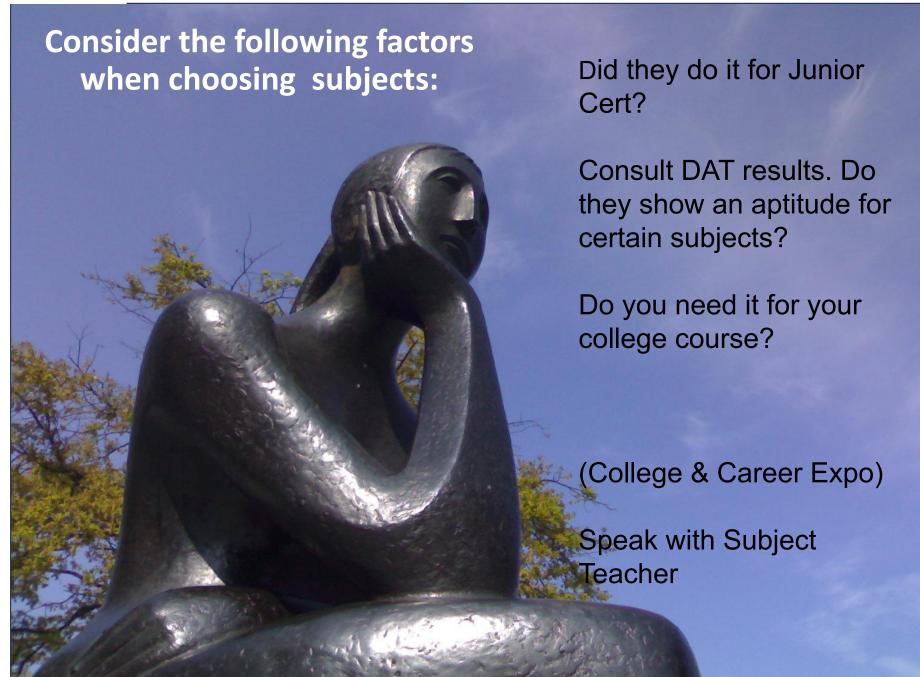


# **Leaving Cert Subject Choice**



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

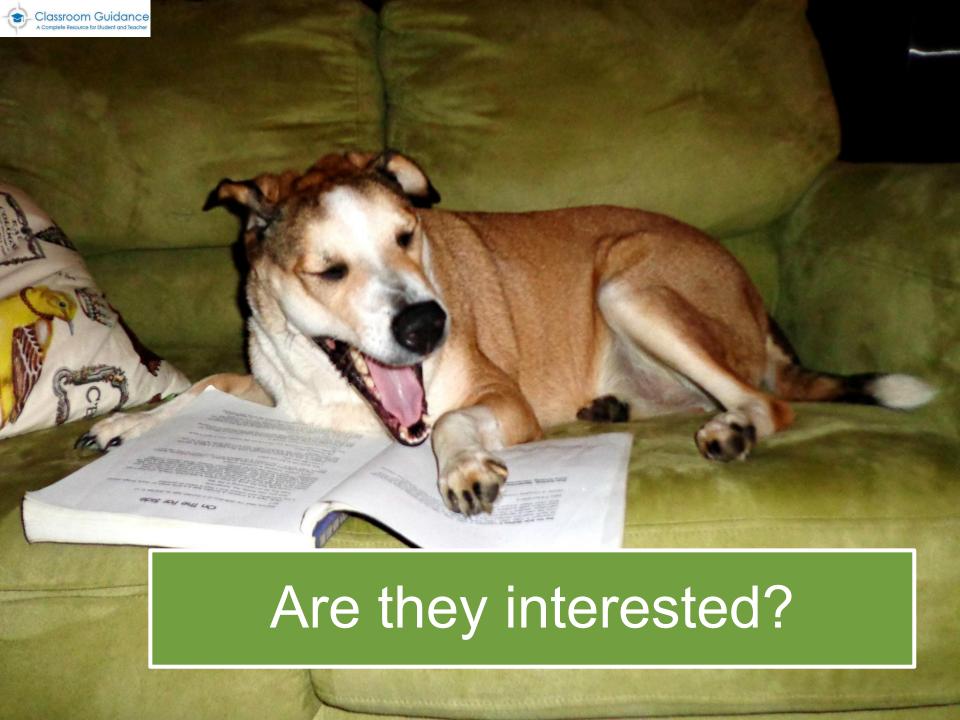




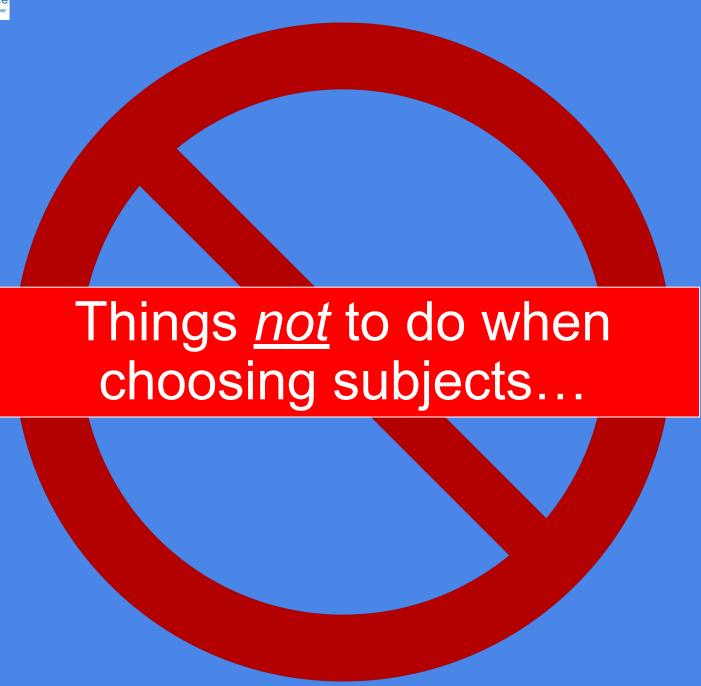


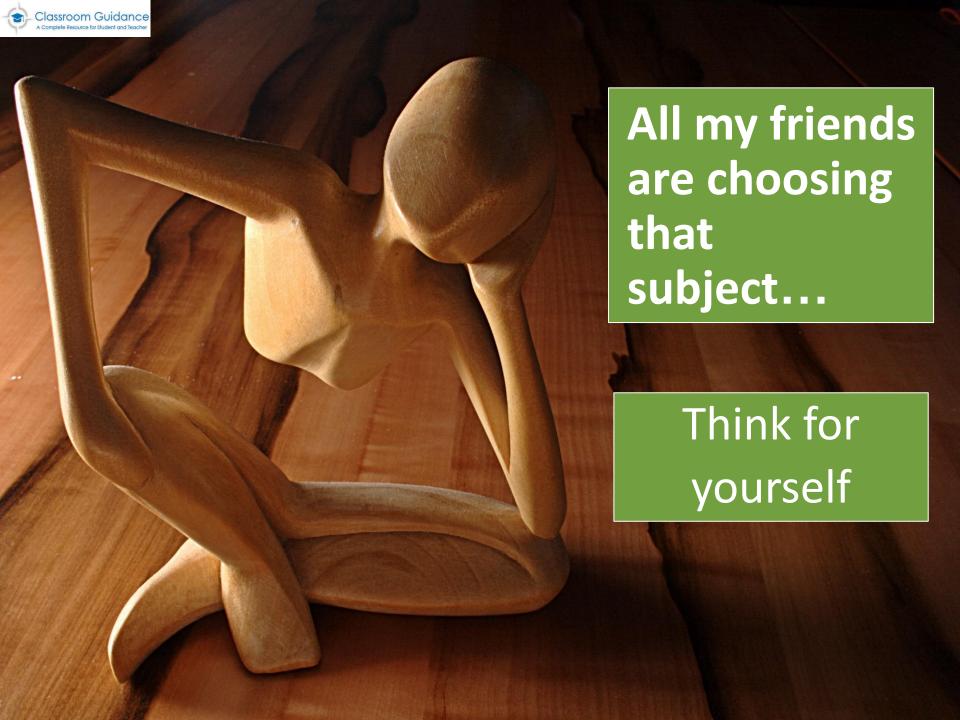
# Do they enjoy the subject?















When choosing subjects, <u>do what</u> <u>comes naturally.</u>

- 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 they are likely to get good grades. Check your <u>DATS</u> scores also.

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

VR NR AR PS&A MR SR SP LU EA

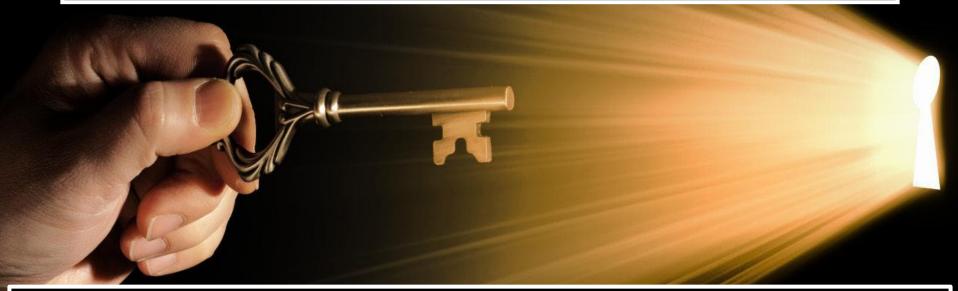


Favourite subjects from the Junior Cert

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

- <u>Business area</u> (accountancy, business, economics).
- <u>Sciences</u> (physics, Biology, chemistry, Applied Maths\*, Geography, LCPE, Computer Science\*).
- <u>Technology area</u>: (Engineering, construction, DCG).

- Humanities: Art, Languages
   (French, Spanish, German),
   Music, Home Economics,
   History, Politics and Society).
- YOU ARE <u>NOT</u> 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, Chemis	try or Agricultural Science.

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

Mg Si

# 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**

<u>Is required for:</u>
Theoretical Physics - TCD

Is very useful for:
Anyone considering courses in
Engineering or Electronics.

### Leaving Cert Physical Education (LCPE)

#### **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.

### LCPE – Assessment Criteria

There are three assessment components in Leaving Certificate Physical Education: A physical activity project, performance assessment and written examination.

Assessment component	Weighting	<u>Level</u>
Physical activity project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Performance assessment	30%	Common level
Written examination	50%	Higher and Ordinary

# Physical Activity Project (PAP) – 20%

- Can be taken at Higher & Ordinary level
- Approximately 8-10 weeks will be spent completing this
- Submitted in December of 6th Year
- Must be completed in a different activity to the one selected for their performance assessment
- Learner chooses the activity. It can be outside the activities of the current spec
- May choose from one of the following roles Coach/Choreographer or performer
- It is completed in a digital format
- You are assessed on 4 sections

- 1. Performance analysis
- 2. Identification of four performance goals
- 3. Evidence of ongoing training/practice and reflection
- 4. Concluding analysis

### Performance Assessment – 30%

- Common level
- You choose one of the 3 selected areas of physical activities being studied
- Required to demonstrate a range of skills, techniques and or compositional elements outlined in the Spec
- The performance is captured digitally by the learner and in sessions that are designed to show the learner's best personal performance in a variety of contexts
- Clips will be captured digitally and collected over time during JAN –MAR in 6<sup>th</sup> year





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

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

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

#### 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

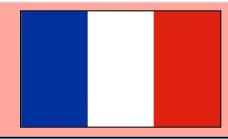
- Having a modern language gives you greater scope when seeking employment after studying in a Third level College.
- NUI Colleges (eg UCD, Maynooth Univ. UCG, UCC require a pass in a foreign language for many of their courses.

#### **Continued**

 Students may choose more than one modern language to study..ie. They may pick up a new one in 5<sup>th</sup> 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 .

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.

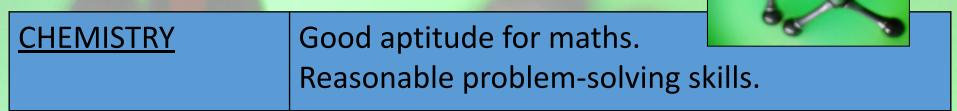


# **BIOLOGY:**

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



COLIDCE CONTENT



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 .

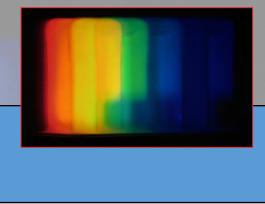
USEFUI	The leaving cert exam is three hours in duration
POSSIBILITIES	General Science, Biotechnology.
	Pharmacy, Ag Science, Medicine, Engineering,

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.



# **PHYSICS:**



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



## **APPLIED MATHS:**

REQUIREMENTS	Enjoyment of mathematics.
COURSE	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. Written examination - 80% Modelling project 20%
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.



## **Computer Science** 2025:



REQUIREMENTS	Students should have a strong interest in computers
	and computer applications

**CONTENT** 

**COURSE** 

The two main computer languages used throughout the syllabus shall be Python and JavaScript.

concepts and 3: Computer Science in practice.

Students will learn to write code and to compile test and debug code. They will learn how to evaluate computer systems that solve problems based on the integration, analysis and evaluation of qualitative and quantitative information and data from the three strands of this programme which are 1: Practices and Principles 2: Core

Computer based assessment: 70% of marks at both

Computer Science for the Leaving Cert is a Highly Practical course.

Assessment **Procedures** 

Higher and Ordinary levels.

Coursework assessment: 30% of marks.

CAREER  $\bigcap \bigcap \bigcap \bigcap I$  Computer engineer, software developer, Data Scientist, Product Manager, Web developer, Cyber security analyst.

# LC Climate action and Sustainable Development

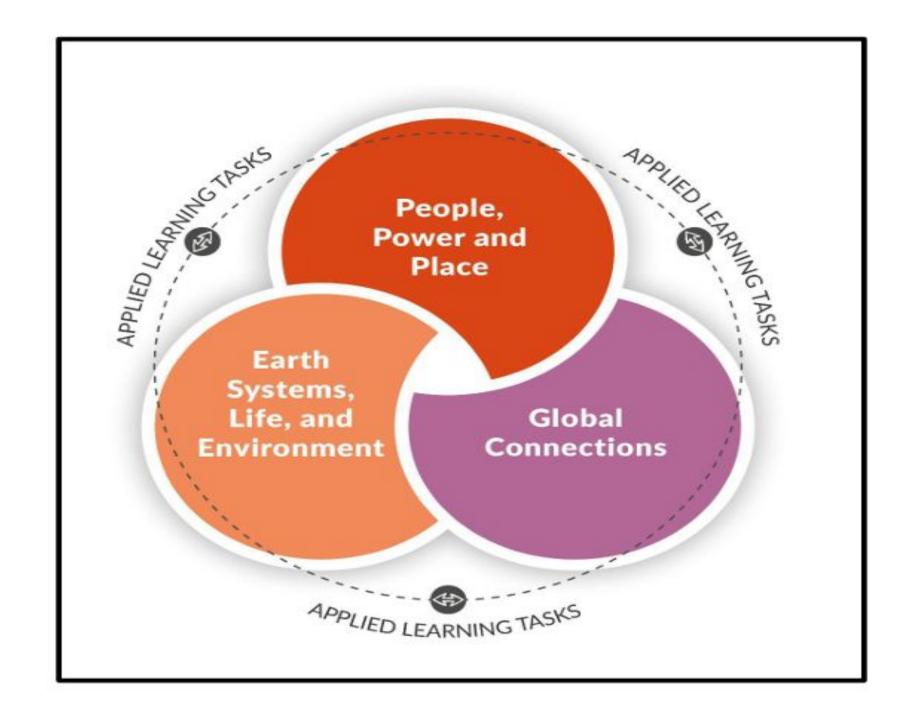
This is a new subject for September 2025

There are four main strands of study:

- 1. Earth systems
- 2. People, Power and Place
- 3. Global Connections & Applied Learning Tasks.

Students apply their learning in exploring, designing and taking informed action on key sustainability challenges including the climate crisis. It is very evidence based.

Assessment: Action project 40%. Written exam 60%



#### Why This Subject Matters

Climate Action and Sustainable Development addresses the most pressing challenge of our time: the climate crisis.

#### • Key Rationale:

- Learn how to live sustainably in a rapidly changing world.
- Understand interconnected global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and social justice.
- Equip yourself to be a changemaker.

#### This subject empowers students to:

- Understand climate science and climate justice.
- Explore sustainable solutions for environmental challenges.
- Develop skills in critical thinking, systems analysis, and collective action.
- Build knowledge and expertise in the area of Sustainability and how it impacts life and future employment
- https://www.curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/df1d6c85
   -f630-436f-9383-7503b64d6ed5/SC-Climate-Action
   -Sustainable-Dev-Spec-ENG.pdf

#### **Applied Learning in Action**

Students engage in hands-on tasks that make learning tangible:

- 1. Facilitate dialogues about sustainability.
- 2. Research global and local climate actions.
- 3. Design nature-based experiences.
- 4. Plan and implement collective action projects.

**Outcome**: Real-world experience that builds skills for lifelong learning and global citizenship.

https://padlet.com/jct2/climate-action-sustainable-development-28q7wztpcxofjulm

#### **Skills Gained:**

- Leadership
- Communication
- Research and data analysis
- Creativity and innovation
- Teamwork and problem-solving

### **Opportunities Ahead:**

- Diverse career pathways: environmental studies, education, business, public policy etc
- Preparation for higher education and community engagement.



### **Bonus Points for Higher Level Mathematics...**

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

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



**USEFUL** 

**INFORMATION** 

## **BUSINESS:**

REQUIREMENTS	Junior Cert Business Studies an advantage.
	Keep up to date with current affairs and the news.
COURSE	People in Business, Business Conflicts & Resolution.
CONTENT	Enterprise, Management of Business.

CAREER Banking, Insurance, Administration, Marketing,
POSSIBILITIES Business Management, Human Resource

Useful to anybody contemplating starting his or her own business in the future.

Very practical and interesting to someone of a business mind.

The Irish Business System, E.U. & International



# **ACCOUNTING:**

REQUIREMENTS	Junior Cert Business an advantage.
COURSE	Accounting Records, Sole Traders, Company Accounting, Specialised Accounts, Incomplete
	Records Cash Flow Statements.  MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING:  Marginal Costing, Product Costing, Budgeting.
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**



Being interested in the economy.

**REQUIREMENTS COURSE CONTENT** 

Micro-Economics – dealing with individual business

units and structures. Macro-Economics – 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. Research project in first term of 6<sup>th</sup> year worth 20%.

Banking, Insurance, Finance, General Business, Marketing.

**POSSIBILITIES** 

**CAREER** 

Not having done Junior Cert Business is **NOT** a disadvantage. Course is short compared to Leaving Cert Business. Outside reading required for Higher

**USEFUL** INFORMATION



## **ART, CRAFT & DESIGN:**



REQUIREMENTS	An interest in Art & Art History
COURSE	Practical lessons, developing skills in observational drawing, painting & craftwork.  At least one visit to galleries/museums.  Imaginative Composition or Still Life – 25%  Design or Craftwork – 25%  Figure/Life Drawing – 13%  Art History and Appreciation – exam & written assignments – 37%
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	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
USEFUL INFORMATION	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.



## **MUSIC:**



-		
-	REQUIREMENTS	Being good at performance, desirable.
	COURSE	<ul> <li>Listening (25%)</li> <li>Composing (25%)</li> <li>Performing (25%) (the voice is also an instrument!)</li> <li>Performance <i>or</i> Music Technology 25%</li> </ul>
	CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Primary Teaching, Second Level Teaching, Sound Technician, any area of the Music Business, performing or production.



## **CONSTRUCTION STUDIES:**

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REQUIREMENTS	Interest in buildings & the built environment.  Aptitude for design & practical work.
COURSE	Woodwork practical exam 25%, (4hours).  Project 25%: Items of furniture. Using at least 2: joinery, woodturning, veneering/ marquetry, laminating or wood carving.  Theory paper 50%. 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.
CAREER POSSIBILITIES	Carpentry, electrician, electrical engineer, engineer, plumbing.
LICETIII	Not boying done lunior Cart Moodyyork is NOT a

USEFUL Not having done Junior Cert Woodwork is <u>NOT</u> a disadvantage.



#### Classroom Guidance DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS

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.
COURSE	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

Engineering, construction, industrial design, interior

CONTENT

CAREER

**POSSIBILITIES** design & Architecture. Studying of DCG is a distinct advantage for all **USEFUL INFORMATION** apprenticeships.

Design Project.



## **ENGINEERING:**

REQUIREMENTS	Technical Junior Certificate subject essential – Carries on from Junior Cert Metal Work
COURSECONTENT	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%. Practical: Drilling; Milling, Lathes, Band Saws, Various Welding procedures and computer aided machinery. Theory: 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

#### 3 Core Units:

- 1. Patterns & Processes in the Physical Environment
- 2. Regional Geography. Different regions of the world. 3. Geographical Investigation fieldwork project 20%
  - **Elective Units:**
  - Patterns & Processes in Economic Activities or Human Environment.

# 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 5 topics, each worth 20%.

2 Irish history topics & 2 world events topics plus

1 Research Study Report.

Learn to support arguments with relevant evidence.

Learn about people, countries and cultures.

Learn how to separate fact from fiction.

Insight into your own identity and tradition.

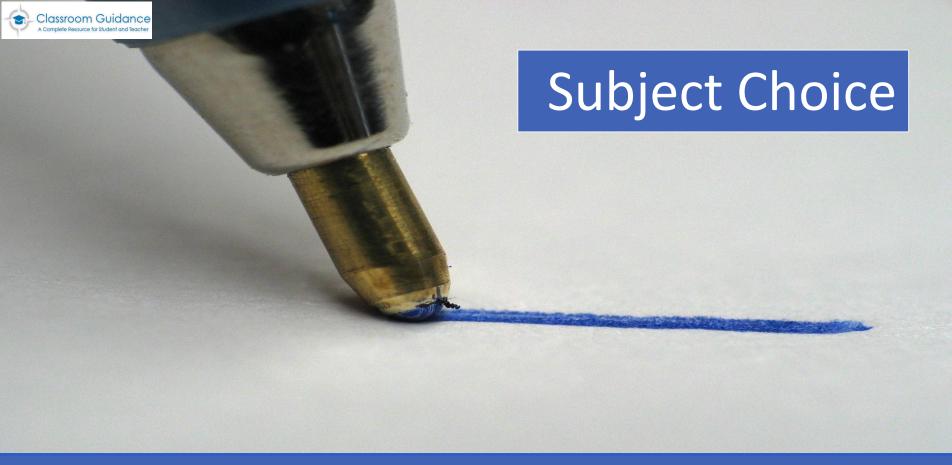
CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Arts, journalism, web-based research, museums, tourism, local and national government, broadcasting companies, banking, teaching.

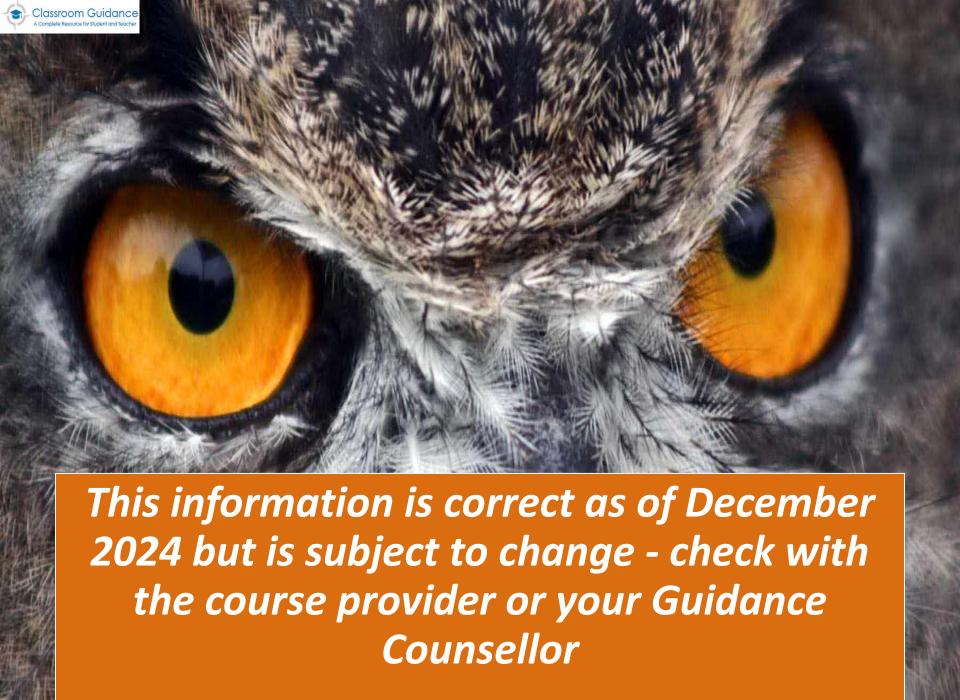
Studying History sharpens communication, writing &

USEFUL INFORMATION

research skills.
History develops an ability to think independently.
History gives you a better understanding of the
world we live in.



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



## Links to Useful Sites

#### Course Finder | CareersPortal.ie

Useful for finding subjects required for specific courses.

www.examinations.ie/exammaterialarchive/?i=96.11 5.92.104.103

When you access this link, go to Choose Subject and where it says Select Subject, scroll down and choose a Leaving Cert. subject. This will take you to Leaving Cerpast papers.

# Key Dates: 6th January & 9th January

All TY students will have a talk about subject choices period 2 on Monday 6th January.

On Thursday 9th January, all TY students will have an opportunity to speak with 5th years in all subject options and ask key questions and see the textbooks, and work they have completed.

## Questions????

Please address any queries you may have to:

ffarrell@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie and/or

bcoggins@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie
Or call the Office on 01-8038056.