




Subject Choice for Leaving Certificate

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Overview of Presentation

- **Senior Cycle: What to Expect**
- **Subject Choice:**
Influences, Consequences and How to Make the Right Decision
- **Options Post LC:**
Overview and Entry Requirements
- **Subject Choice: KCS Procedure**
- **Subject Choice: General Advice**



Senior Cycle: **What to Expect**

Senior Cycle: What to Expect

- **Huge difference between Junior and Senior cycle education;**
 - **Fewer subjects for examination, so each subject is studied in greater depth.**
 - **Larger workload.**
 - **More time given to subjects
e.g. from 3 classes per subject in JC to a min. of 5 classes in LC.**

Senior Cycle: What to Expect

- **The level of difficulty in each subject is much higher.**
- **As soon students enter 5th Year, they are expected to work hard to meet the demands of each subject.**
- **Time adjusting from TY can impact on essential study needed at the start of 5th Year.**
- **Students must understand the importance of preparing for 5th Year.**



Subject Choice: **Influences**

Factors Influencing Subject Choice

- **What subjects does the student enjoy?**
(they will work best at, and achieve better grades if they enjoy a subject)
- **Ability and aptitude in the subject.**
- **Learning style.**
(Practical / Theory)
- **Is the subject necessary for entry to a course at third level?**
- **Is a particular level or grade needed for entry to a course at third level?**



CoolClips.com

Influences They Should Not Entertain

- The subject is 'easy', 'hard', 'has less work'.

(no subject is easy: difficulty lies in picking a subject that doesn't suit students abilities/interests)

- Gender subject.

- Picking subjects in relation to teachers.

- Picking subjects in relation to friends.





Subject Choice: **Consequences**

Consequences of Poor Subject Choice

- Likely to be unhappy in class for two years: *lack motivation, get frustrated, discipline.*
- Likely not to do well - may impact on overall attainment (e.g. points for LC: 3rd Level entry).
- Not choosing a subject or the correct level/grade needed for 3rd level course they are interested in – cannot apply.



Consequences of Poor Subject Choice

- **Students may want to change subjects in Y5.**
 - **The school will try to facilitate this early in September of Y5 but cannot always do so.**
 - **Changing subjects at this stage involves having to catch up in the new subject – it is a major disadvantage taking up a subject 6 or 8 weeks later than the other students in the class.**

Consequences of Poor Subject Choice

- It is important to note that if the school does not allow a student to change subject at the start of Y5 –

it will not allow them to drop the subject either:

therefore students must spend 2 years studying a subject that they don't enjoy or find extremely difficult. This may be very challenging and stressful.



Subject Choice:

**Making the Right
Decision**

Making the Right Decision

- Research is key.

KCS: Sources of Information

- Presentation on subject choice has been given to TY students.
- An information booklet which I have prepared will also help students to review their options.



Making the Right Decision

- **DAT results should also highlight areas that students are naturally strong in.**
- **Personality and career interest tests are carried out in guidance classes. This is to help students better understand their personality, interests, likes and dislikes and to identify careers that may suit them.**

Making the Right Decision

- Options post LC are explored in guidance class, so that students understand the routes open to them after secondary school.
- Career websites and college websites are also explored in guidance class, allowing students an opportunity to access information on **subject choice, 3rd Level entry requirements and careers** (e.g. www.careersportal.ie and www.qualifax.ie)

Making the Right Decision

- Experiences such as work experience, external educational/ training opportunities that TY students have been involved in, should help them to identify areas they are interested in.
- Students have taken classes in LC subjects in TY and have had the opportunity to speak to subject teachers.
- TY students have had the opportunity to hear from LC students on individual subject options.

Making the Right Decision

What Students Need to Do

- Identify their strengths, interests and what motivates them.
- They need to understand how they learn best and choose subjects that will complement their learning style.
- Identify subjects they enjoyed and did well in for JC.
- Carry out career investigations to identify courses/careers of interest & 3rd level entry requirements.
- Speak with subject teachers to advise further on their suitability for a subject.
- They should discuss their options with their parents / guardians.



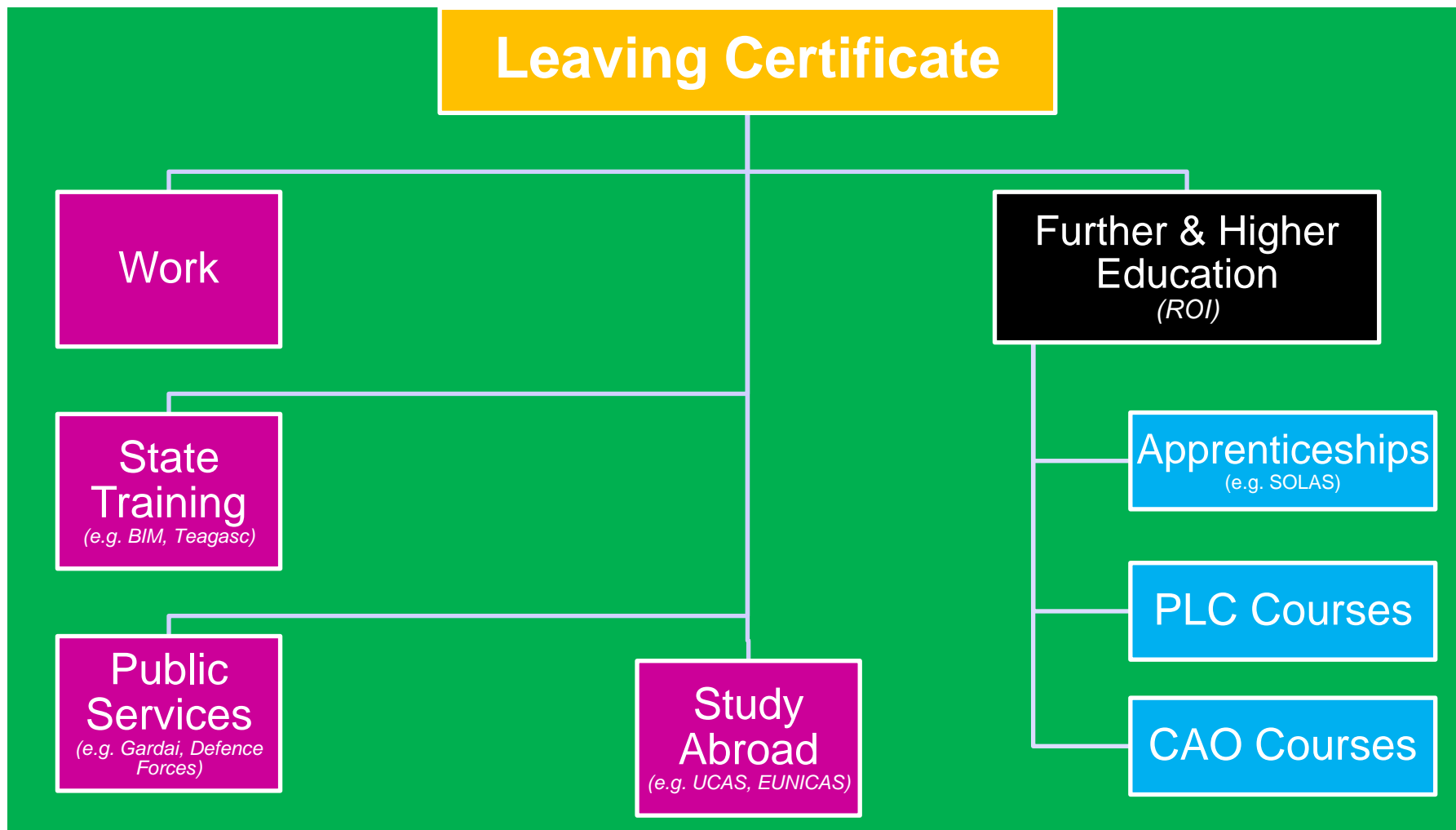
Options Post LC:

Overview

&

Entry Requirements

Options Post Leaving Cert



Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) Colleges

- These are colleges of Further Education (FE).
- They offer a range of courses, mostly to QQI Level 5 (1 year), some to Level 6 (2 years).
- Some minimum entry requirements may apply (e.g. Beauty Therapy: Biology).
- Possibility of entry to Higher Education Institutions (HEI) on completion of course.
- Entry requirements - usually *5 passes in Leaving Cert and attend an interview*. Students apply directly to the college (not through the CAO).

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) Colleges

Main Providers in Cork

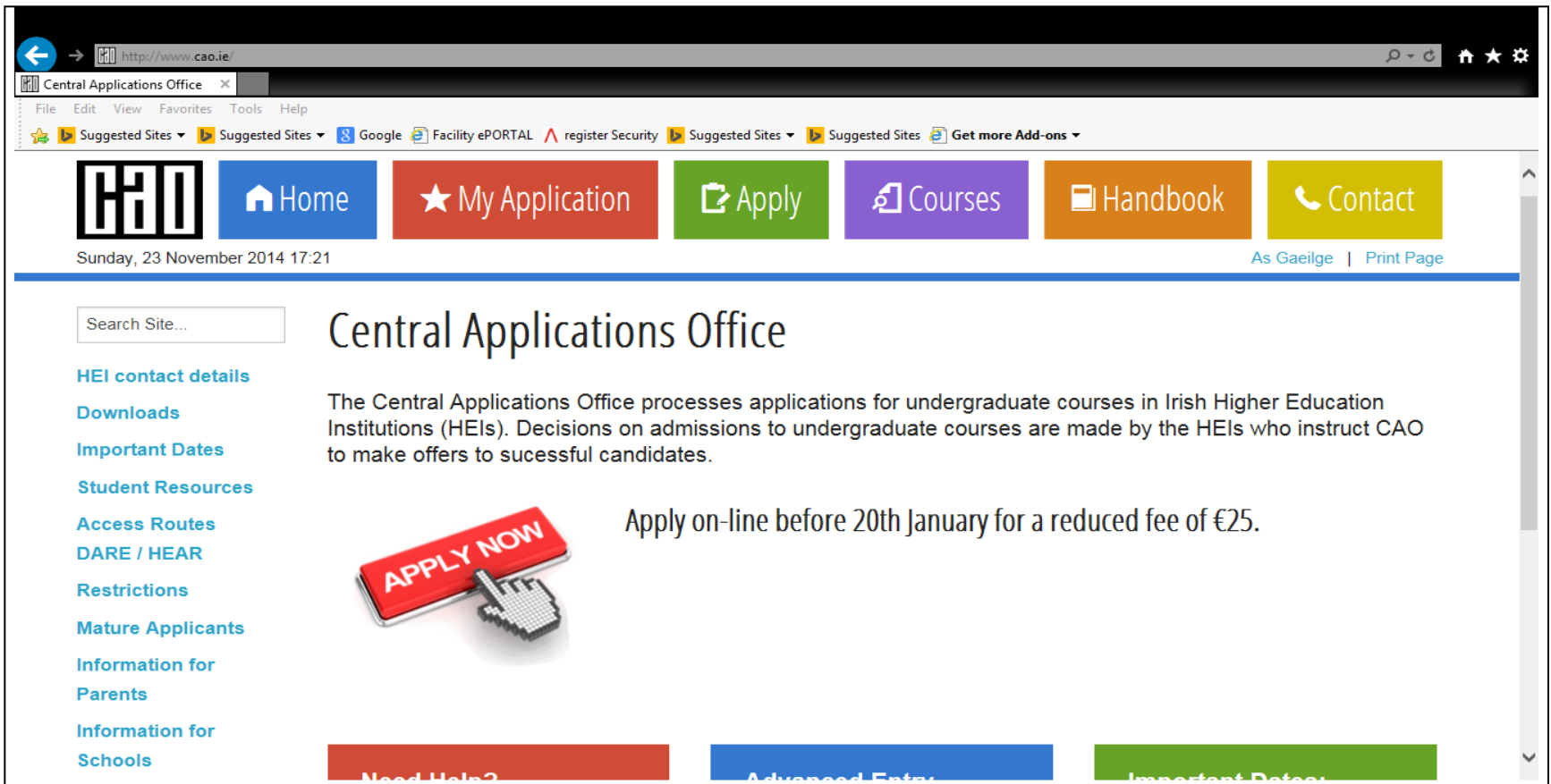
- College of Commerce – www.corkcollegeofcommerce.ie
- Colaiste Stiofain Naofa (CSN) – www.csn.ie
- St. Johns Central College – www.stjohnscollege.ie
- Kinsale College of Further Ed – www.kinsalecollegeoffe.ie
- 2018 Open Day for Cork city providers- 06th of March.

UCAS

- UCAS is the UK higher education application route (www.ucas.com) .
- 6th Year students can apply online, linked through the school, from September to January.
- The application process requires *predicted grades*, a *personal statement*, a *reference* and may also require students to complete additional information details, aptitude/entrance tests and attend for interview.
- Oct 15th was the deadline for applications for Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry, Cambridge and Oxford.
- Jan 15th was the deadline for the majority of other courses.

CAO: Central Applications Office

- HEI application route in ROI (www.cao.ie)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Central Applications Office (CAO) website. The browser address bar displays "http://www.cao.ie". The page features a navigation menu with buttons for "Home", "My Application", "Apply", "Courses", "Handbook", and "Contact". The main content area includes a search bar, a heading "Central Applications Office", and a paragraph explaining the office's role in processing applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). A prominent red "APPLY NOW" button is shown with a hand cursor pointing to it. Below the main text, there are three colored buttons: "Need Help?", "Advanced Entry", and "Important Dates".

Central Applications Office

The Central Applications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to successful candidates.

Apply on-line before 20th January for a reduced fee of €25.

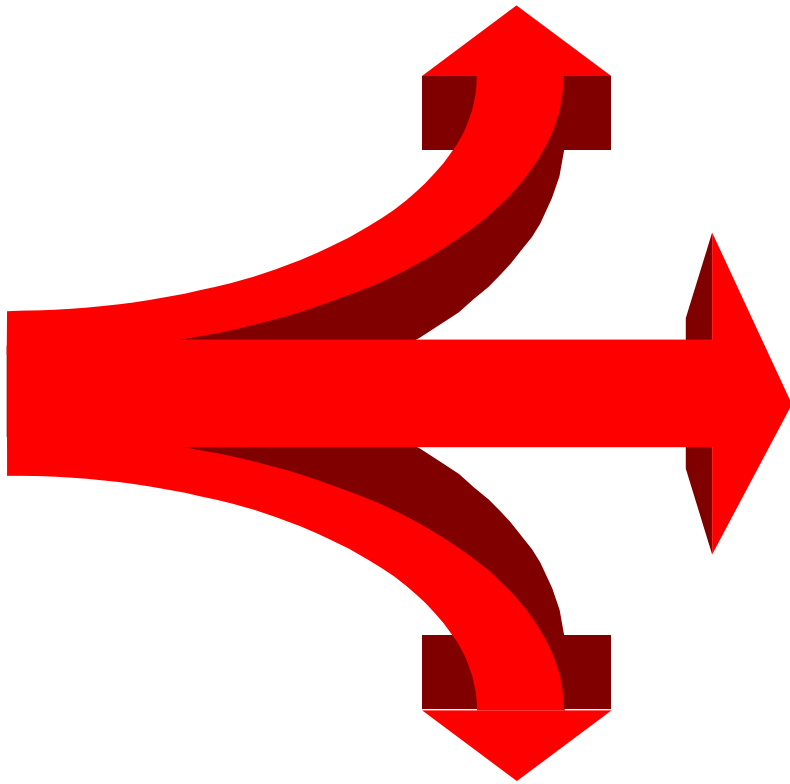
APPLY NOW

Need Help? Advanced Entry Important Dates

CAO - Course Levels

- **Level 8** - (Honours Degree) run by universities e.g. UCC and Institutes of Technology e.g. CIT.
- **Level 7** - (Ordinary Degree) run by Institutes of Technology.
- **Level 6** - (Higher Certificate) run by Institutes of Technology

CAO Entry To Third Level - HEIs: 3 Factors



- **Points**
- **Minimum Entry Requirements**
- **Specific Entry Requirements**
(may also involve interviews, portfolios, aptitude tests etc.)



Points

Changes to the LC Grading System

Higher Level Grade

H1 (90-100%)

H2 (80 < 90%)

H3 (70 < 80%)

H4 (60 < 70%)

H5 (50 < 60%)

H6 (40 < 50%)

H7 (30 < 40%)

H8 (0 < 30%)

Ordinary Level Grade

O1 (90-100%)

O2 (80 < 90%)

O3 (70 < 80%)

O4 (60 < 70%)

O5 (50 < 60%)

O6 (40 < 50%)

O7 (30 < 40%)

O8 (0 < 30%)

New Common Points Scale

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

- Honours Maths

25 bonus points will continue to be awarded in 2017 for Higher Level Maths, at grades H6 and above.

- Important Change

Grade H7
(Hons 30- 40%)
will earn 37 points
in new system.



Entry Requirements

Entry Requirements: HEIs

- **There are minimum entry requirements to be met for all HEIs.**
- **Most of these revolve around the core subjects of Irish, English, Maths and a Third Language.**
- **The entry requirements will differ between HEIs so it is important that students check each colleges website to identify their entry requirements.**

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OF MAJOR CAO COLLEGES

Institution	Minimum grades	Required subjects
NUI Colleges: UCD, NUIM, NUIG,(RCSI, Shannon, Miltown)	2H5 + 4O6/H7	O6/H7 in English, Irish, Maths (not for all courses) & Modern Language (not for all courses)
UCC	2H5 + 4O6/H7	O6/H7 in English, Irish, Maths (not for all courses) & 3rd language Language (not for all courses)
Trinity College Dublin	3H5 + 3O6/H7	O6/H7 in Maths, English <u>&</u> any other Language (e,g, Irish)
Dublin City University	2H5 + 4O6/H7	O6/H7 in Maths, English <u>or</u> Irish
University of Limerick	2H5 + 4O6/H7	O6/H7 in Maths, English & Irish <u>or</u> another Language.
Institutes of Technology (L 8) (L6/7)	2H5 + 4O6/H7 (Hons Deg) 5O6/H7 (Org eg/HigCert.)	O6/H7 in Maths, English <u>or</u> Irish

Entry Requirements

- **Good subject choice allows students to keep options open.**
- **When choosing LC subjects, care must be taken as the choices made now, may influence 3rd level and career options in 2 years time.**
- **Regardless of how many points a student gets in the LC, they will be ineligible to even apply for a course if they have not met the 'course entry requirements'.**

Subjects: Entry Requirements

IRISH

- **Higher Level Irish is required for Primary Teaching in Mary Immaculate College (currently H5 but is increasing to a H4 for 2019 onwards) .**
- **Nursing, Irish O6/H7 for NUI colleges (*no requirement in Institutes of Technology*).**
- **Any course with Irish as a subject, will have a specific grade requirement for entry.**

Subjects: Entry Requirements

ENGLISH

- **Some courses have specific entry requirement e.g.,**
 - **Higher Level English (H4) is required for Journalism (UL/ DCU), Communication Studies/Multimedia (DCU) and Media Studies (NUI Maynooth).**
 - **Deaf Studies in TCD (H4) *in English*.**
- **Most other courses require a pass at ordinary level.**

Subjects: Entry Requirements

MATHEMATICS

- Higher Level (H4) required for most Level 8 Engineering, and some Computer Science courses (TCD and NUIM).
- Ordinary level needed for most other courses on CAO.
- Foundation level - acceptable for some CAO courses (check www.qualifax.ie (*Students> Subject Choice> Subject Requirement Module> Leaving Cert Subjects> Maths Foundation Level Maths> Search> Definitely Accepts*)).
- No maths requirement for some Arts (UCC) and Law degrees (NUI colleges).
- Some Art and Design courses have no maths requirement.
- ❖ ***Advised to study maths at the highest level possible: keeps more options open, possible extra points.***

Subjects: Entry Requirements

CONTINENTAL LANGUAGES

- Subject is required for entry into NUI colleges.

Exceptions

- Not required for nursing in any of the universities.
- Not required for any engineering or science degrees.
- Institutes of Technology (level 6 and 7) do not require continental language.
- UL will accept Irish or continental language.

Subjects and Minimum Entry Requirements

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Particular care needs to be taken with science subjects.
- Most science/healthcare courses require any one science subject.
- Some courses require 2 science subjects, particularly TCD and UCC.
- Some courses look for specific science subjects for entry purposes.

Subjects: Entry Requirements

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

➤ *Must be **Biology** for:*

- Human Health and Disease (TCD – H4) and Beauty Therapy (PLC courses).

➤ *Must be **Chemistry** for:*

- Dentistry (UCC – H4), Human Nutrition and Dietetics (DIT – H4), Medicine (UCC – H4), Pharmacy (UCC – H5 and TCD – H5), Veterinary Medicine (UCD – H5).

❖ **Advisable for all medicine, nursing and benefits all science courses.**

Subjects: Entry Requirements

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- *Must be **Physics** for:*
 - Theoretical Physics (TCD).
 - ❖ Advisable for some Engineering courses.

- ***Two sciences** needed for:*
 - Physiotherapy.
 - Pharmacy.
 - Some medicine entry.

- ***Medicine***
 - Generally two sciences: (5yrs), except NUIG, RCSI, UCD - six year course with one science subject.
 - Leaving Cert scores added to HPAT scores.

Appliance of Science

COLLEGE SUBJECTS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	
Biology	Horticulture
Agriculture	Marine Biology
CHEMICAL SCIENCES	
Chemistry	Biochemistry
Chem. Engineering	Medicinal Chem.
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	
Physics	Astronomy
Electronics	Computing
ENGINEERING	
Civil	Mechanical
Aeronautical	Electrical
MEDICAL SCIENCES	
Pharmacy	Nursing
Ophthalmic Optics	Nutrition
MEDICINE / DENTISTRY	
Medicine	Dentistry
Vet. Medicine	

Leaving Certificate Science Subjects in order of importance to college subject

1	2	3
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics
Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics
Physics	Mathematics	Chemistry
Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry
Chemistry	Biology	Physics
Chemistry	Physics	Biology

British Association for the Advancement of Science

Some Examples Of Minimum Entry To 3rd Level

- In UCC to do a course in the faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences or Law, students need a minimum of 2H5 and 4O6/H7 in their LC (6 subjects).
 - *The 6 subjects must include Irish, English and a modern language but Maths is not needed. (Maths is compulsory for LC).*
- In UCC to do a course in the faculty of Commerce, students need a minimum of 2H5 and 4O6/H7.
 - *The 6 subjects must include Irish, English, a modern language and Maths.*

Some Examples Of Minimum Entry To 3rd Level

- **In UCC to do a course in the faculty of Science you will need a minimum of 2H5 and 4O6/H7.**
- *The 6 subjects must include Irish, English, Maths and one Science subject but a modern language is not needed.*
- **In UCC to do Medicine you will need 2H5 to include Chemistry and either Physics or Biology and 4O6/H7s, to include Irish, English, another language and Maths. The HPAT must also be taken.**

Advice : Subject Link to Careers

USEFUL OR REQUIRED?

- Most other courses/ careers do not specifically require subjects but they are of course useful.
- Business, Accounting, Home Economics, History, Geography, Agricultural Science, Religion, Construction, DCG, Engineering – are not required as basic entry to 3rd level **but desirable** if intending to study a related area at third level.
- Art and Music - again generally not required as basic entry requirement even if intending to study at third level but portfolio (art) and competence test (music) required for entry along with points.



Subject Choice at KCS: Procedure

Senior Cycle Subject Choice - KCS

- All subjects are offered at honours and pass level.
- Irish and Maths are available at foundation level also.
- Students will be divided into honours/pass classes in Irish, English, Maths and third language in Y5.
- Optional subjects are all taught at honours level.

Subject Choice - KCS

Step 1: Compulsory Subjects

There are 3 compulsory subjects which students must take:

- **Irish** (*those with DES exemptions may do Business or Resource*)
- **English**
- **Maths**

-
- **These subjects are vital for future careers/ course entry.**

Subject Choice - KCS

Step 2: Compulsory Subjects

Students must also select 1 of the following subjects:

- French
 - German
 - Geography
-
- Most students choose a language as it is important for entry into many 3rd level courses.
 - Some students are exempt from a third language so they do Geography.
 - Students who choose a language can choose Geography from the 'optional list'.

Subject Choice – KCS

Step 3: Optional Subjects


Students select 3 optional subjects from 16* available options. Students list 4 choices in order of preference, 3 will be given. The school will then try to offer students their top 3 choices.

- **Biology** *(JC Science)*
- **Chemistry** *(JC Science)*
- **Physics** *(JC Science)*
- **Accounting**
- **Business**
- **Agricultural Science**
- **Construction Studies**
(known as Woodwork for JC)
- **Engineering**
(known as Metalwork for JC)

- **Design & Communication Graphics** *(known as Tech Graph for JC)*
- **Home Economics**
- **Art**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Music**
- **Religious Education** *(Exam)*
- * **PE**

Subject Choice – KCS

- **Signed form must be returned to the office by Friday the 26th of January.**
- **Student choices will then be complied into 3 subject blocks.**
- **Once the three subject blocks have been finalised, students will receive a letter stating their confirmed subject choice for 5th Year.**



Subject Choice at KCS: General Advice

Optional Subjects: General Advice

- It is highly desirable that subjects chosen for senior cycle have been studied by the student to Junior Cert level, otherwise students may be at a considerable disadvantage.
- If a subject has not been taken for JC it may not be possible to do it for LC – it depends on the subject. For example taking up a subject like Biology, not having taken science for JC, is extremely difficult.

Optional Subjects: General Advice

Many students have an idea of their direction regarding subject choice:

SCIENTIFIC
ARTISTIC / CREATIVE
PRACTICAL
SOCIAL / HEALTH
HUMANITIES
BUSINESS

Students can then select subjects to suit their chosen area.

If they are really not sure what they want to do in the future:

Pick a broad range of subjects in order to keep options open

- e.g.
 - one language*
 - one science*
 - one business*
 - one humanities / applied science*
- This combination would allow access into a broad range of courses/careers.

Optional Subjects: General Advice

- No subjects are gender specific.
- Every student is unique, with different interests, abilities and aptitudes, hence they should choose subjects based on these and not current friendships or the opinions of others.
- Students should be careful to try pick a balance between *learning* and *understanding* subjects.
- Students need to know the difference between ‘necessary / required ’ and ‘useful’ subjects.
- Students should be aware of balancing subjects which help maximise points vs. subjects which may be of benefit to them in the future.

WHAT TO CHOOSE? Advice Recap

- 1) Choose subjects that they enjoy, and are good at, they will do better in those.
- 2) Do subjects at the highest level that they can.
- 3) Choose more than one science if they are sure at this stage that they want to pursue certain healthcare courses (e.g. Medicine, Pharmacy, Physio, Dentistry).
- 4) Don't choose a subject simply because their friend is doing it.
- 5) Don't choose a subject based on feelings about the teacher.
- 6) Choose a blend of English, Irish, Maths, continental language, a science and two other subjects as this will keep options open.
- 7) Avoid choosing a subject they dislike simply because they think they might need it, e.g. science.
- 8) Be realistic about ability.

Website Resources

- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- Any of the college websites such as www.ucc.ie www.cit.ie www.ul.ie www.csn.ie ,etc.
These will give specific information on Third Level courses.
- Last years Points can be found on these websites also or also on www.cao.ie
- www.curriculumonline.ie (allows you to see what is involved in the LC subject).

Final Comment

- **Students must take responsibility for their subject choices and their education.**
- **It is the students responsibility to utilise the information and resources available to them to make the right choices for them.**
- **Any Questions?**
- **Email: kinsaleguidance@gmail.com**