

# Senior Cycle Subject Choice



*Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont*

# Key points to consider...



- Subject Options
- Entry requirements for Further Colleges of Education and Third Level Institutions
- Questions to ask yourself before you make that final choice
- Links for further information

# Structure of Senior Cycle..



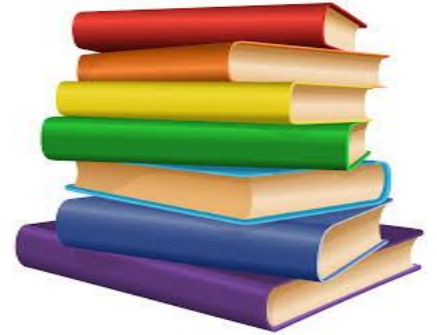
- ▣ Core Subjects  
Combination of  
examination subjects  
and non-exam  
subjects

- ▣ Subject Choice  
4 Examination  
Subjects to  
include your language  
option

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# Core Subjects...

- ▣ ***Irish***
- ▣ ***English***
- ▣ ***Maths***
- ▣ ***Religion***
- ▣ ***PE***
- ▣ ***Career Guidance***
- ▣ ***LCVP***



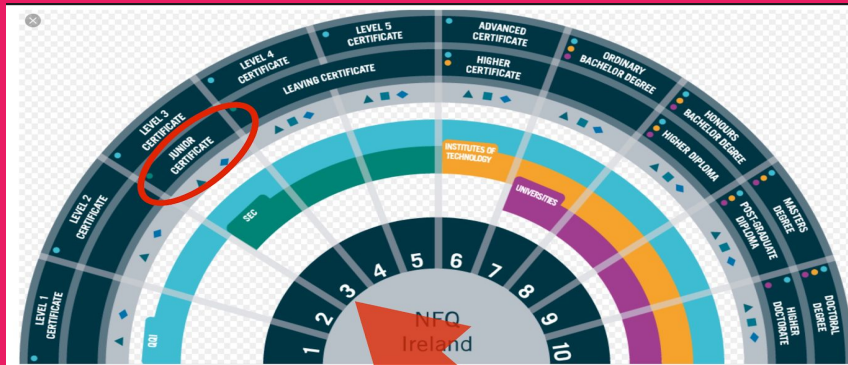
# Subject Options...

- Home Economics
- Music
- Physics
- Religion (LCRE)
- PE (LCPE)

- Accounting
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Economics
- French
- Geography
- German
- History



# National Framework of Qualifications



*If you have your Junior Cert - you have reached Level 3 on the NFQ*

- ▣ Compares qualifications internationally
- ▣ Levels 1 -10
- ▣ Leaving Cert & PLCs =Level 5

Higher Cert=Level 6 (2 years)

Ordinary Degree=Level 7 (3 years)

Honours Degree=Level 8 (3/4 years)

# Entry to Further Education Colleges



- Post Leaving Cert courses (Level 5 award)
  - Entry Requirements
    - Minimum 5 O6s & an Interview
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# Third Level Education



- Level 6, 7, and 8 qualifications
  - Entry Requirements:
    - 1- Minimum College Requirements
    - 2- Subject Specific Requirements
    - 3- Points Requirements
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# Important!!!

Most Leaving Cert subjects will qualify a students for most third level courses but there are a few exceptions and key points to keep in mind

## A Lab science subject ?

- All nursing courses
- Veterinary nursing
- Science, Veterinary Science, Engineering, Sports Science, Computer Science Biomedical & Physiotherapy
- 2 Science subjects (depends on the college) Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Physiotherapy  
--- etc.

## A language ?

- Still an entry requirement for many NUI courses e.g. Arts in Maynooth University. UCD/UCC/ NCAD RCSI. Cadetships in the Defence Forces.
- A desirable skill for employment.

Higher Level Maths   
for many level 8  
engineering courses.

H4 in Higher Level  
Irish  for primary  
teaching.

Art  ? Can be  
required for  
architecture.

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**What do you enjoy?**



## Creative Skills

**You enjoy reading, creative writing, story telling etc.**

## Maths Skills

**You are good at logical thinking, numbers and figures**

## Scientific Skills

**You enjoy collecting and analysing information**

## Practical Skills

**You enjoy making things, doing things, knowing how things work**

- ☐ **History**
- ☐ **Religious Education**

- ☐ **Physics**
- ☐ **Accounting**

- ☐ **Chemistry**
- ☐ **Biology**
- ☐ **Physics**

- ☐ **Home Economics**
- ☐ **Physics**

## Language Skills

You can grasp languages, enjoy learning about different cultures

## Social Skills

You enjoy learning about society (past and present) and the world around you

## Business Skills

You enjoy learning about the business world and everything to do with it

## Artistic Skills

You are talented and gifted in the arts and enjoy using your creativity

▣ **French**

▣ **German**

▣ **History**

▣ **Religious Education**

▣ **Home Economics**

▣ **Business**

▣ **Economics**

▣ **Accounting**

▣ **Art**

▣ **Music**

# Further research: All about leaving Cert Subjects

- ▶ <https://careersportal.ie/school/subjectexplorer.php?parent=6&edsubcatid=48&menuparentid=2110#Leaving%20Cert%20Subjects>

The screenshot shows the careersportal.ie website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'SignUp', and 'Login' links. Below this is the 'careersportal.ie' logo and a user profile section for '@School' with options for 'Graduates' and 'Adult Learners'. A main menu includes 'Getting Advice', 'Self Assessment', 'Career Sectors', and 'Courses'. The current page is 'Leaving Certificate', with a breadcrumb trail: '@ School | Junior Certificate | Transition Year | Leaving Certificate'. The page content is organized into a grid of resource tiles. On the left, a vertical sidebar lists 'Leaving Cert Resources' with sub-links: 'The Leaving Certificate', 'Leaving Cert Subjects', 'Choosing a Career Direction', 'Options after school', 'Going to College +', and 'Preparing for Employment +'. The main grid contains 16 tiles with icons and titles: 'Self Assessment', 'Career Research', 'Employer Insights', 'Study Skills Test', 'Course Finder', 'Career Explorer', 'Course Videos', 'Career Videos', 'Career Sectors', 'Apprenticeships', 'Scholarships', 'Points Calculator', 'In the News', 'Career Articles', 'Career Interviews', and 'Guidance Calendar'.

# How to check if you need a subject for a college course.

- ▶ Qualifax useful tools, subject requirements module.

- ▶ Go to [https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77](https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77)

The screenshot shows the Qualifax website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Students, Adult learners, Guidance professionals, Parents / Family, News, NFQ, and My Account. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Students > Useful Tools > Minimum Subject Requirements. The main content area is titled "Subject Requirements Module" and includes a search bar, a "View Search Help" link, and a "Return to Main Menu" link. The search criteria are set to "Show me 3rd level courses which may or may not require the following Subject:" with a dropdown menu set to "Any". Below this, there are four filters to narrow down the list of courses: "Only show courses from this CAO course provider:", "Only show courses offered in this Province:", "Only show courses offered in this county:", and "Only show the course with this CAO code:". Each filter has a dropdown menu set to "Any". At the bottom of the search area, there are "Search" and "Reset" buttons.

# Final Checklist

Consider the following:

- ▣ Subjects that you are good at
- ▣ Subjects that you may need at third level, for specific courses



- ▣ Advice from your teachers, parents, older siblings and/or guidance counsellor

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# Subject Choice Procedure

- Students initially choose **5 subjects** in order of preference from a wide range of subjects

- Bands are created based on **YOUR** subject preferences
- Students are then required to choose 1 subject from each band to a ~~total~~ of 4 subjects