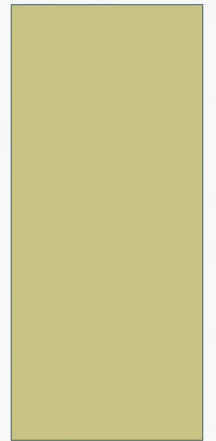


SENIOR OPTIONS
2017 - 2019

ANN MARIE O'RIORDAN
GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR



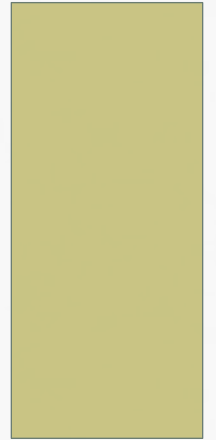
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

- **Subjects at Senior Cycle**
- **Subject Requirements for Studying at Third Level**
- **How the Subject Choice Process Works and the Application Form**

QUESTIONS

- **Should I do Transition Year (4th Year)?**
- **Should I go to 5th Year?**
- **If 5th Year, should I do Leaving Cert Applied or Established LC?**
- **If Established LC, what subjects?**

*CHOOSING SUBJECTS
FOR SENIOR CYCLE*



JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

- **Core Subjects**
- **2 Options**

CORE SUBJECTS AT LEAVING CERT

- **Gaeilge**
- **English**
- **Mathematics**

Core + 4 Option Subjects

Other non-exam subjects:

Guidance

ICT

SPHE

Physical Education

Religion

CHOOSING A SUBJECT...

- **2nd Year Options:**

Because you like it

CHOOSING A SUBJECT...

- **5th Year Options:**

Because you **like it**

Because you **need it**

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE AT
SENIOR CYCLE

LEAVING CERT SUBJECTS IN CCS

Business

- Accounting
- Economics
- Business

Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Practical

- Construction Studies
- DCG
- Engineering

Languages

- French
- German

Humanities

- Geography
- History
- Home Economics

Creative

- Art
- Music

CORE SUBJECTS

- Maths
 - 25 bonus points available for higher level maths at grades H6 and above
 - Most engineering degree courses demand higher level Maths (H4)
- Irish
 - Oral exam worth 40%
 - H5 in Irish for Primary Teaching courses
- English
 - Good higher level subject for the majority of students

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

- Construction Studies
 - Replaces woodwork at Junior Cert.
 - Looks at domestic buildings and covers construction technology, materials and practices.
 - Project, practical and theory exam

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

- Engineering
 - Replaces Metalwork at Junior Cert. It involves the study of mechanical engineering processes, materials and technology applications along with developing practical skills.
 - The course is divided into a Practical section and a Theoretical section- Materials technology.
 - Project, practical and theory exam
 - Check details on subject departments link on school web site www.carrigcs.ie

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

- Design & Communications Graphics
 - Replaces Technical Graphics at Junior Cert.
 - This develops students skills at drawing, awareness of design, levels of comprehension, analysis and problem solving.
 - Project involving 2D and 3D CAD worth 40% of the final exam

BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Business
- Accounting
- Economics

No requirement to have a leaving cert business subject in order to study Business / Commerce at 3rd level. However it would be helpful.

BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Business

- This looks at how organisations are formed, financed and run. There are modules of business laws and international environments.
- It looks at the services that support businesses such as banking, transport, taxation and public sector organisations.
- It provides an excellent foundation for anyone thinking of business as a career.
- Students should be interested in the business news
- Heavy learning subject – not an easy option

BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Accounting
 - Students who enjoyed the book-keeping element of Junior Cert Business Studies should consider taking Accounting.
 - Accounting is concerned with keeping records, analysing them and interpreting them.
 - Students should have strong numeracy and logical reasoning skills

BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Economics
 - Looks at the flow of money and the measuring of success and progress in companies, business, states and the EU.
 - Macro and micro economics are studied.
 - Students should be interested in the business news and current economic trends.

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Junior cert science splits into 3 subjects:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Biology
 - Biology is the study of life and living things from micro-organisms to humans.
 - The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in more detail.
 - Heavy learning subject
 - Often perceived as an easy subject – not so!

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Chemistry
 - Chemistry looks at the world around us and investigates the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationship between the properties and composition of substances.
 - Required for Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry in UCC, and Veterinary in UCD.
 - Not specifically required for studying science at third level but very helpful - Core science subject

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Physics

- Physics describes the laws and forces governing natural phenomena like light, heat, electricity, magnetism.
- Uses maths and equations.
- Practical element – 24 experiments (30% of the final exam).
- Important for studying engineering, electronics, technology, medical areas.

LANGUAGES

- French
- German
 - Oral exam in both – 25% HL, 20% OL
 - Possible to study both languages - need to be exceptionally strong student
 - Don't have to take a language but this will have implications for studying some courses in NUI colleges (UCC, UCD, NUIG, Maynooth)
 - Students continue the language they studied at Junior Cert

CREATIVE SUBJECTS

- Art
 - Involves practical work – craft work, imaginative composition and still life, and art history & art appreciation
 - Art history & art appreciation is worth 37.5 % of the marks
 - Practical art exams are completed in May
- Music
 - Music covers topics like composition, aural work, study of composers, preparation for practical.
 - There is also a practical part to the exam so having proficiency in an instrument or in voice is required.

HUMANITIES

- Geography
 - Geography is concerned with the interrelationship between human activities and the physical environment.
 - It includes the study of economic activities, farming, industry, pollution, statistics, resources, landscapes and communications.
 - It also involves project work (worth 20% of final exam)
 - Very popular subjects – students who are willing to work hard can get a high grade

HUMANITIES

- History
 - Covers Irish (1970 – 1949), European (1920 to 1945) and American (1945 – 1990) history
 - Students develop critical thinking and analysis skills.
 - It involves the study of documentary evidence (worth 20%).
 - Research project on any aspect of history students are interested in (worth 20% of the final exam).

SOCIAL

- Home Economics
 - Covers nutrition and food science, consumer issues and sociology.
 - Practical cookery journal completed in 5th year worth 20% - record of all classes and research on set tasks done as part of the course.
 - Open to boys and girls!

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

- Applied Maths
- Agricultural Science

Both available through our Junior Adult Education Department depending on demand

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY
TO THIRD LEVEL

ENTRY TO THIRD LEVEL

- 3 conditions needed:
 - Meet minimum entry requirements
 - Meet specific subject requirements
 - Points
 - Points are calculated on your best **6** subjects

NEW COMMON POINTS SCALE

- New points system introduced this year
- New grading scale:

New Grades	% Marks
H1 / O1	90-100
H2 / O2	80<90
H3 / O3	70<80
H4 / O4	60<70
H5 / O5	50<60
H6 / O6	40<50
H7 / O7	30<40
H8 / O8	0<30

NEW COMMON POINTS SCALE

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	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

THIRD LEVEL CHOICES

Option	Qualification	NFQ Level
University (UCC)	Hons Degree	8
Institute of Technology (CIT)	Hons Degree	8
	Ord Degree	7
	Higher Cert	6
Further College of Education (Cork College of Commerce)	QQI Qualification	5 (one year course) 6 (two year course)

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - UNIVERSITY

- Level 8 (honours degree programmes) require:
 - a minimum of 6 subjects to include:
 - 2 subjects at H5
 - and a minimum of 4 subjects at O6/H7.

- UCC demands passes in English, Irish, Maths

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - UNIVERSITY

- Third language required for Arts, Social Science, Medicine and Health, Law and Business courses
- Third language is not required for Science, Engineering and Nursing courses in UCC
- This applies to all NUI colleges – UCC, UCD, NUIG, Maynooth

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

- Level 8 courses:
 - a minimum of 6 subjects to include:
 - 2 subjects at H5
 - and a minimum of 4 subjects at O6/H7.
 - Maths and either English or Irish.
 - Other course specific requirements (eg maths)
- Level 6/ 7 courses:
 - a minimum of 5 subjects at least at grade O6 /H7 to include Irish or English and Maths.

SPECIFIC SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

SCIENCE / MEDICAL / VETERINARY

- **Science UCC** – H4 in one science subject or Maths /Applied Maths
- **Medicine UCC** - H4 in Chemistry plus Biology/Physics
- **Dentistry UCC** - H4 in Chemistry plus Biology/Physics
- **Pharmacy UCC** - H5 in Chemistry plus H4 in Biology /Physics

SCIENCE / MEDICAL / VETERINARY

- **Speech and Language Therapy UCC** - H4 in a science subject and H4 in a language other than English
- **Occupational Therapy UCC** - H4 in a science subject
- **Physiotherapy UL** – H7 / O6 in a science subject
- **Nursing UCC** – one science subject
- **Veterinary in UCD** - H5 in Chemistry

ENGINEERING

- **Engineering UCC** – one science subject and H4 in maths
- **Engineering CIT** – check specific courses for maths requirements

LANGUAGES

- **Commerce International UCC** - H3 in a foreign language
- **Law and French UCC** - H3 in French
- **Law and Irish UCC** - H3 in Irish
- **World Languages UCC** – H3 in language other than English

FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

- Some specific subject requirements for courses in Further Education Colleges –
 - Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa
 - Cork College of Commerce
 - St Johns College

RESEARCH

- Check college prospectuses
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.qualifax.ie
- www.ucc.ie
- www.cit.ie

HOW TO PICK SUBJECTS

GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT...

- 100 % Exam Based:
 - Biology
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Economics
 - Business
 - Accounting

- English
- Maths

GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT...

DGC	Project	40%	
	Final Exam - Theory	60%	
Construction	Project	25% HL	30% OL
	Practical Exam (May)	25% HL	30% OL
	Final Exam - Theory	50% HL	40% OL
Engineering	Project	25% HL	30% OL
	Practical Exam (May)	25% HL	30% OL
	Final Exam - Theory	50% HL	40% OL
ART	Final Exam – Art Hist & Appreciation	37.5%	
	Craft Exam	25%	
	Imaginative Composition / Still Life	25%	
	Life Drawing	12.5%	

GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT...

French & German	Oral	25 % HL	20% OL
	Final Exam	75 % HL	80% OL
Irish	Oral	40%	
	Final Exam	60%	
Home Economics	Project	20%	
	Final Exam	80%	
Geography	Project	20%	
	Final Exam	80%	
History	Project	20%	
	Final Exam	80%	
Music	Performance	25%	
	Listening	25%	
	Composing	25%	

DATS – DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TESTS

- All 4th year students given the opportunity to take DATs in preparation for subject choice and planning for future careers
- DATs are aptitude tests measuring:
 - **Verbal Reasoning**
 - **Numerical Reasoning**
 - **Abstract Reasoning**
 - **Perceptual Speed & Accuracy**
 - **Mechanical Reasoning**
 - **Space Relations**
 - **Spelling**
 - **Language Usage**

DATS – DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TESTS

- Results indicate strengths and weaknesses
- Results can be used to help decide on subjects for senior cycle
- Remember DATs are just one piece of the picture

HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT SUBJECTS

- Do....
 - Select subjects you enjoy
 - Select subjects you are good at and performed well in at Junior Cert
- Do Not.....
 - Select a subject because friends are doing it
 - Pick a subject because you get on with a particular teacher

SUBJECT CHOICE - THINK ABOUT....

- Your daughter / son.....
 - Their hobbies and interests
 - Future plans
 - Essential subjects
 - Helpful subjects
 - Previous results – how they got on at Junior Cert
 - Subjects they enjoy and are good at
 - Focus on their strengths

THE 'SAFE' RANGE

- Gaeilge
- English
- Mathematics

- Language
- Science subject

Plus 2 others

SUBJECT CHOICE – FINAL TIPS

- Before you take the plunge.....
 - Seek advice from older students, siblings
 - Look up subject textbooks
 - Look up exam papers – www.examinations.ie
 - Talk to subject teachers
 - Choose subjects you like and are good at
 - Check college requirements
 - Do some research - check web sites:
 - www.careersportal.ie
 - www.qualifax.ie
 - Speak with Guidance Counsellor

THE PROCESS

- Students select their subjects and complete the application form
 - They select their top 6 subjects in order of preference
 - Students have a free choice
 - There are **no restrictions** on subject selection
- We then create subject pools based on the requirements of all the students.
- The majority (99%) of students receive their top 4 choices.

TYPICAL SUBJECT POOLS

- German / French / Geography / Home Economics / Accounting / DCG / Biology / Biology / Construction / Chemistry
- Physics / DCG / Biology / Biology / Geography / Economics / History / French / German
- Business / Chemistry / Geography / Engineering / Construction / French / German / Art / Biology / Music
- German / Business / Engineering / Biology / Art / French / Geography / Physics / Home Economics / History

NEXT STEPS.....

- 5th Yr Subjects listed in order of preference from 1-6
- Signed by both parent and student
- Closing Dates:
 - **Friday 10th February (3rd Years)**
 - **Wednesday February 15th (4th years)**