



LORETO COLLEGE

FOXROCK

SUBJECT CHOICES

FOR 5TH YEAR 2018

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information that should prove useful in making decisions regarding Leaving Certificate subjects.

The choosing of subjects for Leaving Certificate is one of the most important decisions you will make at this stage of your life. Your choice of subjects will have an impact on the decisions you make post Leaving Certificate.

It is important to consider your personal strengths and learning styles when making your decisions. There is no such thing as 'an easy subject' at Leaving Certificate level as each subject requires a considerable amount of regular study.

In Loreto College Foxrock, in addition to the 3 core subjects, each student chooses 4 subjects from the 14 optional subjects offered.

Core Subjects	Option Subjects (Choose 4)
English	Accounting
Irish	Applied Maths
Maths	Art
	Biology
	Business
	Chemistry
	Classical Studies
	Economics
	French
	Geography
	German
	History
	Home Economics
	Music
	Physics
	Spanish

When choosing subjects for your Leaving Certificate programme please consider the following:

1. **The minimum entry requirements for the courses you may be interested in studying at Third Level**

These are the minimum academic qualifications that a college demands from applicants for entry.

For example:

For entry to UCD, UCC, NUIG, NUIM O6 (OD3) English, Irish, Maths, Modern Language

2. **The specific entry requirements for the courses you may be interested in studying at Third Level.**

For example:

For entry to Engineering in UCD a H4 Maths and a O3/H6 in a Science subject is required

For entry to Journalism in DCU a H4 English is required

3. **The Points System**

This system allocates point values to Leaving Certificate subjects for entry purposes to the HEIs (Higher Education Institutions). The points are allocated to the best six subjects that an applicant presents. These grades must be achieved in **one sitting** of the Leaving Certificate.

In general when it comes to choosing your optional subjects you should:

- Consult with the Guidance Counsellor
- Choose subjects that are required to get you into your preferred course or chosen career
- Choose subjects you are interested in and prepared to work at
- Choose subjects that suit your strengths and talents
- Choose subjects that will help you get sufficient points to gain entry into your chosen course at Third Level Education
- Select a range of subjects which will leave your career choices open for as long as possible
- Speak to the relevant teachers
- Speak to older siblings, if applicable
- Speak to students studying the subject
- Look at the text book being used
- Look at past exam papers (these are available on-line with the marking schemes on www.examinations.ie)
- Look at the syllabus for the subject at www.curriculumonline.ie

Useful websites:

www.qualifax.ie

www.careersportal.ie

www.loretofoxrock.ie – Guidance and Counselling for information and event guide

On the following pages you will find an outline of each of the subjects on offer at Loreto College Foxrock for the Leaving Certificate.

The Core Subjects

ENGLISH

Brief summary of course content:

Comprehending and Composing:

Students are required to study language in a wide variety of contexts, genres, functions and styles. Students develop skills and competencies in the areas of:

- The language of Information
- The language of Persuasion
- The language of Narration
- The language of Argument
- The Aesthetic use of language

Comparative Study:

Students engage in the comparative study of three texts usually a novel, film and play. The three comparative texts vary each year.

At Higher Level the texts can be compared by

- Theme and Issue
- Literary Genre
- Cultural Context
- General Vision and Viewpoint

At Ordinary Level the texts can be compared by

- Hero/Heroine/Villain
- Relationships
- Social Setting
- Theme
- Aspects of story: tension, climax, resolution, ending etc.

Poetry:

Students study a wide range of poetry. There are 48 prescribed poems for study at Higher Level and 36 poems prescribed for study at Ordinary Level.

Single Text

Students will study a single text which, at Higher Level is usually a Shakespearean play.

How is this subject examined?

Level	Higher/Ordinary	
	Paper 1	Paper 2
Time	2 hours 50 minutes (170 minutes)	3 hours 20 minutes (200 minutes)
Marks	200 marks	200 marks
Structure	Section 1 Comprehending (100 marks) Comprehension questions and functional writing tasks	Section 1 Single Text (60 marks) Usually a Shakespearean Drama at Higher Level No Shakespeare required at ordinary level
	Section 2 Composition (100 marks)	Section 2 Comparative Study (70 marks) Comparison of novel, play and film
		Section 3 Poetry (70 marks). Unseen Poetry Studied poetry

Additional information:

Students are encouraged to read widely outside of the course. Every effort is made to arrange for students to see productions of the texts that they are studying.

AN GHAEILGE

Brief summary of course content:

Leaving Certificate Irish is available at higher and ordinary level. There are three main aspects of the course regardless of level selected:

1. **An Bhéaltriall (The Oral Examination).** The Oral is a common examination for students of both levels and is worth 240 Marks which represents **40%** of the entire Leaving Certificate Irish Examination.
2. **An Chluastuiscint (The Aural Examination).** The Aural Examination is not a common Examination. The content of the Aural is common to both levels but the questions posed distinguish themselves in terms of difficulty between levels. The Aural Examination is worth 60 Marks, which comprises **10%** of the entire Leaving Certificate Irish Examination at both Higher and Ordinary Levels.
3. **The Written Component.** The remaining **50%** of the Leaving Certificate Irish Examination examines a variety of poetry and prose through written questions. Although the poetry and prose is common to both higher and ordinary level, the questions asked involve completely different levels of complexity and depth. The written aspect of the Leaving Certificate Irish Examination also includes a piece of creative writing (e.g. an essay or debate at higher level; a letter or e-mail at ordinary level). The remaining elements of the written component include an additional piece of literature (e.g. a drama) at higher level and Reading Comprehensions at both higher and ordinary levels. The Comprehensions are entirely different and the complexity and subject-matter of questions asked varies greatly between the two levels.

How is this subject examined?

Leaving Certificate Irish is examined through an Oral Examination which usually takes place in the Spring of Sixth Year.

The **Oral examination** is comprised of 4 elements:

- (i) **Beannú** /Greeting (name of student, address, D.O.B etc.)
- (ii) **Léamh na Filíochta**/ Reading of poetry
- (iii) **Sraith Pictiúir**/ Series of picture stories
- (iv) **Comhrá**/ General conversation

Paper 1 includes the **Aural Examination**, along with Composition (e.g. essay or debate at higher level; a letter or e-mail at ordinary level).

Paper 2 (following Paper 1 in June) includes Reading Comprehensions and questions on poetry and prose.

Additional information: Due to the fact that the Oral Examination is common to both higher and ordinary level and that the poetry and prose texts are common to both, there is an element of flexibility for students to move between levels.

MATHS

Brief summary of course content:

Project Maths involves the introduction of revised syllabi for both Junior and Leaving Certificate Mathematics. It involves changes to what students learn in Mathematics, how they learn it and how they will be assessed.

Project Maths aims to provide for an enhanced student learning experience and greater levels of achievement for all. Much greater emphasis will be placed on student understanding of mathematical concepts, with increased use of contexts and applications that will enable students to relate mathematics to everyday experience. The initiative will also focus on developing students' problem-solving skills. Assessment will reflect the different emphasis on understanding and skills in the teaching and learning of mathematics.

The Mathematics syllabi have been introduced by strand as follows:

1. Statistics and Probability
2. Geometry and Trigonometry
3. Number
4. Algebra
5. Functions

How is this subject examined?

The Leaving Cert Maths examination consists of two Maths papers each of 2.5 hours duration. All questions must be answered. Each paper consists of:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|---|-----------|
| • Concepts and Skills | - | 6 Questions | - | 150 marks |
| • Contexts and Applications | - | 3 Questions | - | 150 marks |

Additional Information:

Students will experience mathematics in a new way, using examples and applications that are meaningful for them. These will also allow students to appreciate how mathematics relates to daily life and to the world of work. Students will develop skills in analysing, interpreting and presenting mathematical information; in logical reasoning and argument, and in applying their mathematical knowledge and skills to solve familiar and unfamiliar problems.

THE OPTIONAL SUBJECTS:

ACCOUNTING

Brief summary of course content:

The syllabus is divided into two sections:

Financial accounting exposes the students to the principles of double entry and the preparation of accounts using accounting standards, including:

- Final accounts of a company
- Cash flow Statements
- Published Accounts
- Accounts from incomplete records
- Present accounts of clubs or societies
- Analysis of financial records (Ratio analysis)

Management accounting on the other hand is essential in helping managers make important decisions:

- Management Accounting – Breakeven analysis, Product Costing and Budgeting

How is this subject examined?

- Students sit one 3 hour exam in June
- There is no continuous assessment element

Additional information:

- Junior Cert Business Studies provides you with a good basis for Leaving Cert Accounting. However if you do not have Junior Cert Business it is preferable to have achieved grade A or B in Junior Cert higher level Maths.
- A good logical mind and high numeracy skills are essential
- Good time management is crucial when approaching exam papers.
- You must be neat, accurate and fast when approaching questions.

APPLIED MATHS

What is Applied Maths?

Applied Maths is best described as a mix between Maths and Physics, and focuses on the applications of mathematics in real world situations. It is a subject that tests students' problem solving nature and shows how the maths that they have studied can be utilised in different scenarios.

There is considerable overlap between the Applied Maths, Physics and Project Maths courses, and so this combination of subjects is often chosen by students with a flair for mathematics.

Brief Summary of Course Content.

The 10 topics at Higher Level are:

- Accelerated Linear Motion
- Relative Velocity
- Projectiles
- Connected Particles
- Collisions
- Statics
- Circular and Simple Harmonic Motion
- Moments of Inertia
- Hydrostatics
- Differential Equations

How is this subject examined?

Leaving Certificate Applied Maths is assessed by a single exam. The exam is two and a half hours in duration.

In the exam, there is one question on each topic and students must answer any 6 of the 10 questions, giving you plenty of choice and flexibility in the exam.

What type of student might Applied Maths suit?

Applied Maths is a challenging subject but the course is reasonably short. If you achieved an A or B in Higher Level Maths for the Junior Cert and if you like solving problems then this is the subject for you.

It would suit students considering a career in any mathematical or scientific discipline, such as Engineering, Finance, Physics, or Computer Science.

ART

Brief summary of course content:

Leaving Certificate Art is comprised of four areas of study:

1. Life Drawing 50marks
2. Still Life 100 marks
3. Craft 100 marks
4. History and Appreciation of Art 150 marks

How is this subject examined?

Life Drawing:

In the exam students are required to: make a 30 min sketch of a model (30 marks) and a 15 min sketch of a model (20 marks). Drawings are marked on similar criteria to the Junior Certificate i.e. placement, proportion, tone, form/volume and detail. Students are given the exam poses in advance.

Still Life:

In 2018 the Leaving Certificate Still Life and Craft Components will become project based. The period for completion of the Still Life and Craft components as coursework in school will be ten weeks commencing immediately after the Christmas holidays, but exclusive of the February mid-term break. Students will be required to make a painting/drawing of a group of Still Life objects based on a given theme. This together with two Development Sheets must be executed during class time. Students are not permitted to carry out project work outside of class time.

Craft:

In 2018 the Leaving Certificate Still Life and Craft Components will become project based. The period for completion of the Still Life and Craft components as coursework in school will be ten weeks commencing immediately after the Christmas holidays, but exclusive of the February mid-term break. In sixth year students will choose to specialise in one of the craft areas. Students will be required to make a craft piece based on a given theme. This together with two Development Sheets must be executed during class time.

History and Appreciation of Art:

There are three sections on the paper. Students must answer one question from each section. Each section is worth 50 marks, with 10 of those marks allocated to sketches. The total amount of marks allocated to this paper is 150.

- Section 1: Irish Art
- Section 2: European Art
- Section 3: Art Appreciation (e.g. visit to an exhibition).

In fifth year students spend one class period per week studying the History of Art. They are taught how to analyse and discuss a work of art. They are introduced to a selection of European artists. They will be required to do an essay every two/three weeks approx. In sixth year students spend a double class period every week studying the History of Art. They are introduced to early Irish Art and also to Modern European Art. They visit an exhibition and learn how to discuss exhibition layout and content.

BIOLOGY

Brief summary of course content:

The Biology syllabus consists of three distinct units:

Unit One: Biology - The Study of Life (ecology and food science);

Unit Two: The Cell (genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes);

Unit Three: The Organism (body systems, plant biology and microbiology).

In this subject an attitude of curiosity and scientific enquiry is both promoted and facilitated. In deepening their understanding of biological facts and principles students are further enabled to appreciate the nature and diversity of living organisms. In creating an awareness of the application of knowledge of biology to modern society students are encouraged to make informed evaluations about contemporary biological issues.

How is this subject examined?

The course is currently examined by means of a three hour written paper at both higher and ordinary level. There are 22 mandatory practical activities which are examinable as part of the written paper. As such, therefore, there is no practical element to the examination. A laboratory record of these activities has to be kept and available for inspection by The Department of Education and Skills. An ecology portfolio based on field work must also to be completed.

Additional information:

Students who enjoyed science in the Junior Certificate might wish to consider studying Biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in much greater detail. It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good understanding of Junior Science.

A considerable amount of commitment and on-going study is necessary to succeed in this subject. Students must be dedicated to learning and applying a wide range of new vocabulary as it relates specifically to biology and science in general.

The content of modern biology is increasingly biochemical.

Each student should have an aptitude and interest for both theory and laboratory work.

BUSINESS

Brief summary of course content:

Business is concerned with the understanding of the environment in which business operates in Ireland and in the wider world. The Leaving Certificate Business syllabus is broken down into 7 units which cover the following areas;

- **People in Business:** the role of each stakeholder in a business, the regulations that protect those stakeholders and conflicts that can arise within a business.
- **Enterprise:** definition of enterprise and entrepreneurship. Enterprise skills and characteristics.
- **Management I & II:** management skills, characteristics and activities. Financial controls, financial management and Human Resource Management.
- **Business in Action:** identifying business opportunities, setting up and expanding businesses, and the marketing mix.
- **Domestic Environment:** business structures, the role of the government in business, the impact of the economy on business, social responsibilities and community development.
- **International Environment:** the international trading environment, the role of the European Union and global businesses.

How is this subject examined?

There is no continuous assessment in Business. Students sit one exam paper in June (a 3 hour exam at higher level, 2 ½ hours at ordinary level).

There is one compulsory question in the higher level paper, called an ABQ (Applied Business Question). This is based on three units of the syllabus. For Leaving Certificate students 2017 the ABQ will be based on Units 4,5,6.

Additional information:

- Junior Certificate Business Studies is not a requirement.
- Business is very much a 'living subject', therefore a good understanding and interest in current affairs is beneficial.
- Business is a broad subject and therefore provides a good foundation for any third level course or career choice.
- Good time management is required when approaching exam questions.
- There is a huge amount of learning involved, with only a few calculations. Business requires both rote learning and applied learning.

CHEMISTRY

Brief summary of course content:

The Chemistry syllabus consists of a core syllabus and two options.

Higher level students must study in its entirety either Option 1 or Option 2. Ordinary level students must study one of Option 1A and 2A or one of Option 1B and 2B. The Chemistry syllabus is practically and experimentally based with 28 specified mandatory experiments.

The Core includes:

- Periodic table and atomic structure
- Chemical bonding
- Stoichiometry and formulas and equations
- Acids and bases
- Volumetric analysis
- Thermochemistry
- Organic chemistry
- Rates of reactions
- Chemical equilibrium
- Water chemistry

Option 1A: Additional Industrial Chemistry

Option 1B: Atmospheric Chemistry

Option 2A: Materials

Option 2B: Extraction of Metals and Additional Electrochemistry.

How is this subject examined?

Leaving Certificate Chemistry is examined in a single 3 hour paper. This paper has sections A and B. Section A contains 3 questions based on the mandatory experiments carried out. Section B contains 8 questions. In total, 8 questions must be attempted of which at least 2 must come from section A.

Additional Information

Students who intend to take Chemistry for Leaving Certificate need to be focused, interested and prepared to work hard both in class and at home. They need to be proactive in class, listen and be engaged in the learning. Mandatory practicals must be taken seriously and recorded with care. Their purpose is to support the theory learned in class. Students must be responsible, homework must be completed and brought to class for correction.

It is advisable that a minimum of grade B in Junior Certificate Science is obtained before considering taking Chemistry in the Leaving Certificate.

CLASSICAL STUDIES

Classical Studies is the study of Ancient Greece and Rome.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF COURSE CONTENT:

1. Ancient Epic

Students will study Homer's Odyssey. This is a very enjoyable epic tale about a hero called Odysseus. Odysseus was a famous Greek warrior who fought in the Trojan War. On his way home he angered the God Poseidon so Poseidon made his journey home extremely difficult. The word Odyssey means journey. Odysseus's wife Penelope was patient and loving and waited 20 years for her beloved husband to return home from Troy!

2. Greek Art and Architecture:

This element of Classical Studies is the study of Ancient Greek temples, theatres and sculptures from 660 BC to 100 BC. Greece was seen as the capital of art, architecture, culture and civilization in the Ancient World. Students will have a chance to discover why this was the case. In Ireland many buildings such as Trinity College Dublin, G.P.O and the Four Courts are partially Greek in design.

3. Augustan Writers:

Students will study the works of the following key writers in the age of Augustus Caesar: Virgil, Horace, Livy, Ovid and Propertius. In their works the Augustan writers praise him for bringing peace. They also wrote about issues that concerned them personally such as love and nature etc.

4. Alexander the Great:

This is a historical topic. Alexander ruled Macedonia from 336 – 323 BC. In the space of 13 years he conquered a large chunk of the world: from Greece to India. Students will study two accounts of his life. Alexander was a very colourful character who has fascinated generations. Students will learn all about his military conquests and about his personal life. He is as famous for his personal life as he is for his conquests!

How is the subject examined?

It is a three hour exam and students have to answer six questions. Four of these questions are essay questions. The two questions on Greek art and architecture are shorter questions.

Additional Information:

Classical Studies is a fantastic subject. It is very interesting. Students in Foxrock are privileged to have the opportunity to study it as not many schools offer Classics as a subject. It is a very rich subject which is broad in scope. Students get the opportunity to study literature, art, mythology, poetry, drama, politics, archaeology, and history.

NB. ANY STUDENT CAN CHOOSE CLASSICS AS A LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECT. NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE IS REQUIRED.

ECONOMICS

Economics studies how scarce resources are best distributed to satisfy our infinite needs and wants.

Brief summary of course content:

- How buyers and sellers decide on a price
- The Factors of production
- Costs of production
- Market structures
- The role of the government in the economy
- The National Budget
- Unemployment
- Population
- Money and banking
- Economic growth and development
- The EU
- International trade
- The history of economic thought

How is this subject examined?

There is one 2.5 hour exam

Section A: 9 short questions – Answer 6; Awarded 100 marks

Section B: 8 long questions – Answer 4; Awarded 75 marks each

The subject is examined at two levels: higher and ordinary

Additional information:

By studying Economics you will better understand the economic environment in which you live. You will learn to think more clearly and logically. In addition, you will gain a better understanding of the media reports on economic issues.

FRENCH

Why study French for the Leaving Certificate?

- Competency in a foreign language is a life skill, not just another subject.
- There is a severe shortage of qualified and skilled people available to work in a foreign language in Ireland.
- Proficiency in French will open up career opportunities both here and abroad.
- French is the third-most widely spoken mother tongue in the European Union, just behind English.
- It is highly recommended today to be proficient in at least one foreign language.
- If you are linguistically consider studying a second foreign language with French e.g. Spanish, German or Japanese (you can take it up in 5th year)

Opportunities ahead when you study French:

- Will have the option to study French at college as part of a business or law degree, or to study Applied Languages (Translation and Interpreting) or in the field of education.
- Can avail of the opportunity to do an Erasmus year or term during your university studies in a French-speaking country including Quebec, Canada.
- Can avail of scholarships to study in French-speaking universities.
- Can do an internship or work as a volunteer in a French-speaking country.

The Leaving Certificate course outline:

The leaving certificate course builds on the firm language base acquired in the first four years of studying French. The focus will continue to be on the everyday life of a teenager in Ireland and in the francophone world equipping the student with the vocabulary and grammar structures to understand, speak and write about herself and these realities.

A wide variety of teaching methodologies are used including resources such as newspapers, television, the internet, films, literature and authentic texts. Independent learning is encouraged with wide access to audio and print resources on-line and in the library.

The syllabus aims to lead every student to:

- A communicative competence in the target language
- Awareness about language and communication
- An understanding about how to go about learning a foreign language
- A level of cultural awareness

How is this subject examined?

The four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are assessed in the following manner:

1. **Oral examination.** This is a 12-minute conversation with an examiner. Topics range from their family, their area, their school, their friends, past-times, sports, hopes, ambitions and teenage problems. Students have an option to prepare a topic in advance of special interest and discuss it in the exam.
2. **Aural examination.** This is a listening test, which tests comprehension. The student answers 5 sections in English. Topics range from interviews, conversations, telephone calls, news announcements, weather forecasts and miscellaneous items. A wide vocabulary is required.
3. **Written examination.** It consists of two sections:
Section 1: Reading comprehensions are answered in French at higher level and a mixture of English and French at ordinary level.
Section 2: Students have to complete a series of written tasks. These include opinion pieces, letters (formal and informal), emails, messages, diary entries, (form filling and cloze tests feature on the ordinary level paper)

The chart below illustrates the difference between the marking system of both higher and ordinary Level. The oral exam takes place in spring of sixth year.

Higher Level			Ordinary Level		
Oral exam marks	25%	100	Oral exam marks	20%	80
Aural exam marks	20%	80	Aural exam marks	25%	100
Written exam marks	55%	220	Written exam marks	55%	220

GEOGRAPHY

Geography, part of the humanities subject group, is the study of people, their environment, and the interaction between the two. Students are encouraged to improve their ability to gather and evaluate data and propose solutions. Students learn various skills including map-reading, statistics and present information using diagrams, maps, and writing.

The Leaving Certificate course follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics (such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map-reading, and economic activities) in a lot more detail.

Brief summary of course content:

Three Core Units:

- Patterns and processes in the Physical Environment
- Regional Geography
- Geographical Investigation

Two Elective Units (pick one):

- Patterns and processes in economic activities
- Patterns and processes in the human environment

Four Optional Units (pick one; higher level only):

- Global Interdependence
- Geoecology
- Culture and Identity
- The Atmosphere-Ocean Environment

How is this subject examined?

Ordinary and Higher Level:

- Written Examination (80%): Students complete two questions on the core units, one question on an elective unit, and one question on an optional unit (higher only).
- Geographical Investigation Report (20%)

Why study Geography?

- If you are interested in geography, economics, environmental science, or politics ...
- It links to many other subject areas- biology and economics in particular.
- If you would like to know 'how the world works'!
- If you want to know the answer to WHY? WHERE? WHAT? WHEN?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How much homework am I expected to do?

As with all your Leaving Certificate subjects you will be required to complete homework. Geography on average will take about 20-30 minutes a day of written work and study.

How are the questions structured?

- There are 10 short questions worth 80 marks
- There are questions for Physical, Regional and Economic each worth 80 marks, (20, 30, 30 marks).
- Higher Level only, the Option essay style question is worth 80 marks.

How much is the Field Study worth?

- 20% overall. Field work is done in Sixth Year.

Can I see exam papers?

- Yes, please go on www.examinations.ie. Remember like all exams good time management is crucial when approaching exam papers.

GERMAN

Brief summary of course content:

Leaving Certificate German is available at higher and ordinary Level. The syllabus is communicative in its approach and is designed to enable students with:

- Basic communicative proficiency
- Language awareness
- Cultural awareness

How is this subject examined?

The four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are assessed in the following manner:

4. **The Oral Examination.** The oral examination is completed by students of both levels. Topics for discussion include family, school, friends, pastimes, sports, hopes, ambitions and teenage problems. Students must also prepare a number of 'picture stories' and 'role plays' for discussion.
The oral examination is worth **25% at Higher Level and 20% at Ordinary Level**. It normally takes place in spring of 6th Year.
5. **The Aural Examination.** The content of the Aural is common to both levels but the questions posed distinguish themselves in terms of difficulty between levels. The Aural Examination is worth **20% at higher level and 25% at ordinary level**.
6. **The Written Component.** The remaining **55%** of the Leaving Certificate German examination is awarded for the written examination. This paper is made up of reading comprehensions, a grammar section and a written section.

The chart below illustrates the difference between the marking system of both higher and ordinary level.

<u>HIGHER LEVEL</u>			<u>ORDINARY LEVEL</u>		
Oral exam marks	25%	100	Oral exam marks	20%	80
Aural exam marks	20%	80	Aural exam marks	25%	100
Written exam marks	55%	220	Written exam marks	55%	220

HISTORY

Brief summary of course content:

Students will study four modern history topics from the twentieth century: two Irish history topics, and two topics from Europe and the wider world.

How is this subject examined?

Ordinary and higher level:

- Written Examination (80%): The exam contains four questions – one for each topic. At Higher Level, three questions are essay questions, and one is a documents-based question. At ordinary level, all questions contain documents to answer questions on and long and short paragraph questions.
- Research Study (20%): This will be written up and submitted prior to the Leaving Cert in March of sixth year.

Additional information:

Students who wish to study history should be prepared to do a lot of reading. Students with a real interest in history tend to do better. The essay-writing element of the exam requires a good standard of English; however this level can be achieved through continued essay-writing practice.

The Research Study Report can be done on any topic in history that the student is interested in - as long as it is before 1993 in Ireland, or 1992 outside of Ireland.

There will be at least two non-compulsory history trips during the course of the Leaving Cert if sufficient numbers of students wish to attend (one overnight trip to Derry, and one trip abroad).

HOME ECONOMICS

Home Economics is a broad subject which relates to everyday living. It is not as practical based as at Junior Certificate, however there is still a practical element. The Leaving Certificate course follows from Junior Cert Home Economics and covers very similar topics (such as nutrition, diets, foods, processing of food, consumer studies, and household technology) in a lot more detail.

Brief summary of course content:

Three Core Units:

- Food studies
- Resource management
- Social core

And an elective area:

- Social studies

How is this subject examined?

Ordinary and higher level:

Written examination – 80% Journal – 20%

Why study Home Economics?

- *If you are interested in nutrition, food, the processing of foods, being able to manage yourself especially in the area of finances and becoming a more discerning consumer.*
- *Family and society play a huge role in our lives and is constantly changing- Home Economics helps you gain a clearer understanding of sociology.*
- *You get to create foods, meals with the added benefit of realising the science and nutritional benefit of it.*

It has links with the Leaving Certificate Biology and Business courses which can help with study

I hear the Journal is really hard. What does it actually involve?

- *There are **4 different practical assignments** specified by the State Examinations Commission which vary each year.*
- *Continuous coursework which is spaced out throughout fifth year with 4 practical cookery assignments. It comprises of **5 written pages** and **one cookery practical** for **each** assignment.*
- *2 page investigation into a topic, the recipe and students own account of how they made a chosen dish with an evaluation.*
- *One assignment is completed in September of sixth year.*
- *Unlike other subjects, The Food Studies Coursework is **completed by Halloween of sixth year** and corrected by examiners before Christmas of that year. However these results are not available until the review of scripts in August. These marks are added to the written exam result from the written paper.*

How much homework am I expected to do?

Home Economics on average will take about 20-30 minutes a day of written work and study.

How are the questions structured? *Answers in Home Economics are bullet-point based*

MUSIC

Brief summary of course content:

- Practical examination - 50%
- Composition - 25%
- Listening - 25%

Practical - 50%

Students are expected to present a contrasting programme in front of an examiner on her chosen instrument/s. Students can choose their practical pieces in 5th year, which allows students to develop their confidence in the performance of these pieces over two years. Students can choose to perform:

- **6 pieces on one instrument,**
- **4 pieces to be performed on two separate instruments (8 pieces in total) or**
- **4 pieces to be performed on one instrument including an activity to be completed on a music technology software.**

Music Technology – can be included with Practical Exam (50%)

Students often decide to perform four pieces on one instrument and complete an activity on a music technology software (Musescore). The technology aspect requires inputting a four part piece into the software programme, making three changes to the piece, saving and retrieving the file and printing the piece.

Composition Paper - duration 1 ½ hours. (25%)

Students answer two questions on the music composition paper and have forty-five minutes to complete each question.

Q1. Students are asked to compose a **16 bar melody**. Students are given four bars by the examiner and must complete the remaining twelve bars. A series of rules are followed by the students in order to produce a strong sounding melody.

Q2. Students are asked to **add suitable chords and a bass line** to a piece of music. Students will examine the notes in each bar and will choose an appropriate chord to be displayed in a chord box. Once again, a set of rules are followed in order to enhance the quality of the chords chosen. Students are then ask to compose a bass line using notes from the chosen chords.

Listening – duration 1 ½ hours. (25%)

Q1-6. Students will study four major **Set Works** over the two year senior cycle. Students will develop their listening skills in identifying a piece of music, discussing the tonality, tempo, dynamics, instrumentation and style associated with each work. Students will listen to a **Traditional Irish Music** recording and will identify traditional instruments, traditional dances and features of Irish Music present in the recording.

Why Choose Music?

- Music is a very active subject.
- Students are rewarded generously for displaying musical ability on their chosen instrument in the practical exam (50%).
- If students are willing to practice their instrument continuously over the two year cycle, it is very achievable for students to score highly in the practical exam.
- The practical exam takes place before the Easter holidays. This takes pressure off the student throughout the State Exams in June.
- The expected level for the Leaving Certificate music practical is Grade 4/5 approximately (to incorporate six years of instrumental tuition from 1st year – 6th year).
- It is not compulsory to have studied music at Junior Cert level in order to study music at Senior level. The course work at Senior Cycle is new for all students. The fundamental rudiments of music will be covered at the beginning of 5th year in order to ensure that all students are comfortable reading music.
- If a student is considering Music for Leaving Cert and has any queries in relation to their choice, please drop into the music room (F10) anytime throughout the school day. Current 5th and 6th Year Music students are available to advise 4th Year students about studying music.

PHYSICS

What is Physics?

The Leaving Cert Physics course follows directly from Junior Cert Science, and covers more topics in greater depth. The course is heavily based around experiments and investigations; students are required to complete and write reports of 24 practical experiments throughout the two years, and learn how to accurately record and analyse results, how to minimise error and take precautions to ensure results are within the limits of experimental error. These laboratory experiments, along with many more non-compulsory experiments are examined in detail on Section A of the written paper.

The course also involves a lot of theory which is tested on Section B of the paper. Students are expected to be able to use various formulae with respect to SI units and significant figures, and have a good understanding of the role in Physics in modern society and technology.

Brief Summary of Course Content.

The Physics course is broken into eight topics:

- Six compulsory (higher and ordinary level)
- Two optional sections (higher level students only, choose one)

How is this subject examined?

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of one terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course and have it available for DES inspection if requested. The Leaving Cert physics exam is three hours in duration.

Section A:

- Answer 3 out of 4 questions
- 120 marks: 40 marks per question
- Questions are based on experimental procedures and use of results

Section B:

- Answer 5 out of 8 questions
- 280 marks: 56 marks per question
- Questions are broader and theory based

Additional Information

At higher level, there is a deeper, more quantitative treatment of Physics. The two option sections are omitted from the ordinary level course.

What type of student might Physics suit?

Students considering a career in any mathematical or scientific discipline, such as Finance, Statistics, Engineering, Physics, or Computer Science.

SPANISH

Brief summary of course content:

The syllabus is communicative in its approach.

The course has **three** main objectives:

- Basic communicative proficiency
- Language awareness
- Cultural awareness

How is this subject examined?

Fifth year students will be assessed in the following ways:

- Continuous assessment throughout the academic year in all four skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Christmas examination will contain comprehension, translation, written and aural component.
- A common end of academic year examination will contain comprehension, translation, written, aural and oral component.

Sixth year students will be assessed in the following ways:

- Continuous assessment throughout the academic year in all four skills (which forms the basis of grade for the Christmas report).
- Mock examinations in February.
- Mock Oral examinations by external personnel where possible.

The chart below illustrates the difference between the marking system of both higher and ordinary level. The oral exam takes place in spring of sixth year.

<u>Higher Level</u>			<u>Ordinary Level</u>		
Oral exam marks	25%	100	Oral exam marks	20%	80
Aural exam marks	20%	80	Aural exam marks	25%	100
Written exam marks	55%	220	Written exam marks	55%	220

Additional information:

The Spanish department recognises that importance of learning Spanish in a natural environment.

- Additional conversation classes taught by native Spanish teachers in fifth and sixth year are offered to students.
- We organise trips and exchanges to Spain.
- We use Spanish music, film and literature to further their knowledge of the language.

JAPANESE

We recommend students who wish to take Japanese for the Leaving Cert partake in both classes with Ms Fitzsimons once a week after school and the free classes provided by the Japanese government on Saturday mornings.

Students wishing to take Japanese need to register for the Saturday Japanese class before the summer as the places fill up very quickly. The location of these classes is still to be confirmed.

<http://languagesinitiative.ie/languages/japanese/japanese-student>

The Leaving Certificate Japanese textbook Nihongo Kantan published by Authentik is out of print. Ms Fitzsimons will order copies of this book in September from the PPLI. They cost €25. There are also 5 copies of the textbook in the school library for students to use.

If students wish to get a head start on their study they can focus on learning the basic Japanese writing. (Hiragana and Katakana) There are many free apps to download for android and I phones. There is a small 5euro book you can order from amazon. Kana Pict-o-Graphix: Mnemonics for Japanese Hiragana and Katakana by Michael Rowley

Some 4th year students have started attending classes at 4.15 on Mondays this year to get a head start on the leaving certificate curriculum.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Fitzsimons on
lfitzsimons@loretodoxrock.ie

Leaving Certificate Grade Scale 2017 onwards

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	< 30

The Points System

HIGHER			
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66	<u>ORDINARY</u>	
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0