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## Physics

Physics is about finding out how the world around us works and is a rewarding subject to study at school and university. It would suit any student with a questioning and inquisitive mind and a strong work ethic. Physics explores questions like how rainbows form, how planets orbit the sun and how our mobile phones are used for communication. Students who study Physics are always in demand in Ireland and across the world in cutting-edge technology industries. There is a huge range of jobs in which Physics plays a key role. A few examples are an airline pilot, engineer, mathematician, medical physicist, stockbroker etc.

### 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.



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**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.