

# Subject Choice for 5<sup>th</sup> Year 2023/2024

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# Structure of Presentation

- ▶ Subjects at Senior Cycle inc. brief info on LCVP
- ▶ What you need to consider before choosing
  - ▶ Entry to Third Level Education
  - ▶ The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
  - ▶ Minimum Entry requirements
  - ▶ Examples of Apprenticeship & course entry requirements
  - ▶ Some important information
- ▶ The SMGS Subject Choice Process
- ▶ Option Block Formation inc. samples
- ▶ How to choose the right subjects for you
- ▶ The CAO & Point System
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- ▶ Questions?



# Subjects at Senior Cycle – The Core Subjects

English

Irish

Maths

All offered at Higher and Ordinary Level.

Maths & Irish are also offered at Foundation Level.

# Optional Subjects Available

- ▶ Business – Accounting, Business, Economics
- ▶ Languages – French, German
- ▶ Sciences – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Computer Science
- ▶ Humanities – Geography, History, Home Economics (Scientific & Social)
- ▶ Creative – Art, Music, Physical Education
- ▶ Technology – Construction Studies, DCG, Engineering, Technology

All offered at Higher and Ordinary Level.



# A look at the subjects

## – Core Subjects

- ▶ Maths – 25 bonus points available for Honours Maths at grades H6 and above ie 40% +. Honours Maths is needed for most Engineering Degrees, Financial Maths/Maths Science Degrees & some Science Degrees e.g. Data Science & Analytics UCC, Industrial Physics UCC/CIT joint degree
- ▶ Irish – 40% oral exam. H4 needed for Primary School Teaching.
- ▶ English – Honours English is a great preparation for Third Level Education. Most degree courses, even very practical ones, are assessed through essay. Having studied higher level English will help students access 3<sup>rd</sup> level texts more easily to conduct research. It is also very useful in everyday life including job applications & interview processes.

# Optional Subjects

Subject Choice Booklet (available on google classroom & students will receive a copy at subject choice talk on the 20th March) contains the following information on each optional subject:

- ▶ Aptitudes needed to study subject to LC
- ▶ Comparison with JC subject
- ▶ Assessment methods and Assignments
- ▶ Careers Note on each subject



# A note on LCVP

- ▶ Available to students studying OL/FL maths only
- ▶ Students take 7 subjects & 2 additional Link Modules with a strong vocational dimension
  - Preparation for the World of Work & Enterprise Education
- ▶ Very valuable to develop transferable skills e.g. team work, critical thinking, flexibility, etc.
- ▶ Points awarded
  - Distinction                      66 points = H4
  - Merit                                      46 points = H6/O2
  - Pass                                      28 points = O4
- ▶ See page 25 in subject choice booklet for more details

# What you need to consider before choosing subjects

- ▶ Subject requirements for the future – basic entry requirements to college, apprenticeship, cadetship, etc.
- &
- ▶ Course entry requirements

The most useful resource for college and course entry requirements is:

- ▶ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- ▶ You must also check the College website/prospectus
- ▶ See the 'minimum subject requirements' section of useful tools in [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)



# Entry to Third Level

3 conditions must be met:

- ▶ Minimum college entry requirements
  - ▶ Specific course entry requirements
  - ▶ Points
- 
- ▶ Entry requirements can be met using more than one sitting of the LC
  - ▶ Points are calculated on your best **6** subjects from **one** sitting of LC

# National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

Option	Qualification	NFQ Level
University	Honours Degree	Level 8
Institute of Technology	Honours Degree	Level 8
	Ordinary Degree	Level 7
	Higher Certificate	Level 6
College of Further Education	Certificate	Level 6
	Certificate	Level 5



# NFQ - continued

- ▶ <https://nfq.qqi.ie/>
- ▶ Undergraduate options i.e. what you can do straight after your Leaving Cert.

Qualification	NFQ Level	Normal Duration
Honours Degree	Level 8	4 years
Ordinary Degree	Level 7	3 years
Higher Certificate	Level 6	2 years
Certificate	Level 5	1 year

- ▶ In order to go on and do a Masters (NFQ Level 9) you need to have a Level 8 Honours degree

# Minimum College Entry Requirements

- ▶ NUI Colleges (listed on pg. 3 of the subject choice booklet) – a minimum of 6 subjects – 2H5 and 4O6/H7 grades to include Irish, English and a third language.

## Exceptions

– **most but not all** engineering, science, agricultural and food science programmes & nursing do not require the third language

\_ Art or DCG is acceptable in place of the language for students entering NCAD.



# Minimum College Entry Requirements Cont'd

- ▶ Trinity College Dublin – minimum of 6 subjects – 3H5 & 3 O6/H7 grades, to include English, Maths and another language.
- ▶ UL – minimum of 6 subjects – 2H5 & 4O6 grades to include English, Maths and another language.
- ▶ Institutes of Technology i.e Dundalk I.T. and all other former I.T's e.g MTU
  - Level 8 (Honours Degree) – minimum of 6 subjects – 2H5 & 4O6 to include Maths and English or Irish.
  - Level 7 (Ordinary Degree) & Level 6 (Higher Certificate) – minimum of 5 subjects – 5O6/H7 to include Maths and English or Irish.

There are a few courses in ITs that accept Foundation Level maths – check out useful tools section of [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) to see which courses – however, double check college websites for most up to date information

# Minimum College Entry Requirements Cont'd

- ▶ Colleges of Further Education
  - ▶ Usually be 18 years of age
  - ▶ Have completed their LC/LCVP/LCA and have achieved a minimum of 5 passes
  - ▶ Pass an interview
  - ▶ Proficient in English



# Minimum Entry Requirements - Other

- ▶ Cadetship in the Army – minimum of 6 subjects – 3H5 & 3 O6/H7 to include Irish, English, Maths and a third language
- ▶ Cadetship in the Army Equitation School, Naval Services & the Air Corps all have different entry requirements
- ▶ Apprenticeships – minimum of 5 subjects in the Junior Certificate. However, this is changing and specific subject requirements are being introduced

# An Example of Apprenticeship Entry requirements

- ▶ The ESB Apprenticeship 2023 requires
  - ❖ O6 or higher in 5 subjects to include Irish/English, Maths and Science
  - ❖ If you do not have the required grade in Science a grade O6 or higher in Technology, Art, Technical Graphics, Materials Technology (Wood), Home Economics or Metal Work will be accepted
  - ❖ Students must write a 300- 500 word essay as part of initial application form
  - ❖ Students must then take an online aptitude test
  - ❖ An applicant will only be interviewed if they acquire adequate marks for the completion of all the above.



# Examples of Course Entry Requirements

- ▶ Biological & Chemical Science UCC
  - H4 in either a Lab Science subject, maths, applied maths or computer science
  - If the H4 is in a Lab Science subject an O6/H7 in maths is required or vice versa
  - If the H4 is in Computer Science an O6/H7 in a lab science subject is also required.
  - Lab science subjects accepted for this course are Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Agricultural Science

# Examples of Course Entry Requirements – Cont'd

- ▶ Veterinary Medicine UCD
  - H5 in Chemistry
  - 30 hours practical experience relevant to animal handling (completed between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023)
- ▶ Dentistry & Pharmacy UCC
  - H4 in Chemistry & H4 in either Biology or Physics
- ▶ Medicine UCC
  - H4 in Chemistry & H4 in either Biology or Physics
  - HPAT Ireland completed in year of proposed entry

Maths and 3<sup>rd</sup> language required for all these Degree Programmes



# Examples of Course Entry Requirements – Cont'd

- ▶ Engineering UL (Common Entry) UL
  - H4 in Maths
  - H7/O6 in one of the following – Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Technology, DCG, Tech Drawing, Biology, Ag Science, Applied Maths, Construction, Computer Science
- ▶ Engineering UCC
  - H4 in Maths or Applied Maths – if the H4 is in Applied maths, a H6 is required in Maths
  - H7/O6 in a Lab Science or Technology
  - Lab Sciences accepted are Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Ag Science
- ▶ Engineering (Common Entry) MTU
  - O1/H6 in Maths

# Examples of Course Entry Requirements – Cont'd

- ▶ Commerce International with German UCC
  - Beginners German – H3 in a Modern European Language other than English
  - Non beginners German – H4 in German & H3 in a Modern European Language other than English
- ▶ Law and Irish UCC
  - H3 in Irish
- ▶ World Languages UCC
  - H3 in a language other than English
- ▶ Primary School Teaching Mary I
  - H4 in Irish
  - O4/H7 in Maths & English



# NB

- ▶ All these examples of Entry Requirements are correct as of January 2023
- ▶ While Qualifax and Careersportal are fairly reliable websites, please note they are third party websites. It is up to the individual student to double check college websites for the most up to date and accurate entry requirements for the courses they are interested in
- ▶ The guidance dept. is open for drop ins from 09.55 – 10.10 Monday through Thursday during the morning drop in service to answer any questions students have about entry requirements, they can also email [guidance@smgsblarney.ie](mailto:guidance@smgsblarney.ie)

# Subject Choice Process



- ▶ TY Students completed the CAT 4 aptitude test in November/December.
- ▶ Subject choice talks to students by the Guidance Department in March. Students receive their subject choice booklet.
- ▶ Students if needed, can request a meeting the Guidance Department for an individual 20 minute session to discuss their subject options and to answer any questions they might have.



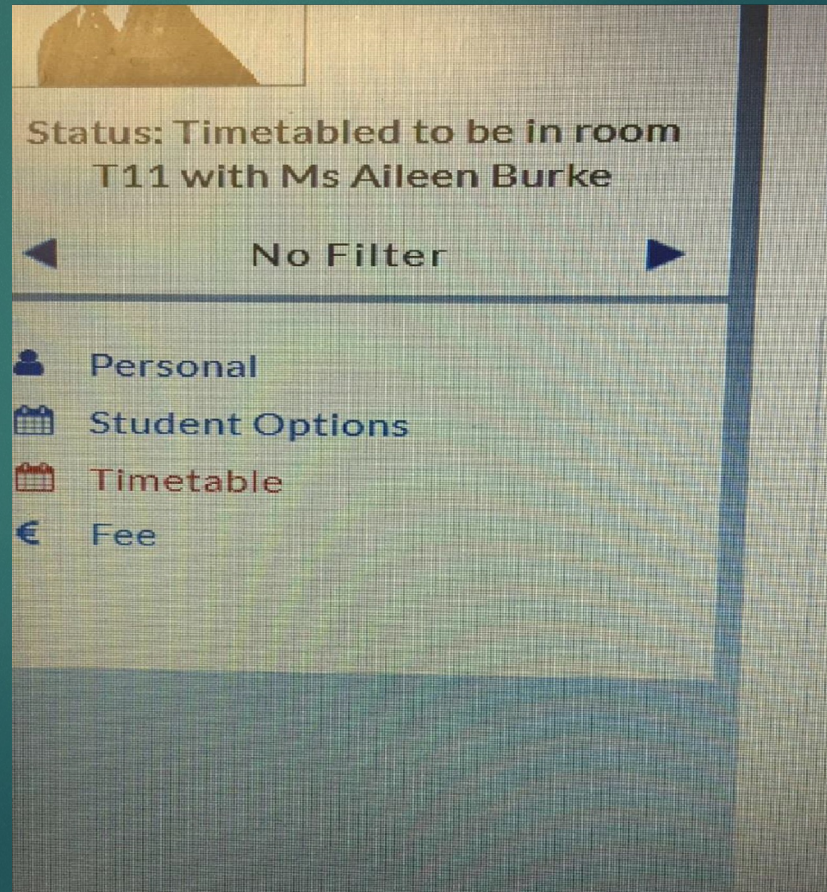
# Subject Choice Process cont'd

- ▶ It is vitally important that students prepare for these sessions to make the most use of their time. Listen intently to the subject choice talk, read the subject choice booklet, talk to subject teachers about their subjects, look at past experience of the subjects on offer, etc. Read all information given.
- ▶ If any questions remain after the subject choice presentations, please email [guidance@smgsblarney.ie](mailto:guidance@smgsblarney.ie)
- ▶ Log in to vsware together with a parent/guardian and complete the Subject Options Form



# Subject Options Form

- ▶ Log in to vsware
  - ▶ <http://smgsblarney.vsware.ie>
- ▶ Enter your username & password (Sent out by text)





# Option Block Formation – the process

- ▶ Select 6 subjects from the drop down menu, listing you subjects in order of preference
- ▶ After the closing date for submitting the options form bands will be created. Every effort is made to create bands that offer every student 4 subjects from their top 6.
- ▶ Once bands have been created the students will be placed in the subject bands that best match their indicated preferences. If they want to change at this stage they talk to Mr. Dodd.
- ▶ Students not taking HL maths choose from either **LCVP or Study Period in preference 7 box**
- ▶ Closing date for submitting options form is **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

# So...

Student fill in  
subject option  
form on vsware

Subjects are  
then placed in  
blocks based  
on the  
information  
gathered and  
availability of  
resources

Students are  
then placed in  
blocks based  
on their initial  
choices. They  
can request a  
change at this  
stage



# 5<sup>th</sup> year option blocks

## 2021/2022 (Our current 6th Yrs)

German x 2  
Physics  
Biology  
French x2  
Engineering  
Home Economics

Geography  
Biology  
Accounting  
Engineering  
Economics  
Art  
Business  
Technology

Geography  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Business  
Music  
DCG  
Construction

History  
Physics  
Chemistry  
Ag Science  
Biology  
Economics  
Home Economics  
Construction

Band 5- LCVP – Honours Maths- PE

# 5<sup>th</sup> year option blocks

## 2022/2023 (Our current 5th Yrs)

Biology  
Geography  
French x2  
German x2  
Physics  
Engineering

Geography  
Biology  
Home Economics  
Applied Maths  
Construction  
Business  
Chemistry  
Ag Science

Biology  
Home Economics  
Construction  
Physics  
Art  
Accounting  
Economics  
History

Biology  
Music  
Business  
Technology  
Economics  
DCG  
Engineering

Band 5- LCVP – Honours Maths- PE



# How to choose the right subjects for your LC...

## **Do**

- ▶ Select subjects
  - ▶ You Enjoy
  - ▶ You are good at

## **Don't**

- ▶ Select subjects
  - ▶ Because a friend is doing it
  - ▶ Because you don't like the teacher

# What to consider...

- ▶ Basic college and specific course entry requirements – Do the research
- ▶ Interest
  - Did you like subject at Junior Cycle/TY?
  - Have you looked at the books/spoken to the subject teacher?
  - Workshops/taster days/work experience
- ▶ Aptitude -CAT4 results if taken
  - Junior Cert results
  - Class tests
  - Practical skills
- ▶ Keep college/career options open...



# To keep as many options open as possible...

- ▶ Choose a Language
- &
- ▶ At least one science

See **page 7** in the subject choice booklet

& 2 subjects you love.

# A note on the sciences

- ▶ Biology and/or chemistry are more useful for medical, nursing, food science and agricultural fields
- ▶ Physics and/or chemistry are more useful for engineering and science



# CAO & Point System

- ▶ Competitive – based on demand for course, not ability required
- ▶ All subjects are worth doing!
  - ▶ Same points for all with the exception of Honours Maths.
  - ▶ If you get a H6 or above you get an additional 25 bonus points

# CAO Points Scale

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade %	CAO Points		
H1 (90-100)%	100		
H2 (80-89)%	88		
H3 (70-79)%	77		
H4 (60-69)%	66	<b>Grade %</b>	<b>CAO Points</b>
H5 (50-59)%	56	O1 (90-100)%	56
H6 (40-49)%	46	O2 (80-89)%	46
H7 (30-39)%	37	O3 (70-79)%	37
H8 (0-29)%	0	O4 (60-69)%	28
		O5 (50-59)%	20
		O6 (40-49)%	12
		O7 (30-39)%	0
		O8 (0-29)%	0



# Final Tips

- ▶ Read the 'SMGS Fifth year subject choice booklet 2023 for students and parents'
- ▶ Look up subject text books & exam papers
- ▶ Talk to subject teachers, parents and other students studying the subject
- ▶ Choose subjects you are good at
- ▶ Research College and Course entry requirements
- ▶ Speak to your guidance counsellor

# Change of Mind

- ▶ Deadline for Change of mind is **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**
- ▶ Firstly you must discuss with both Subject Teachers.
- ▶ Then you must call to the Morning Drop in Service 09.55 – 10.10 Monday through Thursday to discuss with a member of the guidance department, to look at the career implications if any.
- ▶ Numbers permitting you will be allow to change.
- ▶ Be sure to start this process early as all forms must be returned to Mr. Dodd **by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**





▶ Questions?