



Rogha Ábhair Ardteiste

- TY students are given a form asking them to indicate **6 subjects** (in order of preference) they wish to choose (*3 preferred + 3 back up*)
- We try to ensure that as many students as possible get as many of their preferred subjects as possible (*but there is no guarantee of getting all preferred subjects*)
- Definite subject lines will be constructed based on teacher availability, student preferences, and class sizes.
- Therefore, it is important to have *back up subjects* that you have researched and that you are happy with should one of your preferred choices prove not to be feasible



Pointí Tábhachtacha

Important Points

- Every student is a unique- own interests, abilities and aptitudes, hence they should choose subjects based on these and **not** current friendships or the opinions of others.
- Subject Choice should not depend on what teacher will be teaching a certain subject. Neither should it depend on rumours as to what is an “**easy**” subject. There are no easy honours!!
- Students should be aware of balancing subjects which help maximise points (subjects you like) vs. subjects which may be essential (required subjects) to qualify for specific courses.



Pointí Tábhachtacha

- Faulty thinking is saying.....Only really intelligent swots do that subject....None of my friends are doing it, so I'm not going to do it!
- No subject is gender specific
- Students usually do best in those subjects in which they are ***interested*** and which they ***enjoy***. So your son/daughter should choose the subjects that s(h)e likes best – they yield higher points
- All subjects require a two year commitment, 5th & 6th Year.



Careers Portal – Online Profile

TY students will be guided through the following steps to help them form views on careers and assist with subject choices
(*parents can support students by viewing their online profile*)

- Multiple Intelligence Test
- Personality Test
- Exam Targets
- Career Interest Tests
- Occupational Interest Test (OII)
- CAT4 – Aptitude Test
- Junior Cert Results



Ábhair Ardteiste

Leaving Cert Subjects

STUDENTS STUDY SEVEN SUBJECTS

FOUR of the Seven Subjects are Core/Obligatory Subjects

- **Gaeilge**
- **Béarla**
- **Matamaitic**
- **Fraincís nó Gearmáinis**



Optional Subjects (pick 3)

- Geography
- History
- Business
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Construction Studies (*known as Woodwork for JC*)
- Engineering (*known as Metalwork for JC*)
- Design and Communication Graphics(DCG)(*known as Tech. Graph for JC*)
- Home Economics
- Art
- Music
- PE (*new subject introduced in Sept 2020*)

Usually the top 9/10 Optional Subjects will be offered (based on demand, teaching resources etc,.).



General Advice

There are some myths about the necessity of having certain subjects for certain careers. Contrary to popular belief:-

- *You do not need Design Communications to become an Engineer or Architect*
- *You do not need a Business subject to study Commerce, or Accountancy to become an Accountant*

Students should research career area (CAREERS PORTAL) and then check **Essential subject** and **Minimum grade** required.

For example:- A Third language is essential for the National University of Ireland i.e. NUIC, NUIG, NUID, NUIM (*more about this later*)



General Advice

If students are not really sure (*and most are not sure*) what they want to do in the future, then,

Pick a broad range of subjects in order to keep options open

Many students will change their minds about their future a number of times in the next 2 years

Subject choice which covers most options

- *one language*
- *one science ***
- *one business*
- *any other subject*

This combination would allow access into a broad range of courses/careers.

******Some courses require 2 sciences (*more on this later*)



Irish/English/Maths Required

IRISH ESSENTIAL -Higher Irish is the main subject requirement for Primary Teaching at Mary Immaculate/St. Pats/Froebel/Marino and for all other Degree courses incorporating Irish e.g. Irish + Journalism in DCU, Business and Irish etc.

MATHS ESSENTIAL - All level 8 honours degree programmes in Engineering require Higher level Maths, as do some Level 8 honours degree programmes in Information Technology, Actuarial studies, Financial Maths Economics, Theoretical Physics and some Computer Science courses (TCD and NUIM).

ORDINARY LEVEL MATHS FOR MOST OTHER CAO COURSES – Some Engineering Courses (Level 6&7) can be taken at Institutes of Technology (eg. GMIT) after which students can progress to Level 8 courses if they so wish.

FOUNDATION LEVEL MATHS - ACCEPTABLE FOR SOME CAO COURSES WITH NO MATHS REQUIREMENT (Art and Design etc) GARDAI (GRADE B) and PLC COURSES

ENGLISH ESSENTIAL – Higher level English required for Journalism courses in DCU/DIT/UL, Media Studies NUIM, Clinical Speech and Language Studies TCD



CONTINENTAL LANGUAGE REQUIRED

3rd LANGUAGE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO NUI COLLEGES

(EXEMPTIONS)

NOT REQUIRED FOR NURSING IN ANY OF THE UNIVERSITIES

NOT REQUIRED FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE DEGREES

**INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY (COURSES AT LEVEL 6 and 7) DO NOT
GENERALLY REQUIRE CONTINENTAL LANGUAGE**

UL WILL ACCEPT IRISH AND OR CONTINENTAL LANGUAGE

*Individual College Prospectus must be checked carefully for exceptions.

For most up-to date course requirements, see www.qualifax.ie



Science(s) Required

- Science
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Radiography
- Nursing
- Information Technology
- Architecture
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Sports Science
- Med Lab Science
- Dietetics
- Optometry
- Production management
- Industrial Design
- Naval Cadets

Chemistry essential for:- Pharmacy, Veterinary, Medicine, Dentistry, Human Nutrition



Science Requirements



1 Science subject is required for science courses listed below.

Science= (biology/chemistry/physics)

***Note:** Agricultural Science is not considered a science subject for every course in every college. You can check entry requirements for*

specific courses by logging onto at CAO.ie or Qualifax.ie

Medicine -UCD, RCS and NUIG

Biochemistry

Environmental science

Genetics

Animal science

Biomedical science

Radiation therapy

Optometry

Horticulture

Chemical sciences

Nutritional science

Biology is a requirement for;
Genetics UCC

Chemistry is a requirement for;
Veterinary Medicine UCD
Dietetics DIT

Physics is a requirement for;
Theoretical physics degrees

Chemistry & 1 other science subject are required for;

Pharmacy UCC Trinity

Medicine UCC

Dentistry UCC

2 Sciences are required for the following courses in Trinity;

Medicine

Physiotherapy

Genetics

Dental science



Summary of Subject Choice

Students should choose subjects

- That interest them
- That they have an aptitude for
- That satisfies the entry requirements 3rd level
- Of utmost importance is the relevance of third language for NUI Colleges. Keep options open – **one** Science ** **one** Business and **one** broad. The broader the choice in subjects the more career choices later.
- Be mindful of alternative routes of entry
- ** Look out for courses requiring 2 Science subjects.

REMEMBER: Subject choice is part of career choice, career choice is a process not an event



CAO (*Central Applications Office*) **POINTS SYSTEM**

Points are calculated based on students best **6 subjects**

Points are not pre-set. They vary from college to college and from year to Year. The points reflect :-

- (a) the result of applications for that year and*
- (b) the number of available places for that year on any given course*

POINTS are not set by individual Colleges

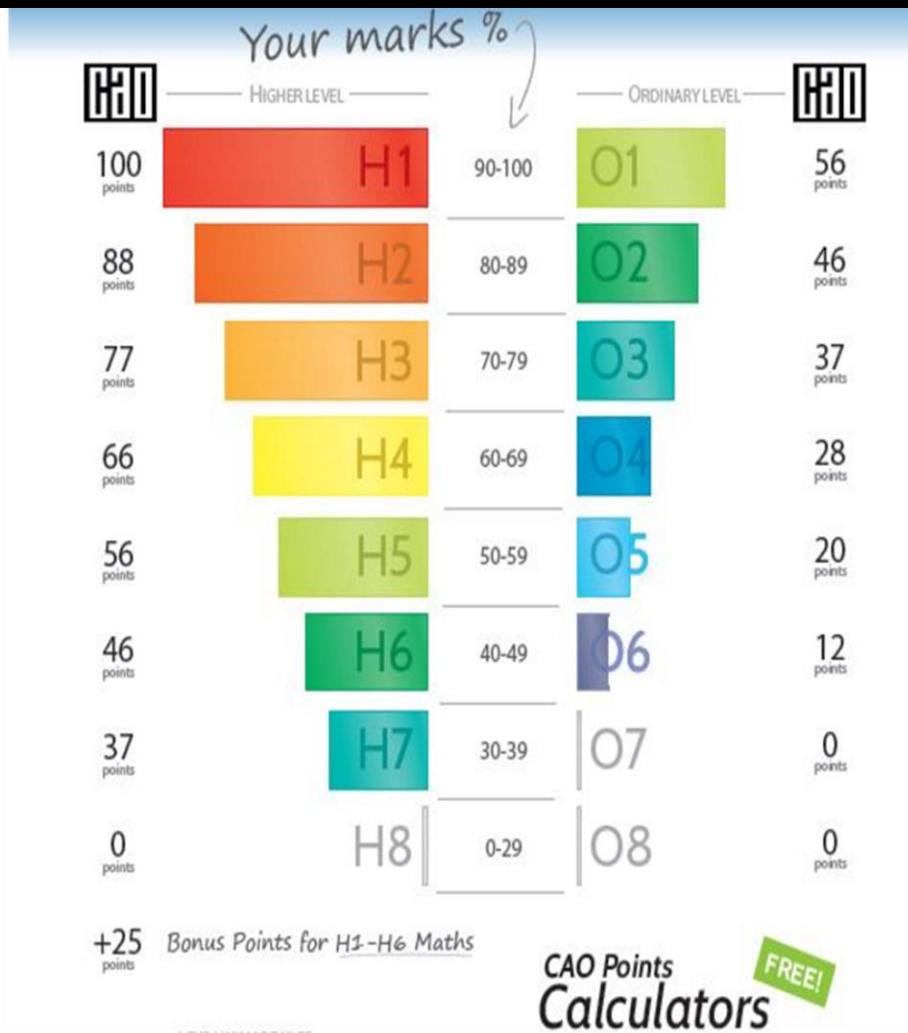
CAO regulates course points yearly based on applicants' demands

Points do not guarantee a place at Third Level as basic entry and faculty requirements must also be satisfied:- *A student with 625 points- maximum points in the Leaving Cert will – but no science subject will not get Medicine)*



CAO POINTS

| Current (pre-2017) Leaving Certificate Grade Scheme | New Leaving Certificate Grade Scheme | New Points Higher level | New Points Ordinary level |
|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| A1 | H1 / O1 | 100 | 56 |
| A2 | H2 / O2 | 88 | 46 |
| B1 | | | |
| B2 | H3 / O3 | 77 | 37 |
| B3 | | | |
| C1 | H4 / O4 | 66 | 28 |
| C2 | | | |
| C3 | H5 / O5 | 56 | 20 |
| D1 | | | |
| D2 | H6 / O6 | 46 | 12 |
| D3 | | | |
| E | | 33 | 0 |





USEFUL WEBSITES FOR SUBJECT CHOICE

- www.careersportal.ie (all about jobs, courses and more, excellent site – one stop shops)
- www.cao.ie (3rd level courses in Ireland)
- www.qualifax.ie (look up courses)
- www.careerdirections.ie (Job Descriptions)
- www.skool.ie (look up senior cycle subjects)
- www.nursingcareers.ie (all about nursing)
- www.science.ie (all about Science & Engineering)
- www.examinations.ie (all about exams)
- www.skillsireland.ie (all about jobs in the future)
- www.ucas.co.uk (3rd level courses in the UK)



Subjects choices to cover:-

1. Nearly All Courses
2. Most Courses
3. Non Science Courses

1

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- French/German
- Chemistry
- Physics
- ***Any other***

2 Sciences + Language

2

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- French/German
- Biology
- ***Any other***
- ***Any other***

1 Science + Language

3

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- French/German
- ***Any other***
- ***Any other***
- ***Any other***

No Science + Language