



Subject Choice for Leaving Certificate

Feb 2024



Things to think about

- **Subject choice is important – you want to enjoy what you are studying over the next 2 yrs**
- **It can influence your future choices**
- **It can open up options for you in the future**

So you need to take time and do your research

For Leaving
Cert. you will
study 7
subjects-

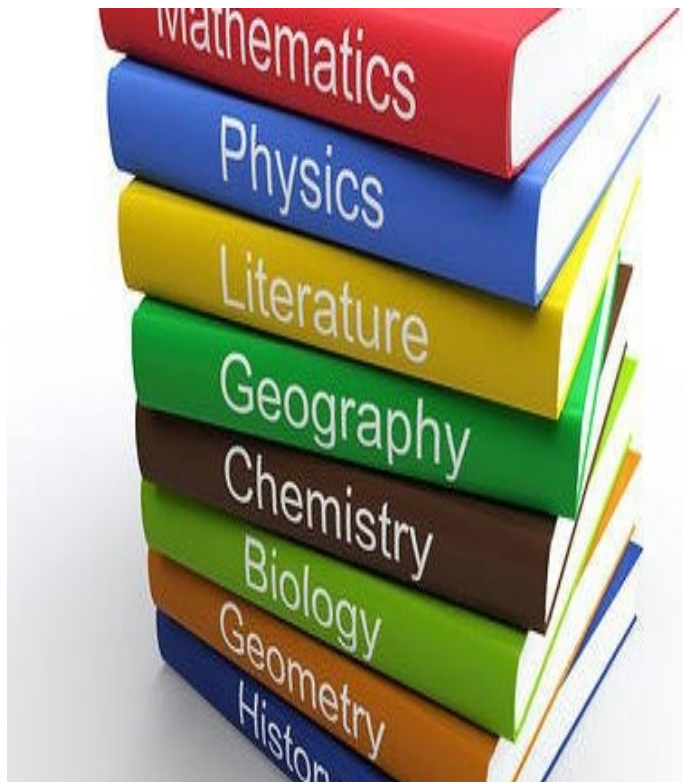
- **English, Irish, Maths**

and

- **Four Option subjects from a list of 18 subjects**



Subject Choice – You will study 4 from.....



- **History, Geography**
- **French, German**
- **Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Ag. Science**
- **Accounting, Business, Economics**
- **DCG, Engineering, Construction,**
- **Music, Art, Home Economics,
Physical Education**

Pick 6 and we do our best to give you your 4 first choices

How do you
choose?

- Ask yourself:
- What am I interested in?
- What am I likely to be good at?
- What am I likely to need in the future?



Really
important

- Might you need 1 or 2 Science subjects?
- Might you need a particular grade in a subject?
- Might you need a practical subject?
- What is the Maths requirement?
- Might you need a modern foreign language?



Third Language?

- Please research carefully
- See handout given out tonight
- Check online also
- If in doubt talk to a Guidance Counsellor





Examples of specific requirements:

- Primary Teaching - H4 in Irish
- Media Studies (Maynooth) – H5 in English & (O6/H7 in 3rd language) H4 English in some colleges for Media/Multimedia
- Veterinary Science – H4 in Chemistry
- Science in Trinity College – H4 in TWO Science Subjects
- Computer Science – Maths grade varies from college to college
- Dietetics in TUD- H4 in Chemistry
- Medicine Trinity – 2 Sciences H3 & H4 5 yrs/ UCD 1 Science 6 yrs
- etcalways check.....



Research
courses/careers
on.....

- www.qualifax.ie
(Subject requirement tool)
- www.careersportal.ie

Consider all the evidence:

-
- Your interest in subjects
 - Your experience from Junior Cycle
 - All your test results - including CAT 4
 - Your work experience learning
(TY students)
 - Your interest in particular careers
 - Your discussions with parents
 - Your college talks/visits (TY students)



What to do next-.....

- Discuss this at home
- Listen to descriptors of subjects (school website)
- Talk to teachers
- Look at the text books
- Ask for advice from Guidance Counsellors
- Research what you might need later ...on
- www.qualifax.ie / www.careersportal.ie



What to
choose if you
are unsure-

A broad range e.g

**1 science, 1 business, 1
practical and one other.....**

Or

**1 practical, 1 science
and two others.....**

There are many possible combinations

**You want to keep your options open and
leave room for changing your mind.**





Do not.....

- Follow the crowd
- Choose a subject because your friends are doing it
- Choose a subject without researching it fully
- Choose a subject that you have not done well at in the past

Really Important


- Give this decision some time
- Do your research.
- Ask for advice.
- Involve your parents/guardians
- Talk to guidance counsellors.



Very
Important:

Put in your
choices

by.....



- Wednesday
MARCH
13TH



LCVP or Link Modules

A practical Business subject open to all students

LCVP

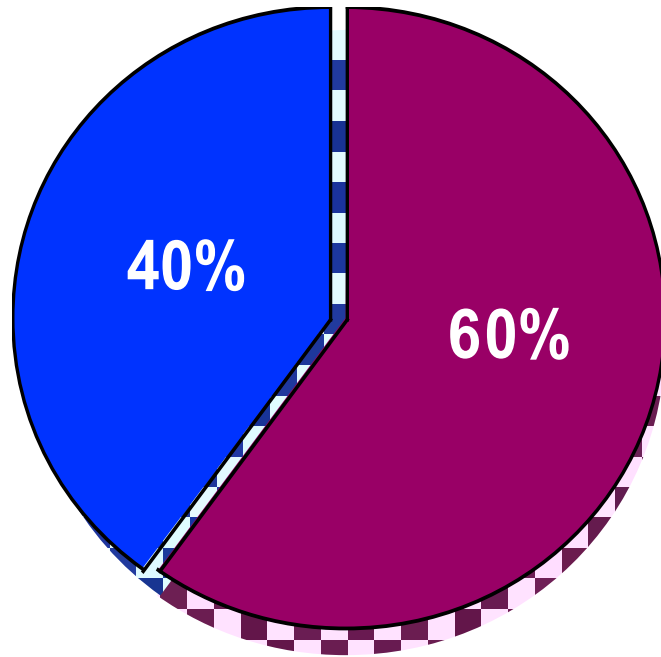
- LCVP is an eighth subject that places emphasis on linking school to the world of work and ones future career.
- Items covered include
- C.V., Career Investigation, Enterprise Action Plan, Summary Report, Work Experience, Recorded Interview
- Emphasis on continuous work throughout the year with 60% going towards their Portfolio while 40% Written Paper
- 1 hour a week + homework

Link Modules Assessment

The Link Modules are assessed by written examination and portfolio.

Portfolio submitted the 1st Friday in March.

Written Exam the 1st Wednesday in May.



Link Modules Assessment

Written Examination 40%

- Section A - Audio Visual
 - Video sequence of an enterprise
- Section B - Case Study
 - Received 4 weeks in advance
- Section C - General Questions
 - Choice of 4 questions from 6

LINK MODULES ASSESSMENT

- Portfolio of Coursework 60%

Core Items

- CV
- Career Investigation
- Enterprise/Action Plan
- Summary Report

Options - any two from:-

- Diary of Work Experience
- Enterprise Report
- Recorded Interview/Presentation
- Report on "My Own Place"

Examined at Common Level

Grades:

Distinction 80% - 100% - 66 points (H4)

Merit 65% - 79%- 46 points (H6 /O2)

Pass 50% - 64%- 28 points (O4)

New Grades and point scale

• Grade(%)	Points	Grade(%)	Points
• H1 (90-100)	100		
• H2(80<90)	88		
• H3(70<80)	77		
• H4(60<70)	66		
• H5 (50<60)	56	O1(90-100)	56
• H6(40<50)	46	O2(80<90)	46
• H7(30<40)	37	O3(70<80)	37
• H8(0<30)	0	O4(69<70)	28

<https://youtu.be/vDkB7GAbZjE>



CAT 4 - Cognitive Ability Test

Explanation & Parent Report Analysis

Uses of CAT 4 Assessment



provides you with an accurate analysis of potential student achievement.



provides a rounded profile of student ability.



you can target support, provide the right level of challenge, and make informed decisions about their progress.



Reports indicate strengths supporting subject choice across four main areas.



It helps teachers understand how students learn, what barriers to learning they may have and their academic potential.



Areas assessed by CAT 4



Verbal Reasoning	the ability to <u>express ideas and reason</u> through words. It is a skill that is essential to subjects with a <u>high language content</u> .
Non-verbal Reasoning	<u>problem-solving using pictures and diagrams</u> ; skills which are important in a wide range of school subjects, including maths and science-based subjects.
Spatial Reasoning	the capacity to <u>think and draw conclusions in three dimensions</u> , needed for many STEM subjects
Quantitative Reasoning	the ability to use <u>numerical skills to solve problems</u> , applicable well beyond mathematics.

CAT 4 Parent Report

Section 1: Explanation of Test

Individual report for parents

Name: ██████████			
School: Scoil Mhuire Community School			
Group: 1G-2020			
Date of test: 23/02/2023	Level: F	Age: 14:11	Sex: Male

What is CAT4?

Your child has taken the *Cognitive Abilities Test Fourth Edition (CAT4)* which assesses how well a student can think about tasks and solve problems using a range of different questions.

Some tasks involved thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-verbal Reasoning), some with words (Verbal Reasoning) or numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and, finally, some questions were answered by thinking about shape and space together and imagining a shape being changed and moving (Spatial Ability).

Why use CAT4?

- CAT4 is used in many schools across Ireland to provide information to teachers, students and parents that, with other information, forms the basis for discussion about how best an individual can learn and reach his or her potential in school.
- CAT4 does not require any prior knowledge and you cannot 'learn' how to answer the questions in CAT4. It is therefore a good test because everyone starts at the same place.
- The abilities tested in CAT4, such as spatial ability, may be difficult to demonstrate in the classroom so it is important that teachers know the level of a student's ability in such areas.
- CAT4 contributes to setting targets and allows an individual's progress to be monitored.
- CAT4 results will help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for an individual and whether additional support or challenge is needed.
- CAT4, unlike an English or maths test, is not a test of what the student has learned. It tests how an individual can think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning and achievement.

Example questions

Verbal Reasoning Battery – thinking with words

Verbal Classification

Three words are presented which are similar in some way or ways. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify a fourth word with similar properties.

The answer is snow because rain, fog and sunshine are all types of weather and snow is also a type of weather.

rain fog sunshine

winter snow weather dark night

Verbal Analogies

A pair of connected words is presented alongside a single word. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must select a word to complete the second pair in the same way.

The answer is window, because a carpet goes on a floor and a curtain hangs at a window.

carpet → floor : curtain →

window shade hang drapes cloth

Quantitative (or Numerical) Reasoning Battery – thinking with numbers

Number Analogies

Two pairs of related numbers are presented. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must select a number to complete a third pair.

The answer is 8. Here 1 add 1 makes 2, but that doesn't work for the second pair because 5 add 1 is 6, not 10. Instead, you have to multiply by 2 to get the second part of each pair, so 4 times 2 is 8.

[1 → 2] [5 → 10] [4 → ?]

5 7 8 9 10

Number Series

A sequence of numbers created by a transformation rule is presented. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify the rule and continue the sequence.

The answer is 15. There are two number patterns in this series. The first, third and fifth numbers go down by 1 at a time – 18, 17 then 16. The numbers in between them go up by two at a time – 5, 7 then 9. This means the next number must be 16 minus 1, giving 15.

18 5 17 7 16 9 →

11 12 13 14 15

Non-verbal Reasoning Battery – thinking with shapes

Figure Classification

Three designs are presented which are similar in some way or ways. From a selection of five possible answers, the student must identify a fourth design with similar properties.

The answer is E because it is the only answer choice that is a striped semi-circle, like the first three figures.

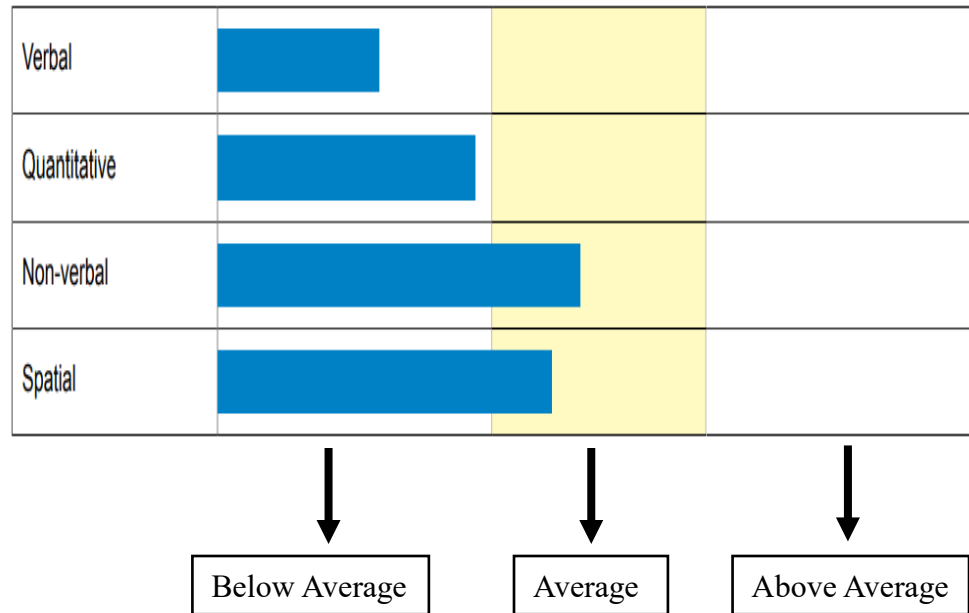
Three designs: semi-circle with horizontal stripes, semi-circle with vertical stripes, semi-circle with diagonal stripes.

A B C D E

CAT 4 Parent Report

Section 2: Graph & Summary

Profile



Summary

██████████ profile of scores from CAT4 suggests he may have a slight preference for learning that uses visual images – pictures, diagrams, moving images, etc. rather than learning by reading, writing and talking about topics.

- ██████████ should use online resources, videos and books with plenty of pictures to help remember key facts and information.
- ██████████ may find much of his schoolwork difficult.
- Does ██████████ find reading and maths difficult? If so, he may need some extra help working at home under guidance from school.
- When you are helping with homework, make sure that ██████████ understands each step of the task before moving on. It is important that ██████████ learns at a pace that is right for him.
- Tell ██████████ to ask the teacher to explain anything that is not clear.



LCA Programme
Attendance (90%)
Key Assignments &
Tasks
Work Experience
Exams

Subjects taught over the 2 years

- ▶ English & Communications
 - ▶ Mathematical Applications
 - ▶ Vocational Preparation & Guidance
 - ▶ Social Education
 - ▶ Hotel Catering & Tourism
 - ▶ Office Administration & Customer Care
 - ▶ Leisure & Recreation
 - ▶ I.T.
 - ▶ Art/ Drama
- Religion
- Irish (1 year)
- German/French (1 year)

Attendance/Key Assignments

- 90% must be attained for LCA
- All Key Assignments will be completed in class time
- Every subject has Key Assignments
- All Tasks will start in school but some work to be completed at home
- Tasks: Leisure & Recreation, VPG and HCT all in Yr1
- ▶ Social Ed, OACC and Practical Achievement Yr2
- ▶ Personal Reflection Task is completed in both years.
- Practical Exams in HCT and OACC and English & Communications
- Irish in Year 1
- French/German in Year 2
- ▶

Exams

- ▶ Year 1: German Exam in June 2024
- ▶ Year 2: June 2024
- ▶ English & Communications
- ▶ Social Ed
- ▶ Mathematical Applications
- ▶ HCT
- ▶ OACC
- ▶ German/French

Work Experience

- Every Friday
- Blocks: September to December
- January to May
- Repeat for Year 2

Short video explaining LCA

- ▶ <https://youtu.be/vDkB7GAbZjE>