

Senior Cycle Subject Choice information night - February 16th 2022

Aim of this talk

- ▶ To outline procedures in Elphin Community College for helping students choose their subjects.
- ▶ Give some suggestions on how to make an informed decision.

Preparation for subject choice- Class Visits by Guidance Counsellor

- Advice on how to choose subjects to keep future options open.
- Some careers require particular subjects.
- Mistakes students make with subjects.
- Survey to examine preferences.
- Interest Test-examine results which will indicate career
- CAT tests or similar test- which will highlight students strengths and weaknesses in relation to different aptitudes.

Subject Groupings: English, Irish, and Maths.

- ▶ **Optional Subjects-Choose 4**
- ▶ **Language Group-French,**
- ▶ **Science Group-Biology, Physics/Chemistry, Agricultural Science**
- ▶ **Practical Group- Engineering, DCG, Construction, Home Economics**
- ▶ **Business Group-Business**
- ▶ **Humanities Group - Geography, History**
- ▶ **Artistic Group- Art**

The offering of the subjects above will be influenced by demand (etc.)

How to choose the right subjects

- ▶ Pick a broad range of subjects to keep your options open. (From different groups)
- ▶ Choose subjects that suit you.
- ▶ Do research into these subjects by talking to older relatives, teachers and borrowing textbooks and using the internet.
- ▶ Choose subjects that you like and are good at.
- ▶ Points for third level courses is calculated from the best six subjects

Research

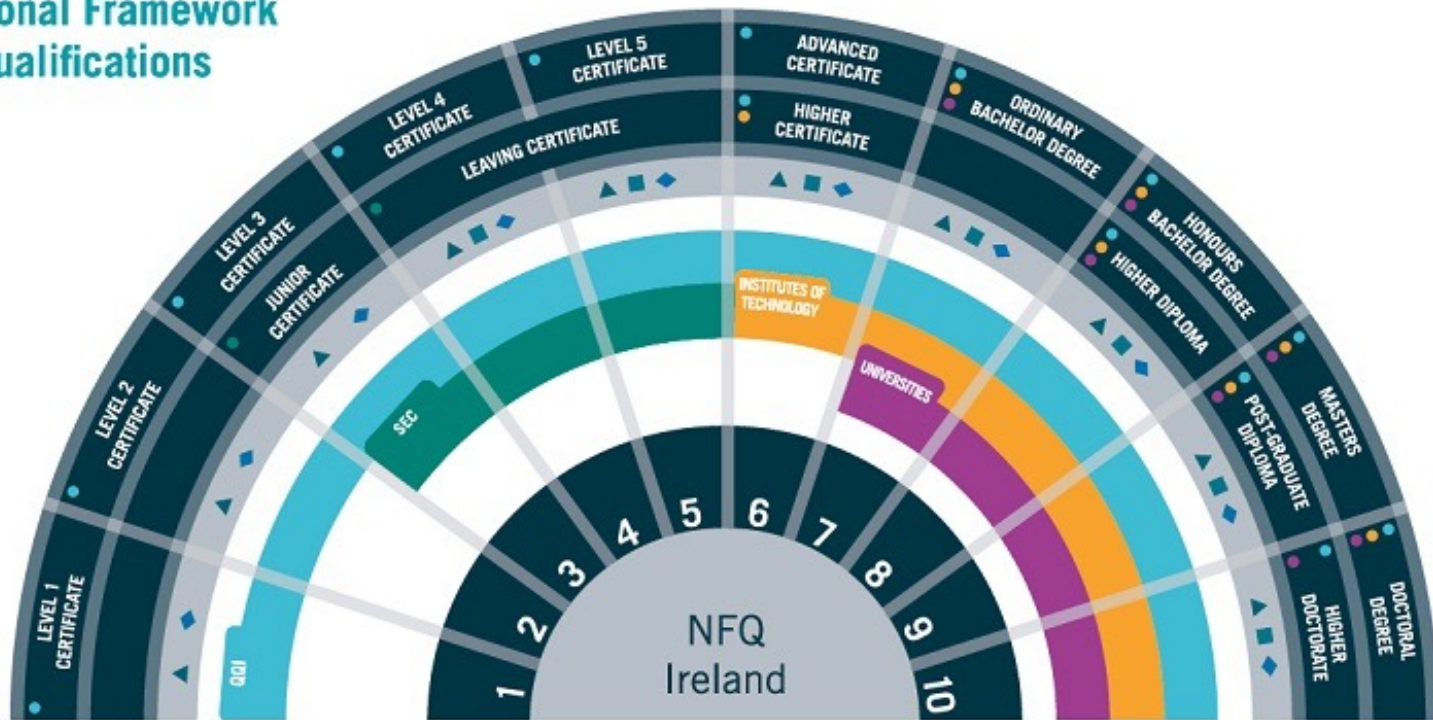
- ▶ Is the subject **essential** /useful for a prospective career/course?
- ▶ Am I relatively **good** at the subject? Do I have an **aptitude** for it?.

Subject Requirements

- Maths, English and Irish- Most commonly required.
- A third language is required by **majority** of courses in NUI Colleges. (Maynooth University, NUI Galway, U.C.C, U.C.D) and the Royal College of Surgeons.
- **Exception**-Most Engineering, Science and IT, Nursing and Agricultural courses in NUI colleges have **removed** the third language for entry.
- An Art Portfolio is required for many Art related courses.
- A Science subject is required for Nursing/Medical/Paramedical and Engineering courses.



National Framework of Qualifications



AWARDING BODIES

- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities

AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- Major Awards: named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ◆ Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement



For further Information consult: www.nfq.ie www.QQI.ie

©QQI 2014

To get into Third Level

- (1) Minimum Entry requirements-This varies from 5 passes in the Leaving Cert ,generally including English/Irish and Maths. Entry to Level 6 courses.(Higher Certificate)
- Level 7: Minimum of 140 points.
Level 8 : 2/3Honours and 4 passes.
(2) Then specific subject requirements.
(3)Points are then required.
- Check out www.nfq.ie for an explanation of the national framework system.

The Points System

Summary of Points system:

- ▶ N.B. The Points System is a selection tool for courses on the CAO, it is not used for other courses.
- ▶ The Points System is basically a selection system used to select students for a course when there are more *qualified applicants than places on the course.*

New Points System- Started in 2017

New Common CAO Points Scale

Higher Grade	Points	Ordinary Grade	Points
H1 90-100%	100	O1 90-100%	56
H2 80<90%	88	O2 80<90%	46
H3 70<80%	77	O3 70<80%	37
H4 60<70%	66	O4 60<70%	28
H5 50<60%	56	O5 50<60%	20
H6 40<50%	46	O6 40<50%	12
H7 30<40%	37	O7 30<40%	0
H8 0<30%	0	O8	0

The Points System

- ▶ **Qualified here means they have satisfied both the Minimum Entry Requirements and any Specific Subject Requirements for the course.**
- ▶ **A student's points total is calculated from their six best subjects.**
- ▶ **All subjects are equal points except for Higher Level Maths (25 bonus points are added) and LCVP is different.**

Desirable Subjects

- **Various careers and trades:**
DCG, Construction and Engineering
- **Nursing- Biology**
- **Hotel and Catering-**
Home Economics and Biology.

Subjects related to career choices

- Nursing- (O6/H7) One Science subject
- NUI- French (O6/H7)
- Primary Teaching- Irish (H4)
- Engineering Degree- Maths(H3/H4),
One Science subject.
- Pharmacy, Medicine and
healthcare/medical courses generally
require 2 Science subjects.

Other Career choices

Defence Forces-www.military.ie

O6 in English, Irish, Maths and a minimum of 3H5 and 3O6 and not less than 18 by the date of enlistment.

*Gardai- www.garda.ie

Accept an honour in foundation Maths/O6 and O6 in English. At least 5 passes in Leaving Cert.

*Apprenticeships - Solas

At least a pass in the Junior Cert. (Practical subjects and Maths at Leaving Cert level- hugely beneficial).

*F= Foundation level, O= Ordinary level and H=Higher Level

www.solas.ie/Training/Apprenticeships

Foundation Level Maths/Irish

- ▶ Foundation Level Irish is not accepted for entry to NUI colleges.
- ▶ It is accepted for other colleges where Irish is not an entry requirement. Minimum of 03.
- ▶ Most colleges now accept Foundation Level Maths if it is not a subject requirement, but may not award points for it. GMIT and AIT award points for it (eg)
F1=20 points. F2=12 points.

Seven Deadly Sins of Subject Selection

- None of my friends are doing that subject so I'm not going to.
- I will do that a subject because it is a doss.
- If I don't do it for my Leaving Cert, I won't be able to do this at college.
- Only swots do that subject.
- That's just a subject for boys/girls.
- I don't want to do that subject because of teacher X.
- I don't need a Science subject because I'm not going to do Science.

What to research

- Check the relevant college prospectus/training information.
- Check the overall entry requirements and the specific course requirements. (Subjects/grades)
- ▶ Check the course content-this will highlight what subjects are predominant.

Recommended websites include:

- **Subject choice section-**[www. qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- www.careersportal.ie
- **Overview of Fifth year subjects-**
www.curriculumonline.ie
- **Careers database-** [www. careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- **Third level courses-**[www. cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- **Current Labour shortages -**
[www. careersportal .ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- **LCVP-** www.pdst.ie

Things to think about for senior Cycle

HEAR scheme -Higher Education Access Route .Apply through the CAO. This is for those deemed financially disadvantaged, have to fulfill a certain criteria.

Benefits:reduced points entry and financial assistance in college.

DARE scheme-Disability Access Route to Education. Apply through the CAO.Benefits:assistance based on your disability/learning difficulty and reduced points entry.

Full details of both schemes are available on

www.accesscollege.ie

UCAS-Anyone applying to colleges in England,Scotland,Northern Ireland and Wales use the UCAS application form which is online and is filled out early in Leaving Cert Year.**Check out www.ucas.com.**

Things to think about for senior Cycle

Third level in Europe: Any student wishing to go to college in Europe. You would need to get an application completed in Pre-Leaving Cert. This can be an expensive route and varies widely between countries. Check out www.eunicas.ie.

NUI Exemption: can be granted regarding languages if you have been born in a different country up to the age of 11/12 or have a learning difficulty. A form has to be filled out by parents and stamped by the school, available in my office or online at www.nui.ie. This is to ensure that these students can still apply to NUI colleges once the exemption has been granted.

The grant is applied for during the Leaving Cert year, this is based on the income for the previous year. Check out

www.susi.ie

Summary

- Maths, English, Irish, a modern continental language, and a Science subject.
- Remember to research appropriate careers and websites and college/employer literature.
- Important to check the level (H/O) required.
- Pick the subjects that you are the most interested in or have an aptitude for.
- Keep your options open for future career choices!!!!
- Good luck with all of the decisions.

In Conclusion

- ▶ THINK
- ▶ RESEARCH
- ▶ PLAN