



## Ashfield College Subject Updates 2021-22

# Contents

<b>Accounting</b> .....	1
<b>Agricultural Science</b> .....	2
<b>Applied Maths</b> .....	4
<b>Arabic</b> .....	5
<b>Art</b> .....	6
<b>Biology</b> .....	7
<b>Business</b> .....	8
<b>Classics</b> .....	9
<b>Chemistry</b> .....	11
<b>Design &amp; Communication Graphics</b> .....	12
<b>Economics</b> .....	14
<b>English</b> .....	15
<b>French</b> .....	16
<b>Geography</b> .....	18
<b>German</b> .....	19
<b>History</b> .....	21
<b>Home-economics</b> .....	22
<b>Irish</b> .....	23
<b>Italian</b> .....	24
<b>Maths</b> .....	25
<b>Music</b> .....	26
<b>Religion</b> .....	27
<b>Physics</b> .....	28
<b>Spanish</b> .....	29

# **Accounting**

## **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Accounting covers aspects of business and social life which are not dealt with in any other subject in that suite of programmes. Accounting has become an important part of young people's education, not just for socio-economic reasons but also because of the ever-increasing involvement of citizens in various roles in the running of clubs, societies, and businesses of all types. It is concerned with the preparation, recording, extraction, presentation, and analysis of financial information for the purpose of making economic decisions.

## **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Leaving Cert. Accounting consists of trading, profit and loss, balance sheets, published accounts, costing and budgeting and accounting theory.

## **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Both Ordinary and Higher level Accounting involve one exam of three hours duration. The exam paper is made up of three sections - the first two are based on the Financial Accounting section of the course and the third covers the Management Accounting section. Questions must be answered from all sections of the exam paper.

## **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Accounting is commonly seen as the mathematical side of business, it suits organised, calculated, methodical and logical students.

## **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Accountancy, Actuarial Studies, Marketing, Business or Finance

## **Agricultural Science**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science involves the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the sustainability of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

#### Strand 1: Scientific Practices

Hypothesising and experimenting, evaluating evidence, and communicating, working safety.

#### Strand 2: Soils

Soil formation and classification, physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of soil.

#### Strand 3: Crops

Crop production, grassland management, plant physiology and applied plant genetics.

#### Strand 4: Animals

Animal production systems (beef, dairy, sheep, and pig production enterprises), animal physiology and applied animal genetics, markets for Irish production, environmental impact of Irish agriculture.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The final exam is worth 75% (300 marks) while the individual Investigative Study report is worth 25% (100 marks). The Individual Investigative Study provides an opportunity for students to develop a deeper understanding of the science underpinning agricultural practice in an integrated way, while also developing and refining their practical science skills. The brief for the report is thematic and is related to a topic of agricultural significance and is common to ordinary level and higher level. All candidates are required to carry out an investigative study in response to the brief, and to do so in the context of a specific agricultural enterprise. Students choose a specific agricultural enterprise and a topic relevant to the agricultural enterprise and to the theme. They then develop a research question that is related to the theme and carry out initial research on the topic as it relates to the theme. Students then carry out specific scientific investigation(s) of the topic. This will involve developing and testing specific hypothesis and drawing conclusions based on evidence gathered. At least one of the experiments you carry out must involve gathering and processing data. Candidates complete and submit a report on the investigative study, by documenting and presenting their work in the digital coursework booklet provided by the State Examinations Commission for marking.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

This subject would suit students who have an interest in science and the world of agriculture. The report component would suit an organised, inquisitive, and analytical student.

**Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Careers in science and agriculture.

## **Applied Maths**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

In Applied Maths we use mathematics to model real problems in the physical, natural, and economic worlds. We aim to develop the learner's capacity to do this by focusing on all aspects of the problem-solving cycle. The course covers the maths of how objects behave when placed in different situations, such as being thrown, bounced off walls or other objects, immersed in Liquids, or swung around on a string.

### **Overview of Key Sections/Topics within the subject**

The main sections covered are linear acceleration, relative velocity, projectiles, newtons laws, collisions, circular motion, rigid body rotations and differential equations.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The assessment contains 10 questions each based on a topic covered. Students are required to answer 6 of these questions.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

This subject is suitable for students who are mathematical, analytical and independent learners.

### **Career sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Engineering, technology-related jobs, computer science, education, mathematics, science, business, and finance.

## **Arabic**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Arabic is a very interesting subject and is incredibly useful for future career paths where the business world is ever expanding in Arabic countries. Initially, it may seem complicated, but overall, it is a very accessible language.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Comprehension, literature, grammar, and essay writing.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The examination will assess a candidate's ability to: (a) understand the written language; (b) employ the written language; (c) communicate in the written language. Within each of these assessment objectives the language and examination tasks will arise from the subject content.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Arabic has a number of performance and linguistic targets. Leaving Cert. Arabic students must be able to understand, express ideas, recognise meaning and communicate effectively; utilise a range of vocabulary, appropriate grammatical structures, correct punctuation, and display an awareness of formal and informal situations as well as articulate experience and express what is felt and what is imagined.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

This subject is needed in both private and public sectors. Roles may include state agencies, translation, business, trading, and foreign affairs.

## **Art**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

For those taking the Leaving Certificate exam in 2022, students will have a project where they will document their research and preparation for two finished pieces. They will create both finished pieces during class time. Secondly, they will sit a life drawing examination working from a live model. Lastly, they will take an art history examination in June based on Irish art, European art, and art appreciation.

For those sitting the Leaving Certificate in 2023 and beyond, students will create project preparation for two pieces and finish one of those pieces in class and the other during an invigilated examination. They will also sit examinations on visual studies which focuses on understanding visual cues in art history and everyday visual media.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

For those sitting the Leaving Certificate in 2022, students will complete a craft of choice, a still life or imaginative composition, life drawing, and art history. For those sitting the Leaving Certificate in 2023 or beyond students will research and prepare for two finished pieces in class and complete one as part of their projects. They will create the other finished piece under exam conditions. They will then sit an examination on Visual Culture based on their thoughts, knowledge, and observations of work by professional artists and imagery in wider visual media.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The course requires students to research, create and respond to their own art and the work of other artists. This is demonstrated through a project, an invigilated practical examination, and a written exam paper.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

A student who is experimental, enthusiastic, resilient, independent, imaginative, and organised. Time management, listening skills and communication are extremely important for this subject.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Art can be great preparation for any career that requires fine motor skills, presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking. There are many diverse possibilities - Artist, curriculum writer, art critic, arts administrator, arts and cultural planner, illustrator, fashion designer/dressmaker, surgeon, teacher, advertising director, product designer, packaging designer, architect, urban designer/town planner, set designer, industrial designer, photo journalist, photographer, animator, concept artist, web designer, television/film producer,

editor, museum curator, special effects makeup, courtroom artist, stylist, art dealer, art supplies retailer, art therapist.

## **Biology**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Biology is the study of life. It encompasses the cellular basis of living things, the energy metabolism that underlies the activities of life, and the genetic basis for inheritance in organisms. Biology also includes the study of evolutionary relationships among organisms and the diversity of life on Earth.

### **Overview of Key Sections/Topics within the Subject**

The Leaving Cert. Biology course covers 3 major units:

Unit 1 (Ecology): Interrelationships between plants animals and their environment  
Food and Biomolecules: proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, vitamins, minerals, and hormones

Unit 2 (Biochemistry): Enzymes, photosynthesis, respiration, and osmosis.  
DNA structure and function plus genetics, evolution, and inheritance.  
Cell structure function and reproduction.

Unit 3 - Microbiology: bacteria, fungi, and viruses.  
Plant biology: structure, function, and reproduction  
Human biology: All the major systems of the human body, how they work and some common diseases.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Three-hour terminal written exam.

Section A: Five short answer questions out of six (100 marks total).

Section B: Two questions out of three on experiments (60 marks total).

Section C: Four long answer questions out of six (total 240 marks).

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Any student interested in how life works. Biology is a good choice for students with excellent attention to detail and memory work. Students who are analytical and calculated would enjoy biology too.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Many courses require at least one science subject and some even require two (see specific third level entry requirements). Therefore, it is a good idea to have at least one science subject to keep students' options open. Biology is very useful for careers in nursing, medicine, veterinary, dentistry, research, teaching, science, food, and agriculture.

## **Business**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Business gives a background to the world of enterprise and business in the domestic economy and the international economy. Business for the Leaving Cert. emphasises the importance of business management, setting up businesses and creating a new product. It also deals with the impact of technology, foreign trade, global economies, and competition and with business structures and the national economy.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

There are 7 core units covering the following topics: Introduction to People in Business; Enterprise; Managing 1 & 2; Business in Action; Domestic Environment and International Environment.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

**Higher Level** – A 3 hour written paper worth 400 marks with 3 sections.

Section 1 - Short questions - 80 marks.

Section 2 - Applied Business Question - 80 marks

Section 3 - Long Questions – 60 marks per Q

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Factual learners, descriptive writers, and critical analyst abilities. It may suit students who are interested in internal affairs.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Business, Start-ups, Marketing, HRM, Technology, Banking, Insurance

## **Classics**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Classical Studies is one of the oldest subjects in Western Education – essentially it is the study of ‘Classical’ Civilization or Ancient Civilizations with particular emphasis on Ancient Greece and Rome. Both of these Civilizations wrote more literature and history than other Ancient peoples and left us a lot of Archaeology to study. The subject will focus on both a study of the history, literature, philosophy, and art and architecture of Greece and Rome and other Civilizations who were in contact with them.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Greek Drama – we read *Medea* by Euripides and *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles; two relatively short but wonderful plays.

Ancient Epic – we read Homer's *Odyssey* one the most influential books in literature and a wonderful fun story about the hero Odysseus and his journey home after the Trojan War. We also will read extracts from the Roman Epic, the *Aeneid*, the story of Aeneas from Troy who comes to Italy to found Rome.

Ancient Greek/Ancient Roman Art and Architecture – the shortest questions on the course, we study the buildings and art of Rome and Greece from the Colosseum to the Parthenon in Athens.

Alexander the Great – the most influential leader of Ancient History and founder of the first Western Empire. Alexander conquered Greece, Turkey, Egypt, the Middle East, Persian, Afghanistan, and part of Pakistan/India. His conquest spread Greek culture across the world.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

5th Year course 2021-22 (a change from the current exam) will include 20% for a research project in 6th year, and 80% for an exam with 2 essay questions and 2 stimulus questions (similar to reading comprehensions or document questions in History).

6th Year Course 2021-22 (depending on any adjustments) 6 questions – 3 or 4 short essay style questions and 2 or 3 short Art and Architecture questions. 100% for the exam.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

This subject is suitable for any student who has an interest in History, Mythology, Storytelling, Literature, Art, and/or Philosophy. If you enjoy English, History, Art, Geography, and/or Religion, Classical Studies is either a great companion for these subjects or an excellent way to combine them.

All types of students with different interests, abilities, and capabilities do Classics which is why it is so wonderful. It is accessible to all types of learners. All find success in their own way through studying the subject. It is one of the best subjects to help you prepare for College.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

It is a great prep for any career you decide to do. It is one of the broadest and most flexible subjects out there. The skills you acquire are very transferable and can help in a number of professions. Many students have gone on to study Law (the close read of text and debate of complex and controversial issues helps here), many also do medicine, sociology, art or history; many work in museums, libraries or as archaeologist; many others find jobs in government and government departments. Many enter the sciences. Classics is about finding your passion for education and giving you skills, you need for life. The Romans and Greeks have always been there to inspire us and for us to critique, they can provide you the opportunity to do the same and to find your own path.

## **Chemistry**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Chemistry is a challenging subject for many because it involves a lot of higher order thinking but the rewards of mastering it are substantial. It requires hard work from the outset and a willingness to learn in detail.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

- Atomic Structure and Periodic Table: how our knowledge of these developed and how it makes understanding our world easier.
- Chemical Bonding: how chemical compounds are formed and how this gives us a better understanding of their properties.
- Volumetric Analysis: working out the concentrations of solutions using titration.
- Organic Chemistry: the study of carbon and its compounds. The modern World could not exist without this branch, and we look at some of the main chemical families and their properties in both theory and with experiments.
- Environmental Chemistry: a study of Acids and Bases and water treatment
- Le Chatelier's Principle and Equilibrium: a study of Reversible Reactions
- Stoichiometry: chemical calculations
- Fuels and Thermochemistry: a study of our main Fuels and heat changes in chemical reactions
- Rates of Reactions: Factors that influence the rate of chemical reactions.
- Options: Atmospheric Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The final exam is a three-hour written paper in two sections. Section A consists of three questions on experiments of which two must be answered, but all three can be answered. Section B consists of eight questions of which five or six must be answered depending on how many questions were answered in section A.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

This subject suits a hard-working student who is both analytical and mathematical.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Every section of industry from food to buildings and computers involves chemistry so the career opportunities are endless.

## **Design & Communication Graphics**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

The Design and Communication Graphics course makes a unique contribution to the student's cognitive and practical skills development. These skills include graphicacy graphic communication, creative problem solving, spatial abilities/visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics and CAD modelling. The creative and decision-making capabilities of students in the activities associated with design are developed through three principal areas of study: design and communication graphics, plane, and descriptive geometries, and applied graphics.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

The Design and Communication Graphics course is comprised of three elements that are interconnected. The Core Geometry, the applied geometry and student assignment.

The Core topics are as follows:

• Orthographic Projection	• Auxiliary Projection
• Axonometric Projection	• Perspective Projection
• Oblique Planes	• Solids in Contact
• Intersecting Solids	• Conics
• Developments	

The optional areas of the course are as follows:

• Geologic Geometry	• Structural Forms
• Surface Geometry	• Dynamic Mechanisms
• Assemblies	

Student Assignment:

CAD - Students will learn a variety of features and skills to take them from basic modelling to advanced modelling which will facilitate them designing their own projects using CAD.

Design - Students will develop both their understanding of design principles and their ability to put them into practice for their own design generation.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The Leaving Certificate Exam is a 3-hour exam structured as outlined below:

Section A: Short Questions- A series of short questions comprised from core topics.

Section B: Long Questions (Core). Students have to complete 2 long drawing questions from core topics of the syllabus.

Section C: Long Questions (Optional Areas) Students must complete 2 long questions from the optional areas of the syllabus.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

This subject is suited to students who like problem solving. The subject is underpinned by graphical problems and asks students to apply and manipulate principles to unique challenges. Students who are analytical, methodical, mathematical, creative, and innovative would all find this subject capturing.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

While this subject obviously lends itself very well to those who wish to progress to a career in architecture or engineering it often goes unnoticed the range of careers which could build off the foundations of DCG. Students wishing to progress to any career in which problem solving is a highly sought-after skill; would benefit greatly from DCG. Some examples include graphic design, fashion, product design, art, mechanics, construction, computer programming or robotics.

## **Economics**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

An introduction into the world of Demand and Supply and an overview of the Irish and EU economies.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Market structures, Sustainable Goals, Market Failure, Elasticity, National Income, International Trade.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Research Project worth 20% and a 2.5 hour written exam.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Economics would suit a mathematical, analytical, politically minded individual who has an interest in current affairs.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Business Analyst, Economist, Lecturer

## **English**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

The Leaving Certificate English course centres on the many language skills and concepts, both oral and written, that are believed to be integral in everyday adult life. It places particular emphasis on students' command and level of control of the more formal and sophisticated aspects of language, namely register, paragraphing, syntax, punctuation, capitalisation, and spelling. Students are expected to take a variety of language products (e.g. articles, poems, short stories, novels, plays, films, theatrical productions, etc) and examine them in detail. Given that language is fundamental to both communication and learning, the syllabus aims to promote a better and more positive relationship between young people and English, so that they become more adept and thoughtful users of it, while also realising both its power and significance in their lives. It is hoped that their studies will enable them to interpret, compose, critically analyse and evaluate a wide range of material so that they develop into more independent learners and thinkers.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

- Paper I: Section I - Comprehending & Section II - Composing.
- Paper II: Section I - The Single Text (usually an examination of a Shakespearean play), Section II - The Comparative Study & Section III - Poetry (both unseen and prescribed)

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Two papers:

- Paper I - 200 marks - 2 hours and 50 minutes - Focus is on comprehension and creativity/imagination.
- Paper II - 200 marks - 3 hours and 20 minutes - Focus is on learned material.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

This subject suits all students as English is an essential language for students to progress in any field of study. Higher Level English suits students with a deep interest in, or love for, the

language. Students must be prepared to spend a significant amount of time reading independently in order to achieve optimum marks.

**Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Teaching, writing/journalism, law, media/website management, communication (both print and digital), Tv and radio, creative writing and editing.

## **French**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

French is by far the most popular foreign language taken by students at Leaving Certificate level. Leaving Certificate French follows a common syllabus framework for modern languages. The course aims to build students' confidence and competence in all four areas of language acquisition – listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

- **Oral:** Students build on this vital communication skill by studying all areas of essential vocabulary on general topics of conversation, as well as developing opinions on my current issues in today's society. They also work on pronunciation and a review of tenses. It is essential that students are confident in their spoken target language.
- **Grammar:** An essential part of language acquisition is a deep knowledge of grammatical structures in order to ensure that students have a high level of fluency and grammatical awareness. This also leads to greater independence in their use of the target language in all four areas of language learning i.e., listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
- **Reading Comprehension:** As a large percentage of marks is awarded in this section, students will intensively study the skill of successful information retrieval from written texts. They will improve their exam technique by completing past papers and also by studying marking schemes.
- **Aural Comprehension:** Students will get plenty of practice to build on their aural proficiency as it is an essential part of the course. They will gain in exam technique when completing past papers, and they will also study marking schemes to ensure they know where marks can be gained. They will also learn essential vocabulary and vocabulary from past papers. Written Production Students will prepare for this section of the exam by studying essential phrases to cover each topic. They will also practise past exam questions to ensure that they gain in confidence. Students will study a

thematic overview of past papers. The importance of exam technique and structure will also be highlighted.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

There are 4 elements to the Leaving Certificate exam at both Ordinary & Higher Level.

- 1) The oral exam which takes place usually around Easter time is a 12–15-minute speaking exam and is worth 25% at Higher Level & 20% at Ordinary Level.
- 2) Reading Comprehension is worth 30% at Higher Level & 40% at Ordinary Level. Higher Level students answer all questions (except Q6) in French, whilst Ordinary Level students answer in a mixture of both languages.
- 3) Written Production is worth 25% at Higher Level & 15% at Ordinary Level.
- 4) Aural Comprehension (takes place shortly after the written paper on the day of the exam) is worth 20% at Higher Level & 25% at Higher Level. Please note that all students answer the questions in English in this section and multiple-choice style questions are very common on the Ordinary Level paper.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

It should be noted that, having a foreign language is a requirement for many C.A.O. courses, particularly N.U.I. (National University of Ireland) courses. Learning a modern language supports an understanding of living in a multi-cultural society. It provides an opening to other cultures and fosters curiosity about the wider world. Students can not only gain in confidence, but they also develop communication and interpersonal skills, which are all transferable assets to the working world.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

It should be noted that, having a foreign language is a requirement for many C.A.O. courses. Third level studies in foreign languages affords graduates a vast range of career opportunities. These include roles such as translator and interpreter. Foreign language acquisition plays a pivotal role in education and thus, there are numerous opportunities for teachers of modern languages. Other significant areas of employment include the tourism sector, foreign services and international development and marketing.

## **Geography**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Geography is concerned with the study of people and the earth upon which we live, both above and below the surface. In general, it is subdivided into two main categories or streams: human geography and physical geography. Therefore, it is broadly said to examine the dynamic and highly complex interrelationships that exist between both the human and physical environments. As a result, at Leaving Certificate at least, it is recognised as being interdisciplinary – students may sample from a variety of different branches, including physical geography, regional geography, economic geography, human geography, global interdependence, culture, and identity, geocology or the atmosphere-ocean environment. While studying this subject, it is hoped that students will develop, enhance, and refine a number of skills and techniques that should help them to make informed decisions and judgements about geographical issues at local, national and, even, global levels.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

All students must study Core Unit I - Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment, Core Unit II - Regional Geography & Core Unit III - Geographical Investigation/Skills and Techniques.

All students must also choose one of the two electives to focus on - Elective Unit IV - Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities or Elective Unit V - Patterns and Processes in the Human Environment. Finally, Higher Level students only must examine one of the four options - Optional Unit VI - Global Interdependence or Optional Unit VII - Geocology or Optional Unit VIII - Culture and Identity or Optional Unit IX - The Atmosphere/Ocean Environment

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Exam in June: 400 marks - 2 hours and 50 minutes - 80% of a student's overall grade in this subject. Geographical Investigation: 100 marks - 20% of a student's overall grade in this subject

- Usually due in the middle of the April prior to the Leaving Certificate (includes a compulsory field trip).

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Geography suits students who are very organised and have a good memory specific detail. Ideal for independent learners who love reading and learning factual information.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Teaching. Climatology/Meteorology. Demography. Urban Planning. Environmental/Sustainability Engineering. Cartography. Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

## **German**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Germany has one of the strongest economies in Europe and is a leading partner in trade with Ireland. Leaving Certificate German follows a common syllabus framework for modern languages. The course aims to build students' confidence and competence in all four areas of language acquisition – listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

- **Oral:** Students build on this vital communication skill by studying all areas of essential vocabulary on general topics of conversation, as well as the prescribed role-plays and picture stories. They also work on pronunciation and a review of tenses. It is essential that students are confident in their spoken target language.
- **Grammar:** An essential part of language acquisition is a deep knowledge of grammatical structures in order to ensure that students have a high level of fluency and grammatical awareness. This also leads to greater independence in their use of the target language in all four areas of language learning i.e. listening, reading, writing and speaking.
- **Reading Comprehension:** As a large percentage of marks is awarded in this section, students will intensively study the skill of successful information retrieval from written texts. They will improve their exam technique by completing past papers and also by studying marking schemes.
- **Aural Comprehension:** Students will get plenty of practice to build on their aural proficiency as it is an essential part of the course. They will gain in exam technique when completing past papers, and they will also study marking schemes to ensure they know where marks can be gained. They will also learn essential vocabulary and vocabulary from past papers. Written Production Students will prepare for this section of the exam by studying essential phrases to cover each topic. They will also practise

past exam questions to ensure that they gain in confidence. The importance of exam technique and structure will also be highlighted.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

There are 4 elements to the Leaving Certificate exam at both Ordinary & Higher Level.

- 1) The oral exam which takes place usually around Easter time is a 12-15 minute speaking exam and is worth 25% at Higher Level & 20% at Ordinary Level.
- 2) Reading Comprehension is worth 30% at Higher Level & 40% at Ordinary Level. Higher Level students answer all of Q1. of both comprehensions in German, whilst Ordinary Level students answer in English. Students will deal with both journalistic and literary type texts in this section.
- 3) Written Production is worth 25% at Higher Level & 15% at Ordinary Level.
- 4) Aural Comprehension (takes place shortly after the written paper on the day of the exam) is worth 20% at Higher Level & 25% at Ordinary Level. Higher Level students answer using a mixture of German and English, whilst Ordinary Level students answer in English only.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

It should be noted that, having a foreign language is a requirement for many C.A.O. courses, particularly N.U.I. (National University of Ireland) courses. Learning a modern language supports an understanding of living in a multi-cultural society. It provides an opening to other cultures and fosters curiosity about the wider world. Students can not only gain in confidence, but they also develop communication and interpersonal skills, which are all transferable assets to the working world.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

It should be noted that, having a foreign language is a requirement for many C.A.O. courses. Third level studies in foreign languages affords graduates a vast range of career opportunities. These include roles such as translator and interpreter. Foreign language acquisition plays a pivotal role in education and thus, there are numerous opportunities for teachers of modern languages. Other significant areas of employment include the tourism sector, foreign services and international development and marketing.

## **History**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

History is a subject about human behaviour. It challenges students to look at the past and apply research skills. It allows you to work with primary and secondary evidence, developing your analytical and evaluative skills. Furthermore, it requires the person to expand their knowledge and essay writing skills.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Pursuit of Sovereignty and the Impact of Partition 1912 -1949, Politics and Society in Northern Ireland 1949-1993, The US and the World 1949-1989, Dictatorship and Democracy in Europe 1920- 1945

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Leaving Cert History is made up of one exam paper which is 2 hours and 50 minutes long. The paper is made up of three sections and is worth 80% of your final mark.

The first section is the Document Based Question\* - it is worth 100 marks and it is compulsory. You will be presented with two sources, and you will be asked to interpret and answer questions that will test your comprehension, comparison, criticism, and contextualisation skills.

Section two and three test your ability to write three extended essays, each worth 100 marks. As well as the exam you also have to complete a research study report. This is an independent piece of research worth 20% of your final overall grade and is marked out of 100.

For Higher Level, it is an extended response of no more than 1,500 words and 800 for ordinary. It should have parameters and include specific dates. The topic must be before 1993 and should not be anything that you cover during your Leaving Cert. course.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

History suits students who are analytical and organised. It appeals to those who enjoy looking at the wider picture and understand how the past has shaped the modern world.

**Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Law, Journalism, Politics, Civil Service, Teaching, Management.

## **Home Economics**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

This subject consists of Food Studies, Resource Management, Consumer Studies and Social Studies

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

The course consists of a Core area which is made up of 45% Food Studies, 25% Resource Management and Consumer Studies and 10% Social Studies. This will account for 80% of the written paper in Leaving Certificate. The further 20% of this paper is taken from an Elective area.

There are 3 electives:

1. Home Design and Management
2. Textile Fashion and Design
3. Social Studies

The student studies one of these electives. In Ashfield College we choose either No. 1 or 3.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The Course consists of a Food Studies Practical Coursework Journal which is submitted in the November of your Leaving Certificate Year. This accounts for 20% of the final grade achieved in the Leaving Certificate. The further 80% is for the written final Leaving Certificate Examination.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

This subject would suit an organised, practically minded student. A person who is a logical thinker. It ties in quite well with biology and chemistry too.

**Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Home Economics Teacher, Dietician, Nutritionist, Interior Decorator, Chef, Food Worker, Childcare, Dressmaker.

## **Irish**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Leaving Cert. Irish continues to develop the skills learned in Junior Cert Irish. Aural, oral, listening, reading, and written Irish language skills are assessed through an oral examination, and two written exams. An emphasis (40%) is put on the oral examination, which takes place around Easter every year. The other skills are assessed on the two written papers in June.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

The key sections covered during the course include: Oral, aural, composition of essays, short stories, debates and speeches. Reading comprehensions, prescribed stories/prose, prescribed poetry and a play/novel.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Higher Level Leaving Cert Irish consists of two papers, and an Irish Oral examination. Paper 1 consists of a listening comprehension, (60 marks) and the composition of an essay, a short story, debate, or speech (100 marks). Paper 2 consists of reading comprehensions (50 marks each), and questions on studied poetry, prose, and a question on an extra piece of literature (30 marks, 30 marks, and 40 marks respectively). The Irish oral is worth 40% and typically occurs around Easter time.

Ordinary Level Leaving cert Irish consists of two papers, and an Irish Oral examination. Paper 1 consists of a listening comprehension, (60 marks) and the composition of any two of a choice of blogs, letters, emails, short stories, or conversations. (50 marks each). Paper 2 consists of reading comprehensions (50 marks each), and questions on studied poetry (50 marks) and prose (50 marks).

**What type of student might this subject suit?**

Irish is compulsory for most students and may be necessary for obtaining a place in 3<sup>rd</sup> level education unless there is an exemption.

**Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Education, media, translation, public service, culture and heritage or the creative arts

**Italian****Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Studying Italian is a gateway to the world of great and lasting achievements in the arts and sciences: Dante, Michelangelo, Galileo. Today, Italy is expanding its partnerships in science and the humanities with universities and multi-nationals in the private sector. Italian film, music, literature, and cuisine stand out not only in Europe, but throughout the world. Many employers are seeking employees who speak Italian: many students study Italian because it enhances their competitiveness in today's marketplace. Italian opens doors to professions in the culinary, tourism and hospitality fields, in which Italy is internationally renowned. Italy is a world leader in interior design, fashion, furniture production, graphic design, as well as in machine tool manufacturing, with sophisticated technologies in electro-mechanical machinery, robotics, shipbuilding, and space engineering. The quality of Made in Italy — of Italian innovation, efficiency, and design — has gained increasing recognition over the past two decades throughout the world. Italy continues to be a major international player in the fashion and automotive industries.

**Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

During our programme, we will focus on improving language skills and how to put them to use in the Leaving Cert exam. A wide range of interactive, learner-centred activities will make students ready for their Leaving Cert exams while improving their actual Italian language skills and systems.

**Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The Italian Leaving Cert. is a comprehensive exam where all skills and systems are assessed. It is composed of four parts, namely Reading Comprehension, Listening Comprehension,

Writing and Speaking. In addition to language-based tasks, students will have to read a prescribed novel which is selected yearly by the DoE.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Learning a new language can be challenging but its complexity means that it will suit every type of student. Analytical students will find the multi-layered Italian grammatical system rewarding, while students with a more holistic approach will be able to put their approach into practice both in comprehension and production tasks. A learner-centred, interactive teaching style will make sure that student's strengths are used in group work and pair work to ensure maximum improvement for the entire class.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Translation, Teaching, IT, Automotive, Tourism, Hospitality, STEM, Literature, History, Art.

## **Maths**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Maths is a core subject and therefore is compulsory for all students. The current leaving cert curriculum is very accessible to students of all levels and capabilities. Each element of the course has been chosen as they have applications to everyday life, they are useful in other subjects and disciplines, as well as providing a solid foundation for further education.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Algebra, Complex Numbers, Trigonometry, Coordinate Geometry, Statistics, Probability, Financial Maths, Area and Volume, Calculus, Integration, Induction and Functions

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Leaving Cert exam consists of two papers - 2.5 hours each. No project requirements.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Maths is a core subject so it must be studied by all students. Maths is available at three different levels - higher, ordinary and foundation. Students are encouraged to choose the level most suited their ability and needs. A pass mark at ordinary level is a minimum requirement for entry to most third level college courses, and many careers require or benefit greatly from taking higher level maths at leaving cert.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Medicine, Finance & Accountancy, Actuarial Science, Engineering, IT, Pure Maths, Physics, Pharmaceutical Science and many more!

## **Music**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

The music course is based on three components: Practical performance, Composition and Listening. The practical performance has a lot of available options. Typically, a student will choose the performance elective which means it is worth 50% of the grade. It is where a student can shine! Among the options are either 4 or 6 pieces performed and music technology. The composition paper is made up of a melody question and a harmony question. The Listening paper is a set of works, Irish Music, and aural skills.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Set Works, Irish Music, Aural Skills, Melody and Harmony composition, performance.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The practical takes place around Easter and is worth 50% of the grade. The composition and listening papers are worth 25% each.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Artistic, creative, and expressive students

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

A career as a performer, teacher, studio engineer, music production, arts, theatre, advertising

## **Religion**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Religious Education requires students to examine philosophical questions, understand the historical development of Christianity and uncover major living religions. There is a particular focus on the nature of religion, inter-faith dialogue and the vision of salvation.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

The Search for Meaning and Values, Christianity: Origins and Expressions, World Religions, Religion and Gender.

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

Leaving Cert Religion is an essay-based subject. The exam is two hours and thirty minutes long. Students must also complete a coursework element that is worth 20% of the final grade.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Students of Religion should be organised and enjoy research and analysis. They must also have an interest in understanding other major world religions. They should be able to apply their knowledge to the subject and critically examine faith and culture.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Journalism, Teaching, Civil Service, Law, Counsellor, Youth Worker.

## **Physics**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

Physics is an exciting and interesting subject which describes the laws and forces that govern natural phenomena. The aim of the subject is to enhance and develop a student's ability to think logically, observe and understand the scientific method and hence use this understanding to effectively solve every day real world problems. This is further enhanced by the fact that Science, Technology and Society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus; students are aware of the principles of the applications of physics, thereby offering a general education in physics to all students.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

Students will study Mechanics which aims to describe the motion of physical objects under the actions of forces; Light and Sound which is concerned with the behaviour and properties of waves, Heat and Temperature is concerned with the transfer of heat energy and measurement of same; Electricity explores electric charge, current, circuits and magnetism; Modern physics is the physics of the 20th century and beyond and always a favourite of students!

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

You do not have a high standard of Maths to succeed in Leaving Cert Physics. You need to be competent at manipulating formulae and using your calculator. The leaving certificate for physics consists of one 3-hour exam divided into two sections. Section A examines the student's understanding of the mandatory experiments on the course and Section B questions are based on theory and broad in nature. Over the course of study of physics in Ashfield, students will be continually assessed by means of homework and in class assessment, homework will be value

based and feedback will be detailed so as to provide the student with maximum opportunity to develop their understanding and ability within the subject.

### **What type of student might this subject suit?**

Pupils who will gain the most from studying physics are those who have an interest in science at Junior Cert level and those who enjoy learning about how things work. The science, technology and society section allows students the chance to see where the physics they are learning applies as in TVs, car motors and electricity in the home and also, to see some of the industrial applications of certain topics.

### **Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Students who study physics are prepared to work on forefront ideas in science and technology, in academia, the government, or the private sector.

## **Spanish**

### **Brief Introduction to the Subject**

The Spanish language is one of the modern languages whose study is required to enter many different programmes in Irish universities. This subject is based on (and presupposes) the knowledge students have acquired to pass the Junior Certificate Exam. As a language, Spanish shares thousands of Latin-based words with English, which makes a big percentage of its vocabulary quite transparent to English speakers. Also, it is an official language in 20 countries and the second most-spoken native language in the world.

### **Overview of Keys Sections/Topics within the Subject**

The Leaving Certificate Exam tests the capacity of students/candidates to understand (both by reading and listening) and to express themselves (both in writing and orally) about their immediate personal and social reality (friends, family, and household; town/area; hobbies & holidays; food & health; jobs, school and their future education/career) but also about current affairs of their interest (protection of the environment, social justice issues, animal welfare...).

### **Overview of Assessment within the Subject**

The Leaving Certificate Examination encompasses an Oral Production assessment in March/April (worth 25% of the overall marks for the Higher Level students & 20% for the Ordinary Level students); and two written papers in June (both sat on the same day): the first one is made out of a Reading Comprehension assessment (worth 30% for the HL & 40% for the OL) and a Written Production assessment (worth 25% for the HL & 15% for the OL), while

the second one is a Listening Comprehension assessment (worth 20% for the HL & 25% for the OL).

**What type of student might this subject suit?**

As it is always the case with second language learning, to be successful in Spanish the better suited students are those that can sustain a prolonged/constant practice (learning a second language is more about endurance rather than an intense concentrated effort). Also, it is important being analytical (to identify the different constructions used by the language) and methodical (to help you sustain and integrate the different aspects of your study).

**Career Sectors for which this subject may be useful.**

Spanish, as most second languages, is important to develop your career not only in Linguistics, but also in Information Technology, and International Commerce. Knowledge of a second tongue is necessary (or at least a considerable advantage) when seeking employment with most multinational companies developing products and services for and via the Internet, as it is too if you would like to work within the huge area of TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). Also, the constantly growing area of International Commerce constantly requires workers able to speak at least one second language, as recognized by several successful Third Level programmes in Irish universities.