St. Columba's College Senior Cycle Subjects 2024

ACCOUNTING

Accounting is a subject that suits the organized, methodical person who likes definite answers. It is a logical and ordered, a practical subject. Students of accounting will be able to prepare and understand published company accounts, analyse the performance of companies, be able to take care of the basic accounting needs of a small business, club, farm or service firm (cash flows, final accounts, budgeting etc.), study the production of information needed for management decision making etc.

There are no prerequisites for the study of accounting - just an interest in working with figures. It is an advantage but not essential to have studied Business Studies at Junior Cycle. Commonly seen as the mathematical side of business, accounting attracts the more numerate student. It teaches students the bookkeeping side of business but delves deeper, teaching you to analyse and interpret the figures.

Accounting builds on skills that are needed in all subjects and careers.

- It improves problem solving skills
- Aids critical thinking
- Develops powers of concentration
- Builds good presentation skills and the ability to make sound judgements
- It illustrates the importance of attention to detail
- Fosters good work habits and efficiency

It equips students with a language used universally in communication within the business world and society.

Students who are considering a career in accountancy are recommended to study accounting, as it is a good indicator of suitability. It also forms a good basis for the accounting element of many business courses at 3rd level.

ECONOMICS

To see economics as a purely business subject with no relevance to our everyday lives would be a mistake. It can be seen in the world all around us. It is a social science and studies human behaviour. It is relevant to politics, sociology, geography, history etc. It helps students to gain a fuller understanding of these subjects by showing how everything connects.

The course content includes important everyday topics such as:

- our place in Europe and life with a single currency
- the effects of unemployment on the economy
- the effects of government decision-making on the economy
- population trends and how they ultimately affect our lives
- credit creation by banks and its effects on the economy
- underdeveloped countries and the problems they face
- Sustainability economically, socially and environmentally and how they are interconnected
- the factors that influence interest rates, our inflation rate, our exchange rate decision-making for the individual firm and consumer.

This course is an integral part of many subjects and 3rd level degree courses, such as law, politics, geography, history, sociology and business. By studying economics, students will develop an appreciation of economic issues around us and enable them as citizens to make decisions on a personal, local and national level and set the foundation for their future life, work and study.

BUSINESS

Business is concerned with understanding how a business operates from the very first step of getting an idea for a product/service, organising finance to start the business, advertising your product to finally expanding the business when it becomes a success.

Business is primarily theory based while incorporating practical examples in the form of case studies and video footage from the world of business.

Students should have an interest in current affairs and the business world. Some may be interested in setting up their own businesses in the future.

Having done Business Studies at Junior Cycle is a great help, but is not essential. Having an interest in the subject is key to success.

Course Content

The course investigates areas such as:

- Stakeholders in a business
- Management Skills and Activities
- Idea generation, New Product Development, Marketing
- Business finance, taxation and insurance
- Ratio Analysis
- Break-even Analysis
- Consumer Law, Contract law, Employment Law
- Industrial Relations
- International Trade and Global Business
- European Union.
- Ethics, Social and Environmental Responsibility of a business
- The Economy
- Local Community development.

Assessment

One written paper: Higher Level (3 hours)/Ordinary Level (2.5 hours)

Careers

Self-employed, Accountancy, Banking, Auctioneering, Office work, Insurance, Teaching, Marketing, ICT, Social Media Influencer, Manager

HOME ECONOMICS (SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL)

The course is divided into three core sections:

1. Food studies 50%

Nutritional Science - Special Diets - Foods Commodities - The Irish Diet - The Irish Food Industry - Health Promotion and labelling - Food Processing - Sensory Analysis - Microbiology - Food Safety

2. Social studies 35%

Family Relationships - Conflict & Resolution – Marriage - Rights & Responsibilities - Family Law – Making a Will - Social Change - Work and Leisure - Employment & Unemployment – Childcare – Education - Poverty

3. Resource management and consumer studies 15%

Technology in the Home - Household Finances Management - Household Budgeting - Mortgages - Insurance - Pensions - Social Welfare Benefits - Textile Care Labelling

Assessment: 80 % Written exam and 20% 4 Food Assignments (completed in 5th Year, journal submitted early 6th year)

Further Studies: Taking Home Economics as a Leaving Certificate subject may be an advantage to students intending to pursue a **career** in the following areas: Health Fitness Instructor, Food and culinary arts, Fashion design, Food science and nutrition, Dietetics, Interior design, Hotel and catering management, Counsellor, Agri-food sector, Nursing, Social studies, Product Development, Teaching, Childcare Profession, Social Worker, Enterprise, Health Service

*DO NOT NEED JUNIOR CERT HOME ECONOMICS TO STUDY @ LEAVING CERT

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

The Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science syllabus is designed to provide pupils with the necessary skills, practical experience and knowledge in a range of agricultural and scientific principles. The course covers 4 main areas:

- 1. Scientific Practices:
- Hypothesising
- Experimenting
- Evaluating Evidence
- Communicating
- Working Safely
- 2. Soils:
- Classification
- Properties (Chemical, Physical, Biological)
- Management
- 3. Grass and Other Crops:
- Plant Physiology
- Classification/Identification
- Production (Establishment, Management, Harvesting)
- 4. Animals:
- Animal Physiology
- Classification/Identification
- Production (System/Enterprise, Management, Animal Husbandry and Health)

The course is typically aimed at pupils with an interest in Agriculture and Horticulture or those who wish to pursue a career involving animals, agriculture, plants, environmental, forestry, food production, renewable energy.

An agricultural background is not a necessity, and the course covers a wide variety of topics There is a student project, through which a topic of agricultural significance is explored in greater depth. This will be based on a theme, which will be set annually by the State Examinations Commission. The project is worth 25%.

BIOLOGY

This subject means 'The Study of Life' in all its variety of forms. The human race shares this planet with one and a half million species of animals and plants, many of which are essential for our survival as a species. Knowledge of the science of biology is essential for understanding human life and the living environment around us.

Content of the course: The Leaving Cert. Biology course covers 3 major units:

- Unit 1 The study of life (ecology and food science)
- Unit 2 The Cell (Genetics, photosynthesis, respiration and enzymes)
- Unit 3 The Organism (a study of body systems, plant biology and microbiology)

There are 22 mandatory practical activities.

The human biology section includes health and medical topics related to human systems.

The exam: Section A: Short Questions Section B: Practical Questions Section C: Long Questions

Careers: Biology as a life science is a ground level subject useful in many third level courses/careers such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Natural Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Food Technology, Nursing, Allied Healthcare, Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy.

CHEMISTRY

The Creative Science

Chemistry is a branch of Science concerned with the structure and composition of materials and the changing of one substance into another.

The study of Chemistry in 5th and 6th Year is desirable for those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Chemistry is very much the central foundation science subject, which makes it ideal to pair with Physics and Applied Maths or with Biology and Home Economics for example.

The major topics involved include the following:

- 1. Atomic structure
- 2. Periodic Table
- 3. The Mole
- 4. Properties of Gases
- 5. Volumetric analysis
- 6. Rates of Reactions
- 7. Organic chemistry
- 8. Water chemistry
- 9. Reaction mechanisms.

There also is an option to be taken as part of the course which involves the study of atmospheric and industrial chemistry or the study of materials and electrochemistry.

Experimental investigations are an essential part of the leaving certificate course. Each student must complete at least 28 experiments over the duration of the course.

To be successful in the subject you must think logically, be creative, good with numbers and analytical. The ideal Chemistry student is highly motivated with a good work ethic.

Careers: Chemistry is considered extremely useful for a wide range of career areas such as: Pharmacy, Ag Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Engineering, General Sciences, Dietician, Nursing, Food Science, Biotechnology and Medical Laboratory Technology.

PHYSICS

Understanding a little more about the often-surprising ways of the physical world can make the world seem a more fascinating and complex place.

If you often wonder why? and ask how?, then Physics might be the subject for you. Course Content:

- Optics / Waves: the study of light and sound and real life applications of the theory.
- **Mechanics**: time, space, distance, speed and acceleration.
- **Heat:** changes of state, energy conversions and mathematical problems.
- **Electricity:** develops on from simple circuits to more detailed concepts.
- **Electricity and Magnetism:** gravity, relationship between electricity and magnetism, study of how a motor works, ac. and dc. circuits and phenomena with real world applications.
- **Atomic Physics:** cathode rays, x-rays, radioactive decay, fission and fusion, nuclear reactors and real world applications.

There are also two optional additional modules at Higher Level: Particle Physics and Applied Electricity.

There is also an emphasis on practical work with 24 mandatory experiments to be carried out. **Career Areas**: Some of the career areas in which Physics can be particularly useful are medical, technical, engineering and architectural, electronic, communications, information technology and scientific.

APPLIED MATHEMATICS

Applied Maths is not advanced Maths - it is basic Maths used in practical applications. However, there is a need for keen mathematical interest and the course is best undertaken by pupils who have taken Maths at higher level in the Junior Certificate. It would be extremely difficult for anyone to take this course at higher level if they had not achieved a good grade in the higher course paper at Junior Certificate level.

The course is a methodical one - that is, each type of problem can be solved by applying a standard method, which can be extended even to final year university level. Typical problems considered include the motion of a car in a straight line, objects sliding down a hill, the path of a ball in flight, a system of beams in equilibrium, finding the shortest distance between two moving objects, collisions between bodies, etc.

There is a Modelling Project worth 20% The assessment will require students to present a solution to an authentic modelling problem, and to report on the work and process involved.

There is some overlap between Applied Maths and Physics at this level. However, a large number of third level courses include a significant amount of Applied Maths, e.g. architecture, biology, chemistry, computers, economics, engineering, geology, mathematics, meteorology, physics, quantity surveying, applied sciences, statistics, systems analysis, and very many technical courses. Thus, while Applied Maths is not a necessary requirement for entry to the above, it is extremely useful for anyone interested in any of the above careers.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is the study of algorithms and programming, and the impact of computers on society. Computer Science seeks creative ways to solve problems and evaluate solutions.

Will I Enjoy Computer Science?

Having an interest in a subject is vital if you are to study it for 2 years. If you enjoy:

- Working with and learning about technology,
- · Problem solving,
- Coding,
- Being creative and imaginative,
- Thinking outside the box.

There is a good chance you will enjoy studying computer science.

What Will I Do In Computer Science?

Computer science is a very practical subject. There will be a lot of coding, mainly in Python.

Students will also be working with various types of data to create;

- · Graphs and Charts,
- Models and Simulations,
- · Embedded Systems,
- Interactive Information Systems.

Just like all the other practical subjects, there is also a lot of theory. The theory consists of;

- The History of Computing,
- · Computational thinking,
- · Algorithms,
- Al and Machine Learning,
- · Ethics in Computing.

Although not essential, having strong logical thinking skills and having a good grasp in mathematical concepts is highly recommended.

What About Exams?

Students who choose Computer Science will study 3 strands over 2 years.

In their final year they will have an **individual project** worth 30%. The brief for the project is received early in the year. The project is completed and submitted before the **terminal examination** at the end of the year which is worth 70%.

Career Opportunities

The field of Computer Science covers many industries and job positions such as network engineers, web developers, system architects, data analysts, web developers and project engineers. There is also an abundance of remote working opportunities for positions related to Computer Science. A few examples are given on the next page.

Jobs directly related to Computer Science include:

Applications developer
Data analyst
Cyber security analyst
Forensic computer analyst

Game designer
Machine learning engineer
Systems analyst
Games developer
Software engineer
UX designer

Web designer

Jobs where Computer Science would be useful include:

Business analystIT sales professionalNanotechnologist

LC PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why Should I choose LCPE?

- Opportunity to become an informed, skilled, reflective and self-directed performer in physical activity in senior cycle and in your future.
- Ability to participate in various roles; performer, coach, choreographer
- The use of technology to enhance learning experiences
- Understand the role of physical activity in the social & cultural life
- Develop your ability to reflect on performance in physical activity
- Increased knowledge & understanding of the things that influence performance and participation in physical activity
- Be able to appreciate the benefits of physical activity for lifelong health & well-being

Learning within LCPE

Strand1	Strand 2
1.Learning & improving skill & technique	5. Promoting physical activity
2.Physical & psychological demands of	6.Ethics and fair play
performance	In addition, 2 of the following topics
	will be prescribed each year:
3.Structures, strategies, roles & conventions	7.Physical activity & inclusion
4.Planning for optimum performance	8.Technology, media & sport
	9.Gender & physical activity
	10.Business & enterprise in physical
	activity and sport

How is it assessed?

Physical Activity Project 20% Performance Assessment 30% Written Exam 50%

Career options:

Opportunities for you to prepare for further study/careers in PE teaching, sports coaching, sports administration, sports science, healthcare, dietetics, nutrition, Sports psychology, strength & conditioning, personal training, physiotherapy.

ART

Leaving Certificate Art is made up of Practical studies and Visual studies

Practical Studies

The Art course for Leaving Cert is about developing the student's ability in a range of artistic fields and disciplines. The syllabus permits good choice, from the fine arts such as sculpture, drawing, and painting, to Lino printing embroidery, calligraphy, clay modelling and graphic design.

Students spend 5th year and the first term of 6th year practicing and developing their skills in several of these areas. A 10 week project is completed in 6th year for the Leaving Cert examination.

Visual Studies

This is the new Art History course which is a lot more student friendly. The areas of study are now a lot more focused and easier to cover. The student's own opinion is very important, it's not all about the facts. Modern and contemporary Art plays a big part of the course. There is a written exam in Visual Studies.

Benefits of the course:

- Encourages students' creative development
- Encourages problem solving through the design process
- Develops team work through group projects
- Develops students' time management skills
- Develops students' visual and written research skills
- Develops students' ability to self and peer evaluate
- Develops an awareness in students of their environment

There are 3 components to the assessment:

- Practical Coursework 50%
- Practical Exam 20%
- Written Exam 30%

Leaving Certificate Art as with other subject's demands commitment, but it also allows for freedom of expression and to work in relaxing and creative environment.

Future Prospects: Art is a highly versatile subject which prepares students for a wide range of careers. Students who go on to study art at third level may end up in careers linked to:

- Interior design
- Fashion design/styling
- Costume design
- Product design
- Graphic design
- Marketing
- Media, TV and film production
- Photography
- Book illustration and design
- Curator of museums and galleries
- Art restoration, not to mention full time, freelance artists and designers.

MUSIC

Leaving Certificate Music involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening.

- In performing, students choose from a variety of individual and/or group performing activities.
- In composing, students develop an understanding of musical structure and form.
- The listening component provides for rich aural experiences through exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres.
- Students can get up to 50 per cent of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent before they even sit the written paper
- In music you can develop your talent and knowledge in this area and continue your studies in a wide range of colleges

Exam Structure

Listening Paper

Examined in June of 6th year 90 minutes duration Four set works, Irish music and aural/listening skills.

Composition Paper

Examined in June of 6th year 90 minutes duration Melody writing and harmony

Performance

Examined in April/Easter of 6th year

Candidates may perform as a soloist or as part of a group or both.

- Ordinary Level: 2 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test.
- **Higher Level (Performance as Elective)**: 6 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test **OR** 4 pieces on each of two instruments and one unprepared test OR 4 pieces on one instrument and music technology and one unprepared test

Career Areas: Applicants with a well-rounded education are more likely to be successful in this competitive age. Music is useful for media work or studies, teaching, sound engineering, public relations, library work, communications, performance and music at third level.

Note: Students are required to be able to read music to study this subject. Little knowledge of music theory or history is not a problem but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc.) is essential.

You should speak to the Music teacher before choosing it in relation to the practical component

CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

Construction Studies is the study of the construction of buildings and why they are made the way they are. The main focus of the course is on the domestic house but it also ranges from the construction of sports arena to skyscrapers. It is a practical course in which the student is given the opportunity to achieve 50% of their Leaving Certificate exam result during their Leaving Certificate year in a project and a practical exam. The other 50% is assessed in a written exam during the normal Leaving Certificate exams.

What will you study in class?

- How sound, light and heat affect the design of buildings
- How to install electricity and plumb your home
- How to build an extension
- Calculate a U-value
- How to buy your own house
- How to get planning permission
- How to survey a piece of land for construction
- How to convert your attic

Exams: There are three assessments in the Leaving Certificate exam:

Project 25% May

Practical 25% May Cutting, shaping, making a product using wood

Written Exam 50% June

Careers: Construction studies may be valuable in a variety of careers, which might include: All ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, INTERIOR DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING SERVICES, QUANTITY SURVEYOR, TOWN PLANNING, TEACHING, PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS (DCG)

The course includes the study of design, freehand drawing, elevation and plans, problem solving, 3D drawing, perspective drawing, computer 3D drawings, Computer Aided Design (CAD), model-making and engineering drawing. The course is assessed in two main areas: an end-of-year drawing exam worth 60% and an assignment worth 40%. The assignment involves design, freehand drawing presentation and the use of CAD and ICT. It is not necessary to have studied Graphics at Junior Certificate in order to take up this subject at Senior Cycle. This subject is offered at Ordinary and Higher Level.

What will you study in class?

- Model making
- Architectural Drawing
- CAD
- Computer Presentation Techniques
- Design
- Product Design
- Freehand Drawing
- Technical Drawing

Careers: Engineering, Interior Design, Architecture, Construction, Product Design Assessment: Design and Communication Graphics is assessed in two areas as follows: Drawing exam 60% Assignment 40%

ENGINEERING

Leaving Certificate Engineering is the study of mechanical engineering. Students develop skills and initiative in the planning, development and realisation of technological projects in a safe manner.

There are two main areas of study: workshop processes, and materials and technology. This practical subject gives students hands-on experience of working with tools and machinery. Students also undertake theoretical and background work for their final examinations which provides useful skills for those considering a career in the sector.

Each student should have an aptitude for and an interest in design and practical work. This subject follows on from Junior Cycle Engineering. However it is not necessary that you have taken the subject at Junior Cycle level in order to study it successfully for Leaving Cert. However an interest in the subject content is essential.

Course Content:

- Health and Safety
- Benchwork
- Classification and Origin of Metals
- Structure of Metals
- Iron and Steel
- Non-Ferrous Metals
- Heat Treatment of Metals
- Fabrication and Finishing of Metals
- Corrosion of Metals
- Plastics Processing
- Machining
- Materials and Technology
- Materials Testing
- Joining of Materials
- Metrology
- Manufacturing Processes
- Technology

Exam Structure:

Written Paper 50%

Project 25%

Practical 25%

A special topic based on Engineering Principles is researched and studied in 6th Year. This is assessed in the form of a full question on the written paper.

Careers: mechanic, panel beater, welder, plumber, electronic and mechanical engineering, architecture, aircraft technician, army/air corps and industrial design.

GEOGRAPHY

- Geography is concerned with understanding the world around us and the relationships between the physical world and people.
- It develops an awareness of social and environmental responsibility through study of vital issues like climate change, water, energy and food security and poverty eradication.
- Geography shows how daily lives are shaped by local circumstances not only the physical characteristics of the place, but the social, cultural, economic and political opportunities and constraints.

The syllabus is divided into units. All students study the Core Units 1-3 and either Elective Unit 4/5. Core Unit 1: Patterns and processes in the physical environment This unit examines the relationship between the tectonic cycle, the rock cycle and the processes of landform development Core Unit 2: Regional geography This unit examines how economic, human and physical processes interact in regional settings

Core Unit 3: Geographical investigation and skills This unit encourages the development of skills in handling spatial information leading to the completion of an individual geographical investigation. Elective Unit 4: Patterns and processes in the economic environment This unit examines patterns in economic development and the growth of a single interdependent global economy.

Elective Unit 5: Investigates population & settlement characteristics

Students taking the Higher Level also study one of four optional units. Currently in St. Columba's we select Optional Unit 4: Geoecology: This unit examines world biomes, human activities, altering biomes, soil characteristics and human impact on soil.

Geographical skills: Geography is a practical subject teaching skills needed across the school curriculum, at home and at work. These are integrated into each of the units where appropriate

- Map and aerial photograph interpretation
- Satellite imagery
- Figure interpretation
- Census of population data
- Weather maps and data

The Geographical Investigation (GI) consists of fieldwork on a topic chosen from a list which is changed annually. River field studies have been enjoyed by students. This involves working in a team and accounts for 20% of the Leaving Certificate mark. This project is submitted during the last term in 6th year.

Careers: Geography can be studied at third level as a science or arts subject. It is useful in a wide variety of careers such as town planning, environmental science, engineering, tourism, cartography, meteorology, climatology, teaching and development work.

HISTORY

Subject Summary:

The Leaving Cert history course undertaken in St. Columba's is Later Modern History. Leaving Cert history involves a lot of reading, summarising and knowledge retention; in that sense it is similar to English. It involves reading and analysing textbooks, documents and documentaries on a variety of subjects from Irish, European and American history. In your final exam you will complete 3 essays and a documents based question. This final exam is worth 80% of your final grade. Prior to the final exam you will also conduct your own research report which is worth 20% of your final grade. This can be based on any topic of your choice prior to 1992. The Research Report is submitted before your exams start.

Course Content:

This includes:

- **1.** The Pursuit of Sovereignty & the Impact of Partition 1912-49 (Topics include 1916 Rising, War of Independence, Civil War, W.T. Cosgrave & Eamon de Valera, Eucharistic Congress)
- **2. Northern Ireland 1945-89** (Topics include Civil Rights Movement, Troubles, Apprentice Boys, Welfare State, Bloody Sunday)
- **3. Dictatorship & Democracy 1920-45** (Topics include Hitler & Nazis, Stalin & the USSR, Mussolini & the Fascists, the inter-war problems, Impact of WWII)
- **4.** The US & the Wider World 1945-89 (Topics include Berlin Blockade, Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War, Cold War, Space Race, STAR Wars)

Students Studying History Should:

- Have an interest in local, national & international history & enjoy studying it.
- Be willing to **commit a lot of time** to history. It is a very rewarding but demanding subject & requires a lot of work.
- Have good self-discipline, work ethic & ability to work independently. If you do not possess these traits you will find history at Leaving Cert difficult.
- Enjoy English & have strong English language skills as there is a big link between both subjects.
- Have a good ability in essay writing as this is key to Leaving Cert history.
- Junior Cert & Leaving Cert history are very different.
- Leaving Certificate history is far more demanding.

Careers Options:

Politics, Journalism, Local Government Official, Social Work, Archaeology, Barrister, Civil Service, Teacher, Researcher, Garda, Tourism, Writer, Broadcaster, Museum Curator.

FRENCH

Students can study French at Ordinary and Higher level in a mixed-ability class.

The Ordinary and Higher level courses are made up of 3 components:

- 1. Oral
- 2. Listening
- 3. Written

Ordinary Level:

Oral 20%

Listening 25%

Written 55%

The written component entails 2 comprehensions which are answered in English and 2 comprehensions which are answered in French, with last question to be answered in English.

There are also two written questions (Postcard/Note/Diary entry/Letter).

Higher Level

Oral 25%

Listening 20%

Written 55%

The written component entails 2 reading comprehensions (one journalistic and one literary) and 3 written questions on various topics which to date have included:

- generation gap
- moving house
- fashion
- Sport
- Religion
- Friendship
- Inequality
- Housing crisis
- Importance of reading
- Importance of learning a foreign language
- Young adult life
- Environment
- Women in society
- Career choice etc etc

A foreign language will open doors to **careers** in International Business, in the EU institutions, translation services, tourism, interpreting, teaching, linguistics, journalism and media among others.

GERMAN

In order to study German at Senior Cycle you must be able and willing to develop oral, aural, reading and writing skills so that you can develop confidence in the language.

You also need an interest in the German culture.

The Ordinary and Higher level courses are made up of 3 components:

- 4. Oral
- 5. Listening
- 6. Written

Ordinary Level:

Oral 20%

Listening 25%

Written 55%

Higher Level:

Oral 25%

Listening 20%

Written 55%

Written Exam:

At Higher Level there are two Reading Comprehensions, one literary and one journalistic followed by questions testing comprehension, language awareness, applied grammar and the student's ability to give an opinion on a topic raised.

The written section consists of a formal or informal letter or an essay-type response to a picture.

There is an AZT-(short written piece 100 words) to write in German and a letter (with 5 questions) on various topics which to date have included:

- Relationships with family
- Moving house
- Fashion
- Sport
- TV/Reality TV
- Friendships
- School and college
- Birthday Celebrations
- Importance of Reading/ Diet
- Importance of learning a foreign language
- Young adult life
- Social problems
- Environmental issues
- Travel abroad
- Career Choice

At Ordinary Level students do one literary and two journalistic comprehensions with similar exercises to Higher Level. Written exercises include letters, telling a story from a given series of pictures, writing a dialogue.

German will open doors to **careers** in International Business, in the EU institutions, translation services, tourism, interpreting, teaching, linguistics, journalism and media among others.

SPANISH

Leaving Cert Spanish is a continuation of the Junior Cycle course. The subject can be studied at Ordinary and Higher levels.

Students who have engaged well with Junior Cycle Spanish and who wish to develop their aural, oral and written skills would enjoy Spanish at Senior level. However, it must be noted that there is a lot of work in all areas of the subject over the two year Leaving Cert course.

Exam Structure/Course content

Higher Level: Oral 25%

Aural 20% Written 55%

Oral Exam:

General conversation eg. Yourself, Family, School, House, Daily routine, Past events, Hobbies, Plans for the future etc

5 Role Plays which are prepared in advance of the exam

Aural Exam:

Q1: An advertisementQ2: Dialogue/InterviewQ3: Dialogue/InterviewQ4: Descriptive PieceQ5: Descriptive Piece

Q6: Weather Q7: News piece

Written Exam:

Comprehensions Journalist text

2 short comprehensions1 long comprehension

Written: Opinion Piece

Dialogue

Note/Diary Entry

Ordinary Level: Oral 20% (See above for content)

Aural 25% (See above for content)

Written 55%

Written Exam:

Q1: Long comprehension, answered in Spanish Q2-5: Short comprehensions, answered in English

Letter and Note/Diary Entry

Career opportunities are broad and include business, the IT industry, teaching, translation, interpreting, the hospitality industry, sales, marketing, tourism and careers in the EU.