SUBJECT CONTENT

CORE ELEMENTS

LANGUAGE
Students are required to study the following five designated areas of language in a wide variety of contexts, functions and styles.
1. The Language of Information.
2. The Language of Argument.
3. The Language of Persuasion.
4. The Language of Narration.
5. The Aesthetic use of Language.

LITERATURE

Students are required to study one literary text from a list of prescribed texts.
Students are required to study three other texts in the Comparative manner, according to the comparative modes prescribed for that year.
Students are required to study at least six poets from the eight poets prescribed at Higher Level. At Ordinary Level 36 poems are prescribed.

Compulsory elements: At Higher Level a Shakespearean Play must be one of the texts chosen for study on its own or as an element of the Comparative study.
Optional Elements: At Ordinary Level the study of a Shakespearean play is optional.

EXAM STRUCTURE

PAPER I
Higher and Ordinary Level - 170 mins. - 200 marks.

Section I
Three texts - one which is visual - are presented to students on a general Theme. Two sets of questions, an A and a B follow each text. Candidates must answer a question A on one text and a question B on a different text. (100 marks)

Section II
(Composing) Candidates must write an extended composition in a specific genre of language from a list of seven choices. (100 marks)

PAPER II
Higher and Ordinary Level - 200 mins. - 200 marks.

Section I
The single text (60 marks)
Section II
The Comparative study (70 marks)

Section III
Poetry (70 marks)

(H.L.)
(i) Unseen poem (20 marks)
(ii) Prescribed poetry (50 marks)

(O.L.)
(i) Unseen poem (20 marks)
(ii) Four poems will be printed on the exam paper and students must answer questions on one of the four. (50 marks)

COMMENT

Parents and students should be aware of the following cautionary points when considering the study of English at Higher Level for the Leaving Certificate exam.

- The study of English at Higher Level places significant demands on the Leaving Certificate student.
- The new syllabus is very broad in its range of prescribed materials and can be quite time consuming.
- The Higher Level (course) exam rewards good writing skills and an independent learner.
- The extended composition features largely on both papers at Higher Level and students are expected to write between 750-1000 words in the time available, in these compositions.
- There is the assumption at Higher Level that students will read widely and independently over the two years.
- An interest in social, political and current affairs is vital and highly developed writing skills and critical analyses skills are prerequisite at Higher level.
- Conversely at Ordinary Level textual material is printed on the exam paper for students, for example in the poetry sections poems are printed for the students. Less extended pieces of writing are also expected.
- Texts at Ordinary Level are less challenging particularly bearing in mind that students at O.L. do not have to study a Shakespearean play.
- Texts prescribed at O.L. are very student friendly and aimed at encouraging the more reluctant reader.
- There is a vast difference in the study of English at Higher Level for Junior Certificate and the Study of English at Higher Level for the Leaving Certificate.

Recommendation

Bearing the above concerns in mind and not withstanding exceptional circumstances, a student must have achieved at least a grade (C) at Junior Certificate Higher Level, to be considered for admittance into a Higher Level Leaving Certificate class.
Irish
(not optional)

**HIGHER LEVEL/ARDLEIBHEAL**

It is advisable for students who wish to do Higher level to have obtained at least a C but preferably a B in Junior Cert Higher level.

The course is taught in conjunction with the four main skills of learning a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

(i) Bealtriail: The Oral exam is an important part of the exam. 40%
(ii) The Aural/listening exam.
(iii) There are two written papers.

Please Note.....There will be a change in the marking structure for exam in 2012. Details are not available at present.

**PAPER ONE**

A) Composition Section with a choice from the following: Write either an essay, a story, an article for a newspaper or a debate/speech. 
B) Two reading comprehensions usually connected to cultural affairs, famous people, current affairs, etc.

**PAPER TWO**

This firstly consists of questions on compulsory prose and poetry. There are four stories and one film/drama on the prose course which are also on the ordinary level paper. There is a question on a theme or character or an aspect of the story or film.

There are five poems printed on the paper. These poems are also on the ordinary level paper but the standard of answering expected is more detailed. There are eight additional higher level poems on the course. 
Drama/Biography/short stories/bealoideas

The candidate is required to write about an Irish language drama that they have studied

Here in the college we study “An Triail” a drama with contemporary themes. In fifth year the students are brought to a production of the drama through Irish or English.

Finally the student must answer a question on the History of the Irish language and literature.

Students attempting Higher level are advised to go to the Ghaeltacht.

Please Note.....There will be a change in the marking structure for exam in 2012. Details are not available at present.
GNATHLEIBHEAL/ORDINARY LEVEL

Please Note.....There will be a change in the marking structure for exam in 2012. Details are not available at present.

Bealtírial: The Oral exam is an important part of the exam.
(ii) The Aural/listening exam.
(iii) There are two written papers.

PAPER ONE —
A Composition Section with a choice out of the following:
Write a letter, conversation, story or a paragraph. Usually the letter and paragraph options are topics that are prepared also for the Oral exam.
There are also two reading comprehensions, one usually about a famous person and the other about something to do with young people, current affairs etc.

PAPER TWO
This firstly consists of questions on compulsory prose and poetry. There are four stories and one film/drama on the prose course.
Students are required to know a summary of the story/film and also discuss a theme or character. They must answer two questions and there is a choice between two in each case.
Three out of the five poems are printed on the paper. Students must answer two questions on the poems. The questions are generally about a theme, a feeling, an explanation of a line or did you enjoy the poem, etc.

BONNLEIBHEAL FOUNDATION LEVEL
The main part of this course is Listening and speaking. There is one written paper only and this is very similar to Junior Cert Ordinary level consisting mostly of reading comprehension. There are no prescribed prose or poetry sections in this course. However students may be asked questions about an unseen poem.
SUBJECT CONTENT
The Mathematics syllabi are presented in the form of a core and a list of options. It is envisaged that students would study the whole of the core and one option.

HIGHER LEVEL MATHEMATICS

CORE
Algebra
Complex Numbers
Induction
Matrices
Coordinate Geometry of Line & Circle
Plane Vectors
Transformation Geometry
Trigonometry
Sequences & Series
Functions
Differential Calculus
Integral Calculus
Discrete mathematics & statistics
Difference Equations

OPTIONS
Further Calculus & series
Further probability & statistics
Groups
Further Geometry

ORDINARY LEVEL & ORDINARY FOUNDATION LEVEL MATHEMATICS

CORE
Arithmetic
Areas
Algebra
Complex Numbers
Synthetic Geometry-Theorems
Coordinate Geometry of the line and circle
Enlargements
Trigonometry
Finite sequences & series
Functions & graphs
Calculus
Discrete mathematics & statistics

OPTIONS
Further sequences & series
Further Geometry
Plane Vectors
Linear programming
EXAM STRUCTURE

HIGHER AND ORDINARY LEVEL MATHEMATICS

There are two 2 hour papers.

PAPER 1
Answer 6 out of 8 questions.

PAPER 2
Section A. Answer 5 out of 7 questions
Section B. Answer 1 out of 4 option questions.

FOUNDATION LEVEL MATHEMATICS

There are two 2 hour papers.

PAPER 1
Answer question 1 and 4 out of 6 other questions

PAPER 2
Answer 6 out of 8 questions

COMMENT

Parents and students should be aware of the following when considering the study of Mathematics at Higher Level for the Leaving Certificate exam.

• The study of Mathematics at Higher Level is aimed at the more able Leaving Certificate student.
• The Higher Level syllabus is very long and time consuming. It places significant demands on the Leaving Certificate student and requires a huge commitment in terms of time and effort.
• The material covered in Higher Level Mathematics is chosen for its intrinsic interest and general applicability, as well as its provision of concepts and techniques appropriate for future specialists in the field. However it may be assumed that some aims regarding the use of Mathematics in everyday life and work have been achieved at the Higher Junior Cert level and so the focus in Leaving Certificate Higher level is on deepening the understanding of Mathematical ideas and an appreciation of powerful concepts and methods.
• There is a vast difference in the study of Mathematics at Higher Level for Junior Certificate and the Study of Mathematics at Higher Level for Leaving Certificate.

The Ordinary Level Mathematics course was designed to provide students with knowledge and techniques that they may need in the future. As well as equipping students with these important tools it offers students opportunities to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Mathematics.

Foundation Level Mathematics is available to any student who struggles with the Ordinary Level Mathematics syllabus. All students are expected to do Higher or Ordinary Level Mathematics in fifth year. If a student is experiencing considerable difficulty with the Ordinary level course, the teacher will discuss with the student and their parents the option of Foundation level Mathematics.

Bearing the above concerns in mind and not withstanding exceptional circumstances, a student must have achieved at least a grade (C) at Junior Certificate Higher Level, to be considered for admittance into a Higher Level Leaving Certificate class.
SUBJECT CONTENT

The course is divided into three 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. Three of these are examined each year, two of which have to be answered. A laboratory record of these activities has to be kept and available for inspection by The Department of Education and Science. An ecology portfolio has also to be completed. This is usually done in fifth year. As of yet no marks are awarded for the laboratory notebook or the portfolio.

This new course in Biology is to be examined for the fourth time this year (June 07) and there is a strong emphasis on social and applied aspects e.g. when studying the breathing system a breathing disorder is studied.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The examination at higher and ordinary level is three hours duration. The exam paper is divided into three units.
• Section A  Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks.
• Section B Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks.
• Section C Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks.

COMMENT

1. It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good understanding of Junior Science at higher level.
2. Each student must have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work.
3. A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject.
SUBJECT CONTENT

Leaving Cert. Chemistry is comprised of all the essential and relevant topics within general chemistry. The major topics involved include the following:
1. Atomic structure
2. Volumetric analysis
3. Organic chemistry
4. Water chemistry
5. 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. Experimental work is examined as part of the leaving cert exam and forms the basis for a minimum of three questions on the exam paper.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The leaving cert exam is three hours in duration. Each candidate must answer at least two questions from Section A (experimental section) and a maximum of six questions from Section B. There are eleven questions in total on the exam paper, each carrying fifty marks.

There is no element of continuous assessment but experimental copies must be available for inspection by the State Examinations Commission.

COMMENT

1. It is recommended that a student undertaking the course has a good understanding of Junior Cert Science at the higher level.
2. Each student should have an aptitude and interest for laboratory work.
3. A student would be expected to have a good level of Junior Cert Maths at higher level.
St. Kieran’s College follows the Later Modern field of study 1815 – 1993. There are six topics from Irish History and six from the History of Europe and the wider world, from which students study two topics from Irish History and two from the History of Europe and the wider world.

One topic is prescribed and chosen by the Department of Education; it is changed every two years.

The six Irish topics are:

- Topic 1: Ireland and the Union, 1815 – 1870.
- Topic 2: Movement for political and social reform, 1870 -1914.

The six European and the wider world topics are:

- Topic 1: Nationalism and state formation in Europe, 1815 – 1871.


The syllabus breaks down into three distinct parts:

1. Students undertake a documents – based study of the prescribed topic. There are three case studies in the prescribed topic and one of these will be examined in the Leaving Certificate. There is no choice of question,

2. Students will study one other European and the wider world topic and two Irish topics. Students must answer one question from each topic studied. There is a choice of questions.

3. A Research Topic. This is a question which is done by the student in their own time. It involves the student researching a topic of their choice within the prescribed period. The research topic must be completed and handed in by April, prior to the Leaving Certificate Examination. Both teacher and student must sign a form attesting it to be the student’s own work.
EXAM STRUCTURE

Leaving Certificate History is assessed at two levels - Ordinary level and Higher level. There are two assessment components:
A research study report (submitted prior to the examination) 20%
An examination paper 80%
At both levels, the examination paper features a documents-based question (linked to the documents-based study) and three general questions. All four questions are of equal value.

COMMENT

When considering history as a Leaving Certificate subject students should note the following:
• An interest in the subject is vital; some students choose it on the basis that they like nothing else on the Subject Line.
• A good knowledge of English, an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is important.
• Self discipline is an essential ingredient as students must show initiative in researching material, not merely for the research topic, but also to augment their knowledge of the course in general.
• Choosing it on the basis that it was an easy subject for the Junior Certificate has absolutely no basis of truth, they are two completely separate courses. Leaving Certificate history is demanding and some students find out too late to their cost that they cannot cope and drop out.
• If history is a subject that you like and you have the ability, discipline and work ethic to do well in it, but is not related to the course you want to pursue at Third Level, you should consider doing it on the basis that it will get you the required points to get the Third Level course that you want.
SUBJECT CONTENT

Junior Cert Science splits into three strands at senior cycle; biology, chemistry and physics. The physics syllabus aims to give students both an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life. It offers a general education in physics for all students, enabling them to develop an understanding of the scientific method and their ability to observe, to think logically, and to communicate effectively. Science, technology and society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus so that students can be aware of the principles of the applications of physics in the everyday world. The physics studied is broken into eight topics:
(a) six compulsory
(b) two option sections (one to be done)

Compulsory sections are:
1. Optics / Waves: the study of light and sound and real life applications of the theory
2. Mechanics: time, space, distance, speed and acceleration
3. Heat: changes of state, energy conversions and mathematical problems
4. Electricity: develops on from simple circuits to more detailed concepts
5. 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
6. Atomic Physics: cathode rays, x-rays, radioactive decay, fission and fusion, nuclear reactors and real world applications

Two option sections are:
1. Particle Physics: recent type of physics, delving into the new discoveries leading to a better understanding of the formation of the universe and where we came from
2. Applied Electricity: detailed study of electricity and the working of a motor developing from electricity already studied

At Higher level, there is a deeper, more quantitative treatment of physics. The two option sections are omitted from the ordinary level course. The course also consists of 24 core mandatory experiments complimenting each section in an aim to develop students’ technical skills and enhance understanding and reinforce key concepts.

EXAM STRUCTURE

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of one terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course. The Leaving Cert physics exam is three hours in duration.
Section A:
• Answer 3 out of 4 questions
• 120 marks: 40 marks per question
• Questions are based on experimental procedures and use of results

Section B:
• Answer 5 out of 8 questions
• 280 marks: 56 marks per question
• Questions are more broad and theory based

COMMENT

While there is an element of maths in the physics course, honours maths is not a requirement to do honours physics. Students should not avoid physics on the basis of not having honours maths. It is possible to get on well in honours physics without honours maths.

Pupils should become able to draw and read graphs and be competent in using a calculator throughout the course. The physics syllabus has strong links with the other science subjects especially chemistry. There are strands of physics which overlap with woodwork and construction especially the electricity and heat sections.

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.

It should be noted that, where student numbers allow, an ordinary class is provided in sixth year. The division of students into higher level and this ordinary level class will be based on student’s exam results throughout fifth year. [The vast majority of the fifth year course covers ordinary level topics]
SUBJECT CONTENT

THREE CORE UNITS
• Unit 1. Patterns and processes in the physical environment.
• Unit 2. Regional geography.
• Unit 3. Geographical investigation.

TWO ELECTIVE UNITS
• Elective unit 4 Patterns and processes in economic activities or
• Elective unit 5 Patterns and processes in the human environment.

FOUR OPTIONAL UNITS
(Higher level students only)
• Optional unit 6 Global interdependence or
• Optional unit 7 Geocology or
• Optional unit 8 Culture and identity or
• Optional unit 9 The Atmosphere-Ocean environment

As part of this new syllabus, the teaching of geographical skills will be integrated into each of the units of core, elective and optional units where appropriate. The core geographical skills will also be used and applied in the preparation of the Geographical Investigation which is to be completed in year 2 of the programme and is worth 20% of the final grade.

It is within this structure that students will be expected to demonstrate their proficiency in the widest range of skills appropriate to their chosen investigation. The learning of and the use and application of geographical skills is central to a student’s experience of Leaving Certificate Geography.

EXAM STRUCTURE
Leaving Certificate Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level in ascending order of difficulty. There are two assessment components:
1. Examination paper 80%. This is a two and a half hour paper with an optional 20 mins.
2. Report on a Geographical Investigation 20%

Written Paper
Part One - 80 mks. Answer 10 questions from 12.
Part Two – 320 mks You must attempt 4 questions, as follows:
Two questions from Section 1 (Core), One question from Section 2 (Electives), One question from Section 3 (Options)

Ordinary level students study all core units and one of the elective units.
Higher level students study all core units, one of the elective units and one of the optional units.

COMMENT
The new revised Leaving Certificate geography syllabus has a core, elective and option structure and is an extension of the Junior Certificate geography programme. Consequently, potential students should ideally score a ‘C’ or higher at Junior Cert, higher level to have any realistic hope of attempting this new revised programme.
SUBJECT CONTENT

Accounting is a business studies option within the Leaving Certificate programme. It covers aspects of business and social life which are not dealt with in any other subject in that programme. It is concerned with the preparation, recording, extraction, presentation and analysis of financial information for the purpose of making economic decisions. The course also involves a Management Accounting section where the student will learn how to analyse business costs and how to prepare budgets. Topics covered include: Financial Statements Preparation, Farm Accounts, Club Accounts, Company Accounts, Manufacturing Accounts, Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation, Budgeting, Break-even Analysis, Cost Classification, Accounting Theory and Principles.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The subject is examined at higher and ordinary level. Both levels 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.

COMMENTS

The course is numerically based but theory and procedures must be learned also. While the student needs to be comfortable with numbers he or she does not need to be at higher maths level.

The Junior Certificate Business Studies Course provides a foundation for this course and the absence of this foundation will make it more difficult to succeed.

This course offers a hard working student the real possibility of high grades because of the unambiguous nature of the questions.

An organized student with a likeness for order will be particularly suited to this course.
SUBJECT CONTENT

• The subject is concerned with understanding the workings of a modern economy from both Macro and Micro level. The main topics covered are Demand, Supply, Consumer, Cost of Production, Elasticity, Market Structures, Perfect Competition, Monopoly, Price Discrimination, Imperfect Competition and Oligopoly and Factors of Production – Land, Labour, Capital and Enterprise. Macro consists of Money & Banking, National Income, Government & Economy, International Trade, Economic Growth & Development and History of Economic Thought.
• There are no projects, practical aspects, field trips, etc. Teacher may include project work but it is not a requirement of the syllabus.
• There is a common syllabus covering Higher and Ordinary level, which will fulfill the aims and objectives.
• It helps students to develop a clear understanding of the role of economics, to encourage the development of appropriate learning skills, and to generate in students a positive and ethical attitude to economics in personal, business and public life.

EXAM STRUCTURE

HIGHER LEVEL & ORDINARY LEVEL

One Paper – 2.5 hour paper.

Section A – 9 Qs do 6 (100 marks)
Section B – 8 Qs do 4 (75 each. 300 in total). Large element of choice here.

COMMENT

• This subject is suited to students who are willing to work hard and caters for all abilities.
• It is not necessary for students to have studied Junior Certificate Business Studies, but this would be a help.
• Ideally, students should have a general interest in how the economy works.
SUBJECT CONTENT

• The syllabus consists of Core Areas and Three Electives:

The Core Areas
• 1. Food Studies - 45%
2. Resource Management and Consumer Studies - 25%
3. Social Studies - 10%

Electives
1. Home Design and Management - 20% or
2. Textiles, Fashion and Design - 20% or
3. Social Studies - 20%

Students opt for one Elective area only. Those choosing the Textiles, Fashion and Design elective must produce a garment which will be inspected and graded.

The Elective areas are extensions of the content contained in the Core Areas and provide students with the opportunity to study certain topics in more depth.

As part of the Core Areas, a mandatory section comprises of Practical Coursework which must be completed during the two years and will be sent to the Department of Education and Science for inspection. This is 20% of the final examination marks.

EXAM STRUCTURE

The Leaving Certificate Home Economics (Social and Scientific) revised syllabus is examined as follows:

1. Written Exam paper – 80% The written examination consists of three sections:
Section A : 12 short questions – Students answer 10. These deal mainly with all the core areas of practice. (60 marks allocated)
Section B : 5 questions - Students are to answer Question 1 (Food Science and Nutrition) and any other 2 questions (from the other Core Areas). (180 marks allocated)
Section C : 3 questions - Students are to answer 1. Elective question, based on which Elective was chosen to do in class. (80 marks allocated)

2. Practical Coursework - 20%
This is worth 20% of the final mark – as stated already; this is submitted in journal form earlier in the Leaving Certificate year.
St Kieran’s College, Kilkenny

SUBJECT CHOICE DESCRIPTIONS

Home Economics, Social & Scientific

COMMENT

• It would be advisable for students opting for Leaving Certificate Home Economics to have completed the Junior Certificate course. Some of the areas covered on the Junior Cert Home Economics course are continued at Leaving Certificate level.

• Those students who opt for Transition Year will be given an introduction to the Food Science and Nutrition section – an overall view of the Junior Certificate Food Section is mainly covered.

• Much of the course is theory based – students are often under the illusion that “it’s all cooking” and find it quite a shock when they realise even the Practical Section has to be written up and presented – because there is no Practical Examination as at Junior Cert. Level.

• It is a wide course, covering many life skills. I find students enjoy the subject but they must be willing to learn and to undertake quite a substantial theoretical subject.

• There is both an Honours and Ordinary level within the subject. Students’ can opt to take the written exam at Higher or Ordinary level, however the Coursework Journal is at a general level and is corrected as such.

• There is also a link with some other subjects, namely Biology, Business Studies and even Building Construction – again, this cross-curricular advantage is helpful when choosing subjects.
SUBJECT CONTENT

DESIGN OR CRAFT - 5 HRS - 100 MARKS
Batik, Weaving, Calligraphy, Lino Print, Book craft, Poster, Sculpture etc. Students get the exam paper one week prior. Pupils produce a preparatory page i.e collect and stick down images, lettering and drawings on one A2 page. This page may be brought into the exam to aid the creation of a final piece and also the development page. The development page must show initial designs, layout and development of the final design.

IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION / STILL LIFE 2HRS 30MINS- 100 MARKS
Students are given a choice of 3 texts.
Imaginative Composition -A picture, sketch, painting, collage, mixed media.
Still life- A composition of still life objects using a variety of media.

LIFE SKETCHING - 1HOUR - 50 MARKS
Two sketches of a model in a specific pose.

ART HISTORY 2 HRS 30 MINS - 150 MARKS
3 Sections - students must answer one question from each section.
Irish - Prehistoric to present day.
European - Middle ages to present day.
General appreciation - Design, film, exhibitions, town planning, public sculpture, posters, advertising.

EXAM STRUCTURE
There are 4 Examinations
2/3 Practical 1/3 History and Appreciation of Art
• 1 - 5 hour Craft Exam.
• 1 - Imaginative Composition Exam / Still Life.
• 1 - Life Drawing Exam.
• 1 - Art History Exam.
A more detailed pupil information sheet regarding exam structure is available.

MARKING SCHEME FOR ELEMENTS OF ART EXAM
Ordinary/Higher level .
1. Design or Craft 100 (5hrs - completed in one day).
2. Imaginative Composition or Still life 100.
3. Life Sketching 50 (two studies).
4. Art History 150 (3 questions X 50 marks each).
For elements 1. 2. and 3. - Pupils receive exam papers a week prior to sitting exam. These exams are completed at the end of April/beginning of May.

COMMENT
An aptitude for easy writing, self directed research skills and a sound understanding of the design process is essential for Senior Level Art. There is no continuous project work in 6th year – all exam based. Pupils receive practical exam papers a week prior to sitting exam. These exams are completed at the end of April/beginning of May. The Art History exam is completed in June. A gallery trip is compulsory for the course.
The structure of the course and the exam is very different to that of the Junior Certificate course. This subject is not advisable at this level unless you have previously experienced it at junior level or you have shown an aptitude for art in fourth year.
SUBJECT CONTENT
Both modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:

- Oral/speaking
- Written
- Aural/listening
- Reading

A wide variety of themes are covered, for example:

- Family
- School
- Hobbies
- Sport
- Current affairs

Grammar and Cultural Awareness are essential elements of these courses.

EXAM STRUCTURE
In all languages there are oral aural and written exams.

Mark Allocation for L.C. French & German

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Higher Level</th>
<th>Ordinary Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening Comprehension</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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The Oral Exam
This takes place in March/April of 6th year. 13 mins - French, 15 mins – German
French: Interview with examiner; students may prepare a document
German: Interview with examiner, presentation of project or picture sequence and role play

Aural/Listening Exam (40 mins)
This exam takes place after the written examination in June. It involves listening to a variety of dialogues and news items in the target language and then answering in English. One section on the German paper requires answers in German.

Written Exam (2 ½ hours)
FRENCH
Reading Comprehension is worth 30% of total exam at Higher Level and 40% at Ordinary Level. There are literary and journalistic passages.
For Higher Level the written section involves formal and informal letters, diary entry, message/fax/email, expressing an opinion, and personalised writing.
Modern Languages
- French
- German
- Spanish

SPANISH
At Higher Level Reading Comprehension involves a literary and a journalistic reading text, followed by questions testing comprehension, language awareness, applied grammar and the student’s ability to give an opinion on a topic raised.

Written expression
- Dialogue
- Letter ..... formal
- Diary.......entry
- Learning a message

GERMAN
At Higher Level Reading Comprehension involves a literary and a journalistic reading text, 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.

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.

COMMENT

- We welcome and encourage students to study a foreign language for its own value, to increase cultural awareness and as a life skill, not just as a requirement for college entry.
- It is the aim of the Modern Language Departments to promote the use of the target language in class because the desire of the student to communicate motivates learning.
- We advise that here is a considerable gap in the standard required between Junior and Senior Cycle.
- It is highly advisable that students spend some time in a country where the target language is spoken.
- Students who have shown an aptitude in languages at Junior Certificate Level are encouraged to continue at leaving cert.

While it is our policy to teach each student with regard to his/her unique set of needs, we would advise students who have experienced serious difficulty with a modern language in Junior Cycle to give strong consideration to the far-reaching and demanding nature of the courses when opting for a modern language at Senior Cycle.
SUBJECT CONTENT

The course is essentially about the study of buildings and the built environment. The theoretical part of the course examines all parts of building from the planning stages to the completed building. The course is studied under the following main headings.

- Planning and Design
- Drawings and Documents
- Site Preliminaries and Foundations
- Walls, Partitions
- Floors, Roofs
- Fireplaces
- Windows and Doors
- Stairs
- Plastering and Painting
- Plumbing and Heating
- Services
- Drainage

EXAM STRUCTURE

The examination at higher and ordinary levels has three separate components.

Section A  Three hour written paper worth 300 marks. The exam consists of 10 questions out of which five have to be attempted. Question 1 is a compulsory drawing question of a building detail.

Section B  4 hour practical woodwork exam where the student makes a small item out of timber under exam conditions. The exam normally takes place in May. This accounts for 150 marks.

Section C  Building Project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project that they make. Ideally this project must be completed by Christmas. This accounts for 150 marks.

COMMENT

1. It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment.
2. Each student should have an aptitude and interest for design and practical work.
3. Junior Certificate Woodwork and/or Technical Graphics would be desirable subjects to have taken at Junior Certificate though not compulsory.
SUBJECT CONTENT
The course consists of three main components:
(1) Composing 25%
(2) Listening 25%
(3) Performance 25%
Each component is examined as 25% of the course with higher level candidates nominating which component they wish to take an elective (extra 25%) in.

EXAM STRUCTURE

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

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

Performance
Examined in April of 6th year
Candidates may perform as a soloist or as part of a group or both.
Higher Level: 3 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test OR 2 pieces on each of two instruments and one unprepared test
Ordinary Level: 2 pieces on one instrument and one unprepared test.

Electives for extra 25%
(Higher level only) Each candidate must choose one of the above components to study for this extra credit. The majority tend to opt for a Performance elective.

Listening Elective: The candidate must work on a music project over the course of 5th and 6th year. They must submit some work to the State Examinations Commission and sit an extra written paper in June.

Composition Elective: The candidate must undertake a large scale composition to be submitted to the Examinations Commission in their final year.

Performance Elective: This involves a more substantial performance during the examination period in April of 6th year.

Music Technology is available as an elective option in St. Kieran’s and is taken by most students.

COMMENT
Students need not have studied music at Junior Level; however, they should have attained a competency in their practical musical ability. Because of the practical nature of this subject, students and/or parents should discuss this with the senior level music teacher before choosing it as a Leaving Certificate subject.
SUBJECT CONTENT

Consists of a core section comprised of
(a) plane and solid geometry and
(b) communication computer graphics

There is also an options section of applied graphics, two options are to be taken.

EXAM STRUCTURE

- One Terminal Exam Paper  60%
- Student Assignment  40%

Terminal Exam: 3 hours duration.

COMMENT

Students should have good technical drawing skills and competent ‘spacial relations’ ability.
CORE AREAS OF STUDY
Health & Safety
• Materials Science
• Computer Aided Processes (CAD/CAM)
• Electronics
• Pneumatics
• Manufacturing Techniques and Technology
• Drawing and Design
• Power & Energy
• Mechanisms

OPTIONAL AREAS OF STUDY
Students must study any two of the five options

Computer Aided Processes (CAD/CAM) (topics include)
Drawing functions
• Dimensioning
• Drawing Generation
• Printing or Plotting
• Computer Aided Machining
• CAM Drive Systems
• Application of CAM

Decorative Metal Craft (topics include)
• Geometric drawing
• Beaten Metalwork
• Enamelling/Jewellery Techniques
• Etching
• Hot & Cold Forming
• Celtic Metalwork

Power, Energy and Control (topics include)
• Power
• Energy
• Control Devices
• Computer Interfacing
• Efficiency of Systems
• Feedback Mechanisms

Manufacturing Techniques & Technology (topics include)
• Manufacture
• Machining
• Hard Soldering
• Welding
• Shaping of Plastics
• Joining
• Heat Treatments
• Metrology

Materials Science (topics include)
• Structure of Materials
• Corrosion
• Origin of Materials
• Production of Materials
• Materials Testing
• Recycling

COMMENT
Students wishing to study Engineering should have good practical ability, and an interest in how things work.
SUBJECT CONTENT

The Course is divided into three units:

Unit One - Compulsory
• Section A: The search for meaning and values

Unit Two - Any two of:
• Section B: Christianity: origins and contemporary expressions
• Section C: World religions
• Section D: Moral decision-making

Unit Three - Do any one of the following (excluding the two sections designated for coursework).
• Section E: Religion and gender
• Section F: Issues of justice and peace
• Section G: Worship, prayer, and ritual
• Section H: The Bible: literature and sacred text
• Section I: Religion: the Irish experience
• Section J: Religion and science

EXAM STRUCTURE

Leaving Certificate Religion is assessed at Higher and Ordinary levels. Leaving Certificate is assessed using two elements:
1. Coursework – two sections from unit three of the syllabus will be designated for coursework. The same units are designated for both higher and ordinary levels. A list of coursework titles related to these units is issued each year and students must choose one. Coursework makes up 20% of the overall mark.
2. Terminal written paper
Marks for coursework and written examination will be combined to constitute the final grade awarded. 400 marks shall be awarded in total. At Ordinary and Higher levels, all sections of the course, apart from the sections designated for coursework, will appear on the examination paper.

COMMENT

When considering Religion as a Leaving Certificate subject, students should have a keen interest in the subject and have an interest in religious, social and current affairs. Belief in God is not essential to study Religion but a strong personal faith will help a student in reaching a deeper understanding of the course material. Students who enjoy English and History should excel in Religion. Choosing it on the basis that it was an easy subject for the Junior Certificate has absolutely no basis of truth, they are two completely separate courses. Leaving Certificate Religion is a demanding subject and requires a lot of hard work. It is recommended that a student undertaking the course has a good understanding of Junior Cert Religion at the higher level and have obtained a good grade.
SUBJECT CONTENT

The syllabus is broken down into three sections: A, B, and C.

SECTION A
People in Business
(Unit 1) Introduction to people in business

SECTION B
Enterprise
(Unit 2) Enterprise
(Unit 3) Managing 1
(Unit 4) Managing 2
(Unit 5) Business in action

SECTION C
Environment
(Unit 6) Domestic environment
(Unit 7) International environment

EXAM STRUCTURE

The subject is examined at higher and ordinary level. Both levels involve one exam of three hours duration.

The exam paper is made up of three sections, the first is a round of short answer questions. The second is an Applied Business Question (ABQ) which is pre-prescribed material focussed on different aspects of the course each year. The third and final section includes long answer questions covering a range of material from across the course.

COMMENT

‘Business’ is a business studies option within the established Leaving Certificate programme. It is concerned with the understanding of the environment in which business operates in Ireland and in the wider world. It also involves equipping the students with a positive view of enterprise and its applications in the business environment, in both the public and private sectors.