

## Leaving Certificate (NFQ Level 4 and 5 – major award)

The Leaving Certificate is studied over two years and aims to provide learners with a broad, balanced education while also offering some potential for specialisation towards a particular career option. The Leaving Certificate is taken in almost all schools and students are required to study at least five subjects, one of which must be Irish. The majority of students in school will sit Leaving Certificate examinations in at least seven subjects. However, candidates – including many learners in second chance education settings or repeat students – can also sit one or more individual subjects. All subjects are offered at two levels, Ordinary and Higher. Irish and Mathematics are also available at Foundation level. 33 Leaving Certificate subjects are available to schools.

### *Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme*

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate. This two-year programme combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate with a dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. The defining features of the LCVP are that learners take some of their Leaving Certificate subjects from a specified set of vocational subjects, they study a recognised course in a modern European language, and take two additional courses, known as Link Modules, in the areas of Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education.

### *Leaving Certificate Applied*

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a discrete programme designed for those learners whose aptitudes, learning interests and ways of learning are not fully catered for by the other two Leaving Certificate programmes and for those learners who are at risk of early school leaving. Participants in the Leaving Certificate Applied engage in work and study of an active, practical and task-centred nature and it prepares participants for transition from the world of the school/centre to that of adult and working life. The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year programme made up of a range of courses that are structured round three elements:

- Vocational Preparation
- Vocational Education
- General Education.

## Descriptor

<b>Title</b>	Leaving Certificate
<b>Purpose</b>	This is a multi-purpose award-type. The knowledge, skill and competence acquired are relevant to personal development, participation in society and community, employment, and access to additional education and training.
<b>NFQ Level</b>	4/5
<b>Volume</b>	Large
<b>Knowledge- breadth</b>	Broad range of knowledge.
<b>Knowledge - kind</b>	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking with significant depth in some areas. Some underpinning theory.
<b>Know-how and Skill –</b>	Demonstrate a broad range of cognitive and practical skills, and tools.

<b>range</b>	
<b>Know-how and Skill – selectivity</b>	Select from a range of procedures and apply known solutions to a variety of predictable problems. Evaluate and use information to plan and develop investigative strategies.
<b>Competence- context</b>	Identify and apply skill and knowledge to a moderately broad range of contexts. Take responsibility for the nature and quality of outputs.
<b>Competence- role</b>	Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities. Function within familiar homogeneous groups.
<b>Competence - learning to learn</b>	Learn to take responsibility for own learning within a managed environment.
<b>Competence- insight</b>	Assume responsibility for consistency of self-understanding and behaviour
<b>Progression and transfer</b>	Progression to programme leading to a further education and training award at level 5, or at a higher level. Progression to programme leading to a higher education and training award at level 6, or at a higher level.

**Awarding body:** The State Examinations Commission

The Leaving Certificate is typically awarded following a two-year full-time programme of education prescribed by the Department of Education and Science.

**This is a major award. Major awards are the principal class of award made at a level. There are also component (minor), specific purpose (special purpose) and supplemental awards at the same level.**

#### **Minor awards**

Minor Awards are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award.

#### **Supplemental Awards**

Supplemental Awards are for learning that is additional to a Major Award.

#### **Special Purpose Awards**

Special Purpose Awards are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement.