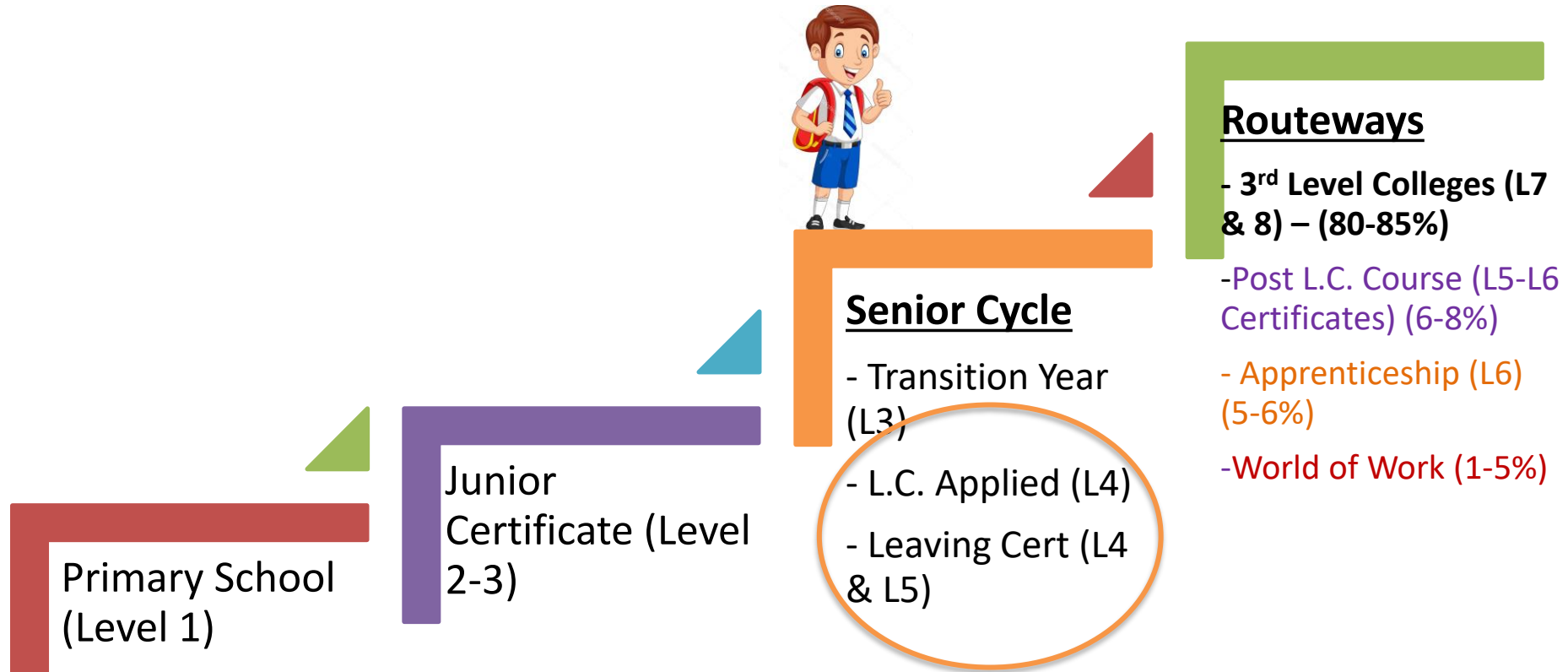# Leaving Certificate Subject Options
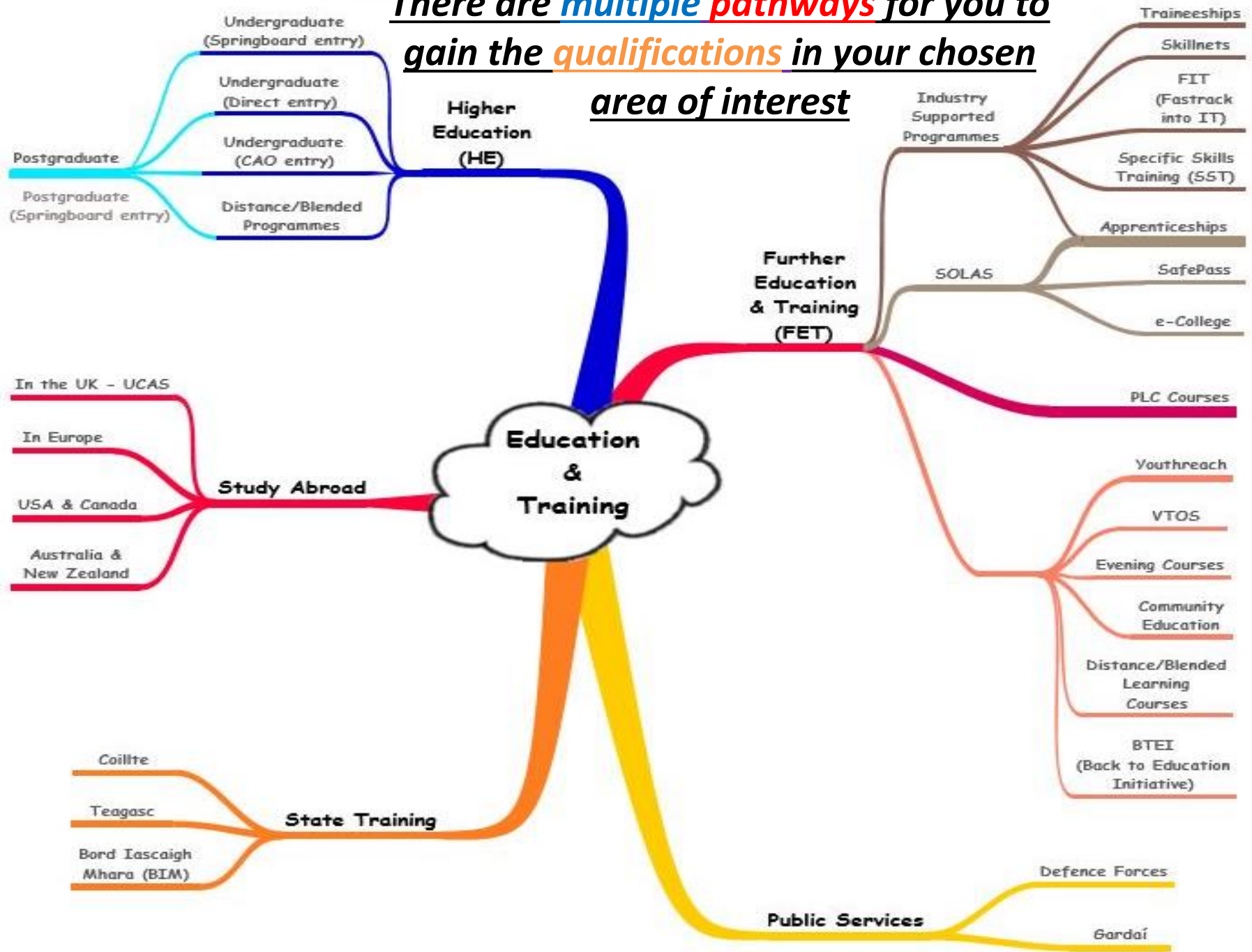
Glanmire Community College

2021_2022

Outline

- Progression to Leaving Certificate
- General overview of Curricular Provision at Leaving Cert
- Researching your Option Subject Choices
- Progression from Post-Primary School
- College Access routes

Education Progression

Routeways

- 3rd Level Colleges (L7 & 8) – (80-85%)

-Post L.C. Course (L5-L6 Certificates) (6-8%)

- Apprenticeship (L6) (5-6%)

-World of Work (1-5%)

Senior Cycle

- Transition Year (L3)

- L.C. Applied (L4)

- Leaving Cert (L4 & L5)

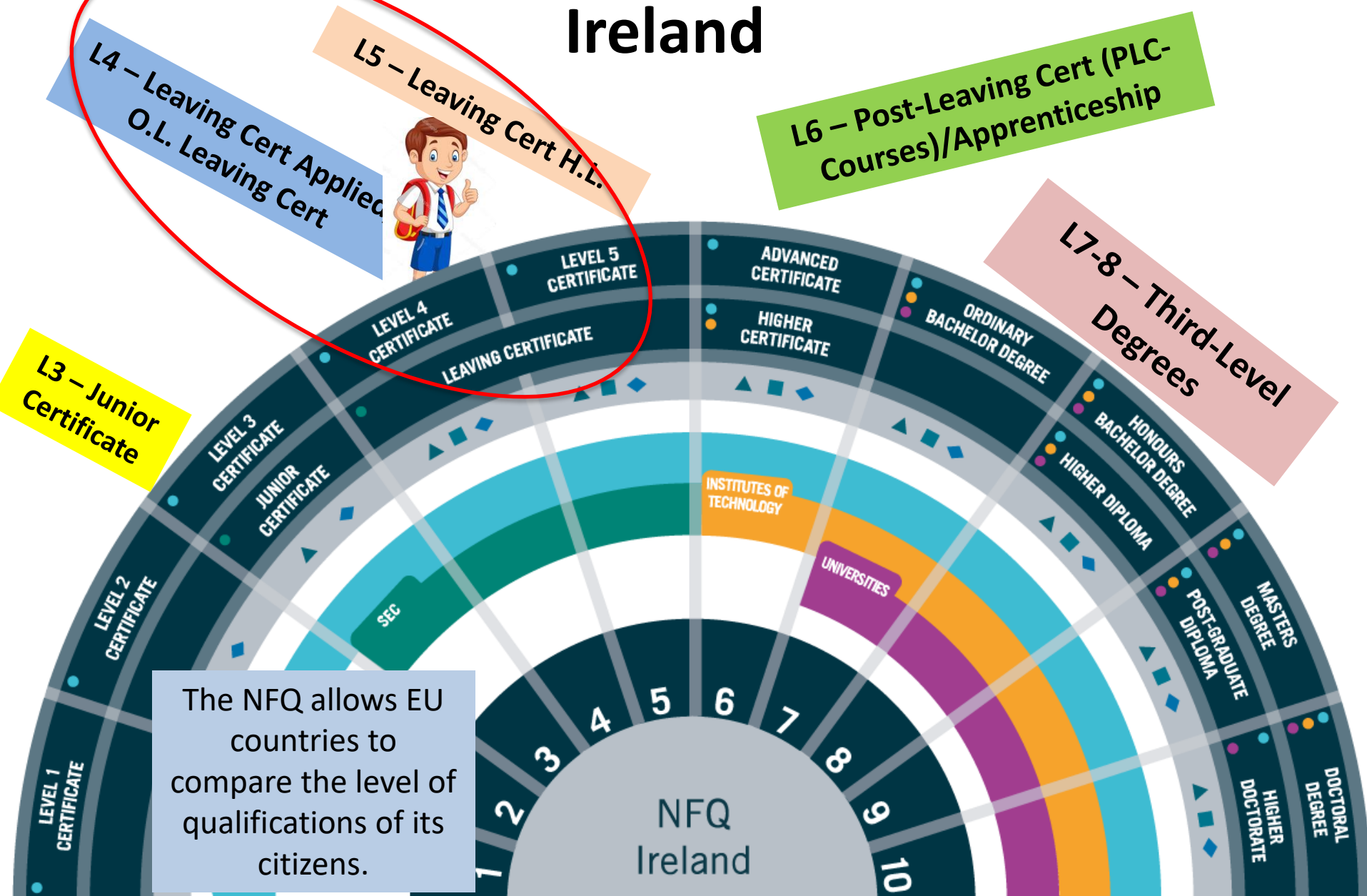Junior Certificate (Level 2-3)

Primary School (Level 1)

You are now entering the **Leaving Certificate Programme**. This provides you with access to a range of options when you graduate from Post-Primary school. Depending on your interests and academic achievements, you choose which routeway you wish to pursue to further your career and future goals. In G.C.C 80-85% of our graduates pursue 3rd level qualifications

There are multiple pathways for you to gain the qualifications in your chosen area of interest

Education & Training

Higher Education (HE)
- Postgraduate
- Postgraduate (Springboard entry)
- Undergraduate (Springboard entry)
- Undergraduate (Direct entry)
- Undergraduate (CAO entry)
- Distance/Blended Programmes

Further Education & Training (FET)
- Industry Supported Programmes
  - Traineeships
  - Skillnets
  - FIT (Fastrack into IT)
  - Specific Skills Training (SST)
- SOLAS
  - Apprenticeships
  - SafePass
  - e-College
- PLC Courses
- Youthreach
- VTOS
- Evening Courses
- Community Education
- Distance/Blended Learning Courses
- BTEI (Back to Education Initiative)

Study Abroad
- In the UK – UCAS
- In Europe
- USA & Canada
- Australia & New Zealand

State Training
- Coillte
- Teagasc
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

Public Services
- Defence Forces
- Gardaí

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Ireland

L4 – Leaving Cert Applied, O.L. Leaving Cert

L5 – Leaving Cert H.L.

L6 – Post-Leaving Cert (PLC-Courses)/Apprenticeship

L7-8 – Third-Level Degrees

L3 – Junior Certificate

LEVEL 5 CERTIFICATE

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

HIGHER CERTIFICATE

ORDINARY BACHELOR DEGREE

LEVEL 4 CERTIFICATE

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

HONOURS BACHELOR DEGREE

LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

HIGHER DIPLOMA

INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE

SEC

UNIVERSITIES

POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA

MASTERS DEGREE

The NFQ allows EU countries to compare the level of qualifications of its citizens.

LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

NFQ Ireland

HIGHER DOCTORATE

DOCTORAL DEGREE

Leaving Certificate Examination Subjects

- Students will study **SEVEN** examination subjects at Leaving Certificate.

- This will be made up of **THREE** core subjects and **FOUR** optional subjects.

- The purpose of this presentation is to help you to make **informed** option subject choices

Curricular Provision – Leaving Certificate

3 X Core (Non-Exam)

- Senior Cycle Physical Education (SCPE)
- Religious Education
- Guidance

3 X Core Subjects (Exam)

- Irish
- English
- Maths

4 X Option Subjects

- Art, Music, Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE), Home Economics,
- French, History, Geography
- Accounting, Business, Economics
- Biology, Physics, Chemistry
- Technology, Engineering, Construction Studies, Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)

Subject Selection Process

- Leaving Certificate Students for 2021-2023 are required to select **FOUR** Option Subjects in order of Priority

- Students should also select _two additional subjects_ – 5 & 6, in case its not possible to accommodate one of the first four subjects.

- Students who are passionate about studying Physical Education as an exam subject, should ensure to select this as your first preference subject. Similarly students who require a third language should select French as part of your top four.

- Parents will receive a text message on 1st February to log into VSWare account to enter option subject choices. A further guide to entering options subjects on VSWare will issue with this text.

How to Select Your Subject

1. **Research** your Career and further education interests

2. **Identify the Course and Entry Requirements**(CAO Points etc.) needed to gain qualification.

3. **Identify the Required Subjects** and level of achievement at Leaving Cert.

4. **Review each subject specification** including content and assessment requirements (e.g. projects/practical/oral/written exams) to determine if you will be **interested** and **committed** to studying this subject.

Research – Your Journey to date

Interests

Values

Personality

Aptitudes
The missing piece

Careers Portal Student Profile

Guidance appointment
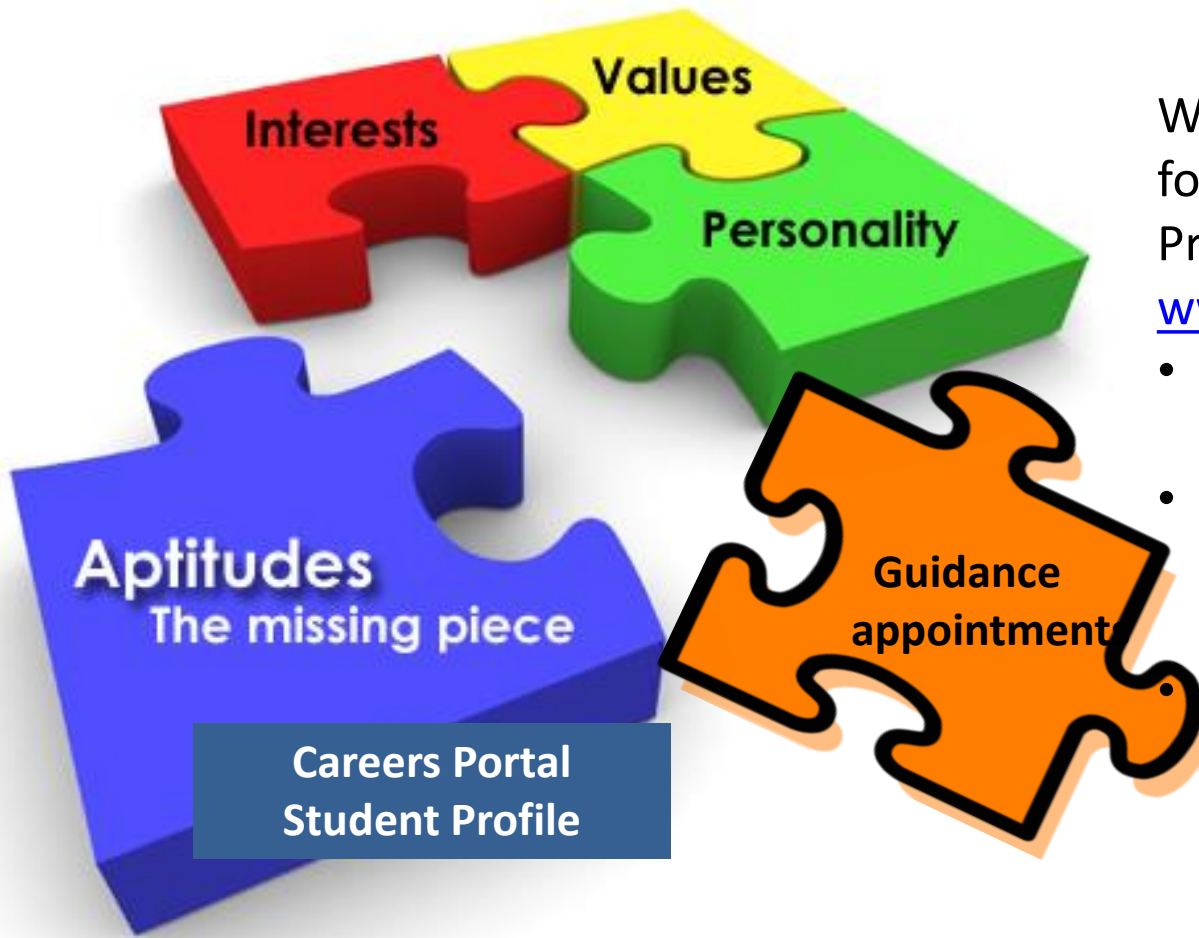
Weekly Guidance Lessons have focused on your Personal Profile on www.careersportal.ie

- Interests, Values, Personality
- Using this information, you have begun to focus on careers that interest you.
- You have also begun to research what courses may help you to achieve the qualifications to pursue your future career interests

Build on your experience and interests from Junior Cycle and/or Transition Year

Research – www.careersportal.ie

Research – www.careersportal.ie

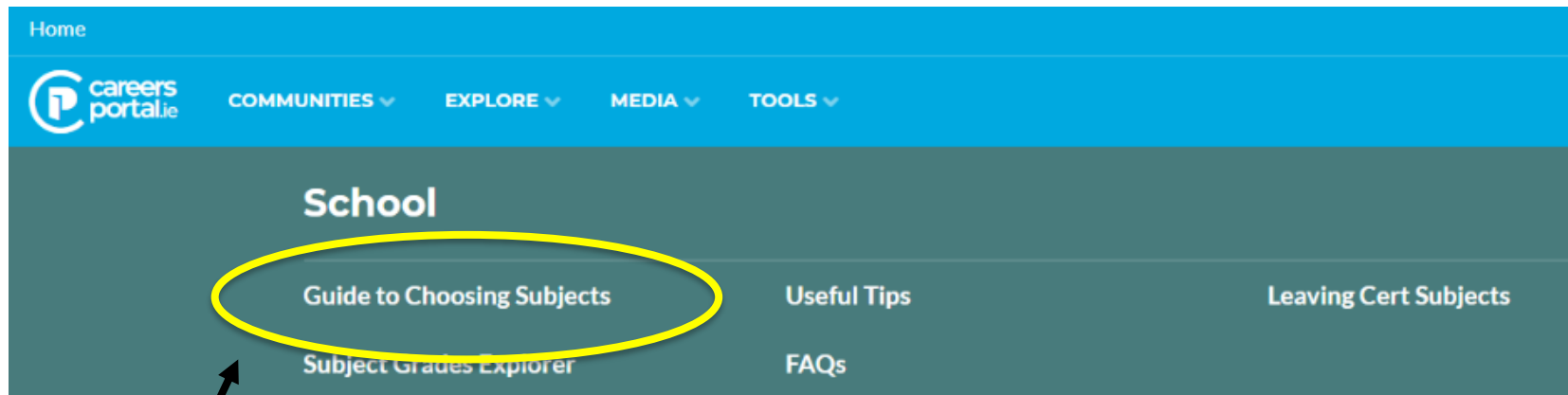**Select Leaving Cert**

Research – www.careersportal.ie
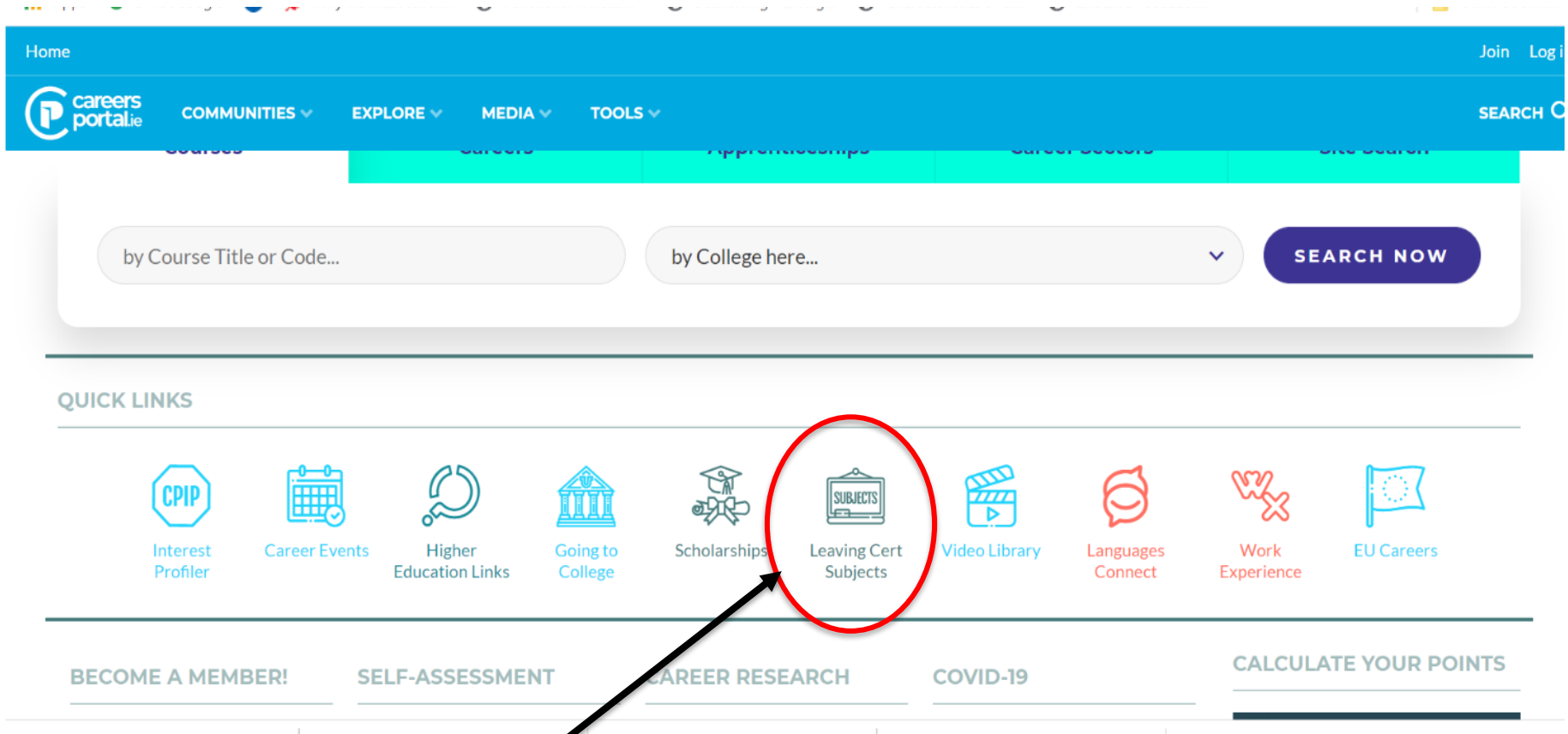
Click on Leaving Cert Subjects

Research – www.careersportal.ie

Home

careers portal.ie

COMMUNITIES ⌄   EXPLORE ⌄   MEDIA ⌄   TOOLS ⌄

School

Guide to Choosing Subjects   **Useful Tips**   **Leaving Cert Subjects**

Subject Grades Explorer   **FAQs**

Please ensure you read this Guide first.

Leaving Cert Subjects

Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.
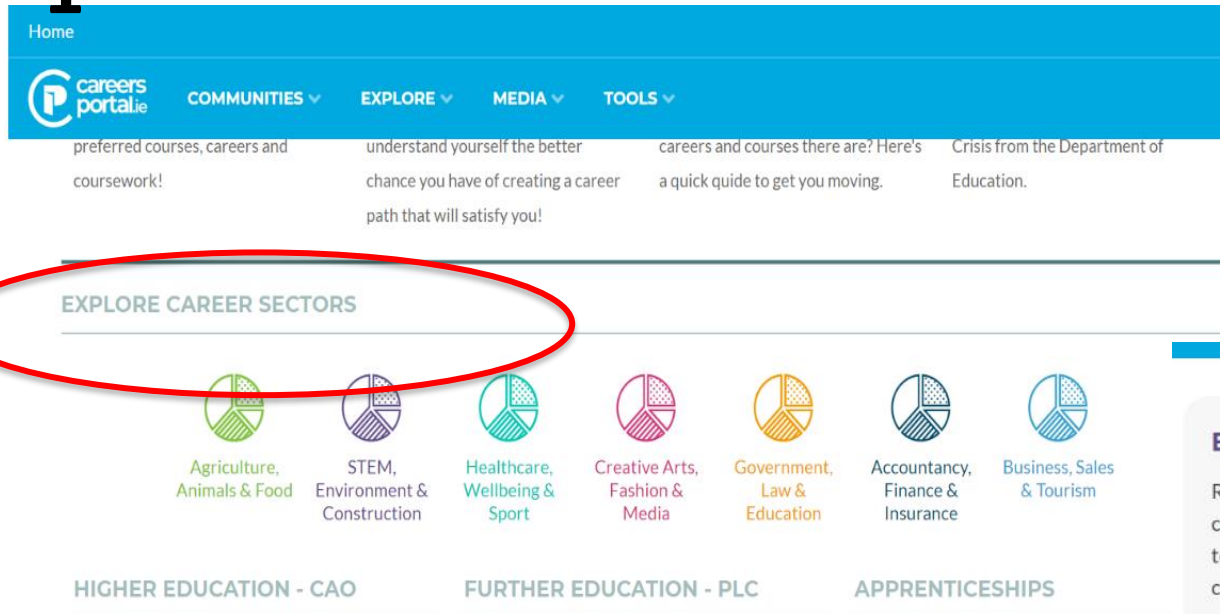
Construction Studies   **Engineering**   **Design & Comm Graphics**

Technology

Click on Guide to Choosing Subjects. This will give you good advice, particularly about courses that require a Third Language, Science subjects and HL Maths etc.

Research Courses – www.careersportal.ie

1

Home

careers portal.ie   COMMUNITIES ⌄   EXPLORE ⌄   MEDIA ⌄   TOOLS ⌄

preferred courses, careers and coursework!   understand yourself the better chance you have of creating a career path that will satisfy you!   careers and courses there are? Here's a quick guide to get you moving.   Crisis from the Department of Education.

EXPLORE CAREER SECTORS

Agriculture, Animals & Food   STEM, Environment & Construction   Healthcare, Wellbeing & Sport   Creative Arts, Fashion & Media   Government, Law & Education   Accountancy, Finance & Insurance   Business, Sales & Tourism

HIGHER EDUCATION - CAO   FURTHER EDUCATION - PLC   APPRENTICESHIPS

2

Electronic Engineer

Researches, designs, develops, and tests electronic components and systems for use in fields such as telecommunications, aerospace guidance and propulsion control, acoustics, or instruments and controls.

ZONE   EARNINGS
1 2 3 4 5   €35k > 65k

1. Explore a specific or general area of interest. Click on the Sector, scroll down and 2. read about each type of career in that sector and earning potential

Research Courses – www.careersportal.ie

Insert a specific or general area of interest – Select the college if you already know of an institution that offers a course in this area. If not, leave the college blank and search all of the institutions.

Research Courses – www.careersportal.ie

Courses are listed by Title, College, Qualification level, Entry CAO points etc.

Research Courses – www.careersportal.ie

By clicking on the course, you can review a series of options such as a brief summary of the course.

Research Entry Requirements
www.careersportal.ie

The Entry Requirements will **identify the CAO points required and specific subjects required** for entry to the course. You should make a note of these subjects and the achievement required – **particularly for Option Subjects.**

CAO Points System

CAO Points	Higher		Your % marks		Ordinary	CAO Points
100		H1	90-100	O1		56
88		H2	80-89	O2		46
77		H3	70-79	O3		37
66		H4	60-69	O4		28
56		H5	50-59	O5		20
46		H6	40-49	O6		12
37		H7	30-39	O7		0
0		H8	0-29	O8		0
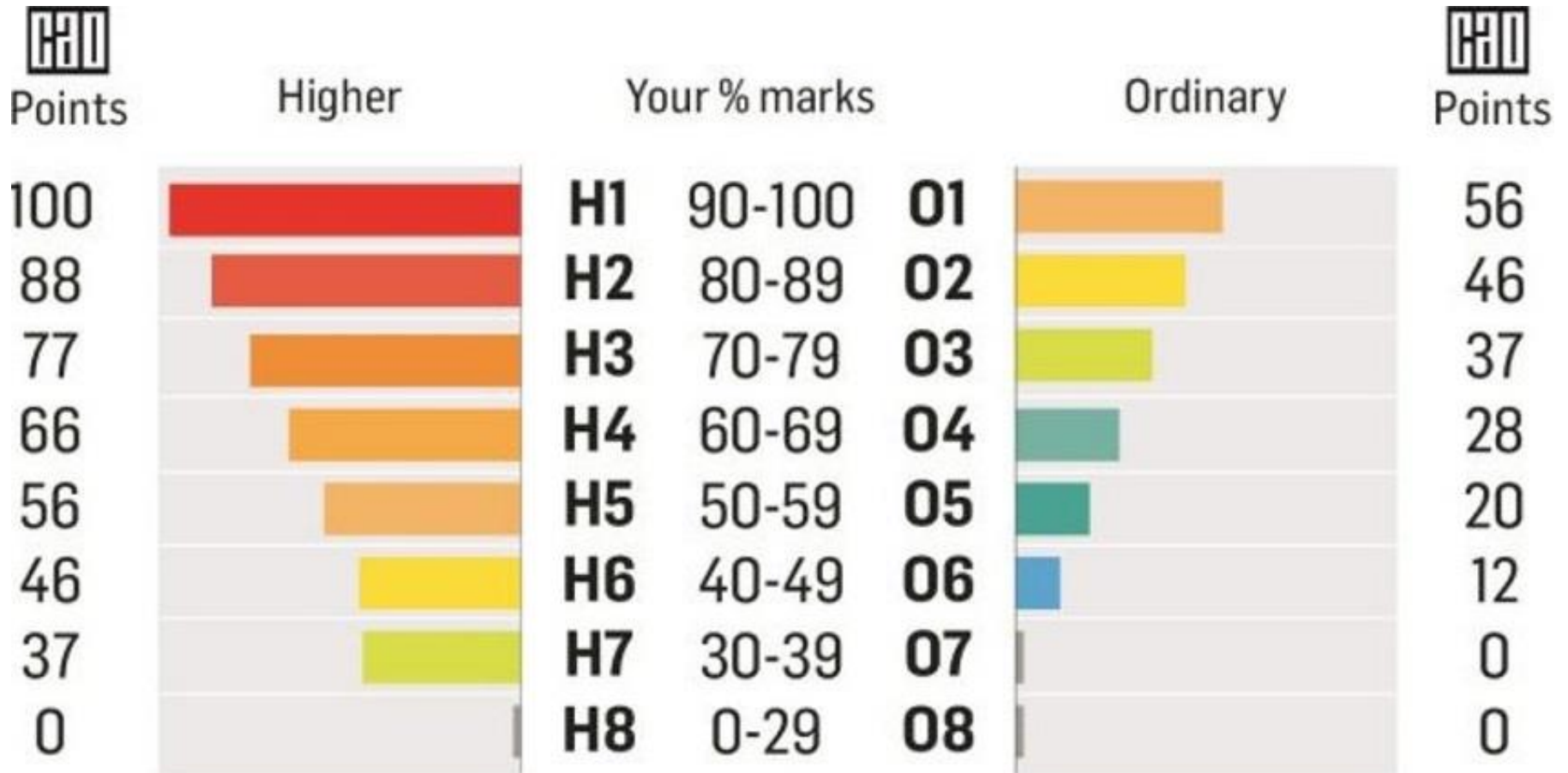
+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

Review Subjects Specifications
www.careersportal.ie
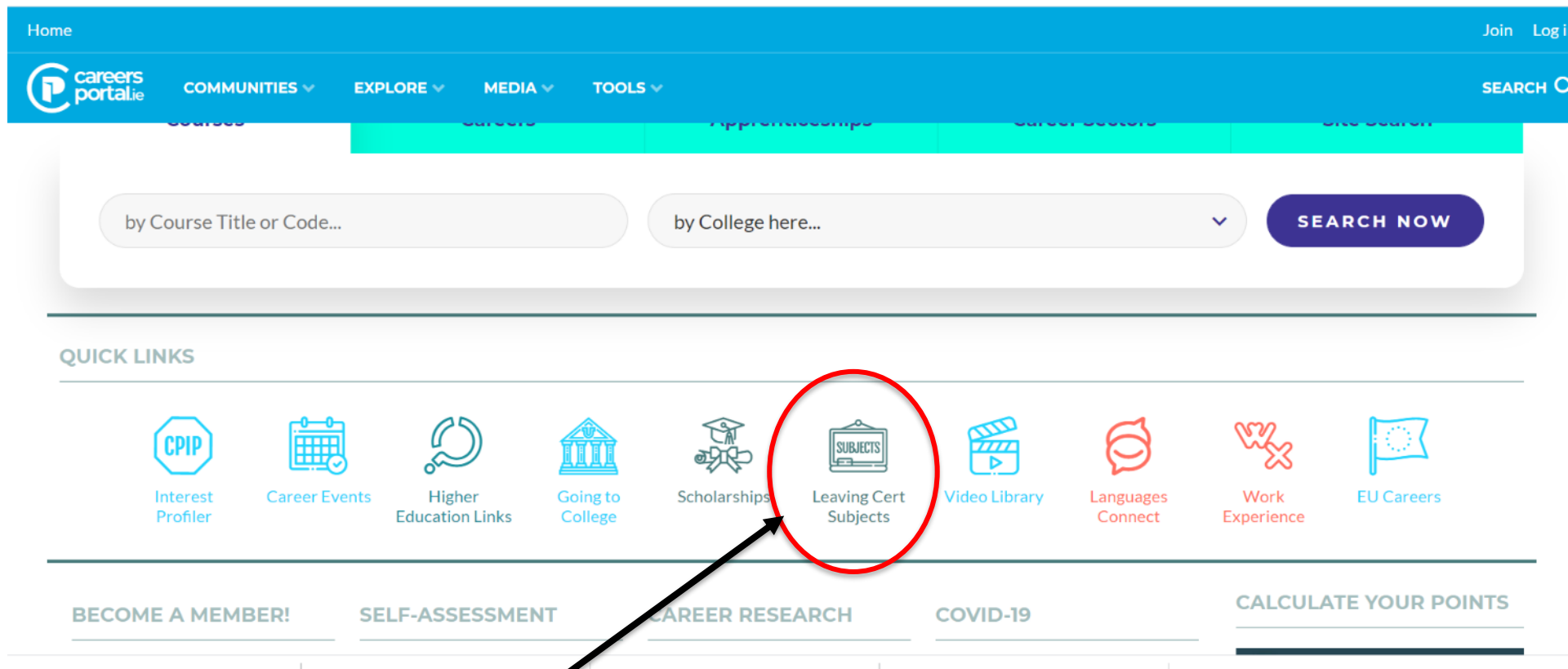
Click on Leaving Cert Subjects

Review Subjects Specifications
www.careersportal.ie

Leaving Cert Subjects

Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

Construction Studies	Engineering	Design & Comm Graphics
Technology		

Scroll down and review each of the Option Subjects that Interest You.

Science Group

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

Agricultural Science	Applied Maths	Biology
Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics
Physics and Chemistry	Computer Science	

Review Subjects Specifications
www.careersportal.ie

Subject Choice
Leaving Certificate
French

Career Zone		NFQ Level	Duration
1 2 3 4 5	QQI	4	2 Years

Summary

Grades Awarded

Course Overview

Course Content

Exam Structure

Career Possibilities

3rd Level Requirements

Course Content

Course content for higher and ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are particularly important at higher level. A grade 'C' at higher level in the Junior Certificate is usually a minimum requirement for higher level French at Leaving Certificate.

Modern languages require students to be proficient in the following skills:

Oral/Speaking
Written
Aural/Listening
Reading

Use the Navigation Pane on the left hand side to review the course content, exam structure, career possibilities etc.

Factors to consider

- If you're unsure where your interests lie, select a broad range of subjects. For Example
  - One Language, One Finance Subject, One Science

    and

  - One from Art/Music, Humanities & Social Science or Practical subject.
- All option subjects carry the **SAME CAO POINTS**
- Try to **BUILD ON SKILLS** learned at Junior Certificate
- **LIKING** a subject, and being **GOOD** at it
- Long-term – for Third Level / Career

Progression from Post-Primary School

- 3rd Level College

- Post-Leaving Certificate College

- Solas – Skill-based training/Apprenticeship

- Specific Job-Related Training – e.g. An Garda Siochana, Teagasc.

- World of Work

HEAR
(CLICK TO ENTER)

DARE
(CLICK TO ENTER)

The Higher Education Access Route

(HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places at reduced points and extra college supports to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds who are resident in the Republic of Ireland.

The Disability Access Route to Education

(DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places at reduced points to school leavers who as a result of having a disability have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.

You can apply to both the HEAR and the DARE schemes if they are relevant to you.

www.accesscollege.ie

Finally...Please Remember

The importance of picking subjects you ENJOY, ARE GOOD AT, and WILL SPEND TIME getting better at.

65% of today's school kids will end up doing jobs that haven't even been invented yet.

Alexis Ringwald
Co-founder and CEO
LearnUp

Next Steps

- **18 – 31 January**
  - Complete your Research
  - Online Guidance Classes for TY Groups & 3rd Years Progressing directly to 5th Year.
- **1 February** - Text sent to Parents to complete Options Selection process
- **5 February** - Final date for inputting Option Subject Preferences