

Frequently asked questions



VOCATIONAL SUBJECT GROUPINGS (VSG's)

Q: What are the Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) for 2016/2017?

A student must have the two vocational subject groupings, either from the 11 specialist groupings or the five service groupings. See VSG table below:

VSG Table

Specialist Groupings
1: Any two of (Construction Studies, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics, Technology)
2: Physics and one of (Construction Studies, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics, Technology)
3: Agricultural Science and one of (Construction Studies, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics, Technology)
4: Agricultural Science and one of (Chemistry, Physics, Physics & Chemistry)
5: Any two of (Home Economics – New Syllabus – Sci & Soc, Agricultural Science, Biology)
6: Home Economics (New Syllabus – Sci & Soc) and Art with Design/Craftwork Option
7: Any two of (Business, Accounting, Economics)
8: Physics and Chemistry
9: Biology and one of (Chemistry, Physics, Physics & Chemistry)
10: Biology and Agricultural Science
11: Art with Design/Craftwork Option and Design and Communication Graphics
Services Groupings
12: One of (Construction Studies, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics, Technology) and One of (Business, Accounting, Economics)
13: One of (Business, Accounting, Economics) and Home Economics (New Syllabus – Sci & Soc)
14: One of (Business, Accounting, Economics) and Agricultural Science
15: One of (Business, Accounting, Economics) and Art with Design/Craftwork Option
16: One of (Business, Accounting, Economics) and Music

Q: Can a student take the necessary VSG subject outside of school in order to qualify for the LCVP?

A: **No**, the Department of Education and Skills has ruled that both subjects from the chosen VSG must be taken **within** the student's school timetable and the two years of the programme.

Q: Can a student who changes his/her subjects during the first year of the Senior Cycle and who now has the required VSG's register as a late entrant to do the LCVP?

A: **No**, Students can only register any changes up to 31 October School returns of year 1 of Senior Cycle for two years.

Q: Does a student who is repeating the Leaving Certificate have to repeat the VSGs in the repeat year?

A: **No**, from once the VSG requirements have been met during the two years of the Senior Cycle it is not necessary to repeat the VSG in the repeat Leaving Certificate year.



CAO Points System

Q: How many points does a pupil get for studying LCVP?

A: The amount of CAO points a pupil who studies LCVP will receive depends on the grade received as follows

Grade	Number of Points
Distinction (80 – 100%)	66
Merit (65 – 79%)	46
Pass (50 – 64%)	28
Unsuccessful (0-49%)	0

Remember the LCVP can be used as a **replacement subject** for points.

IRISH

Q: Must LCVP students repeat Irish in the repeat year?

A: **No**

Q: Are bonus marks awarded for doing Link Modules through Irish?

A: Bonus marks are awarded for the written component of the LCVP Link Modules examination only. Bonus marks are not awarded for presenting the Portfolio in Irish, so there is no advantage in doing this.

Details of the awarding of bonus marks for Irish are set out on the State Examinations Commission website www.examinations.ie

Q: Are students with an exemption from Irish eligible to do LCVP?

A: If a student has been granted an exemption from Irish at junior level this exemption will carry into senior cycle.

Students who have this exemption may do LCVP but they must still comply with the requirement to present a minimum of five subjects in the Leaving Certificate.

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Q: Can a student who has an exemption for Irish get an exemption from the language requirement of the LCVP?

A: An exemption from the modern European language requirement is not automatic even if the student has an exemption form Irish. Remember the school designs a course to meet student's needs and a suitable assessment.

Application for the language exemption must be made by the school to the Department of Education and Skills accompanied by the necessary medical/psychological report.



Q: How is the language component assessed where students are not taking the language at Leaving Certificate level?

A: There is no external assessment – the teacher will assess his/her own student’s progress. However it is a requirement.

Q What European language course do students have to follow if they are not taking a language at Leaving Certificate level?

A: The school has the discretion in this case – there are various options open to students. They can take a language at Junior Certificate level or they can follow one of the FETAC language modules or the language teacher can devise a school programme in the language. Students must take the language class for a minimum of **one** class period per week **or equivalent** over the two years of the programme within school time.

The Programme Requirements for students taking Leaving Certificate Examination is a recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English: The Modern European Languages may be French/German/Spanish or Italian. This is what we would have recommended at in-service.

If a student is not taking a European language for their leaving Certificate, the school has the discretion in this case – there are various options open to students. They can take a language at Junior Certificate level or they can follow one of the FETAC language modules or the language teacher can devise a school programme in the language. Students must take the language class for a minimum of one class period per week or equivalent over the two years of the programme within school time.

Remember a Polish student taking Polish for the Leaving certificate would not qualify as a recognised Modern European Language, as Polish is their native language, likewise with a number of Eastern European languages.



PORTFOLIO OF COURSEWORK

Q: Can students present a Plan and a Summary Report on the same topic?

A: **Yes**, students may present a Plan for any topic or portfolio item that also forms part of their completed portfolio. However a good idea is to present a plan on a different event to their summary report.

Q: My students have done an Enterprise Activity but are not choosing to do the long Enterprise Report. Can they do a Summary Report on the Enterprise Activity?

A: **Yes**, students may present a Summary Report on any of the activities they do during their study of the Link Modules provided they are not also presenting another portfolio item on the same activity.

The only exception here is in the case of the Plan. See previous question.

Q: Can a student submit a Summary Report on the Interview if she is not submitting her Recorded Interview as part of her portfolio?

A: **Yes**, see previous questions.

Q: It seems very unfair that students repeating the LCVP cannot repeat the portfolio component of Link Modules. Why, is this when they can submit a repeat portfolio in other subjects for example Construction Studies?

A: The reason for this is that the contents of the portfolio do not change. If students were allowed to repeat the portfolio they could revise and improve the old portfolio items giving them an unfair advantage. In other subjects, like Construction Studies, students are given a different assignment for their portfolio and so we are not comparing like with like.

Q: Can an organisation awaiting voluntary status be used for an item in the portfolio?

A: Yes, as it can be a visit out or a visitor to the classroom. However, in the written paper, if a voluntary organisation is asked, one that is would be best to mention.

Q: Can an ab-initio language module be taken in 6th year for 2 periods a week?

A: Yes it can.

Q: Are the students penalised for going over the word count in the portfolio?

A: Yes. It is important to keep to the guidelines which includes word count.

Q: Can punctuation be left out entirely in a portfolio item without loss of marks?

A: No. In the CV open punctuation can be used consistently but in others punctuation is needed. The importance of consistency within Portfolio items.

Q: In the work experience section of the CV can the details only be about LCVP work experience or can the pupils use a summer job for example.

A: A summer job can be used for the purposes of work experience for the CV only. However, when discussing work placement in other portfolio items and the written paper, it must be your LCVP work placement.



Q: Does a pupil repeating 6th year need to do the recorded interview again or can last year's one be used again?

A: Yes, use last years, it can as long as it is within the two years of the LCVP.

Q: In the CV can the references be written available on request?

A: Yes, however it is best practice to teach what a referee is and how you contact them prior and contact details would be important.

Q: Can a table be used for the exam results in the CV?

A: Yes.

Q: For primary school teaching in the career investigation can the two pathways to entry be two different third level courses?

A: Yes, however they would need to be different in location, points, and subjects covered etc.

