

LCA

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence, which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. LCA contains the following elements: General Education, Vocational Preparation and Vocational Education. The programme is based on Continuous assessment with the final exams accounting for 34% of the overall grade.

Course Objectives

The aim of Leaving Certificate Applied is to prepare students for adult and working life, and to provide students with skills-based learning. The programme allows students to apply the learning experiences gained over the two years of the LCA programme to practical educational tasks at school, in the workplace and in the wider community.

Areas studied within Leaving Certificate Applied

The programme is divided into three main areas:

1. Vocational Preparation.
2. Vocational Education.
3. General Education.

Vocational Preparation:

Work Experience is essential to this element of the programme. Students undertake work placement one day a week during each school term.

Vocational Education:

All students take courses in Mathematical Applications and Introduction to Information and Communications Technology. They also take two specialist courses from the following career related areas. This year they are following two of the following options:

- Childcare
- Graphics and Construction
- Hotel, Catering and Tourism

General Education

Students study the following areas:

- Arts Education: Visual Art
- Gaeilge Chumarsáideach
- Modern Language
- Leisure & Recreation
- Social Education

Students also take two other approved elective courses in the areas of:

- Engineering
- Office & Administration & Customer Care

How is the subject awarded?

Assessment in LCA.

The LCA Programme has 3 Modes of Assessment:

Satisfactory Completion of Modules	62 Credits (31%)
7 Students Tasks	70 Credits (35%)
Final Examination	68 Credits (34%)
Total	200 Credits (100%)

Key Assignments & Tasks as part of Assessment

Students are assessed on a continuous basis over the four sessions with credits being awarded at the end of the session on satisfactory completion of modules. This involves students completing **mandatory Key Assignments** for each course.

Students complete **7 tasks over the two years**. Tasks are anchored in specific courses. A task is a substantial project and is worth 10 credits. Students are interviewed by external examiners

Students have the potential to achieve 66% of their overall marks before completing their final exams.

End of Year Examinations

End of year Examinations take place in June as part of the State Exams. Subjects examined are:

- English and Communication
- Two Vocational Specialisms
- Mathematical Applications
- Language (Gaeilge Chumarsáideach & Modern European Languages)
- Social Education

Oral examinations, as well as written/aural examinations, will be held in the case of all the languages including English and Communications.

Awards.

The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels:

Pass	120-139 Credits (60-69%)
Merit	140-169 Credits (70-84%)
Distinction	170 -200 Credits (85% – 100%)

The LCA Programme involves many workshops, guest speakers and trips as part of the experiential learning. Some of these include:

An induction trip to an adventure centre

Engagement with 'Business in the Community'

A trip to the local library

A trip to a theatre

A communications workshop

A personal safety workshop

A whole-school Christmas Carnival event

A drama workshop

A trip to a careers event

A trip to Newgrange & art galleries

An Irish Language workshop/ a visit from a modern foreign language roadshow

A driving school experience

A trip to IKEA as part of Graphics and Construction studies



5 Mac Gabhann on their Graphics and Construction trip to Ikea.



Our last Christmas Carnival in full swing!



Students taking part in the Irish 'Scéal' workshop.



Students working on their Halloween signs as part of our Wellbeing event.