

Home Economics.



Subject Group: Social

These subjects explore common issues faced by all people living in society. They develop the skills and knowledge used to manage personal resources and guide human behaviour.

The Home Economics syllabus (social and scientific) provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work. The learning experiences in Home Economics develop flexibility and adaptability in students, prepare them for a consumer-oriented society and provide a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism.

The subject is an applied subject combining theory with practice. It is concerned with the management of resources (material and human) to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs of individuals and families. The study of Home Economics emphasises the interdependent relationships that exist between individuals, families and their immediate and distant environments.

Career Possibilities

This subject provides a good foundation in careers including Health, Education, Tourism, Clothing and Design and the Food industry.

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

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 comprising 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) 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.

