



# Senior Cycle - Art

## What is Art?

Philosophy aside, the Art course for Leaving Certificate consists of two main parts. The **practical** side of the course is about developing the student's ability in a range of artistic fields and disciplines. The syllabus permits a huge number of media, from the fine arts such as sculpture, drawing, and painting, to puppet-making, embroidery, calligraphy, metalwork, and pottery.

Students are expected to spend the duration of the course practicing and developing their skills in several of these areas. Unlike the Junior Cert, the practical examination takes place over the course of a week in supervised sessions of up to five hours, during which students are to complete a project (such as a sketch or drawing) and submit it for evaluation.

The art course also features a written examination on **History and Appreciation** of Art, which counts for **37.5%** of the marks. The exam is divided into three sections, one on Irish art, one on European art, and a final section on artistic appreciation. The course content is extremely broad, and covers everything from prehistoric art to the modern day, but students are free to focus their studies on a few narrow areas of interest such as renaissance or Celtic art. Diagrams and illustrative sketches are encouraged in the exam.

## Breakdown of marks for various components of Leaving Cert Exam

History and Appreciation of Art :	37.5%
Craft Exam (e.g. Lino printing/Posters):	25%
Still Life or Imaginative Composition:	25%
Life Sketching:	12.5%

Note that the Leaving Cert Art course has **nothing** to do with the portfolio submissions which art and design colleges often require. The course does not aim to build a portfolio, and all marks are given for work done on the day. However, it is common to take Art while preparing a portfolio, and much of the practice work done in class can be included.

## What kind of student might Art suit?

- Students who have shown an aptitude for art, such as by getting high grades in Junior Cert Art.
- Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, or Advertising.
- Students who are weak in other areas such as languages or mathematics may find it easier to achieve points in Art.
- Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects, or to reduce pressure on themselves in June by having a subject with exams in April/May.

## **Career Possibilities**

Fine Art, Design (Graphic, Fashion, Interior, Product, Industrial, Web, costume, Stage and Set ), Art Teaching, Filmmaking/TV production, Animation, Advertising, special effects, Art Therapy, Media Studies, Photography, Craftsperson, Art conservation, Community Art, Architecture, Book Illustration, Make up artist and many more!

## **Third Level Entry Requirements**

For most level art and design courses, a portfolio is required as well as the Leaving Cert. **Note:** Each college has its own **date for submission of a portfolio** and you will not be notified by the college or the CAO, you will need to research the deadline yourself. Portfolios take a lot of time to complete and so some students take night classes, summer courses to complete them. There are also a number of portfolio preparation courses offered through PLC colleges.