

Classroom Based Assessments (contd.)

CBA's will be undertaken during a defined time period within normal class contact time and to a national timetable. Students will complete one CBA in second year and one in third year.

Once the second CBA is completed students in third year will complete a written **Assessment Task**. This task, set by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), is undertaken during normal class time and will be sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for marking. This Assessment Task will be worth 10% of the overall mark in the case of most subjects. At the end of third year, students will sit the final SEC examination in June. CBA's will be reported on in the JCPA using the following descriptors:-

- Exceptional
- Above Expectations
- In Line with Expectations
- Yet to Meet Expectations

Short Courses

Schools may offer short courses on their junior cycle programme. A short course is designed for approximately 100 hours of student engagement across two or three years of the junior cycle. Short courses have been made available by the NCCA in Coding, Chinese Language and Culture, Digital Media Literacy, Artistic Performance, Philosophy, Civic, Social and Political Education, Physical Education and Social Personal and Health Education (including Relationship and Sexuality Education). Schools may also develop their own short courses to meet their students' needs.

Other Learning Experiences

Students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of other learning experiences as part of their junior cycle programme and these can be recorded on the JCPA. Other learning experiences play a critical role in ensuring that students are provided with a broad and balanced educational experience. These learning experiences could include student engagement in a science fair, a musical performance or a debating competition.



They could also include extracurricular activities, such as:

- membership of the school student council or school clubs and societies
- participation in school sporting activities

Reporting in Junior Cycle

A new reporting structure at junior cycle will contribute to the personal and educational development of students. It will support and underpin ongoing learning and assessment.

Reporting will:

- Provide information to parents about their son's or daughter's achievement and progress in school
- Support students in their learning by suggesting next steps or providing feedback to help students' self-evaluation

Student Wellbeing

Your child's wellbeing is of central importance to his/her educational success and overall happiness. As a result Wellbeing will become a core part of your child's junior cycle experience. This area of learning includes, amongst others, Physical Education, Civic, Social and Political Education, Social, Personal and Health Education (including Relationship and Sexuality Education) and Guidance.

Level 2 Learning Programmes

There is a new junior cycle pathway for students with particular special educational needs called Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs).

These are successfully taking place in special schools and are available for some students in mainstream post-primary schools also. Students completing this programme will have their results reported on the JCPA.

For further information on the new Junior Cycle visit:-

www.curriculumonline.ie for subject and short course specifications and information regarding assessment

www.jct.ie for teacher CPD information and general information regarding the new junior cycle



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Junior Cycle Information for Parents of Post-Primary Students

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
Junior CYCLE
for teachers



Junior Cycle: A broad education for your child

The new junior cycle will place the student at the centre of the learning process. It allows for new ways of learning and a broader range of skills to be properly assessed. This leaflet aims to inform parents of post-primary school students about the key changes underway.

Principles, Key Skills and Statements of Learning

Underpinning the new junior cycle are a set of principles, key skills and statements of learning. These will ensure that your child receives a rich educational experience that has both breadth and depth. Your child will have access to a varied curriculum of knowledge, skills and values.

Eight principles underpin the framework for Junior Cycle. These inform the planning for, as well as the development and implementation of, junior cycle programmes in all schools. The eight principles of Junior Cycle are *Learning to Learn, Choice and Flexibility, Quality, Creativity and Innovation, Engagement and Participation, Continuity and Development, Inclusive Education and Wellbeing.*

Eight key skills permeate across the entire curriculum



Through engaging with the key skills students will:

- be more actively engaged with learning
- take greater ownership of their learning
- have a critical engagement with digital technology
- be encouraged to problem solve and think creatively

The twenty-four statements of learning describe what your child should know, understand and value having participated in junior cycle. Schools will ensure that all statements of learning feature in the programme offered to their junior cycle students.

How student achievement at Junior Cycle will be assessed

The release of the Junior Certificate results by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) in September 2016 marked the end of an era. In the future, junior cycle students will receive a new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will reflect a much wider range of your child's achievements over the three years of junior cycle. The JCPA will report on a number of areas, including:-

1. Subjects
2. Classroom Based Assessments
3. Short courses
4. Other Learning Experiences

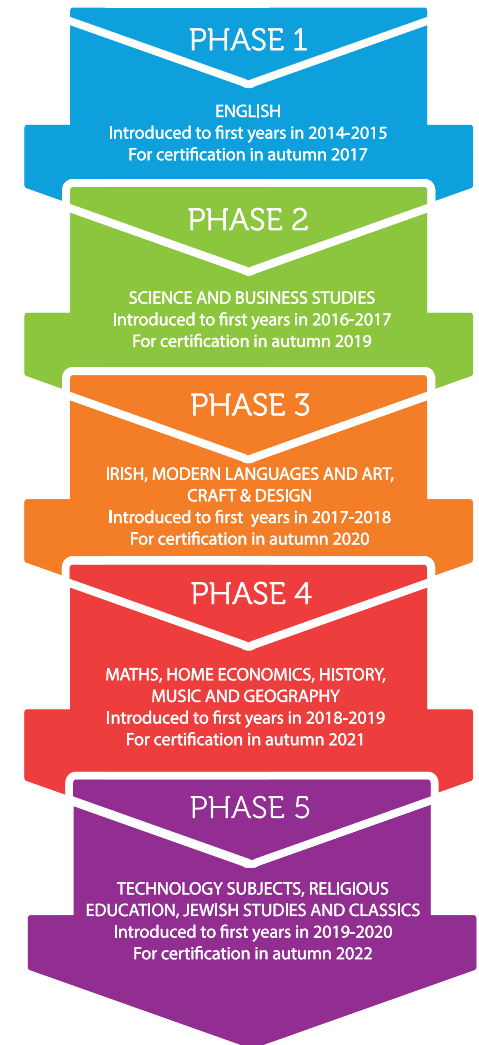
Subjects

Schools will be able to choose from a total of 21 different subjects for inclusion on their junior cycle programme. All subjects are being revised and each one will have its own specification replacing what was previously known as a syllabus. Each specification describes the learning that takes place as part of the student's study of a subject in junior cycle. By 2019 all new subject specifications will have been introduced. Students can study a maximum of 10 subjects for the JCPA, and if their school offers short courses they can study 9 subjects plus 2 short courses or 8 subjects plus 4 short courses for certification purposes.

The state examination that students sit in their subject at the end of their junior cycle will also be graded differently. Instead of A, B, C, D, E, F and NG the following descriptors will now be used:

Distinction	90	to	100	%
Higher Merit	75	to	89	%
Merit	55	to	74	%
Achieved	40	to	54	%
Partially Achieved (not graded)	20	to	39	%
	0	to	19	%

New subject specifications are being implemented in schools on a phased basis



Classroom Based Assessments

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination, for example, their verbal communication and investigation skills. CBAs will be undertaken in subjects and short courses and will be facilitated by the classroom teacher.