

Leaving Certificate Applied

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

It is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing learners for adult and working life.

It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.

It offers learners specific opportunity to prepare for and progress to further education and training.

Rationale for Leaving Certificate Applied

- Prepares learners for the demanding transition to adult and **working life**.
- Recognises **talents of all learners** - programme responsive to aptitudes, abilities, needs and interests.
- Provides opportunity to develop in terms of responsibility, **self-esteem** and self-knowledge.
- Develops **communication** and **decision making** skills.
- Helps learners achieve a more **independent** and enterprising approach to learning and to life.

Key Underlying Principles

student centred
curriculum

personal and
social
development

integration and
cross curricular
links

team work

literacy &
numeracy
development

active
teaching/learning
methodologies

community links

reflection

Parent Perspective

“The way LCA is structured suits students very well; they work from session to session and don’t have the burden of everything depending on exams at the end of two years. Also, students know where they stand as they get results at the end of each session.”

“Leaving Cert Applied allows for students of different learning styles/strengths to achieve and receive recognition for their learning.”

Smyth, McCoy and Banks (2019, p.45)

Student Perspective

“I like the way that we’re continuously assessed and it’s not all just down to a couple of exams, that we’ve already earned a certain amount of credits before we even go in, because I feel like, if I had done the Leaving Cert [Established], the pressure of it I wouldn’t have been able to handle.”

Smyth, McCoy and Banks (2019, p.69)

Teachers Perspective

“It is a great programme for students who like hands on and they can see they are progressing and achieving as they complete tasks immediately, not after two years of work. Certain subjects have a mix of project, short questions and long questions assessment. This allows everyone to achieve and succeed. It allows students to gain marks before they go into the exam, taking the pressure off.”

“Students who might not have experienced success in JC [junior cycle] do in LCA as a result of its structure and content.”

Smyth, McCoy and Banks (2019, p.19)

Curriculum	
Vocational Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational Preparation & Guidance English & Communications
Vocational Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematical Applications Vocational Specialisms Information Communication Technology
General Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Education Social Education Languages Leisure & Recreation Religious Education Science

LCA Modes of Assessment																
Satisfactory completion of modules + 90% attendance					62 credits	31%										
• Evidence of completion of 4 key assignments for each module																
• One credit per course module in which there is a final exam																
• Two credits per course module in which there is NO final exam																
7 Student tasks @ 10 credits each					70 credits	35%										
<table><tr><td>Vocational Preparation</td><td>Vocational Education (x2)</td><td>General Education</td></tr><tr><td>Contemporary Issue</td><td>Personal Reflection</td><td>Practical Achievement</td></tr></table>							Vocational Preparation	Vocational Education (x2)	General Education	Contemporary Issue	Personal Reflection	Practical Achievement				
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Contemporary Issue	Personal Reflection	Practical Achievement														
Final examinations					68 credits	34%										
<table><tr><td>English & Communication</td><td>Vocational Specialisms (x2)</td><td>Languages (x2)</td><td>Social Education</td><td>Mathematical Applications</td></tr><tr><td>12 credits</td><td>12 credits each</td><td>6 credits each</td><td>10 credits</td><td>10 credits</td></tr></table>							English & Communication	Vocational Specialisms (x2)	Languages (x2)	Social Education	Mathematical Applications	12 credits	12 credits each	6 credits each	10 credits	10 credits
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12 credits	12 credits each	6 credits each	10 credits	10 credits												
Total					200 credits	100%										

LCA Certification

Certificate awarded at 3 levels		
Pass	120 - 139 credits	60-69%
Merit	140 - 169 credits	70-84%
Distinction	170 - 200 credits	85-100%

Students who acquire less than 120 credits or who leave the programme early will receive a **“Record of Experience”**.