

Leaving Certificate Geography

Structure of the Course

There are three core subjects which every student must take:

- 1 Physical environment: volcanoes, earthquakes, rivers, glaciers, sea etc
- 2 Regional geography: study of Ireland, Europe and a sub continental region (e.g. India)
- 3 Geographical investigation: Fieldwork (e.g. Study of a river). This is completed during 6th year and accounts for 20% of the exam mark.

Beyond that, students may choose between economic geography and human environment, which looks at the cultural and social aspects of geography. It covers global economics, multinational corporations, Ireland and the EU, global warming, migration patterns, gender roles, fair trade and deforestation.

Students who are interested in current affairs tend to get a lot out of geography.

A further four optional units for Higher Level candidates give students the chance to choose between geo-ecology, global interdependence, cultural identity and atmospheric (ocean) geography.

You don't need a love of science to enjoy geography, but a good awareness of how we interact with the world helps. There's plenty of map reading and interpretation of photographs and charts involved in the core subjects.

The geography syllabus is one of the most topical on the Leaving Cert menu and will complement a range of study/career paths, from journalism to law to overseas development.