

## Junior Cycle Information



### What will the Junior Cycle do?

The Junior Cycle will allow schools to develop a high quality programme that meets the needs of their students and fits the context, environment and community of the school.

The Framework for Junior Cycle aims to create the conditions where schools, in planning and organising their Junior Cycles, can focus on the learning taking place in classrooms. The Framework is designed to support the kinds of learning experiences that help students connect to and engage positively with learning. Through its breadth and flexibility it encourages innovation and supports creative learning in the classroom.

In moving away from a focus on a terminal centrally provided examination, it re-positions assessment where research tells us it matters most – in classrooms. It also facilitates schools in ensuring that literacy, numeracy and key skills are embedded in the learning taking place.

[https://youtu.be/U8E\\_79B9Klw](https://youtu.be/U8E_79B9Klw)

### Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)

CBAs will be undertaken during a defined time period within normal class contact time. Students will complete one CBA in second year and one in third year, with the exception of Irish which will see both CBAs take place in 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. CBAs will be reported on in the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) using the following descriptors: Exceptional, Above Expectations, In Line with Expectations & Yet to Meet Expectations

## Subjects

Each Subject specification describes the learning that takes place as part of the student's study of a subject in junior cycle. 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. Please find information regarding each subject below.

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:

Junior Cycle Grade Descriptors	
Percentage	Descriptor
≥ 90 to 100	Distinction
≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit
≥ 55 and < 75	Merit
≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
≥ 0 and < 20	No Grade (NG)

\* ≥ *Greater than or equal to*  
\* < *Less than*

## 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.

## How student achievement at Junior Cycle will be assessed

Junior Cycle students will receive a 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. Classroom Based Assessments for each subject
2. Short courses
3. Other Areas of Learning
4. Other Areas of Wellbeing

## **Level 2 Learning Programme (L2LP)**

### **What are Level 2 Learning Programmes and who are they meant for?**

It is designed for students with particular special educational needs who currently can't access the Junior Certificate and will be aligned to Level 2. The Level 2 Learning Programme is part of the new Junior Cycle reform and targets those students who are unable to access the Level 3 Programme. The school will identify these students throughout 1st Year.

It is envisaged that as far as possible the students under consideration here, who are in mainstream settings, will undertake their L2LPs in mainstream classes. Of course, there may be occasions when small group or one-to-one teaching is more appropriate.

Occasionally there may be a student undertaking L2LPs for whom recognition of learning in one or two subjects at Level 3 is also accessible.

There are 5 key areas of learning known as Priority Learning Units. Each Unit is broken down into Elements and these elements are further broken down into Learning Outcomes. The Learning Units are interconnected, overlap and interlink. Each unit focuses on developing the social, personal and pre-vocational skills that prepare students for further study, for work and for life.

A portfolio of evidence has to be created. Gathering evidence can be worksheets, audio, photograph, video, artefacts etc. Grading is on the basis of ACHIEVED.

<https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/l2lps/jc-l2lp-2.pdf>

### **Subject Information Leaflets**

Maths - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/maths/maths-information-leaflet-pdf-1.pdf>

English - <https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/publications/english-information-leaflet.pdf>

Gaeilge - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/gaeilge/bileog-eolais-don-ghaeilge.pdf>

History - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/history/history-quick-referene-guide.pdf>

Geography - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/geography/geography-information-leaflet-1.pdf>

Visual Art - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/art/junior-cycle-visual-art-information-leaflet-2017.pdf>

Business Studies - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/business/information-leaflet.pdf>

Home Economics - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/economics/home-economics-subject-information-leaflet.pdf>

Graphics - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/technologies/graphics-information-leaflet-1.pdf>

Modern Foreign Languages - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/languages/mfl-information-leaflet.pdf>

Engineering - <https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/publications/engineering-information-leaflet.pdf>

Science - <https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/science/introduction-to-the-jc-science-specification.pdf>

Music - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B3PPdRcTgBc\\_Vv6JuDoYvf-BMDsxqtUR/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B3PPdRcTgBc_Vv6JuDoYvf-BMDsxqtUR/view)

Wood Technology - <https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/publications/wood-technology-information-leaflet.pdf>

Wellbeing - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/wellbeing/wellbeing-information-leaflet-1.pdf>

### **Other Useful Links**

Information for Parents - <https://jct.ie/perch/resources/leadership/jc-info-parents-primary-092019.pdf>

Statements of Learning - <https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/leadership/statements-of-learning-poster-v2-dec-11.pdf>