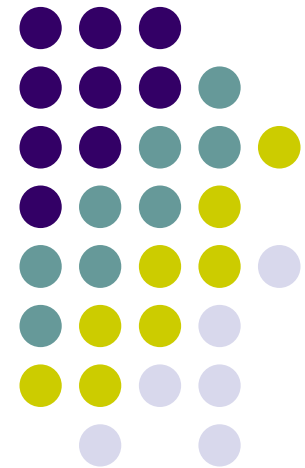


3rd Year Subject Choice

Ms. Lynch





Content

- What is subject choice?
- Making your choice
- Things to consider
- Core Subjects
- Subjects offered
- The Process
- Subjects explained
- Conclusion



What is subject choice?

- Subject choice involves the choosing of subjects for your Leaving Certificate Examination
- It is a very important process that can have implications for future career choices after leaving school
- It needs your time and your attention



Making the choice?

Become aware of similarities and differences in the content, style and approach of the different subjects.

- Do YOU like learning things off by heart?
(Biology/Geography/Ag Science/Business/French)
- Do YOU prefer problem solving?
(Chemistry/Physics/Accounting/Design)
- Do YOU like doing research?
(History/Home Economics)
- Do YOU prefer more practical tasks?
(Metalwork/Woodwork/Design/Art/Music/French)

Things to consider.....



- What subjects am I good at now?
- Ask present teachers about your abilities
- Ask the teachers of the subjects about what is needed to succeed in the subject
- What are your aptitudes/strengths
- Are you neat and tidy in your approach to work tasks?
- Do you like to be challenged?
- Do you like reading/writing?
- Do you like studying abstract concepts and ideas?
- What have other people commented on that you are good at?



Contd...

- What subjects are you best at?
- What subjects do you like?
- It may be necessary to choose a particular subject for a particular career
(Ask why you need this subject
Chemistry – Veterinary/Dietician)
- If the subject is not an automatic choice for you is the career a good choice?
- You may change your career path many times during the Leaving Certificate!!!!!!



Contd..

- Unsure of your career path keep your choice of subjects wide
- See Career Category handout for details on useful subjects for certain career areas

Core Subjects



- Irish
- English
- Maths

These subjects must be done by everyone.

Exception: If you have an official exemption from Irish now it follows through to Leaving Cert and on to 3rd level.

Subjects on Offer



- Construction
- Engineering
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Home Economics
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Agricultural Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Music
- Art
- Accounting
- Business

The Process

1ST – Order of Preference

- Construction
- Engineering
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Home Economics
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Agricultural Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Music
- Art
- Accounting
- Business

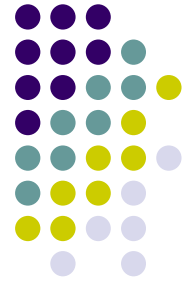
You will be asked to number the subjects in the order that you most want them.

The lines offered are created based on these initial responses.

Make your decisions after due consideration and research

Teacher allocation and number of classes per subject are decided at this point

Another class cannot be suddenly created in Sept because some did not put in enough thought NOW!!!



The Process



2nd – Choosing subjects in lines

- Construction
- Engineering
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Home Economics
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Agricultural Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Music
- Art
- Accounting
- Business

When your initially responses are collated 4 SUBJECT LINES are created as you see on Leaving Cert/4th year timetables

You will then be asked to pick one subject on each line

Make sure to fill in details at the bottom if some of the lines offer you little option in relation to your initial preferences

Example of possible subject lines based on fictional student replies



- | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| 1) Engineering | Home Economics | Art | Business | Music |
| 2) Physics | Construction | French | History | Accounting |
| 3) Biology | Geography | Ag. Science | Home Economics | |
| 4) Design/Graphics | French | Chemistry | Construction | |

2 classes in any subject will only be available if student numbers are sufficient and teachers are available

St. Clare's strive to make as many subjects available to students as possible and to give students the subjects they desire. However recent cutbacks, increased student numbers, decreased teacher allocation mean that this is not always possible,

Note



2 classes in any subject will only be available if student numbers are sufficient and teachers are available

St. Clare's strive to make as many subjects available to students as possible and to give students the subjects they desire. However recent cutbacks, increased student numbers, decreased teacher allocation mean that this is not always possible.

Be proactive, decisive and prompt in your subject choice



Accounting

- Needs to enjoy bookkeeping
- Get satisfaction when accounts balance
- Enjoy working with numbers
- Be organised
- Good attention to detail
- Having done JC Business an advantage but not essential
- 20% OL get an A in Accounting
- As opposed to 1.3% in OL HE OR 3.8% in OL Geography
- Be prepared to problem solve
- Tasks must be completed fully

Agricultural Science

- One of the four Science Subjects
- Practical = 25%
- Locality and rural way of life
- Basic knowledge of farming a help but not essential if prepared to work
- Relevant to the real world
- Easy to relate content to the real life
- Science of Agriculture not agriculture
- Helps if you likes Science at Junior Cert level.





Why study Art?

- If you have natural ability you need not ask this question as your talent is something that needs to be nurtured and developed. However, for others art is still a viable and worthwhile subject choice leading to careers in areas as diverse as:

Graphic design

Interior design

Architecture

Software design Fashion design

Gallery curator

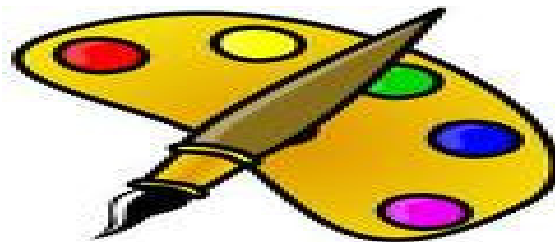
Make-up artistry

Advertising

Film production

Engineering Environmental planning

and even primary school teaching.





Subject on offer: Art

- The art exam at Leaving Cert is broken into two sections as follows:

60% practical work (i.e. drawing, painting, crafts)

40% art history and appreciation

- Art to Junior Cert is an advantage but not mandatory, what's most important is to have a genuine interest in the subject





Subject on offer: Art

- Anyone considering Art at Leaving Cert level should know it requires two vital ingredients – **INTEREST** and **HARD WORK!** Talent is desirable but not strictly necessary





Biology

- One of the Science Group Subjects
- Very long course
- Perceived to be the easiest Science subject but it is not
- Must like memorising material
- Drawing ability a help
- Difficult to gain an “A”

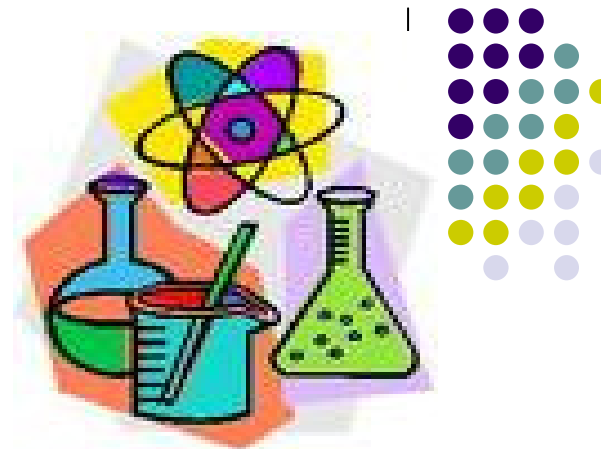


Business



- One of Business/Accounting subjects
- Study of the environment in which a business operates
- Need to like memorising material
- It is not essential for access into any business courses but certainly helps if you are considering pursuing it at 3rd level
- If a student is good at expressing themselves on paper and knows the course it will be a huge advantage and high grades can be achieved
- A very theoretical subject with very useful applications

Chemistry



- One of the Science subjects
- It is a challenging Science subject
- It is essential for entry into some 3rd level courses e.g veterinary, dietician, medicine
- Formulae now found in log tables so not as much learning off as before
- A reasonable ability at Maths is necessary
- Huge job opportunities for Chemistry graduates
- Useful foundation for many 3rd level courses in the Engineering and Science areas as well as in the food industries.

Construction



- Interest in general construction. You will be learning every aspect about the house you live in from foundation to walls, doors, roof, etc.....
- Interest in drawing. Drawing a house to scale
- Topics: Energy efficiency, carbon footprint, sustainable dev
- Junior cert tech and woodwork not essential but are a help
- 25% project of your choice e.g table/model of house etc
- 50% theory and drawing details
- 25% day practical exam in woodwork
- Careers Cabinet making/civil engineering/health and safety/architecture/structural engineering



Design and Communication Graphics



- 40% practical
- 60% written exam

Interest in

Computers

How objects work/are designed

Problem solving

Analysis of Geometric Shapes

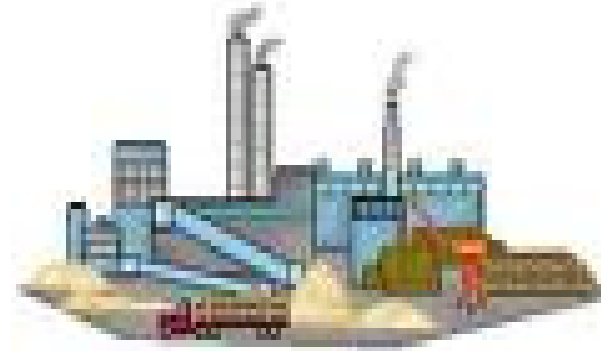
Good at

Hand/eye co-ordination

Spatial relations

Attention to detail/neat/accurate

Engineering – Materials and Technology



- 25% Project
- 25% Practical exam
- 50% Theory
- Excellent introduction to any 3rd level course in Engineering/design/materials/science/manufacturing
- Examines materials both metals and non-metals and their properties
- Examines how ordinary everyday items are manufactured and how complex components are assembled
- This theory is then applied in the workshop in the projects the students design and make

FRENCH

Why study French at Leaving Certificate?

➤ French is the official language of over 30 countries across the world including countries such as Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Morocco, Tunisia, Vietnam and of course France.

➤ “The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) published the 2011” in its annual review of employment trends and demand for skills in Ireland found that “Third level education, experience and languages are the most frequently mentioned requirements from prospective employers.”

➤ French is the dominant working language at
the European Court of Justice
the European Tribunal of First Instance
the Press Room at the European Commission in Brussels,
Belgium





- **French, along with English, is the official working language of**
 - **the United Nations**
 - **UNESCO** [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#)
 - **NATO**
 - **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**
 - **the International Olympic Committee**
 - **the Council of Europe**
 - **the European Community**
 - **the International Red Cross**

- **The Minister Mr Ruairi Quinn in his Dáil response May 25th 2011 said he was “aware of the importance of promoting competence in a range of languages to support business and employment opportunities in Ireland and abroad.**

- **ERASMUS - The European Union-funded programme allows third-level students complete part of their study or training abroad to improve their language skills and build up a network of contacts in other countries. In addition students may be eligible to avail of an ERASMUS grant.**

French in St. Clare's Comprehensive



- **Students need to have a good foundation in Junior Certificate French in order to do or get honours in the Leaving Certificate.**
- **A continental language is necessary for some colleges check the Master Chart.**
- **Although 45% of marks in the Leaving Certificate exam go between oral and aural exams, students of French in St. Clare's Comprehensive have managed to achieve a high honour without spending time in France or other French speaking country. However any time spent in a French speaking country is beneficial but certainly not necessary.**
- **Some colleges require students to have studied French to honours level if a student wants to study it further.**
- **Students must be committed to working consistently throughout the two years of the Leaving Certificate course in order to develop their skills in speaking, reading, listening and writing. 'You learn something every day if you pay attention.' ~Ray LeBlond.**
- **Cultural understanding- Speaking a new language helps you to get to know another people and culture, as language and culture go hand in hand. Because language simultaneously defines and is defined by the world around us, learning another language opens one's mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world.**
- **An obvious reason to learn a new language is to be able to communicate with the people who speak it. This includes both the people you meet when traveling as well as people in your own community.**

Geography



- A very interesting subject as it is so varied.
- Students must complete a field trip and this accounts for 20% of the total exam.
- It involves a mixture of learning, researching, drawing, map reading and reading. Great variety of learning styles
- It is not essential for any course but can be counted as a Science subject in a limited number of courses.
- An “A” is achievable for a good student.



Why study History?

- History gives students the skills to explore and analyse many of the major developments that have shaped our current world.
- Studying history provides a sound academic and practical basis for a variety of careers.
- It gives students skills of analysis, problem solving and independent thinking which are essential at third level.
- History students acquire a broad perspective that gives them the range and flexibility required in many work situations – law, public administration, research and development and teaching.

Why study History?



- Studying history improves basic writing, speaking and analytical skills which are essential requirements for work in both the public and private sector.
- History students develop research skills along with the ability to find and evaluate sources of information and the means to identify and evaluate diverse
- It is beneficial if the student has a good command of English – 3 essay style answers are required in the exam.
- A document based question provides students with the opportunity to examine political cartoons, speeches, news reports and evaluate their contribution to a certain topic.

Why study History?



- History helps us understand that one person can really make a difference to a country or to the world e.g. Rosa Parks, Alexander Graham Bell.
- Studying history makes students asks questions and stimulates the intelligent mind.
- Students learn that people can really bring about change through mass movements e.g. The Civil Rights Movement, The Suffragettes.
- The new course has many interesting features.
- The project is worth 20% and is pre-submitted, the student chooses a topic of historical significance for independent research. The average mark nationally for the project is 89%. Research is conducted on the internet and by a visit to the library.
-



Home Economics

- Very relevant to today's world and so material is accessible
- Learn about social skills
- Optional textiles section
- Study interior design
- Opportunity to create your own menus
- Nutrition and diets etc...
- Journal = 20% of final exam

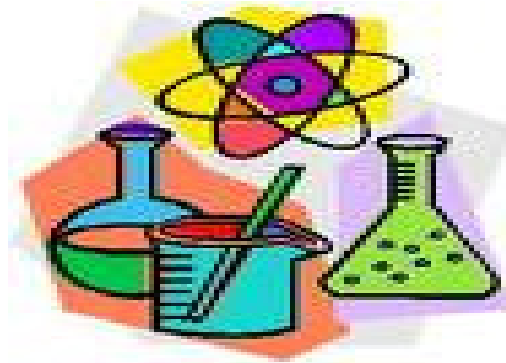


Music

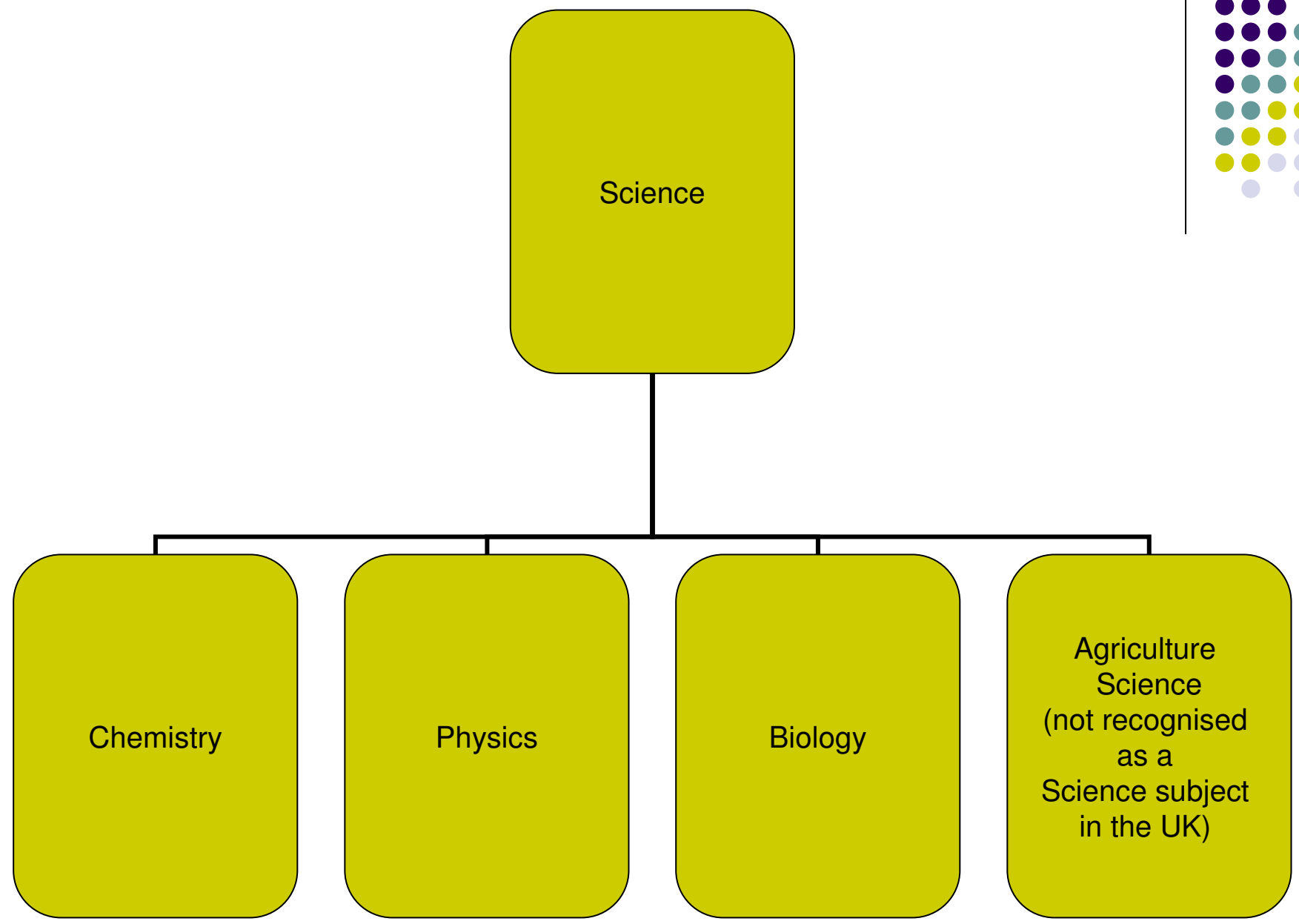


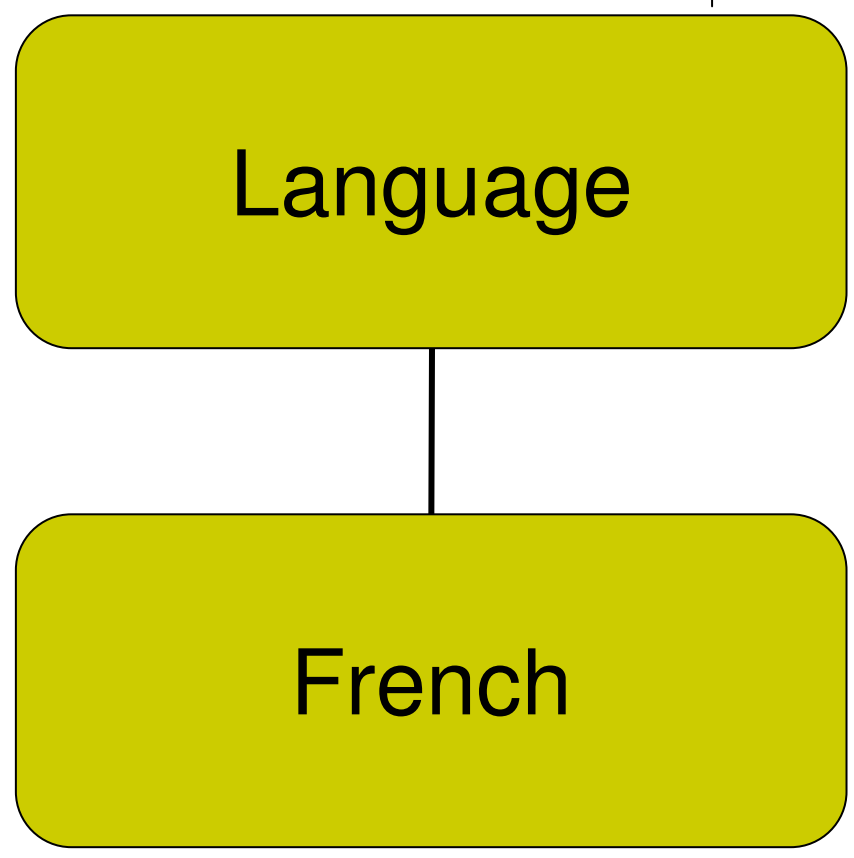
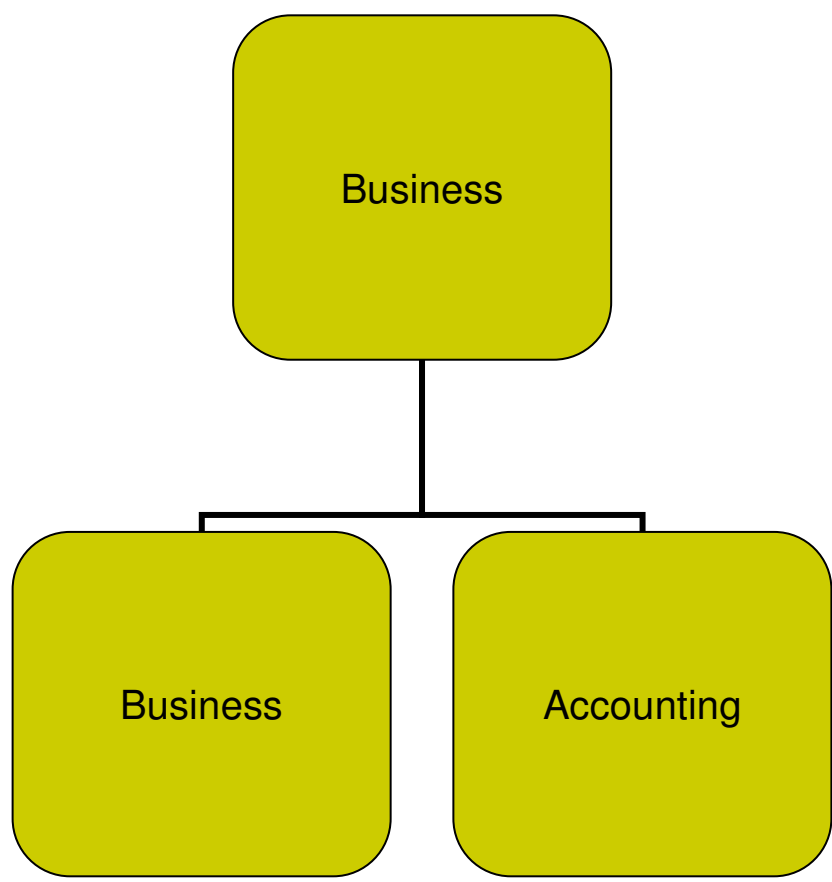
- 3 Components
 - a) Composing
 - b) Listening
 - c) Practical
- Each of these accounts for 25%
- The remaining 25% can be taken from any of the above i.e the practical element can be 50%
- For the practical, students must present one or two of the following activities
 - ✚ Singing solo/group
 - ✚ Playing an instrument
 - ✚ Music technology

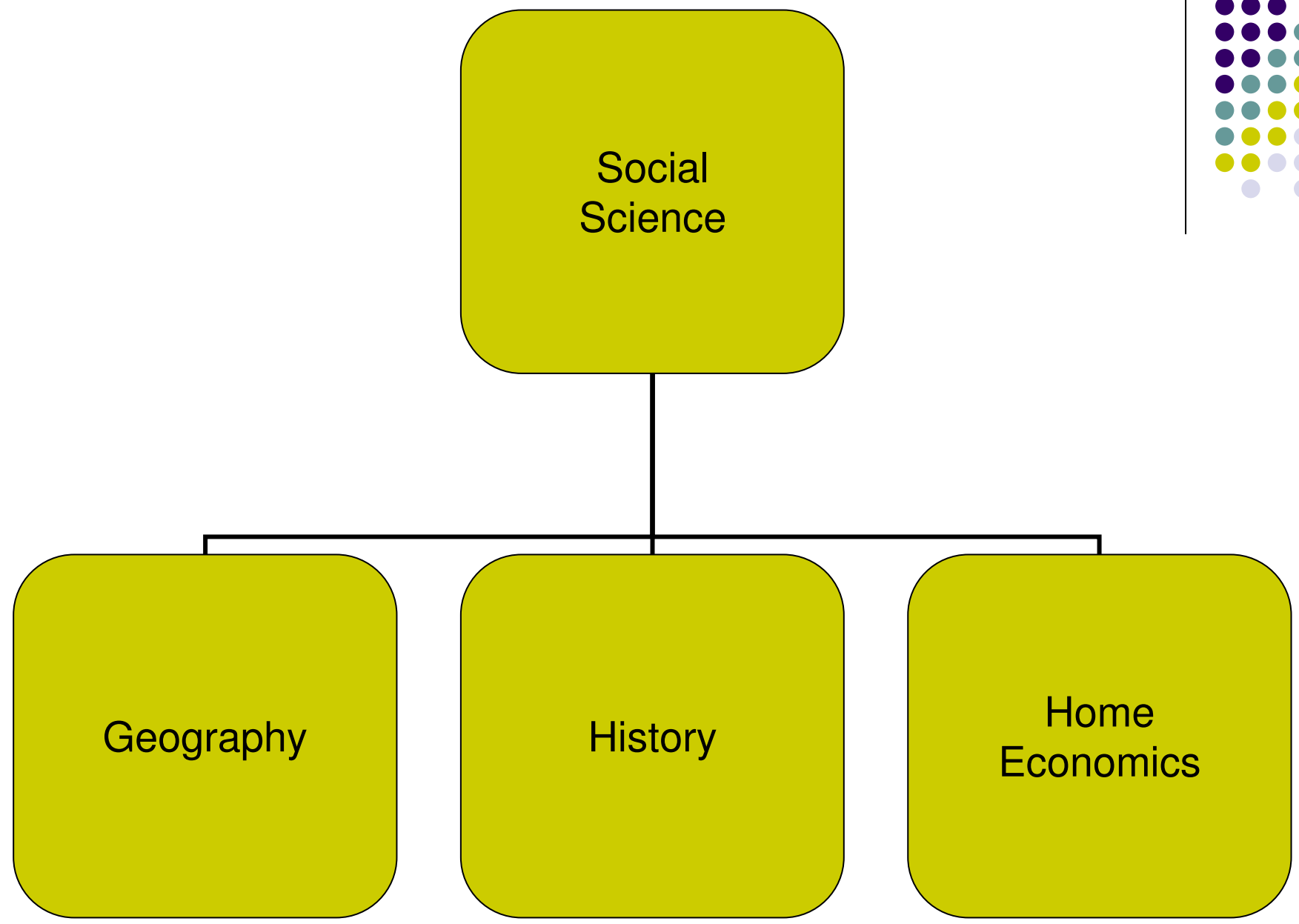
Physics



- One of the Science Subjects
- Some of the concepts of Physics are difficult to grasp at first but a dedicated student will be rewarded
- A lot of Maths – don't need honours Maths but it does help and makes the subject easier
- Requires good problem solving skills
- Large quantity of practical work but no marks towards Exam yet
- Huge opportunities for Physics graduates





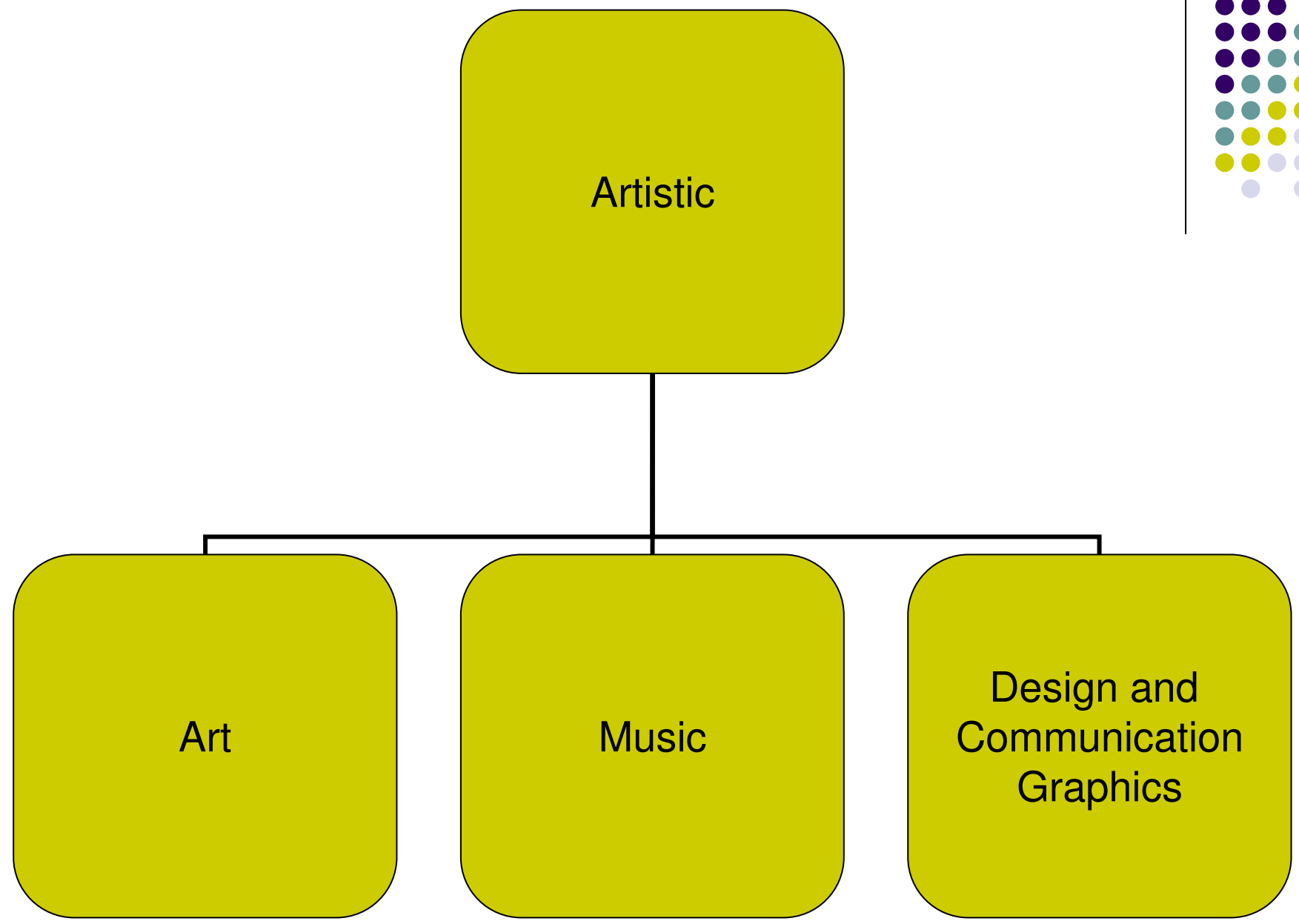


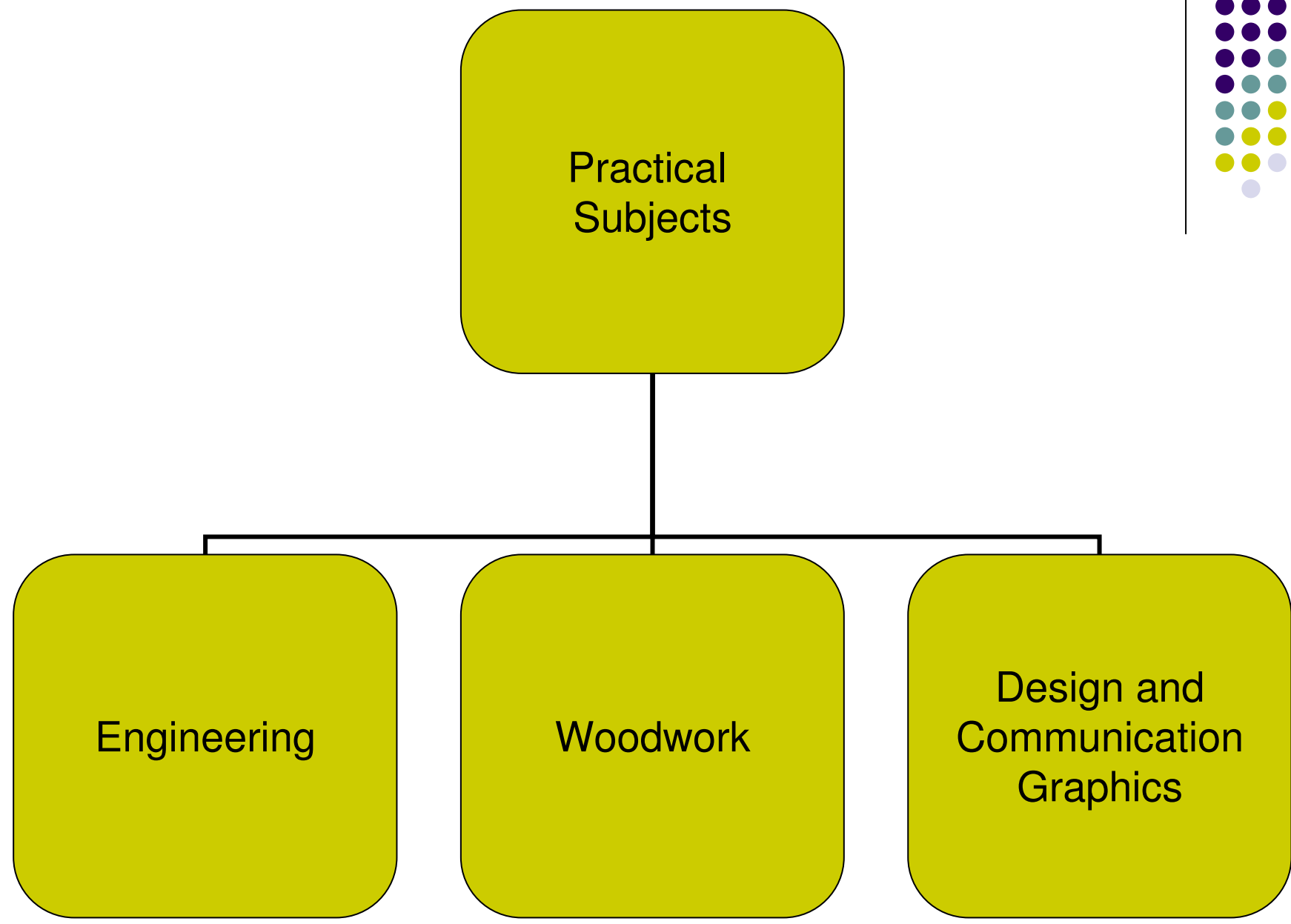
Social
Science

Geography

History

Home
Economics







Conclusion

- These are important decisions
- It is YOU that will have to sit the Leaving Certificate Exam, What papers do you want to be completing?????
- YOU must be active in your research
- Ask questions???????????
- It is time to think where you want to go in the future. You don't need to know your absolute destination but in what direction you are headed.



- **YOUR FUTURE**
- **YOUR EXAMS**
- **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**
- **YOUR CHOICE**