

Technology



Technology is mainly about using a design process to solve technological problems. In Technology, you will use the design process to work through a task or problem in order to arrive at a solution, which is usually in the form of an artefact or finished product. You will learn how to safely use the tools, materials and equipment necessary to make this product.

What will I learn in Technology?

Some of the things you will learn include:

- an understanding and appreciation of design and the design process
- how to use the tools and equipment necessary to complete projects in a safe manner
- an understanding of different materials, their properties and how best to work with these materials, i.e. wood, metals and plastics
- how to use electronic components to build simple circuits for use in tasks and projects e.g. running mechanical toys.



How will I learn Technology in school?

Some of the things you may do with your teacher and your classmates are:

- investigate the role of technology in the world we live in
- use tools and equipment in a safe manner
- learn how to identify a range of different materials and their properties
- use the design process to find a technological solution to a problem
- communicate your ideas using sketches and design drawings
- learn about mechanisms such as gears and how they work.

How can I learn more about Technology outside of school?

Some of the things you may do are:

- watch out for ways in which technology is used in everyday life
- examine simple components and mechanisms to find out how they work
- use the internet to help you understand how different technologies work.

How will I know how I am getting on?

Your teacher will let you know:

- what you have done well
- how you can improve your work.

Other things you may do are:

- see if you can figure out how some simple technological devices work and try to explain to others how they work. This will allow you to see what you understand easily and what you need to work harder at
- compare projects you did in first and second year with recent ones to see how your skills have improved.

What is the Technology Junior Certificate exam like?

There are two parts to the exam:

- coursework - you will design and make a project based on a given design brief (instructions). This is worth 50% if you take Higher level and 60% if you take Ordinary level.
- written exam - you will also complete a written exam which is worth the remaining percentage.

You can take the exam at Higher level or at Ordinary level. When the time comes to decide, your teacher will help you choose the level that suits you best.

Is learning Technology anything like what I did in primary school?

In Junior Cert. Technology you will build upon some of the work you did in Maths in primary school, i.e. in Technology you will be working out problems and reading measurements on drawings. You will also be able to use many of the things you learned in Science in primary school. For example, you will have learned about various materials and where they are used. You will also have designed and made things in order to solve problems. All this learning will be useful in Technology.

Will Technology have anything to do with other subjects I will be studying?

Yes. Technology is closely related to the other three technology subjects; Materials Technology Wood, Metalwork and Technical Graphics. All the technology subjects involve practical skills, drawing skills and theory. Junior Cert. Science and Home Economics also have links with Technology.

How will Technology be useful to me?

Technology will help you to solve many technological problems you may experience in your every day life. This subject teaches you to think about a problem and then use your knowledge and skills to design a solution to that problem. It will also teach you skills in the use of basic tools and equipment. You will also be able to identify many different types of materials and have a basic understanding of electronic circuits and gear systems.



Will Technology be very different after the Junior Certificate?

Leaving Certificate Technology follows on from Junior Certificate Technology and has been introduced in some schools. It builds on many of the topics covered in junior cycle and deals with them in a much more detailed way. Project work is also part of these examinations at Leaving Certificate level



For more information about the Technology course
www.curriculumonline.ie

For more information about the Junior Certificate exam

www.examinations.ie

For more information about technology
www.scoilnet.ie

www.technologystudent.com

This fact sheet and other fact sheets are available to download from www.ncca.ie

NCCA  National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
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