

Construction Studies



Aims of Course

Construction Studies introduces students to the knowledge and skills associated with construction technology and construction materials and practices. This is achieved through theoretical study and integrated practical projects which provide a basis for the thorough exploration of materials and processes.

Third Level Entry Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any courses in the CAO system.

Course content

- It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment.
- Each student should have an aptitude and interest for design and practical work.
- Woodwork and/or Technical Graphics would be desirable subjects to have taken at Junior Certificate though not compulsory.

Topics Studies

The course is studied under the following main headings

Planning and Design

Drawings and Documents

Site Preliminaries and Foundations

Walls, Partitions

Floors, Roofs

Fireplaces

Windows and Doors

Stairs

Plastering and Painting

Plumbing and Heating

Services

Drainage

Exam Structure

Skills Developed

- This subject is 'hands- on' and involves working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. It will involve designing, planning and building things. The course is essentially about the study of buildings and the built environment. The theoretical part of the course examines all parts of building from the planning stages to the completed building.

The Exam

- The examination at higher and ordinary levels has three separate components
- **Section A** Three hour written paper worth 300 marks. The exam consists of 10 questions out of which five have to be attempted. Question 1 is a compulsory drawing question of a building detail.

Section B 4 hour practical woodwork exam where the student makes a small item out of timber under exam conditions. The exam normally takes place in May. This accounts for 150 marks.

Section C Building Project where the student makes a building detail, a scale model of a building or a craft piece. The student also produces a portfolio to accompany the project that they make. This accounts for 150 marks.

Career Opportunities

- Engineering
- Architecture
- Environmental Studies
- Alternative Energy
- Agricultural Science
- Education

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